

# AUDITED

# Annual Statement of Accounts

# Year ended 31 March 2023

Contents Page

[Narrative Report by the Authority Treasurer 3](#_Toc109922577)

[Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts 3](#_Toc109922596)6

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority Single Entity Accounts](#_Toc109922602) 38

[Financial Statements](#_Toc109922603) 38

[Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement](#_Toc109922604) 39

[Movement in Reserves Statement](#_Toc109922605) 40

[Balance Sheet](#_Toc109922606) 41

[Cash Flow Statement](#_Toc109922607) 42

[Notes to the Financial Statements](#_Toc109922609) 43

[Firefighters’ Pension Fund 192](#_Toc109922649)

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Group Accounts 194](#_Toc109922652)

[Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Group Financial Statements 199](#_Toc109922659)

[Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 200](#_Toc109922660)

[Group Movement in Reserves Statement 201](#_Toc109922661)

[Group Balance Sheet 202](#_Toc109922662)

[Group Cash Flow Statement 203](#_Toc109922663)

[Notes to the Group Financial Statements 204](#_Toc109922664)

[Police Pension Fund 256](#_Toc109922695)

[Glossary of Financial Terms 259](#_Toc109922700)

Narrative Report by the Authority Treasurer

Welcome to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s (the Authority) Annual Statement of Accounts for 2022/23. The statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Code of Practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

This narrative report aims to provide information so that members of the public, Councillors, partners, stakeholders and other interested parties are able to have:

* A full and understandable explanation of the overarching financial position of the Authority and the financial performance for the year 2022/23;
* Confidence that the public money with which the Authority has been entrusted has been used and accounted for in an appropriate manner;
* Assurance that the financial position of the Authority is sound and secure.

This narrative report provides information about the Authority, including the key issues affecting the Authority and its accounts. It also provides a summary of the financial position at 31 March 2023 and is structured as below:

* How the Authority Performed in 2022/23
* The Authority’s Group of Companies
* Revenue Budget and Financial Performance 2022/23
* Capital Programme and Financing 2022/23
* Treasury Management Performance in 2022/23
* Forward Look – Financial Landscape
* Core Financial Statements

**Introduction to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

**Background**

Greater Manchester is home to more than 2.8 million(m) people with the largest city region economy outside of London, bigger than that of Wales or Northern Ireland. The Greater Manchester vision is to make the city region one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, through a combination of economic growth and the reform of public services.

The ten Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) have worked together voluntarily for many years on issues that affect everyone in the region, like transport, regeneration, and attracting investment. The GMCA was established on 1 April 2011 by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011. In 2014 a devolution of powers to Greater Manchester was agreed, together with the creation of the first directly elected metro-mayor. Andy Burnham was elected as Greater Manchester Mayor in 2017 and re-elected in 2021.

The political body of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is led jointly by the leaders of the ten Greater Manchester local authorities and the Mayor, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city region. The Mayor is Chair of the GMCA and its eleventh member. He is supported by Deputy Mayor Kate Green who leads on Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire and Deputy Mayor Paul Dennett who leads on Housing and Homelessness.

The GMCA political body is distinct to that of the GMCA organisation. The political GMCA provides the political direction, governance and oversight of the activities undertaken across Greater Manchester for those areas of responsibility which are jointly owned at Greater Manchester level or those issues where voluntary pan-Greater Manchester collaboration has been agreed. GMCA organisation translates that political direction into action and provides capacity for new and furthering activities. This is achieved through added value in bringing together the activities at Greater Manchester level, enabling the city region to speak with a single voice, convening the system on behalf of all partners and providing a clear and consistent conduit to government where Greater Manchester chooses to speak and act as one.

**Devolution**

Devolution is critical to the success of the Greater Manchester ambition. The devolution deals signed with government means that the region has a much greater control of its future and more say over the decisions that can improve the lives of all residents. The city region built upon its innovative 2014 Devolution Agreement with an initial £6 billion (bn) health and social care devolution deal in February 2015. Since then, there have been five further deals. The appointment of an elected Mayor in 2017 provided additional accountability to this process and through these devolution agreements, the region has more powers and control over budgets, including:

* More control of local transport, with a long-term government budget to help plan a more modern, better connected network.
* 100% retention of business rates, to fund projects / activity that supports economic growth.
* Planning powers to encourage regeneration and development.
* A £300m fund for housing, enough for an extra 15,000 new homes over ten years.
* Extra funding to get up to 50,000 people back into work.
* Local control over adult skills funding to work with skills providers to develop more work-related training.
* Control of investment through a new ‘earn back’ funding arrangement which gives extra money for the region’s infrastructure to support economic growth.

The elected Mayor is also responsible for the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) and holds the role of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire sets the priorities and strategy, and holds the Chief Constable and Chief Fire Officer to account for the effective and efficient delivery of services.

Greater Manchester’s ambitious plans for future devolution will enable the region to continue to support and develop opportunities for the people, places and businesses across the city region. GMCA through the strategic partnerships with the Health and Care System and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), ensures alignment and coordination of activities across these operations, enabling all parts of the Greater Manchester system to work together to meet the shared ambitions in the Greater Manchester Strategy.

At the end of March 2023, the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the ten Greater Manchester Council Leaders were joined by Minister of State for Levelling Up to add their signatures to a new ‘Trailblazer Devolution Deal’. The new deal will act as blueprint for other areas to follow. It further embeds the role of local decision-making through additional powers and responsibilities over post-16 technical education, transport, housing, and regeneration, as well as new financial freedoms and new accountability arrangements.

**The Greater Manchester Strategy**

Greater Manchester has a vision to be a place where everyone can live a good life, growing up, getting on and growing old in a greener, fairer, more prosperous city region. The fourth Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) was developed and subsequently adopted in 2021 building from the 2017 strategy and the one year Living with COVID-19 Resilience Plan and it is the systemwide response to the Independent Inequalities’ Commission and Build Back Fairer reports.

The strategy sets out the city region’s vision of*Good Lives for All*: that *Greater Manchester is a great place to grow up, get on and grow old; a great place to invest, do business, visit and study.* It is Greater Manchester’s plan for recovery and renewal following the pandemic and puts responding to the interconnected challenges of inequality and climate change at its heart, providing the lenses through which Greater Manchester activity should be framed and challenging where policy or delivery is contrary to equalities and climate ambitions. It provides a clear direction of travel for the city region, focused on those areas where all parts of the conurbation need to work together to achieve our shared vision.

The Strategy sets out a series of shared outcomes (the Greater Manchester we want to see) and 15 shared commitments (the things we are going to do), with whole system activity required to deliver against these. It is underpinned by a performance framework with metrics to monitor, some of which are targeted, and web-based data dashboards to inform future activity. This includes three neighbourhood floor targets, which set minimum standards against core indicators, the intention being to highlight variance and inequality at the local levels, and to trigger collective targeted activity in response.

All this is underpinned by a strong foundation formed from agreed ways of working. Greater Manchester is adopting practices which will enable a consistent approach across systems, institutions and communities to come together.

**Overview of the GMCA organisation**

The Chief Executive of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Eamonn Boylan, chairs the Greater Manchester Wider Leadership Team and has responsibility for policy and strategy and a wide range of Greater Manchester services including Fire and Rescue, Waste, Transport, Economic Development and Planning. The Chief Executive is supported by the Corporate Executive Management Team (CEMT) made up of:

Chief Executive Eamonn Boylan

Deputy Chief Executive Andrew Lightfoot

Chief Fire Officer Dave Russel

Treasurer Steve Wilson

Monitoring Officer Gillian Duckworth

Executive Director Policy & Strategy Simon Nokes

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) of the organisation comprises CEMT plus Directors and Corporate function leads. The Chief Executive and SLT are accountable to the Mayor and political leaders of Greater Manchester collectively. The SLT oversee a series of Directorates, which have been created to bring greater clarity and focus on the delivery activities of GMCA. These directorates are:

* Digital
* Education, work and skills
* Economy
* Environment
* Place making
* Public service reform
* Police, crime, criminal justice and fire
* Corporate functions

The SLT has responsibility for managing the delivery and strategy of GMCA, and works collaboratively, enabling cross departmental teams to work effectively together, delivering efficiently and achieving the greatest possible impact from actions across GMCA and working with wider partners. During 2022/23 a new performance management framework has been implemented with corporate indicators reported to SLT on a quarterly basis that give an overarching view of delivery across the range of programmes.

Alongside SLT, the effective management and distributive leadership approaches of the organisation is led, developed and supported more widely by the Extended Leadership Network (ELN). The ELN supports the GMCA in its commitment to diversify the workforce, recognising the significant benefits to be gained from a diverse and inclusive staff team and providing opportunities for all.

The GMCA organisation (excluding TfGM and GMP) employs approximately 2,235 full time equivalent staff (March 2023). During 2022/23 the organisation has continued to evolve and develop and strive for greater outcomes and improvement, shaped by ongoing feedback via the annual b-Heard surveys. ‘Our People Strategy’ is a key part of the commitment to this change and sets out the approach to how the organisation manages and develops people to achieve a vision of being ‘a greater place to work’.

During 2022/23 the organisation’s mission statement has been refreshed to be more reflective of the ambition as an organisation and an employer. The new mission **‘***Making Greater Manchester a better place for all’* has been created following consultation with staff, merging the key concepts frequently raised during team-level discussions and which most people said they felt affinity to. Part of the work to refresh the mission, also refined the organisational values to provide clearer, simpler supporting statements that better reflect what GMCA does.

The Local Government Association (LGA) Corporate Peer Challenge took place in autumn 2022 and was an opportunity to reflect on the last few years and the future plans and ambitions of the organisation. GMCA was the country’s first combined authority to go through the LGA corporate peer challenge process. As part of the peer challenge process, GMCA prepared a [self-assessment](http://insidegmca.gmfs.local/media/542610/gmca-self-assessment-oct-2022.pdf), which set out in detail priorities as an organisation, ambitions for the future and case studies to highlight some of the key successes.

The LGA peer review team, made up of senior leaders from public sector and other partners from UK and Europe, spoke to a wide range of senior representatives from Greater Manchester local authorities, the public sector, business and voluntary and community partners. They found a resounding sense of positivity and enthusiasm for the work GMCA does and plan to do in the future. The findings, recommendations and insight gained from the peer challenge process have been embedded in the 2023/24 GMCA Business Plan.

**Overview of GMCA Resources**

The overall GMCA budgets are made up of a variety of both historic budgets and new budgets relating to the functions provided by the Mayor and the GMCA as a whole. The majority of funding the GMCA receives is from government grants, levies and transport statutory charge to Greater Manchester local authorities and council tax (precept) largely ringfenced for the delivery of Police and Crime, Fire and Rescue and Transport functions. The Authority also receives specific government grant funding to deliver key programmes of work, supported by funding from retained business rates growth, reserves and external income.

Revenue budgets

The various orders under which these functions are provided, determine how revenue budgets are funded such that:

* GMCA General Budget – This includes corporate functions and economic, development and regeneration activities of the GMCA. The budget is made up of a number of specific government grants, including the Adult Education Budget, retained business rates, Greater Manchester local authority contributions, earmarked reserves, internal recharges to other GMCA budgets and external income.
* Mayoral General Budget – This is funded from the Mayoral Precept, transport statutory charge on Greater Manchester local authorities and government grants. The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) is part of the Mayoral Precept but also receives a revenue support grant, business rates income and a top up grant.

* Greater Manchester Waste and Resources–This is funded from a levy to nine Greater Manchester local authorities (excluding Wigan) that participate in the Greater Manchester waste service with contributions on the basis of an agreed funding mechanism.
* GMCA Transport Revenue Budget –This is funded from a contribution from the Mayoral budget for statutory Mayoral functions including bus services and from a levy on local authorities for non-Mayoral functions in relation to public transport and a contribution to Metrolink financing costs. The budget also includes a number of other grants received in relation to specific activities.
* Greater Manchester Police Fund is made up of government grant and the policing precept agreed with the Police, Fire and Crime Panel, following a public consultation. The majority of the Police Fund is delegated to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police.

The table below shows the budgets and provisional outturn position for each of the GMCA budgets in 2022/23:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Summary 2022/23** | **Approved Budget** | **Provisional Outturn** | **Provisional Variance** |
| **Provisional Outturn** | **Exp** | **Income**  | **Exp** | **Income**  | **Exp** | **Income**  |
|   | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| GMCA General | 242,620 | -242,620 | 270,091 | -270,091 | 27,471 | -27,471 |
| Mayoral | 139,020 | -139,020 | 127,850 | -127,850 | -11,170 | 11,170 |
| GMFRS | 119,543 | -119,543 | 120,679 | -120,679 | 1,136 | -1,136 |
| Waste | 164,840 | -164,840 | 119,457 | -119,457 | -45,383 | 45,383 |
| Transport (inc TfGM) | 282,412 | -282,412 | 337,734 | -337,734 | 55,322 | -55,322 |
| Police Fund (inc GMP) | 718,600 | -718,600 | 718,600 | -718,600 | 0 | 0 |

Capital budgets

GMCA’s capital programme includes GMFRS, Economic Development and Regeneration programmes, Waste and Resources Service and the continuation of the programme of activity currently being delivered by GMCA, TfGM and Greater Manchester local authorities.

The most significant new element of the capital programme in 2022/23 related to the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS). The CRSTS of £1.07 billion over five years was awarded to GMCA in July 2022 based on a delivery plan developed by Greater Manchester and approved by The Secretary of State for Transport. The GMCA approved the 2022/23 budget allocation of £105.7m in July 2022, including local and match contribution, which is subject to the GM Local Growth Assurance Framework. Subsequently schemes have been developed in line with government guidance known as the ‘The Green Book’ (issued by HM Treasury), which provides guidance on how to appraise policies, programmes and projects and brought forward to the GMCA for approval before being included in the GMCA capital programme. CRSTS capital provisional capital expenditure in 2022/23 was £77.6m.

The provisional capital expenditure for 2022/23 was £442.6m compared to revised budget of £462.1m. The Police Fund GMP capital programme was a further £27.6m of spend in 2022/23 compared to budget of £38.8m. The tables below provide a breakdown of provisional capital expenditure by GMCA function and capital financing for 2022/23:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capital Programme Provisional Outturn 2022/23** | **Approved Budget** | **Provisional Outturn**  |  **Provisional Variance** |
|   | **£000s** | **£000s** | **£000s** |
| Transport | 260,451 | 249,456 | (10,995) |
| Economic Development and Regeneration | 173,290 | 174,236 | 946 |
| Fire & Rescue Service | 13,375 | 9,711 | (3,664) |
| Waste & Resources Service | 14,935 | 9,007 | (5,928) |
| Police Fund - PCC | 0 | 197 | 197 |
| **Total Exc Greater Manchester Police** | **462,051** | **442,607** | **(19,444)** |
| Police Fund - GMP | 38,833 | 27,641 | (11,192) |
| **Total Capital** | **500,884** | **470,248** | **(30,636)** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Capital Financing 2022/23** | **GMCA** | **GMP** | **Total** |
|  | **£000s** | **£000s** | **£000s** |
| Borrowing | 50,032 | 24,616 | 74,648 |
| Capital Grants | 307,363 | 613 | 307,976 |
| Revenue Contribution to Capital Outlay | 1,074 | 1,417 | 2,491 |
| Capital Receipts | 45,852 | 995 | 46,847 |
| External Contributions | 3,319 | 0 | 3,319 |
| External Contributions TfGM | 34,967 | 0 | 34,967 |
| **Total Funding** | **442,607** | **27,641** | **470,248** |

Greater Manchester Investment Strategy

In 2022/23 the Greater Manchester Investment Strategy continued to support regeneration and job creation in the region through targeted investment that reflects the strengths and opportunities in the local economy. The investment strategy was based on sustainably generating returns that can be recycled and reinvested so as existing loans and investments are repaid, they can be reinvested in new projects.Investment funds are used as a lever to deliver the strategy and focus on our strategic priorities in business, housing and commercial property. The main elements of the funds are:

* *The Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund (HILF):*

HILF aims to unlock the delivery of at least 10,000 homes over the 10-year life of the fund providing the high quality housing offer needed to support the region’s economic growth. In 2018/19 HIF novated from Manchester City Council to the GMCA. As existing investments made by the Fund are repaid the monies are available for reinvestment by the Fund and at the time of writing there have been no defaults.

* *City Deal Receipts:*

In 2015 it was agreed that receipts realised by Homes England from the disposal of its land and property within Greater Manchester would be provided to GMCA to invest in support of the housing and regeneration objectives set out in the 2012 Greater Manchester City Deal.

* *The Core Recycled Funds:*

The Core Recycled Funds originated from Regional Growth Fund (RGF) and Growing Places Fund (GPF) monies which have been recycled and are now reinvested into businesses and commercial property. As part of this overarching programme, the funds offered investments at commercial rates to businesses and organisations to fund schemes that boost local employment, improve skills and contribute to the region's economic growth. Funds that have been provided to businesses have been used to support a market gap for finance and therefore, given the nature of the portfolio, defaults are expected. Provisions have been made to estimate the risk, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards - IFRS 9.

* *Commercial property funds:*

The dedicated commercial property funds are managed by CBRE Ltd on behalf of the Authority and have supported the development of commercial floor space and the redevelopment of Brownfield land.

* *Life Sciences Fund*:

The first £30m Life Sciences Fund was established in 2016 in partnership with Cheshire East Council, Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Bruntwood to further develop the Alderley Park site and support life sciences businesses across the city region. The first fund is managed by Catapult Ventures. A second £20m fund was established in 2022 in partnership with Cheshire and Warrington LEP and Bruntwood, this fund is managed by Praetura Ventures.

* *Low Carbon Fund:* The £15m Low Carbon Fund is managed by CBRE Ltd on behalf of the GMCA. The Fund was established to promote the production and distribution of energy derived from renewable resources in the region.

**GMCA General – Economic, Development and Regeneration**

The GMCA General budget includes corporate services and economic, development and regeneration functions. The original budget approved in February 2022 was £242.6m. Throughout the financial year as part of the quarterly update reports the budget has been revised to reflect changes in funding leading to an increase in funding of £27.5m by the end of the financial year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GMCA Revenue General Budget 2022/23 Provisional Outturn** |  **Original Budget**  |  **Provisional Outturn**  |  **Provisional Variance**  |
|  |
|   |  **£000**  |  **£000**  |  **£000**  |  |
| **Expenditure:** |  |  |  |  |
| GMCA Corporate | 20,965 | 22,952 | 1,987 |  |
| Core Investment Team | 6,355 | 10,364 | 4,009 |  |
| Digital | 2,597 | 3,172 | 575 |  |
| Economy | 18,499 | 15,450 | -3,049 |  |
| Environment | 758 | 4,038 | 3,280 |  |
| Place | 6,707 | 18,922 | 12,215 |  |
| Public Service Reform  | 30,960 | 39,799 | 8,839 |  |
| Work and Skills | 155,779 | 155,394 | -385 |  |
| **Total Expenditure** | **242,620** | **270,091** | **27,471** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Funded by:** |  |  |  |  |
| Government Grants | -180,133 | -191,594 | -11,461 |  |
| District Contributions | -8,603 | -8,603 | 0 |  |
| Internal Recharges | -18,995 | -22,497 | -3,502 |  |
| Earmarked Reserves | -20,010 | -21,481 | -1,471 |  |
| Other Income | -14,879 | -25,916 | -11,037 |  |
| **Total Funding** | **-242,620** | **-270,091** | **-27,471** |  |

Corporate Services

The Corporate Services Directorate provide support for the whole of GMCA including GMFRS, OPCC, Waste and Resources and elements of Transport functions. The corporate functions include services such as Strategy, Research, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Human Resources, Organisational Development, Finance, Internal Audit and Risk, Commercial Services, Legal and Governance. Funding of GMCA corporate functions is predominantly from recharges within the GMCA and to grants, external funding and district contributions. The original approved budget for 2022/23 was £21m and the 2022/23 gross expenditure was £23m. The increase of £2m relates to expenditure on new activity funded by additional external income of £0.8m and budget pressures of £1.2m.

Core Investment Team

The Core Investment Team is responsible for managing funding provided through the Greater Manchester (GM) Investment Framework and the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund (HLIF) described above.

The outturn position on the Core Investment Team shows an increase of £4m compared to the original budget, however this does not impact the revenue outturn position for GMCA. Expenditure will vary due to investments agreed during the financial year fully funded from returns from investment activity with surpluses/deficits transferred to earmarked reserves.

Digital

The Digital Directorate is committed to delivering on the GM Digital Strategy through a three year approach set out in the GM Digital Blueprint. GM Digital collaborates across the GM digital system which includes industry, universities, health, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector to create opportunities, maximise outcomes and generate inward investment.

The 2022/23 original budget for Digital was £2.6m, which included the key programmes of GM Connect, GM Digital Strategy and Smart Residents Data Exchange Platform, Local Full Fibre Network and GM One Network. The outturn position is expenditure of £3.2m with a £0.5m relating to expenditure on the implementation of the GM One Network with a collaboration agreement with partners to commence in September 2023, £1.4m from previously agreed retained business rates growth and £1.3m from grants and reserves.

Economy

The Economy Directorate leads key groups including the Growth Board, Local Industrial Strategy Programme Delivery Executive, GM Economic Resilience Group and GM Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The 2022/23 approved budget for Economy was £18.5m with actual expenditure for 2022/23 being £15.5m relating to:

* GM Productivity Programme expenditure of £6.1m and GM Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) expenditure of £1.6m both funded from retained business rates.
* Marketing Manchester and MIDAS expenditure of £2.150m funded from district contributions of £1.4m and £0.75m from retained business rates.
* Made Smarter Adoption North West programme of £2.8m fully funded from government grant.
* Economy team expenditure of £1.1m funded from a combination of internal recharges, grants and previously and retained business rates.
* Other expenditure totalling £1.1m against government grants confirmed during the financial year:
	+ Local Enterprise Partnership core funding of £0.4m from Department Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC);
	+ Innovation Accelerator seed corn funding of £0.3m from Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) to support research in key growth opportunities identified in the GM LIS;
	+ Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) funding for National Cluster Co-ordination undertaken by the Business Growth Hub of £0.4m.
	+ Other projects funded from retained business rates growth such as Cricket Strategy.

Environment

Environment Directorate is the lead for the implementation of the GM Five Year Environment Plan and delivering housing and public retrofit programmes as part of green economic recovery and progressing the environment plan to continue to reduce carbon emissions and create an improved, more resilient natural environment for socially distanced recreation.

The 2022/23 original approved budget for Environment was £0.8m with actual expenditure for 2022/23 being £4m. The increase relates to new investment from retained business rates growth agreed in July 2022 for ‘Greener’ schemes totalling £3.2m. Expenditure in 2022/23 relates to:

* Environment and Low Carbon programme – expenditure of £1.7m to support districts to deliver their Climate Emergency Declarations through upscaling the delivery of conurbation wide carbon reduction programmes
* Five Year Environment Plan - expenditure of £1m to provide capacity to bid for capital and revenue funds, undertake research, communication, training, convene and co-ordinate delivery of the plan.
* IGNITION project – grant funded expenditure of £0.4m to develop innovative financing solutions for investment in GM’s natural environment, to help increase the city regions resilience against the increasingly extreme impacts of climate change.
* GM Local Energy Markets project - grant funded expenditure of £0.3m in relation to planning and collaboration with the ten local authorities to increase energy efficiency and pave the way for the installation of new technologies to create a low-carbon infrastructure for the future.
* Natural Course – expenditure of £0.3m relating to an EU-funded LIFE Integrated Project to improve and protect the water quality of the North West over a ten year period.
* Other Environment projects with expenditure of £0.3m such as Great Places, Green Homes Grant and Energy Innovation Agency.

Place

Place Directorate focuses on the development of individual places and all the elements that support prosperous and vibrant places in which GM residents can grow up, live and grow old. This has brought together Housing and Planning, Land and Property, Culture, Delivery and Infrastructure teams, each of which has a vital role to play in place development.

In 2022/23 the government announced local allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as part of delivering the mission to ‘Level Up’ the UK by 2030. The Greater Manchester allocation for the three-year period 2022/23 – 2024/25 is £98m which will support the delivery of UKSPF priorities which align with priorities in the GMS. GMCA has been assigned by government as lead authority for the fund in Greater Manchester and is receiving the area’s allocation to manage. GMCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how it operates, working closely with local authorities and key stakeholders in this role.

The 2022/23 original approved budget for Place was £6.7m with actual expenditure for 2022/23 being £18.9m. The majority of the increase relates to the UKSPF core programme. Expenditure in 2022/23 relates to:

* UKSPF expenditure of £8.2m for the first year of the core programme focusing on investment in ‘Communities and Place’ and ‘Local Business’ interventions to boost pride in place.
* Cultural and Social Impact Fund of £4.6m the majority of which was funded from a GM local authorities contribution and supported by retained business rates growth.
* Places for Everyone is a joint development plan of the nine GM local authorities for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth, maximizing the use of brownfield land and urban spaces. During 2022/23 actual expenditure of £1.5m from retained business rates growth focused on the public examination of the submitted plan.
* The GM Delivery Team supports the delivery of GM’s housing delivery objectives and priorities at a cost of £1.6m funded from earmarked reserves.
* Create Growth programme funded by Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) of £0.4m to support creative organisations in the region with a bespoke business support programme to attract investment to grow their business sustainably.
* Other Place Directorate expenditure totalling £2.6m in relation to the Planning and Housing team and Business, Innovation and Enterprise policy funded from a combination of local authority contributions, grant funding and internal recharges.

