

LANCASTER CITY COUNCIL

Statement of Accounts 2006-07



LANCASTER
CITY COUNCIL

Promoting City, Coast & Countryside

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STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

EXPLANATORY FOREWORD

1 INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the City Council's annual accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2007. The format follows the requirements for publication of financial information as set out by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The document includes a statement of the accounting policies adopted by the Authority, together with a brief explanation of the purpose of and links between the main accounting statements. Readers should note that for 2006/07, the Code of Practice was updated to take account of various aspects of Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (known as 'GAAP') and this has required restatement of the figures for 2005/06, to enable year on year comparisons to be made.

The purpose of this foreword is to provide an overall summary of the Council's financial position for 2006/07 and assist in the interpretation of the accounting statements.

2 REVENUE POSITION

2.1 Revenue Summary

The table below summarises the General Fund revenue income and expenditure for the financial year 2006/07.

Expenditure	2006/07		Actual £000	Variance from Revised Estimate £000
	Original Estimate £000	Revised Estimate £000		
Central Services to the Public	744	813	712	(101)
Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	14,236	14,464	13,252	(1,212)
Highways, Roads & Transport Services	591	271	189	(82)
Housing Services	3,567	2,798	2,307	(491)
Corporate & Democratic Core	2,270	2,483	2,548	65
Unapportionable Central Overheads	(143)	(840)	738	1,578
Net Cost of General Fund Services	21,265	19,989	19,746	(243)
Corporate Income & Expenditure	(1,965)	(1,660)	(1,798)	(138)
Interest Payable & Similar Charges	2,587	2,575	2,575	0
Parish Precepts	260	260	260	0
Contribution to/(from) General Fund Reserve	(410)	573	954	381
BUDGET REQUIREMENT	21,737	21,737	21,737	0
Funded by :				
Revenue Support Grant	(2,342)	(2,342)	(2,342)	0
National Non Domestic Rates	(12,130)	(12,130)	(12,130)	0
Council Tax	(7,265)	(7,265)	(7,265)	0
Collection Fund Balance	0	0	0	0
TOTAL FUNDING	(21,737)	(21,737)	(21,737)	0

2.2 General Fund

The General Fund accounts for income and expenditure associated with the day to day running of all the services that the Council provides, with the exception of local authority housing (see section 2.3 below). The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2006/07 was originally approved by Council on 01 March 2006 at £21.737M (including £260,300 for precept payments to parishes) and assumed that balances would be £1.410M by 31 March 2007, though these were increased by a further £241,000 following the 2005/06 outturn.

Overall in 2006/07 there has been a net underspending of £381,000 against the Revised Budget. The main savings areas have been staff turnover, LABGI grant and investment interest. Net expenditure has also increased in some areas, however, such as Salt Ayre Sports Centre, searches and markets.

As a result of all these changes General Fund unallocated balances stand at £3.015M as at 31 March 2007, which is well in excess of the basic minimum £1M level. This is before consideration of any requests by Services to carry forward budgets; if any are approved this will effectively reduce available amounts. It is also highlighted that of the £3.015M, use of approximately £1.6M has already been built into the Council's revenue budget forecasts for 2007/08 onwards, as set out in its Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

2.3 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires Councils to maintain a separate ring-fenced account for the provision of local authority housing, which cannot be subsidised by the General Fund. This account, known as the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), deals with all the transactions involving the management of the Council's housing stock. Full details of this are included later within these accounts.

As at 31 March 2007 the working balance on the Housing Revenue Account amounted to £758,000, giving a reduction of £394,000 from the position at the start of the year. This still represents an improvement of £408,000, however, when compared with the Revised Budget. This improvement is mainly due to reduced spending on repair and maintenance, additional investment interest, and a reduced contribution to the bad debt provision. Current Council Policy is to maintain housing balances at £350,000.

3 CAPITAL POSITION

In 2006/07 the City Council spent £33.631M on capital schemes. An analysis of the expenditure and funding is shown on the following page.

The Council's revised Capital Programme for 2006/07 was £36.223M, however due to delays in starting a number of schemes, around £2.5M will need to be rolled forward into 2007/08.

The capital programme is financed from a variety of sources such as capital receipts, grants, revenue, reserves and borrowing. With regard to the latter, the Council can borrow money for capital purposes provided it can meet certain criteria, linked to affordability, sustainability and prudence, as determined by the Prudential Code Framework.

Summary of Capital Expenditure and its Financing

Capital Expenditure by Service	£'000	Capital Financing	£'000
Council Housing	3,723	Grants & Contributions	27,346
City Council (Direct) Services	1,264	Reserves	3,115
Health & Strategic Housing	5,647	Unsupported Borrowing	1,182
Cultural Services	234	Capital Receipts	1,988
Planning	11,595		
Economic Development	10,624		
Information & Customer Services	209		
Property Services	295		
Corporate Strategy	40		
Total	33,631	Total	33,631

In 2006/07 the cost of financing external borrowing (i.e. interest charges) was £2.7M, and the value of long term debt owed as at 31 March 2007 amounted to £44.8M, which is the same as the previous year. The overall level of debt should be viewed in relation to the Council's long term assets, which had a net book value of around £270M as at 31 March 2007.

4 PENSION LIABILITY

In accordance with recent changes to accounting practice, the Council must show the present surplus or deficit position on its share of the Pension fund. For Lancaster, the net position as at 31 March 2007 showed a liability of £27.803M compared to a liability of £33.031M for the previous financial year. This represents a reduction in liability of £5.228M.

The liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years, taking account of assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc., and clearly these may vary. Also it is emphasised that such estimated liabilities will not become due immediately or all at once, as they relate to estimated pensions payable to current scheme members on their normal retirement dates. The position represents simply a snapshot as at the end of the financial year, based on prevailing market and other economic conditions and assumptions. As such, it may fluctuate markedly from one year to the next.

Notwithstanding these points, however, the future costs and funding of pensions are national issues that are still being considered by Government.

5 CONCLUSION

During 2006/07 the Council continued to strengthen its overall financial position, in line with the improvements made in previous years. It has kept its net spending within budget and whilst there are some areas of overspending, the majority of underspends have been on controllable income and expenditure areas. As at 31 March 2007 balances were well above the basic minimum level, though as mentioned earlier the majority of this has already been identified to support future years' budget forecasts.

A more detailed report on the outturn position will be presented in due course to Cabinet and the Budget and Performance Panel. This scrutiny of the 2006/07 financial performance will then inform the review of the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy, and the 2007/08 corporate financial monitoring processes.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**1 GENERAL**

The accounts of the authority have been prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom : A Statement of Recommended Practice* (SORP) issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), taking account of the supplementary guidance notes issued by CIPFA on the application of the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice to local authorities.

The purpose of this statement is to explain the basis of the figures included in the accounts, as the view that they present can only be properly appreciated if these policies are explained fully. This statement provides this information.

2 ACCRUALS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

All expenditure and income, both revenue and capital, has been accrued and accounted for in the period to which it relates.

3 FIXED ASSETS**3.1 Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition of a tangible asset, or expenditure which adds to, and not merely maintains, the value of an existing asset, is capitalised and classified as a fixed asset, provided that the fixed asset yields benefits to the Authority and the services it provides for a period of more than one year. Generally where such expenditure is less than the de minimis level of £10,000, it is not capitalised, but is charged to revenue in the year in which it is incurred.

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and included together with a liability to pay future rentals.

Where a fixed asset is acquired for other than a cash consideration or where payment is deferred, the asset is recognised and included in the balance sheet at fair value.

Capital expenditure incurred on fixed assets, which does not materially add to the value of the assets concerned, is charged in full to the relevant fixed asset with the excess of any cost over value being written off to the fixed asset restatement reserve.

3.2 Measurement

De minimis levels were last revised in 2004/2005 and set so that assets of small value do not have to be included in the balance sheet. This is done on the grounds that their exclusion has no material effect.

Infrastructure assets and community assets are included in the balance sheet at historical cost, net of depreciation, where appropriate.

Properties regarded by the Authority as operational have been valued on the basis of open market value for their existing use or, where this could not be assessed because there was no market for the subject asset, the depreciated replacement cost.

Vehicles and moveable plant are regarded as operational, and are included in the balance sheet at depreciated replacement cost. Where depreciated replacement cost is not available, historic cost has been used as a proxy.

Properties regarded by the Authority as non-operational have been valued on the basis of open market value.

Fixtures, fittings and immovable plant are included in the valuation of the buildings.

3.3 Revaluations

Where an asset is included in the balance sheet at current value, it should be formally revalued at intervals of not more than five years and the revised amount included in the balance sheet.

The value at which each category of assets is included in the balance sheet is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and where there is reason to believe that its value has changed materially in the period, and that the change is likely to be other than temporary, the valuation is adjusted accordingly. Any such general reductions in asset values are disclosed as impairment changes.

3.4 Disposals

Income from the disposal of fixed assets is credited to the usable capital receipts reserve, and accounted for on an accruals basis.

Where a fixed asset is disposed of for other than a cash consideration, or payment is deferred, an equivalent asset is recognised and included in the balance sheet at its fair value.

3.5 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for all relevant categories of fixed assets with a finite useful life, including council dwellings. For council dwellings the Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) is used as a proxy for depreciation.

For other assets, provision for depreciation is made by allocating the cost (or revalued amount) less estimated residual value of the assets as fairly as possible to the periods expected to benefit from their use. The depreciation methods used are the ones which are the most appropriate to the type of asset and their use in the provision of services.

The useful lives of assets are estimated on a realistic basis, reviewed regularly and, where necessary, revised.

Depreciation is not provided for freehold land (whether operational or non-operational). Depreciation is based on the amount at which the asset is included in the balance sheet, whether net current replacement cost or historical cost, and is calculated on the opening balance.

4 DEFERRED CHARGES

Following earlier changes to the SORP the heading for deferred charges has been replaced with intangible assets, which brings the terminology in line with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP) and recognises the requirements of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS)10 "Goodwill and Intangible Assets".

Deferred charges should be amortised to revenue over an appropriate period consistent with the consumption of the economic benefits controlled by the Local Authority. Because of the types of expenditure to which deferred charges usually apply, eg improvement grants, a local authority will seldom control the economic benefit arising from the expenditure and in such cases 100% of the deferred charge is amortised to revenue in the year the deferred charge is recognised.

5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

In those cases where the authority does control the economic benefit arising from the expenditure then it is recognised as an asset in the balance sheet. Purchased intangible assets (eg software licences) are now capitalised as assets based on actual cost, and are amortised to revenue over a five year period.

6 BASIS FOR CHARGES FOR CAPITAL

Each service within the City Council is charged with a capital charge for all fixed assets used in the provision of that service. The now consists only of the relevant charge for depreciation. The

requirement for the charges to include a capital financing charge, determined by applying a specified notional rate of interest to the net value at which the asset is included in the balance sheet, has now been removed.

7 DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

The revenue and capital accounts of the Council are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice and FRS 18. That is, sums due to or from the Council during the year are included whether or not the cash has actually been received or paid in the year. There are minor exceptions but these are not material compared with the total for the year.

8 STOCKS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Goods and materials chargeable to revenue, which have not been consumed by the end of the year, have been carried forward to be charged in the accounting period in which they are consumed. Statement of Standard Accounting Practice (SSAP) 9 requires that stocks should be shown at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Stocks held in stores are shown in the accounts at their latest replacement cost net of provision for obsolescence / reduction in value, as an estimation of their net realisable value. Other stocks are shown at cost price.

Work in progress at the year end is included in the accounts at cost price.

9 OVERHEADS

Charges or apportionments covering all support service costs are made to all their users, including services to the public, divisions of services, trading undertakings, capital accounts, services provided for other bodies and other support services.

The cost of service management (comprising all management except corporate management) is in the same way apportioned to the accounts representing the activities managed.

The bases of apportionment adopted is consistent for all the heads to which apportionments are made.

The costs of corporate management and unapportionable central overheads are allocated to separate objective headings kept for these purposes and are not reapportioned to any other heading.

10 PROVISIONS FOR BAD AND DOUBTFUL DEBTS

Provision has been made for doubtful debts, and known uncollectable debts have been written off during the year.

