
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	10 November 2022
Report By:	Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance	Report No:	FIN/68/22/AP
Contact Officer:	Alan Puckrin	Contact No:	01475 712223
Subject:	2021/22 Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2022 to the Council for consideration. Representatives from Audit Scotland will attend the meeting remotely to present the Annual Audit Report and to answer questions

1.3 The full Annual Audit Report is contained in Appendix 1 and contains a number of distinct sections. Most key messages are positive and this continues the ongoing improvement reported in the 2017 Best Value Report.

1.4 The Corporate Management Team (CMT) believe the report reflects an accurate assessment of these areas and have completed the Action Plan appended to the Annual Audit Report with progress against these actions due to be reported to the Audit Committee each reporting cycle.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Council consider the contents of the Annual Audit Report to Elected Members and the Controller of Audit for the Financial Year ended 31 March 2022 and approve the Action Plan in Appendix 1 of the Annual Audit Report.

2.2 It is recommended that the Council consider the Annual Accounts for Inverclyde Council for the Financial Year 2021/22 and after seeking further information as required give approval for the signing of the accounts by the Council Leader, Chief Executive and Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance.

2.3 It is recommended that the Council consider the Letter of Representation in Appendix 3 and approve the signing of the letter by the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance.

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement for the Council to consider the Annual Audit Report from its External Auditors for the financial year ended 31 March. The aftermath of the Covid pandemic has resulted in an extension of the statutory deadline for consideration of the Annual Audit Report by 2 months to the end of November and therefore considering the Annual Report and Accounts today meets that requirement. The report contains a number of formal requirements and subject to the approval of the Council, the Annual Accounts require to be signed by the External Auditors, Council Leader, Chief Executive and the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance.
- 3.2 The preparation and audit of the accounts has once again proven challenging due to available resources, plus absence of key officers during the audit and the move to a new Asset Register. These matters have been identified by the Auditors in the Annual Audit Report and associated Action Plan. The Council team and External Auditors have worked well together to address these issues and the Accounts reflect an unqualified opinion on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March, 2022.
- 3.3 The Annual Audit Report is attached as Appendix 1 and is presented in five distinct sections. These sections represent a standard approach which meets the requirements of the Accounts Commission. The Corporate Management Team believe the Annual Report reflects an accurate assessment of these areas.
- 3.4 The first part of the report relates to the Council's Audited Accounts which are attached at Appendix 2. The formal Audit Certificate will be issued by the External Auditors following receipt of the Letter of Representation which is attached at Appendix 3. This letter requires to be signed by the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance (as the Accountable Officer) following approval by the Council.
- 3.5 The CMT have completed the Action Plan appended to the Annual Audit Report with progress against these actions due to be reported to the Audit Committee each reporting cycle

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Elected Members are asked to consider the contents of the Annual Audit Report and Annual Accounts and after seeking clarification from both officers from Audit Scotland and the Council, approve the Action Plan, Annual Accounts and the signing of the Letter of Representation by the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial		X	
Legal/Risk	X		
Human Resources		X	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	X		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty			X
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing			X
Environmental & Sustainability			X
Data Protection			X

5.2 Finance

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report however the extent of the financial challenges facing the Council are clearly set out in both the Annual Audit Report and Annual Accounts.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

By approving the report's recommendations the Council will have achieved the Statutory deadline for approval of the Annual Accounts.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no HR issues arising from this report's recommendations.

5.5 Strategic

The Annual Audit Report summarises progress on a number of key strategic matters.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Annual Report has been discussed with the CMT who have completed the appended Action Plan.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Not Applicable.

Inverclyde Council

2021/22 Annual Audit Report



 AUDIT SCOTLAND

Prepared for the Members of Inverclyde Council and the Controller of Audit

November 2022

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Key messages

2021/22 annual accounts

- 1 Our audit opinions on the annual accounts are unmodified
- 2 The impact of key staff absences resulted in delays to the receipt of some audit evidence and approval of the audited accounts
- 3 Significant adjustments were made in the audited accounts to correct non-current asset misstatements

Financial management and sustainability

- 4 The council reported an underspend of £1.4 million for 2021/22 in services
- 5 General Fund reserves have reduced by £4 million due to the use of earmarked reserves
- 6 Overall financial systems of internal control operated effectively, with the exception of payroll controls
- 7 The 2022/23 budget is based on approved savings of £1.4 million and a £4 million use of reserves
- 8 Unallocated General Fund reserves are expected to fall below the Council's minimum level by March 2023
- 9 Medium and longer term financial plans are in place. Savings plans from 2023/24 onwards have been developed and options have been presented to members

Governance and transparency

- 10 Governance arrangements are appropriate and operated effectively, but a review of the integration scheme continues to be delayed
- 11 Interim management arrangements remain in place

Best Value

- 12 The council has an appropriate and effective best value framework in place, though recent progress against two BVAR recommendations has been slow
- 13 Internal performance reports show mixed results and although performance remains above average compared to other councils, overall it has declined since 2019/20

Introduction

1. This report summarises the findings arising from the 2021/22 audit of Inverclyde Council (the council) and its group.
2. The scope of the audit was set out in our 2021/22 Annual Audit Plan presented to the 7 June 2022 meeting of the Audit Committee. This report comprises the findings from an audit of the annual accounts and consideration of the wider audit dimensions that frame the scope of public audit set out in the [Code of Audit Practice 2016](#).
3. The main elements of our audit work in 2021/22 have been:
 - an audit of the annual accounts of the council and its group and the issue of independent auditor's reports setting out our opinions
 - a review of the council's key financial systems
 - audit work covering the council's arrangements for securing best value relating to financial management, financial sustainability and the use of resources
 - consideration of the four audit dimensions
4. The global coronavirus pandemic has had a considerable impact on Inverclyde Council during 2021/22. This has had significant implications for the services it delivers and its ability to progress its transformation agenda. We considered the risks related to the pandemic as part of our audit planning and did not consider there to be any significant audit risks for 2021/22.

Adding value through the audit

5. We add value to the council through the audit by:
 - identifying and providing insight on significant risks, and making clear and relevant recommendations
 - sharing intelligence and good practice through our national reports ([Appendix 2](#)) and good practice guides
 - providing clear and focused conclusions on the appropriateness, effectiveness and impact of corporate governance, performance management arrangements and financial sustainability

Responsibilities and reporting

6. The council has primary responsibility for ensuring the proper financial stewardship of public funds. This includes preparing annual accounts that are in accordance with proper accounting practices. The council is also responsible for compliance with legislation and putting arrangements in place for governance and propriety that enable it to successfully deliver its objectives.

7. Our responsibilities as independent auditor appointed by the Accounts Commission are established by the Local Government in Scotland Act 1973, the [Code of Audit Practice 2016](#) and supplementary guidance, and International Standards on Auditing in the UK.

8. As public sector auditors we give independent opinions on the annual accounts. Additionally, we conclude on:

- the effectiveness of the council's performance management arrangements,
- the suitability and effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements, and financial position
- the arrangements for securing financial sustainability and,
- Best Value arrangements.

9. Further details of the respective responsibilities of management and the auditor can be found in the [Code of Audit Practice 2016](#) and supplementary guidance.

10. This report raises matters from our audit. Weaknesses or risks identified are only those which have come to our attention during our normal audit work and may not be all that exist. Communicating these does not absolve management from its responsibility to address the issues we raise and to maintain adequate systems of control.

11. Our annual audit report contains an agreed action plan at [Appendix 1](#) setting out specific recommendations, responsible officers and dates for implementation. It also includes outstanding actions from last year and the steps being taken to implement them.

Auditor Independence

12. Auditors appointed by the Accounts Commission or Auditor General must comply with the Code of Audit Practice and relevant supporting guidance. When auditing the financial statements auditors must comply with professional standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and those of the professional accountancy bodies. We can confirm that we comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard. We can also confirm that we have not undertaken any non-audit related services and therefore the 2021/22 audit fee of £265,340 as set out in our Annual Audit Plan remains unchanged. We are not aware of any relationships that could compromise our objectivity and independence.

13. This report is addressed to both the council and the Controller of Audit and will be published on Audit Scotland's website www.audit-scotland.gov.uk in due course. We would like to thank the management and staff who have been involved in our work for their cooperation and assistance during the audit.

Audit appointment from 2022/23

14. External auditors are usually appointed for a five-year term either from Audit Scotland's Audit Services Group or a private firm of accountants. The current appointment round was due to end in 2020/21 but this was extended for a year so that 2021/22 is the last year of the current appointment round. The procurement process for the new round of audit appointments was completed in May 2022. From financial year 2022/23, KPMG will be the appointed auditor for Inverclyde Council. We will work closely with the new auditors to ensure a well-managed transition.

15. A new [Code of Audit Practice](#) applies to public sector audits for financial years starting on or after 1 April 2022. It replaces the Code issued in May 2016. There are several significant changes introduced by the new Code, including the integration of Best Value work into wider scope audit work.

16. We would like to thank Council members, Audit Committee members, Corporate Management Team, and other staff, particularly those in Finance for their co-operation and assistance over the last six years.

1. Audit of 2021/22 annual accounts

The principal means of accounting for the stewardship of resources and performance

Main judgements

Our audit opinions on the annual accounts are unmodified.

The impact of key staff absences resulted in delays to the receipt of some audit evidence and approval of the audited accounts.

Significant adjustments were made in the audited accounts to correct non-current asset misstatements

Our audit opinions on the annual accounts are unmodified

17. The accounts for the council and its group for the year ended 31 March 2022 were approved by the Council on 10 November 2022. Our independent auditor's report identifies:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view and were properly prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework
- the audited part of the remuneration report, management commentary and the annual governance statement were all consistent with the financial statements and properly prepared in accordance with the relevant regulations and guidance

18. A special Council meeting was originally arranged for 27 October 2022 to approve the audited accounts. However, due to a key staff absence, the approval process was delayed to 10 November 2022 to allow sufficient time to process adjustments and review.

The unaudited accounts were submitted in line with our agreed audit timetable, but there were delays in obtaining audit evidence

19. The unaudited annual report and accounts were received in line with our agreed audit timetable on 28 June 2022. The working papers provided to support the unaudited accounts were of a good standard, but evidence requested from Payroll and Human Resources to support staff costs caused significant delays to our audit work. The delays were due to the long-term

absence of key personnel within the service which impacted significantly on the audit with testing taking substantially longer than planned and causing delays in other areas of work.

There were no objections raised to the annual accounts

20. The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 require local government bodies to publish a public notice on its website that includes details of the period for inspecting and objecting to the accounts. This must remain on the website throughout the inspection period. The council complied with the regulations and there were no objections to the 2021/22 accounts.

Overall materiality is £4 million

21. We apply the concept of materiality in both planning and performing the audit and in evaluating the effect of identified misstatement on the audit and of uncorrected misstatements, if any, on the financial statements and in forming the opinion in the auditor's report. We identify a benchmark on which to base overall materiality, such as gross expenditure, and apply what we judge to be the most appropriate percentage level for calculating materiality values. We also determine a lower performance materiality threshold.

22. The determination of materiality is based on professional judgement and is informed by our understanding of the entity and what users are likely to be most concerned about in the annual accounts. In assessing performance materiality, we have considered factors such as our findings from previous audits, any changes in business processes and the entity's control environment including fraud risks.

23. Our initial assessment of materiality for the annual accounts was carried out during the planning phase of the audit. This was reviewed and revised on receipt of the unaudited annual accounts and is summarised in [Exhibit 1](#).

Exhibit 1 Materiality values

Materiality level	Amount
Overall materiality	£4 million
Performance materiality	£2 million
Reporting threshold	£120,000

Source: Audit Scotland

We have significant findings to report on the audited annual accounts

24. We have reported a number of issues from the work done on the identified risks of material misstatement. The significant findings are summarised in [Exhibit 2](#).

Exhibit 2 Significant findings from the audit of financial statements

Issue	Resolution
<p>1. Fixed Asset Register</p> <p>In response to a recommendation in our 2020/21 Annual Audit Report, the council implemented a new asset register during 2021/22.</p> <p>Our testing identified that some revalued and indexed assets had no depreciation charged. The result was an increase of £4.1 million to the 21/22 depreciation charge.</p> <p>Following desktop revaluation exercises, we identified that accumulated depreciation balances of £8.1 million need to be written back in the asset note in order to comply with the Code of Accounting Practice. This did not affect the overall amount of Net Book Value.</p>	<p>The audited accounts have been adjusted to correctly reflect these adjustments in the value of non-current assets.</p>
<p>2. Business Premises Renovation Allowance</p> <p>In March 2013, the Council made a long-term loan of £1.969 million to Inverclyde Property Renovation LLP, a partnership established to develop the offices at Wallace Place, Greenock and Princes Street, Port Glasgow under the Business Premises Renovation Allowance (BPRA) Scheme. This loan has been written-off in 2021/22 and the properties returned to the council.</p> <p>Our testing identified that the two properties were not included in the asset register at their correct value. This resulted in an impairment of £1.9 million.</p>	<p>The audited accounts have been adjusted to correctly reflect the value of the properties as disclosed in the valuation report.</p>
<p>3. Heritage assets</p> <p>The Council's heritage assets are valued at £18.0 million but have not been formally revalued since 2012. In addition, disclosures around the valuation frequency of Heritage Assets and Council policy on</p>	<p>The audited accounts have been adjusted to correctly reflect current valuation practice. We have accepted the current valuation of heritage assets, noting that these assets are incidental to the operations of the Council. Officers</p>

Issue	Resolution
valuations was inaccurate and not reflective of actual practice.	have agreed that the revaluation of heritage assets will be prioritised in 2022/23.
	<p data-bbox="890 383 1182 421">Recommendation 1</p> <p data-bbox="890 436 1331 474">(Refer Appendix 1, action plan)</p>

Source: Audit Scotland

25. We have obtained audit assurances over the identified significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. [Exhibit 3](#) sets out the significant risks of material misstatement to the financial statements we identified in our 2021/22 Annual Audit Plan. It summarises the further audit procedures we performed during the year to obtain assurances over these risks and the conclusions from the work completed.

Exhibit 3

Significant risks of material misstatement in the financial statements

Audit risk	Assurance procedure	Results and conclusions
<p data-bbox="124 1160 555 1305">1. Risk of material misstatement due to fraud caused by the management override of controls</p> <p data-bbox="124 1323 539 1653">As stated in International Standard on Auditing (UK) 240, management is in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of management's ability to override controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively.</p>	<p data-bbox="582 1160 1007 1272">Assessed the design and implementation of controls over journal entry processing.</p> <p data-bbox="582 1285 991 1541">Made inquiries of individuals involved in the financial reporting process about inappropriate or unusual activity relating to the processing of journal entries and other adjustments.</p> <p data-bbox="582 1554 991 1742">Tested journals at the year-end and post-closing entries focusing on significant risk areas and transactions with related parties.</p> <p data-bbox="582 1756 970 1868">Evaluated significant transactions outside the normal course of business.</p> <p data-bbox="582 1881 1011 1993">Variance analysis of balances and transactions in current and prior year accounts.</p> <p data-bbox="582 2007 1007 2078">Substantive testing of income and expenditure transactions</p>	<p data-bbox="1040 1160 1369 1234">Results & Significant Judgements:</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1247 1426 1359">Controls over journal entry processing are appropriate and operated effectively.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1373 1442 1485">Officers involved in financial reporting processes did not identify any unusual activity.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1498 1442 1644">We undertook extended testing of high-risk journals using data analytics with no errors identified.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1657 1453 1881">Our data analytics-based approach to journal testing ensured that we considered those journals that appeared unusual. No inappropriate journals were identified.</p> <p data-bbox="1040 1895 1469 2078">Variance analysis of balances and transactions in current and prior year accounts was used to target higher risk areas as part of audit</p>

Audit risk	Assurance procedure	Results and conclusions
	<p>around the year-end to confirm they are accounted for in the correct financial year.</p> <p>Focussed testing of accounting accruals and prepayments.</p>	<p>sampling. No errors were identified that required adjustment in the audited accounts.</p> <p>Cut-off testing of income and expenditure transactions found no instances where these had been accounted for in the wrong financial year.</p> <p>Testing of accruals and prepayments identified no errors.</p> <p>There were no unexplained significant transactions identified from our audit work.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>No issues were identified that indicate management override of controls.</p>
<p>2. Estimation in the valuation of land and buildings</p> <p>Inverclyde Council held land and buildings with a NBV of £542 million as at 31 March 2021, with land and buildings revalued on a five-year rolling basis. An external valuer carries out valuations of land and buildings. There is a significant degree of subjectivity in the valuation of land and buildings. Valuations are based on specialist and management assumptions and changes in these can result in material changes to valuations. We have been advised that the council will apply indexation to land and buildings for 2021/22. There is a risk that valuations will change significantly in 2021/22 and create material uncertainty</p>	<p>Reviewed the information provided to the external valuer to assess for completeness.</p> <p>Evaluated the competence, capabilities, and objectivity of the professional valuer.</p> <p>Completed a walkthrough of the valuation process to obtain an understanding of the process, including the methodologies and assumptions applied.</p> <p>Reviewed the reports from the valuer to confirm overall asset valuation movements.</p> <p>Obtained an understanding of the management's involvement in the valuation process to assess if appropriate oversight has occurred.</p> <p>Examined management's assessment of any assets not</p>	<p>Results & Significant Judgements:</p> <p>Our review of the valuer engaged to provide valuations for non-current assets found them to be independent and competent.</p> <p>We identified issues with the fixed asset records as a result of the transition to a new register as identified at Exhibit 2.</p> <p>Walkthrough testing of valuation procedures adopted by management experts was satisfactory and we reviewed officers challenge of non-current asset valuations.</p> <p>The Valuer advised there was no material uncertainty over non-current asset valuations carried out in 2021/22.</p> <p>The valuation report for 21/22 was reviewed. Overall asset</p>

Audit risk	Assurance procedure	Results and conclusions
over assets not subject to revaluation.	<p>revalued in 2021/22 against evidence of changes in other revalued assets.</p> <p>Tested the reconciliation between the financial ledger and the property asset register.</p> <p>Sample tested individual asset valuations and lives.</p>	<p>valuation movements have been accurately reflected in the 21/22 financial statements.</p> <p>For land and buildings not fully revalued in 21/22, the valuer provided desktop revaluations based on BCIS indices to bring the carrying value of these assets to a fair value.</p> <p>Non-current asset notes in the financial statements were agreed to the property asset register with no errors identified.</p> <p>Testing of individual asset valuations and lives identified no errors.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>We identified some issues with the fixed asset register which led to material adjustments in the audited accounts (see Exhibit 2).</p>

Other areas of audit focus

26. We identified in our 2021/22 Annual Audit Plan areas where we considered there to be other risks of material misstatement to the financial statements. Based on our assessment of the likelihood and magnitude of the risk, we did not consider these to represent significant risks. The areas of specific audit focus were:

- IAS19 net pensions liability: Actuarial estimates are a complex combination of liabilities over significant future periods based on life expectancy and CPI growth. These are subject to significant discounting based on corporate bond rates. Assets are based on individual employer body shares of assets at last triennial valuation. Roll forward adjustments are provided to members data and to asset valuations.

27. We assessed the scope, independence and competence of the professionals engaged in providing estimates for pensions and reviewed appropriateness of actuarial assumptions and results including comparison with other councils. We established officer's arrangements for ensuring the

reasonableness of professional estimations and the accuracy of information provided to the actuary by Inverclyde Council. There are no matters which we need to bring to your attention.

Across the UK, a technical accounting issue has been identified covering infrastructure assets.

28. Infrastructure assets typically include highways, footpaths, bridges, and culverts and are included at depreciated historical cost in the accounts (£73.8 million at Inverclyde Council). A replaced component of an asset has to be derecognised and at some councils the records of additions do not permit compliance with the accounting code. A failure to derecognise assets correctly would have resulted in double-counting and an overstatement of the gross book value; accumulated depreciation and potentially the net book value of the assets.

29. CIPFA/LASAAC considered the matter and proposed amendments to the 2021/22 accounting code to allow a reasonable assumption that the net book value of replaced parts of infrastructure assets are £nil and a temporary adaptation to remove the requirement to disclose gross book value and accumulated depreciation in the financial statements. The Scottish Government has issued Finance Circular 9/2022 to implement these changes.

30. The Council has applied both statutory overrides in the 2021/22 audited Annual Accounts.

Misstatements of £7.9 million were adjusted in the audited accounts

31. Total misstatements identified were £7.9 million. These were adjusted in the audited accounts resulting in an increase in overall net income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement by £3.8 million. The overall adjustments increased net assets in the Balance Sheet by £3.8 million. The significant issues are identified in [Exhibit 2](#).

32. We considered the need to revise our audit procedures and approach. We reviewed the nature and causes of these misstatements, with the main issue being the omission of depreciation in the Asset Register. We reviewed all assets that were missing a depreciation charge as part of our work to determine the misstatement. We also reviewed the valuation evidence for all of the BPRA assets. Although these misstatements breached our performance materiality, we concluded that these arose from issues that have been isolated, identified and corrected in their entirety and do not indicate further systemic error.

33. It is our responsibility to request that all misstatements, other than those below the reporting threshold, are corrected, although the final decision on making the correction lies with those charged with governance, after considering advice from senior officers.

34. Management have adjusted all identified misstatements above our reporting threshold and there are no unadjusted errors to report.

Some progress was made on prior year recommendations

35. The Council has completed four of our seven prior year recommendations, with one in progress, and two outstanding. For the actions not yet implemented, a revised response and timescale has been agreed with management and is set out in [Appendix 1](#).

2. Financial management

Financial management is about financial capacity, sound budgetary processes and whether the control environment and internal controls are operating effectively.

Main judgements

The council reported an underspend of £1.4 million for 2021/22 in services

General Fund reserves have reduced by £4 million due to the use of earmarked reserves

Overall financial systems of internal control operated effectively, with the exception of payroll controls

The 2021/22 budget included identified savings and £1 million to be met from reserves

36. The 2021/22 budget was set at £203 million and included the planned use of £1 million of general reserves. The budget also included £2.8 million of previously approved savings incorporated into the base budget.

Efficiency savings of £1.1 million were achieved

37. The council agreed further efficiency savings of £1.1 million as part of the 2021/22 budget process. These were implemented on a recurring basis, contributing to the overall underspend achieved.

The council reported an underspend of £1.4 million for 2021/22 in services

38. The 2021/22 revenue outturn is an underspend of £1.4 million (0.7% against revised £190 million budget). The main areas of variance are:

- Additional staff turnover savings achieved across the council of £2.1 million
- Release of contingencies not required of £0.6 million
- Overspend of £0.4 million within client package costs
- Under recovery of £0.3 million for school meals and breakfast club income
- Increases in transport costs across services.

39. These underspends when taken together with increased funding and council tax income (£0.8 million) and the application of earmarked reserves of £4.7 million lead to the reduction in the total general fund of £4 million.

Budget processes were appropriate

40. We observed that senior management and members receive regular and accurate financial information on the council's performance against budgets. The body has appropriate budget setting and monitoring arrangements.

The Council received an additional £27.6 million of Covid-19 funding in 2021/22

41. The impact on public finances of the Covid19 pandemic has been unprecedented, which has necessitated both the Scottish and UK governments providing substantial additional funding for public services as well as support for individuals, businesses and the economy.

42. The council received a significant level of Scottish Government funding to support services, employees and residents through the Covid-19 pandemic. £16.8 million was received by the council through the general revenue grant, and a further £10.8 million under agency arrangements. £0.4 million of the £10.8 million remained at the year end and is carried forward as re-payable to the Scottish Government. This is disclosed appropriately in the annual accounts.

The General Fund reserve balance has reduced by £4 million

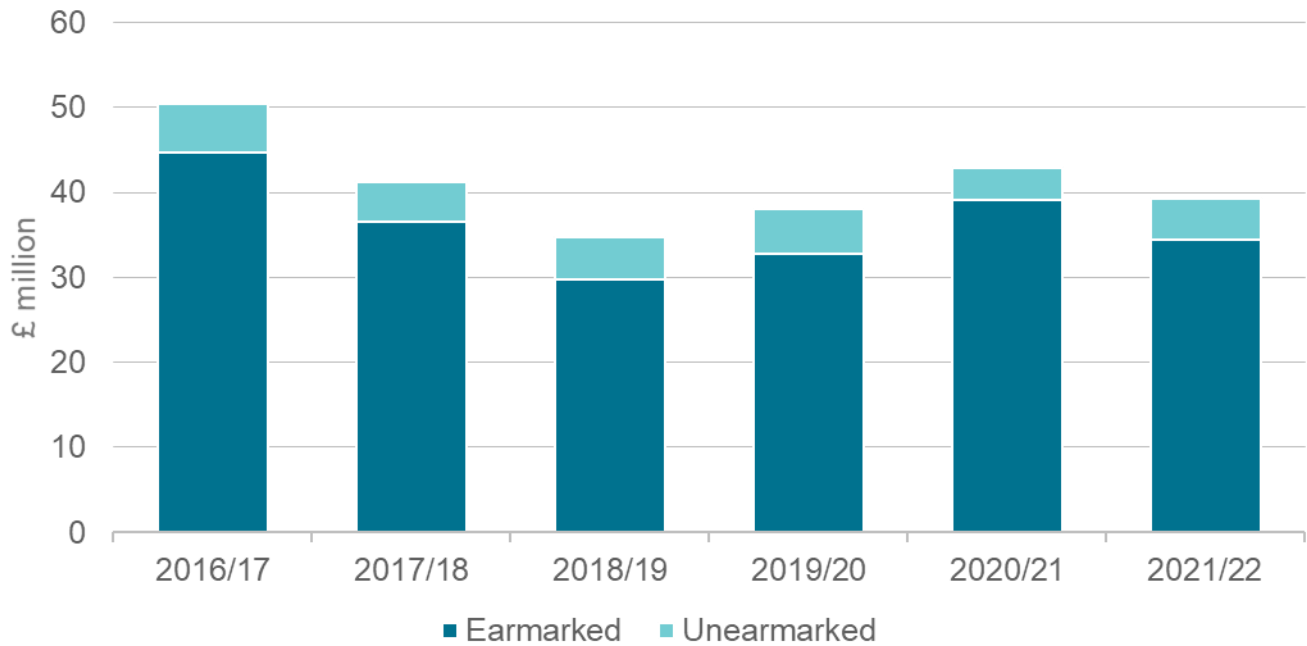
43. The General Fund balance decreased from £43 million at 31 March 2021 to £39 million at 31 March 2022 mainly as a result of the use of earmarked reserves of £4.7 million. Earmarked reserves still represent £35 million of this total which includes £6 million to support future budget strategy. This leaves a balance of £4 million of unallocated reserves (2.0% of the council's budgeted net annual running costs).

44. Inverclyde Council continues to have high General Fund balances relative to its net annual revenue. The council's policy on balances will continue to be reviewed, as part of the budget setting each year, taking into account risks and challenges for the year ahead.

45. [Exhibit 4](#) provides an analysis of the General Fund reserves balance over the last six years split between earmarked and unearmarked reserves. This shows that the level of reserves has been rising between 2018/19 and 2020/21, partly due to late and unspent Covid-19 funding received from the Scottish Government. This has then reduced in 2021/22 as some of these reserves were used.

Exhibit 4

Analysis of general fund balance



Source: Inverclyde Council Audited Financial Statements

Capital expenditure increased in 2021/22 but challenges remain

46. The continuing effect of the Covid pandemic had a significant impact on the delivery of the capital programme and the outturn shows slippage of 8.6%. Capital expenditure was £20.8 million in 2021/22 which is an increase of £4 million on the previous year.

47. The council identified that supply chain insecurity and associated financial pressures have been a recurring issue, through the initial impact of COVID, the UK exit from the EU, increased global demand for materials and most recently the impact of the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. As a result, other challenges which have been seen in recent tender exercises, and is predicted to continue in the short to medium term are:

- Material availability will impact on programmes with potentially extended lead-in/pre-site periods and/or site programmes.
- Contractors may be reluctant to hold tenders open for the normal period (120 days) currently included in the majority of Council tenders.
- Although the market generally remains keen, there may be a move towards more selective tendering and lower numbers of tenders returned (depending on individual project circumstances / type).
- Tender costs are likely to increase to reflect the cost of current materials increases and future risks impacting affordability unless additional funding is possible.

48. Due to these circumstances, the council anticipate that it will be difficult to remain within their 10% slippage threshold in 2022/23, with current slippage at 12%.