Public Service Reform

Public Service Reform (PSR) supports reform, innovation and social policy development across Greater Manchester with the overarching objective of addressing inequality and improving outcomes for all residents across the city region*.* It is made up of a number of thematic strands with lead responsibilities that include Early Years, Children and Young People, Troubled Families, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping, Asylum and Refugees, Armed Forces and Veterans, Gambling Harm Reduction and the GM Ageing Hub. The service performs a cross-cutting role across Greater Manchester in collaboration with localities, other public service organisations and the VCSE sector to drive the implementation of unified public services for the people of Greater Manchester.

The 2022/23 original approved budget for PSR was £30.9m with actual expenditure for 2022/23 being £39.8m. The majority of the increase relates to additional funding for the Supporting Families Programme and the Homelessness Prevention Strategy. Expenditure in 2022/23 relates to:

* Supporting Families programme of £14.7m continuation of the programme funded from DLUHC grant.
* Homelessness and Rough Sleeping including:
	+ A Bed Every Night (ABEN) of £6.4m expenditure funded from Mayoral Precept, partner contributions and government grant.
	+ Housing First programme expenditure of £3.3m funded from government grant.
	+ Rough Sleeper Initiative, Rough Sleeper Accommodation and Community Accommodation programmes with government grant funding totalling £5.2m, which is an increase of £2m compared to the original budget.
* Changing Futures funding of £1.4m for 2022/23 which is the second year of a three year programme to improve outcomes for adults experiencing multiple disadvantages.
* PSR Directorate and other delivery resources for the overall programme of £2.8m.
* Other programmes including Children and Young People Plan, School Readiness, Population Health, Youth Pathfinder, GM Gambling, Armed Forces plan with expenditure totalling £6m.

Education, Work and Skills

Education, Skills and Work works in partnership with local authorities, partners and businesses to deliver and performance manage programmes that support people to enter, progress and remain in work. The original 2022/23 budget was £155.8m with actual expenditure for 2022/23 being £155.4m supporting the following programmes:

* The Adult Education Budget (AEB) of £100.2m devolved to GM to support the city region’s residents to develop skills needed for life and work, plus an additional £2.2m for the AEB National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 programme.
* European Social Fund (ESF) Skills for Growth Programme of £12.9m, with 2022/23 being the final of three years of funding to support business growth and deliver an integrated approach to employment and skills.
* Working Well services to support people experiencing or at risk of long term unemployment, including the Work and Health Programme of £7.7m, Job Entry Targeted Support (JETS) programme of £6.9m and Working Well Specialist Employment of £3m.
* European Social Fund (ESF) Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) prevention/reduction and youth employment programme of £5.7m.
* Department for Education Skills Bootcamp - £2.8m.
* Future Workforce Fund of £1.5m to focus on supporting the most disadvantaged young people, providing a targeted, flexible and personalised pathway.
* Self-Employment Pilot of £1.4m to support GM self-employed residents to sustain and grow their business.
* UK Community Renewal Fund of £1.7m projects following bids approved by government in November 2021.
* UK Shared Prosperity Fund Adults’ Multiply programme with expenditure of £0.9m on year one of the £14.4m allocation over three years.
* Work and Skills Directorate delivery resources for the overall programme had a cost of £4.8m.
* Other programmes including Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers Service, Young Person’s Guarantee, GM Careers Hub and Digital Skills with expenditure totalling £3.7m.

Business Rates Growth Retention Pilot

The GMCA General budget includes funding from the 100% business rates retention pilot which was introduced in 2017/18 as part of the Greater Manchester Devolution Deal with the stated intention of:

* Giving Greater Manchester authorities an incentive to grow local tax bases by ensuring they see long term rewards from growth.
* Maintaining a predictable income stream against which authorities can take long term investment decisions.
* Ensuring that Greater Manchester authorities can continue to provide a full range of local services, whilst recognising that decisions about spending priorities should be made locally by locally elected representatives accountable to local taxpayers.

Under the scheme the ten Greater Manchester local authorities retain 100% of business rates growth from the base year. The benefits are calculated applying a ‘no detriment’ formula which ensures Greater Manchester is no worse off financially than it would have been if it were not part of the pilot. The local agreement with local authorities is that the benefits of the scheme, to the extent that there should be any, are shared for investment both at individual local authority level and for Greater Manchester priorities. In 2020/21 during the peak of the financial impact from the pandemic, the full 100% benefit of the pilot was retained by local authorities to support their response.

In 2022/23, utilising the income derived from the 2021/22 financial year, it was agreed that the benefits of the pilot would be split on the basis of 75% retained by local authorities and 25% for Greater Manchester priorities. This was an income of £16.3m for Greater Manchester wide initiatives which was held by GMCA in an earmarked reserve for specific programmes of work agreed by Greater Manchester leaders. In order to manage the risk around the unpredictability of business rates growth, the commitments are made in the year following the confirmed benefit and subsequent share for Greater Manchester priorities.

**Mayoral General Services**

The Mayoral budget includes Mayoral general functions as follows:

* Fire and Rescue
* Compulsory purchase of land
* Mayoral development corporations
* Development of transport policies
* Preparation, alteration and replacement of the Local Transport Plan
* Grants to bus service operators
* Grants to constituent councils
* Decisions to make, vary or revoke bus franchising schemes

The sources of funding for Mayoral functions, to the extent that they are not funded from other sources, are a precept or statutory contributions. The Mayoral Precept is part of the overall council tax paid by Greater Manchester residents and used to fund Greater Manchester wide services for which the Mayor is responsible. The Mayoral Precept for the financial year 2022/23 was £102.95 for a Band D property, with the fire service accounting for £71.20 and £31.75 for non-fire.

The Mayoral general budget has two parts:

* Mayoral General budget (excluding Fire and Rescue).
* Mayoral Fire and Rescue Service budget.

The provisional outturn in 2022/23 for the Mayoral general budget (excluding Fire and Rescue) was breakeven. The table below sets out the provisional outturn position against budget:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mayoral General Budget** **(excluding Fire and Rescue) 2022/23**  | **Approved Budget****£000** | **Provisional Outturn****£000** | **Provisional Variance****£000** |
|  |
| **Expenditure:**Mayor’s Office | 531 | 531 | 0 |  |
| Corporate Recharge | 794 | 794 | 0 |  |
| Mayoral Priorities | 3,050 | 3,428 | 378 |  |
| Mayoral Transport  | 134,645 | 123,097 | (11,548) |  |
| **Total Expenditure** | **139,020** | **127,850** | **(11,170)** |  |
| **Funded by:** |  |  |  |  |
| Mayoral Precept | (24,717) | (24,717) | 0 |  |
| Collection Fund Surplus /-Deficit | (1,445) | (1,445) | 0 |  |
| Bus Support Operators grant | (13,150) | (13,151) | (1) |  |
| Mayoral Capacity grant | (1,000) | (1,000) | 0 |  |
| Earnback revenue grant | (9,750) | 0 | 9,750 |  |
| Statutory charge | (86,700) | (86,700) | 0 |  |
| Use of Reserves  | (1,408) | (836) | 572 |  |
| External Income  | (850) | (1) | 849 |  |
| **Total Funding** | **(139,020)** | **(127,850)** | **11,170** |  |

The most significant variances relate to:

* Increased expenditure on Mayoral priorities of £378k due to the cost of the expansion of emergency accommodation provision, A Bed Every Night (ABEN) which has helped prevent more people sleeping on the streets. As a result during the winter months Greater Manchester has recorded a significantly lower increase in rough sleeping compared to other parts of England.
* Underspend on Mayoral transport budget of £11.548m the majority of which relates to Bus Franchising implementation costs which will be held in reserves until required.
* Transfer of £9.750m of Earnback revenue grant to earmarked reserves to meet implementation of Bus Franchising.
* A shortfall in income from colleges to support the Our Pass scheme of £850k.

### Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service

GMFRS is one of the largest Fire and Rescue Services outside London with around 1,648 full time equivalent members of staff and 41 fire stations covering an area of approximately 500m2. GMFRS work closely with the local community to make Greater Manchester a safer place to live, work and visit. GMFRS is also responsible for enforcing fire safety legislations.

The second Annual Delivery Plan (2022/23) set out GMFRS’s improvement programme, and is comprised of several improvement programmes and projects, all aligned to the Mayor’s Fire Plan (2021-2025) as the framework to deliver against. The programme focuses on improving and investing in the service, whilst at the same time enabling the organisation to deliver against key elements of the His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) improvement action plan. The most recent inspection confirmed GMFRS is an evolving and improving service with inspectors reporting a positive shift in the leadership and culture of the organisation. GMFRS will continue to work with HMICFRS to implement further improvements to deliver statutory core functions extraordinarily well and create an increasingly outward facing fire and rescue service.

Over the last year there has been a focus on developing a culture of excellence, equality and inclusivity and significant progress has been made against six strategic priorities:

**Priority 1: Provide a fast, safe, and effective response:**

* GMFRS successfully implemented a new terrorist response capability. As a result, the HMICFRS lifted its cause for concern.
* The new Incident ‘Command and Leadership Development Academy’ was completed, providing a fully immersive training experience. The facilities are considered one of the best in the country for operational training and community fire safety education.
* The service continued to support the requirements of the Manchester Arena Inquiry, with an ongoing focus to develop the multi-agency approach with partners.
* The ‘Wildfire Suppression Burns Team’ went live and is fully operational.
* Proposals have been developed following a review of fire cover, based on extensive data and insight. Associated internal and external consultation and engagement activities have gone live.
* The service completed a comprehensive strategic review of special appliances, setting out findings and recommendations for the fleet of forty-four special appliances.
* An ‘Accident Reporting System’ was procured and implemented, enhancing performance data reporting and the identification of key themes.
* Media training was delivered to all officers upskilling them in preparation for any public relations related requests.
* A new ‘Response Strategy 2022-25’ was developed, approved and implemented.

**Priority 2: Help people reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies:**

* GMFRS launched a fire setters intervention pilot known as ‘The Atlas Programme’, a holistic and therapeutic approach for adults convicted of a fire setting crime. This is the first of its kind nationally and internationally.
* Following a feasibility study, GMFRS sought approval to re-introduce a Community Fire Cadets Programme.
* Following the launch of a new online home fire safety check tool, 23,889 home fire safety checks were completed.
* Commitment was made to deliver a team programme in partnership with the Prince’s Trust and delivery of an expanded programme across Greater Manchester.
* The service developed a new range of interactive, web-based resources for fire safety education for schools and the firefighting crews.
* A ‘Prevention Education Framework’ was developed which outlines the GMFRS offer to deliver prevention education and awareness across Greater Manchester.

**Priority 3: Help protect the built environment:**

* A new ‘Prevention Strategy 2022-25’ was developed, approved, and implemented.
* The ‘Built Environment’ programme formally closed.
* A business engagement strategy was drafted and will be presented as a framework of the business engagement offer.
* A revised protection structure was approved and implemented
* An operational Intelligence policy launched in August 2022.

**Priority 4: Use resources sustainably and deliver the most value:**

* Blackley fire station progressed to the planning application stage, continuing plans to provide sustainable accommodation for frontline staff.
* The Bury Training and Safety Centre site was completed, enabling the service to move to one site, providing both financial efficiencies and an improved staff experience.
* The service successfully achieved planning approval for the £1.3m upgrade of Littleborough Fire Station and work commenced on site.
* The GMCA and GMFRS ‘Sustainability Strategy’ was launched in August 2022.
* Carbon reduction schemes were delivered as part of a successful bid for £620k of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 1 funding.
* The service tendered for a new electric vehicle charging infrastructure at eighteen sites to support the transition of the part of the fleet towards electric vehicles.
* The new ‘Efficiencies and Productivity Plan’ 2022-23 was produced.
* The service delivered financial efficiencies of £788k.

**Priority 5: Develop a culture of excellence, equality, and inclusivity:**

* The service further embedded a leadership development programme across all levels, aligned to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Leadership Framework, and set out the leadership development offer for supervisory, middle and strategic management levels.
* A new promotions pathway was introduced for operational colleagues.
* The Service Leadership Team undertook anti-racist practice sessions as part of our commitment to continue to nurture a positive and inclusive culture.
* A newly refreshed recognition and rewards framework was launched.
* The service continued to embed the NFCC code of ethics across the service, supporting our journey of continuous improvement.
* A ‘Cultural Sounding Panel’ was developed, which will be represented by colleagues across a variety of roles.
* The service continued to engage with staff through the B-Heard Staff Survey and invest in leaders via the Engaged Leaders sessions.
* A new ‘Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2022-2025’ was launched setting out our ambitions and plans to ensure equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of service delivery and culture.

**Priority 6: Integrate our services in every locality with those of partner agencies:**

* There was continued collaboration with the ‘Safer Roads Greater Manchester’ partnership, which delivers an award-winning performance-based road safety initiative known as ‘Safe Drive, Stay Alive’.
* Investment in new immersive virtual reality technology which has a library of road safety videos including equestrian, cycling and motorbike safety.
* The service hosted a ‘Greater Manchester Water Safety Summit’ with partners.
* A dedicated resource was put in place to continue to enhance the contribution to the Local Resilience Forum.
* The service introduced a ‘Framework for Integrated and Place Based Working 2022-25’, outlining thirty commitments to partners and communities to deliver services in a more integrated way.
* GMFRS revamped its website, specifically the ‘Your Area’ pages, now including interactive maps, information about the different fire vehicles and appliances at each station, and defibrillator information.

Alongside this, core activities and statistical information is captured and utilised to help ensure that focus and campaigns are targeted in the right areas. Performance is closely monitored through key performance indicators and governance arrangements to assist in driving service delivery and improvement across the service.

GMFRS attended 32,446 incidents (fires, false alarms and special service calls) during 2022/23, an increase of almost 7% (2,015) when compared with 2021/22. The increase is mainly associated with special service call incident types. The 1st appliance average response time to 'life risk' emergency incidents was 7 minutes 21 seconds in 2022/23 which is 5 seconds quicker than the previous year. Sadly, sixteen people died as a result of fires in 2022/23 compared with ten fire related deaths in 2021/22. Of these, twelve involved males, of which eleven were accidental in nature and one was deliberate. The Home Office reported in September 2022 ‘men had a greater likelihood of dying in a fire than women’.

There have been 169 injuries as a result of fires in 2022/23 (136 slight and 33 serious). This compares with 161 injuries during 2021/22, an increase of 4.67% (eight). The majority of injuries continue to be sustained in accidental dwelling fires, which is a key area of focus for our prevention activities. 1,400 accidental dwelling fires were attended in 2022/23, 148 (9.56%) less than 2021/22.

In response to the ‘cost of living’ crisis GMFRS aligned with a single Greater Manchester wide ‘cost of living’ information and support campaign. GMFRS created messaging to help residents stay safe from fire during these difficult times. This was informed by insight into specific impacts and challenges experienced in different ways by different parts of the population, obtained through bimonthly surveys undertaken with residents.

The Service created a ‘Cost of Living Response Group’, feeding into a similar overall Greater Manchester wide multi-partner group. It has utilised incident data, local authority fuel poverty data and resident insight to identify and target prevention activities at those groups likely to be at increased risk from unsafe behaviours related to ‘cost of living’ pressures. As well as signposting residents to the different support measures available to our communities, the service created a number of resources providing advice and guidance on saving energy, safely heating the home, cooking, candle and electric fire safety. The service also provided warm spaces for residents unable to heat their homes or looking for company or other support.

Positively, because of the focussed prevention activities, GMFRS has not seen the perceived in accidental dwelling fires. 23,889 Home Fire Safety Assessments (HFSA) were delivered to homes across Greater Manchester in 2022/23 compared to 7,851 in 2021/22. Following the launch of the new HFSA in early 2022, the process became more embedded during 2022/23. Additionally, the ‘High Risk Household List’ was launched in July 2022 which is an important element of the blended approach to targeting households at risk.

During 2022/23 the service’s Princes Trust programme undertook two annual quality reviews with external partners, The Manchester College and the Prince’s Trust, achieving level 1. This is the highest grade awarded by Prince’s Trust and recognises the high standards of delivery and administration of the programme. During 2022/23 the Princes Trust team delivered 3,789 hours working in the community.

GMFRS Outturn

The provisional outturn in 2022/23 for GMFRS was breakeven after a reduction in the planned transfer to reserves from £5.2m to £1.7m, the majority of the change relates to the impact of the pay award. The table below summarises the position:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **GM Fire & Rescue Service 2022/23 Provisional Outturn** | **Approved Budget****£000s** | **Provisional Outturn****£000s** | **Provisional Variance****£000s** |
| **Expenditure:** |  |  |  |
| Employees | 91,215 | 95,523 | 4,308 |
| Indirect employees | 1,940 | 1,795 | -145 |
| Premises | 4,875 | 6,480 | 1,605 |
| Transport | 2,196 | 2,411 | 215 |
| Supplies and services | 8,481 | 8,886 | 405 |
| Support services | 7,343 | 7,850 | 507 |
| Government grants | (769) | (1,262) | (493) |
| Transfer to/from provisions | 0 | (2,100) | (2,100) |
| Other grants and contributions | (215) | (109) | 106 |
| Customer and client receipts | (2,460) | (1,585) | 875 |
| Capital financing costs | 1,692 | 1,067 | (625) |
| Transfer to earmarked reserve | 5,245 | 1,723 | (3,522) |
| **Total Expenditure** | **119,543** | **120,679** | **1,136** |
| **Funded by:** |   |   |   |
| Localised Business Rates | (9,521) | (9,521) | 0 |
| Government grant funding | (43,131) | (43,399) | (268) |
| Section 31 - Business Rates | (5,300) | (5,226) | 74 |
| Section 31 - Pension Related | (5,605) | (5,605) | 0 |
| Precept Income | (55,429) | (55,429) | 0 |
| Collection Fund deficit | 2,637 | 2,637) | 0 |
| Transfer from earmarked reserves | (3,194) | (4,136) | (942) |
| **Total Funding** | **(119,543)** | **(120,679)** | **(1,136)** |

The most significant variance related to the employees pay and pensions budget with an overspend of £4.3m. This includes pay award for both uniformed and non-uniformed employees. The pay award budget was set at 2% for both staff groups, however, uniformed staff pay award was agreed at 7% and non-uniformed at £1,925 per whole time equivalent. Premises related expenditure also overspent by £1.6m in the areas of utilities and fuel.

**Waste and Resources**

GMCA is responsible for the management and disposal of municipal waste from Greater Manchester (formerly known as Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority). The GMCA Waste and Resources team oversee the operation of the facilities through contract arrangements with Suez Recycling and Recovery UK. This is approximately 1.1 million tonnes of waste and recycling each year from over a million households from the metropolitan areas of Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Trafford (Wigan operate as a unitary authority and administers its own disposal arrangements).

Each of the local authorities are responsible for the collection of household waste. GMCA receives funding from a levy on the nine Greater Manchester local authorities to pay for the processing and disposal of this waste. The 2022/23 levy for the Waste and Resources service was set in February 2022 for a total of £164.840m represented by expenditure of £165.314m and a use of reserves of £0.474m. The 2022/23 budget was set using forecast levels of waste amounting to 1,134,175 tonnes of waste from local authorities and Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC). The forecasting of waste tonnages has continued to be unpredictable following the pandemic and changing work patterns which has affected the volumes of household ‘kerbside’ waste collections.

Annual performance data for waste handled through the Suez contracts is shown below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Annual Performance** | **2022/23** | **2021/22** |
| Diversion from Landfill Rate | 99.48% | 99.14% |
| HWRC Recycling Rate  | 51.99% | 49.28% |

The table below shows the 2022/23 revenue provisional outturn position against the approved budget for Waste and Resources:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Waste and Resources Provisional Outturn 2022/23** | **Approved Budget****£000s** | **Provisional Outturn****£000s** | **Provisional Variance****£000s** |
| Operational Costs | 107,872 | 65,283 | (42,589) |
| Operational Financing | 50,614 | 49,797 | (817) |
| Office Costs | 6,318 | 3,885 | (2,433) |
| Non-Operational Financing | 510 | 492 | (18) |
| **Total Expenditure** | **165,314** | **119,457** | **(45,857)** |
| Levy Adjustment | 0 | 1,571 | 1,571 |
| Return to constituent authorities  | 0 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Transfer (from)/to reserves | (474) | 33,812 | 34,286 |
| **Total Funding (Levy)** | **164,840** | **164,840** | **0** |

The HWRC tonnages have also continued to be difficult to predict following the pandemic, as well as being impacted by the success of the implementation of the van permit policy which has been highly successful in driving illegal trade waste out of the sites. The revenue outturn for 2022/23 was operational expenditure of £119.5m with an underspend of £45.9m made up of:

* Residual Value Contract underspend of £17.5m from an increased share of third party income derived from electricity and steam generation.
* Waste and Resources Management Services (WRMS) contract underspend of £19.5m due to an increase in income from the sale of recyclates, savings in expenditure on residual waste treatment and landfill due to lower tonnages of residual waste, and savings on processing of commingled waste due to lower than budget tonnages.
* Household Waste Recycling Centre Management Services (HWRCMS) contract underspend of £2.9m due to lower than budgeted residual waste treatment costs due to lower than budgeted tonnages.
* Biowaste Contracts underspend of £1.5m due to savings resulting from lower than budgeted tonnages.
* Other contract costs underspend of £1.2m largely a result of an underspend on lifecycle costs.
* Operational financing underspend of £0.8m from lower than anticipated interest costs with rates lower than forecast and some savings on Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) costs due to capital projects being completed later than anticipated.
* Office cost underspend of £2.4m relates to consultancy fees due to works on ‘Extended Producer Responsibility’ and the national ‘Resources and Waste Strategy’ being reprofiled into 2023/24.

The underspend has been applied to provide a return of £10m to the nine Greater Manchester local authorities which was approved by GMCA in July 2022, a levy adjustment which reflects the changes in tonnages being delivered by local authorities and a transfer to reserves of the remaining £34.3m. In February 2023 GMCA approved £27m from 2022/23 reserves to reduce the 2023/24 levy.

### Police and Crime - Safer and Stronger Communities

The Mayor is responsible for the formal oversight of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), including provision of all funding, budget-setting, performance scrutiny and strategic policy development. The Mayor is also responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for ensuring GMP is run efficiently and effectively. These responsibilities are carried out by the Mayor alongside Greater Manchester’s Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire. Operational decision-making on day-to-day policing matters and the employment of police staff remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

In 2020, HMICFRS undertook a detailed inspection of GMP and reported that a fifth of reported crimes weren’t being recorded by the police and that victims were being let down. This led to GMP being placed into special measures. The Mayor and former Deputy Mayor found a number of cultural and systemic issues within the force, which prompted the start of a significant improvement journey. This commenced with the appointment of Stephen Watson as Chief Constable in 2021.

There have been significant improvements in the performance of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) in 2022/23 with support from the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, and the police precept. In October 2022, GMP were taken out of special measures and is considered to be the most improved police force in the country. Crime recording has increased along with improved standards of investigations and solved outcomes resulting in a much-improved service for victims. Some of the notable improvements include:

* GMP is now 4th out of 43 forces nationally in the Home Office league table for 999 calls for answer.
* Attending 94% of all burglaries, compared to 70% two years ago and solved rates for burglary have also improved as they have for many other types of crime.
* Responding to incidents much sooner, attending 82% of emergency incidents within the national target of 15 minutes.
* Increased arrests for domestic abuse cases and the solved rates has also increased.
* Stalking and harassment arrests have almost doubled in the last 12 months.
* Following the launch of the GM Gender Based Violence strategy, GMP launched its plan to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in 2022.
* The roads and transport unit has doubled in officer strength this year, and they have stepped up their work on tackling road and transport related offences with partners.

Action against any recommendations made by HMICFRS are monitored by the Deputy Mayor and GMP. In February 2023, GMP received an HMICFRS inspection of Custody services, and this highlighted some causes of concern. This included key concerns over leadership, legal compliance, the use of force, detainee dignity, risk management and medicine management. GMP are working to address these concerns and will be re-inspected by the Autumn of 2023. The Deputy Mayor exercises particular scrutiny through regular papers and data being reported to the Deputy Mayor Executive meetings and OPCC officers being part of in GMP’s Custody Oversight Group, established after the inspection.

For 2022/23 Greater Manchester received a core grant of £537.3m, which included a ring-fenced Police Uplift grant of £7.8m and pension grant of £6.6m. The Mayor approved an increase of £10 to the policing precept in January 2022, taking the annual precept for a Band D property to £228.30 in 2022/23 which provided locally raised precept income of £181.3m. This provided total revenue funding for 2022/23 of £718.6m of which £693.7m was delegated to GMP and a net £24.9m was retained by the OPCC, the majority relating to capital financing costs. Both the GMP and OPCC budgets are supplemented by specific grants received during the financial year.

The 2022/23 Police Fund breakeven position is a positive outcome for the financial year end, given the scale of improvement that has been delivered during the year. The significant financial challenges in 2022/23 related to police pay award and overtime. Whilst a significant proportion of the additional expenditure on overtime was funded from external income, there were pressures across the service which required measures to be put in place to more effectively control overtime. Energy costs were significantly higher than budget and proved challenging to forecast due to the volatility of market, unpredictability of prices and the temperatures during the winter months.

When the 2023/24 precept was agreed in January 2023 it was recognised that it was critically important to sustain the significant improvements made to date and to continue to strengthen public safety. The progress made in managing pressures during 2022/23 has provided some mitigation for risks continuing into 2023/24 which includes efficiencies and use of reserves to support the improvement programme.

At the end of the 2022/23 financial year, the provisional expenditure on the capital programme was £27.6m against a revised budget of £38.8m. This has resulted in an underspend of £11.2m with carry forward of £2.8m agreed for capital projects continuing into 2023/24.