11 RESERVES

Amounts set aside for purposes falling outside the definition of provisions are considered as reserves, and transfers to and from them are distinguished from service expenditure disclosed in the Statement of Accounts. No expenditure is charged directly to any reserve.

Capital reserves are not available for revenue purposes and certain elements of them can only be used for specific statutory purposes. The fixed asset restatement account, usable capital receipts, and capital financing account are examples of such reserves.

12 PENSIONS

The attributable assets (if any) of each scheme should be measured at their fair value at the balance sheet date. Scheme assets include current assets as well as investments. Any liabilities such as accrued expenses should be deducted. The attributable scheme liabilities should be measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method. The scheme liabilities comprise:

- i. any benefit promised under the formal terms of the scheme; and

- ii. any constructive obligations for further benefits where a public statement or past practice by the employer has created a valid expectation in the employees that such benefits will be granted.

The surplus/deficit in a scheme is the excess/shortfall of the value of the assets in the scheme over/below the present value of the scheme liabilities. An authority should recognise an asset to the extent that it is able to redress a surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme. An authority should recognise a liability to the extent that it reflects its legal or constructive obligation.

Any unpaid contributions to the scheme should be presented in the balance sheet as a creditor due within one year.

The change in the defined benefit asset or liability (other than that arising from contributions to the scheme) should be analysed into the following components:

- i. Periodic costs:
 - a. current service cost;
 - b. interest cost;
 - c. expected return on assets; and
 - d. actuarial gains and losses; and
- ii. Non-periodic costs:
 - a. past service costs; and
 - b. gains and losses on settlements and curtailments.

The current service cost should be included within Net Cost of Services (except in so far as the related employee remuneration is capitalised in accordance with the Code and Statute). The net of the interest cost and the expected return on assets should be included within Net Operating Expenditure. Actuarial gains and losses arising from any new valuation and from updating the latest actuarial valuation to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date should be recognised in the Statement of Total Movements for the period.

Past service costs should be recognised in Net Cost of Services on a straight-line basis over the period in which the increases in benefit vest. To the extent that the benefits vest immediately, the past service cost should be recognised immediately.

Losses arising on a settlement or curtailment not allowed for in the actuarial assumptions should be measured at the date on which the authority becomes demonstrably committed to the transaction and recognised in Net Cost of Service at that date. Gains arising on a settlement or curtailment now allowed for in the actuarial assumptions should be measured at that date on which all parties whose consent is required are irrevocably committed to the transaction and recognised in Net Cost of Services at that date.

13 INVESTMENT INTEREST

Interest is credited to the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Account based on the equated level of their respective fund balances.

14 INVESTMENTS

Current investments are shown in the Balance Sheet at cost less any provision required for loss in value. Dividends on Longer Term Investments have been credited to revenue when paid. Details of the Council's holdings in any companies are set out in the notes to the Balance Sheet.

15 GOVERNMENT GRANTS

Where the acquisition of a fixed asset is financed either wholly or in part by a government grant or other contribution, the amount of the grant or contribution is credited initially to the government grants-deferred account. Amounts are released to the income and expenditure account over the useful life of the asset to match the depreciation charged on the asset to which it relates.

Government grants and other contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the accounting statements when the conditions for their receipt have been complied with and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received.

16 LEASES

Rental payments under finance leases are apportioned between the finance charge and the principal element, i.e. the reduction of the liability to pay future rentals. The finance element of rentals is charged to the relevant service account.

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to revenue on an accruals basis.

17 DEBT RESCHEDULING

Gains or losses arising on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the periods during which the repurchase or early settlement is made. Where however the repurchase of borrowing is coupled with a refinancing or restructuring of borrowing with substantially the same economic effect when viewed as a whole, gains and losses are recognised over the life of the replacement borrowing. The balance of any outstanding premia is held on the balance sheet as a deferred premium, and the balance of any outstanding discounts is shown as a deferred credit.

18 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the Authority is required to set aside a minimum revenue provision for repayment of debt. This is the aggregate of 4% of the Adjusted Capital Financing Requirement at the beginning of the year for the General Fund.

19 CAPITAL RECEIPTS

Previously, capital receipts from the disposal of assets were treated in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, whereby 75% of council house sales were set aside to repay debt, however Section 11 (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2003 now requires all or part of these receipts to be pooled and paid to the Secretary of State.

Capital receipts other than from the sale of council houses can be fully utilised to finance capital expenditure. Capital receipts from asset sales are held in the usable capital receipts reserve until such time as they are required to fund other capital expenditure. There is a statutory de minimis level of £10,000 in respect of capital receipts and sums received up to this limit are credited into the appropriate revenue account.

20 VALUE ADDED TAX

VAT is fully recoverable from Customs and Excise except in certain exceptional cases. Consequently all expenditure, whether revenue or capital, is shown in the accounts as net of VAT.

21 EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS, EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS AND PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

Exceptional items should be included in the cost of the service to which they relate or on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account if that degree of prominence is necessary in order to give a fair presentation of the accounts. An adequate description of each exceptional item should be given within the notes to the accounts.

Extraordinary items should be disclosed and described on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account after dealing with all items within the ordinary activities of the authority and should be explained fully in a note to the accounting statements.

The majority of prior period items arise from corrections and adjustments that are the natural result of estimates inherent in the accounting process. Such adjustments constitute normal transactions for the year in which they are identified, and should be accounted for accordingly.

Material adjustments applicable to prior years arising from changes in accounting policies or from fundamental errors should be accounted for by restating the comparative figures for the preceding period in the statement of account and notes and adjusting the opening balance or reserves for the cumulative effect. The cumulative effect of the any such adjustments should also be noted within the note to the accounts which details movements in Reserves. The effect of prior period adjustments on the outturn for the preceding period should be disclosed where practicable.

22 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Where a material post balance sheet event occurs which:

- provides additional evidence relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date; or
- indicates that application of the going concern concept to a material part of the authority is not appropriate.

changes should be made in the amounts to be included in the Statements of Accounts.

The occurrence of a material post balance sheet event which concerns conditions which did not exist at the balance sheet date should be disclosed. The disclosure should state the nature of the event and, where possible, an estimate of the financial effect of the event.

23 FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Income and expenditure arising from a transaction denominated in a foreign currency should be translated into £ sterling at the exchange rate in operation on the date on which the transaction occurred; if the rates do not fluctuate significantly, an average rate for a period may be used as an approximation. Where the transaction is to be settled at a contracted rate, that rate should be used.

At each balance sheet date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in a foreign currency should be translated by using the closing rate or, where appropriate, the rates of exchange fixed under the terms of the relevant transactions.

24 CONTINGENT ASSETS

Contingent assets should not be accrued in the accounting statements, they should be disclosed by way of notes if the inflow of a receipt or economic benefit is probable.

25 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Contingent liabilities should not be accrued in the accounting statements, they should be disclosed by way of notes if there is a possible obligation which may require a payment or a transfer of economic benefits.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Responsibilities

This explains the statutory responsibilities of the Council and its appropriate officers for the compilation and approval of the Statement of Accounts.

Statement of Accounting Policies

This explains the basis of the figures shown in the accounts. It sets out the policies that have been followed in dealing with major items to help with understanding the accounts.

Statement on the Systems of Internal Control and Corporate Governance

This sets out the framework within which internal control and corporate governance are managed and reviewed, and highlights any major weaknesses and corrective action.

THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Income and Expenditure Account

This reports the costs for the year of the major functions for which the Council is responsible and compares that cost with the finance provided from Council Tax, redistributed Non Domestic Rates and General Grants from Central Government. It provides a performance statement for the Council applying the standard accounting practices applicable in the UK. However, because there are some specific requirements that apply only to local authorities, the surplus or deficit shown does not have a direct impact on the Council Tax.

Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance

This takes as its starting point the surplus or deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account. It then takes into account the specific statutory and other items that apply to local authorities, to produce the overall impact on the General Fund, and so on the Council Tax.

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

Not all of the Council's gains and losses will be recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account, for example gains which result from revaluations of fixed assets. This statement includes these items and so illustrates the overall financial gain or loss for the year. The bottom line on this statement will be equal to the change in 'Total Equity' as shown in the Balance Sheet.

Balance Sheet

This is fundamental to the understanding of the Council's year end financial position. It shows the balances and reserves at the Council's disposal and its long term indebtedness, the net current assets employed in the operations, and summarises information on fixed assets held. (It excludes Trust Funds).

Cash Flow Statement

This statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

THE SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Account

This is prepared on the same accounting basis as for the main Income and Expenditure Account above. It reflects a statutory obligation to account separately for local authority housing provision. It shows the major elements of housing revenue expenditure and how these are met by rents, subsidy and other income.

Statement of Movement on the Housing Revenue Account Balance

This serves the same purpose, for the Housing Revenue Account, as the equivalent statement above does for the Council as a whole. It brings into account specific statutory and other items, and produces a figure which shows the overall impact of the year's activities on council house rents.

Collection Fund

This shows the transactions of the Council as a charging authority in relation to Non Domestic Rates, the Council Tax and any residual Community Charge. It illustrates the way in which these have been distributed to precepting authorities (such as the County Council and Police Authority) and the Council's own General Fund.

Group Accounts

This statement consolidates any material interests the Council may have in subsidiary and associated companies within one set of accounts.

It should be noted that Lancaster has no material interest in any companies and as such, there are no Group Accounts included in the Statement. Details of the Council's minority interests in any companies are shown in the notes to the Balance Sheet.

Bequests, Endowments and Trust Funds

These show the accounts of various Funds for which the Council is Trustee.

Independent auditor's report to the Members of Lancaster City Council

Opinion on the financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of Lancaster City Council for the year ended 31 March 2007 under the Audit Commission Act 1998, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, Statement of the Movement on the General Fund Balance, the Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account, the Collection Fund and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them.

This report is made solely to Lancaster City Council in accordance with Part II of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 36 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies prepared by the Audit Commission.

Respective responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer and auditors

The Chief Finance Officer's responsibilities for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2006 are set out in the Statement of Responsibilities.

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

I report to you my opinion as to whether the financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Authority in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2006.

I review whether the statement on internal control reflects compliance with CIPFA's guidance, 'The statement on internal control in local government: meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003', issued in April 2004. I report if it does not comply with proper practices specified by CIPFA or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit of the financial statements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered, whether the statement on internal control covers all risks and controls. I am also not required to form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's corporate governance procedures or its risk and control procedures.

I read other information published with the financial statements, and consider whether it is consistent with the audited financial statements. This other information comprises the Explanatory Foreword and the content of the Annual Report. I consider the implications for my report if I become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. My responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Audit Commission Act 1998, the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the Authority in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

I planned and performed my audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which I considered necessary in order to provide me with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming my opinion I also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements present fairly, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and the Statement of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2006, the financial position of the Authority as at 31 March 2007 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.

Signed:  Michael Thomas

Audit Commission, Aspinall House, Aspinall Close, Middlebrook, Bolton, BL6 6QQ

24th September 2007

Conclusion on arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to regularly review the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

Under the Local Government Act 1999, the authority is required to prepare and publish a best value performance plan summarising the authority's assessment of its performance and position in relation to its statutory duty to make arrangements to ensure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Auditor's Responsibilities

I am required by the Audit Commission Act 1998 to be satisfied that proper arrangements have been made by the authority for securing economy, efficiency and

effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission requires me to report to you my conclusion in relation to proper arrangements, having regard to relevant criteria specified by the Audit Commission for principal local authorities. I report if significant matters have come to my attention which prevent me from concluding that the authority has made such proper arrangements. I am not required to consider, nor have I considered, whether all aspects of the authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

I am required by section 7 of the Local Government Act 1999 to carry out an audit of the authority's best value performance plan and issue a report:

- certifying that I have done so;
- stating whether I believe that the plan has been prepared and published in accordance with statutory requirements set out in section 6 of the Local Government Act 1999 and statutory guidance; and
- where relevant, making any recommendations under section 7 of the Local Government Act 1999.

Conclusion

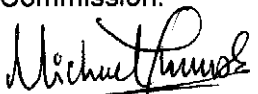
I have undertaken my audit in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice and having regard to the criteria for principal local authorities specified by the Audit Commission and published in December 2006, I am satisfied that, in all significant respects, Lancaster City Council made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ending 31 March 2007.