Borrowing levels have decreased as maturing debt has not been replaced

49. The council's gross external debt was £246 million at 31 March 2022 compared to the capital financing requirement (CFR) limit of £285 million. The council's average loans rate was 3.43% for 2021-22, an increase of 0.01% from 2020-21. The council repaid £10 million of maturing debt during the year and undertook no borrowing.

50. The council's Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy covering the period 2021-22 to 2024-25 was approved along with the Capital Strategy at the meeting of Inverclyde Council in April 2021. The Strategy identified the need to borrow £45 million over the period to replace existing loans due to be repaid and to fund the planned Capital Programme.

Overall financial systems of internal control operated effectively, with the exception of payroll controls

51. As part of our audit, we identify and assess the key internal controls in those accounting systems which we regard as significant to produce the financial statements. Our objective is to gain assurance that the body has systems of recording and processing transactions which provide a sound basis for the preparation of the financial statements.

52. Several control weaknesses were identified including the timely review of control account reconciliations, system user privilege reviews, checking of payroll exception reports and operation of the payroll validation control. Sample testing also identified that many pay or conditions changes were not subject to second officer checks or evidence of authorisation could not be provided.

53. We revised our audit procedures due to the weaknesses in payroll but concluded that there were no material errors in the financial statements.

54. Management have previously accepted the risks associated with some of these weaknesses. However, we have again identified these significant weaknesses and the risk that this may have to accurate and valid processing of payments to staff.

Internal audit operates effectively

55. The council's internal audit function is provided internally. We reviewed the adequacy of the internal audit function and concluded that it operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and has sound documentation standards and reporting procedures in place.

Standards of conduct and arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud and error were appropriate

56. The council is responsible for establishing arrangements for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and irregularities, bribery and corruption. Furthermore, it is responsible for ensuring that its affairs are managed in accordance with proper standards of conduct by putting effective arrangements in place.

57. We have reviewed the arrangements in place to maintain standards of conduct. There are established procedures for preventing and detecting any breaches of these standards including any instances of corruption.

58. The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a counter-fraud exercise across the UK public sector which aims to prevent and detect fraud. [Exhibit 5](#) summarises the current re-check position for the council which was refreshed in May 2022.

Exhibit 5 NFI activity



5,947

Matches



1,122

Completed/closed investigations

- Source: NFI secure website: www.nfi.gov.uk
-

59. The results of NFI activity are routinely reported to the Audit Committee by the Chief Internal Auditor. We concluded that the council is pro-active in investigating matches and reporting the outcomes of NFI activity.

3. Financial sustainability

Financial sustainability looks forward to the medium and long term to consider whether the council is planning effectively to continue to deliver its services or the way in which they should be delivered

Main judgements

The 2022/23 budget is based on approved savings of £1.4 million and a £4 million use of reserves

Unallocated General Fund reserves are expected to fall below the Council's minimum level by March 2023

Medium and longer term financial plans are in place. Savings plans from 2023/24 onwards have been developed and options have been presented to members

The 2022/23 budget is based on approved savings of £1.4 million and a £4 million use of reserves

60. The 2022/23 Budget was set at £219 million and approved by the Council in February 2022.

61. It includes a funding gap of £6 million. The funding gap is to be met from £1.4 million of savings/adjustments (including removal of 7.4 FTE posts), a 1.95% increase in Council Tax which will raise a further £0.6 million, and the agreed use of £4 million from General Fund reserves. In his report accompanying the budget proposals, the Interim Director of Finance & Corporate Governance reminded members of the risks and implications of the use of this level of one-off reserves and the very significant challenges this will leave for the new Council.

62. The budget includes a significant increase (£9.2 million) in funding to the IJB, following the increase in Adult Social Care funding announced as part of the 2022/23 Scottish Government Budget.

The current overspend projection is £2.0 million for 2022/23

63. As at 30 September 2022, the council is projecting an overspend of £2.0 million. This is mainly due to projected pay and non-pay inflation pressures. These include rising utility and fuel costs and contracts linked to the Retail Price Index, as well as the national pay awards.

Unallocated General Fund reserves are expected to fall below the Council's minimum level by March 2023

64. Projected General Fund unallocated reserves at 31 March 2023 are £3.4 million. This is £0.6million below the council's minimum recommended balance of £4 million.

Medium and longer term financial plans are in place. Savings plans from 2023/24 onwards have been developed and options have been presented to members

65. We reported in our 2020/21 Annual Audit Report that the council has a good process in place for financial planning. The council's latest financial strategy update covers the period 2022/23 to 2031/32. It is updated on a six-monthly basis and ensures that strategic initiatives that require long-term revenue and capital commitments are properly incorporated into the financial planning process. Such longer-term initiatives include the asset management strategy, school estates management plan and City Deal projects.

66. An updated financial strategy was presented to the Council in June 2022 taking full account of the estimated impact of Covid-19 on the council's finances.

67. The strategy provides detailed financial forecasts over the medium-term period 2022/23 to 2025/26 and identifies issues that will impact in the longer-term for planning purposes. Through this process, officers have identified a cumulative funding gap of £19.2 million over the period to 2026. This is a mid-range estimate. Optimistic and pessimistic scenarios for the period 2023 to 2026 are £9.3 million and £26.9 million respectively.

68. The strategy includes an action plan for addressing short, medium and long-term issues. The council plans to bridge funding gaps mostly through savings and the use of reserves. Savings plans from 2023/24 onwards have been developed and options have been presented to members.

69. The council will face many difficult decisions in achieving the required savings from 2023/24 onwards and budget consultation is currently ongoing. This could include severe cuts and reductions to service delivery in some areas.

Recovery from the pandemic is ongoing

70. The council approved an Organisational Recovery Plan in June 2021 which outlined the key objectives to recovery. It was agreed that the council would receive no further updates after March 2022 and that any outstanding actions would be incorporated into the relevant Local Outcome Improvement Plans or Inverclyde Council improvement plans.

4. Governance and transparency

The effectiveness of scrutiny and oversight and transparent reporting of information

Main Judgements

Governance arrangements are appropriate and operated effectively

Interim management arrangements remain in place

Review of the integration scheme continues to be delayed

Governance arrangements are appropriate and operated effectively

71. As part of our audit process we continually assess the governance arrangements within the council and review the Annual Governance Statement in the annual report and accounts. We concluded that arrangements are appropriate and operated effectively during 2021/22.

Interim management arrangements remain in place

72. In October 2020, the council agreed interim management arrangements. This included a temporary restructure following significant retirements from the Corporate Management Team (CMT). A new Chief Executive took up post in September 2021.

73. The impact of the pandemic has continued longer than was anticipated which created the need to review the end date for the interim arrangements. In October 2021, the council agreed to maintain the existing structure while removing the Interim Head of Public Protection and Recovery in March 2022 and recruiting a Head of Legal & Democratic Services. It was agreed that this structure would remain in place until April 2023.

74. The arrangements supported the recovery and delivery of an organisational recovery plan. The extension will also allow the impact of the National Care Service and the future direction of Shared Services to be considered before commitment to a new structure. This timescale also allows members and officers to focus on the refreshed Corporate Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan.

Review of the integration scheme continues to be delayed

75. The Integration Joint Board together with councils and health boards have a statutory duty under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014 to review the Integration Scheme every five years. The current Integration Scheme in Inverclyde was due to be reviewed by March 2020.

76. The Scottish Government have confirmed IJBs will be required to review their current integration schemes rather than complete a new scheme. The IJB is working with the other Greater Glasgow & Clyde IJBs around the timing of this review. It is anticipated that the six IJBs (associated with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde) will work together with their Council and Health Board Partners to review their schemes with a view to approving and submitting the updated Integration Schemes to the Scottish Government.

77. The initial deadline was agreed as July 2022 but a revised timetable has been issued by the group with an anticipated completion date of May 23 at the earliest. This matter has been set out in the Governance Statement.

The council continues to develop shared services, but progress has been slow

78. The Council continues to operate an element of shared services with West Dunbartonshire Council and this informed the senior officer structure changes approved previously. Progress has been slower than anticipated with anticipated savings within Environmental Services not being achieved to date. A jointly commissioned external review of progress and the future direction of Shared Services is on-going with a report due to Elected Members late 2022/early 2023.

5. Best Value

Using resources effectively and continually improving services.

Main judgements

The council has an appropriate and effective best value framework in place, though recent progress against two BVAR recommendations has been slow

Internal performance reports show mixed results and although overall performance remains above average compared to other councils, overall it has declined since 2019/20

The council has made progress against BVAR recommendations from 2017, but recent progress on two actions has been slow

79. Best value is assessed over the audit appointment, as part of the annual audit work. In addition, a Best Value Assurance Report (BVAR) for each council has been considered by the Accounts Commission at least once in this period. The [BVAR report](#) for the Inverclyde Council was published in June 2017. This was a positive report overall. There were ten recommendations made in the report to support further improvement at the council.

80. At its meeting in June 2017, the council agreed the improvement actions within the BVAR and that a progress report will be submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee every six months. We continue to monitor the council's progress against the improvement actions.

81. In our Annual Audit Report 2020/21, we identified that six of the ten recommendations had been completed with the remaining four still ongoing. This is no longer routinely reported in the Corporate Policy and Performance Update Report. However, updates from officers and information in Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans notes progress on the four remaining actions (Community Empowerment, Measuring Impact and Outcomes, City Deal and Shared Services).

82. Our assessment is that whilst two of these four actions are complete recent progress has been slow in the remaining two and needs to be accelerated.

Exhibit 6

Progress against BVAR recommendations

BVAR Recommendation	Council assessment	Summary of progress
<p>1. To progress community empowerment to the level that the Act requires, the council will need to further develop the capacity of communities it is working with. It will need to raise awareness of the possibilities for communities and look at the level of funding and staffing required to work with communities to progress initiatives including the transfer of assets and participatory budgeting.</p>	Blue – complete	<p>Complete</p> <p>By early 2022 Council had progressed the process for community planning to the level that the Act requires. This has included the development of six Communication and Engagement groups in each of the localities, opportunities for participatory budgeting identified on an annual basis and a clear process for community asset transfer set up</p>
<p>4. Actions to deliver strategic improvements should identify the difference they are expected to make to the overall strategic outcomes, with milestones at key intervals.</p>	Blue - complete	<p>Complete</p> <p>As part of its overall approach to delivering continuous improvement, the Council continues to strengthen its work around the measurement and reporting of outcomes, including engaging with experts, learning from good practice elsewhere and building on local strengths. A clear link between the desired outcomes, milestones and performance indicators is in place.</p>
<p>8. Appointment of a lead change officer and the production of a detailed Business Plan for shared services</p>	Amber – slight slippage	<p>No recent progress</p> <p>An overall business plan for shared services is not in place. Inverclyde and West Dunbartonshire Councils share a Head of Service across Roads, Waste, Fleet, Street cleaning and Ground Maintenance. Two strategic manager posts are also shared in respect of Waste, Fleet Street Cleaning and Ground Maintenance.</p> <p>West Dunbartonshire and Inverclyde Councils also have shared a Chief Internal Auditor. Business planning in potential management changes to complement this arrangement are being undertaken for consideration by both councils.</p> <p>However, East Dunbartonshire Council have agreed to withdraw from the Shared Services Joint Committee and</p>

		are currently within an 18 month notice period.
9. The council has experienced delays in its City Deal projects. Councillors and officers should continue to focus significant efforts on developing these projects with private sector partners.	Amber – slight slippage	Significant delay in delivery A number of technical issues have contributed to delays in City Deal projects. Progress on each of the City Deal projects is detailed below at paragraphs 83 to 89.

Source: Inverclyde Council

City Deal projects have been delayed

83. We reported in our 2019/20 and 2020/21 Annual Audit Reports that City Deal projects had suffered delays and this has continued in 2021/22.

Greenock Ocean Terminal

84. The works commenced on site on 17 May 2021 with original contract completion date of 10 May 2022. However, the contractor encountered difficult ground conditions and obstructions in the ground which impacted progress in the early stages.

85. The Contractor also experienced difficulties with the supply chain including the insolvency of a key sub-contractor. The works are progressing with the final cladding and flashing works progressing on the external façade. Internal works including finishes and services installations are progressing. External works including paving and retaining walls are on-going. Gas and water connections are now live with power connection expected in the near future.

86. The contractor is currently projecting completion in late December subject to remaining work package completion and the on-going industry challenges of materials and labour availability being experienced across the sector. The Council also continues to engage with the future users of the facility to co-ordinate the final fit-out works which are key to the completion / operation of the facility.

Inchgreen

87. The Final Business Case was approved by the GCR Chief Executives Group and the Joint Venture Company has been formed. This is expected to be complete in 2023/24 at a total cost of £9.4 million.

Inverkip

88. The project is to construct a signalised junction on the A78 at the easterly junction with Main Street, Inverkip and another signalised junction at Harbourside along with a new signalised roundabout for the Power Station Development.

89. The project has been procured through the SCAPE framework and it is currently at the first stage of budget pricing as a design and build contract. Officers are also in discussion with Scottish Power regarding the funding and contractual arrangements of the project. This is also expected to be completed in 2023/24 at a total cost of £3.3 million.

Revision of the Local Development Plan has been delayed

90. We reported in our 2019/20 Annual Audit Report that a successful legal challenge to the council's housing policy resulted in an incomplete Local Development Plan being in place. The council agreed that a full review of the Local Development Plan would be undertaken to be submitted for examination by autumn 2021.

91. The draft LDP was submitted for consultation in August 2021 with responses to be considered before submission to Scottish Ministers. However, management have now revised the completion date to 30 April 2026. The council report that this has been exacerbated by the delay in the outcome decision by the Scottish Ministers on the West of Quarry Drive application, until after the local government elections. This resulted in insufficient time to modify and continue preparation of the proposed plan, within the designated period, under the Planning (Scotland) Act 2006. Work will start afresh on a draft LDP based on the new guidance under the 2019 Planning (Scotland) Act.

Performance management arrangements provide a sound base for improvement

92. The council's performance management arrangements were considered in our BVAR issued in 2017. We identified that the council has an established performance management framework that managers and councillors clearly understand, and that this provides a sound base for improvement.

93. The council's 2021/22 Annual Performance Report includes details on performance in delivering the priorities within the Corporate Plan 2018/23. The report recognises the impact of the pandemic and acknowledges that the provision of some performance data has been affected, as well as some outcomes.

94. Outcomes are mapped to performance measures and where appropriate a RAG status is allocated, measured on a Red (performance has fallen below a set tolerance level), Amber (performance remains within a set tolerance level) and Green (the target for the year was achieved) basis.

95. Of the 71 measures that showed a RAG status, 18 were red (25%), 8 were amber (11%), and 45 were green (64%). 35 of these measures show an improvement on the previous year, while 31 show a decline in performance. There were notable improvements in reducing the prevalence of poverty in our communities, with a particular focus on child poverty. However, safeguarding, supporting and meeting the needs of the most vulnerable families and residents has seen a decline in 2021/22.

Statutory performance indicators (SPIs) are being met

96. The Accounts Commission has a statutory responsibility to define the performance information that councils must publish. In turn, councils have their own responsibility, under their Best Value duty, to report performance to the public. The commission does not prescribe how councils should report this information but expects them to provide the public with fair, balanced and engaging performance information.

97. The Accounts Commission issued a revised 2018 Statutory Performance Information Direction in December 2018 which requires a council to report:

- its performance in improving local public services provided by the council (on its own and with its partners and communities), and progress against agreed desired outcomes
- its own assessment and independent audit assessments of how it is performing against its duty of Best Value, and how it plans to improve these assessments and how it (with its partners where appropriate) has engaged with and responded to its diverse communities.

98. We have evaluated the council's arrangements.

99. Overall, the Council continues to have robust arrangements in place to report on its performance, across the whole council, and the means used for publication are satisfactory, ensuring interested parties have access to performance reports when required.

Performance remains above average compared to other councils but has declined since 2019/20

100. The council participates in the [Local Government Benchmarking Framework \(LGBF\)](#). The most recent [National Benchmarking Overview Report 2020/21](#) by the Improvement Service was published in March 2022, including data for 74 of 95 indicators, with some data delayed. The available performance data covered the 2020/21 reporting period. The Council has 40 indicators out of 74 (54%) in the top two quartiles which is the tenth highest across all Scottish councils. This compares to 67% in the previous year which was the highest across all Scottish councils.

101. The decrease in the number of indicators in the top two quartiles is partly attributable to the non-availability of data for "satisfaction" measures, which is an area where Inverclyde historically has performed well.

Locality planning continues to develop

102. Following feedback and learning in 2021/22, it has been agreed that the six Communication and Engagement Groups will continue in the locality areas and be further developed. The Integrated Joint Board will establish two formal Health and Social Care Locality Planning Groups - one for East Inverclyde and one for West Inverclyde.

103. The Community and Engagement Groups (CEGs) aim to encourage residents to become actively involved in local democratic decision making and to make it easier for communities and services to work together to develop solutions to local issues. The CEGs have helped to identify local priorities; participated in decision making around how services are planned, designed and delivered and influenced how money was spent in their area. Support has been provided by Community Development Workers working alongside the groups to strengthen community empowerment.

104. The further development of Locality Planning in Inverclyde is being supported by learning from elsewhere. Officer discussion on the different approaches undertaken across the Ayrshires have taken place. A half day workshop for Inverclyde Alliance partners and Inverclyde Council Elected Members has taken place. Officers from other local authorities have been invited to share experience in locality planning.

National performance audit reports

105. Audit Scotland carries out a national performance audit programme on behalf of the Accounts Commission and the Auditor General for Scotland. During 2021/22, Audit Scotland published a number of reports were issued which may be of interest to the body. These are outlined in [Appendix 2](#).

Appendix 1. Action plan 2021/22

2021/22 recommendations

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
<p>1. (NEW) Heritage Assets Valuation review</p> <p>The Council's heritage assets are valued at £18.0 million but have not been formally revalued since 2012. In addition, disclosures around the valuation frequency of Heritage Assets and Council policy on valuations was inaccurate and not reflective of actual practice.</p> <p>Risk – Heritage asset valuations are significantly out of date.</p>	<p>The council should prioritise the revaluation of heritage assets in 2022/23.</p> <p>Exhibit 2 (Issue 3)</p>	<p>Officers within Finance and Cultural Services will progress a revaluation of the heritage assets prior to the closure of the 2022/23 Accounts.</p> <p>Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance/ Corporate Director, Education, Communities & OD</p> <p><i>June 2023</i></p>

Follow-up of prior year recommendations

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
<p>b/f 2. Detailed review of fixed asset register</p>	<p>Management should complete a detailed review of its fixed asset register at each year end to ensure incorrect entries are identified.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>A replacement fixed asset register will be developed for use from the 2021/22 Accounts onwards.</p> <p>Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance</p> <p><i>June 2022</i></p>
<p>b/f 3. Non-current asset valuations</p>	<p>The council should complete a management review of its</p>	<p>Complete</p>

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
	fixed asset register at each year end and reconsider its approach to five-year programme of revaluation.	<p>The approach of 5 yearly valuations will be reviewed and either a rolling review or indexation will be implemented from the 2021/22 Accounts</p> <p>Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance</p> <p><i>June 2022</i></p> <p>For other land and buildings not subject to revaluation in 2021/22, the valuer applied an appropriate desktop exercise based on changes in the key rebuild/ retender costs based on BCIS data.</p>
b/f 4. Management Commentary	The council should adopt best practice for the narrative contained within the management commentary outlined in the Accounts Commission's Local Government Overview.	<p>Complete</p> <p>The previously agreed action will be implemented from the 2021/22 Accounts</p> <p>Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance</p> <p><i>June 2022</i></p>
b/f 5. Estimation and judgement disclosure	The disclosure, specifically in relation to property, plant and equipment and pension liabilities, should be reviewed in line with Audit Scotland's Good Practice Note – Judgements and Estimates .	<p>Outstanding</p> <p>The requirements of the Good Practice Note will be included within the 2021//22 Accounts</p> <p>Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance</p> <p><i>June 2022</i></p> <p>A review has not been carried out for the 2021/22 Accounts due to limited time and resource.</p> <p>A review will be progressed taking into account the approach taken by other Councils.</p>

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
		Finance Manager (Environment & Technical) <i>June 2023</i>
b/f 6. Medium to long term savings	The council should further develop savings plans to bridge future funding gaps in the medium to long term.	Complete The high level savings options largely developed by officers will be refined and discussed with Members as part of the 2023/24 Budget post the May 2022 elections. Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance <i>February, 2023</i>
b/f 7. Internal controls	The council should ensure that robust controls are in place to address the weaknesses reported in May 2020 and ensure a robust control environment.	Outstanding Interim testing for 21/22 identified systems weaknesses including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the timely review of control account reconciliations, • checking of payroll exception reports • operation of the payroll validation control. Substantive sample testing also identified that many pay or conditions changes were not subject to second officer checks and did not have evidence of authorisation. These weaknesses required us to reconsider our audit procedures. Management will carry out a review and ensure appropriate controls are implemented on a timely basis to address the reported weakness. Head of OD, Policy & Communications

Issue/risk	Recommendation	Agreed management action/timing
b/f 8. Local Development Plan	The council should develop and revise the relevant section of the LDP as soon as practicable.	<p><i>March 2023</i></p> <hr/> <p>In progress</p> <p>The preparation of the LDP will commence in February 2023 and be complete in April 2026.</p> <p>Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration</p> <p><i>April 2026</i></p> <hr/>

Appendix 2. 2021/22 national reports and briefing papers

May

[Local government in Scotland Overview 2021](#)

June

[Covid 19: Personal protective equipment](#)

July

[Community justice: Sustainable alternatives to custody](#)

September

[Covid 19: Vaccination programme](#)

January

[Planning for skills](#)

[Social care briefing](#)

February

[NHS in Scotland 2021](#)

March

[Local government in Scotland: Financial Overview 20/21](#)

[Drug and alcohol: An update](#)

[Scotland's economy: Supporting businesses through the Covid 19 pandemic](#)

Inverclyde Council

2021/22 Annual Audit Report

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Inverclyde Council
Audited Annual Accounts
2021 - 2022

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1. Introduction

This Management Commentary outlines the objectives and strategy of the Council and its financial performance for the year 2021-2022 and how it has supported the delivery of the Corporate Plan. It also outlines the budget strategy and issues and risks which may impact upon the finances of the Council and in delivering its objectives for Inverclyde in the future.

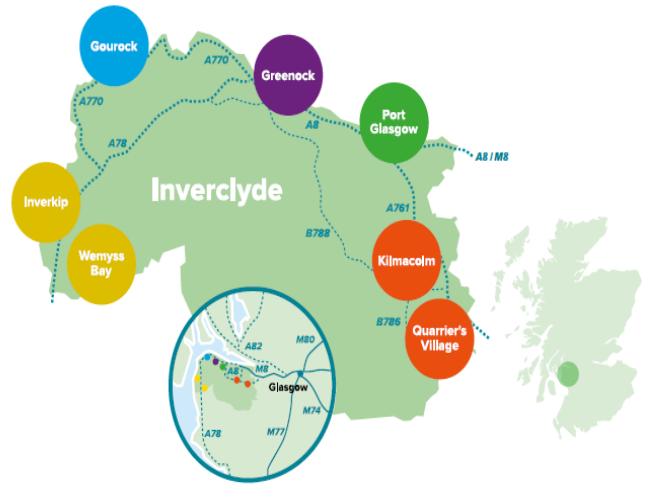
Principal Activities

THE COUNCIL

22 Councillors
 7 Multi-Member Wards
 Minority Labour Administration
 Council Services managed over three Directorates
 Two ALEOs – Inverclyde Leisure and Riverside
 Inverclyde.

STAFF

4,458 employees
 Permanent Staff: 3,285
 Temporary Staff: 1,173
 Modern Apprentices: 32



ECONOMY

75.1% of adults in employment (2022)
 23.8% of children living in poverty after housing costs

INFRASTRUCTURE

- 372.8 km of Roads
- 6 Secondary Schools
- 20 Primary Schools
- 23 Early Years Centres
- 3 Additional Support Needs Units
- 4 Leisure Centres
- 7 Libraries

AREA

158 sq. km (61 sq. miles)
 One of the smallest Local Authorities in Scotland.

POPULATION

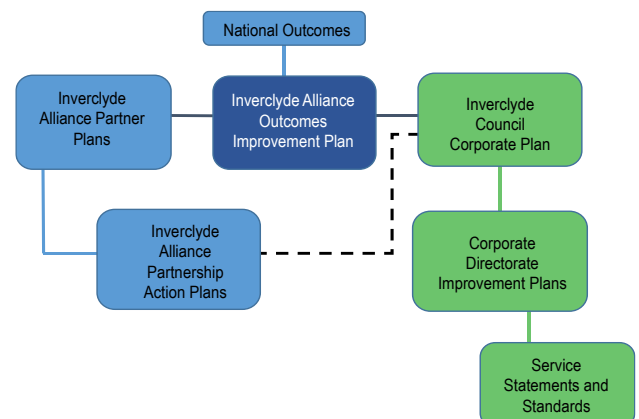
- 77,060** (1.4% of total Scottish population)
- 16.1% aged under 16
 - 15.6% aged 16 to 29 years (**Scotland = 17.3%**)
 - 39.5% aged 30 to 59 year
 - 28.8% aged 60 and over (**Scotland = 25.8%**)

2. Objectives and Strategy of the Council

Delivering the Strategy

The overall strategic framework within which the Council operates is outlined in the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework. The Framework includes the Local Outcome Improvement Plan, the Corporate Plan, Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans and the Financial Strategy. The main aspects of the Framework are illustrated in the diagram on the right.

National Outcomes are set by the Scottish Government and sit within a National Performance Framework. The 11 outcomes provide the overarching framework for the local community planning partnership document, the Inverclyde Alliance Outcomes Improvement Plan (OIP).



Management Commentary

The OIP is a high level strategic partnership document setting out the vision and direction for the Inverclyde area, as agreed by all the Inverclyde Alliance partner organisations and communities.

The Partnership Action Plans set out the Partnership's actions which will contribute to the achievement of the OIP priorities. The Corporate Plan sets out the ways in which Inverclyde Council hopes to deliver better outcomes for the people of Inverclyde through the delivery of 10 organisational priorities. The plan reflects the outcomes from the OIP and sets out, at a high level, what the Council will do to deliver the partnership priorities.

Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans (CDIPs) set out the vision for each directorate. The CDIPs 2019/22 set out the improvement actions for each Directorate and are mapped to the Corporate Plan organisational priorities. In addition the HSCP has its own Strategic Plan 2019/24 which supports the Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board.

The focus of the Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework is on addressing the main challenges facing Inverclyde. The OIP originally focused on three key priority areas: Population; Inequalities; and Environment, Culture and Heritage, however after a mid-term review of the OIP in 2020, the Alliance Board agreed to make "local economic growth" a new priority from 2021. The responsibility for the delivery of this new priority will sit with the Population and Economic Partnership. The OIP can be viewed on the Council's website at: <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/community-planning-partnership/inverclyde-outcome-improvement-plan>.

Positives v Challenges 2021-2022

Positives

The percentage of young people participating in education, training or employment in Inverclyde rose by 0.4% in 2021 to 93.3%. This is 1.1% higher than the Scottish average and places Inverclyde in the second top performing quartile of all Scottish Councils, with a ranking of 12 out of 32 Councils.

£4million investment was made to boost recovery across Inverclyde. This funding was in addition to the Inverclyde Works £6m jobs and employability programme and provided extra support for business and town centres, increased place marketing for Inverclyde, boosting access to sports & fitness and earlier implementation of universal school meals.

With partners, the Council delivered the 'Summer of Fun '21', a co-ordinated programme of free activities provided by partner organisations across Inverclyde for children and young people over a 7 week school holiday period. Low income families were a priority group as were families that were shielding during the pandemic.

Inverclyde is one of 8 Councils committed to the delivery of a new Economic Strategy for the Glasgow City Region which sets the approach for how the Region will weather current and future key challenges. The approach is a first in that it has been developed and endorsed by the Region's Councils and also by government and wider public agencies, all of which will be instrumental in its delivery.

Challenges

Undoubtedly, the major challenge for the Council in the coming years will be in responding to, and mitigating against, the impact of Covid-19 in supporting our communities to recover and thrive going forward.

Covid-19 has created an economic and employment crisis in Scotland. Research shows that there has been an unequal impact on the labour market, this and the current economic climate will add to the challenges that lie ahead.