In November 2019 the government announced a plan to recruit an additional 20,000 police officers over three years, this equates to 438 officers in 2022/23 across Greater Manchester (note there are further police officers to be recruited nationally to support combating Serious Organised Crime of which GMP’s share is 25 officers). The majority of these additional officers have been in frontline policing roles, which have increased in each of the ten districts. The budget was supported by the £20m infrastructure funding for the new officers, front-loaded into the 2020/21 settlement. In 2022/23, £5m was drawn from reserves to support the costs of delivery. Over the past year, police officer numbers increased from 7,222 (at the end of March 2022) to 7,942, and with agreement of the Home Office recruited a further 125 officers to give a final headcount of 8,067 officers at the end of March 2023.

In 2022/23, the Deputy Mayor delegated a total of over £8.5m to Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to support their delivery of the Police and Crime Plan, collectively making communities safer and more resilient. Building on the work of previous years, the Deputy Mayor’s funding means CSPs have been able to continue to work closely on both Greater Manchester and local priorities to support targeted work in neighbourhoods.

Almost 49,000 Greater Manchester residents have responded to a quarterly survey on policing and community safety, which was first commissioned by the Deputy Mayor in 2019. This information helps shape how CSPs and GMP work together to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour. 89% of people who responded to the survey said they felt safe in their local area, this was a small improvement on the previous year.

Further information on Police and Crime is provided in the Chief Constables Statement of Accounts for 2022/23.

### Highways and Transport Services

The GMCA oversees TfGM, who are in turn responsible for management of the network. The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 was published in 2017 and refreshed with a new Five-Year Transport Delivery Plan published in 2021 for the period up to 2026. The strategy is updated through a series of five-year delivery plans, which set out Greater Manchester’s medium and shorter-term delivery priorities.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester has committed to creating the ‘Bee Network’ a London-style transport system which includes buses and trams by 2025 and commuter trains by 2030. It supports the GMCA ambition to make GM one of the best places in the world to *grow up, get on and grow old* - seamlessly connecting our people, places and communities. The Bee Network will also help to contribute to our health, our air quality and to help us achieve our commitment for Greater Manchester to be net zero by 2038.

Most of TfGM’s core operational activities are funded from the Transport Levy and the Mayoral Precept, as far as the latter relates to transport matters. The Transport Levy is provided by the GMCA from funding received from the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities. The Transport Levy is set annually by the GMCA which approves the transport budget and the amount provided to TfGM. Certain activities which are Mayoral functions are funded from the Mayoral budget and the Mayoral Precept. This includes the costs associated with developing, updating and delivering the Local Transport Plan. In addition to the policies and activities which are directed by the GMCA transport vision, a number of TfGM activities are determined by government policy or legislation, including the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme.

The Transport revenue budget approved by GMCA was £282m funded from the Transport Levy and Statutory Charge, Mayoral Precept, grants and reserves. Transport provisional expenditure for 2022/23 was £338m which is an increase compared to budget of £55m. The majority of the increase related to additional government grant funding provided for light rail and bus recovery and bus service improvement. Transport revenue expenditure of £78m was retained by GMCA for capital financing costs for Metrolink and other programmes and £260m was provided to TfGM for transport delivery as set out below.

Highways

Greater Manchester’s ten local authorities are responsible for the roads in their area, such as general maintenance and the planning of the work to deliver it. However TfGM has strategic oversight of the Key Route Network (“KRN”), making up over 650km of Greater Manchester’s busiest roads. While this is just 7% of the total length of the highways network, it carries two-thirds of all peak-time traffic.

TfGM works closely with local authority partners and Highways England to coordinate day-to-day operations and deal with incidents and events on Greater Manchester’s roads and motorways. This includes work aimed at tackling congestion such as managing signals to improve traffic flow, controlling pedestrian crossings, conducting long term planning and modelling and design, and installing and modifying new traffic signal junctions.

Metrolink

Metrolink is owned by TfGM and operated and maintained by Keolis Amey Metrolink (KAM) on a seven-year contract (with an option to extend up to 2027) which began in July 2017. While KAM operates and maintains the network, TfGM is responsible for setting the price of tickets, renewing, enhancing and expanding the network and planning future development, as well as overseeing the operations and maintenance contract.

Metrolink services began operating in 1992 and since then the network has grown extensively and is now the largest light rail network in the UK. The system began to expand in 2010, with a c£2 billion expansion and extension programme; the latest extension being the Trafford Park Line which opened in March 2020. The network now has a total of 99 stops and 103km of track. Metrolink is one of the most accessible forms of transport with step-free access at all stops and level access from the platform to the tram. The system is powered by electricity produced from wind or solar power, making it zero-emission at street level.

As agreed by Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)/GMCA, as part of the funding strategy for the Greater Manchester Transport Fund (GMTF) which funded the majority of the investment in the network referred to above, all net revenues generated from Metrolink are ring fenced to fund the financing costs associated with the local borrowings taken out as part of the GMTF.

Patronage and revenues on Metrolink were, and continue to be, significantly impacted by COVID-19. As at March 2023, patronage had reached circa 87% of pre-pandemic levels. This reduction in farebox revenues, allied with severe inflationary pressures on the cost base, means that the network faces significant funding shortfalls over the coming period. DfT support towards these operating deficits originally ceased on 4 October 2022. In June 2023 a further award of funding from DfT for Metrolink and bus services was made for the period to 31 March 2024. Discussions remain ongoing with DfT regarding future funding as part of TfGM’s Financial Sustainability Plan.

Bus

Greater Manchester’s bus network plays a key role in keeping the city region moving by helping to reduce car journeys and easing congestion on roads.

Bus services were deregulated in 1986 under the Transport Act 1985. Consequently, there are currently two interacting bus markets in Greater Manchester: a commercial (deregulated) market and a subsidised (contracted) market. Over 80% of services are run commercially by bus companies who set the routes, timetables, fares, frequencies and quality standards. The remaining services form the subsidised market, where bus operators compete to win contracts offered by TfGM. These contracts are for services, or parts of services (early morning or evening journeys) that are considered to be socially necessary and are funded by TfGM.

Bus patronage and revenue fell significantly at the start of the pandemic but has recovered to approximately 85% of pre-pandemic levels. Notwithstanding this recovery, bus operators are still facing a challenging trading environment, with lower farebox revenues combining with the impact of high levels of cost inflation from higher fuel, labour costs etc. This has resulted in some operators making commercial service changes across Greater Manchester, including service withdrawals and reductions in frequency. To ensure the stability of the network, TfGM has replaced most of these withdrawn services, largely at current frequencies, to ensure there has been no material impact on network coverage. These interventions will also protect revenue and enable the network to be optimised through better planning, post franchising. The cost of restoring these services has, to date, been mitigated by government bus recovery funding and by maintaining local funding of concession payments to bus operators at pre COVID-19 levels. These same funding sources have also, to date, helped to prevent wider-reaching service withdrawals. That bus recovery funding was due to expire at the end of June 2023, however DfT has recently announced an extension, as part of a combined package of funding for Metrolink and bus services, for the period through to 31 March 2024.

Whilst patronage is now recovering, reflecting the region’s population growth and our marketing campaigns to offer affordable alternatives to car travel, the lasting impacts of the pandemic and the subsequent exceptional inflationary pressures means that the public transport network will continue to face financial challenges in 2023/24 and beyond.

In April 2022, TfGM was informed that it had been successful in being awarded an indicative revenue funding allocation of up to £94.8m to commence delivery of the Greater Manchester Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP). This funding is for the period from 2022/23 to 2024/25

As agreed with GMCA, TfGM has used part of the BSIP funding to introduce capped bus fares. These were introduced in September 2022 (singles and daily fares) and January 2023 (weekly fares). In the report to GMCA in June 2022 on the implementation of the singles and daily fares scheme, it was recommended that these proposals were introduced on an initial one-year basis, from September 2022 to August 2023, with a commitment to review the delivery by summer 2023. Following this review, in June 2023, GMCA agreed to the continuation of the capped fares scheme subject to a further review in summer 2024. BSIP funding is also being used to partially support the network stabilisation activities referred to above and to support the operation of smart ticketing on bus services.

Bus Reform

In March 2021, the Mayor of Greater Manchester made the decision, to implement bus franchising as part of plans for a joined-up and truly customer-focused transport network.

Once implemented Greater Manchester will be the first city region outside London to have buses that are under local control, allowing local leaders to set routes, frequencies, fares and tickets. This will allow GMCA and TfGM to fully integrate buses with the rest of the transport network, as part of a customer-focused network with easy end-to-end journeys, known as the ‘Bee Network’.

Bus franchising will deliver customer benefits, including simpler fares and ticketing, better joined-up planning between bus and tram journeys so customers will be able to change between them quickly and easily. It will also mean a ‘one-stop shop’ for ticketing, travel information and customer support, as well as consistent standards for a high-quality customer experience across the network.

Franchising will also support GMCA’s objectives as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy to become the best place in the country to *grow up, get on and grow old*. With buses under local control, the Bee Network will be able to connect people by public transport to work, home, education, culture and leisure. Bus franchising also means GMCA can set environmental standards for a cleaner, greener bus fleet, helping to meet the city region’s targets to tackle the climate emergency, reduce harmful emissions and clean up our air.

TfGM will be implementing and managing bus franchising on behalf of GMCA (the franchising authority). To ensure a smooth transition, franchising will be introduced in phases. In December 2022 TfGM awarded the first contracts to bus operators to provide franchised bus services with the first franchised buses starting to run in Bolton and Wigan in September 2023. Tranches 2 and 3 will commence in March 2024 and January 2025 respectively.

Rail

Greater Manchester places transport at the core of its growth agenda. Excellent transport connectivity is fundamental to our people, businesses, and communities, fulfilling their potential at the heart of a globalised and sustainable Northern Powerhouse economy. Our vision for transport in GM as outlined in the 2040 Transport Strategy, is for world class connections that support long term, sustainable economic growth, and access to opportunity for all.

At the heart of the Strategy is a renewed policy focus on public transport integration. Rail, the missing piece to GM’s integrated transport network (the Bee Network), will need to play its part in achieving this concept and support our ‘Right Mix’ vision and ambitious plans for sustainable growth and economic prosperity.

TfGM have been working extensively with the Great British Railways Transition Team (GBRTT), the Department for Transport (DfT) and wider rail industry partners on developing its rail reform plans.

The new ‘Trailblazer Devolution Deal’ agreed with DLUHC included more influence on regional rail services. The new deal is a major step forward in improving our railways and ensuring socio-economic prosperity is spread across the city region. It commits to fully integrating rail services into the Bee Network by 2030, through the delivery of:

* Full multi modal fares and ticketing integration across bus, Metrolink, rail and cycle hire (including fares simplification and capping) by 2030.
* Bee Network co-branding across stations, designs, and standards.
* Establishment of a North West Regional Business Unit to help support the management of the current Northern and TransPennine Passenger Service Contracts.
* A commercial vehicle to drive land value capture and regeneration at Greater Manchester stations.
* Sponsorship of infrastructure and service enhancement schemes that impact Greater Manchester.
* A Greater Manchester- Great British Railways Partnership and in the interim a Greater Manchester Rail Board which will be responsible for the delivery of the trailblazer deal and integration of rail into the Bee Network prior to GBR stand-up.

Active Travel

Walking, wheeling and cycling form many people’s ‘first and last mile’ of longer journeys by all forms of public transport mode. By facilitating integration of active travel, other sustainable modes of transport can be made more resilient, provide better customer experience, improve operating revenues, and enhance the contribution that seamless door-to-door journeys can make to reducing congestion. Combined, active travel modes form almost a quarter of all trips on the network.

Walking underpins all public transport and private car journeys. Greater Manchester intends to at least double walking and double then double again cycling as modes of travelling, either as part of longer connected trips or as journeys in their own right. This is essential to achieve health, economic, clean air and decarbonisation targets in GM. These modes have the potential in many parts of GM to be the main form of transport, providing a resilient, cost effective and accessible means of travel for all. This is especially true for local trips to school, employment, leisure and nearby shopping. However, the main barriers to more people cycling are reported as being concerns about safety, access to safe routes, security and the fact that many households do not, still, have access to affordable (and in some cases accessible) bicycles. Yet without these modes GM cannot address the climate, obesity, ill health and economic inequalities experienced by many communities.

This will be achieved by ensuring that sufficient road space and modal priority is provided for walking, wheeling and cycling, and, that these changes to the transport network are built to standards that will provide effective alternatives to the car. That demands a clear and consistent vision and leadership to ensure that schemes are designed and delivered consistently across Greater Manchester.

During the year, the Active Travel Commissioner has unveiled a refreshed active travel mission for Greater Manchester focusing on accessibility, behaviour change and clear communications.

Five key priorities have been identified to support these:

1. Infrastructure delivery (with four principles leading to a connected network).
2. Home to school travel.
3. Cycle hire and access to cycles.
4. Integration with public transport.
5. Road danger reduction.

To achieve these objectives, TfGM continues to manage, secure and distribute funding from multiple sources of capital and revenue to support the GM active travel ambitions. GM investment in Active Travel to date (March 2023) since 2020, has grown significantly, to over £140m of approved expenditure on the Active Travel elements of the Bee Network. CRSTS investment will begin to increase investment as all highway improvement schemes are obliged to accommodate active travel modes. The first phase of the GM Cycle Hire scheme ‘the Bee Bikes’ has supported to date, over 250,000 journeys, enabling over 600,000km of trips to be made in a safe, affordable and efficient manner, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

The government has instructed many local authorities across the UK to take quick action to bring harmful nitrogen dioxide (NO2) air pollution levels within legal limits. In Greater Manchester, the ten local authorities, with the support of GMCA and TfGM, are working together to develop a Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (GM CAP) to tackle NO2 exceedances at the roadside.

In June 2021 the GMCA endorsed a final GM Clean Air Plan and policy following a review of the information from the GM CAP consultation and wider data, evidence and modelling work. The plan was then agreed by the ten GM local authorities. This included a Greater Manchester wide category C charging Clean Air Zone (CAZ), where only the most polluting vehicles which don’t meet emission standards would have been charged to drive in the zone.

It was originally intended that the CAZ would go live from 30 May 2022, affecting non-compliant HGVs, buses and non-GM-registered taxi and private hire vehicles. Work to install the CAZ signage and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras for monitoring the CAZ began in summer 2021, alongside the development of back office systems.

The CAZ was designed to comply with a legal direction from government issued before the coronavirus pandemic, to deliver compliance with NO2 legal limits on the local road network by 2024. However, since then there have been significant vehicle supply chain issues and the cost of living has increased leading to concerns about the availability of compliant vehicles and financial hardship for local people.

Late in 2021, Greater Manchester commissioned an independent review of emerging global supply chain issues and the impact this could have on the cost and availability of vehicles. Based on this the Greater Manchester Mayor and Leaders determined that the original Clean Air Plan was unworkable. Government agreed in February 2022 to lift the previous legal direction requiring Greater Manchester to achieve compliance with legal NO₂ limits by 2024.

Government gave Greater Manchester until July 2022 to present a revised plan to achieve compliance with legal levels of NO₂ on the local road network in the shortest time possible and by no later than 2026. This was submitted on 1 July 2022. In January 2023, government asked for additional evidence to support the Greater Manchester case for a non-charging Clean Air Plan. Greater Manchester leaders responded with initial evidence. GM will submit additional evidence, which requires further detailed modelling, to government by summer 2023.

Further information on Transport is provided in the Transport for Greater Manchester Statement of Accounts for 2022/23.

### Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

The Authority acts as the accountable body for the Greater Manchester LEP, with funds such as, Growth Deal, LEP Capacity and Business Growth Hub being awarded to it. The tables below show Income and Expenditure activity within 2022/23, along with funds held in reserves on behalf of the LEP.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Income****£000s** | **Expenditure****£000s** | **Variance****£000s** |
| **Revenue Funds** |  |  |  |
| LEP Capacity | (375) | 375 | 0 |
| Business Growth Hub | (390) | 390 | 0 |
| **Total Revenue** | **(765)** | **765** | **0** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Capital Funds** |  |  |  |
| Growing Places Fund | (2,577) | 2,577 | 0 |
| **Total Capital** | **(2,577)** | **2,577** | **0** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **(3,342)** | **3,342** | **0** |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **LEP Reserves** | **31 March 2022** | **Transfers in/out** | **31 March 2023** |
|  | **£000s** | **£000s** | **£000s** |
| LEP Capacity | (452) | (5)  | **(457)** |
| Business Rates (Enterprise Zones) | (340) | 0  | **(340)** |
| **Total Reserves** | **(792)** | **(5)** | **(797)** |

### Treasury Management Performance in 2022/23

### Borrowing and Borrowing Limits

In 2022/23, the Authority had an authorised limit for external debt of £2.7 billion, which compares to the actual level of debt outstanding at 31 March 2023 of £1.4 billion. Debt outstanding (including accounting adjustments) is made up of the following figures:



Total borrowings show a net decrease during the year of £81.4m due to scheduled repayments to Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) and European Investment Bank (EIB) reduced temporary borrowing and other accounting adjustments.

### Short Term Investments for Treasury Management Purposes

Whilst the Authority held short term borrowing at the end of the financial year, a level of short term cash is always held to cover unexpected cash flow requirements. Short term deposits (excluding bank current accounts) as at 31 March 2023 were £252.3m. This is made up of the following figures:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2021/22****£m** |  | **2022/23****£m** |
| 13.4 | Bank Deposits | 9.6 |
| 232.3 | UK Government Backed Deposits | 242.7 |
| **245.7** | **Total** | **252.3** |

### Risks

In the last 12 to 18 months, like all organisations, GMCA has been adversely impacted by cost inflation and other cost and supply pressures which are impacting the supply of services and infrastructure. This includes but is not limited to service delivery costs which are largely staff and energy related costs and supplies for construction projects. The organisation continues to monitor and mitigate these costs as far as possible and is adjusting, as appropriate, its expenditure and funding budgets for this year to reflect this position.

Under current funding arrangements for GMCA the confirmation of government funding varies considerably depending upon the nature of the grant. Some programmes have confirmed or indicative funding over the current Spending Review period and others operate with short term grant funding confirmed on an annual basis. As such medium term financial planning for GMCA programmes is restricted to the information available at the time of setting the budget for the following year and will be updated throughout the financial year as part of the quarterly financial update reports.

In respect of Police and Crime and Fire and Rescue services, the 2021 Spending Review was for the three year period 2022/23 – 2024/25 which provided some clarity for planning purposes at the time. Subsequently, the 2022 Spending Review provided the funding for the PCC and Fire and Rescue Service settlement for 2023/24. The most significant uncertainty with PCC and Fire and Rescue Service expenditure relates to the pay award for which additional grant funding was provided by Home Office towards the Police Officer pay award in 2022/23, however pay award for Police staff and the Fire and Rescue Service has been met from local resources.

Implementation of GMP’s improvement plan includes significant change and a commitment to fulfil promises made to the public to deliver an effective police service. The programme board overseeing the implementation brings forward change proposals with cost implications that requires revenue and capital investment over the medium term. There will be a need to ensure this is supported by a sustainable medium term financial plan incorporating use of non-recurrent resources and efficiency savings from within existing budgets and clear risk management process.

### Outlook for the future – financial landscape.

The most recent Spending Reviews for PCCs and Fire and Rescue Services only cover the period up to 2024/25 and in December 2022 the government confirmed a one-year settlement in 2023/24. Medium term financial planning reflects estimated funding for the following two years, with very little certainty for 2025/26. The Home Office is currently undertaking a review of the funding formula for Police and Crime. The intention is to move to a weighted demand which will impact GM’s proportion of national funding.

There is an inherent financial risk across all areas of the GMCA with inflation as a consequence of the challenging global economic environment, the cost-of-living crisis and pandemic recovery impacting particularly on transport revenues. The outcome of pay negotiations is difficult to predict and the availability of government funding to meet pressures is not confirmed.

Capital schemes and associated expenditure profiles have been impacted by global pressures on construction materials availability, associated pricing and inflationary pressures. It is anticipated that these impacts will continue in the medium term. The organisation has responded to this by TfGM and local authority partners bringing together all planned infrastructure expenditure with revenue and capital funding requirements up to the end of March 2027 to support prioritisation and contingency planning within available resources.

The current Business Rates Growth Retention Pilot includes a proportion retained by GMCA to support GMS priorities, which will be impacted by a business rates baseline reset expected by 2025/26. Whilst a ‘partial reset’ is expected to provide scope for Greater Manchester local authorities to retain some of the local growth under the pilot, the details of this are still to be determined.

On a positive note as part of the ‘Trailblazer Devolution Deal’ the government has recently announced a longer-term commitment on the retention of the growth in Business Rates for ten years and new ‘Growth Zones’ in addition to ‘Investment Zones’ where business rates growth above an agreed baseline can be retained for 25 years. Furthermore, the single settlement should provide a consolidated, long term budget for GMCA set at spending reviews and based on thematic functions to replace the complexity of numerous different grants projects and programmes.

### What is in the Statements of Accounts?

The Accounts are prepared using International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). These are the same standards that a large company would use in preparing its financial statements. The following paragraphs give a brief explanation of the purpose and relationship between each of the main statements, which make up the Authority’s Annual Statement of Accounts.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The statement confirms the responsibilities of the Authority and the Treasurer for the production and content of the Annual Statement of Accounts

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES)

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), rather than the amount to be funded by local taxpayers.

Movement in Reserves Statement (MIRS)

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves. It shows how the deficit for the year in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is adjusted by the costs that are not a charge to local taxpayers.

Balance Sheet (BS)

The balance sheet shows the value as at the balance sheet date of the Authority’s recognised assets and liabilities.

Cash Flow Statement

This statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents held by the Authority during the reporting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements

These include information required by the Code and additional material items of interest to assist the reader’s understanding of the reported figures.

Accounting Policies and Concepts

These are the specific principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by the Authority in preparing and presenting the financial statements.

Events after the reporting period and authorised for issue date

This summarises any major events that happened between the year end and the authorised for issue date. Events coming to light after the authorised for issue date will not be included in the financial statements.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, precept and levy) by the Authority in comparison with those resources consumed or earned in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

Group Accounts

These include the accounts of the entities listed earlier in this narrative:

Transport for Greater Manchester, Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, NW Evergreen Holdings Limited Partnership, GM Fund of Funds Limited Partnership and Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 LP.

Glossary of financial terms

The nature of this document means that technical words are unavoidable. The glossary found at the end of the document is intended to simplify and explain such words.



**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

This statement confirms the responsibilities of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (the Authority) and the Treasurer for the production and content of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

### Further Information

Further information about the Authority’s Annual Statement of Accounts is available upon request from the following address:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority,

Finance Department

1st Floor, Broadhurst House

56 Oxford Street

Manchester

M1 6EU

This and previous year’s Annual Statement of Accounts can be viewed on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s website: www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

### The Authority’s Responsibilities

The Authority is required to:

* Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, that officer is the Treasurer.
* Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
* Approve the Statement of Accounts.

### The Treasurer’s Responsibilities

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the authority’s Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) and update to the 2022/23 Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets published in November 2022.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Treasurer has:

* Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
* Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
* Complied with the Code.

### **The Treasurer has also**:

* Kept proper accounting records which were up to date.
* Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

I certify that these audited Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2023.



**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority Single Entity Accounts

Financial Statements

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation (and rents) to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.



**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

**Date: 02 December 2024**

Movement in Reserves Statement

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end of the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into ‘usable reserves’ (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other ‘unusable reserves’. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Authority’s reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.



Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets/liabilities are matched by the usable and unusable reserves held. Usable reserves can be utilised to fund services whereas unusable reserves are accounting reserves held to reconcile the position between the accounting cost of services and the cost set out in legislation that is chargeable to precepts and taxation.

Further details of balance sheet items can be found in the relevant associated notes.



**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

**Date: 02 December 2024**

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Authority.

Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority’s future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Authority.



Single Entity Accounts

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Accounting Concepts and Policies

1.1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority’s transactions for the 2022/23 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2023. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations require the Accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2022/23 and update to the 2022/23 Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets published in November 2022, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the Local Government Act 2003.

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

1.2. Accounting Concepts

The accounts are prepared on a going concern basis. This assumes that the functions of the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

As a combined authority, the GMCA has to operate within its powers. The services provided by the GMCA include waste disposal functions, fire and rescue functions, police and crime commissioner, transport, economic development and regeneration. These services are funded by levies paid by the ten Greater Manchester authorities, precepts collected by the ten Greater Manchester authorities and grants provided by central government. The Authority does not anticipate that these levies, precepts or grants will cease in the foreseeable future given the statutory requirements placed on the GMCA to provide these services.

The group includes TfGM, which provides the transport network across Greater Manchester, and although transport related borrowing sits on the GMCA - Single Entity balance sheet, all the transport assets sit on TFGM's balance sheet within the

GMCA - Group accounts. GMCA carries sufficient reserves in respect of each of its functions to provide resilience in the event of volatility in its various funding sources.

1.3. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received. In particular:

* Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet;
* Expenses relating to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made;
* Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than on the basis of the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract;
* Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance sheet.

1.4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions and local authorities, repayable without penalty on notice of no more than 24 hours.

Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the balance sheet date and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Authority’s cash management.

1.5. Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies, or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, in other words, in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority’s financial position or financial performance.

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied. If material errors are discovered in a prior period, figures are corrected retrospectively, by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

1.6. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

* Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service;
* Revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off;
* Amortisation of intangible non-current assets attributable to the service.

The Authority is not required to raise precepts, levies or GM authority contributions to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to a minimum revenue provision (MRP) amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by the MRP contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

1.7. Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable, as a result of a decision by the Authority, to terminate an Officer’s employment or an Officer’s decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. These are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an Officer or group of Officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are made to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

1.8. Post-Employment Benefits – Pensions

Employees of the Authority are divided between two separate pension schemes: The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme for its uniformed firefighters and the Local Government Pension Scheme for all other staff.