Best Value Performance Plan

I issued my statutory report on the audit of the Authority's best value performance plan for the financial year 2006/07 on 20 December 2006. I did not identify any matters to be reported to the authority and did not make any recommendations on procedures in relation to the plan.

Certificate

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Audit Commission.

Signed:  Michael Thomas

Audit Commission, Aspinall House, Aspinall Close, Middlebrook, Bolton, BL6 6QQ

24 September 2007

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

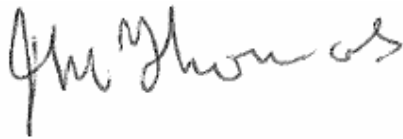
1 THE AUTHORITY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

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 Head of Financial Services;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets;
- approve the statement of accounts, with the Chairman of the appropriate Committee signing and dating the statement accordingly.

2 AUDIT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2006/07 was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting held on 27 June 2007, prior to the audit being completed.



Councillor M Thomas

3 THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Head of Financial Services as Section 151 Officer is responsible for the preparation of the authority's statement of accounts in accordance with proper practices set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("the Code of Practice").

In preparing this statement of accounts, the Head of Financial Services has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent;
- complied with the Code of Practice.

The Head of Financial Services has also:

- kept proper accounting records which were up to date;
- taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

4 HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES' CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2007 and the income and expenditure for the year then ended.



Nadine Muschamp, CPFA
Head of Financial Services

1. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

Lancaster City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, Lancaster City Council is also responsible for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Council's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk. To this end the Council has adopted a Constitution and Code of Corporate Governance which is consistent with CIPFA/SOLACE¹ framework – *Corporate Governance in Local Government: A Keystone for Community Governance*. A full copy of the Council's Constitution is available on the Council's website.

Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003) requires audited bodies² to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its internal control and risk management systems and to publish a statement on internal control (SIC) each year with the financial statements.

2. THE PURPOSE OF THE SYSTEM OF INTERNAL CONTROL

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

Effective systems of internal control are based on an ongoing risk management process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives; to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

3. THE INTERNAL CONTROL ENVIRONMENT

The system of internal control has been in place at Lancaster City Council for the year ended 31 March 2007 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and, except for the details of significant control issues set out in section 5, accords with proper practice.

The following sets out the key elements of the Council's internal control environment:

- The Council has adopted a constitution, which sets out how we operate, how decisions are made and the procedures followed to ensure that these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people.

¹ The "Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy" and the "Society of Local Authority Chief Executives."

² Those bodies whose accounts are audited in accordance with Section 2 of the Audit Commission Act 1988

- The facilitation of policy and decision making, in line with the Council's overall budget and policy framework, is established through the Council's Cabinet, with any key decisions (as defined in the Constitution) outside of this framework being referred to the Council as a whole. The Council publishes a Forward Plan containing details of key decisions made on behalf of the Council by Cabinet and by senior officers under their delegated powers.
- The adopted Code of Corporate Governance sets out how the values of openness, inclusivity, integrity and accountability are applied to the Council's activities, in line with the principles and requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE³ framework – *Corporate Governance in Local Government: A Keystone for Community Governance*.
- A Risk Management Policy and Strategy sets out the framework for managing risk throughout the Council. Senior officers of the Council have primary responsibility to effectively manage strategic and operational business risks relating to their Service. The process of identifying, assessing and managing these risks is underpinned by the ongoing development of the Council's Risk Registers, the establishment of a corporate approach to managing significant projects and the supervisory activities of the Risk Management Group.
- The Council seeks to ensure the economical, effective and efficient use of resources and continuous improvement in the way in which it exercises its functions, through reviews carried out by Cabinet's Star Chamber, the Overview and Scrutiny function, Internal Audit and those conducted by our external auditors and other external agencies.
- During 2006/07 the Head of Legal and Human Resources Services was the Council's designated Monitoring Officer, with responsibility for promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct and for ensuring compliance with established policies, procedures, laws and regulations. The Monitoring Officer is required to report any actual or potential breaches of the law or maladministration to full Council and supports The Standards Committee in its function of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct of Councillors and co-opted Members.
- The Council's commitment to high standards of conduct and integrity is supported by our established codes of conduct for employees and elected Members and probity is maintained through our Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Strategy and the Whistleblowing Policy.
- The financial management of the Council is conducted in accordance with rules set out in the Financial Regulations and Procedures within the Constitution. The Council also has in place a three-year Medium Term Financial Strategy to support the key priorities and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan, and the Head of Financial Services has statutory duties for the financial administration and stewardship of the Council, in accordance with Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- Internal Audit operates to the standards set out in the '*CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government 2006*' and the Council has established an objective and professional relationship with its external auditors and other statutory inspectors.
- The Council's performance management framework is driven by our Corporate Plan which focuses attention on our corporate priorities and objectives, which are in turn cascaded into Service business plans and individual employee appraisals and action plans.
- The Council sets out its approach to partnering in service delivery and in construction

³ *The "Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy" and the "Society of Local Authority Chief Executives."*

projects through the introduction of the *Framework for Partnership Working* and the *Procurement through Partnering Guidelines* published in November 2004. These documents set out clear guidance on how the Council will meet the strategic objective of delivering better services to citizens through the creation of sustainable partnerships between the Council and suppliers in the public, private and voluntary sectors and the carrying out of major projects, including construction.

4. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal control. The review of the effectiveness of internal control is informed by the work of internal auditors and senior managers of the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the systems of internal control, and also by comments made by the Council's external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates in their annual audit letter and other reports.

The following are the main processes applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the systems of internal control and governance:

- The Audit Committee and the Head of Legal and HR Services, in her role as the Council's Monitoring Officer, have a duty to monitor and review the operation of the Constitution to ensure that its aims and principles are given full effect. A function of full Council is to adopt and change the Constitution following recommendation(s) from the Monitoring Officer and/or Audit Committee
- The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee has responsibility to consider and, if necessary, 'call-in' decisions made by Cabinet and the Budget and Performance Panel reviews the Council's budget and performance at both a strategic and service level
- The Audit Committee has responsibility for reviewing the Internal Control & Corporate Governance Framework and the Council's assurance statement on corporate governance is now incorporated within this Statement of Internal Control and Corporate Governance.
- The Audit Committee also reviews the adequacy of internal controls and risk management arrangements, monitoring the performance of Internal Audit and agreeing the external audit plan
- Internal Audit is responsible for providing assurance on the effectiveness of the Council's systems of internal control, including arrangements for risk management and governance. Internal Audit's role is to assist managers by evaluating the control environment, providing assurance wherever possible and agreeing actions to optimise levels of control. The Council's external auditors place reliance on the work of Internal Audit in fulfilling their statutory duties and regularly inspect Internal Audit work
- The Internal Audit Manager is responsible for submitting an annual report to the Audit Committee detailing the performance of Internal Audit for the previous financial year, and giving an opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's systems of internal control
- The Council adopted a new performance framework from 1st April 2006. The new arrangements have provided clearer roles and responsibilities for managers and elected members, particularly Cabinet portfolio holders and scrutiny members of the Budget and Performance Panel. Ongoing development and implementation of the new computerised corporate performance management system is continuing to improve the scope and quality of information and decision making.
- In tandem with performance management developments, the ongoing development of corporate and service-level risk registers is providing improved information and focus on the key risks facing the Council, again serving to improve the overall decision

making process. During the year, each of the council's services has developed and published a service continuity plan covering all critical service areas, in line with Civil Contingencies legislation

- The Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) carried out by the Audit Commission in 2003/04 assessed the Council as a 'Fair' performing authority, placing it in the middle of a range of possible scores from Poor to Excellent. The Council has continued to address these, as well as other priority action areas, through our Corporate Improvement Plan. An application by the Council for re-categorisation under CPA has been accepted by the Audit Commission with the review due to be undertaken during 2007.
- In April 2007, the Audit Commission, in its Annual Audit Letter, reported that the Council had strengthened its arrangements in a range of areas, including consultation and community engagement, and performance management and business planning. The Commission's views drew on assessments of the Council's "Direction of Travel" and its "Use of Resources", in which it judged us to be "consistently above minimum requirements – performing well".

5. SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL CONTROL ISSUES

Work carried out by both our external and internal auditors has indicated that effective internal financial controls exist within the Council's main financial systems to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the information they provide and no significant control weaknesses have been brought to our attention.

From assurances provided from the review of the effectiveness of our systems of internal control and the corporate governance framework, it is our opinion that they accord with proper practice and are working effectively.

Whilst the Council has received praise from the Audit Commission and other external inspectors and peers we recognise that more needs to be done in order to address any significant issues affecting the Council and to ensure continuous improvement of our already considerable governance controls, and to that end we will:

- **Improve the Value For Money** we provide by continuously challenging and reviewing the efficiency with which we manage the organisation and provide our services.
- **Continue to strengthen our delivery of customer-focussed services** by continuing to improve how we undertake consultation and community engagement, contributing to more focussed business planning and allocation of resources.
- **Improve decision making** by completing the implementation of the new performance management arrangements and improving the scope and quality of performance information.
- **Manage risk more effectively** by fully implementing the risk management strategy and embedding risk management processes throughout the Council and its main partnerships.
- **Resource and implement action plans** through the development of our workforce planning arrangements to ensure that our staff have the necessary skills and training to deliver services.
- **Continue to develop the effectiveness of governance arrangements** by continuing to raise staff, elected Member and stakeholder awareness of our standards and by continuing to build effective relationships with our partners.



R Mace
Leader of the Council



M Cullinan
Chief Executive



S Taylor
Head of Legal and HR Services
Monitoring Officer



N Muschamp
Head of Financial Services
(Section 151 Officer)

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

The Income and Expenditure Account shows the Council's actual financial performance, measured in terms of the resources consumed and generated over the financial year. However, the authority is required to raise Council Tax on a different accounting basis, the main differences being as follows;

- Capital investment is accounted for as it is financed, rather than when the fixed assets are consumed.
- The payment to the Government of a share of housing capital receipts counts as a loss in the Income and Expenditure Account, but is met from the monies from the capital receipts themselves, rather than from Council Tax.
- Retirement benefits are charged as amounts become payable to pensions funds and pensioners, rather than when future benefits are earned (for more detail see Note 39 page 41).

2005/06		2006/07			
		EXP	INC	NET	Notes
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
719	Central Services to the Public	10,099	(9,388)	711	
13,705	Cultural, Environmental and Planning Services	23,815	(10,562)	13,253	
(194)	Highways, Roads and Transport Services	3,921	(3,732)	189	
(2,822)	Local Authority Housing (HRA)	11,070	(14,229)	(3,159)	
4,101	Other Housing Services	30,296	(27,989)	2,307	
2,213	Corporate and Democratic Core	2,624	(77)	2,547	
(1,197)	Non Distributed Costs	431	(598)	(167)	
16,525	Net Cost of Services	82,256	(66,575)	15,681	
(24)	(Gains) or Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	2,594	(2,659)	(65)	1
245	Precepts of Local Precepting Authorities	260		260	2
(993)	Surplus or Deficit of Trading Undertakings or Other Operations, including Dividends from Companies	5,134	(5,783)	(649)	3
2,783	Interest Payable & Similar Charges	2,739	(5)	2,734	10
1,494	Amounts Payable into the Housing Capital Receipts Pool	1,557	0	1,557	
(749)	Interest & Investment Income	8	(908)	(900)	
946	Pensions Interest Cost & Expected Return on Pensions Assets	6,470	(6,024)	446	39
0	Extraordinary Items	0	0	0	
20,227	Net Operating Expenditure	101,018	(81,954)	19,064	
(6,894)	Demand on the Collection Fund			(7,266)	
(9,033)	General Government Grants			(2,802)	
(3,922)	Distribution from Non-Domestic Rate Pool			(12,130)	
378	(Surplus) / Deficit for the Year			(3,134)	

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT ON THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

The overall movement in the General Fund Balance compares the amount raised in Council Tax for the year against the Council's spending for the year (after allowing for the use of reserves built up in the past and any contributions to those reserves to cover future expenditure).