Inverclyde's population decline in recent years has been the result of negative natural change due to deaths outnumbering births and this is forecast to continue. As an area already suffering from poor health outcomes, it is likely that Covid-19 will bring additional new challenges in this area.

Financial pressures – whilst the UK & Scottish Governments have allocated tens of £millions within Inverclyde to limit the economic and social impacts of Covid the underlying financial pressures remain with an estimated funding gap of £15.2 million by 2023/25 reported in the Financial Strategy.

Deprivation was a significant issue for the area prior to the pandemic. 51 (44.7%) of Inverclyde's 114 data zones are in the 20% most deprived in Scotland, the second highest local share in Scotland. In addition, the most deprived data zone in Scotland is Greenock town centre. The pandemic will have exacerbated many of the underlying causes of deprivation.

COVID – 19 - Recovery

The Council continued to play a major role in the response to Covid-19 within Inverclyde throughout 2021/22 with the focus on developing and commencing delivery of Recovery Plans at both an Organisational and Partnership level. The plans were approved by the Policy & Resources Committee and Inverclyde Alliance respectfully with regular updates throughout the year.

The Partnership Recovery Plan had 3 areas of focus:

- Education, Culture and Sport
- Health & Well Being
- The Economy

Governance was delivered via the Recovery Working Group with minuted meetings and a Members Recovery Sounding Board. These arrangements were in place until April, 2022 when it was agreed to suspend meetings but with the scope to recommence meeting if the need arose.

Organisational Recovery had 5 areas of focus:

- Workforce
- Property
- Technology
- Corporate Governance
- Business Continuity

An officer group chaired by the Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance oversaw delivery of the approved Action Plan with updates to the Policy & Resources Committee.

The Council allocated £4.5million via a Covid Recovery Reserve to support both Plans with unspent/unallocated sums carried forward into 2022/23 .

Covid – 19 - Community Supports

Whilst there was focus on moving towards Recovery and delivering approved Action Plans, Council services continued to provide practical support to the local community to help offset the impacts of the pandemic. These included continued targeted support to businesses, financial support to families and individuals plus to those who required to self-isolate through Covid. The helpline set up during 2020/21 continued to operate throughout 2021/22 providing humanitarian support and signposting to those in need. The helpline closed in mid-May 2022 with calls now routed via existing services.

In preparation for the anticipated reduction/ending of many of the time limited supports funded by the Scottish Government and the Council, the CMT carried out a review examining how the impact of stopping the time-limited support and identifying areas where some form of continuing support was needed. The review also looked at the operational changes implemented during the pandemic and identified changes in the way the Council conducted its business which should be maintained. In particular changes regarding hybrid working and hybrid meetings are now accepted as being here to stay.

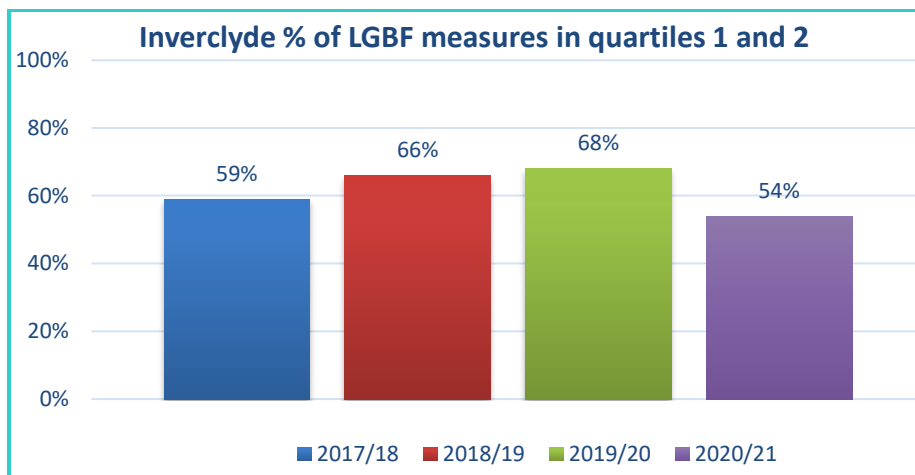
Public Performance Reporting

The Council reports on its performance in the delivery of its Corporate Plan organisational priorities in its Annual Performance Report. In addition, each directorate periodically reports on performance in the delivery of their CDIP to their relevant committee.

You can view the wide range of performance data published by the Council, including the latest Annual performance Report 2020/21 on the Council's performance webpage which can be viewed here: <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/performance>

The Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF) brings together a wide range of information about how all Scottish councils perform in delivering services to local communities. The LGBF assists Councils in benchmarking their performance in key areas and creates opportunities to identify and share good practice. In 2020/21 the Council ranked in the top two quartiles for 54% of indicators, 29% were in the third quartile and just under a fifth, 17% were positioned in the fourth quartile.

The graph below provides an overview of Inverclyde Council's performance in the top two quartiles over the past four years. The decrease in the number of indicators in the top 2 quartiles is partly attributable to the non-availability of data for the satisfaction measures (Scottish Household Survey), which is an area where Inverclyde has historically performed strongly. Care should also be taken when comparing performance with earlier reporting years, and in particular 2019/20, due to the inclusion of new indicators in 2020/21, as well as the publication of data in 2020/21 that was not published in 2019/20 (e.g. attainment in literacy and numeracy and school attendance).



The following table contains information on how the Council has performed across areas within the Council. More data can be explored at the LGBF website: <https://www.improvementservice.org.uk/benchmarking/explore-the-data> and on the Council website:

Management Commentary

	2019-2020	2020-2021	% Change
Children's services			
Cost per Secondary school pupil	£7,801	£7,089	-9.13%
Cost per Primary school pupil	£5,791	£5,473	-5.49%
Cost per Pre-school pupil	£8,204	£11,147	35.9%
Corporate Services			
Cost per dwelling of Council Tax collection	£10.76	£9.19	-14.66%
Teacher sickness absence (working days)	4.95 days	3.45 days	-30.2%
Employee (non-teacher) sickness absence (working days)	10.48 days	7.96 days	-24%
% invoices paid within 30 days	96.13%	95.46%	-0.67%
Social Work			
Costs of providing care to support older people living at home	£25.07	£34.29	36.67%
% of people aged 65 or over with long term care needs receiving personal care at home	66.12%	66.07%	-0.06%
Residential costs per week per resident for people aged 65 or over	£414	£450	8.7%
Culture & Leisure			
Costs per attendance at sport facilities	£1.19	£9.73	718%
Costs of parks & open spaces per 1,000 population	£27,833	£24,280	-13%
Environmental			
Net cost of waste collection per premise	£43.71	£49.20	12.5%
Net cost of waste disposal per premise	£98.33	£104.26	6%
Cost of trading standards and environmental health per 1,000 population	£25,008	£24,124	-3.5%
% of total household waste arising that is recycled	53.95%	37.1%	-16.8%
Economic Development			
% of unemployed people assisted into work from council operated/funded employability programmes	25.94%	2.94%	-22.9%
Cost of Planning & Building Standards per planning application	£7,388	£6,926	-6.25%
% of procurement spend spent on local enterprises	27.49%	25.04%	-2.45%
Proportion of people earning less than the living wage.	30.9%	23.8%	-7.1%

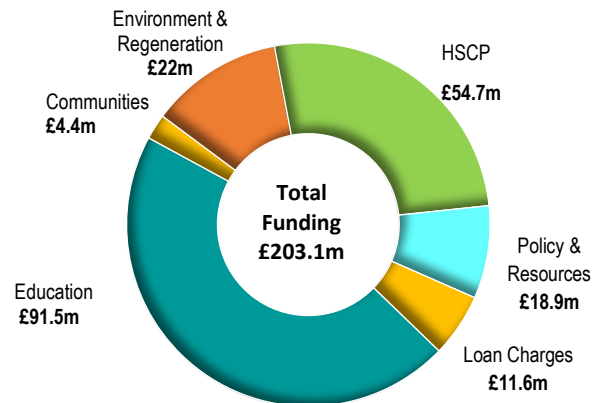
The Annual Budget and Setting Council Tax

The Council's approach to the 2021/22 budget was agreed by the Council and included a public consultation as to how the Council could save money. The cross party Members Budget Working Group (MBWG) once again proved pivotal in arriving at a consensus on the use of surplus reserves and consideration of the savings identified by the public consultation. During the budget setting process, the Council agreed to savings totalling £1.088 million in 2021/22 with these savings increasing to £1.417 million by 2022/23. As at 31 March 2022 all the 2021/22 savings have been implemented.

The Council formally approved the 2021-2022 budget on 18 March 2021. The budget was based on the Council Tax for band D remaining at the same level as 2020-2021.

Management Commentary

Spend of £203.1 million was planned in 2021-2022 after taking account of Government Grants, inflation, borrowing costs and approved savings. The Council also approved a £60.8 million three-year capital investment programme covering 2021-2024 of which £40.1 million would be funded by the Council with the balance met from government grants. The major areas of planned investment were the ongoing programme of construction and refurbishment of schools, key improvements to the roads and lighting infrastructure, construction of a new Learning Disability facility plus significant capital work on other Council assets.



3. Financial Performance in 2021-2022

General Revenue Budget

The Council's financial performance is presented in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) on page 33 which shows a deficit on the provision of services of £25.738million. This statement is prepared using International Financial Reporting Standards as interpreted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (the Code). However, the CIES does not reflect the true cost of service provision or the amount required to be funded from government grant and taxation. Note 2 gives details of the accounting adjustments required to bring the accounts in line with resources specified by statute. The adjustments remove the effect of non-cash items such as depreciation, revaluation and replace these with the actual cost of debt repayment. Consequently, the general fund balance has decreased by £3.859m, against a planned use of reserves during budget setting of £1.049million for 2021/22. The table 3.1 reflects the final outturn position as reported to Committee compared to the Expenditure & Funding Analysis. Table 3.2 shows a summary of the main changes that contributed to the final position as reported in the Expenditure & Funding Analysis.

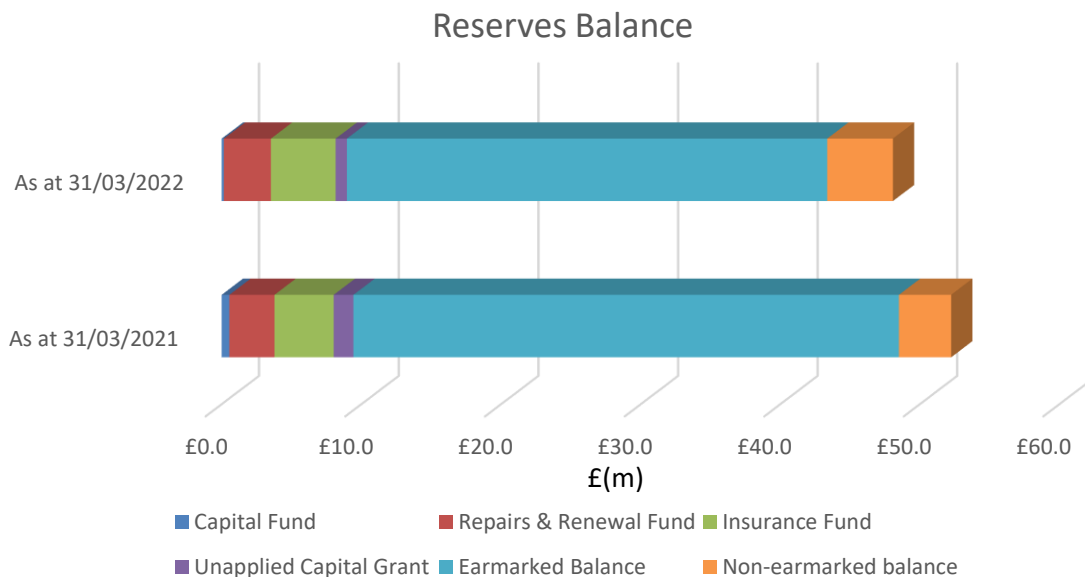
Funding from Scottish Government (Non-Domestic Rates and Government Grants) £169.4m (83.4%) and Council Tax (including Council Tax Reduction costs) £32.6m (16%), Contribution from Reserves £1.049m (0.6%)

3.1 Outturn 2021-2022 Per Committee Reporting

	Approved Budget 2021-2022 £000	Revised Budget 2021-2022 £000	Outturn 2021-2022 £000	Variance 2021-2022 £000
Policy & Resources	18,902	19,578	18,852	(726)
Environment Regeneration and Resources	22,020	21,849	21,972	123
Education & Communities	95,925	91,593	91,056	(537)
Health & Social Care Partnership	54,652	57,770	57,549	(221)
Loans Charges	11,586	16,174	16,174	0
Identified Savings	4	4	0	(4)
Covid Expenditure	0	11,811	11,811	0
Earmarked Reserves	0	1,149	1,149	0
Total Service Expenditure	203,089	219,928	218,563	(1,365)
General Revenue Grant	(169,418)	(186,257)	(186,963)	(706)
Council Tax Income (Excluding PY Income)	(32,622)	(32,622)	(32,694)	(72)
Contribution from General Reserves	(1,049)	(1,049)	0	1,049
IJB -Contribution to Reserves	0	0	221	221
Revenue Budget Outturn Position	0	0	(873)	(873)
Adjustments Not included in Revenue Outturn:				
Movement in Earmarked Reserves				4,732
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services per Expenditure and Funding Analysis				3,859

3.2 Movement - Initial Budget to Actual Outturn	£'000
Initial Planned Surplus	0
Release of one off inflation contingencies not required	(587)
Loss on Income Recovered	424
Additional Turnover Savings Achieved	(1,205)
Further minor underspends across Directorates	238
Use of Earmarked Reserves	4,989
Deficit for the year	3,859

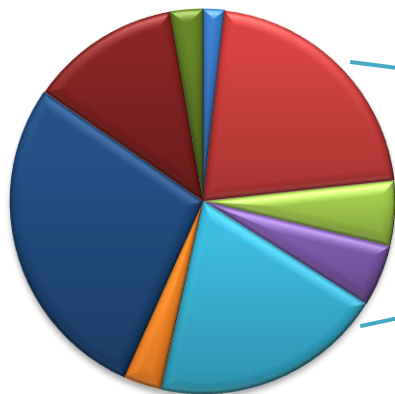
As a result of the overall deficit of £3.859m, the General Fund balance reduced from £42.812 million to £39.109 million. The graph below shows how the usable reserves of the Council are made up, including the £6 million earmarked to support future budget strategy. The Council has a policy of holding a minimum of £4m uncommitted balances (2% of the Council's budgeted net annual running costs). The use of reserves is reviewed as part of the budget setting each year, taking into account risks and challenges for the year ahead.



Capital Budget

The Council continues to make significant capital investment in schools, roads, leisure, community and town centre estates with £21.6 million being spent in 2021-22. The largest element of the capital expenditure for the year was the £6 million spent on building and refurbishing the school estate. Funding of capital expenditure included £0.8 million from capital receipts, £12.2 million of government grants with the balance of £8.6 million being met through internal funding and borrowing. Further information about spend on capital projects is shown in Note 9 on page 46.

Capital Expenditure (£21.6m)



■ ICT (£0.4m)	■ Roads (4.6m)
■ Environmental Services (£1.2m)	■ Regeneration (£1.2m)
■ Property Assets (£4.2m)	■ Communities (£0.7m)
■ School Estate (£6.0m)	■ City Deal (£2.7m)
■ Health and Social Care (£0.6m)	

Funding



■ Borrowing (£3.12m)
■ CFRCR (£5.51m)
■ Other Capital Grants, Receipts and Contributions (£6.58m)
■ General Capital Grant from Government (£6.4m)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet on page 34 summarises the Council's assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022 and explanatory notes are provided. The net worth of the Council has increased by £85.249m from £213.391m as at 31 March 2021 to £298.640m as at 31 March 2022. Within the headline figure, there have been significant changes in both asset values and liabilities and the major changes are shown in the table below:

	31/03/2021 £'000	31/03/2022 £'000	Movement £'000	Explanation for Movement
Non-Current Assets				
Property, Plant & Equipment	541,776	551,368	9,592	Council investment in key capital projects and effect of 5 yearly asset revaluation.
Current Assets				
Short-term Investments	24,556	14,600	(9,956)	} Funding requirements for 2021-2022.
Cash and Cash Equivalents	14,515	18,192	3,677	
Long & Short-term Debtors	18,871	28,612	9,741	Increase in short-term debtors at the end of the year.
Current Liabilities				
Short-term Creditors	(41,542)	(54,918)	(13,376)	Increase in Short-term creditors at the end of the year.
Long-term Liabilities				
Short & Long term borrowing	(201,550)	(191,422)	10,128	
Finance leases	(57,375)	(55,910)	1,465	
Pension Liability	(98,972)	(25,428)	73,544	

Management Commentary

Key Financial Ratios

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Directors of Finance Section recommends that certain “financial ratios” are included in the Management Commentary to assist the reader to assess the performance of the Council over the financial year and of the affordability of its ongoing commitments. The following table provides the indicators with an explanation of each, grouped into CIPFA categories for the various areas of financial activity.

Financial Indicator	Commentary	2021-2022	2020-2021
Reserves			
Uncommitted General Fund Reserve as a proportion of Annual Budgeted Net Expenditure	Reflects the level of funding available to manage Financial risk/unplanned expenditure. The Council's Policy is 2% of annual turnover which is considered appropriate in the context of the Council's financial and ongoing risk profile. More Information is provided in the <i>General Revenue Budget</i> section above.	1.83%	2.46%
Movement in the Uncommitted General Fund Balance	Reflects the extent to which the Council is using its Uncommitted General Fund Reserve.	£0.0m	£0.4m decrease
Council Tax			
In-year collection rate	Reflects the Council's effectiveness in collecting Council Tax debt and financial management. The Council continues to achieve high collection Levels despite the current economic challenges. The 2021/22 Scottish in-year collection rate was 95.7%	95.5%	94.4%
Financial Management			
Actual Outturn compared to Budgeted Expenditure	How closely expenditure compares to the budget is a reflection of the effectiveness of financial management. This indicator is based on the format of budget monitoring as reported throughout the year. More details are provided in the General Revenue Budget section above.	99%	97.7%
Debt/Long-term Borrowing			
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream	Provides assurances of borrowing only being for capital purposes with an indication of the Council's ability to service the borrowing costs. The Council's Loans Fund interest rate remains consistently below the Scottish average; is affordable; and fits with the Council's medium to long-term finance strategy. The significant reduction in the ratio is due to the debt from the Strathclyde Region dropping out in March 2021.	10.16%	12.35%

4. Financial Outlook, Key Risks & Plans for the Future

Financial Outlook

The Council's Financial Strategy for June 2022 highlights that the pressure on public finances is scheduled to continue for the foreseeable future. The recently Issued Scottish Government Resource Spending Review confirms that core Local Government funding over 2022/26 will be flat cash and it is estimated that this will mean real terms cuts in funding of over 7%. For Inverclyde with its on-going depopulation the funding cut will be even greater. This allied to the significant levels of inflation and the cost pressures arising from the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, the need for investment in existing assets plus policy areas such as net zero means the Council faces very difficult financial decisions in the short/medium term.

For the next three years budget (2023-2026) the estimated mid-range funding gap is £19.2 million with optimistic and pessimistic scenarios of £9.3 million and £26.9 million respectively. The Council continues to operate a cross party Members Budget Working Group and this Group plus the Trade Unions/Corporate Management team meeting via the Joint Budget Group will be pivotal as the Council faces unprecedented financial pressures.

In February, 2022 the Council agreed its 2022/23 budget. Savings of £1.56m were approved during the budget process with a further £4.0m approved Use of Reserves to balance the 2022/23 Revenue Budget. It is planned to eliminate the use of Reserves being used to balance the budget by 2024/25.

Treasury Management

The Council's 4 year Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy covering the period 2021-22 to 2024-25 was approved along with the Capital Strategy at the meeting of Inverclyde Council in April 2021. The Strategy identified the need to borrow £45 million over the period to replace existing loans due to be repaid and to fund the planned Capital Programme.

The borrowing strategy is prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Local Authorities. The Council's borrowing comes from market loans and from borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board. Further details are provided at Note 20. The Council regulates its capital spending limits within a prudential framework recommended by CIPFA and endorsed by the Scottish Government. Each year, the Council calculates its capital financing requirement (CFR) for the forthcoming year. The CFR is a prudent assessment of the external borrowings for capital investment purposes that are affordable and sustainable over the longer-term. The Council's external borrowings have only been for capital investment purposes. The Council's gross external debt was £246.2 million at 31 March 2022 compared to the CFR limit of £285.2 million. The Council's average loans rate was 3.43% for 2021-22, an increase of 0.01% from 2020-21. The Council repaid £10 million of maturing debt during the year and undertook no borrowing.

Management of Risk

Risk	Mitigating Actions
Sustainability of current funding levels: The recent Resource Spending Review by the Scottish Government reports flat cash settlements for Local Government in the period 2022/26. Given current pressures and inflation levels this will require forward planning and clear decision making by the Council.	The Finance Strategy (2022-32) provides the range of scenarios for the delivery of Council services in the medium to longer term. The strategy estimates the 2022/32 funding gap prior to considering further savings/adjustments. The Finance Strategy provides clear direction, supported by a practical framework and explicitly defined parameters, on how the Council will structure and manage financial resources in the medium to long term to ensure they are deployed effectively to achieve corporate objectives.
Increasing demand on Services and the Council's Finances.	The "Delivering Differently" program is in place to identify potential change in service delivery to deliver savings and/or reduce cost pressures. This is reviewed by the Corporate Management Team during the year and by the Policy & Resources Committee annually
Demographic Changes: the most significant challenge facing Inverclyde is depopulation and associated demographic change.	Recognised as a priority in the Inverclyde Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan 2018/22. Work around repopulation is led by the Inverclyde Alliance Group and any actions for the group are fed into the Repopulation strategy and action plan approved by the Alliance Board in March 2019.

The Annual Governance Statement, shown on pages 15-21, details the arrangements the Council has put in place for the proper governance of the Council's affairs and for the management of risk. This Statement explains the system of internal control in place and sets out improvement actions to the governance framework, identified from the Council's ongoing review of these arrangements.

Plans for the Future

The Inverclyde Alliance OIP and the Council's Corporate Plan set the strategic direction in terms of the policy priorities for the Council, whilst recognising the financial pressures existing and forecast. In addition to ongoing recovery planning, the Council and Community Planning Partnership are continuing to strengthen their approach to locality planning (in line with the Health and Social Care Partnership), community participation and engagement. Communities have a key role to play in shaping local public services and supporting the recovery of Inverclyde.

Inverclyde Council is one of the member local authorities of the £1.1 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley City Deal, the largest in the UK and the first of its kind in Scotland. This is one of the most significant funding arrangements to take place in Scotland and is funding major infrastructure projects and greatly add to the value of the wider local economy over the next 20 years. The headline projects within the Inverclyde area are the developments to the Greenock Ocean Terminal and Cruise Ship Berth, the Greenock Inchgreen dockland and the Inverkip transport interchange. The Council has now entered into a Joint Venture for the Greenock Inchgreen Dockland. Work across all three projects were subject to unavoidable delay due to Covid-19, however, Greenock Ocean Terminal is now on site and progressing well with completion expected later in 2022/23.



An artist's impression of the new visitor centre, art gallery and restaurant at Greenock Ocean Terminal

The recently revised Financial Strategy demonstrates that the Council is clear both about the outcomes it wants to achieve for the communities in Inverclyde and the financial challenges that must be addressed if the Council is to successfully deliver on these outcomes.

5. Supplementary Information

Equality and Diversity

Inverclyde Council is firmly committed to the principle of equality of opportunity. The Council recognises its responsibility as a community leader, service provider and employer, to encourage the fair treatment of all individuals and to tackle social exclusion. The Council is also committed to eradicate all forms of discrimination, direct or indirect, and aims to eliminate discriminatory practices and promote measures to combat its effects. Progress in relation to the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017/21 as well as the five new Equality Outcomes for 2021/25, which have been developed following public consultation can be found on the Council's website at <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/equality-and-diversity>.

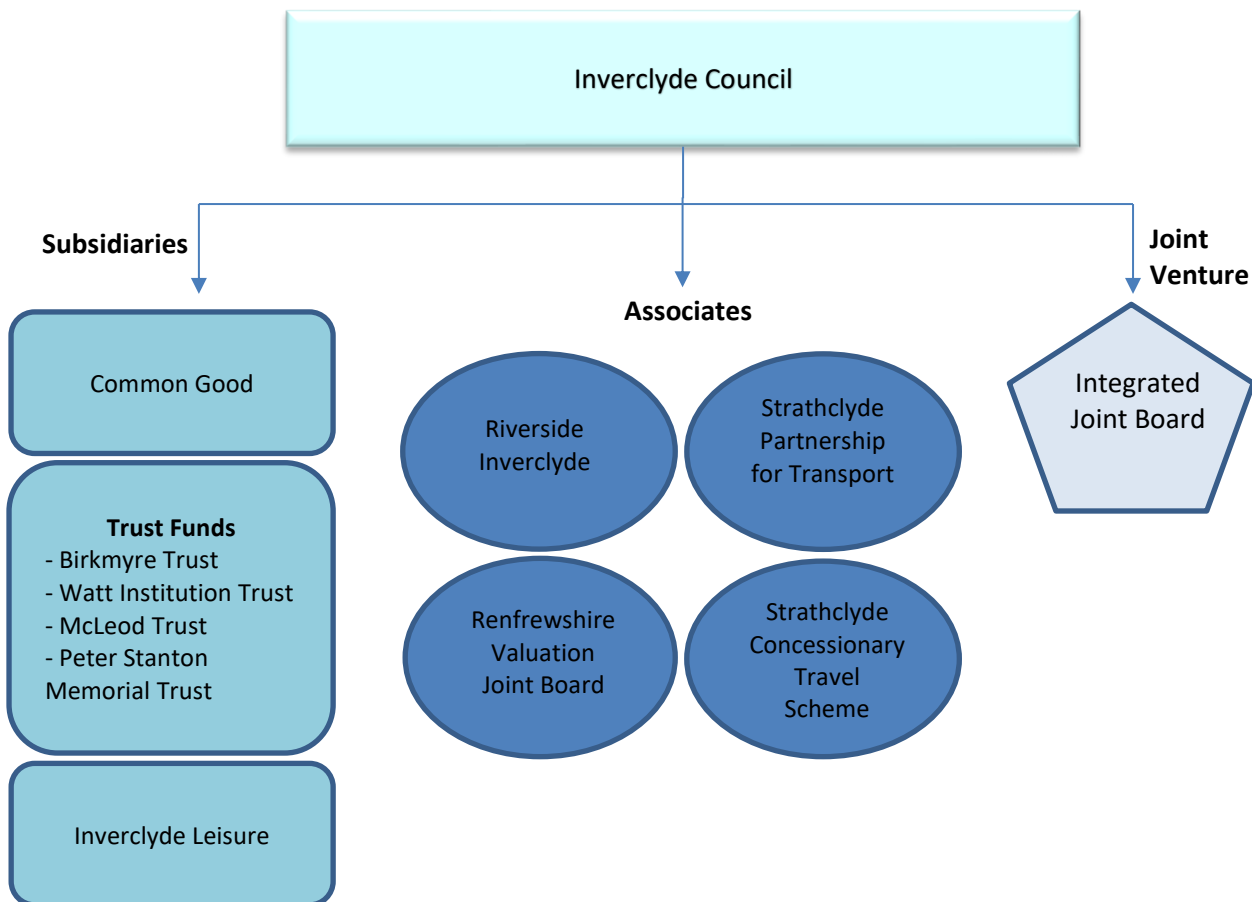
Consultation and Communication with Workforce

Inverclyde Council has in place employee governance arrangements to ensure its employees are well informed, involved in decisions, appropriately trained, treated fairly and consistently and provided with a safe environment.

The Council carries out periodic employee surveys, and seeks the views of the workforce through regular consultations with staff and trade unions. It was recognised that in responding to the pandemic the ask of our workforce has never been greater and in order to fully understand the impact on employee health an Employee Health and Wellbeing Survey was carried out in July 2020. The aim of the survey was to understand how staff were feeling, and what could be improved to enable them to work effectively, stay safe and maintain their wellbeing. In response to the survey results, a sustainable Health & Wellbeing Strategy was developed. The Strategy builds on the existing work around wellbeing and resilience for the workforce nationally and locally and links with our overall Covid-19 recovery plan. The 3 Pillars of the strategy are: Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing; Physical Wellbeing and Financial Wellbeing and the Strategy has been rolled out in 2021/22.