In accordance with proper practices the Authority has fully complied with the International Accounting Standard IAS19 (Employee Benefits). All Pension schemes are classified as ‘defined benefit’ schemes under IAS19 and the accounting principles and their effect on the financial statements are explained below.

##### 1.8.1. The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme

This is a defined benefit scheme, the rules of which are set out in the Firefighters’ Pension Regulations. The scheme is wholly unfunded. No investment assets have been built up to meet liabilities and cash has to be generated from employee and employer contributions to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

The Combined Authority as an employer, and firefighters as members, pay pension contributions based on a percentage of pensionable pay into the Firefighters’ Pension Fund Account. Pension benefits are paid out of the Pension Fund Account.

The amounts payable into and out of the Pension Fund Account are specified by regulations. Any surplus or deficit on the Pension Fund Account must be transferred to or from the Authority and ultimately repaid to or received from the Home Office.

Injury awards are not part of the pension scheme and are charged directly to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, liabilities in respect of injury awards are disclosed as part of the overall pensions liability.

Other than references to assets, these schemes are accounted for in the same way as the Local Government Pension Scheme set out below.

##### 1.8.2. Local Government Pension Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme is a defined benefits scheme. Both employer and employees pay pension contributions based on a percentage of pensionable pay into the scheme.

* The liabilities of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) attributable to the authority are included in the balance sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc. and projected earnings for current employees
* Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the rate of return on high quality corporate bonds constructed on the constituents of the iBoxx AA corporate bond index. The discount rate reflects the weighted average duration of the benefit obligation
* The assets of GMPF attributable to the authority are included in the balance sheet at their fair value:
* quoted securities – current bid price
* unquoted securities – professional estimate
* unitised securities – current bid price
* property – market value.

##### 1.8.3. Net Pensions Liability

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

###### 1.8.3.1. Service cost comprising:

* Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year, allocated in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement to the services for which the employees worked;
* Past service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years, debited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement; and
* Net interest on the net defined benefit liability, i.e. net interest expense for the authority, – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the financing and investment income and expenditure line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

###### 1.8.3.2. Remeasurements comprising:

* Return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability – charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure;
* Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the pensions reserve as other comprehensive income and expenditure; and
* Contributions paid to the GMPF – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the general fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the movement in reserves statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the pensions reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the pensions reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the general fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

##### 1.8.4. Discretionary benefits

The authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

1.9. Property, Plant and Equipment and Assets under Construction

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as property, plant and equipment.

##### 1.9.1. Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The authority has a £20,000 de minimis level for the recognition of property, plant and equipment. Exceptions to this are traffic signals and vehicles, which are capitalised with no minimum level.

Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset’s potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e. repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

##### 1.9.2. Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

* the purchase price;
* any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management; and
* the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located.

The authority does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred while assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (i.e. it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the authority). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the authority.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the taxation and non-specific grant income line of the comprehensive income and expenditure statement unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the donated assets account. Where gains are credited to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, they are reversed out of the general fund balance to the capital adjustment account in the movement in reserves statement.

Assets are then carried in the balance sheet using the following measurement bases:

* assets under construction and infrastructure assets – depreciated historical cost;
* surplus assets – fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participants perspective; and
* all other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value – EUV).

Where there is no market-based evidence of current value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value.

Where non-property assets have short useful lives or low values (or both), the depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for current value.

Assets included in the balance sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly, as a minimum every five years, to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the revaluation reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

Where decreases in value are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

* where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
* where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

The revaluation reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the capital adjustment account.

##### 1.9.3. Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there are indications that an asset may be impaired. Where reliable indications exist and differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall. Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

* + where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the revaluation reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
	+ where there is no balance in the revaluation reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

##### 1.9.4. Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

* infrastructure assets – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the assets

(11 years) as estimated by a relevant expert;

* buildings – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property (5 to 100 years) as estimated by the valuer; and
* vehicles, plant and equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset (5 to 30 years) as advised by a suitably qualified officer.

Where an item of property, plant and equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. Where there is more than one significant part of the same asset that has the same useful life and depreciation method, such parts may be grouped in determining the depreciation charge. In practice, this can be achieved by only separately accounting for significant components that have different useful lives. The requirement for componentisation for depreciation purposes is applicable to enhancement and acquisition expenditure incurred and revaluations carried out from 1 April 2010.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the revaluation reserve to the capital adjustment account.

##### 1.9.5. Non-current assets held for sale

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an asset held for sale. The asset is re-valued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the surplus or deficit on provision of services. Depreciation is not charged on assets held for sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as assets held for sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of their carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale; adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as held for sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

##### 1.9.6. Disposals

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the balance sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the other operating expenditure line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the comprehensive income and expenditure statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the revaluation reserve are transferred to the capital adjustment account.

Amounts received for a disposal of £10,000 or more are categorised as capital receipts and credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve (CRR). They can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Mayoral or GMCA CRR from the relevant Mayoral or GMCA balances in the movement in reserves statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against statutory funding, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the capital adjustment account from the relevant general fund balance in the movement in reserves statement.

##### 1.11. Highways Infrastructure Assets

Highways infrastructure assets include traffic signals, tram networks, bus interchanges and bus stations, guided busways and cycle hubs.

##### 1.11.1. Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition or replacement of components of the network is capitalised on an accrual basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

##### 1.11.2 Measurement

Highways infrastructure assets are generally measured at depreciated historical cost. However, this is a modified form of historical cost. Opening balances for highways infrastructure assets were originally recorded in balance sheets at amounts of capital undischarged for sums borrowed as at 1 April 1994 England and Scotland, which was deemed at that time to be historical cost. Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by the carrying amount of the asset being written down to the recoverable amount.

##### 1.11.3 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on the parts of the highways network infrastructure assets that are subject to deterioration or depletion and by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis.

Annual depreciation is the depreciation amount allocated each year and the useful life of a Traffic Signal is estimated to be 11 years.

##### 1.11.4 Disposals and derecognition

When a component of the network is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the component in the Balance Sheet is written off to the ‘Other operating expenditure’ line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal).

The written-off amounts of disposals are not a charge against the general fund, as the cost of non-current assets are fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are transferred to the capital adjustment account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.12. Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Authority as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Authority.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Authority will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and is restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure cannot be capitalised). Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Authority’s goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant area in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

1.13. Fair Value

The Authority measures some of its non-financial assets, such as Investment Properties and Surplus Assets, and some of its financial instruments at fair value at each reporting date, if material. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

* In the principal market for the asset; or
* In the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset.

The Authority uses valuers to provide a valuation of its assets and liabilities in line with the highest and best use definition within the accounting standard. The highest and best use of the asset or liability being valued is considered from the perspective of a market participant in terms of pricing (assuming those market participants were acting in their economic best interest).

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Authority takes into account a market participant’s ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

Unquoted Equity Investments are recognised on the trade date, i.e. the date the Authority becomes committed to the purchase and would not be able to avoid acquiring it without breaking the contract, rather than the date the settlement takes place, if this is a later date.

If there is no quoted market price for the asset, then a reliable valuation technique should be applied. This could be a discounted cash flow analysis of dividends received or a valuation of the Authority’s share of the company.

Where financial liabilities and financial assets are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost, they are shown below. Their fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

* For loans from the PWLB, new borrowing rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value;
* For non-PWLB loans payable, prevailing market rates have been applied to provide the fair value;
* The fair value of trade and other receivables and creditors is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

The Authority uses appropriate valuation techniques for each circumstance, maximising the use of relevant known data and minimising the use of estimates or unknowns. This takes into account the three levels of categories for inputs to valuations for fair value assets:

* Level 1 inputs – quoted prices in active markets for identical assets that the Authority can access at the measurement date;
* Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly;
* Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability where market data is not available.

1.14. Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute

Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital under Statute (REFCUS) is expenditure of a capital nature that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset on the Balance Sheet. Expenditure is charged to the Deficit / (Surplus) on the Provision of Services as the expenditure is incurred. This is reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement and a transfer made to the Capital Adjustment Account.

1.15. Minimum Revenue Provision

The Authority is required to make a provision for the repayment of an element of the accumulated capital expenditure each year, financed by borrowing, through a revenue charge, in accordance with the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) requirements. Regulations have replaced the detailed formula for calculating MRP with a requirement to be prudent. The MRP policy is included within the annual Treasury Management Strategy agreed by the Authority, which details the guidance and options for the basis of the provision. The GMCA has adopted the following policy:

* For capital expenditure incurred before 1 April 2008 or which in the future will be Supported Capital Expenditure, MRP will be calculated using an Asset Life annuity basis over 50 years;
* For capital expenditure incurred from 1 April 2008 for all unsupported borrowing (including PFI and finance leases), MRP will be calculated on an Asset Life annuity basis. The interest rate applied will be linked to PWLB interest rates and the useful life of the asset;
* MRP will generally commence in the financial year following the one in which the expenditure was incurred. However, for long life assets, the Authority will postpone the commencement of MRP until the financial year following the one in which the asset becomes operational.

1.16. Capital and Revenue Grants and Contributions

##### 1.16.1. Revenue Grants and Contributions

Revenue grants and contributions received by the Authority can either be classified as non-specific for general purposes or specific for use in relation to a service and/or function. Where conditions have been met, specific revenue grants and contributions are credited to the relevant service line within Cost of Services; non-specific grants are credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income.

When the expenditure relating to specific grants has not been incurred, the Authority has elected to make a contribution equivalent to the unspent amount of grant to an earmarked reserve. This reserve will be released in future financial years when the expenditure to which the grant relates is incurred.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as receipts in advance. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ringfenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

##### 1.16.2. Capital Grants and Contributions

Where conditions have been met, capital grants and contributions are credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The balance of the grant or contribution that has not been used to finance expenditure is transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The amount of grant or contribution that has been used to finance expenditure is transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account via the Movement in Reserves Statement. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account when they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

##### 1.16.3. Grants and Contributions relating to Revenue Expenditure funded by Capital under Statute (REFCUS)

Where conditions have been met, grants and contributions to fund expenditure not attributable to assets owned by the Authority (Revenue Expenditure Funded by Capital Under Statute) are credited to the non-specific income line within the Cost of Services. They are then transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account when the related expenditure has been incurred via the Movement in Reserves Statement. If the grant is not spent, it goes to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve via the Movement in Reserves Statement. When spent, it is transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

1.17. Local Taxation

##### 1.17.1. Council Tax

Following the abolishment of GM Fire and Rescue Authority and GM Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Mayor now collects funds via the Mayoral General Fund and the Mayoral Police Fund respectively.

In their capacity as billing authorities the ten GM Authorities act as agents: they collect and distribute council tax income on behalf of the major preceptors and themselves. The cash collected by the billing authorities from council tax debtors belongs proportionately to the billing authorities and the major preceptors. There will therefore be a debtor/creditor position between the billing authorities and GMCA to be recognised since the net cash paid to GMCA in the year will not be its share of cash collected from council taxpayers.

##### 1.17.2. Business Rates

From 1 April 2013 the ten GM Authorities as billing authorities of Greater Manchester have acted as agents; they have collected business rates income on behalf of Central Government, the GMCA and themselves.

The business rates income distributed to each of the parties is the amount after deducting an allowance for the GM Authorities’ cost of collection. The business rates cash collected by the billing authorities through the national scheme belongs proportionately to Central Government, the GM Authorities and GMCA; there will therefore be a debtor/creditor position between these parties to be recognised since the net cash paid in the year to each party will not be their share of the cash collected from business ratepayers.

In 2022/23 GM continues to be a pilot area for the 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme and the relevant shares of business rates income for 2022/23 are Central Government (0%), GM Authorities (99%) and GMCA (1%).

For both council tax and business rates, the income reflected in the CIES in 2022/23 is the GMCA’s share of the income relating to that year. However, the amount of council tax / business rates income that can be credited to the General Fund for the year is determined by statute and may be different from the accrued income position shown in the CIES. An adjustment is made via the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the income due under proper accounting practice and the income per statute.

1.18. Financial Assets

Financial Assets such as investments (excluding those in companies included in the Authority’s group accounts) and debtors are classified into three types; amortised cost, fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) and fair value through profit or loss (FVPL).

The categorisation of financial assets into these types is dependent on the reason for holding the assets, which can be to collect cash flows, to sell assets or achieve objectives by other means.

Financial assets are introduced onto the balance sheet at fair value when the Authority becomes a party to any contractual provision.

1.18.1. Amortised Cost

These assets relate to financial instruments where the amounts received are solely principal and interest and they are held in a hold to collect business model (e.g. investments of surplus cash with the government’s debt management office or loans to third parties).

The interest received on these assets is measured using the Effective Interest Rate model.

1.18.2. Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

These assets relate to financial instruments where the amounts received are solely principal and interest, but they are held to collect cash and have the ability sell the assets (e.g. money market funds).

The interest received on these assets is measured using the Effective Interest Rate model.

All gains and losses due to changes in the fair value of these assets are accounted for through an unusable reserve (the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve) and charged to Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The cumulative gain or loss is debited or credited to the surplus/deficit on provision of services when an asset is disposed of.

1.18.3. Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

These assets relate to financial instruments where the amounts received are not principal and interest (e.g. equity investments).

Changes in fair value are charged to the surplus / deficit on the net provision of services as they occur.

Under capital accounting regulations where these assets were treated as capital expenditure the gain or loss is reversed through the Movement in Reserves Statement and charged to the Capital Adjustment Account, which is an unusable reserve.

An equity instrument that has been classed as FVPL can be designated as FVOCI if it is not held for trading (e.g. a strategic investment). Once this designation has been made it cannot be reversed. This designation would mean that any gains and losses would be held in the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve.

1.18.4. Credit loss

The Authority will recognise a loss allowance for expected credit losses, if applicable, on assets where cash flows are solely principal and interest (i.e. financial instruments measured at amortised cost or FVOCI). This does not apply where the counterparty is Central Government or another local authority.

At each year end, the loss allowance for a financial instrument is calculated as equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk on that financial instrument has increased significantly since initial recognition.

If at the year end, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition the loss allowance is measured at an amount equal to twelve month expected credit losses.

Where the financial asset was treated as capital expenditure, any losses will be reversed via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Adjustment Account.

1.19. Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Authority has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest. The interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

For Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans, the effective interest rate has been calculated over the life of the loan. This is an average and differs from the amounts actually paid in the year. The difference between the calculated interest charge and interest paid has been adjusted in the carrying amount of the loan and the amount charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the effective interest rate for the life of the loan rather than the amount payable per the loan agreement. A statutory over-ride allows the reversal of this difference through the Movement in Reserves Statement in order to charge the actual interest payable to the General Fund.

1.20. Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

* Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains);
* Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the CIES, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

1.20. Value Added Tax (VAT)

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from HMRC. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

1.22. Reserves and Balances

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year to score against the Surplus and Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement and employee benefits and they do not represent usable resources for the Authority.

The Authority produces memorandum accounts to hold the ring-fenced reserves and balances relating to the Mayoral General Fund and the Mayoral Police Fund.

1.23. Revenue

Revenue is a sub-set of income and is defined as the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net worth.

Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

Where revenue has been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

Rentals receivable under operating leases and secondary rentals received and retained by the group under finance leases are credited to income as they arise. Any premia or incentives within the lease are recognised within income on an equal basis over the term of the lease.

1.24. Contingent assets

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority.

Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

1.25. Contingent liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

1.26. Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Authority a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Authority may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the authority becomes aware of the obligation and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the authority settles the obligation.

1.27. Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the reporting period are those events that occur between the balance sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue.

Where these provide evidence of conditions in existence at the balance sheet date, the amounts recognised in the accounts are adjusted.

Where these are indicative of conditions that arose after the balance sheet date the amounts in the accounts are not adjusted. This is known as a non-adjusting event and is disclosed as a note to the accounts.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

1.28. Interests in Companies and Other Entities - Group Accounts

The Authority is required to produce group accounts where it has interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures unless interest is considered not material. The group boundary is dependent upon the extent of the Authority’s control or significant influence over the entity, which is based on the requirements of IFRS10, IFRS11 and IAS 28.

Inclusion in the group is dependent upon the extent of the Authority’s interest and power to influence an entity. The Authority is considered to control an entity if it has power over the entity, exposure or rights to variable returns from its interest with the entity and the ability to use its power to affect the level of returns. The determining factor for assessing the extent of interest and power to influence is either through ownership of an entity, or representation on an entity’s board of directors/trustees.

An assessment of all the Authority’s interests has been carried out during the year, in accordance with the Code of Practice, to determine the relationships that exist and whether they should be included within the Authority’s group accounts. As such, group accounts have been prepared for the Authority to include Transport for Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Police, NW Evergreen Holdings LP, GM Fund of Funds LP and Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 LP.

1.29. Discretionary Benefits

The Authority also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies that are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

1.30. Benefits Payable During Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees, and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority.

In 2018/19, the Authority adopted a policy of not accruing for employee benefits if the value of the adjustment was considered immaterial. An annual assessment will be made each year and should this result in an adjustment that would be material then these benefits will be accrued. In the 2022/23 accounts the employee benefit accrual was calculated and considered not to be material, therefore the accounts have not been adjusted.

1.31. Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

PFI and similar contracts are agreements to receive services, where the responsibility for making available the property, plant and equipment needed to provide the services passes to the PFI contractor. As the Authority is deemed to control the services that are provided under these PFI schemes, and as ownership of the property, plant and equipment will pass to the Authority at the end of the contracts for no additional charge, the Authority carries the assets used under the contracts on the Balance Sheet as part of Property, Plant and Equipment.

The original recognition of these assets at fair value (based on the cost to purchase the property, plant and equipment) is balanced by the recognition of a liability for amounts due to the scheme operator to pay for the capital investment. When establishing the recognition point of an asset, the Authority considers when probable and future benefits of the asset will flow to it and the extent to which the cost of the asset can be reliably measured.

PFI and similar contracts recognised on the Balance Sheet are revalued and depreciated in the same way as property, plant and equipment owned by the Authority.

The amounts payable to the PFI operators each year are analysed into the following elements:

* **Fair value of the services received during the year** – debited to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
* **Finance costs** – an interest charge on the outstanding Balance Sheet liability, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
* **Contingent Rents** – Increases in the amount to be paid for the property arising during the contract, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
* **Payment towards liability** – applied to write down the Balance Sheet liability towards the PFI operator (the profile of write-downs is calculated using the same principles as for a finance lease);
* **Lifecycle replacement costs** – proportion of the amounts payable is posted to the Balance Sheet as a prepayment and then recognised as additions to Property, Plant and Equipment when the relevant works are eventually carried out.

The Authority is deemed to control the services provided under its PFI arrangement for the Stretford Fire Station site. The Authority also has a PFI contract for the construction and maintenance of 17 police stations across GM whereby the contractor will operate and service the stations for 25 years after which ownership will revert to the Mayor of GM for nil consideration. The accounting policy for PFIs and similar arrangements has been applied to these arrangements and the assets are recognised as Property, Plant and Equipment in the Balance Sheet.

2 Critical Accounting Judgements

In applying the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts, the Authority has had to make certain judgements about complex in year transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The following are significant management judgements made in applying the accounting policies of the Authority that have the most significant effect on the Statement of Accounts. Material estimation uncertainties are described in the notes to the accounts.

Government Funding

There is an inherent degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for major government programmes devolved to GMCA and Local Government funding as a whole. Where necessary the Authority would have to consider a range of options on how to continue to provide some elements of its services with a reduced level of funding.

The asset base across Police and Crime, Fire and Rescue and Transport functions is considered as part of the financial planning process and there is not currently a sufficient indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

The Authority has entered into Private Finance Initiative (PFI) agreements for the Stretford Fire Station and 17 new Police Stations across 16 sites. The ownership of the buildings is determined by who holds the balance of control in line with accounting standards. The Authority considers the buildings and equipment associated with these sites should be included on its Balance Sheet because:

* The reversion clause within the PFI agreement results in the Authority having a residual interest in the buildings at the end of the agreement;
* The services provided and the use of the building is controlled by the Authority through the PFI agreement; and
* The PFI agreement is between the PFI contractor and the Authority.

Group Boundary

The GMCA has interests in a number of external companies either as a direct owner or in partnership with other organisations. The nature of these relationships has been

assessed under IFRS 11, IAS 27 and IAS 28 (Accounting for Joint Arrangements,

Subsidiaries and Associates).

These Accounts contain a set of group statements and supporting notes to reflect the nature and value of the Authorities’ interests in other entities. Where the Authority is considered to have control or significant influence over another entity, they are deemed to be within the group boundary and are assessed for inclusion in the group accounts.

Consolidation of entities considered for inclusion in the group account is dependent on several factors, including the extent of the Authorities’ interest and power to influence and control, materiality, investment, and transparency; where these factors are not considered material those members of the Group have not been consolidated.

Group Accounts Considerations

A review of the entities related to the Authority in 2022/23 has taken place and the conclusions are provided below:

Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

**GMP is included** in the Authority’s group accounts from 8 May 2017. The Mayor is responsible for the formal oversight of GMP, including provision of all funding, budget setting, performance scrutiny and strategic policy development, and for ensuring GMP is run efficiently and effectively. Operational decision-making on day-to-day policing including the employment of police staff remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Under the legislative framework and local arrangements, the Authority under sole instruction from the Mayor, is responsible for the finances of the Mayoral Police Fund including assets, liabilities and reserves. The Authority has responsibility for entering into contracts and establishing the contractual framework under which the Chief Constable’s officers and staff operate. The Authority receives all income and funding and makes all the payments for the policing activity from the Mayoral Police Fund. Details of the Mayoral Police Fund are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

**TfGM will continue to be included** in the Authority’s group accounts. The Authority and/or the Mayor sets local public transport policy and is responsible for deciding how funds are spent on supporting and improving GM’s public transport network. The decisions of the Authority and/or the Mayor are implemented by TfGM and TfGM is responsible for implementing the policies of the Authority. TfGM’s net expenditure after taking into account all sources of income and expenditure is financed by way of a Revenue Grant from the Authority. TfGM’s corporate objectives are derived from the Authority’s policy priorities, stakeholder consultation and its principal statutory obligations. Strategic objectives and targets are set out in the Authority/TfGM Business and Performance Plan.

For information, details of transactions with TfGM will be included within the related parties note.

Greater Manchester Fund of Funds Limited Partnership (FoFLP)

In November 2016 the Authority established FoFLP to act as a holding fund for ERDF funding. The Company registration number is 10482059. As at 31 March 2023, the fund had drawn down £45m (2022: £30m) of ERDF funding from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and £0.8m from the Authority. FoFLP invest in sub-funds that seek to support the shift towards a low carbon economy and for research and innovation workspace. The fund has a further £15m of ERDF funding awarded which can be drawn down upon the achievement of certain milestones. FoFLP is wholly owned and controlled by the GMCA and **will continue to be included** in the group accounts.

NW Evergreen Holdings Limited Partnership (NWEH)

In September 2016 the Authority established NWEH to act as a holding fund for the ERDF funding attributed to the North West Evergreen Fund, an urban development fund established under the 2007-13 European Operational Programme. The Company registration number is LP017585. NWEH received over £60m of funding from ERDF and matched funding sources and invests via its sub-fund in commercial development projects in the North West of England. **NWEH will continue to be included** in the Authority’s group accounts.

Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 Limited Partnership (GME2LP)

Evergreen 2 was incorporated on 20 February 2017 under England's 2014-20 ERDF Operational Programme and is solely a Greater Manchester fund. The Company registration number is LP017867. It has been decided that the **GM Evergreen 2 LP will continue to be Included** in the group accounts.

Greater Manchester Low Carbon UDF Limited Partnership

The GM Low Carbon UDF LP was incorporated on 20 February 2017, Company registration number LP017868. The GM FOF LP is supplying a loan facility of £15m to the GM Low Carbon UDF LP under a Contingent Loan Facility. The GM Low Carbon UDF LP is to use the funds to increase small scale renewable energy schemes. On the grounds of immateriality, it has been decided that the **GM Low Carbon UDF LP will not be Included** in the group accounts.

NW Fire Control Company

NW Fire Control Limited (NWFCC) is a Company limited by Guarantee with the responsibility for Fire and Rescue services mobilisation for the North West Region. The Company registration number is 06314891. The company has four equal partners namely: GMCA, Cheshire, Cumbria County Council and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authorities (the FRAs).

NWFCC became operational during 2014/15 and it meets with the definition of a Joint Operation for group accounts purposes. The Company is governing by unanimous consent for all key decisions, with each member having equal voting rights. The liability of each member in the event of the company being wound up is limited and shall not exceed £1. Each member of the company has the right to appoint two directors, who are Councillors appointed to their respective FRAs. In 2014 all four services transferred their Control Room functions into the regionalised service provided by NW Fire Control Limited. The cost of the service is charged out to the four FRAs on an agreed pro rata basis set out in a Service Level Agreement.

However, on the grounds of immateriality **NWFCC will not be Included** the group accounts.

For information, details of transactions with NWFCC will be included within the related parties note.

Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited (GMATL)

GMATL is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The Company registration number is 02483763. The Authority is the person with significant control and has previously included GMATL in its group accounts. On the grounds of immateriality, it has been decided that **GMATL will not be included** in the group accounts.

Manchester Investment and Development Agency Service (MIDAS)

MIDAS is a private company limited by guarantee without share capital. The Company registration number is 03323710. The Authority is the person with significant control and has previously included MIDAS in its group accounts. The balance sheet value is approximately £0.5m. On the grounds of immateriality, it has been decided that **MIDAS will not be included** in the group accounts.

For information, details of transactions with MIDAS will be included within the related parties note.

HIVE Homes

HIVE Homes is a joint venture with ten Registered Housing providers and has been incorporated to acquire sites in GM and then develop them for sale as residential use. The Company registration number is OC425196. From March 2019 the Authority has a 20% share within the company, and £2m has been invested to date. On the grounds of immateriality, it has been decided that **HIVE Homes will not be included** in the group accounts.