2005/06 £'000		2006/07 £'000	NOTES
OVERALL MOVEMENT ON THE GENERAL FUND BALANCE			
378	(Surplus) / Deficit for year on the Income & Expenditure Account	(3,134)	
(432)	Net additional amount required by Statute & Non-Statutory proper practices to be debited or (credited) to the General Fund Balance for the year	2,180	
(54)	Net (Increase) / Decrease in General Fund Balance	(954)	
(2,007)	General Fund Balance brought forward	(2,061)	
(2,061)	General Fund Balance carried forward	(3,015)	

NOTE OF RECONCILING ITEMS

2005/06 £'000	Amounts included in the income and expenditure account but required by Statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year	2006/07 £'000	
(226)	Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	(217)	
(1,840)	Depreciation and impairment of fixed assets	(1,738)	
1,793	Government Grants Deferred amortisation	4,385	
(3,057)	Deferred Charges	(3,071)	
24	Net gain or loss on sale of fixed assets	65	1
1,088	Amount by which pension costs calculated in accordance with FRS 17 are different from actual contributions due	(503)	39
(2,218)	Amounts not included in the income and expenditure account but required by Statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year	(1,079)	
814	Minimum Revenue Provision	1,007	16
24	Revenue financing of Capital Expenditure	128	
(1,494)	Transfer from Usable Capital Receipts equal to amount payable to Housing Capital Receipts Pool	(1,557)	
(656)	Transfers to or from the General Fund Balance that are required to be taken into account when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year	(422)	
1,519	Transfer of (surplus) or deficit on Housing Revenue Account Income & Expenditure Account	2,164	
140	Voluntary provision for repayment of debt	311	
783	Net transfer to / (from) earmarked reserves	1,206	
2,442	Net additional amount required to be (credited)/debited to the General Fund Balance for the year	2,180	

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS & LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000	NOTES
378 (Surplus) / Deficit for Year on the Income & Expenditure Account	(3,134)	
(83) (Surplus) / Deficit for Year Arising on Revaluation of Fixed Assets	(4,752)	
(946) Actuarial (Gains) & Losses on Pension Fund Assets & Liabilities	(5,789)	
Any Other Gains or Losses :		
(98) Attributable movement on Collection Fund	(209)	
(749) TOTAL RECOGNISED (GAINS) & LOSSES FOR THE YEAR	(13,884)	

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2007

This shows the financial position of the Council as a whole and summarises its assets and liabilities.

2005/06		2006/07	NOTES
£000		£000	
606	Intangible Assets	485	17
	Tangible Fixed Assets		18
	Operational Assets :		
141,589	Council Dwellings	150,436	
42,663	Other Land & Buildings	44,992	
3,911	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	4,739	
19,613	Infrastructure	19,321	
4,897	Community Assets	4,966	
	Non Operational Assets :		
11,175	Investment Properties	11,137	
4,255	Assets Under Construction	14,226	
7,503	Surplus assets held for disposal	14,389	
236,212	TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	264,691	
0	Long Term Investments	2,000	27
225	Long Term Debtors	80	28
1,361	Deferred Premiums	1,186	
237,798	TOTAL LONG TERM ASSETS	267,957	
	Current Assets		
255	Stocks & Work in Progress	327	29
11,568	Debtors	16,298	30
10,200	Investments	9,500	
0	Cash & Bank	0	
	Current Liabilities		
(174)	Borrowing (Amounts due within one year)	0	32
(11,260)	Creditors	(10,811)	31
(379)	Bank Overdraft	(3,871)	
248,008	TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	279,400	
(44,800)	Long Term Borrowing	(44,800)	32
(223)	Deferred Liabilities	(223)	37
(70)	Deferred Credits	(57)	
(32)	Deferred Discounts	(27)	
(23,440)	Government Grants & Contributions Deferred	(46,401)	33, 35
(556)	Provisions	(348)	34
(33,031)	Liability related to defined benefit pension scheme	(27,803)	39
145,856	TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES	159,741	
126,701	Fixed Asset Restatement Account	128,854	}
40,512	Capital Financing Account	44,013	
2,474	Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	1,594	
(33,031)	Pension Reserve	(27,803)	
2,099	Major Repairs Reserve	3,716	
3,500	Earmarked Reserves	4,997	
2,061	Balances : General Fund	3,015	
1,153	Housing Revenue Account	759	
387	Collection Fund	596	
145,856	TOTAL EQUITY	159,741	

CASH FLOW STATEMENT AS AT 31 MARCH 2007

This statement summarises the inflows and (outflows) of cash arising from transactions with third parties for revenue and capital purposes.

	NOTES	2005/06		2006/07	
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Revenue Activities					
<i>Cash Outflows</i>					
Cash paid to and on behalf of employees		(22,681)		(24,353)	
Other operating cash payments		(52,023)		(36,486)	
Housing Benefit paid out		(32,593)		(33,077)	
Non-Domestic Rates payments to National Pool		(36,902)		(28,605)	
Precepts paid		(47,156)		(49,804)	
Payments to Capital Receipts Pool		(1,494)		(1,557)	
TOTAL PAYMENTS			(192,849)		(173,882)
<i>Cash inflows</i>					
Rents (after rebates)		2,173		2,357	
Council Tax receipts		55,354		58,370	
NNDR receipts		36,603		28,365	
NNDR receipts from National Pool		3,922		12,130	
Revenue Support Grant	41	8,888		2,342	
DWP grants for benefits	41	34,118		33,044	
Other government grants	41	936		1,030	
Cash received for goods and services		36,519		38,074	
Other operating cash receipts / payments		22,753	201,266	6,664	182,376
NET CASH INFLOW FROM REVENUE ACTIVITY	40		8,417		8,494
Returns on Investments and Servicing of Finance					
Cash outflows : Interest paid		(2,476)		(2,582)	
Cash inflows : Interest received		660	(1,816)	908	(1,674)
Capital Activities					
Cash outflows : Purchase of fixed assets		(13,965)		(31,030)	
Long Term Investments		0		(2,000)	
Other capital cash payments		(3,768)		(3,168)	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		(17,733)		(36,198)	
Cash inflows : Sale of fixed assets		1,172		1,108	
Capital grants received		9,620		24,252	
Other capital cash receipts		0		0	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		10,792		25,360	
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM CAPITAL ACTIVITIES			(6,941)		(10,838)
NET CASH INFLOW/OUTFLOW(-) BEFORE FINANCING	44		(340)		(4,018)
Management of Liquid Resources					
Net (increase) / decrease in short term deposits			(3,700)		700
Financing					
<i>Cash outflows</i>					
Repayments of amounts borrowed		(321)		(174)	
<i>Cash inflows</i>					
New Loans Raised		3,500	3,179	0	(174)
NET CASH INFLOW/OUTFLOW(-)			(521)		526
NET (INCREASE)/DECREASE IN CASH			(861)		(3,492)

For further detail see Notes 40 to 44

DISCLOSURE NOTES TO THE CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Accounting Code of Practice (ACOP) on Local Authority Accounting requires the publication of additional financial information as notes to the Core Financial Statements. The figures contained in these notes are either not shown separately on the face of the main financial statements, or they disclose information in relation to responsibilities and functions which the Council undertakes on behalf of other bodies.

1 GAINS AND LOSSES ON SALE OF FIXED ASSETS

Overall gains and losses on sales of fixed assets during the year were as follows. The book value of council dwellings sold has been reduced for any right to buy discounts.

	£000
Book value of assets disposed of	2,607
Less accumulated depreciation	(13)
	2,594
Sale proceeds	(2,659)
(GAIN)/LOSS ON DISPOSAL	(65)

2 PARISH PRECEPTS

In line with previous years local parishes levied their own precept within their parish boundaries. In total the precepts levied amounted to £260,303.82. Full details of individual parish precepts are available from the Head of Financial Services at Lancaster Town Hall.

3 TRADING SERVICES

Trading services cover undertakings with the public or with other third parties, and include such activities as markets, trade refuse collection, industrial units and the remainder of the former Direct Service Organisations (DSO's) which have not been consolidated into their relevant service areas.

The DSO's were set up originally to allow the Council to bid for work under the Compulsory Competitive Tendering (CCT) legislation. However, from 02 January 2000 this legislation was abolished and replaced by a new Best Value system designed to establish a continuing process of cost effective service improvements.

For 2006/07, of the former DSO activities, trading accounts for Repairs and Maintenance and Highways Contractor were still operated. Any surplus/deficits in respect of Repairs and Maintenance are attributable to the Housing Revenue Account, and Highways are attributable to the General Fund. Following a review of the working arrangements under the Lancashire Highways Partnership (LHP), with effect from 01 July 2006 the City Council was retained as a preferred contractor for the LHP, with the exception of street lighting,.

	Income	Expenditure	2006/07 (Surplus) / Deficit	2005/06 (Surplus) / Deficit
	£000	£000	£000	£000
General highway and sewer work	(1,223)	1,080	(143)	(230)
Other maintenance work	(1,930)	1,846	(84)	131
Trade refuse collection	(816)	649	(167)	(304)
Markets	(843)	1,048	205	263
Commercial Properties / Industrial Units	(971)	511	(460)	(476)
Total (Surplus) / Deficit on Trading Undertakings	(5,783)	5,134	(649)	(616)

4 LEASING AND OTHER LONG TERM COMMITMENTS

The following table summarises current operating lease obligations for future years.

Leased Assets – Rentals (excluding staff car leases)		Operating Leases £000
Total rentals paid in 2006/07		455
Outstanding undischarged leasing obligations:		
2007/08		393
2008/09		340

At 31 March 2007, 40 cars were leased for staff. The total cost in 2006/07 was £168,000 and after contributions by staff of £21,481, it resulted in a charge to the Authority of £146,519.

The Council had one finance lease in respect of a car park, which is subject to a peppercorn rent, however no charge has been levied in the current or previous years, and none are anticipated in future years. Details relating to the asset are shown below :

St.Nicholas Arcade Car Park	£'000
Gross Book Value (31/03/07)	3,595
Accumulated Depreciation	60
Net Book Value (31/03/07)	3,535
Annual depreciation charge	9

There are no outstanding obligations arising from other long term contracts such as Private Finance Initiative agreements.

5 SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE

Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a local authority to make contributions to charities operating in the UK and to not for profit making bodies providing public services in the UK. This expenditure is limited to £1.90 per head of relevant population as defined by statute. For Lancaster, this produces a spending limit for 2006/07 of £262,200. The table below sets out relevant expenditure incurred against this limit.

Analysis	2005/06 £	2006/07 £
Victim Support	4,400	4,500
Council for Voluntary Service	17,700	22,850
Lancaster DISC	5,500	5,600
Relate	6,400	6,400
Miscellaneous Grants	5,508	5,150
Twinning	3,800	3,900
Total	43,308	48,400

6 PUBLICITY EXPENDITURE

The Council is required by Section 5(1) of the Local Government Act 1986 to provide details of its spending on Publicity. The Act does not provide a clear definition of Publicity, however the following analysis shows the elements of expenditure that are considered to be relevant.

Section 5 Local Government Act 1986	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000
Promotions and Publicity	145	162
Recruitment Advertising	67	66
Other Advertising	29	25
TOTAL	241	255

7 BUILDING CONTROL TRADING ACCOUNT

The Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 1998 require the disclosure of information regarding the setting of charges for the administration of the building control function. Lancaster City Council sets charges for work carried out in relation to building regulations, with the aim of covering all costs incurred. However, certain activities performed by the Building Control Unit cannot be charged for, such as providing general advice and liaising with other statutory authorities. The statement below shows the total cost of operating the building control unit for 2006/07, divided between chargeable and non-chargeable activities.

2006/07	Chargeable £000	Non- Chargeable £000	Total £000
Expenditure			
Employee Expenses	301	122	423
Transport	21	9	30
Supplies & Services	31	4	35
Central & Support Recharges	150	17	167
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	503	152	655
Income			
Building Regulation Charges	(471)	0	(471)
Miscellaneous Income	(25)	0	(25)
TOTAL INCOME	(496)	0	(496)
(Surplus)/Deficit for Year	7	152	159
Comparatives for previous year			
Expenditure	503	148	651
Income	(494)	--	(494)
(Surplus)/Deficit for Year	9	148	157

8 AGENCY SERVICE

On 01 July 2003 the Council entered into the Lancashire Highways Partnership (LHP) which replaced the work undertaken by the Council acting as highways agent for Lancashire County Council. The majority of LHP work is delivered through a single works contract with Lancashire County Engineering Services (LCES) in which City Council (Direct) Services (CC(D)S) are involved as a sub-contractor. The only area of work falling outside the single works contract is Highways Grounds Maintenance, which is carried out by CC(D)S and for which reimbursement is made subject to defined limits. Expenditure in this area of work amounted to £121,789, of which £83,932 was reimbursed by LCES and £37,857 was the contribution made by Lancaster City Council General Fund to provide a higher level of service in this area to its ratepayers.