Inverclyde Council Group

The Code of Practice on local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 (the Code) requires the Council to prepare group accounts where the Council has material interests in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures. The Group Accounts consolidate the results of the entities shown in the diagram below. The impact of the inclusion of these bodies in the Group Balance sheet is to increase both net assets and total reserves by £37.923 million representing the Council's share of the net assets in these entities. Further details about the associates and joint arrangements in the Inverclyde Council group and their financial results can be found on pages 78 to 85.



In addition the Council has recently entered into a Joint Venture with regards to the Inchgreen development and this will form part of the Group Accounts from 2022/23 onwards.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events from the Balance Sheet Date until the Date of Signing the Accounts have been taken into consideration. There are no significant post Balance Sheet events to report.

6. Where to Find More Information

In This Publication

An explanation of the financial statements which follow and their purpose are shown at the top of each page. The accounting policies and a glossary of terms can be found at the end of this publication and these provide an explanation of the main guidelines and terms used.

On Our Website

Further information about Inverclyde Council can be obtained on the Council's website (www.inverclyde.gov.uk) or from Finance Services, Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, Greenock PA15 1LY.

On Group Entities' Websites

Further information about the entities within the Inverclyde Council group, the nature of their business and their financial results can be found on Inverclyde Leisure (www.inverclydeleisure.com), Riverside Inverclyde (www.riversideinverclyde.com), SPT (www.spt.co.uk), Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board (www.renfrewshire-vjb.gov.uk) and Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board (www.inverclyde.gov.uk/health-and-social-care).

7. Conclusion and Acknowledgements

The continuation of prudent financial management and medium term financial planning have allowed the Council to manage its financial affairs within budget and the financial objectives prescribed, whilst at the same time progressing major strategic initiatives such as the School Estate Strategy, the Road Assets Management Plan, wider regeneration via City Deal and the successful implementation of the Integrated Joint Board. This reflects well on both the efforts and professionalism of the employees and the effectiveness of our approach to financial management.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the significant effort in producing the Annual Accounts and to record our thanks to our colleagues for their continued hard work and support. We greatly appreciate the significant efforts of all who were involved.



Cllr Stephen McCabe
Leader of the Council



Louise Long
Chief Executive



Alan Puckrin C.P.F.A
Interim Director, Finance
and Corporate Governance

Statement of Responsibilities for the Annual Accounts

1. The Council's Responsibilities

The Council is required to:

- (i) Make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that the proper officer of the authority has responsibility for the administration of those affairs (section 95 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973). In this authority, that officer is the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance.
- (ii) Manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets.
- (iii) Ensure the Annual Accounts are prepared in accordance with legislation (The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 and Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020), and so far as is compatible with that legislation, in accordance with proper accounting practices (section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003).
- (iv) Approve the Annual Accounts for signature.

I confirm that these Annual Accounts were approved for signature by Inverclyde Council at its meeting on 10 November 2022.

Signed on behalf of Inverclyde Council

Cllr Stephen McCabe

Leader of the Council

Date: 10 November 2022

2. The Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance's Responsibilities

The Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance of Inverclyde Council is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Annual Accounts, in accordance with proper practices as required by legislation and as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ("The Accounting Code").

In preparing the Annual Accounts, the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance has:

- (i) Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently.
- (ii) Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent.
- (iii) Complied with legislation.
- (iv) Complied with the Local Authority Accounting Code (in so far as it is compatible with legislation).

The Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance has also:

- (i) Kept adequate accounting records which were up to date.
- (ii) Taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- (iii) Signed and dated the Balance Sheet.

I certify that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the local authority and its group at the reporting date and the transactions of the local authority and its group for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Alan Puckrin C.P.F.A

Interim Director, Finance and
Corporate Governance

Date: 10 November 2022

1. Scope of Responsibility

Inverclyde Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003, the Council also has a statutory duty to make arrangements to secure best value, which is defined as continuous improvement in the performance of the Council's functions.

In discharging these responsibilities, Elected Members and the Corporate Management Team are responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of the Council's affairs, and for facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including the arrangements for the management of risk. The Council has established two Arms-Length External Organisations – Inverclyde Leisure and Riverside Inverclyde – to deliver services more effectively on the Council's behalf, and which report regularly to Elected Members. From 1 April 2016, the Inverclyde Integration Joint Board was established for the formal integration of health and care services between Inverclyde Council and the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

The Council has adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance ("the Local Code") consistent with the seven principles of CIPFA and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) framework, "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)". A copy of the Local Code can be obtained from the Corporate Policy Unit, Municipal Buildings, Greenock, PA15 1LY.

This statement explains how Inverclyde Council has complied with the Local Code and also meets the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK, which details the requirements for an Annual Governance Statement.

2. The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and through which it accounts to, and engages with communities. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its key corporate priorities and strategic objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan. It enables the Council to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate value for money services.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. Internal control cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

This governance framework has been in place at Inverclyde Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 and up to the date of the approval of the Statement of Accounts.

3. The Governance Framework

The main features of the Council's governance arrangements are described in the Local Code but are summarised below:

- The overarching strategic vision of the Council is detailed in the Council's Corporate Plan which sets out the key outcomes the Council is committed to delivering with its partners, as set out in the Inverclyde Local Outcomes Improvement Plan. Services are able to demonstrate how their own activities link to the Council's vision and outcomes through their Corporate Directorate Improvement Plans. These were reviewed and updated during 2021/2022. Performance management and monitoring of service delivery is reported principally through the Policy & Resources Committee and to other Committees on a regular basis. The Corporate Management Team monitors performance information. The Council publishes information about its performance regularly as part of its public performance reporting requirements at <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/performance/>.
- The Inverclyde Alliance Community Engagement Strategy sets out the Alliance's approach for engaging with stakeholders. Consultation on the future vision and activities of the Council is undertaken through the Inverclyde Alliance, and through service specific consultations and the Council actively engages the Council's partners through existing community planning networks.

- Effective scrutiny and service improvement activities are supported by the formal submission of reports, findings and recommendations from Audit Scotland, the external auditor, Inspectorates and the Internal Audit section to the Corporate Management Team, the relevant service Committee of the Council and, where appropriate, the Audit Committee.
- The Council operates within an established procedural framework. The roles and responsibilities of Elected Members and officers are defined within the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration, Contract Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation and Financial Regulations; these are subject to regular review. The Council facilitates policy and decision making through a thematic Committee structure.
- Responsibility for maintaining and operating an effective system of internal financial control rests with the Council's Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance as Section 95 Officer. The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information, Financial Regulations, administrative procedures (including segregation of duties), management and supervision, and a system of delegation and accountability. Development and maintenance of the system is undertaken by managers within the Council.
- The Council continues to recognise the need to exercise strong financial management arrangements to manage the financial pressures common to all local authorities and has robust financial control and financial planning processes in place. A self-assessment exercise has been undertaken by officers to assess the level of ongoing compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code and plans to formally adopt the CIPFA Financial Management Code along with recommended actions to enhance financial management arrangements will be reported to Audit Committee and Policy and Resources Committee during 2022/23.
- The Council's approach to risk management is set out in the risk management strategy and is embedded within the Council's Strategic Planning and Performance Management Framework. Regular reporting on risk management is undertaken and reported annually to the Audit Committee.
- The Council has adopted a code of conduct for its employees. Elected Members observe and comply with terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct. In addition, the Council has developed a protocol on Member/officer relations, a multi-member ward protocol and guidance on Member/Member relationships.
- Comprehensive arrangements are in place to ensure Members and officers are supported by appropriate learning and development.
- In line with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption, the Council has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.

4. Review of Effectiveness

Inverclyde Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness of the framework is informed by the work of the Corporate Management Team who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Chief Internal Auditor's annual report, and reports from the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The review of the Council's governance framework is supported by a process of self-assessment and assurance certification by Heads of Service. Heads of Service were provided with a "Self-assessment Checklist" to complete and return as evidence of review of seven key areas of the Council's governance framework. As part of this process, Heads of Service were asked to identify their progress on implementing improvement actions identified as part of their 2021-2022 assessments and to identify actions they proposed to take during 2022-2023 to address service governance arrangements. The Corporate and Interim Directors then considered the completed evaluations and provided a Certificate of Assurance for their Directorate. In addition, the review of the effectiveness of governance arrangements and the systems of internal control within the group entities places reliance upon the individual bodies' management assurances in relation to the soundness of their systems of internal control.

Significant Events

The significant incident in late March 2020 and the Council's management as a Category 1 responder during the COVID-19 pandemic continued to test how well the risk management, governance and internal controls framework operated which continued into 2021-22 using amended governance arrangements, new ways of decision-making, leadership and implementation including virtual meetings and secure remote access to systems to allow homeworking for a significant number of employees within the Directorates.

Regular COVID-19 updates continued to be provided to the Policy & Resources Committee throughout 2021/22. The Council has also developed Organisational and Partnership Recovery Plans and has progressed a number of governance actions set out in the Organisational Recovery Plan including:

- Revised key governance documents in light of new ways of working were approved.
- Proposals for the longer term format of committees were developed.
- A pilot hybrid working scheme is underway across the Council to embed new ways of working.
- A review has commenced of the Office AMP, depots and other Council property to identify modifications required based on new ways of working.

The Inverclyde IJB was established by parliamentary order on 27 June 2015 following approval of the Inverclyde Integration Scheme by the Scottish Ministers. The Integration Scheme was reviewed during 2019-20 and an updated version of the Scheme was prepared but the Covid-19 pandemic led to this being delayed and the existing scheme rolled on into 2020-21 and continued into 2021-22. The Scottish Government have confirmed that IJBs will be required to review their current integration schemes rather than complete a new scheme. The integration scheme is currently being reviewed by the 6 Greater Glasgow and Clyde IJB's and the aim is to seek approval from the Inverclyde IJB in May 2023. The timeline for the completion of this task has slipped due to the scale of the work required for its completion and the requirement for consultation with the Health Board and each Local Authority.

There were no other significant governance issues identified by the review but a number of issues worthy of noting were identified and are detailed in Section 7 together with progress made in implementing improvement actions identified during 2020-2021. We propose over the coming year to take steps to address these matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvement which were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

5. Roles and Responsibilities of the Audit Committee and the Chief Internal Auditor

Elected Members and officers of the Council are committed to the concept of sound governance and the effective delivery of Council services. The Council's Audit Committee operates in accordance with CIPFA's Audit Committee Principles in Local Authorities in Scotland and Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities.

The Audit Committee performs a scrutiny role in relation to the application of CIPFA's Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017 (PSIAS) and regularly monitors the performance of the Council's Internal Audit service. The Council's Chief Internal Auditor has responsibility to review independently and report to the Audit Committee annually, to provide assurance on the adequacy and effectiveness of conformance with the PSIAS.

The Internal Audit service undertakes an annual programme of work, approved by the Audit Committee, based on a strategic risk assessment. The Chief Internal Auditor provides an independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the system of internal control.

The Chief Internal Auditor has conducted a review of all Internal Audit reports issued in 2021-2022 and the Certificates of Assurance from Corporate and Interim Directors. In conclusion, although no systems of internal control can provide absolute assurance, nor can Internal Audit give that assurance, on the basis of the audit work undertaken during the 2021-2022 financial year, the Chief Internal Auditor is able to conclude that a reasonable level of assurance can be given that the system of internal control is operating effectively within the Council.

6. Compliance with Best Practice

The Council complies with the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on "The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government 2010". The Council's Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance (Section 95 Officer) has overall responsibility for the Council's financial arrangements, and is professionally qualified and suitably experienced to lead the Council's finance function and to direct finance staff.

The Council complies with the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on "The Role of the Head of Internal Audit in Public Service Organisations 2010". The Council's Chief Internal Auditor has responsibility for the Council's Internal Audit function and is professionally qualified and suitably experienced to lead and direct the Council's Internal Audit staff. The Internal Audit service generally operates in accordance with the CIPFA "Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017".

7. Governance Issues and Planned Actions

The Council continues to recognise the need to exercise strong management arrangements to manage the financial pressures common to all Local Authorities. Regular reviews of the Council's arrangements are undertaken by Internal Audit and overall the Council's arrangements are generally satisfactory. The table below sets out seven improvement actions to the governance framework which were identified from the Council's ongoing review and monitoring of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements. These represent corporate initiatives that will be further progressed during 2022-2023.

	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we know we are getting there?	Who is responsible?
1	Workforce planning arrangements require to be refreshed in a number of services in order to develop proposals which address wider issues relating to succession planning due to an ageing profile of some staff groups, staff retention challenges and single person dependencies.	Workforce plans are in place which determine future workforce needs and implement solutions to ensure that organisational needs are aligned with the Council's people strategy.	Workforce plans will be reviewed during 2022-2023 to identify any gaps between current and future needs, identifying solutions to ensure the right resources are in place at the right time to deliver the Council's short and longer term objectives.	Corporate Management Team (Supported by Head of OD, Corporate Policy and Communications) 31 March 2023
2	Discussions are ongoing with key suppliers in some services to determine business continuity arrangements for cyber security risks.	Business continuity arrangements with key suppliers fully consider cyber security risks.	Business continuity plans and service impact analysis documents will be updated during 2022-2023 to reflect cyber security risk mitigations with key suppliers.	Directors (Supported by CRMT/CCS) 30 September 2022
3	Current service review guidance documentation is being reviewed to ensure this remains fit for purpose in order to improve the Council's efficiency and effectiveness and assist in addressing financial sustainability.	Service review documentation is in place which assists services to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service quality and processes which continues to ensure ongoing financial sustainability.	Service review guidance documentation will be reviewed and updated during 2022-2023 to reflect best practice guidance for services undertaking service reviews.	Head of OD, Corporate Policy and Communications 31 October 2022
4	Processes for document retention and disposal of records are currently being reviewed by the Council's Information Governance Steering Group to ensure the use of EDRMS is maximised within Services.	The use of EDRMS is maximised as far as possible to reduce the reliance on hard copy records and automate retention policy requirements.	The document retention and disposal process will be reviewed by the Information Governance Steering Group. This exercise will incorporate the corporate expansion of the use of EDRMS. A business case for this is being prepared by end October 2022.	Information Governance Group 31 March 2023

	Where are we now?	Where do we want to be?	How will we know we are getting there?	Who is responsible?
5	Some service risk registers were not reviewed on a regular basis during 2021-22 due to other work priorities as a result of Covid.	Service risk registers are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure risk assessments are maintained up to date which will allow directorate and corporate management teams to monitor and report on relevant key risks.	A new process is being developed to incorporate service risk registers within the Pentana system. This will include an automated reminder for risk owners to carry out a review of service risk registers to ensure risk assessments are maintained up to date and there is regular reporting to directorate and corporate management teams on the status of key risks.	Directors (Supported by Chief Internal Auditor) 31 October 2022
6	Business Classification Scheme framework has been developed and is being implemented within all Education establishments as part of the move over to the corporate network. The pilot exercise was undertaken however the rollout to remaining schools was halted as a result of responding to COVID-19.	Business Classification Scheme is fully implemented within all Education establishments.	A revised schedule was discussed with ICT. An update was provided to the June 2022 meeting of the Audit Committee as this is an outstanding audit action. A solution using the M365 platform has been identified which will be in place by August 2022. Deployment of the platform will then start with an anticipated completion date of June 2023.	Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development 30 June 2023
7	An assessment has been undertaken by officers of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code which confirms that the Council is compliant with the main aspects of the Code. This needs to be formally adopted by the Council.	The Council has formally adopted the CIPFA Financial Management Code.	A report will be presented to Audit Committee then to Policy and Resources Committee highlighting the CIPFA Financial Management Code and the formal adoption of the Code by the Council.	Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance 30 November 2022

Annual Governance Statement

In addition, the status of action plans from 2020-2021 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is set out in the undernoted table:

	Agreed Action	Status at 31/3/22	Further Action	Who is responsible?
1	The significant incident which started in March 2020 and the Council's management as a Category 1 responder during the COVID-19 pandemic tested how well the risk management, governance and internal controls framework is operating. Revised governance arrangements were put in place and recovery plans have been approved which set out a number of governance actions which will be undertaken over the next 12 months.	Regular reporting was undertaken during 2021/22 to Policy and Resources Committee on governance actions identified through the Organisational Recovery Plan. Complete	N/A	N/A
2	Mandatory training remains an issue for some service areas. The inclusion of mandatory training as part of the performance appraisal process has provided additional focus in this area.	The revised performance appraisal process includes the requirement for discussions around mandatory training. This is ongoing within some services.	No further action proposed. Ongoing process embedded into performance appraisal process.	N/A
3	BCS framework has been developed and is being implemented within all Education establishments as part of the move over to the corporate network. The pilot exercise was undertaken however the rollout to remaining schools was halted as a result of responding to COVID-19.	A revised schedule was discussed with ICT. An update was provided to the June 2022 meeting of the Audit Committee as this is an outstanding audit action. A solution using the M365 platform has been identified which will be in place by August 2022. Deployment of the platform will then start with an anticipated completion date of June 2023.		Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development June 2023 (see action point 6 on 2021-2022)

8. Assurance

Subject to the above, and on the basis of the assurances provided, we consider the governance and internal control environment operating during 2021-2022 provides reasonable and objective assurance that any significant risks impacting on the achievement of our principal objectives will be identified and actions taken to avoid or mitigate their impact. Systems are in place to continually review and improve the governance and internal control environment and action plans are in place to address identified areas for improvement.

Cllr Stephen McCabe
Leader of the Council

Louise Long
Chief Executive

1. Introduction

The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI No. 2014/200) require local authorities in Scotland to prepare a Remuneration Report as part of the annual statutory accounts.

All information disclosed in the tables in this Remuneration Report, with the exception of the Tiered Contribution Pay Rates table on Page 24, will be audited by Audit Scotland. The other sections of the Remuneration report will be reviewed by Audit Scotland to ensure that they are consistent with the financial statements.

2. Remuneration of the Leader of the Council, the Provost and Senior Councillors

The annual salary of the Leader of the Council and the upper limit for the annual salary of the Provost are set out by the Scottish Government in terms of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007, as amended by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2017. In 2021-2022 Councillors received a 4.28% pay increase. The salary for the Leader of the Council is £31,035 per annum (2020-2021 £29,760) and for the Provost is £23,284 per annum (2020-2021 £22,320).

In terms of the same Regulations, the Scottish Government permits Inverclyde Council to nominate up to nine Senior Councillors (in addition to the Leader of the Council and the Provost) whose salaries in aggregate must not exceed a specified amount, currently £180,026 per annum (2020-2021 £172,638) and whose salaries individually must be on a specified scale, currently £18,618 to £23,275 (2020-2021 £17,854 to £22,320). The Regulations also permit the Council to pay contributions or other payments as required to the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of those councillors who elect to become councillor members of the pension scheme.

The Inverclyde Council Members' Salary and Expense scheme was agreed at a meeting of the full Council on 24 May 2006. On 25 May 2017 the Council approved that Inverclyde Council would have up to nine senior Councillors, (four Strategic Committee Convenors, three Regulatory Board Chairs, one Depute Leader and one Leader of the largest non-administration group); each paid a salary of £20,955 per annum (2020-2021 £20,087).

3. Remuneration of Senior Officers

The salary of Senior Officers is set by reference to national arrangements. The Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC) for Local Authority Services sets out the salary for the Chief Executives of Scottish Local Authorities. Inverclyde Council does not pay bonuses or performance related pay. Senior Officers received an £800 award in 2021-22.

The Regulations define a Senior Officer as an employee who meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Who has responsibility for the management of the Local Authority to the extent that the person has the power to direct or control the major activities of the Authority, whether solely or collectively with other persons;
- Who holds a post that is politically restricted by reason of section 2(1) (a),(b) or (c) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989; or
- Whose annual remuneration, including any annual remuneration from a Local Authority subsidiary body, is £150,000 or more.

The Council has interpreted the above criteria as including the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors, Interim Directors and the Monitoring Officer.

The term *remuneration* means gross salary, fees and bonuses, allowances and taxable expenses, and compensation for loss of employment. The table below outlines the remuneration details for Senior Officers, including prior year figures. The table shows the relevant amounts, before tax and other deductions, for each of the persons named for the year to 31 March 2022. The table below contains remuneration details for those persons who were Senior Officers in 2021-2022.

Remuneration Report

Senior Officers	Year ended 31 March 2022				2020-2021
	Gross Salary	Other Fees and Allowances	Taxable Expenses	Total Remuneration	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£	£
Fawcett A: Chief Executive (Retired 19/09/21)	59,446	0	0	59,446	127,044
Allan, R S: Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (Retired 28/02/2021)	0	0	0	0	105,495
Binks R: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	116,712	0	0	116,712	116,043
Long, L: Corporate Director, Health and Social Care Partnership (was Director until appointed to Chief Executive on 19/09/21) (1)	123,849	0	0	123,849	117,779
Malone, G: Head of Legal & Property Services (Retired 28/02/2021)	0	0	0	0	91,680
Puckrin, A: Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance	106,165	0	0	106,165	95,525
Jamieson, S: Interim Director Environment & Economic Recovery	103,520	0	0	103,520	86,874
Sinclair, A: Interim Head of Legal Services (until 02/02/22) (2)	90,206	0	0	90,206	60,833
Strachan, I: Head of Legal Services (Appointed 27/01/22) (3)	15,681	0	0	15,681	0
Stevenson, A: Corporate Director, Health & Social Care Partnership (Appointed 30/8/21) (4)	60,188	0	0	60,188	84,254
Totals	675,767	0	0	675,767	885,527

(1) L Long was the Chief Officer of Inverclyde HSCP, but became the Chief Executive on 19/09/2021.

(2) A Sinclair's interim post ended on 27/01/2022.

(3) I Strachan was appointed Head of Legal and Democratic Services on 27/01/2022.

(4) A Stevenson was appointed Interim Chief Officer of Inverclyde HSCP on 30/08/2021.

4. Remuneration of Senior Councillors

Under the Regulations, remuneration disclosures are to be made for the Leader of the Council, the Provost and any Councillor designated a Senior Councillor. The table below shows the relevant amounts, before tax and other deductions, for each of the persons named for the year to 31 March 2022.

Remuneration Report

Leader of the Council, Provost and Senior Councillors	Year ended 31 March 2022			2020-2021
	Gross Salary	Taxable Expenses	Total Remuneration	Total Remuneration
	£	£	£	£
Ahlfeld, R: Chair, Licensing Board	20,955	0	20,955	20,087
Brennan, M: Provost	23,284	0	23,284	22,320
Clocherty, J: Depute Leader of the Council and Convener, Education & Communities	20,955	0	20,955	20,087
Dorrian, G: Chair, General Purposes	20,955	225	21,180	20,651
McCabe, S: Leader of the Council	31,035	232	31,267	30,191
McCormick, M: Convener, Environment & Regeneration	20,955	0	20,955	20,087
McEleny, C: Leader of the largest non-administration group (1)	0	0	0	18,608
Moran, R: Convener, Health & Social Care	20,955	0	20,955	20,141
Rebecchi, L: Convener, Audit	20,955	0	20,955	20,087
Robertson, E: Leader of the largest non-administration group (2)	20,955	0	20,955	19,290
Wilson, D: Chair, Planning	20,955	281	21,236	20,268
Totals	221,959	738	222,697	231,817

1. Councillor Chris McEleny received Leader of the Largest Non-Administration Group allowance between 1 April and 19 August 2020.
2. Councillor Elizabeth Robertson became the Leader of Largest Non-Administration Group from the 20 August 2020.
3. No payments were made in connection with loss of employment or office, nor were any other payments received which are not in the above table.
4. No Senior Councillor received any remuneration from a subsidiary of the Council as a representative of the Council.

5. Pension Entitlement

Pension benefits for Councillors and Local Government employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The pension is based on the person's pensionable service (how long he or she has been a member of the LGPS) and his or her pay. For Councillors, the pension is based on a "career average" – the aggregate of each year's pay (adjusted by inflation) is divided by the total number of years and part years they have been a member of the LGPS.

For officers, the pension is based on a career average from 1 April 2015. For service before this date, the annual pension is calculated by dividing their pay by 80 (60 for service after 31 March 2009) and multiplying this by their total membership. The normal retirement age (NRA) for service post 1 April 2015 is the same as for the state pension; the NRA for service pre 1 April 2015 is 65. Pensions payable are increased annually in line with changes in the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 and Section 59 of the Social Security Pension Act 1975. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004.

A LGPS member's contribution depends upon his or her full-time equivalent pay. The tables for the allocation of rates for 2021-2022 and 2020-2021 are shown below.

Tiered Contribution Pay Rates

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Pensionable Pay (2021-2022)	Rate (%)
On earnings up to and including £22,300	5.50%
On earnings above £22,301 and up to £27,300	7.25%
On earnings above £27,301 and up to £37,400	8.50%
On earnings above £37,401 and up to £49,900	9.50%
On earnings above £49,901	12.00%

Remuneration Report

Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Pensionable Pay (2020-2021)

	Rate (%)
On earnings up to and including £22,200	5.50%
On earnings above £22,200 and up to £27,100	7.25%
On earnings above £27,101 and up to £37,200	8.50%
On earnings above £37,201 and up to £49,600	9.50%
On earnings above £49,601	12.00%

The value of benefits in the table below has been provided by the Strathclyde Pension Fund Office and is calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will first become entitled to a full pension on retirement without reduction on account of its payment at that date: without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum: and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the person has accrued as a consequence of their total Local Government service, and not just their current appointment.

The pension entitlements for Senior Officers and Senior Councillors for the year to 31 March 2022 are shown in the tables below, together with the contribution made by the Council to each person's pension during the year. The tables contain information for those persons who were Senior Officers or Senior Councillors in 2021-2022.

Senior Officers	Accrued Pension Benefits		Change in Accrued Benefits		Pension Contributions made by Inverclyde Council		Length of Service at 31 March 2022 (years / days)
	as at 31 March 2022		since 31 March 2021		2021-2022	2020-2021	
	Pension	Lump Sum	Pension	Lump Sum			
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Fawcett A: Chief Executive (Retired 19/09/21)	63	37	0	(67)	11	24	34/77
Allan, R S: Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources (Retired 28/02/2021)	0	0	(63)	(116)	0	20	38/204
Binks R: Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	14	0	2	0	23	22	6/247
Long, L: Corporate Director, Health and Social Care Partnership (was Director until appointed to Chief Executive on 19/09/21)	22	0	3	0	24	23	17/48
Malone, G: Head of Legal & Property Services (Retired 28/02/2021)	0	0	(51)	(91)	0	17	37/231
Puckrin, A: Interim Director Finance & Corporate Governance	58	95	9	12	20	18	36/268
Jamieson, S: Interim Director Environment & Economic Recovery	31	24	5	4	20	17	21/139
Sinclair, A: Interim Head of Legal Services (until 02/02/22)	6	0	2	0	17	12	4/300
Strachan, I: Head of Legal Services (Appointed 27/01/22)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0/63
Stevenson, A: Corporate Director, Health & Social Care Partnership (Appointed 30/8/21)	41	51	0	0	20	17	24/304
Totals	235	207	(93)	(258)	138	170	

Remuneration Report

Leader of the Council, Provost and Senior Councillors	Accrued Pension Benefits		Change in Accrued Benefits		Pension Contributions made by Inverclyde Council	
	as at 31 March 2022		since 31 March 2021		2021-2022	2020-2021
	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000	Pension £000	Lump Sum £000	£000	£000
Ahlfeld, R: Chair, Licensing Board	5	0	1	0	4	4
Brennan, M: Provost	6	0	3	0	3	4
Clocherty, J: Depute Leader of the Council and Convener, Education & Communities	6	2	1	0	4	4
Dorrian, G: Chair, General Purposes	6	2	1	0	4	4
McCabe, S: Leader of the Council	5	0	(1)	0	6	6
McCormick, M: Convener, Environment & Regeneration	6	1	1	0	4	4
McEleny, C: Leader of the largest non-administration group	0	0	(1)	0	0	4
Moran, R: Provost, Convener, Health & Social Care	6	2	1	0	4	4
Wilson, D: Chair, Planning	8	2	0	0	0	3
Robertson, E: Leader of the largest non-administration group	2	0	0	0	4	4
Totals	50	9	6	0	33	41

6. Councillors' Remuneration

The Council paid the salaries, allowances and expenses to Councillors (including the Senior Councillors above) detailed in the table below for 2021-2022. The annual return of Councillors' salaries and expenses is available for any member of the public to view at all Council libraries and public offices during normal working hours and is also available on the Council's website at <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/councillors/elected-members-expenses/>

The annual return of Councillors' salaries and expenses is compiled under Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee (SLARC) guidance for public records whereas the Remuneration Report is compiled under a Scottish Statutory Instrument.