Resonance Supported Homes Fund Limited Partnership

Resonance Supported Homes Fund was incorporated in July 2020 to house adults with learning disabilities, autism and mental health issues living in inappropriate housing such as long-term hospital inpatient facilities, or on long waiting lists awaiting the right housing for their needs. The Company registration number is LP021031. The GMCA is a limited Partner and as such does not have the authority to legally bind the partnership. Due to a lack of control / significant influence and the partnership’s immateriality, it has been decided that **Resonance Supported Homes Fund will not be included** in the group accounts.

The GM & Cheshire life Sciences Fund Limited Partnership (Life Science 1)

The GM & Cheshire Life Sciences Fund was incorporated in September 2015 as a seed and early-stage venture capital fund for life sciences businesses located in the Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Warrington region. The Fund came to the end of its new investment period in mid-2021, by which time it had made a range of seed, early-stage and growth investments into 42 companies. The Fund will continue to support its portfolio and carry out follow-on funding until at least 2030. The Company registration number is LP016834. The GMCA is a Limited Partner and as such does not have the authority to legally bind the partnership. Due to a lack of control / significant influence and the partnership’s immateriality, it has been decided that **The GM & Cheshire Life Sciences Fund Limited Partnership will not be included** in the group accounts.

GMC Life Sciences Fund Limited Partnership (Life Sciences 2)

GMC Life Sciences Fund Limited Partnership was incorporated in May 2022.The Company registration number is LP022594. The Principal activity of this partnership is to invest in seed and early-stage life sciences businesses, located in or relocating to Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Warrington. The GMCA is a Limited Partner and as such does not have the authority to legally bind the partnership. Due to a lack of control / significant influence and the partnership’s immateriality, it has been decided that **The GMC Life Sciences Fund Limited Partnership will not be included** in the group accounts.

INTERCHANGE HOMES LLP

Interchange Home LLP was incorporated in October 2021 as a special purpose

vehicle (SPV) for the town centre residential accommodation development at

Stockport Interchange. The company registration number is OC439564. On the grounds of immateriality, it has been decided that **Interchanges Homes LLP will not be included** in the group accounts.

3 Key Sources of Estimation and Uncertainty

In preparing the annual Accounts there are areas where estimates are made. These include:

3.1 Valuation of PPE

The valuation of GMCA’s Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE) is a significant area of estimation uncertainty. There is a risk of material adjustment to the carrying value of PPE within the next financial year, if the actual values differ from the assumptions used to value PPE. A reduction in estimated valuation would result in a reduction to the Revaluation Reserve and/or a loss in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An increase in estimation valuation would result in an increase in the Revaluation Reserve and/or gain in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. For instance, the impact of a 10% change in the valuation of GMCA’s operational land and buildings would be £56m. Note 20 to the accounts sets out the Authority’s approach to the valuation of its PPE.

3.2 The liability for future pension payments which is estimated by qualified actuaries

This is estimated by the actuary and a sensitivity analysis undertaken by them for the firefighters’ pension scheme and local government pension scheme. Details can be found in Note 33 – Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.

4 Impact of Accounting Standards issued but not yet Adopted

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard which has been issued but is yet to be adopted by the 2022/23 Code.

The key accounting changes introduced by the 2023/24 Code are:

* Definition of Accounting Estimates (Amendments to IAS 8) issued in February 2021;
* Disclosure of Accounting Policies (Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement issued in February 2021;
* Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2021; and
* Updating a Reference to the Conceptual Framework (Amendments to IRS 3) issued in May 2020.

These changes are not expected to have a material impact on the Authority’s single entity or group accounts.

5 Events After the Reporting Period

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

* those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events;
* those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

**Virgin Media Ltd v NTL Pension Trustees II Ltd**

On 16 June 2023, the High Court made a significant ruling in Virgin Media Ltd v NTL Pension Trustees II Ltd and others regarding the validity of amendments made to benefits in contracted-out pension schemes between 6 April 1997 and 6 April 2016. According to the judgement, any amendments to scheme benefits made during that period will be void unless the scheme actuary had confirmed at the time of the amendment that the pension scheme would continue to satisfy the statutory standard for contracted-out schemes. This is required by section 37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993.

The High Court ruling was appealed but the Court of Appeal upheld the High Court’s decision on 25 July 2024. This decision has raised uncertainty for pension schemes that were formerly contracted-out on a salary related basis between 1997 and 2016. However, there remains a large amount of uncertainty as to whether the Secretary of State will introduce remedial legislation that would validate changes retrospectively in appropriate circumstances. There are also several unresolved national issues in relation to this case, such as what counts as written actuarial confirmation or could be deemed as sufficient evidence to validate the amendment.

Given the continuing legislative uncertainties around the case, the impact of this ruling on LGPS liabilities is not yet known at 02 December 2024 and therefore no adjustments have been made to the financial statements for the year. Management will continue to monitor developments in this case and consider the impact on LGPS liabilities where further information becomes available.

6 Authorisation for the Issue of the Statement of Accounts

The 2022/23 Audited Statement of Accounts were authorised for issue by the Treasurer on the 02 December 2024.

7a Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by the Authority in comparison to those resources consumed or earned by the Authority in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how the expenditure is allocated between services. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practice is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.



7b Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis



a) Adjustments for capital purposes – this column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and for:

- Other operating expenditure – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.

- Financing and investment income and expenditure – the statutory charges for capital financing i.e. Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

- Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income and Expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

b) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments - Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.

- For Financing and investment income and expenditure – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

c) Other Differences - Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For Financing and investment income and expenditure the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

- The charge under Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure represents the difference between what is chargeable under statutory regulations for council tax and NDR that was projected to be received at the start of the year and the income recognised under generally accepted accounting practices in the Code. This is a timing difference as any difference will be brought forward in future Surpluses or Deficits on the Collection Fund.

8 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to arrive at the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The following sets out a description of the reserves that the adjustments are made against.

General Fund Balance

The General Fund is the statutory fund into which all the receipts of an Authority are required to be paid and out of which all liabilities of the Authority are to be met, except to the extent that statutory rules might provide otherwise. These rules can also specify the financial year in which liabilities and payments should impact on the General Fund Balance, which is not necessarily in accordance with proper accounting practice. The General Fund Balance therefore summarises the resources that the Authority is statutorily empowered to spend on its services or on capital investment (or the deficit of resources that the Authority is required to recover) at the end of the financial year.

Capital Receipts Reserve

The Capital Receipts Reserve holds the proceeds from the disposal of land or other assets, which are restricted by statute from being used other than to fund new capital expenditure or to be set aside to finance historical capital expenditure. The balance on the reserve shows the resources that have yet to be applied for these purposes at the year-end.

Capital Grants Unapplied

The Capital Grants Unapplied Account (Reserve) holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Authority has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies, but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure. The balance is restricted by grant terms as to the capital expenditure against which it can be applied and/or the financial year in which this can take place.



9 Transfers to/from Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure.





10 Purpose of Earmarked Reserves

The purpose and operation of the reserves are as follows:

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| **Economic Development and Regeneration Reserves** |
| Earnback Revenue Reserve  | Funding from the devolution deal to be used for infrastructure investment. |
| Life Chances Reserve | Funding to help people in society who face the most significant barriers to leading happy and productive lives. It will provide top-up contributions to outcomes-based contracts involving social investment e.g. SIB's. |
| GM Clean Air Plan Reserve | Funding to support the work to improve air quality across GM and to develop a local plan to ensure the UK achieves compliance with legal limits for nitrogen dioxide in the shortest possible time. |
| Capability Fund  | Funding to increase the capabilities of Local Authorities to plan active travel infrastructure (walking and cycling), including building more expertise and undertaking more evidence- based planning.  |
| Growing Places Fund Reserve | Funding to establish revolving investment funds, promoting a long term locally led solution to local infrastructure constraints. |
| GPF-RGF Interest and Arrangement Fees Reserve | Interest earned on income received in advance will be re-invested within the fund as per grant conditions and arrangement fees may be off set against specific costs associated with the making of the loans. |
| Churchgate Accommodation Reserve | Earmarked funding to manage risk with shared accommodation in the Tootal Building and to develop the repurposing of the building. |
| Adult Education Budget Devolution | Funds adult further education (all 19yrs+ provision with the exception of apprenticeships/traineeships), community learning and discretionary learner support. Supports the local labour market and economic development; in particular, it focuses on ensuring that adults have the core skills that they need for progression in learning and work, including guaranteeing a number of statutory entitlements relating to English, Maths and digital skills, as well as first level 2 and 3 qualifications and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). |
| Capital Programme Reserve | Surpluses of capital financing costs which have been set aside to fund future capital programme related expenditure. |
| Business rates Growth Pilot & Levy | Revenue funding to support Greater Manchester strategic priorities, particularly for revenue expenditure on scheme development costs not able to be capitalised. |
| Housing Investment Fund (HIF) Interest and Arrangement Fees | Interest, arrangement fees and other income earned from loans funded by the funding agreement with Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities. With the surplus to be used to support the GM housing strategy. |
| Low Carbon Resource | Funding to manage short term funding risk and support various Low Carbon Programmes. |
| Work & Skills - Working Well Reserve | To support the Work & Health Programme which helps those in long term unemployment and with disabilities into work. |
| Youth Contract Reserve | Funding to be used on initiatives to tackle youth unemployment for 18-24 year-olds. |
| A Bed Every Night | Funding to support GM Mayor's Charity A Bed Every Night scheme. Works to assist those who are sleeping rough in Greater Manchester into warm, safe, and supported accommodation.  |
| Ageing Well Programme | Funding to support the Ageing Well Programme. |
| GM Covid Fund | Funding to support GMCA Corporate costs as a result of COVID-19. |
| Work & Skills - Central Reserve | Funding to support various Work & Skills programmes (such as Skills Advisory Panels and the Future Workforce Fund). |
| GMICB - Improving School Readiness | Funding to support School Readiness programmes. Aim to improve early years outcomes and to invest in our early years workforce to ensure they have the right skills and competencies to help children achieve their potential. |
| GM District Transformation Schemes | Resource to support GM-wide budget transformation and efficiency programmes led by Deputy Chief Executives. |
| GM Trailblazer Reserve | 3-year project funding for homelessness prevention schemes, working closely with the DLUHC to improve homelessness data and evidence base. |
| Brownfield Fund | Funding to support the construction of housing on brownfield land.  |

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| **Transport Reserves** |
| Active Travel Fund | Funding to support local transport authorities with delivering cycling and walking facilities. Tranche 1, to support the installation of temporary projects as part of emergency COVID-19 response measures; and tranche 2, for the creation of longer-term projects as part of the longer-term recovery. |
| Our Pass Reserve | Funding to support Our Pass. Membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester and supports both school and care leavers. Allows young people access opportunities with free bus travel throughout Greater Manchester.  |
| City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements (Revenue) | To support the development of CRSTS capital investment programme and build longer-term local transport planning and delivery capacity. |
| Integrated Ticketing Reserve | Funding to support the integrated ticketing scheme. |
| Local Transport Fund | Funding provided to Local Transport Authorities for the provision of bus services which require local authority support, including tendered bus services and light rail/tram services. |
| BR (Highways Capital) | Funding settlement directly from government as part of the single pot allocations to support GMCA services. |

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| **Waste Reserves** |
| National Waste Strategy  | This reserve has been established to support with costs with providing responses to and implementation of the National Waste Strategy. |
| Waste Disposal Insurance Reserve | This reserve has been established as a result of reducing the insurance provision in compliance with IAS37. The reserve provides a prudent contingency against unforeseen future claims, including the MMI Scheme of Arrangement. The reserve also provides a prudent hedge against changes in the insurance market which may require premium increases. The Reserve is now also enhanced as a buffer to satisfy any future insurance claims that may arise from an unforeseen event due to failure to secure selected insurance from the market. |
| Waste Interest Rate Reserve | To enable the Waste & Resources service to meet the additional cost of funding future increases in the margin chargeable on borrowings, arising from the current policy of not taking longer term debt. |
| Waste Pension Deficit Funding Reserve | To meet the cost of funding potential future deficit arising on transfer of former Greater Manchester Waste Limited employees into the Authority’s pension fund on commencement of the Contract, and to take account of possible further efficiencies arising from austerity challenges. |
| Waste Medium Term Financial Plan Funding Reserve | Reserve to support the delivery of objectives in the Waste & Resources service Medium Term Financial Plan. |
| Waste Optimisation Reserve | This reserve has been set up to allow a further capital contribution to be made (if required), so that the Authority can realise longer term financial and operational benefits from the approach to minimising the amount of waste sent to landfill. |
| Waste Compositional Reserve | This reserve provides the cost of conducting a review of waste arisings to be spread over several years. The review enables us to gauge whether our residents are recycling, and in so doing, better target limited behavioural change resources. |
| Waste MRF Redevelopment | Reserve funding to allow for redevelopment works at the MRF at Sharston. |
| Waste Re-procurement | Reserve funding to allow for expenditure to be incurred with reprocuring waste management contracts. |
| Waste Lifecycle Reserve | Reserve created to allow funding of lifecycle / maintenance needs at the operational sites now under Authority control. |

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| **Mayoral General Fund** |
| Capital Reserve | Surpluses of capital financing costs which have been set aside to fund future capital programme related expenditure. |
| Earmarked Budgets Reserve | Funding to be utilised to meet the costs of future projects as part of the budget strategy. |
| Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserves | Accumulated unspent grant funding which is required to meet costs in future years. |
| Insurance Reserve | Reserve established as a result of reducing the insurance provision in compliance with IAS37. The reserve provides a prudent contingency against unforeseen future claims, including the MMI Scheme of Arrangement. The reserve also provides a prudent hedge against changes in the insurance market which may require premium increases. |
| Business Rates Reserve | Funding to mitigate the impact of potential significant deficits on the ten Greater Manchester Council respective Collection Funds, of which the Authority is liable for 1%. |
| Restructuring Reserve | Reserve created to provide funds towards the costs of service transition.  |
| Innovation and Partnership CYP Reserve | Funding for future partnership and innovation schemes and to support Children’s and Young People’s initiatives.  |
| Projects Reserve | Funding to support project work within the Authority. |
| Transformation Reserve | New reserve set up as part of the Budget Strategy to be used by the mayor to promote collaboration and transformation in blue light services. |
| Mayoral General Fund Balances  | Funding to support The Mayoral General fund. |
| Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve | Fund to hold capital grants which have been received and credited to income but not yet spent on the acquisition of non-current assets. |

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| **Mayoral Police Fund** |
| Revenue Expenditure Reserve | Funding to be utilised to meet costs of existing projects which span years. |
| Insurance Reserve | Insurance Reserve - this reserve has been established as a result of reducing the insurance provision in compliance with IAS37. The reserve provides a prudent contingency against unforeseen future claims, including the MMI Scheme of Arrangement. The reserve also provides a prudent hedge against changes in the insurance market which may require premium increases. |
| PCC Earmarked Reserves | Funding to be utilised to meet costs of future projects which support the delivery of the Police and Crime Plan. |
| PFI Reserve | This reserve holds that balance of the PFI grant paid by the Home Office. It is used to support the future costs arising from the PFI Scheme. |
| Usable Capital Receipts Reserve  | Fund to hold proceeds from the sale of non-current assets which can be used to either finance future additions or to repay external debt. |
| Mayoral Police Fund Balances | Funding to support The Mayoral Police Fund. |

11 Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

This table shows the underlying nature of the income and expenditure of the Authority:



12 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Capital grants payable to TfGM/GM Authorities and other bodies delivering economic development and regeneration projects are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as expenditure incurred and they are then reversed out in the Movement in Reserves Statement.



13 Grants and Contributions Credited to Comprehensive Income

The Authority credited the following grants and contributions to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:





\*The full benefit of the saving from a loan provided at below market rate interest is treated as a grant in the year the loan funds are received. In future years the benefit is reduced annually over the remaining years of the loan term using a fair value effective interest rate.

14 Grants and Contributions Received in Advance

The Authority received the following grants and contributions in advance. These were not credited to theComprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as they have conditions that have not yet been met.



15 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure





16 Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income



17 External Audit Fees

The Authority has incurred the following External Audit costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts and certification of grant claims.



18 Officer Remuneration

Officers with Remuneration above £50,000

The number of employees (including senior employees) receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were as follows**:**



Senior Employees Remuneration

Employees are classed as senior employees when they received a salary in excess of £150,000 (disclosed by name) or received a salary in excess of £50,000 and reported to the Head of Paid Service for the Authority. In addition, the salaries for the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime are disclosed.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | Post holder commenced 9 January 2023. (2022/23: FTE salary £89,900) |
| B | Post holder stepped down as Deputy Mayor on 8 January 2023 (FTE salary £89,900). Commenced new role as Assistant Deputy Mayor 0.50 FTE (FTE salary £89,900) from 9 January 2023, supporting establishment of new Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime. |
| C | The GMCA received a contribution of £115,682.88 (2021/22: £114,720.42) for the Chief Executive also performing the duties of Chief Executive at Transport for Greater Manchester during 2022/23. 50% of Basic Pay and Employers NI. |
| D | The GMCA received a contribution of £15,000 for the Treasurer performing duties of Executive lead for finance and investment at Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership during 2022/23 (2021/22: £60,000) This contribution is included in the Treasurers Total Remuneration figure. |
| E | Post in 2021/22 is also 0.41 FTE, Annual Salary for 1.0 FTE would be £164,789.37. Post in 2022/23 is 0.41 FTE, Annual salary for 1.0 FTE would be £166,714.37. |
| F | Post holder left post 31 July 2022.  |  |
| G | Post holder commenced 26 September 2022. (2022/23: FTE salary £131,925). |

Exit Costs

Exit payments are made as a result of the departure of staff from the Authority. The total cost per band and the total cost of compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:



19 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed below.







Many capital schemes take two or more years to complete. At the Balance Sheet date the main contractual commitments relating to ongoing schemes were as follows:



20 Property, Plant and Equipment Including Disposals

Full details of how assets are capitalised, valued, depreciated, impaired, and disposed of are provided in the accounting policies note.

The Authority carries out a rolling programme to ensure that all property required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every 5 years. Annual desktop reviews take place in the intervening period to ensure that carrying values are not materially different from current values at the balance sheet date. All valuations were carried out by independent external valuers, as outlined below. The sources of information and assumptions made by each valuer are set out in valuation certificates and reports.

Where there is an active market, land and buildings are valued at current value based on existing use value (EUV). This approach looks at local market conditions, recent sales data, and other relevant information for similar assets within the local authority area. Significant inputs include yields, valuation per square metre and rents per square metre.

Where assets are of a specialist nature and there is no market-based evidence of current value, depreciated replacement cost (DRC) is used as an estimate of current value. DRC uses various assumptions such as BCIS cost data, professional fees, and obsolescence in order to calculate the asset valuation.

Waste Assets

* Valuations were carried out by Avison Young, an independent valuer, for all land, buildings and infrastructure revaluations. These asset valuations were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.
* Hilco Appraisals Limited carried out plant and machinery valuations.

Other Land and Building Assets

* Salford City Council Property Services carried out valuations of the Authority’s remaining land and building assets, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

Surplus Assets

* Salford City Council Property Services value the Authority’s surplus assets, which mainly comprise former operational police sites that have been vacated. These assets are valued at fair value reflecting the highest and best use of the assets based on prevailing planning policy and local market factors.







**Movements on balances**

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code of Practice on infrastructure assets, this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The authority has chosen not to disclose this information as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.



Balance Sheet reconciling note:



The authority has determined in accordance with the England amendment of the Local Authorities Capital Finance and Accounting Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

21 Intangible Assets

The Authority accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets are purchased licenses.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be used by the Authority. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Authority are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assets attributable to the Fire and Rescue Services | 3 to 10 years |
| Assets attributable to the Policing Service | 5 years |
| Assets attributable to the Waste Disposal Services | 5 years |

The carrying amounts of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. Amortisation has been charged to service headings in the cost of services as follows:



The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:



There is one capitalised software suite that is individually material to the financial statements: The Information Services Transformation Programme had a gross carrying amount of £25.306m at 31 March 2023 and a remaining amortisation period of 3 years.

22 Short and Long Term Debtors

Short Term Debtors

These are amounts owed to the Authority, which will be repaid within a year.



Other entities and individuals include the following short term debtors:

* £128m where Housing Investment Fund loans have been provided to support GM’s economic growth by supporting the delivery of new homes (£70.0m in 21/22).
* £10.8m where Regional Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund (GPF) monies have been recycled and loans provided for investment in businesses and commercial property projects (£6.8m in 21/22).

Long Term Debtors

These are amounts owed to the Authority, which are being repaid over various periods longer than one year.



Ageing Analysis of Trade Debtors

At 31 March 2023, trade debtors at a nominal value of £194,000 (2022: £666,000) were impaired.

As at 31 March 2023, the ageing analysis of trade debtors net of the provision for impairment was as follows:



23 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The balance of cash and cash equivalents is made up of the following elements:

* Cash is represented by operating bank accounts (shown net of bank overdrafts), deposits with financial institutions for less than three months, cash in hand and petty cash balances.
* Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in three months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with an insignificant risk of change in value. These include interest bearing call accounts and money market funds with institutions that meet our required credit ratings.



24 Short and Long Term Creditors

Short Term Creditors

The table below shows the amounts owed by the Authority but not yet paid:



25 Short and Long Term Provisions

Provisions are amounts set aside by the Authority to meet the cost of a future liability, for which, the timing of payment is uncertain. In line with the Code of Practice, the provision is charged to the service revenue account in the year it is established; when liability falls due it is charged directly to the provision.



The provisions held by the Authority are described below:

GMCA

1. Landcare Provision - The GMWDA sold 18 sites to the private sector (Landcare (Manchester) Limited) in December 2012 in return for agreeing a fixed ten-year contribution less potential income from part of any enhanced value (overage) from future development of the sites. The Landcare provision represents the maximum amounts that GMCA would have to pay each year, however as there is an overage clause if Landcare were to make money from one of the sites transferred to them, there is a mechanism to reduce the annual payment.

Mayoral General Fund

1. Insurance Provision - This provision represents the value of an actuarial assessment of the remaining liability for all self-insured claims occurring in 2022/23, all prior policy years and a prudent margin added for emerging claim types.
2. Business Rates Appeals Provision - This is the estimated amount required to cover the cost of successful appeals against local non-domestic rateable values, where the cost of these appeals is required to be met locally.
3. Bear Scotland v Fulton - The Employment Appeals Tribunal has ruled in this case that non-contractual overtime needs to be included when calculating holiday pay paid to firefighter employees. This provision is the estimated amount required to pay backdated claims.

Mayoral Police Fund

1. Insurance Provision - This provision represents the value of an actuarial assessment of the remaining liability for all self-insured claims occurring in 2022/23, all prior policy years and a prudent margin added for emerging claim types.
2. Police Pension Lump Sum Provision - The Pensions Ombudsman determined there was an underpayment of lump sums, to pension scheme members who retired between December 2001 and August 2006. The Ombudsman concluded that commutation formulas to convert annual pensions payments to lump sums should have been updated between 2001 and 2006 and as a result, additional payments are due to those members who chose to commute pension for lump sum at retirement during these years.
3. Capital Project Retentions Provision - This is a provision to hold a percentage of a projects total funding, which is retained during the contractual defects period

26 Short and Long Term Leases including PFI

Fire Station

2022/23 was the twenty third year of a 25-year PFI contract (ending October 2024) for the construction, maintenance and provision of a Fire Station at Stretford, along with associated equipment.

The contract specifies minimum standards for the services to be provided by the contractor, with deductions from the fee payable being made if facilities are unavailable or performance is below the minimum standards. The building and equipment will be transferred to the Authority at the end of the 25-year contract at nil value.

Over the remaining term of the contract, the Authority is committed to making gross payments of £1.175m (average payment per year is £0.743m). However, the net cost to the Authority after income from specific government grant is estimated at £0.384m (average payment per year is £0.243m).

Police Stations

2022/23 was the twentieth year of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract (ending in 2030) for the construction and maintenance of 17 Police stations across the GM area. The contractor will operate and service the stations for 25 years after which ownership will revert to the Authority, to be held on behalf of the Mayor, for nil consideration.

Over the remaining term of the contract, the Authority is committed to making gross payments of £125.227m (average payment per year is £17.890m). However, the net cost to the Authority after income from specific government grant is estimated at £88.022m (average payment per year is £12.575m).

Property Plant and Equipment

The Stations and Equipment provided under the contracts are recognised on the Authority's Balance Sheet. Movements in their value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement on the Property Plant and Equipment balance in the notes to the Balance Sheet.

Outstanding Liability

The PFI liability represents the current outstanding long term liability to the contractor for capital expenditure. A fair value disclosure has also been provided for the PFI liabilities in the Financial Instruments note. The current value of the liability held under each PFI arrangement is as follows:

2022/23:



2021/22:



Central Government Grant Subsidy

The grant received in the form of Central Government Subsidy to partly offset the cost of each PFI is credited to revenue accounts in the year of receipt.

Payments due under the PFI Contracts

The Authority makes monthly payments which comprise of a service charge, a repayment of liability and interest charge, a payment in respect of business rates and a payment to provide for lifecycle replacement costs (known as the 'Sinking Fund'). The payments into the sinking fund are treated initially as a prepayment by the Authority. The Service Provider throughout the contractual term will utilise the sinking fund for the repair and replacement of the premises, and fixture and fittings with the consent of the Authority. All payments made, other than the liability and interest charge, are subject to annual inflation increases and can be reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards in any year. The Authority on behalf of the Mayor has the right to terminate the contact only if the contractor is compensated in full for costs incurred and lost future profits.