In accordance with recommended accounting practice, only the net cost of agency activities is shown (where applicable) in the Income and Expenditure Account.

9 LOCAL AUTHORITIES (GOODS AND SERVICES) ACT 1970

Under the Act the Council is empowered to provide goods and services to other public bodies. The authority provided grounds maintenance, cleansing, trade refuse and other minor services for Lancashire County Council and various schools to the value of £227,301 during 2006/07. Charging for such services is based on full cost recovery, and the expenditure relating to these functions is included within the Income and Expenditure Account.

10 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

This has two elements; firstly the interest payable during the year on external debt and, secondly, the writing off of a proportion of the premia payable and discounts receivable on the early redemption of debt, as part of the Council's treasury management activities.

	£'000
Interest Payable on External Debt	
PWLB	2,575
Other	(10)
	2,565
Amortisation of amounts in respect of early redemption of debt	
Premia	174
Discounts	(5)
	2,734

11 OFFICERS' EMOLUMENTS

Regulation 7(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations require a specific disclosure of officers' annual remuneration in excess of £50,000. Only six officers of the Council received in excess of this amount during 2006/07.

Remuneration Band	No. of Employees	
	2005/06	2006/07
£50,000 - £59,999	1	2
£60,000 - £69,999	3	3
£70,000 - £79,999		0
£80,000 - £89,999	0	0
£90,000 - £99,999		1
£100,000 +	1	

The emoluments are in respect of taxable pay and values associated with car benefits.

12 MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

The total amounts of allowances paid to Members are as follows.

Type of Allowance	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£
Basic Allowance	172,821	175,437
Special Responsibility Allowance	90,686	91,524
Carer Allowance	1,587	937
Total For All Members	265,094	267,898

Further details can be obtained by contacting the Head of Democratic Services at the Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

13 EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS, EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS AND PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

There have been no exceptional items, extraordinary items or prior year adjustments within the accounts.

14 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Under the Accounting Code of Practice, the Council is required to disclose details of any material transactions with third parties. A number of these transactions have already been disclosed within the financial statements as follows:

- 1 Transactions with Central Government have been disclosed within both the Income and Expenditure Account and the Cash Flow Statement, as well as in other notes to the accounts.
- 2 Transactions with the Lancashire Pensions Fund have been disclosed within the Statement of Accounting Policies and the notes to the Income and Expenditure Account Balance Sheet.
- 3 Transactions with associated companies have been disclosed within the notes to the Balance Sheet.

There are no other material transactions to disclose in respect of other Elected Members or Directors (including their close families), or regarding grants to voluntary and other organisations.

15 AUDIT COSTS

In 2006/07 Lancaster City Council incurred the following fees relating to external audit and inspection:

	2005/06 £	2006/07 £
Fees payable to the Audit Commission with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	99,410	121,082
Fees payable to the Audit Commission in respect of statutory inspection	11,350	2,859
Fees payable to the Audit Commission for the certification of grant claims and returns	42,416	46,631
Fees payable in respect of other services provided by the appointed auditor		0
	153,176	170,572

The fees disclosed above do not account for accruals or prepayments; they represent purely the Audit & Inspection fees paid in the year.

16 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP)

The Authority is required by statute to set aside a minimum revenue provision for the redemption of external debt. The method of calculating the provision is defined by statute. For 2006/07 the amount is £1,007,000 as set out below.

	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000
Non-housing amount - 4% of opening Capital Financing requirement (adjusted re commutation)	814	1,007
Minimum Revenue Provision	814	1,007

Following the introduction of the Major Repairs Allowance there is no longer a requirement for the Housing Revenue Account to set aside a minimum revenue provision.

In addition to the Minimum Revenue Provision, the Council has voluntarily set aside a further £311,000 in respect of financing costs associated with unsupported borrowing used to purchase vehicles during 2006/07.

17 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets result from expenditure of a capital nature which does not impact on the acquisition or enhancement of fixed assets owned by the City Council.

Software Licences	31/03/2006 £000	31/03/2007 £000
Opening Balance	465	606
Amounts written off to Income and Expenditure Account		
Expenditure during the year	367	96
Written off to revenue in year	(226)	(217)
Closing Balance	606	485

Software Licences are held for the Salt Ayre Computerised Booking System, Local Land and Property Gazetteer, Housing Rents and Repairs System, Cash Receipting System, National Non Domestic Rating System, Asset Management System, PC based software and Customer

Relationship Management System together with the software associated with Implementing Electronic Government. The cost is being written off over the five year life of the licences.

18 FIXED ASSETS

Movements in fixed assets during the year were as follows:

	Council dwellings £000	Other land and buildings £000	Vehicles plant and equipment £000	Infrastructure assets £000	Community assets £000	Non-Operational properties £000	TOTAL £000
Gross book value as at 01 April 2006	157,540	46,422	5,672	23,328	4,897	23,667	261,526
Additions	3,723	907	1,174	372	69	24,218	30,463
Disposals	(2,165)	(265)				(183)	(2,613)
Revaluations	9,529	(387)				(4,390)	4,752
Impairment							0
Transfers		2,710		71		(2,780)	1
Gross book value as at 31 March 2007	168,627	49,387	6,846	23,771	4,966	40,532	294,129
Depreciation as at 01 April 2006	(15,951)	(3,759)	(1,761)	(3,715)		(734)	(25,920)
Depreciation for year (on straight line basis)	(2,240)	(646)	(346)	(735)		(49)	(4,016)
Depreciation on assets sold / transferred		10				3	13
Balance as at 31 March 2007	(18,191)	(4,395)	(2,107)	(4,450)	0	(780)	(29,923)
Net book value as at 31 March 2007	150,436	44,992	4,739	19,321	4,966	39,752	264,206

19 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

Capital expenditure incurred during the year was £33.631M. The following table sets out how this was funded.

2006/07	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	45,559
Capital Investment	
Intangible Assets	97
Operational Assets	9,365
Non Operational Assets	16,175
Deferred Charges	3,071
Fixed Asset Restatement Account	4,923
Sources of Finance	
Capital Receipts	(1,988)
Government Grants, Contributions and Deferred Charges	(27,346)
Revenue Provision	(4,433)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	45,423
Explanation of Movements in Year	
Increase in underlying need to borrow (supported by Government financial assistance)	0
Decrease in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	136
Decrease in Capital Financing Requirement	136

20 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

As at 31 March 2007 the Council was contractually committed to capital works, which amounted to approximately £7.617M. Major contracts included the following schemes:-

Capital Projects	£
EDZ Cycling & Walking Network	865,499
Kitchen and External Renewals	874,896
Ryelands Regeneration	77,257
Morecambe Coastal Defence Works	2,410,773

21 MAJOR FIXED ASSETS

The Council is required to disclose details of the major fixed assets that support its functions. The following table shows the number of each type of asset.

	Number as 31/03/2006	Number as 31/03/2007
COUNCIL DWELLINGS	3,881	3,881
OPERATIONAL BUILDINGS		
Town Halls	2	2
Other Offices	10	8
Sports Centres with Pool	1	1
Depots	3	3
Surfaced Car Parks	17	16
Multi-Storey Car Parks	2	2
Cemeteries	7	7
Public Conveniences	9	9
OPERATIONAL EQUIPMENT		
Vehicles	10	22
Heavy Plant	13	13
COMMUNITY ASSETS		
Community Centres	1	1
Parks	15	15
Playing Fields	6	6
NON OPERATIONAL ASSETS		
Commercial/Investment Properties	58	58

22 FIXED ASSET VALUATION

The freehold and leasehold properties which comprise the Authority's property portfolio were originally valued as at 01 April 1994 by the City Council's Head of Property Services, G J Cox, ARICS, in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, except that not all the properties were inspected. This was neither practicable nor considered by the valuer to be necessary for the purpose of the valuation.

Since then, all assets valued on a current value basis, are being revalued on a rolling five year programme. This is in accordance with the requirements of the Accounting Code of Practice.

New additions during the year have been included at historic cost, and these will be formally valued in the future, as part of the rolling revaluation exercise. Specific valuation bases are disclosed within the Statement of Accounting Policies.

The following statement shows the progress of the Council's rolling programme for the revaluation of fixed assets.

	Council dwellings	Other land and buildings	Vehicles plant and equipment	Infrastructure	Investment Properties	Non-Operational	TOTAL
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Valued at Historical	--	--	--	--	--	--	0
Valued at Current							0
1999/2000	--	(1,496)	--	--	(127)	--	(1,623)
2000/2001	--	2,438	--	--	369	--	2,807
2001/2002	(61,723)	135	--	--	277	--	(61,311)
2002/2003	14,146	(2)	(3)	--	--	--	14,141
2003/2004	31,635	2,376	--	--	--	798	34,809
2004/2005	42,786	818	--	--	--	2,499	46,103
2005/2006	(7,469)	11,218	--	126	--	112	3,987
2006/2007	--	--	--	--	3,363	488	3,851
TOTAL CHANGE	19,375	15,487	(3)	126	3,882	3,897	42,764

23 FINANCE LEASES

As at 31 March 2007 there were no assets held under finance leases.

24 PRIVATE FINANCE INITIATIVE (PFI)

The PFI is a mechanism by which private sector investment is used to assist in the delivery of public services, normally for large schemes such as new schools, etc. The Council has not entered into any PFI arrangements and therefore there are no PFI related assets as at 31 March 2007.

25 NET ASSETS EMPLOYED

This summary gives details of the net assets employed during the year analysed over the Council's major accounts, namely General Fund and Housing Revenue Account.

	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£000	£000
General Fund	14,333	18,294
Housing Revenue Account	131,861	141,968
	146,194	160,262
Proportion of Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit) not attributable to the City Council	(338)	(521)
	145,856	159,741

26 RELATED COMPANIES

Local authorities with material interests in subsidiary and associated companies must prepare, as supplementary information, a summarised set of accounts. These Group Accounts comprise of the local authority itself and its interests in any companies that would be regarded as its subsidiaries or associates within the Companies Act.

Lancaster City has relevant interests in the following companies:

- Williamson Park
- Dukes Playhouse Ltd
- Heysham Mossgate (Community Facilities) Company Ltd
- Storey Ltd (recently set up, and not yet trading)

Copies of the accounts can be obtained from the Head of Financial Services, Town Hall, Dalton Square, Lancaster.

None of the Council's interests in the above Companies are considered material when the tests as set out in the Code of Practice are applied with the aggregate financial liability totalling £14 (upper limit being £100,000). Consequently no Group Accounts are required to be prepared for the 2006/07 financial year.

26.1 WILLIAMSON PARK LTD

The Company is limited by guarantee. The principal activity of the Company during the year was the preservation of the park and the provision of amenities for the public benefit.

The Company's financial accounting period ended on 31 January 2007. Consequently the information below differs slightly from the other financial information in this summary. The City Council provided revenue grant support of £162,600 and capital grant support of £21,209 to the Company during the Council's 2006/07 financial year (2005/06 £173,900).

	31 Jan 06	31 Jan 07
	£	£
Net assets	99,391	103,009
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	(3,841)	2,653
Profit/(Loss) after taxation	(3,841)	2,653

26.2 DUKES PLAYHOUSE LTD

The Company is limited by guarantee with no share capital. It is also a registered charity.

The principal activity and objective of the charity is to promote and advance artistic and aesthetic education and the public appreciation of the arts and manage a theatre, which is at the service of the whole community. The City Council provided grant support totalling £159,400 to the Company during the 2006/07 financial year (2005/06 £156,100). This included the provision of grant in lieu of rent free accommodation to the value of £13,500 (2005/06 £13,500).