<u>All Councillors (Information from public record)</u>	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£	£
Salaries	445,474	426,791
Travel costs - reimbursed	809	680
Travel costs - paid directly by the Council	195	18
Subsistence expenses - accommodation	87	0
Subsistence expenses - meals	0	0
Training and conferences - paid directly by the Council	225	3,087
Telephone and ICT expenses - reimbursed	1,359	1,030
Telephone and ICT expenses - paid directly by the Council	2,314	2,920
Other allowances and expenses	1,621	60
Totals	452,084	434,586

7. Remuneration of Officers receiving more than £50,000

The following table details the number of employees whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions, was in excess of £50,000 during 2021-2022 in bands of £5,000; the details of the number of those employees who left the employment of the Council during 2021-2022; and the details of the number of those employees who were part or fully funded by other bodies.

Officers over £50,000 Remuneration Bands	Number of Employees		Left during	Part funded or fully funded by other organisations
	2020-2021	2021-2022	2021-2022	
£50,000 - £54,999	98	99	2	7
£55,000 - £59,999	42	38	1	4
£60,000 - £64,999	30	35	0	3
£65,000 - £69,999	14	12	0	0
£70,000 - £74,999	0	2	0	1
£75,000 - £79,999	2	3	0	0
£80,000 - £84,999	10	1	0	0
£85,000 - £89,999	6	7	0	0
£90,000 - £94,999	2	1	0	0
£95,000 - £99,999	1	1	0	1
£100,000 - £104,999	0	2	0	1
£105,000 - £109,999	1	1	0	0
£110,000 - £114,999	0	0	0	0
£115,000 - £119,999	2	1	0	0
£120,000 - £124,999	0	1	0	0
£125,000 - £129,999	1	0	0	0
£130,000 - £134,999	0	0	0	0
Totals	209	204	3	17

8. Exit Packages of Employees

The Council has agreed a number of exit packages as detailed in the table below. The exit packages agreed were all on a voluntary basis - there were no compulsory redundancies. The Council only agrees exit packages where they are consistent with wider workforce planning and service delivery objectives; and where the savings accruing from an individual ceasing employment with the Council exceed the costs of the exit package within an acceptable period.

Exit package cost band (including special payments)	(a)		(b)		(c)		(d)		(e)
	Number of compulsory redundancies		Number of other departures agreed		Total number of exit packages by cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band		
	2021-2022	2020-2021	2021-2022	2020-2021	2021-2022	2020-2021	£'s	£'s	
£0 - £20,000	0	0	33	5	33	5	248,599	44,156	
£20,001 - £40,000	0	0	22	0	22	0	573,369	0	
£40,001 - £60,000	0	0	1	1	1	1	48,713	56,862	
£60,001 - £80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
£80,001 - £100,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	93,958	
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	113,472	
£150,001 - £200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	0	0	56	8	56	8	870,681	308,448	

Notes:

1. The above exit package values include redundancy, pension strain, and compensatory lump sums for all retirees, the cost of which is reported under Note 16 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.
2. For employees with pensions provided by the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (the pension provider for teachers), the values include the notional capitalised cost of compensatory added years. The notional cost has not been assessed by the pensions provider and the values have instead been calculated by the local authority using a calculator developed and provided by the pensions provider on the understanding that it is fit for purpose.
3. For employees with pensions provided by the Strathclyde Pension Fund (the pensions provider for all employees other than teachers), the values also include the notional capitalised cost of added years. These costs are based on an assessment by the pensions provider itself of the present value of all future payments to the retiree until death.

Termination Benefits of Employees

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before their normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits. They are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service line in the CIES at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises the costs for a restructuring.

The Council terminated the contracts of a number of employees in 2021-2022. The above table includes £0.055 million liabilities relating to these releases (2020-2021 £0.171 million).

Cllr Stephen McCabe

Leader of the Council

Louise Long

Chief Executive

Trade Union Facility Time

Inverclyde Council recognises six trade unions for the purpose of collective bargaining, Unison, GMB, Unite, EIS, UCATT and SSTA.

There were 8 (7.90FTE) staff members who were trade union officials during 2021-2022 (2020-2021: 6 staff).

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of Employees 2021-2022	Number of Employees 2020-2021
0%	0	0
1% - 50%	5	4
51% - 99%	1	1
100%	2	1

The total cost of facility time amounted to 0.07% (2020-2021: 0.06%) of the total pay bill, including gross amounts spent on wages, pension contributions and national insurance contributions. 1.52% of the total paid facility time hours was spent on trade union activities (2020-2021: 1.09%).

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Note 1 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (Government Grants, Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the Council's directorates. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2021-2022

	Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis	Adjustment to Insurance Fund	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Education	93,513	16,268	(156)	109,625
Communities	5,510	3,998	(17)	9,491
Environment & Regeneration	31,079	6,046	(117)	37,008
Health & Social Care	59,631	7,577	(74)	67,134
Policy & Resources	16,427	1,653	(2)	18,078
Net Cost of Services	206,160	35,542	(366)	241,336
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	(67)	0	(67)
Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure (Note 4)	15,884	(1,622)	366	14,628
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (Note 5)	(218,185)	(11,974)	0	(230,159)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	3,859	21,879	0	25,738
Opening General Fund balance at 1 April 2021	42,812			
Transfer (to)/from Other Statutory Reserves	156			
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund in the year	(3,859)			
Closing General Fund balance at 31 March 2022	39,109			

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts

2021-2022	Adjustments for Capital purposes	Net change to Pension adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Education	15,056	6,721	(5,509)	16,268
Communities	3,533	354	111	3,998
Environment & Regeneration	3,711	3,233	(897)	6,047
Health & Social Care	385	7,054	138	7,577
Policy & Resources	780	790	82	1,652
Net Cost of Services	23,465	18,152	(6,075)	35,542
Other operating expenditure	(67)	0	0	(67)
Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure	(3,683)	2,160	(99)	(1,622)
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	(11,974)	0	0	(11,974)
Difference between General Fund (Surplus)/Deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Service	7,741	20,312	(6,174)	21,879

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Comparative Figures for 2020-2021 Restated

	Expenditure chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis Restated	Adjustments to Insurance Fund	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement Restated
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Education	88,080	6,571	(113)	94,538
Communities	6,171	2,495	(13)	8,654
Environment & Regeneration	27,042	4,735	(98)	31,679
Health & Social Care	53,128	4,348	(54)	57,422
Policy & Resources	16,267	(552)	(2)	15,713
Net Cost of Services	190,688	17,597	(279)	208,006
(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets	0	11,726	0	11,726
Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure (Note 4)	20,220	(5,439)	279	15,060
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (Note 5)	(215,942)	(9,812)	0	(225,754)
(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5,034)	14,072	(0)	9,038
Opening General Fund balance at 1 April 2020	37,983			
Transfer (to)/from other statutory reserves	(205)			
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund in the year	5,034			
Closing General Fund balance at 31 March 2021	42,812			

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement amounts

2020-2021 Restated	Adjustments for Capital purposes	Net change to Pension adjustments	Other differences	Total adjustments
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Education	8,802	3,394	(5,625)	6,571
Communities	2,211	189	95	2,495
Environment & Regeneration	3,695	1,759	(719)	4,735
Health & Social Care	388	3,788	172	4,348
Policy & Resources	626	(1,225)	47	(552)
Net Cost of Services	15,722	7,905	(6,030)	17,597
Other operating expenditure	11,726	0	0	11,726
Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure	(7,580)	2,239	(98)	(5,439)
Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income	(9,812)	0	0	(9,812)
Difference between General Fund (Surplus)/Deficit and Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Service	10,056	10,144	(6,128)	14,072

Adjustments for Capital Purposes

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

- **Other operating expenditure** – adjusts for capital disposals with a transfer of income on disposal of assets and the amounts written off for those assets.
- **Financing and investment (income) and expenditure** – the statutory charges for capital financing and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure** – capital grants are adjusted for income not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices. Revenue grants are adjusted from those receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year. The Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for those which conditions were satisfied in the year.

Changes for Pension Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and addition of IAS19 Employee Benefits pension related expenditure and income:

- **For services** – this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with the current service costs and past service costs.
- **For financing and investment income and expenditure** – the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement.

Other Differences

Other Statutory Adjustments

Other statutory adjustments between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- **For financing and investment (income) and expenditure** – the other statutory adjustments column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

Other Non-Statutory Adjustments

Other non-statutory adjustments represent amounts debited/credited to service segments which need to be adjusted against the 'Other income and expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis' line to comply with the presentational requirements in the CIES:

- **For financing and investment (income) and expenditure** the other non-statutory adjustment column recognises adjustments to service segments, e.g. for interest income and expenditure and changes in the fair values of investment properties.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

Where items are not disclosed on the face of the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES), *The Code* requires a disclosure of the nature and amount of material items. An analysis of material items of income and expenditure by nature is shown below:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Expenditure		
Employee Benefits Expenses	162,047	140,956
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	24,900	19,255
Payment to IJB	59,629	52,973
Other Service Expenses	139,266	130,161
Interest Payments	14,628	15,060
(Gain) or Loss on the Disposal of Assets	(67)	11,726
Total Expenditure	400,403	370,131
Income		
Fees, Charges and Other Service Income	(25,158)	(24,833)
Payment from IJB	(59,629)	(52,973)
Income from Council Tax	(33,050)	(32,238)
Government Grants and Contributions	(256,828)	(251,049)
Total Income	(374,665)	(361,093)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Service	25,738	9,038

Segmental Income

Income received on a segmental basis is analysed below:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	Income from Services	Income from Services
	£000	£000
Services		
Education	(25,359)	(23,293)
Communities	(1,269)	(478)
Environment & Regeneration	(19,066)	(16,220)
Health & Social Care	(85,191)	(84,187)
Policy & Resources	(26,846)	(26,725)
Total Income Analysed on a Segmental Basis	(157,731)	(150,903)

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

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

2020-2021				2021-2022		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
111,995	(17,457)	94,538	Education	127,872	(18,246)	109,626
9,128	(474)	8,654	Communities	10,760	(1,269)	9,491
42,572	(10,893)	31,679	Environment & Regeneration	50,586	(13,578)	37,008
141,609	(84,187)	57,422	Health & Social Care	152,325	(85,191)	67,134
41,656	(25,943)	15,713	Policy & Resources	44,299	(26,222)	18,077
346,960	(138,954)	208,006	Cost of Services	385,842	(144,506)	241,336
			Other Operating Expenditure and (Income) -			
		11,726	(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets			(67)
		15,060	Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure (Note 4)			14,628
		(225,754)	Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (Note 5)			(230,159)
		9,038	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services			25,738
		(65,911)	(Surplus) or deficit on the revaluation of non current assets			(19,122)
		5,896	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve			1,990
		753	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pensions liability (Note 16)			(93,855)
		(59,262)	Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure			(110,987)
		(50,224)	Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure			(85,249)

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is 'usable reserves', which are reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is 'unusable reserves' and these are not available to provide services. This category of reserves holds unrealised gains or losses (in for example the Revaluation Reserve) and timing differences (as detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement line "Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations").

31 March 2021			31 March 2022
Restated		Note	£000
£000			£000
541,776	Property, Plant & Equipment	7	551,368
18,060	Heritage Assets	10	18,060
66	Intangible Assets		33
377	Long-term Debtors	11	311
560,279	Non-current Assets		569,772
24,556	Short-term Investments	20	14,600
375	Assets Held for Sale	8	0
371	Inventories		394
18,494	Short-term Debtors	11	28,301
14,515	Cash and Cash Equivalents	12	18,192
58,311	Current Assets		61,487
(12,093)	Short-term Borrowing	20	(9,590)
(41,542)	Short-term Creditors	13	(54,918)
(969)	Short-term Provisions	14	(271)
(1,621)	Short-term Finance Leases	15	(2,003)
(56,225)	Current Liabilities		(66,782)
(189,457)	Long-term Borrowing	20	(181,832)
(3,170)	Government Grants Deferred		(3,165)
	Other Long-term Liabilities:		
(57,375)	Finance Leases	15	(55,412)
(98,972)	Pensions	16	(25,428)
(348,974)	Long-term Liabilities		(265,837)
213,391	Net Assets		298,640
52,197	Usable Reserves	3	48,067
161,194	Unusable Reserves	18	250,573
213,391	Total Reserves		298,640

Alan Puckrin C.P.F.A

Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance

Issued on: 10 November 2022

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'Usable Reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and 'Unusable Reserves'. The Movement in Reserves Statement shows how the movements in year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to Council Tax for the year. The net increase/(decrease) line shows the statutory General Fund balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Usable Reserves						Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	General Fund Balance	Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied Account	Capital Fund	Repairs & Renewal Fund	Insurance Fund	Total Usable Reserves		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	42,812	1,409	546	3,227	4,203	52,197	161,194	213,391
Movement in Reserves during 2021-2022								
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(25,738)	0	0	0	0	(25,738)	110,987	85,249
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 2)	21,879	(609)	0	0	0	21,270	(21,270)	0
Net Increase or (Decrease) before Transfers to Other Statutory Reserves	(3,859)	(609)	0	0	0	(4,468)	89,717	85,249
Transfers (to) and from Other Statutory Reserves	156	0	(390)	142	430	338	(338)	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the Year	(3,703)	(609)	(390)	142	430	(4,130)	89,379	85,249
Balance at 31 March 2022 Carried Forward	39,109	800	156	3,369	4,633	48,067	250,573	298,640

Comparative Figures for Year ended 31 March 2021 Restated

	Usable Reserves						Unusable Reserves	Total Reserves of the Council
	General Fund Balance	Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied Account	Capital Fund	Repairs & Renewal Fund	Insurance Fund	Total Usable Reserves		
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2020 Carried Forward	37,983	1,118	345	3,338	3,887	46,671	116,496	163,167
Movement in Reserves during 2020-2021								
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(9,038)	0	0	0	0	(9,038)	59,262	50,224
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 2)	14,072	291	0	0	0	14,363	(14,363)	0
Net Increase or (Decrease) before Transfers to Other Statutory Reserves	5,034	291	0	0	0	5,325	44,899	50,224
Transfers (to) and from Other Statutory Reserves	(205)	0	201	(111)	316	201	(201)	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the Year	4,829	291	201	(111)	316	5,526	44,698	50,224
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	42,812	1,409	546	3,227	4,203	52,197	161,194	213,391

Cash Flow Statement

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

2020-2021 £000		2021-2022 £000
(9,038)	Net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services	(25,738)
51,973	Adjustments to net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 26)	52,126
	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and	
(9,625)	financing activities (Note 26)	(159)
33,310	Net cash inflow from Operating Activities (Note 26)	26,229
(31,429)	Investing Activities (Note 27)	(10,958)
(16,634)	Financing Activities (Note 28)	(11,594)
(14,753)	Net increase or (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	3,677
29,268	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	14,515
14,515	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 12)	18,192

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 2 Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

Income and expenditure is recognised by the Council in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) in accordance with proper accounting practice. Certain adjustments are then made by law in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS). The adjusted figures are those that are available to meet future capital and revenue expenditure. The table below details these adjustments. Figures for 2020-2021 are provided in an additional table for the purposes of comparison.

2021-2022	Usable Reserves		Corresponding Adjustments to Unusable Reserves					
	Adjustments to Comprehensive Income & Expenditure £000	Adjustment to Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied Account (Usable Reserve) £000	Revaluation Reserve £000	Pensions Reserve £000	Capital Adjustment Account £000	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account £000	Employee Statutory Adjustment Account £000	Net Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	28,940				(28,940)			(28,940)
Amortisation of intangible assets	33				(33)			(33)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(11,974)	(609)			12,583			12,583
Capital expenditure charged in-year to the General Fund balance.	(5,508)				5,508			5,508
Net gain or (loss) on non-current asset disposals	(67)				67			67
Statutory provision for the principal repayment of loan charges	(9,856)				9,856			9,856
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(99)					99		99
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES (see note 16)	35,406			(35,406)				(35,406)
Employers' pension contributions payable in the year	(15,094)			15,094				15,094
Amount by which employees' remuneration charged to the CIES on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	98						(98)	(98)
Total Adjustments	21,879	(609)	0	(20,312)	(959)	99	(98)	(21,270)

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Comparative Information 2020-2021 Restated

2020-2021	Usable Reserves		Corresponding Adjustments to Unusable Reserves					
	Adjustments to Comprehensive Income & Expenditure £000	Adjustment to Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied Account (Usable Reserve) £000	Revaluation Reserve £000	Pensions Reserve £000	Capital Adjustment Account £000	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account £000	Employee Statutory Adjustment Account £000	Net Movement in Unusable Reserves £000
Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	19,206				(19,206)			(19,206)
Amortisation of intangible assets	49				(49)			(49)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(9,812)	291			9,521			9,521
Capital expenditure charged in-year to the General Fund balance.	(3,533)				3,533			3,533
Net gain or (loss) on non-current asset disposals	11,726				(11,726)			(11,726)
Statutory provision for the principal repayment of loan charges	(13,977)				13,977			13,977
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(98)					98		98
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the CIES (see note 16)	24,481			(24,481)				(24,481)
Employers' pension contributions payable in the year	(14,337)			14,337				14,337
Amount by which employees' remuneration charged to the CIES on an accrual basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	367						(367)	(367)
Total Adjustments	14,072	291	0	(10,144)	(3,950)	98	(367)	(14,363)

Note 3 Usable Reserves

Reserves are created by appropriating amounts from the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service within the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

The Council has several usable reserve funds. The Insurance Fund covers the main classes of insurance and is earmarked for insurance purposes. The Repairs & Renewals Fund provides for the upkeep of specific assets held by the Council. The Capital Fund is used to meet the costs of capital investment in assets and for the repayment of the principal element of borrowings.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Movements in the Council's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS). The major part of the General Fund balance shown in the MiRS has been earmarked and effectively committed to fund specific projects in future years. The amounts set aside for earmarked reserves are shown in the following table:

	Balance at 1 April 2020	Transfers Out 2020-2021	Transfers In 2020-2021	Balance at 31 March 2021	Transfers Out 2021-2022	Transfers In 2021-2022	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Earmarked Reserves:							
Digital Strategy	338	(144)	0	194	(34)	0	160
School Estate Management Plan	668	(15,179)	14,728	217	(15,174)	15,223	266
Contribution to Riverside Inverclyde	126	(57)	0	69	(69)	0	0
Miscellaneous Policy & Resources Committee Reserves	1,399	(1,530)	1,118	987	(140)	700	1,547
Miscellaneous Environment & Regeneration Committee Reserves	1,396	(1,145)	649	900	(269)	0	631
City Deal	1,026	(500)	345	871	0	345	1,216
Renewal of Clune Park Area	2,294	(40)	90	2,344	(107)	90	2,327
Asset Management Plan	168	(786)	760	142	(142)	0	0
Spend to Save	477	(477)	0	0	0	0	0
Major Events 2019-2021	140	(140)	0	0	0	0	0
Community Fund	159	(67)	0	92	(52)	0	40
Early Retiral/Voluntary Severance Reserve	3,113	(1,621)	0	1,492	(49)	30	1,473
Job Recovery Plan	0	0	3,210	3,210	(133)	0	3,077
Jobs Refresh	0	0	2,201	2,201	(2,161)	0	40
ECOD - COVID Reserves	0	0	5,257	5,257	(5,099)	2,465	2,623
ERR - COVID Reserves	0	0	1,078	1,078	(697)	975	1,356
P&R - COVID Reserves	0	0	480	480	(322)	2,180	2,338
Covid Contingency	0	0	1,409	1,409	(1,409)	0	0
Revenue Contribution to Capital Programme	6,058	(719)	0	5,339	(5,339)	2,776	2,776
Miscellaneous Education & Communities Reserves	1,058	(745)	1,045	1,358	(598)	120	880
Vehicle Replacement Programme	178	(1,081)	1,162	259	(1,274)	1,015	0
Equal Pay	821	(621)	0	200	0	0	200
Youth Employment	455	(102)	0	353	(173)	0	180
Repopulating/Promoting Inverclyde	530	(265)	0	265	(8)	0	257
Beacon Arts Centre	87	0	0	87	0	0	87
Temporary Use of Reserves - Revenue Budget	3,000	(3,000)	0	0	0	0	0
Anti Poverty Fund	1,144	(274)	126	996	(571)	763	1,188
Loans Charges Reserve	4,150	(3,384)	0	766	(1,500)	1,071	337
Support with Energy Bill Costs	0	0	0	0	0	3,000	3,000
Budget Funding Reserves	0	0	5,050	5,050	(1,050)	2,000	6,000
Climate Change	500	(200)	0	300	(69)	0	231
Early Years Funding	2,043	(1,302)	1,781	2,522	(2,235)	1,705	1,992
Employability/Business Support	600	(105)	154	649	(516)	1,035	1,168
Resilience/Insurance Claims	750	(750)	0	0	0	0	0
Total Earmarked Reserves	32,678	(34,234)	40,643	39,087	(39,190)	35,493	35,390

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £000	Transfers Out 2020-2021 £000	Transfers In 2020-2021 £000	Balance at 31 March 2021 £000	Transfers Out 2021-2022 £000	Transfers In 2021-2022 £000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £000
Total Earmarked Reserves	32,678	(34,234)	40,643	39,087	(39,190)	35,493	35,390
Non-earmarked balance	5,305	(1,580)	0	3,725	(6)		3,719
Total General Fund Balance	37,983	(35,814)	40,643	42,812	(39,196)	35,493	39,109
Capital Fund	345	0	201	546	(390)	0	156
Repairs & Renewal Fund	3,338	(111)	0	3,227	0	142	3,369
Insurance Fund	3,887	0	316	4,203	0	430	4,633
Capital Receipts Unapplied Account	1,118	0	291	1,409	(609)	0	800
Total Usable Reserves	46,671	(35,925)	41,451	52,197	(40,195)	36,065	48,067

Note 4 Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure

	2021-2022 £000	2020-2021 £000
Interest payable and similar charges:		
- Schools' Public Private Partnership finance lease	4,696	4,739
- Other interest payments and similar charges	7,976	8,226
Net interest on the defined benefit pension liability	2,160	2,239
Interest receivable and similar income	(204)	(144)
Total	14,628	15,060

Note 5 Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income

	2021-2022 £000	2020-2021 £000
Income from Council Tax	(33,050)	(32,238)
Distribution from Non-Domestic Rates pool	(12,019)	(13,118)
General Revenue Grant	(173,116)	(170,586)
Recognised Capital Grants and contributions	(11,974)	(9,812)
Total	(230,159)	(225,754)

Government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- The grants or contributions will be received.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. Where conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants) or Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants). Where capital grants are credited to the CIES, they are reversed out of the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

The Council credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the CIES in 2021-2022:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Credited to Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income		
General Revenue Grant	(167,618)	(171,485)
Distribution from Non-Domestic Rates pool	(17,516)	(13,118)
General Capital Grant (excludes amounts directly credited to Services)	(6,818)	(6,290)
Capital Grants	(5,015)	(2,999)
Credited to Services		
Housing Benefit	(23,111)	(23,964)
Housing Benefit Administration	(360)	(374)
Other Housing	(928)	(1,987)
Community Service Grant	(1,139)	(294)
Social Work	(3,546)	(3,695)
Regeneration	(505)	0
Resource Transfer	(11,999)	(11,999)
Roads	(85)	0
Education	(16,158)	(13,911)
Employability	18	(84)
Covid	(808)	(1,151)
Other	(1,241)	(208)
Total	(256,829)	(251,559)

Note 6 External Audit Fees

The Council incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and statutory inspections by the Council's external auditors.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Fees payable to Audit Scotland with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year.	265	260
	265	260

Note 7 Property, Plant & Equipment

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the supply of services, for rental to others or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as *Property, Plant & Equipment*.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant & Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis. Expenditure that merely maintains the condition of an asset e.g. repairs and maintenance is charged as an expense when it is incurred.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- The purchase price, and
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- Infrastructure, community assets & assets under construction – depreciated historic cost.
- Surplus assets – current value as estimated at highest and best use from an open market perspective (fair value).
- All other assets - current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value).

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost or insurance replacement cost has been used as an estimate of current value. For non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values, depreciated historical cost basis is used as a proxy for fair value.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued sufficiently regularly to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their current value at the year-end. The Council has moved to an Indexation method of revaluation, rather than the five year interval which previously took place. This means that the value of the assets will be updated more frequently than every five years. The indexation valuation percentages are independently undertaken by Avison Young, a professional firm of chartered surveyors, and was completed on 31 March 2022.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication of impairment. The Council recognises the impairment of non-current assets in accordance with Financial Standard IAS36 (Impairment of Assets) whereby any material reduction in asset value as a result of changing market conditions or clear consumption of an asset is recognised in the CIES only to the extent that the loss exceeds the balance on the Revaluation Reserve relating to the specific asset.

Disposals

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is taken to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the CIES. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the (Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant & Equipment assets. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. land and certain community assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis over the useful life of the assets. No depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition but a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of disposal.

The periods of depreciation and categories of assets are:

- Buildings – 10 to 60 years;
- Schools – 10 to 60 years;
- Vehicles, equipment and plant – 2 to 10 years;
- Infrastructure – 2 to 40 years.

Where a material item of Property, Plant & Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately in accordance with the Council approved policy for material assets with a value in excess of £1 million. Significant components are deemed to be those whose value is 25% or more of the total value of the asset.

Charges to Revenue for Non-current Assets

Services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

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

Movement on Balances

The movements on balances for Property, Plant & Equipment (PPE) are shown in the following table. Figures for 2020-2021 are provided in an additional table below for the purposes of comparison.

Movements in 2021-2022

	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets not for Sale £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Schools PPP Assets £000	Total PPE £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2021	373,184	26,643	699	4,060	10,620	96,340	511,546
Additions in year	8,627	1,509	106	286	6,267	20	16,815
Disposals in year	0	(1,327)	0	(202)		0	(1,529)
Revaluation adjustments to Revaluation Reserve	4,545			0	2,068	281	6,894
Revaluation adjustments to CIES							0
Reclassifications to/from Held for Sale							0
Other reclassifications	7,413				(7,530)		(117)
At 31 March 2022	393,769	26,825	805	4,144	11,425	96,641	533,609
Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2021	23,016	17,156	507	681	0	0	41,360
Depreciation charge for the year	18,576	2,288	0	6	1	2,949	23,820
Impairment losses to Revaluation Reserve	0	0	0	0			0
Impairment losses to CIES	0		0				0
Depreciation on disposals	0	(1,327)	0	0		0	(1,327)
On Revaluations to Revaluation Reserve	(9,818)	0	0	0		(143)	(9,961)
On Revaluations to CIES							0
Reclassifications to/from Held for Sale							0
Other reclassifications					0		0
At 31 March 2022	31,774	18,117	507	687	1	2,806	53,892
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2022	361,995	8,708	298	3,457	11,424	93,835	479,717
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2021	350,168	9,487	192	3,379	10,620	96,340	470,186
Nature of asset holding							
Owned	345,313	8,708	295	3,327	11,424	0	369,067
Managed properties	16,682	0	3	130	0	0	16,815
PPP	0	0	0	0	0	93,835	93,835

The Net Book Value of the Infrastructure Assets, as at 31 March 2022 was £71.651m (2020-2021 £71.590m). The total NBV of PPE including the Infrastructure Assets is therefore £551.368m (2020-2021 £541.776m).