Future payments remaining to be made under the contracts (including an estimate of future inflation) are as follows:

 





27 Short and Long Term Deferred Liabilities

This debt was created on 1 April 1986 when Greater Manchester Council was abolished and its debt was shared between the ten GM Authorities, the Police Authority, the Fire Authority, GMWDA and Greater Manchester Transport.

The debt was being repaid annually on an annuity basis over the 36 years and the final payment was made in 21/22.



27a Contingent Liability

##### Special Retained Firefighters – Matthews Case

In November 2018 a ruling on the legal case involving part time judges (O’Brien v Ministry of Justice) has a direct impact on the equivalent case for retained firefighters (Matthews). Home Office Ministers agreed to extend the pension entitlement to eligible retained firefighters to cover service pre-July 2000. The Memorandum of Understanding signed in March 2022 sets out the intended scope and operation of the options exercise required to enact a remedy in this case. The option exercise is expected to open sometime during or shortly after 2023/24. This options exercise will increase the pension entitlement for some current special retained members and also allow access to the scheme for additional historic retained firefighters.

As at the 31March 2023 the Government Actuary Department has calculated an estimate, of £0.5m based on the 2022/23 accounting assumptions for the potential additional liability which could arise following this options exercise.

However, there is very significant uncertainty in this additional liability estimate and it is very likely that actual experience for the authority will be different to the assumptions made and may be very different from the actual impact of the options exercise once it has concluded. On that basis no liability has been recognised in the 2022/23 accounts

28 Unusable Reserves



**The Capital Adjustment Account (CAA)** absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The CAA is debited with the cost of the capital grants payable to TfGM, GM Authorities and other external organisations, the annual depreciation charge and any loss on disposal of assets. The CAA is credited with both the capital grants and contributions receivable and the amounts set aside by the Authority to directly finance the capital costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement of assets.



**The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account** absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions.



The movement in year is due to the Authority being in receipt of two loans from central government that are interest free for the purposes of HIF and City Deal. In accordance with statutory accounting requirements an effective interest rate has been calculated to enable the value of the financial assistance being provided to the GMCA on a net present value basis to be separated from the financing costs of the loan.

The effect of this in the accounts is to discount the value of the loans received using an interest rate at which the Authority could borrow from the Public Works Loan Board for a loan with similar terms. This will result in a lower figure for the fair value of the loan when it is initially recognised as received but each year an element of the full fair value discount will be written back. Thereby increasing the loan value on the balance sheet annually over the loan term. This will continue until the full loan value advanced is reflected in the balance sheet, which is the year repayment of the loan falls due.

**The Pension Reserve** relates to the net pension asset as at 31 March 2023 in accordance with the actuary's report.



**The Revaluation Reserve** contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of Property, Plant and Equipment. The balance reduces when assets with accumulated gains are reduced through revaluation, impairment and depreciation or are disposed of.

 

**The Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve** contains the gains made bythe Authority arising from increases in the fair value of its investments that are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

The balance is reduced when investments with accumulated gains are:

* + Revalued downwards, or impaired and gains are lost;
	+ Disposed of and the gains are realised.



**The Collection Fund Adjustment Account** manages the differences arising from the recognition of the Authority’s portion of council tax income and national non-domestic rates income in the CIES as it falls due from payers compared with statutory arrangements for paying across amounts due to the Authority from billing authorities.



**The Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve** holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which the cash settlement has yet to take place.



29 Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments include the financial assets and liabilities of the Authority. These appear in different sections of the Balance Sheet depending on their characteristics.

Categories of Financial Instruments

The Authority is required to classify its financial assets into one of three categories.

* Financial Assets held at amortised cost. These assets relate to instruments where the amount received relating to them are solely principal and interest and they are held to generate cashflows. The amount presented in the balance sheet represents the outstanding principal plus any accrued interest. Interest credited to CIES is the amount receivable as per the instrument’s agreement.
* Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI). Amounts received relate to principal and interest but the business model for holding the asset includes the possibility of sale. These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value are accounted for through a reserve account (the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve), with the balance debited or credited to CIES when the asset is disposed of.
* Fair Value Through Profit and Loss (FVPL) – all other instruments where the amounts received relating to them are not principal and interest, for example dividends as part of equity instruments. These assets are measured and carried at fair value. All gains and losses due to changes in fair value (both realised and unrealised) are recognised in the CIES as they occur.

The following tables show the categories of financial instruments which are carried in the Balance Sheet:









The Authority provided two loans to the Growth Company in 2020/21 at less than market rates of interest (these are known as soft loans).

* a £1.5m loan for the Coronavirus Business Interruption Scheme (CBILS); and
* a £6m loan for the Bounceback Loan Scheme, where the Growth Company Business Finance division are administering financial support to businesses as an accredited loan provider.

A further soft loan was issued in 2022/23:

* a £0.2m convertible loan note



When the loans are made the amount of interest forgone over the life of the loan is charged to the CIES (debited to the appropriate service line) and the outstanding principal is reduced on the Balance Sheet. This represents the present value of the interest that will be forgone over the life of the loan agreement. Statutory provisions require that the impact of soft loans on the General Fund balance is the interest receivable in the year, so the amount of foregone interest is managed by a transfer from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account to the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are summarised in the table below:



Fair Value of Assets & Liabilities

Fair Value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Assets and liabilities are carried at amortised cost where part of their carrying amount (as per the balance sheet) will either be written down or written up via the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the term of the financial instrument.

For the purposes of the notes to the accounts, all assets and liabilities are given a fair value, although this is only shown in the balance sheet for available for sale assets. For many financial instruments the fair value will be the same as the outstanding principal amount, but for others there could be a significant difference.

Fair Value Hierarchy

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of the Authority’s fair value measurement of its assets and liabilities are categorised within the fair value hierarchy as follows:

* Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Authority can access at the measurement date.
* Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.
* Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

Set out below is a comparison by class of the carrying amounts and fair value of the Authority's financial assets and financial liabilities:



Equity Investments

The Authority holds £42.286m of equity investments for a number of businesses that previously held loans plus other direct investments in 2022/23. The Authority has made the irrevocable election to designate these assets as Fair Value through Other Comprehensive Income in accordance with IFRS 9 Financial Instruments. They meet the requirements of the CIPFA code to be designated this way as they are all strategic investments and not held for trading purposes.

The shares or limited partnership interests held are not traded in active markets and are valued based on level 2 - observable input data from the companies, such as latest filed accounts and management accounting reports. There have been no transfers between input levels or changes in valuation techniques during 2022/23 for this class of asset.

Of the 20 equity investments held, the largest balances relate to:

* **Stockport Interchange (£9.3m)** – this is an investment to support the construction of 196 apartments at Stockport Bus Interchange. The valuation is based upon detailed forecasts of the scheme, which show that the investment is expected to be returned, plus a profit on investment.
* **National Homelessness Property (£7.7m)** – this is an investment into National Homelessness Property Fund 2, for the acquisition and refurbishment of properties, providing people at risk of homelessness with a settled home. The valuation is based upon the latest National Homelessness Property 2 Trust investment report, including the property valuations and forecast yield.
* **Life Sciences 1 (£7m)** – this is an investment into a fund that provides seed and early-stage venture capital investment for life sciences businesses. Investments are valued by the Manager in line with the requirements of FRS 102 and according to the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines. Where equity investments are publicly traded, the trade price will be used as the fair value. The value of unquoted equity investments is established by using measurements of values such as price of recent investments and earnings multiples. Where no reliable value can be estimated using such techniques, unquoted investments are carried at cost subject to provision for impairment where necessary. GMCA holds a mix of these investments with a 32.6% share of the total fund.

Other Financial Assets and Liabilities

The fair values disclosed in the table above have been assessed using the following assumptions:

* The fair value of cash and cash equivalents, short term debtors and short term creditors is taken to be their carrying amount as this is deemed to provide a reasonable approximation in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.
* The fair value of soft loan short term and long term debtors has been calculated using an interest rate arrived at by taking the Authority’s prevailing cost of borrowing and adding an allowance for the risk that the loans might not be repaid.
* The fair value of other long term debtors has been evaluated and where these relate to loan advances greater than £3m, prevailing benchmark market rates have been applied to provide the fair value. All other long term debtors are included at their carrying value.
* Fair value for PFI schemes cannot be obtained as there is no comparable information available, and these have therefore been shown at cost.
* PWLB loans – premature repayment loan rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value. In comparison, by applying PWLB new loan rates their fair value would be £535.657m.
* Non-PWLB loans – premature repayment loan rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value. In comparison, by applying PWLB new loan rates their fair value would be £781.143m.
* The valuation techniques used for PWLB and non-PWLB debt are level 2 –observable inputs. There have been no changes in valuation technique during the financial year.

The purpose of the fair value disclosure is primarily to provide a comparison with the carrying value, which includes accrued interest as at the balance sheet date. The Authority has therefore included accrued interest in the fair value calculation.

The discount rates used for the evaluation were obtained by the Authority from Link Asset Services. The Link Asset Group is a leading and independent provider of capital financing, treasury advisory and strategic advisory consulting services to the public sector.

Assumptions used, which do not have a material effect on the fair value evaluation are: interest is calculated using a 365 day basis; interest is paid on the maturity date; no adjustment is made to the interest value and date where a relevant date occurs on a non-working day.

Loans and Borrowings are set out by type of loan and by maturity in the table below:



30 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The Authority’s activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, the key risks are:

* Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Authority;
* Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
* Re-financing risk – the possibility that the Authority might be requiring to renew a financial instrument on maturity at disadvantageous interest rates or terms;
* Market Risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates or stock market movements.

The Authority’s overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services.

The procedures for risk management are set out through a legal framework, based on the Local Government Act 2003 and associated regulations. These require the Authority to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services and investment guidance issued through the Act. Overall these procedures require the Authority to manage risk in the following ways:

* by formally adopting the requirements of the CIPFA Treasury ManagementCode of Practice;
* by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within its financial regulations/standing orders/constitution;
* by approving annually in advance prudential indicators for the following three years limiting:
* The Authority’s overall borrowing;
* Its maximum and minimum exposures in the maturity structure of its debt;
* Its management of interest rate exposure:
* Its maximum and minimum exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.
* by approving an investment strategy for the forthcoming year, setting out its criteria for both investing and selecting Investment counter parties in compliance with the Government Guidance.

These are required to be reported and approved at or before the Authority’s annual setting of the budget or before the start of the year to which they relate. These items are reported with the annual treasury management strategy which outlines the detailed approach to managing risk in relation to the Council’s financial instrument exposure. Actual performance is also reported after each year, as is a mid-year update.

The annual treasury management strategy which incorporates the prudential indicators was approved by the Combined Authority in July 2023 and is available on the GMCA website.

Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the Authority in the annual treasury management strategy. The Authority maintains written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk, and the investment of surplus cash through Treasury Management Practices (TMPs). These TMPs are a requirement of the Code of Practice and are reviewed periodically.

Specified Investments

Specified Investments are investments in sterling denomination, with maturities up to a maximum of 1 year. All specified investments meet the minimum ‘high’ ratings criteria where applicable.

* + Term deposits – Other local authorities: Credit Criteria high security;
	+ Term deposits – Banks and building societies; Credit Criteria Minimum of A-;
	+ Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility & UK Nationalised Banks – UK Government Backed;
	+ Certificates of deposits issued by banks and building societies covered by UK Government guarantees – UK Government explicit guarantee;
	+ Money Market Funds, credit criteria AAA;
	+ Non-UK Banks / Building Societies – Domiciled in a country which has a minimum sovereign Long Term rating of AAA;
	+ Treasury Bills – UK Government backed;
	+ Covered Bonds – Credit Criteria AAA.

Non-Specified Investments

Non-specified investments are any other type of investment not defined as specified above. Any proposals to use any non-specified investments will be reported to members for approval.

Investment Limits

The financial investment limits applying to institutions or investment vehicles are as follows:

* Banks and Building Societies £25m
* CD’s or Corporate Bonds with Banks and Building Societies £25m
* Debt Management Office Unlimited
* Money Market Funds £25m
* Other local authorities £25m

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority’s debtors and creditors.

This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch and Moody’s Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined above. All investments held as at 31 March 2023 were with the HM Treasury Debt Management Office, other local authorities or UK banks and building societies.

The Authority has not used any non-credit rated institutions (for instance smaller building societies or bank subsidiaries where the parent has a satisfactory rating). In these circumstances, these investments would have been classified as other counterparties.

The following significant inputs, assumptions and estimation techniques have been used in calculating impairment loss allowances:

* The Authority assesses each loan it provides individually in terms of likelihood and quantum of recovery, taking a forward-looking approach to the assessment from two different aspects:
* Performance - reviewing portfolio and management information to assess business risk from a performance perspective.
* Security - reviewing the strength of the Authority’s security in a loan recovery situation to allow this to be factored into the loss allowance assessment.



* The Authority’s debtors relate primarily to claims on central and local government departments. Other non-trade debtors include HMRC and RGF/GPF, HIF, City Deal and Growth Deal loans.

The RGF/GPF, HIF, City Deal, Growth Deal and other stand-alone loans have had individual risk profiles assessed, resulting in a ‘lifetime expected loss allowance’ of £4.264m being included within the accounts, as per the table above.

Of the total debtors past their due date for payment, the estimated exposure to default for trade debtors is £0.1m.

* The Authority’s trade creditors relate primarily to capital and revenue amounts payable in relation to Waste Disposal and Police Fund.

##### Credit Ratings Used:

Banks and Building Societies - as a minimum, institutions must have the following Fitch (or equivalent) credit ratings (where rated):

* Long Term - Fitch BBB+
* Short Term - Fitch F2 or higher

##### Monitoring of credit ratings:

This Authority will not use the approach of using the lowest rating from all three rating agencies to determine creditworthy counterparties. The Link Asset Services creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information than just primary ratings and by using a risk weighted scoring system does not give undue preponderance to just one agency’s ratings.

All credit ratings will be monitored weekly. The Authority is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Link Asset Services creditworthiness service.

* If a downgrade results in the counterparty/investment scheme no longer meeting the Authority’s minimum criteria, its further use as a new investment will be withdrawn immediately;
* In addition to the use of Credit Ratings, the Authority will be advised of information in Credit Default Swap against the iTraxx benchmark and other market data on a weekly basis. Extreme market movements may result in the downgrade of an institution or removal from the Authority’s lending list;
* Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition this Authority will also use market data and market information, as well as information on any external support for banks to help support its decision-making process.

Liquidity Risk

The Authority manages its liquidity position through the risk management procedures above (the setting and approval of prudential indicators and the approval of the treasury and investment strategy reports), as well as through a comprehensive cash flow management system, as required by the Code of Practice. This seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed.

If unexpected movements happen, the Authority has ready access to borrowings from the money market and the Public Works Loans Board. The Authority is also required to provide a balanced budget through the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which ensures sufficient monies are raised to cover annual expenditure. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments.

The Authority maintains a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures listed above are considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer term risk to the Authority relates to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature. This risk relates to both the maturing of longer term financial liabilities and longer term financial assets.

The approved prudential indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Authority approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks and the central treasury team address the operational risks within the approved parameters. This includes:

* monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of the existing debt; and
* monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Authority’s day to day cash flow needs, and the spread of longer term investments provide stability of maturities and returns in relation to the longer term cash flow needs.

The Authority has £50m lender option borrower option (LOBO) loans. These have fixed rates of interest, but the lender may seek to increase interest rates at which point the Authority has the option to repay the loan. As there is no certainty as to whether these loans will be repaid early, the Authority has treated them as fixed loans which will run to maturity. In forming this judgement the Authority has taken account of its ability to refinance through PWLB.

The table below shows the liquidity risk to the Authority based on maturity analysis:



Refinancing and maturity risk

The Authority maintained a significant debt and investment portfolio. Whilst the cash flow procedures were considered against the refinancing risk procedures, longer term risk to the Authority related to managing the exposure to replacing financial instruments as they mature.

The approved treasury indicator limits for the maturity structure of debt and the limits placed on investments placed for greater than one year in duration are the key parameters used to address this risk. The Authority approved treasury and investment strategies address the main risks, these include:

* Monitoring the maturity profile of financial liabilities and amending the profile through either new borrowing or the rescheduling of existing debt;
* Monitoring the maturity profile of investments to ensure sufficient liquidity is available for the Authority’s day to day cash flow needs;
* All trade creditors are due to be paid in less than one year.

Market Risk

The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Authority, depending on how variable and fixed interest rates move across differing financial instrument periods. For instance, a rise in variable and fixed interest rates would have the following effects:

* Borrowings at variable rates – The interest expense charged to the Deficit / (Surplus) on the Provision of Services will rise;
* Borrowings at fixed rates - The fair value of the borrowing liability will fall;
* Investments at variable rates - The interest income credited to the Deficit / (Surplus) on the Provision of Services will rise; and
* Investments at fixed rates - The fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value on the balance sheet, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Deficit / (Surplus) on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Deficit on the Provision of Services and effect the General Fund Reserve.

The Authority has a number of strategies for managing interest rate risk. The Annual Treasury Management Strategy draws together Authority’s prudential indicators and its expected treasury operations, including an expectation of interest rate movements. From this Strategy, a prudential indicator is set which provides maximum limits for fixed and variable interest rate exposure. The central treasury team will monitor market interest rates and forecast interest rates within the year to adjust exposures appropriately. For instance, during periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate investments may be taken for longer periods to secure better long term returns.

The Authority tries to maximise its income on temporary investment and minimise its interest costs on temporary and long term borrowing.

The maximum interest rate increase that could be expected in the current climate is assessed at 2%. This would only apply to our net short term investments. The Authority also has a number of LOBO loans that can be called at periods. There is the risk that these may have to be refinanced at a higher rate. The financial effect of these variable rate changes would be:



Price Risk

The Authority holds £42.286m in Equity Investments and is exposed to some degree of price risk in relation to these assets. These investments are generally illiquid with no active market, but the Authority is exposed to potential losses arising from movements in the price of shares or impairments of the assets held. As the shareholdings have arisen in the acquisition of specific interests, the Authority is not in a position to limit its exposure to price movements by diversifying its portfolio. Instead, the Authority monitors factors that may cause a fall in the value of specific shareholdings and reviews observable input data from the companies, such as latest filed accounts and management accounting reports. As the investments are all classified as Equity Instruments designated at FVTOCI, all movements in price will be recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

31 Related Party Transactions

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties. These are bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Authority or to be controlled or influenced by the Authority. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Authority might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Authority. In this context the organisations in which members (The Mayor and leaders of the GM Authorities) and chief officers of the Authority have an influence or interest include;

* Central Government
* GM Authorities
* Transport for Greater Manchester
* Greater Manchester Police
* North West Fire Control
* Manchester Investment and Development Agency Service Limited
* Halle Concert Society
* Greater Manchester Fund of Funds Limited Partnership
* NW Evergreen Holdings Limited Partnership
* Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 Limited Partnership
* Manchester Camerata
* Hive Homes LLP
* Resonance Supported Homes
* National Homelessness Property
* Interchange Homes LLP

Members and Chief Officers

Members of the Authority (the Mayor and leaders of the GM Authorities) have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies.

No members allowances are payable; the remuneration of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime are disclosed in Senior Employees Remuneration note.

Details of member's interest, both pecuniary and non-financial are recorded in the register of member’s interest (available for public inspection).

During the year the Authority reported material transactions with Halle Concerts Society and Manchester Camerata. Both related parties by virtue of common director**.** See below related parties’ disclosure for more detail.

Central Government

Central Government has effective control over the general operations of the Authority. It is responsible for providing the framework within which the Authority operates and provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Authority has with other parties.



GM Authorities



Transport for Greater Manchester

The decisions of the Authority are implemented by TfGM. The net expenditure of TfGM after taking into account all sources of income and expenditure is financed by way of a revenue grant from the Authority. The corporate objectives of TfGM are derived from the Authority's policy priorities, stakeholder consultation and its principal statutory obligations.

TfGM also manage the maintenance, repair and schemes of the Authority traffic signals asset base on behalf of the Authority. These transactions appear as related party expenditure and income, along with the end of year balances, which are reported as follows:



Greater Manchester Police

Under the legislative framework and local arrangements, the Authority under sole instruction from the Mayor, is responsible for the finances of the Mayoral Police Fund including assets, liabilities and reserves. The Authority has responsibility for entering into contracts and establishing the contractual framework under which the Chief Constable’s officers and staff operate. The Authority receives all income and funding and makes all the payments for the policing activity from the Mayoral Police Fund. This information is recorded on the face of the CIES under the Mayoral Police Fund Services heading.

North West Fire Control Limited

The Authority has the right to appoint two directors, who are councilors appointed to their respective FRAs. It has been determined that the company is governed by joint control as each authority has equal voting rights and unanimous consent exists for key decisions.

In 2014 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Cheshire Fire Authority, Cumbria County Council and Lancashire Combined Fire Authority transferred their Control Room functions into the regionalised service provided by NW Fire control Limited. The cost of the service is charged out to the four FRAs on an agreed pro rata basis. Related party expenditure, income and end of year balances are reported as follows:



Manchester Investment and Development Agency Service Limited

The Authority has direct control over the company’s financial and operating policies. The company is a related party by virtue of common directors. Related party expenditure, income and end of year balances are reported as follows:



Halle Concerts Society

The company is a related party by virtue of common directors (Nominated by the GMCA). Related party expenditure, income and end of year balances are reported as follows:



Greater Manchester Fund of Funds Limited Partnership

The Authority granted Greater Manchester Fund of Funds LP £0 in 2022/23 (£100k in 2021/22)



NW Evergreen Holdings Limited Partnership



Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 Limited Partnership

There were no transactions between the Authority and Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 Limited Partnership during the 22/23 financial year.

Manchester Camerata



Hive Homes LLP



Resonance Supported Homes



National Homlessness Property



Interchange Homes LLP



32a Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities



32b Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities



32c Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities



32d Cash Flow Statement – Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities





33 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Authority makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Authority has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

Employees of the Authority are divided between two separate defined benefit pension schemes:

**The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme** for its uniformed firefighters - this is an unfunded scheme, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

**The Local Government Pension Scheme** for its other employees - this is a funded scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay its contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against grant and precept income is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Authority also has responsibility for the Police Pension Scheme for police officers although this scheme is administered by the Chief Constable (Greater Manchester Police) on behalf of the Authority. The entries related to this scheme are disclosed in the group accounts.

In accordance with proper practices, the Authority has fully complied with the International Financial Reporting Standard IAS19 (Employee Benefits). Both Pension schemes are classified as ‘defined benefit’ schemes under IAS19 and the accounting principles and their effect on the Financial Statements are explained below.

Employer contribution rates for the current and next year for both schemes are provided below:



The Local Government Pension Scheme

The Authority pays an employer's contribution into the GMPF, which is a fully funded defined benefits scheme administered by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council from whom an Annual Report is available.

The liabilities of the GMPF attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, (based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds).

The assets of the GMPF attributable to the Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value, as follows:

* + Quoted securities – current bid price
	+ Unquoted securities – professional estimate
	+ Unitised securities – current bid price
	+ Property – market value.

The change in the net pension’s liability is analysed into seven components:

1. **Current service cost** – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year. This is allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the revenue accounts of services for which the employees worked.
2. **Past service cost** – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years. This is debited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
3. **Interest cost** – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid. This is debited to Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure Line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
4. **Gains/losses on settlements and curtailments** – the result of actions to relieve the Authority of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees. This is debited or credited to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
5. **Interest on scheme assets** – the annual investment return on the fund assets attributable to the Authority, based on an average of the expected long term return. This is credited to Financing and Investment Line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
6. **Actuarial gains and losses** – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – debited to the Pensions Reserve.
7. **Contributions paid to the pension fund** – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the fund.

In 2022/23 there is an eighth component in relation to a requirement to calculate an asset ceiling. IAS19 states that where an entity has a surplus in a defined benefit pension plan, then it should measure the net defined benefit of the assets at the lower of:

1. The surplus identified in the plan, or
2. The asset ceiling

Hymans Robertson LLP as our actuary have carried out the asset ceiling calculation for the 2022/23 accounts on the following basis:

Net present value of (employer) future service costs over the future working lifetime

‘less’

Net present value of (employer) future contributions over the future working lifetime

The impact of the above has resulted in an £75.5m adjustment to the accounts by applying the asset ceiling, resulting in a surplus net pension asset of £6k.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Under IAS19 any obligation arising from other long term employee benefits that depend on length of service need to be recognised when service is rendered, which for the Authority now includes Injury Awards.

The McCloud / Sargeant Judgement

##### Firefighters Scheme

Claims of age discrimination were brought in relation to the terms of transitional protection by groups of firefighters and members of the Judiciary in the McCloud / Sargeant legal case (referred to as “McCloud”) and the Court of Appeal handed down its judgement of this claim on 20 December 2018, ruling that the transitional protection arrangements were discriminatory on the basis of age. As a result, the cost control element of the 2016 valuation was paused whilst the Government addressed the need to remedy this discrimination across all public service pension schemes. The cost cap mechanism for the 2016 valuation has since been un-paused and the calculations complete, with the outcome being no changes to benefits or contributions.

The treatment of the deferred choice underpin as a member cost for cost cap purposes, along with the four year spreading period, was challenged in a judicial review which was heard in early 2023. The claims made in the Judicial Review were dismissed by the High Court, in a judgement handed down on Friday 10 March 2023. No allowance has therefore been made in our accounting disclosures as at 31 March 2023.

##### McCloud Remedy

The McCloud remedy window ran from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. Eligible members will be able to elect which scheme they wish to receive benefits from for this period. Due to the differing benefits structures we expect the majority of eligible members to elect to take legacy scheme (1992 Scheme or 2006 Scheme) benefits for the remedy period.