	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£	£
Net Assets	187,709	168,349
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	17,312	(19,360)
Profit/(Loss) after taxation		

26.3 HEYSHAM MOSSGATE (COMMUNITY FACILITIES) COMPANY LTD

The Company is limited by guarantee without share capital. The principal activity of the company is the development of community facilities in the Mossgate area of Heysham on a non-profit making basis.

The figures below have been provided on a provisional basis for both accounting periods as the Accounts are still being held by the Company's auditors waiting to be signed off.

	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£	£
Net Assets	650,000	662,000
Profit/(Loss) before taxation	289,000	12,000
Profit/(Loss) after taxation		

27 LONG TERM INVESTMENTS

The Council holds one small investment and two larger investments consisting of :

	Cost Price £	Nominal Value £	Value at 31/03/2007 £
3% Lincoln Redeemable Stock	606	700	410
EBS Building Society	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander Bank	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
BALANCE SHEET VALUE OF ASSETS	2,000,606	2,000,700	2,000,410

28 LONG TERM DEBTORS

Long term debtors represent the value of long term loans granted by the Council to external organisations. The main element comprises mortgages granted to occupiers of council dwellings under the council house "right to buy" scheme, and mortgages granted to housing associations.

In addition, the Council approved on 03 July 1998 a £200,000 loan repayable over 10 years to Morecambe Football Club, to assist in the development of a new stand. The balance outstanding at 31 March 2007 was £20,000.

29 STOCKS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

At 31 March 2007 the City Council held stocks and work in progress to the value of £327,000 (£255,000 2005/06), after allowing for the provision of £40,000 for obsolescence / reductions in value, and excluding internal work in progress of £118,000.

30 ANALYSIS OF DEBTORS

Since the Council's Balance Sheet represents assets at the end of the financial year (31 March 2007), there are outstanding monies owed to the Council in respect of the 2006/07 financial year which at that date were yet to be received as cash. The amount in the Balance Sheet therefore, represents amounts owed **to** the Council, which had not been received at 31 March 2007.

The Council makes provision for outstanding monies which it anticipates will not be recovered. The amount in the Balance Sheet is net of such provisions. The Debtors balance as at 31 March 2007 is analysed as follows.

DEBTORS	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£	£
Government Departments	2,700	3,561
Other Local Authorities	856	1,192
Commercial Ratepayers	775	420
Council Taxpayers	4,693	4,813
Housing Rents	310	329
Sundry Debtors and Accruals	5,496	9,182
Provisions for Bad Debts	(3,262)	(3,199)
Total	11,568	16,298

31 ANALYSIS OF CREDITORS

Since the Council's Balance Sheet represents liabilities at the end of the financial year (31 March 2007), there are outstanding monies owed by the Council in respect of the 2006/07 financial year which at that date were yet to be paid. The amount in the Balance Sheet therefore, represents amounts owed **by** the Council, which had not yet been paid as at 31 March 2007. The Creditors balance as at 31 March 2007 is analysed as follows.

CREDITORS	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£	£
Government Departments	3,116	4,808
Other Local Authorities	899	639
Commercial Ratepayers	303	282
Council Taxpayers	685	739
Housing Rents	92	84
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	6,165	4,259
Total	11,260	10,811

32 BORROWING

The following tables show the Council's Capital Related Longer Term Borrowing by lender and maturity.

ANALYSIS OF LOANS BY TYPE	31 March 06	31 March 07
	£000	£000
Public Works Loan Board	44,974	44,800

LOAN MATURITY ANALYSIS		
Maturing in 1 - 2 years	0	0
Maturing in 2 - 5 years	0	0
Maturing in 5 – 10 years	0	0
Maturing in 10 – 15 years	4,000	4,000
Maturing in more than 15 years	40,800	40,800
TOTAL BORROWING (DUE AFTER ONE YEAR)	44,800	44,800
Maturing within one year	174	0
TOTAL BORROWING (DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR)	174	0

It should be noted that loan repayments due within one year have been classified on the balance sheet under Current Liabilities – Borrowing (Amounts due within one year).

33 DEFERRED GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The balance on this account represents, in general terms, the value of capital grants and contributions that have been applied to finance the acquisition or enhancement of fixed assets held in the asset register. A proportion of the balance on this account is released to revenue in line with any depreciation charges on such assets. Where no depreciation charges are to be made for assets financed by grants and contributions, the related financing has been transferred to the capital financing account.

34 PROVISIONS SUMMARY

	Balance 01/04/06 £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Income £000	Balance 31/03/07 £000
Revenue Provisions:					
Insurance	378	(185)	(8)	65	250
Car Parking Deficit	80	0	(80)		0
Vehicle Replacements	41				41
Capital Provisions:					
General Fund Clawback	57				57
TOTAL	556	(185)	(88)	65	348

The closing balance on the Insurance Provision is in respect of outstanding insurance claims to be settled by the Council. The Council provides an element of self insurance whereby it pays varying levels of excess depending upon the type of insurance policy. The balance on the provision is assessed throughout the year to ensure it is sufficient to meet all anticipated claims. At the end of 2006/07 there was a total of 162 claims outstanding with an estimated value of £535,395, of which it is anticipated that just under half will fall on the Council. As a result the provision has been set at £250,000 with a further £353,000 in an insurance reserve.

The vehicle provision was created in 2005/06 to cover future shortfalls in funding associated with timing differences when vehicles require replacement. The exact impact on the budget at the time of replacement is difficult to predict as it is dependent upon the procurement method used.

The capital Clawback provision is in respect of outstanding liabilities, where the Council has sold land originally financed by Derelict Land Grant. It is anticipated that the balance on this provision will be paid to English Partnerships during 2007/08, however the exact date has not been agreed as yet.

35 RESERVES

The Council keeps a number of Reserves on the Balance Sheet. Some of these are required to be held for statutory reasons, some are needed to comply with proper accounting practice, while others have been set up voluntarily to earmark resources for future spending plans.

Reserve	Balance at 1 April 2006 £'000	Net Movement in Year £'000	Balance at 31 March 2007 £'000	Purpose of Reserve	Further Detail of Movements
Fixed Asset Restatement Account	126,701	2,153	128,854	Records cumulative gains and losses on the revaluation of fixed assets	See (a) below
Capital Financing Account	40,512	3,501	44,013	Records capital resources that have been set aside to finance past expenditure	See (b) below
Usable Capital Receipts	2,474	(880)	1,594	The balance of proceeds from fixed assets sales that remains available to finance future capital expenditure	See (c) below
Pensions Reserve	(33,031)	5,228	(27,803)	Balance of pensions liability	See Note -- above
Major Repairs Reserve	2,099	1,617	3,716	Resources available for capital investment in the Council's housing stock	See Note 2 to Housing Revenue Account statements below
Earmarked Reserves	3,500	1,497	4,997	Amounts set aside to meet specific future spending plans	See (e) below
General Fund Balance	2,061	954	3,015	Resources available to meet the Council's future general running costs	See Statement of Movement in General Fund Balance above
Housing Revenue Account Balance	1,153	(394)	759	Resources available to meet the future general running costs of the Council's housing stock	See Housing Revenue Account Statement of Movement in Balance below
Collection Fund Balance	387	209	596	Amount of Council Tax collected over and above the demands made by the Council and precepting authorities	See Collection Fund Income & Expenditure Account below
TOTAL	145,856	13,885	159,741		

(e) Earmarked Reserves	Balance at 1 April 2006	Net Movement in Year	Balance at 31 March 2007
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Flats Planned Maintenance	(451)	(126)	(577)
Job Evaluation Reserve	(313)	(242)	(555)
Capital Support	0	(460)	(460)
Insurance Reserve	(110)	(243)	(353)
Access To Services Reserve	(413)	(78)	(491)
Open Spaces Commuted Sum	(353)	41	(312)
Concessionary Travel	0	(290)	(290)
Welfare Planned Maintenance	(245)	27	(218)
Welfare Equipment	(151)	(36)	(187)
Other Commuted Sums	0	(183)	(183)
Building Regs Reserve	(150)	7	(143)
Fixed Lifeline Equipment	(116)	(27)	(143)
CC(D)S Reserve	(286)	185	(101)
Housing Software Replacement Reserve	(89)	(45)	(134)
Central Control Equipment	(87)	(15)	(102)
Business Continuity Reserve	0	(100)	(100)
Renewals Reserve	0	(100)	(100)
Dispersed Lifeline Equipment	(109)	34	(75)
Industrial Aid	(166)	166	0
Other Reserves (less than £100,000)	(461)	(12)	(473)
Total	(3,500)	(1,497)	(4,997)

36 CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

There were no contingent assets or liabilities as at 31 March 2007.

37 DEFERRED LIABILITIES AND DEFERRED CREDITS

Deferred liabilities consist of liabilities which are payable at some point in the future. The amount in the Balance Sheet represents balances held in respect of shared ownership and leasehold sheltered dwellings where the conditions of the lease include an option for the property to be sold back to the authority at a later point.

Deferred credits represent amounts due, by way of mortgages, from sales of properties in previous years.

38 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

Where a material post balance sheet event occurs which:

- provides additional evidence relating to conditions existing at the balance sheet date; or
- indicates that application of the going concern concept to a material part of the authority is not appropriate.

changes should be made in the amounts to be included in the Statements of Accounts.

There have been no material post balance sheet events at the date of approval by Audit Committee (27 June 2007).

39 PENSIONS

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments, and this commitment needs to be disclosed over the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Authority participates in one principal pension scheme.

The Local Government Pension Scheme for civilian employees, administered by Lancashire County Council – this is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, those contributions being calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits 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 it is required to make against the Council Tax is based on the cash payable in the year, so although the full cost of retirement benefits is contained out in the Income and Expenditure Account, this is partially offset by an adjustment within the Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance.

The following transactions have been made in the Income and Expenditure Account during the 2006/07 year in accordance with FRS 17.

Net Cost of Services:		£000
Current Service Costs		(3,033)
Past Service & Curtailment (Gain)/Loss		0
Net Operating Expenditure		
Interest Costs		(6,470)
Expected return on Assets in the scheme		6,024
Employer's contributions payable to the scheme		2,918
Overall impact of FRS 17 transactions		(561)

This is balanced by a contribution of £502,600 from the Pensions Reserve and the Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance, and a contribution of £58,400 to the Pensions Reserve in the corresponding statement for the Housing Revenue Account.

The actuarial gains identified as movements on the Pension Reserve in 2006/07 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as absolute amounts and as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2007.

	2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07	
	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%	£000	%
Differences between the expected and actual return on assets	9,574	13.1	3,768	4.7	13,587	13.7	(711)	(0.7)
Differences between actuarial assumptions about liabilities and actual experience	--	--	(1,546)	1.3	(2,461)	1.9	0	0.0
Changes in the demographic and financial assumptions used to estimate liabilities	--	--	(18,681)	16.3	(10,180)	7.7	6,500	4.9
	9,574		(16,459)		946		5,789	

As at 31 March 2007, the Authority had the following overall assets and liabilities for pensions as disclosed in the Balance Sheet :

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	31/03/2006 £000	31/03/2007 £000
Estimated liabilities in scheme	(132,216)	(131,840)
Estimated assets in scheme	99,185	104,037
Net asset/(liability)	(33,031)	(27,803)

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The overall Pension Fund liabilities have been assessed by Mercer Human Resource Consulting Ltd., an independent firm of actuaries. The main assumptions used in their calculations are set out below, but it should be noted that as such, the position presented above represents an estimated snapshot position as at 31 March 2007, based on prevailing market and other economic conditions. Where relevant, assumptions were made for both the position at the beginning and end of the financial year, although the figures shown below represent the average assumptions applied for the year.

The figures quoted are based on a full valuation of the Pension Fund, which was carried out during 2004/05. The deficit for accounting purposes also includes liabilities in respect of added years enhancements for non-ill health early retirements, which are a charge directly on the authority's revenue account and not a charge to the Pension Fund.

The latest assessment took into account market movements up to 31 December 2006 and projected the likely position at 31 March 2007. It also took into account the funding methodology and assumptions considered appropriate, the length of any recovery plan and any smoothing mechanisms that might be adopted.

Changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

Changes to the LGPS permit employees retiring on or after 06 April 2006 to take an increase in their lump sum payment on retirement in exchange for a reduction in their future annual pension. On the advice of our actuaries we have assumed that 50% of employees retiring after 06 April 2006 will take advantage of this change to the pension scheme. Our actuaries have advised that this will reduce the value of the Council's pension liabilities by £1.726m and this has been included within the non-distributed costs on the face of the Income and Expenditure Account.

Local Government Pension Scheme		
Financial Assumptions	2005/06 %	2006/07 %
Rate of inflation	2.9	3.1
Rate of increase in salaries	4.7	4.9
Rate of increase in pensions	2.9	3.1
Rate of discounting scheme liabilities	4.9	5.4
Proportion of employees opting to take a commuted lump sum	50.0	50.0

Expected rate of return on assets	2005/06	2006/07
	%	%
Equity investments	7.0	7.5
Government Bonds	4.3	4.7
Other Bonds	4.9	5.4
Property	6.0	6.5
Cash/Liquidity	4.5	5.3
Other assets	7.0	7.5

Split of assets between investment categories	2005/06		2006/07	
	£000	%	£000	%
Equity investments	63,974	64.5	66,895	64.3
Government Bonds	7,241	7.3	8,739	8.4
Other Bonds	15,572	15.7	13,005	12.5
Property	5,951	6.0	7,283	7.0
Cash/Liquidity	3,769	3.8	4,682	4.5
Other Assets	2,678	2.7	3,433	3.3
	99,185	100	104,037	100

The movement in the net pension liability for the year to 31 March 2007 is as follows :

Movement in Surplus during 2006/07	£000
Surplus / (Deficit) at Beginning of Year	(33,031)
Current Service Costs	(3,033)
Employer Contributions	2,918
Past Service Cost / Curtailment Cost	0
Net Interest / Return on Assets	(446)
Actuarial Gain or (Loss)	5,789
Surplus / (Deficit) at End of Year	(27,803)

The actuarial loss can be analysed into the following categories, measured as absolute amounts and as a percentage of assets or liabilities as at 31 March 2007.

Statement of Actuarial Gains & (Losses)	£000	%
Differences between the expected and actual return on assets	(711)	(0.7% of Assets)
Differences between actuarial assumptions about liabilities and actual experience	0	(0% of liabilities)
Changes in the demographic and financial assumptions used to estimate liabilities	6,500	(4.9% of liabilities)
	5,789	(0.7% of liabilities)

40 RECONCILIATION OF REVENUE CASH FLOW

The (surplus)/deficit on the Income and Expenditure Account includes transactions which do not result in cash flows. The following table identifies these transactions and reconciles the Income and Expenditure Account surplus with the actual net revenue cash flows.

NOTE I: These figures are shown gross of provisions whereas they are shown net on the Balance Sheet. Provisions are shown separately in the above reconciliation.

NOTE II: Debtors and creditors also exclude capital debtors and creditors, which are shown under capital transactions on the above reconciliation.

	£'000	£'000
Income and Expenditure Account		
Surplus/(Deficit)		
General Fund		3,134
Housing Revenue Account		2,164
		<u>5,298</u>
Net additional amounts required by statute to be debited or credited to the accounts in the year		
General Fund	(2,180)	
Housing Revenue Account	(2,558)	(4,738)
		<u>560</u>
Collection Fund Surplus/(Deficit)		209
ADD		
Provision for Debt Redemption	1,318	
Write Down of Deferred Assets	174	
Direct Revenue Financing of Capital	3,115	
Contribution from/(to) Earmarked Provisions	(208)	
Contribution from/(to) Earmarked Reserves	3,114	7,513
		<u>1,463</u>
Decrease/(Increase) in Debtors	(1,492)	
Decrease/(Increase) in Stocks	(71)	
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	100	(1,463)
		<u>1,675</u>
External Interest Paid	2,583	
Interest Received	(908)	1,675
		<u>8,494</u>

41 GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The Government grants shown on the Cash Flow Statement represent the cash received by the City Council and may differ from the actual amounts included within gross income figures in the City Council's Income and Expenditure Account, which is prepared on an accruals basis.

Government grants in cash terms are outlined below.

	2005/06 £000	2006/07 £000
Revenue Support Grant	8,888	2,342
DWP Grants - Housing Benefits and Council Tax	34,118	33,044
Council Tax Collection		
Council Tax Preparation Grant		
Benefit Fraud Grant		
Benefit Administration Grant		
NNDR Administration	212	214
Planning Delivery Grant	579	356
LABGI	145	460
	43,942	36,416

42 MOVEMENT IN LONG TERM BORROWING

	As at 31/03/2006 £000	As at 31/03/2007 £000	Movement in Cash £000
Public Works Loans Board	44,800	44,800	0

43 MOVEMENT IN OTHER CURRENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	As at 31/03/2006 £000	As at 31/03/2007 £000	Movement in Cash £000
Stocks and Work in Progress	255	326	(71)
Debtors	9,532	11,024	(1,492)
Creditors	(8,939)	(9,039)	100
TOTAL	848	2,311	(1,463)

44 RECONCILIATION OF THE NET CASH FLOW

The Cash Flow Statement summarises the inflows and outflows of cash arising from transactions with third parties. This movement in cash should be reflected in the increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalent between the 2005/06 and the 2006/07 Balance Sheets.

The table below reconciles these movements in cash and cash equivalent:

	As at 31/03/2006 £000	As at 31/03/2007 £000	Movement in Cash £000
Short Term Borrowing	(174)	0	174
Long Term Borrowing	(44,800)	(44,800)	0
Temporary Investments	10,200	9,500	(700)
Cash in Hand and at Bank	(379)	(3,871)	(3,492)
TOTAL	(35,153)	(39,171)	(4,018)

SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

The purpose of the Housing Revenue Account is to record the expenditure and income relating to Council dwellings. The Council is obliged by law to fund revenue expenditure on Council dwellings only from housing rent income.

The expenditure and income on the Housing Revenue Account is brought into the Council's overall Income and Expenditure Revenue Account in order to include it within the total cost of services provided by the Council. The surplus or deficit is then appropriated from the overall Income and Expenditure Account to the Housing Revenue Account working balance.

2005/06 £'000	2006/07 £'000	Notes
Income		
(9,818) Dwelling Rents	(10,295)	
(154) Non-Dwelling Rents	(179)	
(1,465) Charges for Services & Facilities	(1,544)	
(8) Contributions Towards Expenditure	(8)	
0 Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Receivable	0	
(162) Sums Directed by the Secretary of State that are Income in accordance with UK GAAP	(160)	
(11,607) Total Income	(12,186)	
Expenditure		
3,116 Repairs & Maintenance	3,097	
2,891 Supervision & Management	2,953	
186 Rents, Rates, Taxes & Other Charges	169	
488 Negative Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Payable	569	6
104 Increase in Bad Debt Provision	131	
2,210 Depreciation & Impairments of Fixed Assets	2,278	4
12 Debt Management Costs	1	
29 Sums Directed by the Secretary of State that are Expenditure in accordance with UK GAAP	0	9
9,036 Total Expenditure	9,198	
(2,571) Net Cost of HRA Services per Authority Income and Expenditure Account	(2,988)	
0 HRA Services Share of Corporate & Democratic Core	0	
0 HRA Share of other Amounts Included in the Whole Authority Net Cost of Services but not Allocated to Specific Services	0	
(2,571) Net Cost of HRA Services	(2,988)	
HRA share of the operating income and expenditure included in the whole authority accounts		
0 Gain or Loss on Sale of HRA Fixed Assets	0	11
868 Interest Payable & Similar Charges	878	12
207 Amortisation of Premiums & Discounts	159	
(129) Interest & Investment Income	(256)	
106 Pensions Interest Costs & Expected Return on Pensions Assets	43	8
(1,519) (Surplus) or deficit for the year on HRA Services	(2,164)	

STATEMENT OF MOVEMENT IN THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2007

2005/06 £'000		2006/07 £'000	Notes
(1,519)	(Surplus) / Deficit for Year on the HRA Income & Expenditure Account	(2,164)	
1,396	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA Balance for the year	2,558	
(123)	(Increase) or decrease in Housing Revenue Account Balance	394	
(1,029)	Housing Revenue Account Balance brought forward	(1,152)	
(1,152)	Housing Revenue Account Balance carried forward	(758)	

Note to the Statement of Movement on the HRA Balance

Additional amounts required by Statute & Non-Statutory Proper Practices to be taken into account in determining the movement in the HRA Balance

0	Difference between Interest Payable and Similar Charges including Amortisation of Premiums & Discounts determined in accordance with the SORP & those determined in accordance with Statute	0	
0	Difference between any other item of Income & Expenditure determined in accordance with the SORP and determined in accordance with Statutory HRA requirements	0	
0	Gain or Loss on Sale of HRA Fixed Assets	0	11
(82)	Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with FRS17	(58)	8
0	Sums Directed by the Secretary of State to be debited or credited to the HRA that are not Income or Expenditure in accordance with UK GAAP	0	
(82)		(58)	

Items not included in the HRA Income and Expenditure Account but included in the movement on HRA Balance for the year

(26)	Transfer to/from Major Repairs Reserve	(38)	
0	Transfer to/from Housing Repairs Account	0	
294	Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	290	
1,210	Capital Expenditure funded by the Housing Revenue Account	2,364	
0	HRA Share of the Minimum Revenue Provision	0	
0	Voluntary set aside for debt repayment	0	
1,478		2,616	
1,396	Net additional amount required by statute to be debited or (credited) to the HRA Balance for the year	2,558	

NOTES TO THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT

1 NUMBERS AND VALUES OF DWELLINGS

As at 31 March 2007 the authority held the following dwellings:

Bedsits		117
1 Bedroom	Houses & Bungalows	650
	Flats & Maisonettes	510
2 Bedroom	Houses & Bungalows	513
	Flats & Maisonettes	683
3 Bedroom	Houses & Bungalows	1,284
	Flats & Maisonettes	7
4 or more bedroomed dwellings		82
TOTAL ALL DWELLINGS		3,846

The Balance Sheet value of assets held in the Housing Revenue Account was as follows:

	Bal b/fwd 01/04/2006 £'000	Bal c/fwd 31/03/2007 £'000
Operational		
Council Dwellings	141,589	150,436
Other land and buildings	374	18
	141,963	150,454
Non-operational Assets	835	1,034
TOTAL	142,798	151,488

Dwellings are valued on the basis of Existing Use Value (Social Housing). This basis was first introduced on 01 April 2001, following the introduction of Resource Accounting in the HRA, with values then being rebased annually, with periodic full revaluation exercises every 5 years, the first of which has now updated all values to 01 April 2005. The figures for 2006/07 incorporate the first annual rebasing exercise on the April 2005 revaluation and this has resulted in an increase in asset values of £12,777,444 in the year, which is the major part of the net movement in asset values shown above. This is principally attributable to a difference between the accumulated values from the annual rebasing exercises, and those contained in the recent full revaluation. The Major Repairs Allowance of £2,239,723, for 2006/07 has been used as a proxy for depreciation on dwellings. Non-dwelling assets were also revalued at 01 April 2005.

The vacant possession value of dwellings held on 01 April 2006 was £261,637,261. The difference between this and the EUV-SH valuation of £154,365,984 (i.e. the updated figure after the 2006/07 rebasing exercise effective as of 01 April 2006 but before depreciation, disposals etc) represents the economic cost to the Government of providing Council Housing at less than open market rents.

2 MOVEMENTS ON THE MAJOR REPAIRS RESERVE

Movements on the Major Repairs Reserve for the year were as follows:

Summary of Movements on Major Repairs Reserve 2006/07	£'000
Opening Balance 01 April	2,099
Transfer to MRR – Depreciation	2,277
Transfer to HRA - Depreciation Adjustment	(38)
Capital Expenditure	
- Land	-
- Houses	(622)
- Other property.	-
Closing Balance 31 March	3,716

3 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Capital expenditure of £3,723,000 was incurred during the year being £3,533,000 on works and improvements to dwellings and £190,000 on other property. This was financed as follows:

	£'000
Borrowing	0
Usable Capital Receipts	737
Direct Revenue Financing	2,344
Earmarked Reserves	20
Majors Repairs Reserve	622
Grants and Contributions	0
Movement in Capital Creditors	0
Total Capital Financing	3,723

Capital Receipts totalling £2,227,000 were received during the year from the following sources:

	£'000
Sale of dwellings	2,192
Sale of land	30
Repayment of Principal on Mortgages	5
Repayment of Right to Buy discounts	0
Total Capital Receipts	2,227

The above amounts are shown gross, before deducting administration fees. Previously under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, 75% of council house sales were to be set aside for debt redemption, however the Local Government Act 2003 (section 11(2)(b)) now requires all or part of the receipt to be paid over to the Secretary of State. The aim is to preserve and strengthen the principle of redistributing the spending power generated by the sale of such assets.