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Comparative Movements in 2020-2021

	Other Land & Buildings £000	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment £000	Community Assets £000	Surplus Assets not for Sale £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Schools PPP Assets £000	Total PPE £000
Cost or Valuation							
At 1 April 2020	386,263	23,103	542	3,482	6,446	90,673	510,509
Additions in year	6,286	4,154	69	300	2,938	4	13,751
Disposals in year	(14,125)	(614)	(110)	(1,009)		(165)	(16,023)
Revaluation adjustments to Revaluation Reserve	256			231		5,828	6,315
Revaluation adjustments to CIES							0
Reclassifications to/from Held for Sale							0
Other reclassifications	(5,496)		198	1,056	1,236		(3,006)
At 31 March 2021	373,184	26,643	699	4,060	10,620	96,340	511,546
Depreciation and Impairment							
At 1 April 2020	55,342	15,921	280	0	0	8,622	80,165
Depreciation charge for the year	11,260	1,661	23	2		2,148	15,094
Impairment losses to Revaluation Reserve	4,647	185	220	844			5,896
Impairment losses to CIES	1,111		19				1,130
Depreciation on disposals	(3,327)	(569)	(1)	(11)		(106)	(4,014)
On Revaluations to Revaluation Reserve	(46,017)	(42)	(34)	(154)		(10,664)	(56,911)
On Revaluations to CIES							0
Reclassifications to/from Held for Sale							0
Other reclassifications					0		0
At 31 March 2021	23,016	17,156	507	681	0	0	41,360
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2021	350,168	9,487	192	3,379	10,620	96,340	470,186
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March 2020	330,921	7,182	262	3,482	6,446	82,051	430,344
Nature of asset holding							
Owned	333,039	9,487	192	3,249	10,620		356,587
Managed Properties	17,129			130			17,259
PPP						96,340	96,340

Commitments under Capital Contracts

At 31 March 2022, the Council has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant & Equipment and for contributions to capital works budgeted to cost £4.859 million. Similar contracts at 31 March 2021 were £6.302 million. The major capital commitments include:

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

	£000
Cemetery Redevelopment	798
Cremator Replacement	755
Gourock Primary School Extension	773

Note 8 Assets Held for Sale

Property, land and buildings are classified as “*Held for Sale*” when the following criteria are met:

- The property is available for immediate sale in its present condition.
- The sale must be highly probable; and an active programme to locate a buyer and complete the plan must have been initiated.
- The asset must be actively marketed for sale at a price that is reasonable in relation to its current fair value.
- The sale should be expected to qualify for recognition as a completed sale within one year (although events or circumstances may extend the period to complete the sale beyond one year).

When these criteria are met, assets within the category of *Property, Plant & Equipment* will be reclassified to “*Assets Held for Sale*”. The date of reclassification will normally be the date approval was granted by Committee to sell the asset.

At 31 March 2022, the Council had no assets held for sale (31 March 2021 £0.375 million).

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Opening Balance at 1 April	375	375
Disposals	(375)	0
Assets newly classified as “held for sale”: Property, Plant & Equipment	0	0
Revaluation adjustments to Revaluation Reserve	0	0
Closing Balance at 31 March	0	375

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 9 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the assets acquired under finance leases and PPP contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue, as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement, a measure of capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	291,832	302,232
Capital Investment		
~ Capital Expenditure	21,581	16,797
~ Leased equipment and Schools PPP assets	21	0
Total Capital Investment for the year	21,602	16,797
Sources of Finance:		
~ Capital receipts from the sale of assets	(307)	(166)
~ Government grants and other contributions	(12,583)	(9,521)
~ Capital from current revenue	(5,508)	(3,533)
~ Loans Fund principal repayment (including finance leases & PPP)	(9,856)	(13,977)
Total Capital Financing for the year	(28,254)	(27,197)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	285,180	291,832

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Explanation of movements in the year:		
~ Increase/(Reduction) in underlying need to borrow	(5,071)	(8,703)
~ Increase/(Reduction) in finance leases obligations	0	0
~ Increase/(Reduction) in PPP finance lease creditor	(1,581)	(1,697)
Increase/(Reduction) in Capital Financing Requirement	(6,652)	(10,400)

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 10 Heritage Assets

The Council holds and conserves heritage assets for future generations in support of the primary objective of increasing the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the history of the area of Inverclyde.

As a general policy, heritage assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet where the Council has information on the cost or value of the asset. Where information on cost or value is not available, and the cost of obtaining the information outweighs the benefits to the users of the financial statements, the asset is not recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The valuation disclosed in the Balance Sheet is based on the assessment by the Council's previous insurers of the replacement value for the combined collections. These insurance valuations are updated periodically. It is intended to progress a valuation in 2022/23. In addition, individual collections are reviewed periodically to ensure the adequacy of the valuation. The Council's policy on management, acquisitions and disposals is contained in its policy document. This document and further information about the collections are publicly available on the Museum's section of Inverclyde Council's website: <https://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/community-life-and-leisure/heritage-services/collections/museum-collections>. The Heritage Assets were last formally valued in 2012 which falls outwith the Council's valuation policy, while the value of Heritage Assets is incidental to the operations of the Council regular valuations should take place and will be progressed in 2022/23.

The carrying value of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment e.g. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment. It is likely that disposals of heritage assets will be made only very occasionally. Where this does occur, the proceeds of such items are accounted for in accordance with the Council's policies relating to the disposal of Property, Plant & Equipment. Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements.

Reconciliation of the Carrying Value of Heritage Assets held by the Council

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	Total Assets	Total Assets
	£000	£000
Valuation or Cost		
1 April	18,060	18,059
Revaluations	0	0
Additions	0	1
31 March	18,060	18,060

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 11 Debtors

	31 March 2022				31 March 2021			
	Short-term		Long-term		Short-term		Long-term	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Scottish Government (including NHS bodies)		20,724		0		11,396		0
Central Government bodies		1,860		0		1,631		0
Other Local Authorities		2,721		0		1,377		0
Council Tax receivable from taxpayers	17,855		0		17,676		0	
Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	(16,509)		0		(16,002)		0	
Council Tax (net of impairment)		1,346		0		1,674		0
Trade debtors	7,241		0		5,905		0	
Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	(5,644)		0		(5,511)		0	
Trade Debtors (net of impairment)		1,597		0		394		0
Other entities and individuals	53		311		2,022		377	
Impairment allowance for doubtful debts	0		0		0		0	
Other entities and individuals (net of impairment)		53		311		2,022		377
Totals for Short-term and Long-term Debtors		28,301		311		18,494		377

In March 2013, the Council made a long-term loan of £1.969 million to Inverclyde Property Renovation LLP, a partnership established to develop the offices at Wallace Place, Greenock and Princes Street, Port Glasgow under the Business Premises Renovation Allowance (BPRA) Scheme, this loan has been written off in 2021/22. In March 2016, the Council made a £0.6 million loan to Inverclyde Leisure. This is shown within 'other entities and individuals (net of impairment)'.

Note 12 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in three months or less from the balance sheet date and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Cash held by the Council	5	5
Bank current accounts	18,187	14,510
Deposits up to three months with UK Banks, Building Societies and Local Authorities	0	0
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	18,192	14,515

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 13 Creditors

Short Term Creditors

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Scottish Government (including NHS bodies)	(29,813)	(17,451)
Central Government bodies	(3,919)	(3,652)
Other Local Authorities	(420)	(221)
Trade Creditors	(19,740)	(19,085)
Public Corporations	(499)	(606)
Other Entities & Individuals	(527)	(527)
Total Short-term Creditors	(54,918)	(41,542)

Note 14 Provisions

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement when the Council has an obligation, and measured at the best estimate at the Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

Short-term Provisions - Movement on Balances 2021-2022

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £000	Additional Provisions made in 2021- 2022 £000	Amounts used in 2021-2022 £000	Unused amounts written back in 2021-2022 £000	Balance at 31 March 2022 £000
Compensation Payments (note 1)	(28)		28		0
Municipal Mutual Insurance Claims (note 2)	(335)		64		(271)
Council Tax Provision - LTE (note 3)	(606)		606		0
Total Short-term Provisions	(969)	0	698	0	(271)

Notes

1. For the outcome of conceded outstanding equal pay claims.
2. For any potential shortfall in the current Scheme of Arrangement to meet any new claims.
3. For the cancellation of the Council Tax Long Term Empty Levy following VAC decision. This is now included within Creditors figures in note 13.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 15 Schools Public Private Partnership

The Council has entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the provision of educational buildings, their maintenance and related facilities. The agreement provides the Council with two secondary and two primary schools. The provider is required to ensure the availability of these buildings to a pre-agreed standard. When the agreement ends in 2040, the buildings will be handed back to the Council with a guarantee of no major maintenance requirements for a five-year period.

The Public Private Partnership agreement for the provision of school buildings, their maintenance and other facilities is accounted for in accordance with International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) 12 Service Concession Arrangements. The Council carries the assets and the associated liability to the PPP operator on its Balance Sheet. The annual amount payable to the PPP operator (the unitary charge) is apportioned between operating costs, interest payments and the repayment of debt. The property, plant & equipment of the PPP scheme are depreciated over the useful life of the assets and the associated liability to the operator is reduced by the principal repayments paid as part of the unitary charge.

The assets used to provide services at the schools are recognised on the Council's Balance Sheet. Movements in value over the year are detailed in the analysis of the movement in Note 7 Property, Plant & Equipment.

Remaining Payments under the Agreement

The Council makes payments each year, which are increased by inflation and reduced if the contractor fails to meet availability and performance standards. Payments remaining to be made under the PPP contract at 31 March 2022 (assuming an adjusted inflation rate of 2.70% and excluding any estimation of availability and performance deductions) are as follows:

	Future Payments for services (including lifecycle maintenance)	Repayment of Liability	Finance Interest Estimated Inflation	Contingent Rentals	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Not later than 1 year	3,801	2,003	3,424	1,346	10,574
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	15,290	9,878	12,342	6,688	44,198
Later than 5 years and not later than 10 years	23,257	14,166	11,835	10,429	59,687
Later than 10 years and not later than 15 years	27,232	17,809	7,109	13,008	65,158
Later than 15 years and not later than 20 years	16,671	13,559	1,321	8,810	40,361
Payable within 21 to 25 years	0	0	0	0	0
Total	86,251	57,415	36,031	40,281	219,978

Fair Value of Liability

The treasury advisor to Inverclyde Council has assessed the fair value of the lease liability as £77.1 million. The impact of a 1% increase in the discount factor is assessed at £6.2 million and would reduce the fair value to £70.9 million. More information on the assessment of fair values is available in Note 20 Financial Instruments.

Liabilities from PPP Arrangements

Although the payments to the provider are described as unitary payments, they have been calculated to compensate the provider for the fair value of the services they provide and the capital expenditure incurred plus the interest payable whilst the capital expenditure remains to be reimbursed. The liability outstanding to pay to the provider for the capital expenditure (the outstanding finance lease obligation) is as follows:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Balance outstanding at the start of the year	58,996	60,693
Payments during the year	(1,581)	(1,697)
Capital expenditure incurred in the year	0	0
Balance outstanding at year-end	57,415	58,996
Included in Balance Sheet		
~ Current	1,505	1,621
~ Non-current	55,910	57,375
	57,415	58,996

Note 16 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

Post-Employment Benefits

The Council participates in two separate schemes; the Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme which is administered by the Scottish Government (Note 17) and the post-employment scheme for employees other than teachers is the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), administered by Strathclyde Pension Fund in respect of all local authorities and admitted bodies in the former Strathclyde area. This is a multi-employer scheme in which it is possible for an employer to identify its share of the assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Employer's liabilities can be evaluated directly by the Actuary at any time on membership data. Individual employer assets have been apportioned to each employer since 2002. Prior to that date, each employer was considered to have the same funding as the whole Fund.

The LGPS is accounted for as a "defined benefit" scheme in accordance with International Accounting Standard 19 (IAS19). Inverclyde Council's share of the net pension liability in the Strathclyde Pension Fund and a pension reserve are recognised in the Balance Sheet. The CIES recognises changes during the year in the pension liability. Service expenditure includes pension costs based on employers' pension contributions payable and payments to pensioners in the year.

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff (including teachers) are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Strathclyde Pension Fund.

Participation in Pension Schemes

Benefits

- It is a defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level to balance the pension liability with investment assets.
- A Career Average Revalued Earnings (CARE) pension scheme has been introduced from 1 April 2015. The pension accrual rate guarantees a pension that is built up at a rate of 1/49th of the pensionable pay in the financial year. The amount built up in the year is transferred to the member's Pension Account and at the end of each financial year the total in the member's Pension Account is adjusted in line with the cost of living to ensure it retains its purchasing power.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

- For pension contributions from 2009 to 2015, the pension is based on 1/60th of final pensionable salary and years of service, and prior to 2009, the accrual rate guarantees a pension based on 1/80th and a lump sum based on 3/80th of final pensionable pay and years of pensionable service.
- For contribution from 2009 there is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum. Members of the Pension Scheme may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004. The scheme's retirement age is the normal age for the state pension. Pensions are increased annually in line with changes to the Pensions (Increase) Act 1971 and Section 59 of the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

Governance

- The Strathclyde Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the LGPS in Scotland and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Strathclyde Pension Fund Committee. This Committee is comprised solely of Elected Members of Glasgow City Council. The Strathclyde Pension Fund Board meets alongside the Strathclyde Pension Fund Committee. It helps with compliance and to take account of all shareholder interests. The Board has eight members, four employer representatives and four from trade unions.
- Policy is determined in accordance with the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations. Management of the Fund's investments is carried out by the Fund's Investment Advisory Panel which selects and appoints a number of external investment managers/partners and monitors their investment performance.
- Under the Regulations, employers fall into three categories, scheme employers (also known as schedule bodies) such as Inverclyde Council, community admission bodies and transferee admission bodies. Admission agreements are generally assumed to be open-ended. However, either party can voluntarily terminate the admission agreement by giving an appropriate period of notice to the other parties. Any deficit arising from the cessation valuation will usually be levied on the departing admission body as a capital payment.

Principal Risks

- The principal risks to the Scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the Scheme, changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of the investments held by the Scheme. The long-term funding strategy and the employer's contribution rates are reviewed triennially and take into account these factors to mitigate the risks. The taxpayer is protected from temporary swings in some of these factors (inflation, bond yields and investment performance) by the adjustments by law to the amount charged to the General Fund as detailed in Note 2.

Discretionary Post-employment Benefits

- Discretionary post-employment benefits on early retirement are an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when an award is made. There are no pension plan assets built up to meet these pension liabilities.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the reported Cost of Services when they are earned by the Council's employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge that is statutorily required to be made against the Council Tax is based upon the pension contributions payable by the Council in the year, and an adjustment is made in the Movement in Reserves Statement to achieve this.

The following transactions have been included in the accounting statements in 2021-2022 and the prior year 2020-2021.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)		
<i>Cost of Services:</i>		
<i>Service Cost comprising:</i>		
~ Current service cost	32,727	22,239
~ Past service costs (including curtailments)	519	3
~ Unfunded benefits	0	0
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure:</i>		
~ Net interest expense	2,160	2,239
Total Post-employment Benefit charged to (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services	35,406	24,481
<i>Other Post-employment Benefits Charged to the CIES:</i>		
<i>Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:</i>		
~ Expected return on pension fund assets	(38,991)	(129,079)
~ Actuarial (gains) or losses arising on changes in demographic assumptions	(4,767)	(16,560)
~ Actuarial (gains) or losses arising on changes in financial assumptions	(51,293)	153,512
~ Actuarial (gains) or losses arising on changes in experience assumptions	1,196	(7,120)
Total Post-employment Benefit Charged to the CIES	(93,855)	753
Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS)		
~ Reversal of net charges made to the (Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the Code	108,949	13,584
Actual amount charged against the General Fund balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to Strathclyde Pension Fund	15,094	14,337

Pensions Assets and Liabilities Recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the local authority's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plan is as follows:

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Present value of the defined benefit obligation*	(763,271)	(785,114)
Fair value of pension fund assets	737,842	686,142
Net Liability arising from Defined Benefit Obligation	(25,429)	(98,972)
<i>*Unfunded liabilities included in the figure for present value of liabilities</i>		
~ unfunded liabilities for Pension Fund	(22,353)	(23,670)
~ teachers' unfunded pensions	(13,272)	(14,762)
~ unfunded liabilities prior to 1996 local government reorganisation	(4,421)	(5,180)

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

A reconciliation of Inverclyde Council's share of the present value of Strathclyde Pension Fund's defined benefit obligation (liabilities) is as follows:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Opening balance at 1 April	(785,114)	(655,856)
Current service cost	(32,727)	(22,239)
Interest cost	(15,873)	(15,273)
Contributions by Pension Fund participants	(3,896)	(3,760)
Re-measurement gains and (losses)		
~ Actuarial gains/(losses) from changes in demographic assumptions	4,767	16,560
~ Actuarial gains/(losses) from changes in financial assumptions	51,293	(153,512)
~ Actuarial gains/(losses) from changes in experience assumptions	(1,196)	28,685
Past service costs (including curtailments)	(519)	(3)
Settlements	0	0
Benefits paid	19,994	20,284
Closing balance at 31 March	(763,271)	(785,114)

A reconciliation of the movements in Inverclyde Council's share of the fair value of Strathclyde Pension Fund's assets is as follows:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Opening fair value of pension fund assets	686,142	567,781
Interest income	13,713	13,034
Re-measurement gains and (losses):		
~ other experience	0	(21,565)
~ expected rate of return on pension fund assets	38,991	129,079
The effect of changes in foreign exchange rates	0	0
Contributions from employers	15,094	14,337
Contributions from employees into the scheme	3,896	3,760
Benefits paid	(19,994)	(20,284)
Closing fair value of pension fund assets	737,842	686,142

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Analysis of Pension Fund's Assets

Inverclyde Council's share of the Pension Fund's assets at 31 March 2022 comprised:

	31 March 2022			31 March 2021		
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not Quoted in Active Markets	Totals	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not Quoted in Active Markets	Totals
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalent	18,526	249	18,775	11,054	465	11,519
Equity instruments	162,227	351	162,578	160,255	737	160,992
Debt instruments	0	0	0	0	0	0
Real Estate	0	62,225	62,225	0	55,592	55,592
Derivatives	0	0	0	124	0	124
Private Equity	0	144,443	144,443	0	122,724	122,724
Investment Funds	4,093	345,728	349,821	6,457	328,734	335,191
Asset-backed Securities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Structured Debt	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total assets	184,846	552,996	737,842	177,890	508,252	686,142

Basis for Estimating Assets and Liabilities

The Council's share of the net obligations of the Strathclyde Pension Fund is an estimated figure based on actuarial assumptions. Liabilities are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the "projected credit unit method" i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels and inflation. Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate (currently 2.7%) based on an average of high quality corporate bonds. Assets are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value, principally the bid price for quoted securities, estimated fair value for unquoted securities and market price for property.

The Fund's obligation has been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries, and the estimates are based on the latest full valuation of the Fund at 31 March 2022. The significant assumptions used by the actuary are shown in the table below. Note 37 includes a sensitivity analysis for the pension obligation based on possible changes of these assumptions occurring at the reporting date.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90%	3.55%
Rate of increase in pensions	3.20%	2.85%
Rate for discounting Fund liabilities	2.7%	2.0%
Take-up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum	50.0%	50.0%
Mortality Assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners (years):		
~ Men	19.6	19.8
~ Women	22.4	22.6
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners (years):		
~ Men	21.0	21.2
~ Women	24.5	24.7

Asset and Liability Matching (ALM) Strategy

The main fund (Fund 1) of the Strathclyde Pension Fund does not have an ALM as this is used mainly by mature funds. The Fund does match, to the extent possible, the types of assets invested to the liabilities in the defined benefit obligation. As is required by the pensions and investment regulations, the suitability of various types of investment has been considered, as has the need to diversify investments to reduce the risk of being invested in too narrow a range. The Fund invests in equities (i.e. stocks and shares), bonds, properties and in cash.

Impact on the Council's Cash Flow

The objectives of the Fund are to keep employers' contributions at as constant a rate as possible. The Fund has agreed a strategy to achieve a funding rate of 100% in the longer term. The Scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit plan and employers' contributions have been determined so that employee and employer rates are standard across all participating Local Authorities. The triennial review set employer's contributions for Inverclyde Council at 19.3% for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024.

The Local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland moved from 1 April 2015 to a Career Average Revalued Earnings Scheme (CARE) for future accruals. The Fund is actively taking account of this and other national changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme in Scotland.

The total contributions expected to be made by the Council to Strathclyde Pension Fund in the year to 31 March 2023 is £12.507 million.

The assumed weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligations is 18 years.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 17 Post-employment Benefits: Teachers

The Scottish Teachers' Pension Scheme is administered directly by the Scottish Government and is technically a "defined benefit scheme. However the scheme is unfunded and the Council is not able to identify its share of the underlying financial position and performance of the scheme with sufficient reliability for accounting purposes. In this Statement of Accounts, it is therefore accounted for on the same basis as a "defined contribution" scheme. As a proportion of the total contributions into the teachers' pension scheme, the Council's own contributions equated to approximately 0.87% during the year ended 31 March 2021. The actual contributions for the year ended 31 March 2022 will not be published until October 2022, however the Council assumes that the percentage contribution will be similar to 31 March 2021.

In 2021-2022, Inverclyde Council paid £8.544 million in respect of teachers' retirement benefits, representing 23.0% of pensionable pay. The figures for 2020-2021 were £8.080 million and 22.7%.

Note 18 Unusable Reserves

Reserves are created by appropriating amounts from the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service within the CIES. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against Council Tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting process for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the authority. These reserves are explained on the following pages.

Summary of Year-end Balances

The total for Unusable Reserves in the Balance Sheet is made up of the following reserves:

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021 Restated
	£000	£000
Revaluation Reserve	209,472	192,509
Capital Adjustment Account	74,808	75,936
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(3,936)	(4,035)
Pensions Reserve	(25,428)	(98,971)
Employee Statutory Adjustment Account	(4,343)	(4,245)
Balance at 31 March	250,573	161,194

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Movement on Balances – Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the unrealised gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its property, plant & equipment. The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the Reserve was created.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	192,509	147,276
Revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services	7,097	9,000
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation written off to Capital Adjustment Account	(169)	(14,782)
Impairments Charged to Revaluation Reserve Account	7,915	(5,896)
Depreciation on revaluations to Revaluation Reserve	2,120	56,911
Write back Depreciation on Disposal	0	0
Balance at 31 March	209,472	192,509

Movement on Balances – Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. Note 2 provides a summary of transactions posted to the Account during the year, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	Restated £000
Balance at 1 April	75,936	65,305
Items relating to capital expenditure charged to CIES:		
~ Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(28,973)	(19,255)
~ Disposals of non-current assets	(578)	(12,093)
Transfers from Revaluation Reserve	169	14,782
Capital financing applied in the year:		
~ Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	307	166
~ Capital grants and contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	12,583	9,521
~ Loans Fund principal repayments	9,856	13,977
~ Capital financed from current revenue	5,508	3,533
Balance at 31 March	74,808	75,936

Movement on Balances – Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(4,035)	(4,133)
Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES Statement are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	99	98
Balance at 31 March	(3,936)	(4,035)

Movement on Balances – Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Pensions Reserve shows a significant shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the Council's share of Strathclyde Pension Fund resources available to meet them. The triennial review by the Pension Fund in 2020 set employer's contribution rates for Inverclyde Council at 19.3% for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2024.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(98,971)	(88,074)
Actuarial gains or (losses) on pension assets and liabilities	93,855	(753)
Reversal of items relating to net charges for retirement benefits charged to Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services in the CIES	(35,406)	(24,481)
Employers' pension contributions paid to Strathclyde Pension Fund	15,094	14,337
Balance at 31 March	(25,428)	(98,971)

Movement on Balances – Employee Statutory Adjustment Account

The Employee Statutory Adjustment Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Balance at 1 April	(4,245)	(3,878)
Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	4,245	3,878
Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(4,343)	(4,245)
Balance at 31 March	(4,343)	(4,245)

Note 19 Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer the majority of the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases. Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

Assets held under finance leases are recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at their fair value measured at the lease's inception. The asset recognised has a corresponding liability to pay the lessor.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the appropriate service account in the CIES as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property over the term of the lease.

The Council as Lessor

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet.

Operating Leases, Inverclyde Council as Lessee

The Council leases various properties as tenant on a variety of lease terms that are accounted for as operating leases. The rentals in 2021-2022 were £0.043 million (2020-2021: £0.171 million) and this expenditure has been included in the CIES. The rental commitments in future years under non-cancellable leases are shown in the table below.

	Future Rental Payable	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	40	118
Later than one year and not later than five years	148	122
Later than five years	336	327
	<u>524</u>	<u>567</u>

Operating Leases, Inverclyde Council as Lessor

The Council has granted commercial leases for properties to various tenants on a variety of lease terms. These arrangements are accounted for as operating leases.

The rental income receivable in 2021-2022 was £0.790 million (2020-2021 £0.798 million) and is included in the CIES. The rents receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are shown in the table below.

	Future Rental Receivable	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	745	785
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,203	1,087
Later than five years	1,659	1,119
	<u>3,607</u>	<u>2,991</u>

Note 20 Financial Instruments

Fair Value Measurement

The Council measures the carrying value of some of its non-financial assets, mostly surplus assets, at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is broadly the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled. The Council uses valuation techniques that are appropriate to the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

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

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss (FVPL), and
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI)

The authority's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost.

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the authority becomes party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and (Investment) Income and Expenditure line in the CIES for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For all financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) in addition to any adjustment to the Financial Instrument Adjustment Account and interest credited to the CIES is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The authority recognises expected credit losses on all its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors), lease receivables and contract assets held by the authority. Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure line in the CIES. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes contractually obliged by the financial instrument and the liabilities are measured at fair value and then carried at their amortised cost. For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable plus accrued interest, and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Costs associated with debt restructuring (premiums and discounts) are charged to the Financing and Investment (Income) and Expenditure line in the CIES in the year of repayment of the original debt in accordance with accounting regulations. Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the CIES, Scottish Government regulations permit the costs of restructuring to be released to revenue over the period of the replacement.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Categories of Financial Instruments

The following categories of financial instruments were carried in the Balance Sheet; all financial instruments are classified as Amortised Cost:

Financial Assets	Non-Current		Current	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2021	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investments				
Loans and receivables	0	0	14,600	24,556
Cash and Cash Equivalents				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	0	0	18,192	14,515
Debtors				
Loans and receivables (note 1)	311	377	23,767	14,292
Borrowings				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	(181,832)	(189,457)	(9,590)	(12,093)
Other Long Term Liabilities				
PPP and finance lease liabilities	(55,412)	(57,375)	(2,003)	(1,621)
Creditors				
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost (note 2)	0	0	(19,610)	(22,031)

Notes

1. Of the items on the Balance Sheet, Short-term Loans and Receivables net of £4.534 million (2020-2021 £4.202m) are not regarded as Financial Instruments.
2. Of the items on the Balance Sheet, Short-term Financial Liabilities net of £35.308 million (2020-2021 £19.511m) are not regarded as Financial Instruments.

Reclassifications

The adoption of IFRS 9 has had no impact on the classification of financial assets and they continue to be held as amortised costs as they were under IAS 39. There has been no movement in opening balances as a result of transition to IFRS 9.

Collateral

The Council holds collateral as security against certain lending and debt due. This takes the form of mortgages on dwelling houses for loans as "lender of last resort" to assist owners to buy or improve their homes and "rolled-up" debt for care home charges due by social work clients, payable on their death or when the house is sold.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

There was interest expenditure of £7.729 million (2020-2021 £8.059 million) and interest income of £0.100 million (2020-2021 £0.105 million) that were recognised in the CIES for the year.

Fair Values of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

All financial assets (represented by lending and long-term debtors) and financial liabilities (represented by borrowing and long-term creditors) are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. In such cases, the Code requires a set of additional disclosures about the fair value of these assets and liabilities. Fair value is broadly the amount for which an asset could be exchanged or a liability settled. Further information about how the Council has assessed fair value (and the fair value hierarchy) is provided below.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

The fair values calculated (and compared to carrying values) are as follows:

Financial Assets	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Loans and receivables - deposits with banks	14,600	14,600	24,556	24,563
Loans and receivables - cash and cash equivalents	18,192	18,192	14,515	14,515
Long-term debtors	311	311	377	377
Short-term debtors (at cost)	23,767	23,767	14,292	14,292
TOTAL	56,870	56,870	53,740	53,747

The fair value of loans and receivables – deposits with banks will be higher than the carrying amount where the Council's portfolio of investments includes fixed rate loans where the interest rate receivable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date.

Financial Liabilities	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Borrowing - PWLB & Non-PWLB Debt	191,422	273,726	201,550	310,343
School PPP Lease	57,415	77,054	58,996	85,573
Short-term creditors (at cost)	19,610	19,610	22,031	22,031
TOTAL	268,447	370,390	282,577	417,947

The fair value is higher than the carrying amount because the Council's borrowing figure includes a number of loans where the interest rate payable is higher than the rates available for similar loans at the Balance Sheet date. The commitment to pay interest above the current market rates increases the amount the Council would have to pay if the lender requested or agreed to early repayment of the loans.