An allowance for the McCloud remedy was first included in 2018/19 disclosures as a past service cost for four years remedy service from 2015-2019. This past service cost was attributed proportionally to the 1992 and 2006 schemes. For subsequent years to 2021/22 an allowance was made in the 2015 service costs for the annual accrual of additional remedy service.

Now that the remedy window is closed all McCloud related liabilities for eligible members for the period 2019 to 2022 have been moved to the associated legacy scheme. This means all McCloud liabilities are held with the legacy scheme we expect benefits to be paid from. This has led to a past service cost of £32m added to the 1992 Scheme and a past service cost of £3m in the 2006 Scheme. As these liabilities are no longer held within the 2015 Scheme, we have a past service gain of £35m.

##### Local Government Schemes

The Actuary has allowed for the McCloud judgement in the calculation of the latest triennial funding valuation results as at 31 March 2022. The Employer’s triennial funding valuation results are used as the starting point for the accounting roll forward calculations and therefore an allowance is included in the balance sheet.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement



Movement in Reserves Statement



Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Authority’s obligation in respect of its defined benefit plans is as follows:



Reconciliation of the present value of the scheme liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligations)



Reconciliation of movements in the fair value of the scheme assets



Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:



The total assets of £305,276k in the table above do not match the closing fair value of scheme assets in the Reconciliation of Movements in Fair Value of the Scheme Assets table. The variance of £75.5m is due to the effect of applying the asset ceiling.

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc.

The Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson LLP, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates being based on the latest full triennial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022. The Firefighters’ Pension Scheme liabilities have been assessed by the Government Actuary’s Department (GAD) based on data supplied for the 31 March 2020 full valuation.

The significant assumptions used by the actuary have been:



\*Life Expectancy is based on the Fund’s VitaCurves.

An allowance is included for future retirements to elect to take 50% of the maximum additional tax-free cash up to the HMRC limits.

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant. The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e. on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

Sensitivity Analysis





As at the date of the most recent valuation, the duration of the Employer’s funded liabilities is 19 years.

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for the firefighters’ scheme members is approximately 15 years.

Impact on Authority’s cash flow – Local Government Pension Scheme

The objectives of the scheme are to keep employer’s contributions at as constant a rate as possible and agree a funding strategy to ensure future employers contributions meet the Administering Authority’s funding objectives.

Following the latest triennial valuation completed on 31 March 2022, the LGPS was assessed as being 104% funded. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis.

The funding objectives of the scheme are set out in the GMPF Funding Strategy Statement (FSS) and are to achieve and maintain a solvency funding level of 100% of liabilities (the solvency funding target). In line with the FSS, where a shortfall exists at the effective date of the valuation a deficit recovery plan will be put in place which require additional contributions to correct the shortfall. Equally, where there is a surplus, it is usually appropriate to offset this against contribution for future services, in which case contribution reductions will be put in place to allow for this.

The scheme has taken account of the national changes to the scheme under the Public Pensions Services Act 2013. Under the Act, the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales and other main existing public service schemes may not provide benefits in relation to service after 31 March 2014 (or service after 31 March 2015 for other main existing public service pension schemes in England and Wales). The Act provides for scheme regulations to be made within a common framework, to establish new career average revalued earnings schemes to pay pensions and other benefits.

Authority contribution to pension schemes

The Authority expects to pay £13.451m to the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme and £6.727m to the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2023/24.

34 Mayoral General Fund

The functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA) that are exercisable in relation to the area of the Authority were transferred by Parliamentary Order to the GMCA with effect from 8 May 2017. The GMCA is the Fire and Rescue Authority for the area and the Fire and Rescue functions of the GMCA are exercisable by the elected Mayor with all staff, properties, rights and liabilities transferring to the Authority.

Under the Order, all functions and decisions relating to such properties, rights and liabilities are to be exercised and made by the Mayor. Any payments and receipts arising from such properties, rights and liabilities are to be paid from and into the Mayoral General Fund.

The statements below set out the movements in the Mayoral General Fund and assets deployed for fire and rescue services for 2022/23:

Mayoral General Fund Income and Expenditure:



Movement in Mayoral General Fund Reserves:

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure.



Assets deployed in provision of Mayoral Fire and Rescue Services:



35 Mayoral Police Fund

The functions of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) were transferred by Parliamentary Order to the elected Mayor of Greater Manchester with effect from 8 May 2017.

Under Section 3 of the Order “the Mayor is to be treated, in relation to the Mayor’s PCC functions, as a Police and Crime Commissioner for the purposes of all Police and Crime Commissioner enactments, wherever passed or made, subject to schedule 1 of the Order”.

The transfer of the PCC functions to the Elected Mayor means that the legal entity known as the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner ceased to exist as of 8 May 2017. All properties, rights and liabilities (including contracts of employment) transferred to the GMCA on 8 May 2017.

Under the Order, all functions and decisions relating to such properties, rights and liabilities are to be exercised and made by the Mayor. Any receipts arising from such properties, rights and liabilities are to be paid into the Police Fund kept by the mayor by virtue of section 21 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Statement of Accounts has been consolidated into GMCA’s group accounts since 8 May 2017. The Mayor is responsible for the formal oversight of GMP, including provision of all funding, budget setting, performance scrutiny and strategic policy development, and for ensuring GMP is run efficiently and effectively. Operational decision-making on day-to-day policing including the employment of police staff remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Under the legislative framework and local arrangements, GMCA, under sole instruction from the Mayor, is responsible for the finances of the Mayoral Police Fund including assets, liabilities and reserves. The GMCA has responsibility for entering into contracts and establishing the contractual framework under which the Chief Constable’s officers and staff operate. The GMCA receives all income and funding and makes all the payments for the policing activity from the Mayoral Police Fund. The movement on the Police Fund is disclosed in Note 35.

In compliance with legislation, the Police Fund is accounted for in the group accounts of the GMCA. In the interests of transparency, the statements below set out how the Police Fund was spent and funded, movements in the Mayoral Police Fund reserves and assets deployed for policing in 2022/23.

Police Fund Income and Expenditure:



Movement in Mayoral Police Fund Reserves:

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure.



Assets deployed in the provision of Policing Services:



Police Fund Intangible Assets:



Firefighters’ Pension Fund

There is a requirement in the Code of Practice to produce a Pension Fund Account and Net Assets Statement in respect of the Firefighter’s Pension Scheme. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a basis for demonstrating the balance of cash based transactions taking place over the year and for identifying the arrangements needed to close the balance for the year. The primary objective is to separate the cost of providing pensions from the cost of running services.

This is an unfunded scheme, which is administered in accordance with Home Office regulations. For such schemes as there are no investment assets, IAS19 requires recognition of the liability and pension reserve in the Balance Sheet and transactions in the Income and Expenditure Account for movements in the liability and reserve.

### Firefighters’ Pension Fund Account

 

### Net asset statement



The funding arrangements for the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme in England changed on 1 April 2006. Before 1 April 2006 these schemes did not have a percentage of pensionable pay type of employer’s contribution - rather each authority was responsible for paying the pensions of its own former employees on a pay as you go basis. Under the new arrangements the schemes remain unfunded but Authorities will pay an employer’s pension contribution based on a percentage of pay into the Pension Fund. Each authority in England is required by legislation to operate a Pension Fund and the amounts that must be paid into and out of the Fund are specified by regulation under the Firefighters’ Pension Scheme (Amendment) (England) Order 2006.

Employees’ and employers’ contribution levels are based on percentages of pensionable pay set nationally by the Government Actuary Department (GAD) and are subject to revaluation every four years.

The latest valuation was carried out based on data as at 31 March 2020. This has then been rolled forward to reflect the position as at 31 March 2023. In particular allowing for service accrued between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2023 and known pension and salary increases that would have applied.

There are no investment assets and the fund is balanced to nil each year by receipt of pension top-up grant from the Home Office or by paying over any surplus to the Home Office. The fund’s financial statements do not take into account liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after the period end.

The accounting policies adopted for the production of the pension fund account are in line with recommended practice and follow those that apply to the Authority’s primary statements.

The Fund’s financial statements do not take into account liabilities to pay pensions after 31 March 2023. Liabilities to pay future payments are included in the IAS19 charges and notes to the Financial Statements.

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Group Accounts

Introduction

### Background

The Accounting Code of Practice requires that where an authority has material financial interests and a significant level of control over one or more entities, it should prepare Group Accounts. The aim of these statements is to give an overall picture of the Authority’s financial activities and the resources employed in carrying out those activities.

The Group Accounts comprise the following key financial statements (with appropriate disclosures):

* Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
* Group Movement in Reserves Statement.
* Group Balance Sheet.
* Group Cash Flow Statement.

### The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Group:

A review of the entities related to the Authority has taken place and the conclusions are provided below:

### Bodies Consolidated:

Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP)

GMP is to continue to be included in the Authority’s group accounts. The Mayor is responsible for the formal oversight of GMP, including provision of all funding, budget setting, performance scrutiny and strategic policy development, and for ensuring GMP is run efficiently and effectively. Operational decision-making on day-to-day policing including the employment of police staff remains the responsibility of the Chief Constable.

Under the legislative framework and local arrangements, the Authority under sole instruction from the Mayor, is responsible for the finances of the Mayoral Police Fund including assets, liabilities and reserves. The Authority has responsibility for entering into contracts and establishing the contractual framework under which the Chief Constable’s officers and staff operate. The Authority receives all income and funding and makes all the payments for the policing activity from the Mayoral Police Fund. Details of the Mayoral Police Fund are disclosed in the notes to the single entity statements.

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)

TfGM is to continue to be included in the Authority’s group accounts. The Authority and/or the Mayor sets local public transport policy and is responsible for deciding how funds are spent on supporting and improving Greater Manchester’s public transport network. The decisions of the Authority and/or the Mayor are implemented by TfGM and TfGM is responsible for implementing the policies of the Authority.

TfGM’s net expenditure after taking into account all sources of income and expenditure is financed by way of a Revenue Grant from the Authority. TfGM’s corporate objectives are derived from the Authority’s policy priorities, stakeholder consultation and its principal statutory obligations. Strategic objectives and targets are set out in the Authority/TfGM Business and Performance Plan.

Although transport related borrowing sits on the GMCA balance sheet, all the transport assets sit on TFGM's balance sheet. GMCA carries sufficient reserves in respect of each of its functions to provide resilience in the event of volatility in its various funding sources. Details of transactions with TfGM are included in the related parties note.

The Accounts of TfGM are prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. These require the Accounts to be prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code) and update to the 2022/23 Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets published in November 2022.

Greater Manchester Evergreen 2 Limited Partnership (GME2LP)

Evergreen 2 was incorporated on 20 February 2017 under England's 2014-20 ERDF Operational Programme and is solely a Greater Manchester fund. The accounts included in the 22/23 group accounts are for the period ending 31 March 2023.

All intra-group trading, balances and unrealised gains and losses as at the end of the period are eliminated in full.

NW Evergreen Holdings Limited Partnership (NWEH)

NWEH is to continue to be included in the Authority’s group accounts. In September 2016 the Authority established NWEH to act as a holding fund for earlier tranches of ERDF funding to support investment opportunities in properties in the North West. The Fund has received significant funding from ERDF and will invest in sub funds that provide opportunities to identify, research and negotiate investment opportunities in properties in the North West of England. The accounts included in the 22/23 group accounts are for the period ending 31 March 2023.

Greater Manchester Fund of Funds Limited Partnership (FoFLP)

In November 2016 the Authority established FoFLP to act as a holding fund for ERDF funding. FoFLP will invest in sub funds that seek to support the shift towards a low carbon economy and for research and innovation. The accounts included in the 22/23 group accounts are for the period ending 31 March 2023.

All intra-group trading, balances and unrealised gains and losses as at the end of the period are eliminated in full.

### Basis of Preparation of the Group Accounts

The group accounts have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for certain property assets that are measured at current value, in accordance with the Code. The group accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

### Statement of Compliance with IFRS

In accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom and update to the 2022/23 Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets published in November 2022, TfGM has adopted all aspects of the Code other than as follows:

* Deregulation Reserve. IFRS 5 would treat the deregulation of bus services in 1986 as a discontinued operation, leading to the write off of any costs connected with deregulation. However, the Transport Act of 1985 allowed any costs incurred on deregulation to be transferred to a specific reserve, called the ‘Deregulation Reserve’. TfGM has adopted a policy of amortising the Deregulation Reserve over 30 years.

# Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Group Financial Statements

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement shows the Group accounting cost of providing services, rather than the amount set out in legislation that is chargeable to precepts, levies, taxation and grant income. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement and the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.





**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

**Date: 02 December 2024**

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Authority Group. This is analysed into usable and unusable reserves. Usable reserves can be utilised to fund services whereas unusable reserves are accounting reserves held to reconcile the position between the accounting cost of services and the cost set out in legislation that is chargeable to precepts and taxation**.**

Further details of usable reserves can be found in the relevant associated notes.



Group Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value of assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority Group. The net assets/liabilities are matched by the usable and unusable reserves held. Usable reserves can be utilised to fund services whereas unusable reserves are accounting reserves held to reconcile the position between the accounting cost of services and the cost set out in legislation that is chargeable to precepts and taxation**.**

Further details of balance sheet items can be found in the relevant associated notes.





**Steve Wilson**

**Greater Manchester Combined Authority Treasurer**

**Date: 02 December 2024**

Group Cash Flow Statement

The cash flow statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority Group during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Group generates and uses cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from the operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Group are funded by way of precepts, levies, contributions and grant income. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Group.



# Notes to the Group Financial Statements

36 Group Accounting Policies

36.1 Consolidation Method

The Accounts of all subsidiary group entities are consolidated on a line by line basis with corresponding consolidation adjustments to remove inter group transactions and balances.

The accounting policies of the group entities are consistent with the Authority. The following accounting policies are in addition to the single entity policies detailed in note 1 of these statements.

36.2 Investment properties

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost, including direct transaction costs. They are subsequently revalued annually in accordance with the fair value model, reflecting market conditions at the balance sheet date. Where a fair value cannot be obtained the cost model will be used in IAS 16. Any surplus or deficit arising from any change in fair value is recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the period in which it arises.

Investment properties are not depreciated. They are de-recognised when disposed of, or when no future economic use is expected. The difference between net proceeds and carrying value is recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the period of de-recognition.

36.3 Infrastructure Assets

TfGM’s infrastructure assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. TfGM’s policy is to write off the carrying value of all assets, other than freehold land, on a straight-line basis over their estimated remaining useful lives.

The range of estimated useful lives for infrastructure assets is 3 to 50 years and includes a number of categories of assets relating to the Metrolink network, Interchanges and Bus Stations, the Leigh to Ellenbrook Guided busway and cycle hubs.

Further details of the asset lives within this category are:

Civil structures 25 to 50 years

Stations and stop infrastructure 10 to 30 years

Track and track bed 20 to 30 years

Ticket machines, information points and validators 5 to 20 years

Overhead power lines 20 to 30 years

Signalling/telecoms 15 to 20 years

Metrolink trams 30 years

Metrolink Plant and Equipment 3 to 35 years

Guided Busway and infrastructure 5 to 50 years

Park and Ride and infrastructure 5 to 40 years

Bus Station and internal fittings 5 to 40 years

Electric vehicle charging points 10 years

Bike hire assets and cycle hubs 10 years

36.4 Inventories

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost (including costs incurred in bringing the inventory to its present location, such as freight) and net realisable value, determined on a first in first out basis.

36.5 Passenger Transport Facilities

As part of its statutory duties, the Group is responsible for meeting the costs of upgrading public passenger transport facilities in the Greater Manchester area, including railway and highways infrastructure. The expenditure incurred is offset by equivalent grants received from the Authority and other parties, which for the year ended 31 March 2023 amounted to £11.9m (2021/22: £5.1m).

Once completed, ownership of these assets vests in Network Rail, rail operating companies, Highways England, the Authority or the local authority as appropriate.

Both the costs and the grant income are recognised within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

36.6 Lease Income

Amounts receivable under finance leases are stated net of interest allocated to future periods. Interest is allocated to accounting periods to produce a constant periodic rate of return on the remaining net investment.

Rentals receivable under operating leases, and secondary rentals received and retained by the Group under finance leases, are credited to income as they arise. Any premia or incentives within the lease are recognised as income on an equal basis over the term of the lease.

36.7 Lease Expenditure

Assets held under finance leases where the Group retains substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership are capitalised in the balance sheet at the lower of the fair value of the asset and the net present value of the minimum lease payments; the assets are then depreciated over their useful economic lives.

The lease obligations are recognised as a financial liability. The interest element of the rental obligations is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the period of the lease and represents a constant proportion of the balance of capital repayments outstanding.

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to expenditure on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease, recognising on an equal basis the impact of any premia or incentives.

36.8 Agency Services

Transactions are excluded from the Group’s financial statements for all agency relationships. As stipulated by the Code, the Group is acting as an agent in situations when the Group does not control the specified goods or services being provided by another party, before they are transferred to the customer.

All services are reviewed to determine who controls the right to the underlying goods or services and when this is not deemed to be the Group, the transactions have been excluded from the financial statements.

36.9 Benefits Payable during Employment

Short term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Group. Where material, an accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

The group accumulated absences are entirely attributable to Greater Manchester Police. The single entity accounts do not include an adjustment for employee benefits for reasons of materiality. The Greater Manchester Police accrual was material to their accounts and has therefore been included in the group figures.

36.10 Post-Employment Benefits – Pensions

Employees of the Group are members of three separate pension schemes. These are explained in more detail in the single entity accounts. Police Officers are covered by the Police Pension Scheme administered by XPS Administration on behalf of the Chief Constable. This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions) earned as a police officer.

36.11 The Police Pension Scheme

This scheme is a defined benefit scheme, the rules of which are set out in Police Pension Regulations. The scheme is wholly unfunded. No investment assets have been built up to meet liabilities and cash has to be generated from employee and employer contributions to meet actual pension payments as they fall due.

The Chief Constable as employer, and police officers as members, pay pension contributions based on a percentage of pensionable pay into the Police Pension Fund Account. Pension benefits are paid out of the Pension Fund Accounts.

The amounts payable into and out of the Pension Fund Account are specified by regulations. Any surplus or deficit on the Pension Fund Accounts must be transferred to or from the Authority and ultimately repaid to or received from the Home Office.

Injury awards are not part of the pension scheme and are charged directly to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. However, liabilities in respect of injury awards are disclosed as part of the overall pension liability.

Other than references to assets, this scheme is accounted for in the same way as the Local Government Pension Scheme

37a Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources by local authorities in comparison to those resources consumed or earned by local authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how the expenditure is allocated between Directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practice is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.



37b Note to the Group Expenditure and Funding Analysis



1. Adjustments for capital purposes include revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute, depreciation and impairment, gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets, capital grants and contributions, minimum revenue provision and revenue contribution to capital outlay.
2. Pension adjustments include employer's contribution to the pension scheme and retirement benefits per IAS 19.
3. Other adjustments include contributions to capital bad debt provision and available for sale financial instruments.

38 Group Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Group in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.



39 Transfers (to)/from Group Earmarked Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from reserves to meet General Fund expenditure.



39 Transfers (to)/from Group Earmarked Reserves (Continued)



39 Transfers (to)/from Group Earmarked Reserves (Continued)



40 Purpose of Group Earmarked Reserves

The purpose of the Authority’s earmarked reserves is set out in the notes to the single entity accounts. The purpose of other group reserves is set out below:

Transport for Greater Manchester Reserves

* Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve – Manchester Airport Contribution to the Metrolink extension to the airport;
* Property Reserve – surpluses arising from 2 Piccadilly Place to be reinvested in property activity;
* Metrolink Reserve – funding set aside for Metrolink Service Enhancements;
* Joint Road Safety Group Reserve – surpluses arising from JRSG activity;
* Concessionary Fares Reserve – surpluses of reimbursed income set aside for future investment;
* Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve – grants for specific capital schemes to be applied in future years.

NW Evergreen Holdings Reserve

* Includes grant monies novated to NW Evergreen for investment in city areas.

Fund of Funds Reserve

* Includes funding from European Regional Development Fund held for investment in low carbon and energy efficiency initiatives.

41 Group Nature of Income and Expenditure

The nature of the Group’s income and expenditure is outlined in the table below:



42 Group Financing and Investment Expenditure and Income





43 Group Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income



44 Group External Audit Fees

The Group has incurred the following External Audit costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts and certification of grant claims.



45 Group Officer Remuneration

Officers Remuneration above £50,000

The number of employees (including senior officer) receiving more than £50,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer's pension contributions) were as follows:



Senior Officers Remuneration

Employees are classed as senior officer employees when they received a salary in excess of £150,000 (disclosed by name) or received a salary in excess of £50,000 and reported to a Head of Paid Service for any of the group entities. In addition the salaries for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime and the Director of the Mayor’s Office are disclosed.



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | Post holder commenced 9 January 2023. (2022/23: FTE salary £89,900). |
| B | Post holder stepped down as Deputy Mayor on 8 January 2023 (FTE salary £89,900). Commenced new role as Assistant Deputy Mayor 0.50 FTE (FTE salary £89,900) from 9 January 2023, supporting establishment of new Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime. |
| C | The GMCA received a contribution of £115,682.88 (2021/22: £114,720.42) for the Chief Executive also performing the duties of Chief Executive at Transport for Greater Manchester during 2022/23. 50% of Basic Pay and Employers NI. |
| D | The GMCA received a contribution of £15,000 for the Treasurer performing duties of Executive lead for finance and investment at Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership during 2022/23 (2021/22: £60,000) This contribution is included in the Treasurers Total Remuneration figure. |
| E | Post in 2021/22 is also 0.41 FTE, Annual Salary for 1.0 FTE would be £164,789.37. Post in 2022/23 is 0.41 FTE, Annual salary for 1.0 FTE would be £166,714.37. |
| F | Post holder left post 31 July 2022. |
| G | Post holder commenced 26 September 2022. (2022/23: FTE salary £131,925) |
| H | Chief Constable appointed in May 2021. |
| I | Acting Chief Constable to May 2021. |
| J | Deputy Chief Constable retired in October 2021. |
| K | Deputy Chief Constable appointed in September 2021. |
| L | Acting Deputy Chief Constable to August 2021. |
| M | Assistant Chief Constable left in January 2022. |
| N | Assistant Chief Constable retired in September 2021. |
| O | Assistant Chief Constable retired in October 2021. |
| P | Acting Assistant Chief Constable appointed in October 2021. |
| Q | Acting Assistant Chief Constable appointed in December 2021. Retired in October 2022. |
| R | Assistant Chief Constable appointed in September 2021. |
| S | Assistant Chief Constable appointed in February 2022. |
| T | Assistant Chief Constable appointed in January 2023. |
| U | Assistant Chief Officer retired in May 2021. |
| V | Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Resources Officer appointed as a temporary consultant in May 2021. Assistant Chief Officer and Chief Resources Officer left in November 2022. |
| W | Director of Finance - Assistant Chief Officer appointed in March 2022. Director of Finance - Appointed Temporary Chief Resources Officer in November 2022. |
| X | Director of IT & Digital - Assistant Chief Officer appointed in December 2022. |
| Y | Director of HR Assistant Chief Officer appointed in March 2023. |

Exit Costs

Exit payments are made as a result of the departure of staff from the Authority. The total cost per band and the total cost of compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:



GMCA - See Single Entity note 18c for detail on GMCA exit packages.

GMP - The Chief Constable terminated 6 employee contracts in 2022/23, incurring liabilities of £482,695 (4 in 2021/22 costing £177,688). These amounts relate to redundancy pay, pay in lieu of notice and pension strain.

TfGM - The majority of the increase in exit packages is due to the voluntary severance scheme that was launched in 2022/23, as a result of the requirement to make ongoing budgetary savings.

46 Group Capital and Lease Commitments



The key commitments for 2022/23 are in relation to the TfGM and the following projects:

* Stockport Interchange / Mixed Use Scheme £43.9m (2021/22: £87.1m). This is in respect of the construction of a new interchange inclusive of a park podium, link bridge and residential apartments; and
* Zero Emission Bus Scheme £25.8m (2021/22: £nil). This project relates to the purchase of 100 zero emission buses.



47 Group Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment is reported as either capitalised assets available for use or as assets under construction. An analysis of the movements are contained in the tables below:





**Movements on balances**

In accordance with the temporary relief offered by the Update to the Code of Practice on infrastructure assets, this note does not include disclosure of gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets because historical reporting practices and resultant information deficits mean that this would not faithfully represent the asset position to the users of the financial statements.

The authority has chosen not to disclose this information in the Single Entity accounts as the previously reported practices and resultant information deficits mean that gross cost and accumulated depreciation are not measured accurately and would not provide the basis for the users of the financial statements to take economic or other decisions relating to infrastructure assets.

TfGM did not adopt the temporary relief in their accounts and show the gross cost and accumulated depreciation for infrastructure assets in full within the Property, Plant and Equipment note. Therefore consolidation adjustments have been made in the Group Accounts to adopt a consistent approach and the infrastructure column has been removed from the TfGM Property, Plant and Equipment note as if they had adopted the temporary relief. The net book value and in-year movements for infrastructure at group level are disclosed in the table below.



Balance Sheet Reconciling note:



The Authority has determined in accordance with the England amendment of the Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

47 Group Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

Details relating to GMCA property, plant and equipment are provided in note 20 to the single entity financial statements.

Within the Group, TfGM carries out a rolling programme that ensures that all Property, Plant and Equipment required to be measured at current value is revalued at least every five years. Valuations of land and buildings were carried out in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The current values for these properties have been based on existing use values and these were re-valued as at 31 March 2023.