4. DEPRECIATION

Total depreciation charges for the year were:

	£'000
Council Dwellings	2,240
Other land and buildings	17
Non-operational Assets	21
TOTAL	2,278

5 DEFERRED CHARGES

No charges were made during the year in respect of deferred charges.

6 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT SUBSIDY

The total Negative Housing Subsidy payable for the year 2006/07 was £569,000, the analysis of which is shown in the table below, and the actual negative subsidy paid this year also amounted to £569,000.

	£'000
Management Allowance	1,774
Maintenance Allowance	3,603
Major Repairs Allowance	2,240
Admissible Allowances	28
Anti-Social Behaviour Allowance	0
Charges for Capital	1,827
Rent Rebates	0
Notional Rent	(10,072)
Interest on Receipts	(5)
Government Grants	0
Rental Constraint Allowance	36
Total Housing Subsidy	(569)

7 RENT ARREARS

Total arrears of rent at 31 March 2007 amounted to £325,000. Against this an amount of £395,000 was held as provision for bad debts (including rent arrears and all other debts outstanding to the Housing Revenue Account). This represents allowances of 95% for arrears from former tenants and 25% for arrears from current tenants and leaseholders, in addition to 95% of other outstanding debts.

8 CONTRIBUTION TO/FROM THE PENSION RESERVE

This is the second year in which the requirements of FRS17 have been applied to the Housing Revenue Account. As such, the current service cost has been included within the Net Cost of Services and the net of the interest cost and the expected return on assets included within Net Operating Expenditure. Actuarial gains and losses arising from any new valuation and from updating the latest actuarial valuation to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date are recognised in the Statement of Movements in the HRA balance.

9 TRANSFERS TO/FROM GENERAL FUND AS DIRECTED BY SECRETARY OF STATE

There have been no transfers to or from the General Fund as directed by the Secretary of State.

10 EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS, EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS AND PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENTS

There have been no exceptional items, extraordinary items or prior year adjustments within the Housing Revenue Account.

11 GAINS AND LOSSES ON SALE OF FIXED ASSETS

Overall gains and losses on sales of fixed assets during the year were as follows; after allowing for right to buy discounts.

	£'000
Market value of assets disposed of	3,130
Less Right to Buy discounts & admin. fees	(941)
Less accumulated depreciation	0
Net book value of assets disposed of	2,189
Sale proceeds	(2,189)
Gain/(Loss) on Disposal	0

12 INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

The amount of £878,402 is a proportion of the total interest paid by the Council, calculated on the basis of a Determination issued by the Secretary of State under statutory regulations, using the amount of historic debt attributed to the HRA and the average rate of interest payable by the Council.

COLLECTION FUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2006/07

This statement represents the transactions of the Collection Fund, a statutory account that must be kept separate from other Funds of the Council. The Collection Fund accounts independently for income relating to Council Tax and Non Domestic Rates on behalf of those bodies, including the Council's own General Fund, for whom the income has been raised. The costs of administering collection are accounted for in the General Fund.

2005/06 £000	INCOME	See Note	2006/07 £000
	Council Tax		
(46,372)	Income from Council Tax	1	(49,219)
	Transfers from General Fund:		
(8,057)	Council Tax Benefits		(8,404)
	Council Tax Benefit Subsidy Limitation		
--	Contributions from other Local Authorities		--
	Business Rates		
(36,433)	Income from Business Ratepayers	2	(27,449)
	Contributions		
--	Towards previous year's Collection Fund deficit	5	--
(1)	Adjustment of previous years Community Charges	3	--
(270)	From Provisions for Council Tax Amounts Written Off		(299)
<hr/>			
(91,133)	TOTAL INCOME		(85,371)
	EXPENDITURE		
	Precepts and Demands		
40,367	Lancashire County Council		42,628
6,894	Lancaster City Council (including parish precepts)		7,266
4,576	Lancashire Police Authority		4,836
2,213	Lancashire Fire Authority		2,339
	Business Rates		
36,221	Payment to National Pool		27,235
212	Cost of Collection Allowance		214
	Council Tax Bad and Doubtful Debts		
270	Write-offs		299
282	Contribution to Provision for Non-Collection		345
<hr/>			
91,035	TOTAL EXPENDITURE		85,162
	FUND BALANCE		
(98)	(Surplus)/deficit for year		(209)
(289)	(Surplus)/deficit as at 01 April (Brought forward)	4	(387)
(387)	(Surplus)deficit as at 31 March (Carried forward)	6	(596)

NOTES TO THE COLLECTION FUND ACCOUNT

The following notes are intended to explain figures contained on the Collection Fund Summary Income and Expenditure Account.

1 COUNCIL TAX

Council Tax income derives from charges raised according to the value of residential properties, which have been classified into eight valuation bands estimating 01 April 1991 values for this specific purpose. Individual charges are calculated by estimating the amount of income required to be taken from the Collection Fund by Lancashire County Council, Lancaster City Council and the Lancashire Police Authority for the forthcoming year and dividing this by the Council Tax base.

The Council Tax base represents the number of chargeable dwellings in each banding (i.e. the number of properties, adjusted for discounts etc.) multiplied by a set proportion to give the number of Band D equivalents. The estimated collection rate is then applied to the Band D equivalent total, to give the Council's Tax Base for that year. For 2006/07 the numbers are as follows:-

	Chargeable Dwellings	Band D Equivalents
Band A	16,441	10,958
Band B	12,881	10,019
Band C	9,872	8,775
Band D	5,374	5,374
Band E	3,391	4,145
Band F	1,712	2,474
Band G	757	1,261
Band H	38	75
Total	50,466	43,081
<i>Collection Rate</i>		99%
Council Tax Base		42,650

2 BUSINESS RATES

The City Council collects National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) for its area. NNDR is based on rateable values set by the Inland Revenue, multiplied by a Uniform Business Rate set by Central Government. For most businesses, this was set at 42.6p per £ for 2006/07 (41.5p for 2005/06). For local businesses with a rateable value of less than £15,000, a discount of 0.7p was allowed giving a rate of 42.6p. The rateable value at 31 March 2007 was £87,289,085 (£87,508,701 for 2005/06). The total amount due, after adjusting for certain reliefs and other deductions, is paid into a central pool (the NNDR pool) managed by Central Government. The Government redistributes the sums paid into the pool back to local authorities' in proportion to population. Lancaster's share of the pool for 2006/07, paid directly to the Income and Expenditure Account, amounted to £12.130 M.

3 ADJUSTMENTS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS' COMMUNITY CHARGES

Any outstanding Community Charge items were written off in 2005/06 and therefore no longer form part of the Collection Fund Accounts.

4 DISTRIBUTION OF COLLECTION FUND (SURPLUSES) OR DEFICITS

Collection Fund Surpluses relating to Council Tax (i.e. excluding Community Charge items) are distributed to the billing and precepting authorities in proportion to the value of their respective precepts or demands on the Fund.

As at 01 April 2006 the Council Tax surplus was shown as £387,000. During 2006/07 the following distributions were made to precepting authorities.

	£000
Lancaster City Council	(26)
Lancashire County Council	(156)
Lancashire Police Authority	(18)
Lancashire Fire Authority	(9)
TOTAL	(209)

5 CLOSING (SURPLUS) / DEFICIT BALANCES ON THE COLLECTION FUND

The movements in the Collection Fund during 2006/07 are summarised below.

	Residual Community Charge £000	Council Tax £000	TOTAL £000
(Surplus)/Deficit 01/04/06	--	(387)	(387)
Distributions in Year	--	--	0
Net Transaction in Year	--	(209)	(209)
(Surplus)/Deficit 31/03/07	0	(596)	(596)

Of the £596,000 surplus as at 31 March 2007, £521,000 is attributable to other Local Authorities as follows:

	£000
Lancashire County Council	(445)
Lancashire Police Authority	(51)
Lancashire Fire Authority	(25)

BEQUESTS, ENDOWMENTS AND TRUST FUNDS

The Council is responsible for the administration of a number of trust funds on behalf of their specified trustees. These funds do not represent assets of the Council and are therefore not included in the Council's Balance Sheet.

At 31 March 2007 the Council was responsible for 43 of these Trust Funds, the balances of which are shown below.

Revenue Accounts	Balance b/f 01/04/06 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance c/f 31/03/07 £
Bequests and Endowments				
(a) Council sole trustee				
Ashton Memorial	0	(1,351)	1,351	0
Williamson Park	0	(1,928)	1,928	0
Other	(1,687)	(1,165)	1,049	(1,803)
(b) Council not sole trustee	(8,042)	(474)	0	(8,516)
School etc. Prize Funds				0
(a) Council sole trustee	(20,222)	(1,177)	0	(21,399)
(b) Council not sole trustee	(1,627)	(98)	0	(1,725)
TOTAL	(31,578)	(6,193)	4,328	(33,443)

	Fund Balances £	Cash and Fund Investments £
Bequests and Endowments		
(a) Council sole trustee		
Capital		
Ashton Memorial	15,602	0
Williamson Park	18,343	0
Other	14,046	1,962
Revenue	1,803	0
Cash and Debtors	0	47,832
(b) Council not sole trustee		
Capital	2,045	0
Revenue	8,516	2,045
Cash and Debtors	0	8,516
School etc. Prize Funds		
(a) Council sole trustee		
Capital	2,496	0
Revenue	21,399	874
Cash and Debtors	0	23,021
(b) Council not sole trustee		
Capital	358	0
Revenue	1,725	0
Cash and Debtors	0	2,083
TOTAL	86,333	86,333

It is a requirement of the Charity Commission for all Bequests, Endowments and Trust funds an Income and Expenditure account for the Trusts they are responsible for with an income under £10,000. This must be accompanied by a Balance sheet.

The Council consolidates all the Bequests, Endowments and Trusts into one account, these can be found below.

Income & Expenditure Account	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£
Income		
Interest	(6,009)	(6,193)
Capital	--	
	(6,009)	(6,193)
Expenditure		
Ashton Memorial	1,333	1,352
William Smith Festival	284	266
Whalley Playground	658	658
Lune Bank Gardens	97	104
Williamson Park	1,923	1,928
War Memorial Fund	16	17
Other	5	3
	4,316	4,328
Excess Income	(1,693)	(1,865)
Balance Sheet	2005/06	2006/07
	£	£
Assets		
Investments	3,836	3,836
Debtors	1,715	1,805
Bank	78,917	80,692
	84,468	86,333
Represented by:		
Reserves as at 31st March	82,756	84,468
Income in year	1,712	1,865
	84,468	86,333

Below is a list and description of Bequests & Endowments where the Capital value exceeds £1,000.

Ashton Memorial

The Ashton Memorial, a historic folly, was built in 1907 and given to the City of Lancaster by Lord Ashton. The building is open to the public on 362 days a year and has free access. The interest is passed on annually to the management company Williamson Park Ltd and is used for general maintenance of the building and annual upkeep ie decoration.

Williamson Park

The annual interest is used for the cutting, pruning, trimming, hedging and the general upkeep of the grounds within Williamson Park.

William Smith Festival

The annual interest is used to provide prizes etc. at the Annual Easter Festival for schoolchildren.

Whalley Playground

The annual interest is used for the upkeep, maintenance and supervision of the Whalley Playground.

Lune Bank Gardens

The annual interest is available for the upkeep of Lune Bank Gardens.

Crook of Lune

The interest is passed to Lancashire County Council contributing towards the Hermitage Field Access for all and environmental enhancement works.

The Council also holds a further 37 trust funds which have individual values of less than £1,000, and these are predominantly held for educational purposes.