A number of surplus properties were identified in 2015/16 and in accordance with the code were revalued at fair value. The fair value for the properties has been based on the market approach using current market conditions and recent sales prices and other relevant information for similar assets in the local area. Market conditions are such that similar properties are actively purchased and sold and the level of observable inputs are significant, leading to the properties being categorised at Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

In estimating the fair value of TfGM’s surplus properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use. These were revalued in 2022/23, however due to the value of the properties and the minimal movements the changes in valuations have not been updated in the financial statements.

All TFGM valuations were carried out by Leslie Roberts & Co Ltd, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. TfGM’s valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.



48 Group Intangible Assets

The Group accounts for its software as intangible assets, to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT system and accounted for as part of the hardware item of property, plant and equipment. The intangible assets are purchased licenses and internally generated software.

All software is given a finite useful life, based on assessments of the period that the software is expected to be used by the Authority. The useful lives assigned to the major software suites used by the Authority are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Assets attributable to the Fire and Rescue Service | 3 to 10 years |
| Assets attributable to the Policing Service | 5 years |
| Assets attributable to the Waste Disposal Service | 5 years |
| Assets attributable to TfGM | 3 to 5 years |

The carrying amounts of intangible assets is amortised on a straight-line basis. Amortisation has been charged to service headings in the cost of services as follows:



The movement on intangible asset balances during the year is as follows:



There is one capitalised software suite that is individually material to the financial statements: The Information Services Transformation Programme had a gross carrying amount of £25.306m at 31 March 2023 and remaining amortisation period of 3 years.

Internally generated assets relate to TFGM and for 2022/23 relate to the Clean Air Plan, Bus Franchising Programmes and Metrolink Communications Network.

49 Group Short and Long Term Debtors and Payments in Advance





Ageing Analysis of Trade Debtors



50 Group Cash and Cash Equivalents

 

51 Group Short Term Creditors



52 Group Short and Long Term Provisions

Provisions are established to meet liabilities or losses which are likely or certain to be incurred, but the amounts or timings are uncertain. Provisions provided as at 31 March 2023 relate to (a) capital works, (b) insurance excesses, (c) an onerous lease and (d) Landcare provision.



1. Capital Works - Costs for works arising for land acquired in the ordinary course of delivering TfGM’s capital programme, where the amount of payment is uncertain.
2. Insurance Excess - Excesses on Public Liability claims, arising from minor accidents to the public, and Employers Liability claims for work related illnesses that were potentially incurred prior to the transfer of TfGM’s bus operations following the implementation of the Transport Act 1985.
3. Onerous lease - Future lease costs of a property held on a long term lease by TfGM.
4. Landcare Provision - The GMWDA sold 18 sites to the private sector (Landcare (Manchester) Limited) in December 2012 in return for agreeing a fixed ten year contribution less potential income from part of any enhanced value (overage) from future development of the sites. The Landcare provision represents the maximum amounts that GMCA would have to pay each year, however as there is an overage clause if Landcare were to make money from one of the sites transferred to them, there is a mechanism to reduce the annual payment.

53 Group Unusable Reserves



Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction, or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.



Pensions Reserve

This relates to the net pension asset as at 31 March 2023 in accordance with the actuary's report. Further details are shown in note 59.



Revaluation Reserve



Accumulated Absences Reserve



Deregulation Reserve

The Deregulation Reserve represents payments and losses incurred by TfGM with respect to deregulation on 25 October 1986, which were not charged to profit and loss.



54 Group Contingent Liabilities

Contingent Liabilities relating to GMP:

McCloud / Sargeant Compensation Claims

Claimants have lodged claims for compensation under two active sets of litigation, Aarons and Penningtons.

**Aarons and Ors**

Government Legal Department settled the injury to feelings claims for Aaron on behalf of Chief Officers without seeking any financial contributions. Pecuniary loss claims have been stayed until the remedy is brought into force from 1 October 2023. The settlement of the injury to feelings for Aarons sets a helpful precedent, and therefore no liability in respect of compensation claims is recognised in these accounts.

**Penningtons**

As at 31 March 2023, it is not possible to reliably estimate the extent or likelihood of these claims being successful, and therefore no liability in respect of compensation claims is recognised in these accounts.

Contingent Liabilities relating to TfGM

A contingent liability exists in relation to a claim received from a third party for damages. There are ongoing court proceedings and liability is denied. Due to this, the final amount payable, if any, in relation to this claim is uncertain. The Directors of TfGM consider that the provision of additional information could be prejudicial to its position in resolving this matter.

55 Group Financial Instruments

Categories of Financial Instruments

The tables below show the categories of financial instruments which are carried in the Balance Sheet:









Income, Expenses, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are summarised in the table below:



Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

Set out below is a comparison by class of the carrying amounts and fair value of the Group financial assets and financial liabilities:



The Authority holds £46.736m in equity investments:

£42.286m within the single entity accounts relates to a number of businesses that either previously held loans with the Authority and which have converted to equity investments or are a direct equity investment. These shares are not traded in active markets. The shares are valued based on level 2 - observable input data from the companies, such as latest filed accounts and management accounting reports. There have been no transfers between input levels or changes in valuation techniques during 2022/23 for this class of asset.

£4.450m of TfGM long term investments evaluated based on level 2 – significant observable inputs for the asset. There have been no changes in valuation technique during the financial year.

Other Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities are carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost, with carrying values as disclosed above. Their fair values disclosed in the table below have been assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

* The fair value of cash and cash equivalents (which includes other investments), short term debtors and short term creditors is taken to be their carrying amount as this is deemed to provide a reasonable approximation in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.
* The fair value of long term debtors within the single entity accounts has been evaluated and where these relate to loan advances greater than £3m, prevailing benchmark market rates have been applied to provide the fair value. All other long term debtors are included at their carrying value.
* Fair value for deferred liabilities in the single entity accounts in relation to the historical Greater Manchester Loan Fund is held at cost as this debt is not tradeable in any principal or alternative market.
* Fair value for PFI schemes cannot be obtained as there is no comparable information available, and these have therefore been shown at cost.
* For loans from the PWLB, premature repayment rates from the PWLB have been applied to provide the fair value; by applying new loan rates their fair value would be £553.375m.
* For non-PWLB loans payable, premature repayment rates have been applied to provide the fair value; by applying new loan rates their fair value would be £811,751m.
* The valuation techniques used for PWLB and non-PWLB debt are level 2 –observable inputs. There have been no changes in valuation technique during the financial year.

The purpose of the fair value disclosure is primarily to provide a comparison with the carrying value, which includes accrued interest as at the balance sheet date. The Authority has therefore included accrued interest in the fair value calculation.

The discount rates used for the evaluation were obtained by the Authority from Link Asset Services. The Link Asset Group is a leading and independent provider of capital financing, treasury advisory and strategic advisory consulting services to the public sector.

Assumptions used, which do not have a material effect on the fair value evaluation are; interest is calculated using a 365-day basis; interest is paid on the maturity date; no adjustment is made to the interest value and date where a relevant date occurs on a non-working day.

Loans and Borrowings of the Group are set out by type of loan and by maturity in the table below:



56 Group Nature and Extent of Risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Authority’s risks are explained in note 30, this narrative covers the risk associated with TfGM, NWEH, FoFLP and GME2LP financial instruments.

Risk Factors

TfGM

TfGM has a credit risk management policy that establishes guidelines and processes for credit risk assessments conducted on customer accounts, via a licence to Companywatch. Assessments consider historic financial information and an overall financial health score based on cashflow, balance sheet liquidity, and income and expenditure analysis.

As at 31 March 2023, a substantial proportion of the total debtors relate to central government and local authority bodies which are deemed to be low credit risk.

The remaining £26.2m of debtors relate to other entities and individuals, including £8.2m trade debtors, of which 36% are past due, with 75% of these being in the more than 30 days past due category.

A prudent view is taken in respect of impairment of trade debtors.

TfGM bears no interest rate risk in relation to loans and borrowings, as all existing loans are at a fixed rate. Where required, short term funding for working capital is provided by GMCA at zero interest.

Currency risk is not a significant factor for TfGM, as it ensures that substantially all financial assets and liabilities are contracted for in sterling. The value of contracts denominated in Euros is not material.

Equity price risk is not a factor for TfGM since it holds no tradable investments.

Risks are managed in accordance with the Annual Governance Statement. Management of TfGM’s cash balances and funding requirements is undertaken by the daily assessment of available funds for short term deposits; and the regular preparation of detailed treasury and cash flow forecasts which are reviewed by the Head of Finance and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. Where necessary, mitigating actions are taken and agreement is sought from GMCA officers if further funding is required to cover, for example, short term cash flow requirements arising from the timing difference between expenditure and grant monies being applied for and received.

NWEH, FoFLP and GME2LP (LPs)

The LPs’ principal risks are liquidity, credit and capital management, for which risk management programmes are in place to limit the adverse effect of such risks in their financial position.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the LPs will have difficulty in meeting their obligations as and when they fall due. The LPs’ approach to liquidity is to utilise cash flow forecasting to ensure that they will always have sufficient liquidity to meet liabilities as and when they fall due without incurring unacceptable credit risk or risking damage to the LPs’ reputations.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises for the funds from both deposits with banks and credit exposures to borrowers.

The LPs’ credit risk in relation to bank deposits is minimised by following the GMCA’s Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria, in accordance with the Fitch and Moody’s Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category. Deposits are not made with banks and financial institutions unless they meet the minimum requirements of the investment criteria outlined in Note 30. All investments held as at 31 March 2023 were with the HM Treasury Debt Management Office, other local authorities or UK banks and building societies.

The Authority has not used any non-credit rated institutions (for instance smaller building societies or bank subsidiaries where the parent has a satisfactory rating).

The purpose of the LPs is to provide short term funding into urban development projects in the North-West via their sub-funds. This provides credit risk in relation to each borrower and project. The LPs manage this risk by setting agreed investment parameters under the Contingent Loan Agreements and the Investment Adviser and Operator Agreements in place, with detailed due diligence undertaken for all borrowers and projects.

Each investment is subject to approval by the investment funds’ board, in addition to CBRE’s investment board as Investment Adviser to the funds. These are predominantly senior loans and as such carry prudent loan to values secured on tangible real estate assets. CBRE, in its capacity as Investment Adviser and Operator, monitor the projects throughout the loan term, reporting progress to the board and providing recommendations as appropriate. No defaults have been suffered by the funds to date, and none of the loans as at 31 March 2023 were in default.

Capital management

The LPs’ finance their operations through the management of working capital and ultimately from the support of their partners if required.

Hedging Instruments

Neither TfGM, NWEH, FoFLP nor GME2LP hold any financial instruments that could be classified as hedging instruments.

57 Group Related Party Transactions

The Group is required to disclose material transactions with related parties - bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Group or to be controlled or influenced by the Group.

Transactions and balances between the Authority and its related parties are disclosed in note 31. Transactions between the Authority and those included within the group have been removed on consolidation.

TFGM

Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited and Piccadilly Triangle Developments are subsidiaries of TFGM, see below for related party transactions.

Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Limited (GMATL)

Subsidiary of TFGM, related party by virtue of shared group



Piccadilly Triangle Developments LLP

Subsidiary of TFGM, related party by virtue of shared group. TfGM and Manchester City Council are partners in Piccadilly Triangle Developments LLP (PTD LLP). TfGM has a 50% share of PTD LLP. This partnership is for the development of an area of land in Manchester, which commenced in May 2005



GMP

Senior Police officers and Senior Employees

Senior officers and staff were asked to declare any material, financial transactions with the Chief Constable by themselves, by their close family, or by any organisation in which they or their close family have a controlling interest.

A payment for 11 annual insurance levies totalling £28,125 was made to the Chief Police Officers Staff Association during 2022/23 (9 were paid in 2021/22 totalling £23,850), of which an Assistant Chief Officer is a Director and Secretary. The organisation arranges the legal expenses insurance for Chief Police Officers and staff. The Assistant Chief Officer did not take part in any discussion, decision or administration relating to the payments.

58a Group Cash Flow Statement - Adjustments to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:



58b Group Cash Flow Statement - Investing Activities



58c Group Cash Flow Statement - Financing Activities



58d Group Cash Flow Statement – Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities





59 Group Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Employees of the Group are divided between two separate defined benefit pension schemes:

**The Fire Service Pension Scheme and the Police Service Pension Scheme** for its uniformed firefighters and police officers – these are separate but similar unfunded schemes, meaning that there are no investment assets built up to meet the pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

**The Local Government Pension Scheme** for its other employees - this is a funded scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay its contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets. The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge we are required to make against grant and precept income is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

McCloud / Sargeant Judgement

##### Firefighters and Police Officers schemes

Claims of age discrimination were brought in relation to the terms of transitional protection by groups of firefighters and members of the Judiciary in the McCloud / Sargeant legal case (referred to as “McCloud”) and the Court of Appeal handed down its judgement of this claim on 20 December 2018, ruling that the transitional protection arrangements were discriminatory on the basis of age. As a result, the cost control element of the 2016 valuation was paused whilst the Government addressed the need to remedy this discrimination across all public service pension schemes. The cost cap mechanism for the 2016 valuation has since been un-paused and the calculations complete, with the outcome being no changes to benefits or contributions.

The treatment of the deferred choice underpin as a member cost for cost cap purposes, along with the 4 year spreading period, was challenged in a judicial Review which was heard in early 2023. The claims made in the Judicial Review were dismissed by the High Court, in a judgement handed down on Friday10 March 2023. No allowance has therefore been made in our accounting disclosures as at 31 March 2023.

The McCloud remedy window ran from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2022. Eligible members will be able to elect which scheme they wish to receive benefits from for this period. Due to the differing benefits structures we expect the majority of eligible members to elect to take legacy scheme (1987 Scheme, 1992 Scheme or 2006 Scheme) benefits for the remedy period.

An allowance for the McCloud remedy was first included in 2018/19 disclosures as a past service cost for four years remedy service from 2015-2019. This past service cost was attributed proportionally to the legacy schemes. For subsequent years to 2021/22 an allowance was made in the 2015 service costs for the annual accrual of additional remedy service.

Now that the remedy window is closed all McCloud related liabilities for eligible members for the period 2019 to 2022 have been moved to the associated legacy scheme. This means all McCloud liabilities are held with the legacy scheme we expect benefits to be paid from. This has led to a past service cost of £97m added to the 1987 Scheme, £32m added to the 1992 Scheme and £10m to the 2006 Scheme. As these liabilities are no longer held within the 2015 Scheme, we have a past service gain of £139m.

##### Local Government Scheme

The Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities for 2019/20 reflected the estimated increased liabilities arising from the McCloud/Sargeant judgement. These estimates have been rolled forward and are included within in the 2022/23 pension scheme liability. The impact of an increase in scheme liabilities arising from the McCloud judgment has been measured through the 2022 pension valuation process concluded in March 2023, which determines employer and employee contribution rates.

Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement



Group Movement in Reserves Statement



Group Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

****

Group Reconciliation of the present value of the scheme liabilities (Defined Benefit Obligations)



Reconciliation of movements in the fair value of the scheme assets

****

Local Government Pension Scheme assets comprised:



The total assets of £1,789m in the table above do not match the closing fair value of scheme assets in the Reconciliation of Movements in Fair Value of the Scheme Assets table. The variance of £260.2m is due to the effect of applying the asset ceiling for the GMCA and GMP.

Assumptions



Sensitivity Analysis



Police Pension Fund

The Police Pension Scheme is unfunded. Both employer and employee pension contributions are based on a percentage of pay, which is paid into the Pension Fund. The amounts that must be paid into and out of the Pension Fund are specified by the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 and do not include injury awards.

### Police Pension Fund Account



### Net asset statement



### Contribution rates



### Notes to the Police Pension Fund Account and Net Assets Statement

The Fund was established under the Police Pension Fund Regulations 2007 (SI 2007 no. 1932) and is administered and managed by the Chief Constable.

The Police Pension Scheme is an unfunded, defined benefit scheme. There are no investment assets. The fund is balanced to nil each year by a transfer from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, which is reclaimed from Central Government.

Employer and employee contributions are paid into the Fund based on a percentage of pensionable pay set nationally by the Home Office and subject to revaluation every four years by the Government Actuary Department. (See the contribution rates table above).

Benefits payable to scheme members are made from the Fund with the exception of injury awards, which are payable from revenue funds, as are administrative costs. Inward transfer values are paid into the Fund and outward transfer values are paid from the Fund.

The fund is balanced to zero each year. If income to the fund exceeds expenditure, then the excess is paid to Greater Manchester Combined Authority. If expenditure exceeds income, then Greater Manchester Combined Authority must fund the deficit. Greater Manchester Combined Authority pays any excess income to the Home Office and receives Police Pension Fund top up grant from the Home Office to fund any deficit.

The contributions receivable from the employer shown in the account are debited to the Chief Constable’s Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The additional contribution from Greater Manchester Combined Authority is debited in its accounts together with a matching grant from the Home Office.

The amount of Home Office grant outstanding at 31 March 2023 has been accrued and is shown in Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The Fund’s financial statements do not take into account liabilities to pay pensions after 31 March 2023. Liabilities to pay future payments are included in the IAS19 charges and notes to the Financial Statements.

The Fund’s Accounting Policies are set out in the notes to the Financial Statements.

Glossary of Financial Terms

### Accounting Policies

Within the range of possible methods of accounting, a policy is a statement of the actual methods chosen locally and used to prepare these accounts.

### Accruals

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

### Actuarial Gains and Losses

This Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprises actuarial gains and losses, the return on plan assets and any change in the effect of the asset ceiling. Actuarial gains and losses are changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation arising from the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has occurred and the effects of changes in the actuarial assumptions

### Agency Services

Services that are performed by or for another authority or public body, where the authority responsible for the service reimburses the authority carrying out the work for the cost of that work.

### Amortisation

A charge to the comprehensive income and expenditure statement spread over a number of years.

### Assets

Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value. Current assets are ones that may change in value on a day-to-day basis (i.e. inventory). Non-current assets are assets that yield benefit to the Authority and Group for a period of more than one year (i.e. Metrolink trams).

### Assets Held for Sale

Assets which are being actively marketed and expected to sell within the next 12 months.

### Bad (and doubtful) debts

Debts/income which may be uneconomic to collect or un-enforceable.

### Balances

The reserves of the Authority and Group, which include the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure.

### Balance sheet

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of an accounting period.

### Budget

A statement defining in financial terms the Authority's plans over a specified period. The budget is prepared as part of the process of setting the precept.

### Capital Adjustment Account

This provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which assets are depreciated under the Code and are financed through the capital control system.

### Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition or enhancement of property, plant and equipment that have a long term value to the Authority and Group. This includes grants or advances paid to third parties to assist them in acquiring or enhancing their own property, plant and equipment.

### Capital Financing Costs

Each service is charged with an annual capital charge to reflect the cost of non-current assets used in the provision of services.

### Capital Financing Requirements

This measures the underlying need to borrow to finance capital expenditure.

### Capital Grants

Grants received towards capital expenditure either generally or for a particular project.

### Capital Grants Unapplied

Proceeds received from Government Grants, Other Grants and Contributions, which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

### Capital Receipts

Money received from the sale of property, plant and equipment or repayment of a capital advance.

### Carrying Amount

The balance sheet value recorded of an asset or a liability.

### Cash and Cash Equivalents

This comprises cash in hand, cash overdrawn and short term investments, which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash.

### CIPFA (The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy)

CIPFA is the leading professional accountancy body for public services.

### Consolidated

Added together with adjustments to avoid double counting of income, expenditure or to avoid exaggeration.

### Contingent Assets

Sums due from individuals or organisations that may arise in the future, but which cannot be determined in advance.

### Contingent Liabilities

Sums due to individuals or organisations that may arise in the future, but which cannot be determined in advance.

### Creditors

Amounts owed by the Authority and Group for goods and services provided by the balance sheet date, where payment has not been made at that date.

### Current Assets

An asset where the value changes because the volume held varies from day to day, for example, stock. It is reasonable to expect that these assets will either be consumed or realised during the next accounting period.

### Current Liabilities

An amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period.

### Current Service Cost

The increase in present value of a defined benefit pension scheme’s liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current financial year.

### Curtailments

For a defined benefit pension scheme, an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces the accrual of defined benefits for a number of employees for some or all of their future service.

### Debtors

Sums of money owed to the Authority and Group at the balance sheet date but not received at that date.

### Deferred Capital Receipts

Amounts derived from asset sales, which will be received in instalments over a period of years.

### Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

### Defined Benefit Contribution Scheme

A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employer pays regular contributions fixed as an amount or percentage of pay and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employee benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

### Depreciation

The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of property, plant and equipment.

### Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability

Remeasurement of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (asset) comprises:

a) actuarial gains and losses

b) the return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), and

c) any change in the effect of the asset ceiling, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset).

### Expenditure

Amounts paid by the Authority and Group for goods received or services rendered of either a capital or revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve a cash payment - expenditure is deemed to have been incurred once the goods or services have been received even if they have not been paid for.

### External Audit

The independent examination of the activities and accounts of local authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

### Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged in an arm’s length transaction.

### Fees and Charges

Income arising from the provision of services, e.g. the use of premises.

### Finance Lease

A finance lease is one that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of items of property, plant and equipment to a lessee.

### Financial Instruments

This is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity of another. The term covers both financial assets (e.g. loans receivable) and financial liabilities (e.g. borrowings).

### Historical Cost

The actual cost of assets, goods or services, at the time of their acquisition.

### Impairment

A reduction in the value of a property, plant and equipment below its carrying amount in the balance sheet.

### Income

Amounts due to the Authority and Group for goods supplied or services rendered of either a capital or revenue nature. This does not necessarily involve cash being received - income is deemed to have been earned once the goods or services have been supplied even if the cash has not been received.

### Infrastructure Assets

These are inalienable assets, expenditure on which is recoverable only by continued use of the asset created. Examples of such assets are traffic signals.

### Intangible Assets

These are assets that have no physical substance, for example, the purchase of computer software licences.

### Interest Cost (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

### International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

These are statements prepared by the International Accounting Standards Board to ensure consistency in accountancy matters. Many of these standards now apply to local authorities and any departure from these must be disclosed in the published accounts.

### Inventory

Raw materials and consumable items the Authority’s Group has purchased to use on a continuing basis and has not used by the end of the financial year.

### Investment Properties

These are property or land that is held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both.

### Investments

Items such as company shares, other securities and money deposited with financial institutions (other than bank current accounts).

### Liabilities

Amounts due to individuals or organisations that will have to be paid at some time in the future. Current liabilities are usually payable within one year of the balance sheet date.

### Long term Contracts

A contract entered into for the design, manufacture or construction of a single substantial asset or service where the time taken to complete the contract is such that the contract activity falls into different accounting periods.

### Material

The concept that any omission from or inaccuracy in the statements of account should not be large enough to affect the understanding of those statements by a reader.

### Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)

This is the amount that is charged to the Authority's Movement in Reserves Statement each year and set aside as a provision for credit liabilities.

### Net Book Value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the balance sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current cost less the cumulative depreciation.

### Net Realisable Value

The open market value of the asset in its existing use (or open market value in the case of non-operational assets), less the expenses to be incurred in realising the asset.

### Non-Current Assets

Assets which have value to the Authority for more than one year. These can be tangible (e.g. land, buildings, equipment) or intangible (e.g. Software or licences) assets.

### Non-Operational Assets

Non-current assets held by the Authority but not directly occupied, used or consumed in the delivery of services. Examples of non-operational assets are investment properties and assets that are surplus to requirements pending sale or redevelopment.

### Business Rates

These are a levy on business properties based on a national rate in the pound applied to the ‘rateable value’ of the property. The government determines that national rate poundage, local authorities collect the sums due, with distribution made in accordance with rules governing the business rates retention scheme.

### Operating Lease

A lease other than a finance lease.

### Past Service Cost

For a defined benefit pension scheme, the increase in present value of the scheme liabilities related to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

### Payments in Advance

Amounts actually paid in an accounting period prior to the period in which they are due

### Pension Funds

The Authority is required to set up a separate fund from the rest of its operation for transactions relating to firefighters’ and police pension arrangements. The funds are balanced to nil each year by the receipt of a pensions top-up grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### Precept

An amount of money levied by one authority (the precepting authority) which is collected by another authority (the collecting authority) as part of the council tax. The Authority is the precepting authority and the GM Authorities are the collecting authorities.

### Prior Year Adjustments

Material adjustments to the accounts of earlier years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. They do not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

### Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

A partnership between the private and public sectors that uses private sector financing to provide public sector assets. The partnership has to meet certain criteria to qualify for Central Government subsidy.

### Provisions

These are sums set aside to meet liabilities or losses that have been incurred but where the amount and/or timing of such costs are uncertain.

### Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A government agency that lends money to local authorities. Local authorities are able to borrow some or all of their requirements to finance capital expenditure from this source.

### Receipts in Advance

Amounts actually received in an accounting period prior to the period in which they are due.

### Residual Value

The net realisable value of property, plant or equipment at the end of its useful life.

### Reserves

These are sums set aside to meet possible future costs where there is no certainty about whether or not these costs will be incurred.

### Revenue Contributions

The method of financing capital expenditure directly from revenue.

### Revenue Expenditure

Expenditure incurred on the day-to-day running of the Authority and Group. This mainly includes staff recharge costs, general running expenses and capital financing costs.

### Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute (REFCUS)

These are items of capital expenditure that do not result in, or remain matched by, the Authority’s property, plant and equipment.

### Settlement

An irrevocable action that relieves the employer of the primary responsibility for a pension obligation and eliminates significant risks relating to the obligations and the assets used to effect the settlement

### Unfunded Pension Scheme

This is one in which liabilities for pension benefits are charged to the employer's revenue account in the year in which they arise and are not financed from investments held. The Authority operates such a scheme for its firefighters.