Fair Value Hierarchy for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities

The Council uses Level 2 inputs for all its fair value calculations for financial assets and financial liabilities, with the exception of cash and cash equivalents, debtors and creditors that are carried at cost as this is considered a fair approximation of their value. This is considered most appropriate to the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	Level 2	Level 2
	(Other Significant Observable Inputs)	(Other Significant Observable Inputs)
	£000	£000
<i>Recurring fair value measurements using:</i>		
Financial Assets		
Loans & receivables	14,600	24,563
Total	14,600	24,563
Financial Liabilities		
Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost		
- PWLB & Non-PWLB Borrowings	273,726	310,343
- PPP Finance Lease Liabilities	77,054	85,573
TOTAL	350,780	395,916

The fair values of the above financial assets and financial liabilities in the above table have been arrived at using a discounted cash flow technique with the most significant inputs being the discount rate. The fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments using the following methodology and assumptions:

- The valuation date is 31 March 2022
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised
- The discount factor used in the NPV calculations is the comparable new borrowing or deposit rate of the same financial instruments from a comparable lender with a published market rate at the valuation date, using bid process where applicable. A consistent approach has been applied to assets and liabilities.
- For all Public Works Loan Board (PWLB debt), the new borrowing rate at 31 March has been used as the discount rate.
- The fair values include accrued interest up to and including the valuation date.
- Where an instrument will mature within the next twelve months, carrying amounts are assumed to approximate to fair value.
- The fair value of trade and other receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.
- The fair value of the schools PPP liability has been assessed taking the carrying obligation at 31 March 2022 and applying an annuity repayment profile using the PWLB new borrowing rate for a comparable period (18 years) at 31 March 2022.

In the above tables, the Council has used discount rates for PWLB and Non-PWLB Borrowing based on rates chargeable for new borrowing. If, however, the Council was to use interest rates that would be charged for early repayment of the loans then the fair value would increase from £273.726 million to £337.395 million (including penalty costs). The Council has no contractual obligation to pay these penalty costs and would not incur any additional cost if the loans run to their planned maturity date.

Note 21 Nature and Extent of Risks Arising from Financial Instruments

The Management of Treasury Risk by the Council

The Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks:

- Credit risk – the possibility that other parties might fail to pay amounts due to the Council;
- Liquidity risk – the possibility that the Council might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Market risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Council as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and stock market movements.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

The Council's management of treasury risk actively works to minimise the Council's exposure to the unpredictability of financial markets and to protect the financial resources available to fund services. The Council manages its risk by various means including:

- A full and formal adoption of the requirements of CIPFA's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice and by the adoption of a Treasury Policy Statement and treasury management clauses within the Council's financial regulations;
- The adoption of written principles for overall risk management and rigorous observance of the written policies and procedures;
- The approval annually in advance of Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming four years;
- The approval of an investment strategy for the forthcoming year;
- Regular reporting to the members of the Policy & Resources Committee and the full Council on treasury matters.

Management of Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from the short-term lending of surplus funds to banks, building societies and other local authorities as well as credit exposure to the Council's customers. This risk is minimised through the Annual Investment Strategy, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum criteria, in accordance with the Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings Services. The Annual Investment Strategy also considers maximum amounts and time limits in respect of each financial institution.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with the Council's internal ratings procedures.

The Council's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its deposits in banks and building societies of £34.994 million cannot be assessed generally as the risk of any institution failing to make interest payments or repay the principal sum will be specific to each individual institution. Recent experience has shown that it is rare for such entities to be unable to meet their commitments. A risk of irrecoverability applies to all the Council deposits, but there is no evidence at 31 March 2022 that this is likely to crystallise.

Credit limits were not exceeded during the year. The Council expects full repayment on the due date of deposits placed with its counterparties.

The Council has a potential maximum credit risk exposure (expected credit loss) of £5.715 million (2020-2021 £5.511 million) from debtors excluding Council Tax. This estimate is based on past experience and current market conditions.

The Council does not generally allow credit for customers, such that £29.482 million of the £29.792 million debtors regarded as Financial Instruments is past its due date for payment. The past due amount can be analysed by age as shown in the following table. The Council has made provision for the loss of income based on previous experience.

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Less than three months	28,170	18,658
Three to six months	141	182
Six months to one year	322	123
More than one year	849	840
	29,482	19,803

Management of Liquidity Risk

The Council has a responsive system of safeguards for the management of cash flow that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. The Council has ready access to borrowings from market loans and the UK Treasury's Public Works Loan Board. There is no significant risk that the Council will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. The Council has secure safeguards in place to ensure that a significant proportion of its borrowing does not mature

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

for repayment at any one time in the future to reduce the financial impact of re-borrowing at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Council sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. The Council's policy is to ensure that no more than 25% of loans are due to mature within any financial year through a combination of prudent planning of new loans and, where it is economic to do so, making early repayments. Any amendments to these policies, whether short-term or long-term, require the prior approval of the Policy & Resources Committee. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Less than one year	31,213	35,754
Later than 1 year and not later than 2 years	9,754	9,628
Later than 2 years and not later than 5 years	7,704	14,847
Later than 5 years and not later than 10 years	25,511	24,995
Later than 10 years and not later than 30 years	49,467	52,517
Later than 30 years and not later than 50 years	68,798	69,176
Over fifty years	76,000	75,660
	268,447	282,577

Management of Market Risk

The key area of market risk for the Council is in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Changes in interest rates influence the interest payable on borrowings and on interest receivable on surplus funds invested. The Council has a variety of strategies for managing the uncertainty of future interest rates and the financial impact on the Council:

- It is the policy of the Council to limit its exposure to variable rate borrowing to a maximum of 45% of what it borrows.
- During periods of falling rates and where it is economically advantageous to do so, the Council will consider the repayment and restructuring of fixed interest rate debt.
- The Council takes daily advice from its specialist treasury advisers and actively monitors changes in interest rates to inform decisions on the lending of surplus funds, new borrowings and the restructuring of existing borrowings.

To illustrate the impact of changes in interest rates upon the Council, the following table shows the financial effect if rates had been 1% higher at 31 March 2022, with all other variables held constant.

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Impact on taxpayer		
Increase on interest payable on variable rate borrowings	594	594
Increase in interest receivable on variable rate lending	(350)	(406)
Net effect on Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	244	188
Other presentational changes		
A decrease in the "fair value" of fixed rate borrowing (disclosure confined to the Notes to the Accounts)	(29,162)	(24,818)
	(29,162)	(24,818)

The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above but with the changes being reversed.

Other areas of market risk are price risk and foreign exchange risk. The Council has no exposure to these risks through its treasury activities. The Council does not invest in equity shares and consequently is not exposed to gains or losses arising from movements in the prices of shares. The Council does not lend or borrow in foreign currencies and has no exposure to gains or losses arising from movements in exchange rates.

Notes to the Principal Financial Statements

Note 22 Related Parties

The Council is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. Disclosure of these transactions and balances allows readers to assess the extent to which the Council might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Council.

The Scottish Government

The Scottish Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Council, being responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Council operates. The Scottish Government also provides the majority of the Council's funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the Council has with other parties (such as Council Tax bills and Housing Benefits). Grants received from the Scottish Government are disclosed in Note 5 Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income on pages 40-41.

Elected Members

Elected Members of the Council have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2021-2022 is shown on page 26 within the Remuneration Report. There are no other significant related party transactions with members of the Council. Elected Members are required to declare an interest if he or she believes that there may be a perception that their decision making may be influenced in any way by a personal interest. Should this arise, the relevant Member does not take part in any discussion or decision relating to that interest. The Register of Interests of each Member is available on the Councils' website <http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/council-and-government/councillors/>.

Senior Officers

Senior Officers, as listed within the Remuneration Report on page 23, are required to declare an interest if he or she believes that there may be a perception that their decision making may be influenced in any way by a personal interest. Interests identified are disclosed in the table below.

Entities Controlled or Significantly Influenced by the Council

The Council has entered into a number of transactions under subsidiaries, associates and other trading arrangements deemed to be a related party mainly through the Council's ability to exert influence over the entity through its representation on the respective Boards. The relevant transactions with the bodies are detailed below.

	2021-2022				2020-2021			
	Income from Related Parties	Expenditure to Related Parties	Amounts Due to Related Parties	Amounts Owed by Related Parties	Income from Related Parties	Expenditure to Related Parties	Amounts Due to Related Parties	Amounts Owed by Related Parties
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Inverclyde Leisure Limited*1	(11)	2,176	(179)	1,047	(11)	2,722	(22)	1,349
Riverside Inverclyde Limited*1	(49)	0	(1)	55	(33)	48	(49)	5
Greenock Arts Guild Ltd (the Beacon Arts Centre)	0	185	0	2	0	215	(15)	0
Inverclyde Community Development Trust	0	347	(265)	0	0	1,910	(272)	0
River Clyde Homes	(26)	632	(74)	1	(40)	636	(24)	16

Notes:

*1 Further details of these entities are disclosed in the Group Accounts Note 30 Combining Entities.

Grants from government are disclosed in Note 5 Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income.

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board

Inverclyde Integration Joint Board was established on 27 June 2015. The Council provides assistance in kind in terms of Board staff (Chief Officer) and administrative support for the operation of the Board. Delegation of resources by the Council to the Board was with effect from 1 April 2016.

Strathclyde Pension Fund

The Council is an admitted body to the local government pension scheme and has made payments as shown in Note 16 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes on pages 51-56.

Joint Boards

The Council is a member of the Joint Boards for Valuation, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme. The Council's contributions are disclosed in the Group Accounts Note 30 Combining Entities on pages 81-82.

Note 23 Agency Services

Where the Council acts as an agent for another entity, transactions are not reflected in the Council's financial statements, with the exception of cash collected or expenditure incurred by the Council on behalf of the other entity, in which case there is a debtor or creditor position in the balance sheet for amounts due or owed.

The Council bills and collects Non-Domestic Rates on behalf of the Scottish Government. During 2021-2022 the Council collected £15.1 million and received £0.6 million to the Non-Domestic Rates pool (2020-2021 £11.1 million and £0.2 million). The Council also bills and collects domestic water and sewerage charges on behalf of Scottish Water with the Council Tax. During 2021-2022 the Council collected and paid over £12.669 million (2020-2021 £12.230 million) and received £0.282 million (2020-2021 £0.294 million) for providing this service.

The Council also acted as agent for a number of Covid related grants on behalf of the Scottish Government, £10.305m of such grants were paid out during 2021-22 with a further £0.414m received from the Scottish Government which has not been distributed as at 31st March 2022 and is carried as a Creditor at that date.

The Council also acted as agent in the May 2021 General Elections on behalf of the Scottish Government. The Council received £0.235 million which was expended in full during 2021-2022.

In addition £0.044 million of donated Personal Protection Equipment was distributed directly to third parties with the Council again acting as an agent.

Note 24 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

A contingent liability or asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation or benefit whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent liabilities or assets also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow/inflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation/benefit cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities and assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a Note to the Accounts where they are deemed material.

The Council transferred the bulk of its housing stock and some areas of land for the development of social housing to River Clyde Homes in December 2007. The Council retains the risk of any contamination present when the land transferred. The extent of any potential remedial work has not been assessed.

An EU ruling has highlighted that the Council may have some liability in respect of additional Holiday Pay entitlement. The extent of this liability cannot be assessed at this stage.

The removal of the limitation period for childhood abuse claims could result in a liability to the Council. The extent of any claims and resultant liability is unknown at this stage.

The Council agreed to act as sponsor with respect to Inverclyde Leisure's admission to the Strathclyde Pension Fund. In the event of the organisation ceasing to exist the Council will assume any liability for non-funded costs.

Due to difficulties with the grant claim process for which the Council is lead partner there is a risk that the Council faces a potential liability in the event that the project does not fully deliver on the agreed outcomes and may not recover the full grant amount.

A Legal ruling regarding transitional provisions in public sector pensions schemes being unlawfully age discriminatory may impact on the pension liability and service cost. The extent of any impact is not known at this stage.

The Council has outstanding Employment Tribunals, if the Employees' action is successful will result in a liability to the Council.

A recent circular from the Scottish Public Pensions Agency (Local Government Pension Scheme 2020/04) refers to a ruling that same-sex survivors were originally entitled to survivor benefits, taking into account the member's service from 6 April 1978. Following the Goodwin Tribunal, regulatory amendments will now need to be made with effect from the same date to extend that entitlement to male survivors of female members. While this could have a financial impact on future years' costs, any impact cannot be quantified. Given the uncertainty, no provision has been made in the Accounts.

The Council is unaware of any other material contingent asset or liability at 31 March 2022.

Note 25 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

These are events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. An adjustment is made to the financial statements where there is evidence that the event relates to the reporting period; otherwise the financial statements are not adjusted, and where the amount is material, a disclosure is made in the notes. The Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance issued the unaudited Statement of Accounts on 28 June 2022. There have been no material events after the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of figures in the financial statements or notes thereto including contingent assets or liabilities.

Note 26 Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Net surplus or (deficit) on the Provision of Services	(25,738)	(9,038)
Adjustments to net surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services for non-cash movements		
Depreciation, amortisation & impairment	28,973	19,255
Net (gain) or loss on non-current assets	(67)	11,726
Movement in pension liability	20,312	10,144
(Increase) or decrease in inventories	(23)	(28)
(Increase) or decrease in debtors	(9,741)	(465)
Increase or (decrease) in creditors and provisions	12,672	11,341
	52,126	51,973
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus/(deficit) on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		
Non-cash borrowing movements	(115)	(69)
Non-cash investing movements	(44)	(9,556)
	(159)	(9,625)
Net cash flow from Operating Activities	26,229	33,310

The net cash flow from Operating Activities in the above table includes the following elements of interest paid and received:

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Interest received	111	91
Interest paid	(8,358)	(8,119)
Interest element of finance lease and PPP payments	(4,696)	(4,739)
Net cash flow from Servicing of Finance	(12,943)	(12,767)

Note 27 Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	(21,603)	(16,797)
Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(15,000)	(30,000)
Other payments for investing activities	0	0
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	645	368
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	25,000	15,000
Other receipts from investing activities	0	0
Net cash flows from investing activities	(10,958)	(31,429)

Note 28 Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Cash receipts of short-term and long-term borrowing	23	115
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases for schools PPP contracts	(1,581)	(1,697)
Repayment of short-term and long-term borrowing	(10,036)	(15,052)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(11,594)	(16,634)

Note 29 Reconciliation of Liabilities arising from Financing Activities

	2020-2021	Financing	Non-cash changes		2021-2022
	31 March	cash flows	Acquisition	Other non-	31 March
	£000	£000	£000	cash changes	£000
Long-term borrowings	189,457	(7,616)	0	(9)	181,832
Short-term borrowings	12,093	(2,397)	(23)	(83)	9,590
PPP liability	58,996	(1,581)	0	0	57,415
Total liabilities from financing activities	260,546	(11,594)	(23)	(92)	248,837

Council Tax Income Account

The Council Tax Income Account shows the gross income raised from Council Taxes levied and deductions made under statute. Councils raise taxes from residents by way of Council Tax, which is based on property values. Each dwelling house in a local authority area is placed into one of eight bands A to H with band A being the lowest. The Council declares a tax for Band D properties and all other properties are charged a proportion of this. Lower valued properties pay less; higher valued properties pay more. The net income is transferred to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement of the Council. Council Tax Reduction (CTR) was introduced from 1 April 2013 to replace Council Tax benefit (CTB) as part of the Scottish Government's welfare reform programme. The reduction in income is disclosed in a separate line in the table below.

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£ 000	£ 000
Gross Council Tax levied and contributions in lieu	47,192	46,807
Adjustment: Council Tax Reduction Scheme	(6,661)	(6,899)
Less:		
Other discounts and reductions	(6,455)	(6,235)
Write offs	(6)	(118)
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debts	(1,027)	(1,009)
Net Council Tax income	33,043	32,546
Add/(Less) Prior years' Council Tax adjustments	7	(308)
Net Council Tax income transferred to General Fund	33,050	32,238

Calculation of the Council Tax Base

	No. Of Dwellings	No. Of Exemptions	*Disabled Transfer to Lower Band	*Disabled Transfer from Higher Band	Discounts 25%	Discounts 10%-50%	Total Effective No. Of Dwellings	Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Proportion of Band D	Band D Equivalents
Band A*				31	10	0	29	8	200/360	12
Band A	18,889	1,422	31	24	8,909	461	15,011	4,681	240/360	6,887
Band B	6,185	286	24	11	2,912	80	5,123	1,307	280/360	2,968
Band C	3,672	101	11	14	1,400	35	3,210	568	320/360	2,348
Band D	3,440	97	14	27	1,184	40	3,038	212	360/360	2,826
Band E	3,680	68	27	13	943	43	3,342	100	473/360	4,260
Band F	1,924	21	13	6	368	13	1,799	37	585/360	2,863
Band G	1,438	15	6	0	227	13	1,353	11	705/360	2,628
Band H	217	4	0	0	22	3	206	1	882/360	502

* Disabled Relief: Disabled relief takes the form of a drop in valuation band e.g. Band D to Band C and is applied where a house has been modified to meet the needs of a disabled person who lives there.

Contributions in Lieu - Band D equivalents	2
Total	25,296
Impairment Allowance for doubtful debt at 3%	(759)
Council Tax Base	24,537

Council Tax Income Account

Calculation of the Council Tax

Dwellings fall within a valuation band between A to H based on the value as determined by the Assessor. The Council Tax charge is calculated using the Council Tax base i.e. band D equivalents. This amount is then decreased or increased dependent on the band as is illustrated below. The band D charge for 2021-2022 was £1,331.84.

	£ Per Year
Band A	887.89
Band B	1,035.88
Band C	1,183.86
Band D	1,331.84
Band E	1,749.89
Band F	2,164.24
Band G	2,608.19
Band H	3,263.01

The Council Tax bill is reduced by 25% where a dwelling has only one occupant, by 100% where the property is empty, whilst an increased charge of 100% was imposed on long term empty properties. Total exemptions are available if all the occupants are students, all occupants are under 18 years of age or if all of the occupants are severely mentally impaired.

Charges for water and sewerage are the responsibility of Scottish Water. Inverclyde Council collects total monies and makes a precept payment to the Water Authority on the basis of collection levels based on a pre-determined formula. The above figures exclude the water and sewerage charges.

Non-Domestic Rates Income Account

The Non-Domestic Rates Income Account is an agent's statement that reflects the statutory obligation for billing Authorities to maintain a separate Non-Domestic Rate Account. The statement shows the gross income from the rates and deductions made under statute. The net Non-Domestic Rate income plus the contribution to the Council from the national Non-Domestic Rate pool is transferred to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement of the Council. The Business Rates Incentivisation Scheme (BRIS) was introduced from April 2012 and allows Councils that exceed their annual business rates target to retain 50% of any additional income. In accordance with guidance, the table below discloses this element of the Non-Domestic Rate income as "income retained by the Council". The local target set for 2021-2022 were temporarily suspended, the Council is not due any additional income for the year.

The amount deemed to be collected locally was £12.019m (£13.118m 2020-2021). The sum actually collected locally and contributed to the pool was £15.767m (£10.994m 2020-2021).

	2021-2022	2020-2021
	£000	£000
Gross rates levied	27,603	27,716
Relief and other remissions	(11,180)	(15,717)
Payment of interest	0	0
Provision for bad and doubtful debts	(1,264)	(846)
Net non-domestic rate income	15,159	11,153
Adjustments for years prior to introduction of national non-domestic rate pool	0	0
Non-domestic rates income retained by authority	0	0
Contribution from/(to) national non-domestic rate pool	608	(159)
Net non-domestic rate income transferred to General Fund	15,767	10,994

	2021	2020
	£000	£000
Rateable values at 1 April		
Commercial	27,160	27,978
Industrial / freight transport	6,857	6,819
Others	19,972	20,330
	53,989	55,127

The nature and amount of each rate fixed

The rates for each subject is determined by the rateable value placed upon it by the Assessor multiplied by the rate per £ announced each year by the Scottish Government. For 2021-2022 the charge was 49p in the £ for properties with a rateable value under £51,000. An intermediate rate of 50.3p in the pound for properties with a rateable value of between £51,001 and £95,000. For properties with a rateable value over £95,001 the charge was 51.6p in the £.

Common Good Fund

The Common Good, administered by the Council, must be applied for the benefit of the people of Inverclyde. The figures below summarise the income and expenditure for the year as well as providing a snapshot of the assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2022. Each year, applications for funding support are considered by the Council's Policy & Resources Committee.

Summary Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

2020-2021 £000		Usable Reserves: Revenue £000	Unusable Reserves: Revaluation Reserve £000	2021-2022 Total £000
100	Gross Expenditure	144	0	144
(47)	Gross Income	(118)	0	(118)
53	Cost of Service	26	0	26
0	Interest Payable and Similar Charges	0	0	0
0	Interest and Investment Income	0	0	0
0	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	0	0
53	(Surplus) or Deficit on Provision of Services	26	0	26
	Other Income and Expenditure			
(205)	Unrealised gains on revaluation of land and buildings	0	0	0
(152)		26	0	26
	Transfers between Reserves			
0	Transfer from Revaluation Reserve	(31)	31	0
(152)	(Increase) or Decrease in the Year	(5)	31	26
(1,304)	Balance on Reserves brought forward	(101)	(1,355)	(1,456)
(1,456)	Balance on Reserves carried forward	(106)	(1,324)	(1,430)

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022

31 March 2021 £000		Notes	31 March 2022 £000
	Non-current Assets		
1,355	Property, Plant & Equipment	1	1,324
	Current Assets		
2	Short-term investments		2
17	Short-term debtors		3
82	Deposits up to 3 months with Inverclyde Council		101
	Current Liabilities		
0	Overdraft up to 3 months with Inverclyde Council		0
1,456	Net Assets		1,430
101	Usable Reserves: Revenue Reserve		106
1,355	Unusable Reserves: Revaluation Reserve		1,324
1,456	Total Reserves		1,430

Notes to the Common Good

1. Property, Plant & Equipment

	2021-2022 Other Land & Buildings £000	2020-2021 Other Land & Buildings £000
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 April	1,702	1,589
Disposals in year	0	(102)
Revaluation Adjustments to Revaluation Reserve	46	215
Other reclassifications*	0	0
At 31 March	1,748	1,702
Depreciation and Impairment		
At 1 April	347	288
Depreciation charge for the year	77	59
Depreciation on revaluation to the revaluation reserve	0	0
Other reclassifications*	0	0
At 31 March	424	347
Balance Sheet amount at 31 March	1,324	1,355

*other reclassifications relate to the write back of depreciation from prior years revaluations.

The values above relate to various buildings and land, mostly commercial properties in Port Glasgow. The majority of land and buildings of the Common Good require, under accounting regulations, to be disclosed on the Balance Sheet of the Council and accordingly are not included in the Common Good's Balance Sheet. The Council is the managing agent and is responsible for all costs and any income of these managed assets. A full revaluation of all Common Good land and buildings took place at 31 March 2021.

2. Operating Leases

The Common Good has granted commercial leases for properties to various tenants on a variety of lease terms. These arrangements are accounted for as operating leases. The rental income receivable in 2021-2022 was £0.111 million (2020-2021 £0.111 million) and is included in the Summary Income & Expenditure Account. The rents receivable under non-cancellable leases in future years are shown in the table below. (These figures do not include rents that are contingent upon events taking place after the lease was entered into, such as adjustments following rent reviews).

	Future Rental Income Receivable	
	31 March 2022	31 March 2021
	£000	£000
Not later than one year	117	115
Later than one year and not later than five years	238	276
Later than five years	312	320
	667	711

Trust Funds

The Council administers 4 trust funds, 1 of which is a registered Scottish charity. The funds do not represent assets of the Council and as such have not been included in the Council's Balance Sheet but are consolidated as part of the Group Accounts on Pages 78-85. The reserves of the trusts for 2021-2022 are as follows:

	2021 - 2022				2020-2021
	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Revaluations £000	Reserves £000	Reserves £000
1. The Birkmyre Trust	25	52	220	1,349	1,156
To ensure the availability of recreational facilities within the Birkmyre Park, Kilmacolm.					
2. The Watt Institution Trust	0	0	0	57	57
For the maintenance, preservation, repair, improvement and furnishing of the Watt Library and McLean Museum and Art Gallery.					
3. McLeod Trust Port Glasgow High School	2	4	0	57	59
To provide scholarships for pupils of Port Glasgow High School from disadvantaged backgrounds or with no history of further education.					
4. Peter Stanton Memorial Trust (SC021862)	0	0	0	28	28
For the promotion of recreational or other leisure activities for disabled persons in Inverclyde.					
Total Trust Funds	27	56	220	1,491	1,300

Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

The Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing the Council's services and its share of the results of its subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Authorities raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting costs. The taxation position is shown in the *Group Movement in Reserves Statement*.

2020-2021				2021-2022		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
111,995	(17,457)	94,538	Education	127,872	(18,246)	109,626
6,385	886	7,271	Communities	8,405	(211)	8,194
42,572	(10,893)	31,679	Environment & Regeneration	50,586	(13,578)	37,008
141,609	(84,187)	57,422	Health & Social Care	152,325	(85,191)	67,134
41,656	(25,943)	15,713	Policy & Resources	44,299	(26,222)	18,077
5,117	(2,678)	2,439	Subsidiaries	6,944	(4,720)	2,224
349,334	(140,272)	209,062	Cost of Services	390,431	(148,168)	242,263
			Other Operating Expenditure and (Income) -			
		11,726	(Gain)/Loss on disposal of non-current assets			(67)
		15,060	Financing and Investment (Income) and			14,628
		(225,754)	Expenditure (Note 4)			
			Taxation and Non-specific Grant			
			Income (Note 5)			(230,159)
		10,094	(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services			26,665
		(4,192)	Share of the (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services by associates			(8,162)
		5,902	and joint ventures (Note 31)			
			Group (Surplus) or Deficit			18,503
		(65,911)	(Surplus) or deficit on the revaluation of non current			(19,122)
		5,896	assets			
		753	Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the			1,990
		(4)	Revaluation Reserve			
		(59,266)	Remeasurement of the net defined benefit pensions			(93,855)
		(53,364)	liability (Note 16)			
			Share of other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure of associates			(666)
			and joint ventures (Note 31)			
			Other Comprehensive (Income) & Expenditure			(111,653)
			Total Comprehensive (Income) & Expenditure			(93,150)

Group Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet is a snapshot of the value at the 31 March 2022 of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council and of its share of the net assets or liabilities of its associates and joint ventures. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. The net investment or liability in its associates and joint ventures is matched by its share of the reserves of the subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures (i.e. its group reserves).

31 March 2021

31 March 2022

£000		Note	£000
545,369	Property, Plant & Equipment		554,815
18,060	Heritage Assets		18,060
66	Intangible Assets		33
27,233	Investments in Associates	32	35,563
23	Long-term Debtors		3
590,751	Non-current Assets		608,474
24,617	Short-term Investments		14,660
375	Assets Held for Sale		0
379	Inventories		407
17,967	Short-term Debtors		28,427
15,025	Cash and Cash Equivalents		19,180
58,363	Current Assets		62,674
(11,885)	Short-term Borrowing		(9,347)
(41,721)	Short-term Creditors		(55,999)
(969)	Short-term Provisions		(271)
(1,621)	Short-term Finance Leases		(1,505)
(56,196)	Current Liabilities		(67,122)
0	Long-term Provisions		0
(189,457)	Long-term Borrowing		(181,832)
(376)	Liabilities in Associates	32	0
(3,170)	Government Grants Deferred		(3,165)
	Other Long-term Liabilities:		
(57,375)	Finance Leases		(55,910)
(102,481)	Pensions		(26,556)
(352,859)	Long-term Liabilities		(267,463)
240,059	Net Assets/(Liabilities)		336,563
52,197	Usable Reserves of the Council		48,067
161,194	Unusable Reserves of the Council		250,573
	Usable Reserves, Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and		
15,511	Joint Ventures		22,427
	Unusable Reserves, Share of Reserves of Subsidiaries, Associates and		
11,157	Joint Ventures		15,496
240,059	Total Reserves		336,563

Alan Puckrin C.P.F.A
Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance

Issued on: 10 November 2022

Group Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the reserves held by the Council plus its share of the reserves of its associates and joint ventures. The Council's reserves are analysed into those which are "Usable Reserves" (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The Council's share of the reserves of its Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures is an unusable reserve (i.e. it cannot be used to fund expenditure or reduce taxation).

Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Council Usable Reserves				Council Unusable Reserves	Share of Subsidiaries, Associates & Joint Ventures Usable Reserves	Share of Subsidiaries, Associates & Joint Ventures Unusable Reserves	Total Group Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Other Revenue Reserves	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves				
	£000	£000	£000	£000				
Balance at 31 March 2021	43,977	7,430	1,955	53,362	160,029	15,511	11,157	240,059
Restatement due to change in % share in 2021-2022	42,812	7,430	1,955	52,197	161,194	15,469	11,079	239,939
Movement in Reserves during 2021-2022								
Surplus or (Deficit) on Provision of Services	(25,738)			(25,738)	110,987	6,921	1,182	93,352
Other Comprehensive (Expenditure) and Income					0	73	3,199	3,272
Total Comprehensive (Expenditure) and Income	(25,738)	0	0	(25,738)	110,987	6,994	4,381	96,624
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 2)	21,879		(609)	21,270	(21,270)	138	(138)	0
Net Increase or (Decrease) before Transfers to/from Other Statutory Reserves	(3,859)	0	(609)	(4,468)	89,717	7,132	4,243	96,624
Transfers (to) and from Other Statutory Reserves	156	572	(390)	338	(338)	(174)	174	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the Year	(3,703)	572	(999)	(4,130)	89,379	6,958	4,417	96,624
Balance at 31 March 2022 Carried Forward	39,109	8,002	956	48,067	250,573	22,427	15,496	336,563

Comparative Figures for Year ended 31 March 2021 Restated

	Council Usable Reserves				Council Unusable Reserves	Share of Subsidiaries, Associates & Joint Ventures Usable Reserves	Share of Subsidiaries, Associates & Joint Ventures Unusable Reserves	Total Group Reserves
	General Fund Balance	Other Revenue Reserves	Capital Reserves	Total Usable Reserves				
	£000	£000	£000	£000				
Balance at 31 March 2020	37,983	7,225	1,463	46,671	116,496	11,374	14,003	188,544
Restatement due to change in % share in 2020-2021	37,983	7,225	1,463	46,671	116,496	11,792	12,989	187,948
Movement in Reserves during 2020-2021								
Surplus or (Deficit) on Provision of Services	(9,038)			(9,038)		3,323	225	(5,490)
Other Comprehensive (Expenditure) and Income					59,262	482	(2,146)	57,598
Total Comprehensive (Expenditure) and Income	(9,038)	0	0	(9,038)	59,262	3,805	(1,921)	52,108
Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations (Note 2)	14,072		291	14,363	(14,363)	(86)	89	3
Net Increase or (Decrease) before Transfers to/from Other Statutory Reserves	5,034	0	291	5,325	44,899	3,719	(1,832)	52,111
Transfers (to) and from Other Statutory Reserves	(205)	205	201	201	(201)	0		0
Increase or (Decrease) in the Year	4,829	205	492	5,526	44,698	3,719	(1,832)	52,111
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	42,812	7,430	1,955	52,197	161,194	15,511	11,157	240,059

Note 30 Combining Entities

Inverclyde Council is represented on the Board of a number of organisations. The extent of the Council's controlling interest has been reviewed in determining those entities that should be consolidated and incorporated within the Group Accounts. Those organisations which have a significant impact on the Council's operations are listed below. The accounting period for all of these bodies is the year to 31 March 2022. In addition to the information included in the Group Accounts on the preceding pages, the accounting regulations require specific disclosures about the combining entities and the nature of their business. The Group Accounts on pages 78 to 83 combine the results of the Council with its share of its associates.

Associates

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport

This is the statutory body responsible for formulating the public transport policy for the 12 local authorities in the former Strathclyde Region area. In 2021-2022, Inverclyde Council contributed £1.243 million or 3.47% (2020-2021 £1.243 million) of the Partnership's estimated running costs and its share of the year-end net asset of £16.786 million (2020-2021 £15.497 million) is included in the Group Balance Sheet. The audited accounts of the Board can be obtained from the Treasurer to Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JF.

Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board

This Travel Scheme comprises the 12 Councils within the former Strathclyde Region area and oversees the operation of the concessionary fares scheme for public transport within the area. The costs of the Scheme are met by a combination of funding from the 12 Councils and direct grant funding from the Scottish Government. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport administers the Scheme on behalf of the Board. In 2021-2022, Inverclyde Council contributed £0.158 million or 3.87% (2020-2021 £0.156 million) of the Board's estimated running costs and its share of the year-end net asset of £0.178 million (2020-2021 £0.134 million) is included in the Group Balance Sheet. The audited accounts of the Board can be obtained from the Treasurer to Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, 131 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5JF.

Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board

This Board was formed in 1996 at local government re-organisation by an Act of Parliament and is responsible for the maintenance of the electoral, Council Tax and Non-Domestic Rates registers for the three Councils of East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Its principal place of business is The Robertson Centre, 16 Glasgow Road, Paisley PA1 3QF. The Board's running costs are met by the three member Councils. Surpluses or deficits on the Board's operations are shared between the Councils. In 2021-2022, Inverclyde Council contributed £0.639 million or 23.04% (2020-2021 £0.631 million) of the Board's estimated running costs and its share of the year-end net asset of £0.123 million (2020-2021 £0.376 million net liability) is included in the Group Balance Sheet. The audited accounts of the Board can be obtained from the Treasurer to the Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board, Renfrewshire House, Paisley PA1 1JB.

Riverside Inverclyde

This is an Urban Regeneration Company limited by guarantee with charitable status and two member organisations, Inverclyde Council and Scottish Enterprise. The charitable company has been established to improve and regenerate the Inverclyde area. The company's operations are funded by grants from the Scottish Government, Inverclyde Council and Scottish Enterprise. The Charity's net assets at 31 March 2022 were £12.940 million (2020-2021 £12.407 million) and its net gain for the year was £0.533 million (2020-2021 £1.202 million net gain). The Council has no commitment to meet any losses of the company. The audited accounts of the company are published separately and may be obtained from the Chief Executive, Suite G1, Clydeview, 22 Pottery Street, Greenock, PA15 2UZ which is also the company's principal place of business.

The company does not have shareholders and any surpluses are made available for reinvestment in other projects within the area. The company is entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation. The Council has the right to appoint three of the nine representatives on the company's board, and for the purposes of accounting this equates to an interest of 33.33%. Under accounting standards the Council is required to include the results of Riverside Inverclyde as an associate because it has a 'significant influence' over the financial and operating policies of the charity. In 2021-2022, Inverclyde Council contributed £0.000 million (2020-2021 £0.048 million) or 0.00% of the charity's turnover, and its share of the year-end asset of £4.313 million (2020-2021 £4.136 million) is included in the Group Balance Sheet.

Joint Ventures

Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board (IJB)

This is a statutory body established to integrate health and social care services between Inverclyde Council and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde. The IJB comprises eight voting members with four (50%) made up of Inverclyde Council Elected Members. The contribution provided by Inverclyde Council to the IJB in 2021-2022 was £52.629m (2020-2021: £52.973 million), and its share of the year-end asset of £14.163 million (2020-2021: £7.466 million) is included in the Group Balance Sheet.

Inchgreen Marine Park Ltd

The Council has recently entered into a Joint Venture Clydeport Operations with regards to the development of the Inchgreen site, this Joint Venture will form part of the Group Accounts from 2022/23 onwards.

Subsidiaries

Inverclyde Leisure

This is a charitable company registered in Scotland that provides leisure facilities within Inverclyde Council's area to the general public and operates sports & leisure centres, community centres, swimming pools, parks and pitches owned by the Council. Inverclyde Leisure is paid a management fee by the Council for the provision of these services. The charity's net liability at 31 March 2022 was £0.561 million (2020-2021 £2.944 million net liability) and its net deficit for the year was £0.866 million (2020-2021 £0.708 million).

The Council has no commitment to meet any losses of the company, and has no shares in or ownership of this company which is entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation. In financial year 2021-2022 the Council had the right to appoint four of the nine representatives on the company's board, and for the purposes of accounting this equated to an interest of 44.44%. However, a review of the relationship between the council and the Trust in 2020-2021, identified that the Trust met the definition of a structured entity. This describes an entity that has been designed so that the relevant activities are directed by means of contractual arrangements. In recognition of this, Inverclyde Leisure was included in the 2020-2021 Group Financial Statements as a 100% subsidiary.

The accounts of the company are published separately and can be obtained from the Chief Executive, Waterfront Leisure Complex, Customhouse Way, Greenock, PA15 1EW which is also the company's principal place of business.

The Council has guaranteed to accept liability for any unfunded pension costs relating to the company's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in the event of the company ceasing to exist or withdrawing from the pension scheme.

Common Good and Trust Funds

The Council is the sole trustee of the Common Good and Charitable Trust Funds and summary financial results for these organisations appear on pages 75 to 77.

Non-Material Interest in Other Entities

The Council has an interest in a number of other organisations. The Council's share of their net assets or liabilities is not material to the fair understanding of the financial position and transactions of the Council. Accordingly, the Group Accounts do not include these organisations. Under Accounting Regulations, the Council is required to disclose the business nature of each organisation.

- Scotland Excel is a joint committee established through Section 57 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The main purpose of the committee is co-ordination of collaborative buying initiatives, representation of interests in public sector contracts, and the development and operation of a centre of procurement expertise for Local Government in Scotland.
- Greenock Arts Guild Ltd runs the main arts venue for the Inverclyde area, the Beacon Arts Centre in Greenock. During 2021-2022 the Council provided revenue and capital grants to the Beacon Arts Centre totalling £0.185 million (£0.215 million in 2020-2021).

Note 31 Material Items of Group Income and Expenditure

In order to provide the reader with a better understanding of the impact of the inclusion of the results of associates and joint ventures, the following tables provide an analysis of the Council's share of the material amounts of income and expenditure disclosed on the face of the CIES. This note should be read in conjunction with the disclosures for the Council in Note 1 *Expenditure and Funding Analysis*.

	2021-2022 £000	2020-2021 £000
Share of the (surplus) or deficit on the provision of services by Associates and Joint Ventures		
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	(1,431)	(528)
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board	(44)	(106)
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	95	(5)
Inverclyde Leisure	0	0
Riverside Inverclyde	(85)	(312)
Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board	(6,697)	(3,241)
	<u>(8,162)</u>	<u>(4,192)</u>
Share of Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure of Associates and Joint Ventures		
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	0	(2)
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board	0	0
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	(573)	87
Inverclyde Leisure	0	0
Riverside Inverclyde	(93)	(89)
Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board	0	0
	<u>(666)</u>	<u>(4)</u>

Note 32 Group Assets and Liabilities of Associates and Joint Ventures

	2021-2022 £000	2020-2021 £000
Net Assets of Associates and Joint Ventures		
Strathclyde Partnership for Transport	16,786	15,497
Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board	178	134
Riverside Inverclyde	4,313	4,136
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	123	0
Inverclyde Integrated Joint Board	14,163	7,466
	<u>35,563</u>	<u>27,233</u>
Net Liabilities of Associates and Joint Ventures		
Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board	0	(376)
	<u>0</u>	<u>(376)</u>

Note 33 General Accounting Policies

The Council is required to prepare an annual "Statement of Accounts" by the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014. Section 12 of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 requires such accounts to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-2022 supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under Section 12 of the 2003 Act. These are issued jointly by CIPFA and the Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee (LASAAC) and are designed to give a "true and fair view" of the financial performance of the Council and its Group. The Annual Accounts have been prepared on a "going concern" basis. The accounting convention adopted in the Annual Accounts is principally historic cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current and financial assets.

A Accruals of Expenditure and Income

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed. Where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract. Interest receivable and dividend income is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.
- The Council Tax income for the year is the accrued income for the year less reliefs and remissions. The net income is transferred to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES). The Non-Domestic Rates income for the year is the accrued income for the year less reliefs and remissions. The net Non-Domestic Rate income plus the contribution to the local authority from the national Non-Domestic Rate pool is transferred to the CIES.

B Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

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

The authority is not required to raise Council Tax to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the Statutory Repayment of Loans Fund Advances, by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

C Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

Short-term employee benefits such as salaries, wages, overtime and paid annual leave for current employees are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council. The Council has made provision for the costs of settling claims for equal pay arising before the Council implemented its equal pay strategy. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

D Exceptional Items and Prior Period Adjustments

When items of income and expenditure are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the CIES or in the notes to the Accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policy or to correct a material error. Changes are made by adjusting the opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

E Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that it will bring benefits to the Council for more than twelve months. Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are not revalued, as the fair value of the assets held by the Council cannot be determined by reference to an active market. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life (assessed as between one to six years) to the relevant service lines in the CIES.

F Inventories

Inventories are made up of consumable stock. Consumable stock brought into account is included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

G VAT

Income in the accounts excludes VAT because all VAT charged by the Council is paid to HM Revenue & Customs. Expenditure in the accounts only includes VAT that cannot be recovered from HM Revenue & Customs.

Note 34 Group Accounting Policies

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021-2022 (The Code) requires Local Authorities to consider their interests in all types of entity. This includes other Local Authorities or similar bodies defined in Section 106 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Authorities are required to prepare a full set of group accounts in addition to their own Council's accounts where they have a material interest in such entities. The Accounting Policies in the preceding sections of this note apply to the Council and its Group members; where Group Accounting Policies differ these are highlighted below.

A Combining Entities and Group Boundary

The Group Accounts consolidate the results of the Council with four associates:

- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)
- Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board
- Renfrewshire Valuation Joint Board
- Riverside Inverclyde

Under accounting standards, the Council is required to include the results of the above organisations as "associates" because it has a "significant influence" over their financial and operating policies. The Council has no shares in, or ownership of, any of these organisations which are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation.

Two of the three Joint Boards (SPT and Concessionary Travel) are included within the Group Accounts under the wider definition of an "associate" although the Council holds less than 20% of voting rights that is normally presumed to confer significant influence. This is in view of the funding arrangements between the constituent Councils and the Joint Boards. Riverside Inverclyde is also included within the Group Accounts as an "associate" as the Council does not have a "controlling interest" in terms of the voting rights.

The Group's share of Riverside Inverclyde is calculated using the Member representation on the company's Board. For all other associates, the Council's share has been calculated on the Council's contribution to revenue costs.

Accounting Policies, Judgements and Assumptions

The Integrated Joint Board results have been included as a “Joint Venture” and accounted for using the gross equity method of accounting.

The Council’s interest in each subsidiary has been accounted for using the acquisition method of accounting.

All entities have the same reporting date as the Council. Further details for each entity are provided in Note 30 Combining Entities.

B Basis of Preparation of Group Statements and Going Concern

The combination has been accounted for under the accounting conventions of the “acquisition basis” using the equity method – the Council’s share of the net assets or liabilities of each entity is incorporated and adjusted each year by the Council’s share of the entities’ results and its share of other gains and losses (recognised in the Group Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES)).

All associates consider it appropriate that their Statement of Accounts should follow the “going concern” basis of accounting. The Council’s Group Accounts have been prepared on a “going concern” basis as it is expected that future local government finance settlements, aligned with the Council’s robust budget process, which drives through efficiency savings, will provide sufficient resources to finance future liabilities.

C Group Cash Flow Statement

There is no impact of the incorporation of the associates within the group cash flow statement; no cash flow statement is noted within the Group Accounts. The cash flow of the group is equal to the cash flow of the Council, as shown on page 36.

D Employee Benefits: Post-employment Benefits

In common with Inverclyde Council, all combining entities participate in the Strathclyde Pension Fund. This is explained in Note 16 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes. The associates have accounting policies for pensions accounting that are consistent with those of the Council.

E Property, Plant & Equipment Measurement

The basis of valuation across the combining entities is in accordance with IFRS’s. PPE assets are shown at current value with the following exception:

- The Valuation Joint Board and Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Board have no non-current assets.
- The SPT holds exceptional types of non-current assets in its balance sheet. Within intangible assets, there are subsidised bus contracts that are recorded at amortised cost. There are also “third-party” assets that are rolling stock and other public assets used by other transport operators but which the SPT has the power to direct to the benefit of the travelling public within the SPT area. These are held at historic cost.
- Inverclyde Leisure uses the historic cost convention for its recent leasehold improvements, but this is considered a suitable proxy for market value in existing use, on a replacement cost basis.

F Restrictions on Transfer of Funds

The Council’s share of the reserves of its associates is unusable i.e. it cannot be used to fund the Council’s services or to reduce taxation. All associates are entirely independent of the Council under law and for taxation. The Council is unable to access their reserves, whether classified as usable or otherwise in the associate’s own accounts.

Note 35 Accounting Standards Issued not Adopted

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the impact of an accounting change that will be required by a new standard that has been issued but not yet adopted. This applies to the adoption of the following new or amended standards within the 2022-2023 Code:

- Amendments to IFRS 1, First Time Adoption – relating to foreign operations of acquired subsidiaries;
- Amendments to IFRS 16, Leases – removing a misleading example not referenced in the Code;
- Amendments to IAS 37, Onerous Contracts – clarifying the intention of the standard;
- Amendments to IAS 16, Property, Plant and Equipment – proceeds before intended use; and
- Amendments to IAS 41 Agriculture – only expected to apply to local authorities in limited circumstances.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2022 and there is therefore no impact on the 2021-2022 financial statements.

Note 36 Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the accounting policies the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events.

The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

- The Council has entered into commercial lease agreements both as landlord and tenant for land and buildings on a variety of lease terms. These arrangements are accounted for as operating leases. The Council has considered the tests under IAS17 and concluded that there is no transfer of the risks and rewards of ownership.
- The Council has entered into a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the provision of educational buildings, their maintenance and related facilities. The Council has considered the tests under IFRIC12 and concluded this is a service concession.
- Two Joint Boards (SPT and Concessionary Travel) are included within the Group Accounts under the wider definition of an “associate” although the Council holds less than 20% of voting rights that is normally presumed to confer significant influence. This is in view of the funding arrangements between the constituent local authorities and the Joint Boards.
- The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as it is expected that future local government finance settlements, aligned with the Council’s robust budget process, which drives through efficiency savings, will provide sufficient resources to finance future liabilities.

Note 37 Assumptions made about the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Council about the future or other factors that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be materially different from the assumptions and estimates.

The items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2022 for which there is a risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if Results differ from Assumptions
Pensions liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which pay is projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Strathclyde Pension Fund has engaged a firm of consulting actuaries to provide expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used by the consulting actuaries to measure the scheme liabilities are set out below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 0.1% decrease in the real discount rate would result in a 2% increase (£13.803 million) in the employer's obligation. • A one year increase in member life expectancy would result in a 4% increase in the employer's obligation. • A 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate would result in a 0% increase (£1.679 million) in the employer's obligation. • A 0.1% increase in the pension increase rate would result in a 2% increase (£12.009 million) in the employer's obligation.
Property, Plant & Equipment	Assets are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain whether the Council will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.	If the useful life of an asset is reduced, depreciation increases and the carrying amount of the asset falls. It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings would increase by £0.823 million for every year that useful lives are reduced.

Note 38 Error on accounting for Unapplied Capital Grants – Restatement of 2020-2021

The Council identified that the Unapplied Capital Grants carried forward at 1 April 2020 had been incorrectly accounted for in 2020-2021. The error meant that the grants were correctly recognised in the comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement however were not transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement resulting in an overstatement of the General Fund Balance by £1.165 million and an understatement of the Capital Adjustment Account balance by £1.165 million. The Council has since reviewed its Capital Accounting procedures and has made appropriate changes and introduced additional internal controls to ensure such events are unlikely to recur.

In order to correct this error, the Council has restated the prior year information for 2020-2021 for the £1.165 million through the usable and unusable reserves line in the balance sheet. The following are the relevant extracted lines from the Balance Sheet and Movement in Reserves Statement.

Accounting Policies, Judgements and Assumptions

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires that an authority present a balance sheet at the beginning of the preceding period when an authority makes a retrospective restatement. The restatement has no impact on the Opening Balance position in the 2021-2022 Accounts. The following table demonstrates the effect on the line items in the Balance sheet for the financial year 2020-2021. The restated prior period Balance sheet is provided with the current year information on page 34 of the financial statements.

	Originally Stated 2020-2021 £000	Restated 2020-2021 £000	Amount of Restatement £000
Usable Reserves	53,362	52,197	(1,165)
Unusable Reserves	160,029	161,194	1,165
Total Reserves	213,391	213,391	0

The following Restatement was also required for the Movement in Reserves Statement. The restated prior period Movement in Reserves Statement is provided with the current year information on page 35 of the financial statements.

Movement in Reserves Statement – General Fund and Unusable Reserves

	General Fund Originally Stated £000	General Fund Restated £000	Amount of Restatement £000	Unusable Reserves Originally Stated £000	Unusable Reserves Restated £000	Amount of Restatement £000
Balance at 31 March 2020	37,983	37,983	0	116,496	116,496	0
Transfers (to) and from Other Statutory Reserves	(205)	(205)	0	(201)	(201)	0
Increase or (Decrease) in the Year	5,994	4,829	(1,165)	43,533	44,698	1,165
Balance at 31 March 2021 Carried Forward	43,977	42,812	(1,165)	160,029	161,194	1,165

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Inverclyde Council and the Accounts Commission

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the annual accounts of Inverclyde Council for the year ended 31 March 2022 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the council-only and group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, Balance Sheets, Movement in Reserves Statements, the council-only Cash-Flow Statement, Council Tax Income Account, Non-domestic Rates Income Account, the Common Good Fund and Trust Funds, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 (the 2021/22 Code).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2021/22 Code of the state of affairs of the council as at 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards, as interpreted and adapted by the 2021/22 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014, and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I was appointed under arrangements approved by the Accounts Commission on 18 July 2016. The period of total uninterrupted appointment is six years. I am independent of the council in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. Non-audit services prohibited by the Ethical Standard were not provided to the council. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the council's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

These conclusions are not intended to, nor do they, provide assurance on the council's current or future financial sustainability. However, I report on the council's arrangements for financial sustainability in a separate Annual Audit Report available from the [Audit Scotland website](#).

Risk of material misstatement

I report in my Annual Audit Report the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement that I identified and my judgements thereon.

Responsibilities of the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance, and Inverclyde Council for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Annual Accounts, the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance is responsible for assessing the council's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless there is an intention to discontinue the council's operations.

The council is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- obtaining an understanding of the applicable legal and regulatory framework and how the council is complying with that framework;
- identifying which laws and regulations are significant in the context of the council;
- assessing the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the council's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the audited part of the Remuneration Report

I have audited the part of the Remuneration Report described as audited. In my opinion, the audited part of the Remuneration Report has been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.

Other information

The Interim Director, Finance and Corporate Governance is responsible for other information in the annual accounts. The other information comprises the Management Commentary, Annual Governance Statement, Statement of Responsibilities for the Annual Accounts and the unaudited part of the Remuneration Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Management Commentary and Annual Governance Statement

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Management Commentary for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with statutory guidance issued under the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003; and
- the information given in the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the audited part of the Remuneration Report are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Conclusions on wider scope responsibilities

In addition to my responsibilities for the annual accounts, my conclusions on the wider scope responsibilities specified in the Code of Audit Practice, including those in respect of the Best Value, are set out in my Annual Audit Report.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 120 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Brian Howarth ACMA CGMA
Audit Director
Audit Scotland
4th Floor, South Suite
The Athenaeum Building
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow G2 1 BT

10 November 2022

1. Accounting Period

The period of time covered by the accounts, normally a period of twelve months commencing on 1 April. The end of the accounting period is the Balance Sheet date.

2. Accruals

The concept that income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

3. Actuarial Gains and Losses (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the changes in actuarial deficits or surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses) or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

4. Asset

An item having value to the Council in monetary terms. Assets are categorised as either current or non-current. A current asset will be consumed or cease to have material value within the next financial year (e.g. cash and stock). A non-current asset provides benefit to the Council and to the Services it provides for a period of more than one year.

5. Associates

These are entities (other than a subsidiary or a joint venture) in which the Council has a participating interest or over whose operating and financial policies the Council is able to exercise significant influence.

6. Audit of Accounts

An independent examination of the Council's financial affairs.

7. Balance Sheet

A statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of the accounting period.

8. Capital Adjustment Account

This account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

9. Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on the acquisition of a non-current asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period, or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing non-current asset.

10. Capital Financing

Funds raised to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, capital receipts and grants, and revenue funding.

11. Capital Grants Unapplied Account

The Capital Grants Unapplied Account holds the grants and contributions received towards capital projects for which the Council has met the conditions that would otherwise require repayment of the monies but which have yet to be applied to meet expenditure.

12. Capital Programme

The capital schemes the Council intends to carry out over a specified period of time.

13. Capital Receipt

The proceeds from the disposal of land or other non-current assets.

14. CIES

The Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (CIES) shows the accounting cost of providing services and managing the Council during the year. It includes, on an accruals basis, all of the Council's day-to-day expenses and related income. It also includes transactions measuring the value of non-current assets actually consumed during the year and the real projected value of retirement benefits earned by employees during the year. The statement shows the accounting cost in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the cost according to the statutory regulations that specify the net expenditure that Councils need to take into account when setting the annual Council Tax. The required adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations are shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

15. CIPFA

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) is one of the major accountancy bodies in the United Kingdom. It develops and sets accounting standards for the public sector.

16. The Code

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (The Code) is the basis on which local authority accounts are prepared. The Code is based on European Union adopted International Financial Accounting Standards (that are primarily drafted for the commercial sector) and where required it interprets and adapts these standards to address all the accounting issues relevant to local government in the UK.

17. Community Assets

Assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life and that may have restrictions on their disposal. Examples of community assets are municipal parks.

18. Consistency

The concept that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next, are the same.

19. Contingent Liability

A contingent liability is either

- A possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain event, not wholly within the Council's control; or

- A present obligation arising from past events where it is not probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

20. Corporate and Democratic Core

The Corporate and Democratic Core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected multi-purpose authorities. The cost of these activities are thus over and above those which would be incurred by a series of independent, single purpose, nominated bodies managing the same service.

21. Creditor

Amounts owed by the Council for work done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been made by the end of that accounting period.

22. Current Service Cost (Pensions)

The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities, expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

23. Debtor

Amount owed to the Council for works done, goods received or services rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

24. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

Pension schemes in which the benefits received by the participants are independent of the contributions paid and are not directly related to the investments of the scheme.

25. Depreciation

The measure of the cost of wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of the Council's non-current assets during the accounting period, whether from use, the passage of time or obsolescence through technical or other changes.

26. Discretionary Benefits (Pensions)

Retirement awards, which the employer has no legal, contractual or constructive obligation to award and are awarded under the Council's discretionary powers.

27. Employee Statutory Adjustment Account

The Employee Statutory Adjustment Account absorbs the difference that would otherwise arise on the General Fund from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March.

28. Entity

A corporate body, partnership, trust, unincorporated association, or statutory body that is delivering a service or carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit. It should have a separate legal personality and is legally required to prepare its own single entity accounts.

29. Equity

The Council's value of total assets less liabilities.

30. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable or unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Annual Accounts are authorised for issue.

31. Exceptional Items

Material items which derive from events or transactions that fall within the ordinary activities of the Council and which need to be disclosed separately by virtue of their size or incidence to give fair presentation of the accounts.

32. Extinguishment

Extinguishment relates to financial liabilities and occurs when the Council's legal obligations end, either through the cancellation or expiry of the obligations or through payment being made to settle the amount owed by the Council.

33. Fair Value

The fair value of an asset is the price at which it could be exchanged for in an arm's length transaction, less where applicable, any grants receivable towards the purchase or use of the asset.

34. Finance Lease

A lease that transfers substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of a non-current asset to the lessee.

35. Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

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

36. General Revenue Grant

A grant paid by the Scottish Government to Councils, contributing towards the general cost of their services.

37. Going Concern

The concept that the Annual Accounts are prepared on the assumption that the Council (and its Associate bodies) will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

38. Government Grants

Grants made by the Government towards either revenue or capital expenditure in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the activities of the Council. These grants may be specific to a particular scheme or may support the revenue spend of the Council in general.

39. Gross Expenditure

This includes all expenditure attributable to the service and activity including employee costs, premises and transport costs, supplies and services, third party payments, support services and depreciation.

40. Gross Income

This includes grant income and all charges to individuals and organisations for the direct use of the Council's services.

41. Heritage Asset

A tangible or intangible asset with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that is held and maintained principally for its contribution to knowledge and culture.

42. IFRS

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) are a set of accounting standards developed by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) that is becoming the global standard for the preparation of public company financial statements and has been extended into the public sector in the UK.

43. Impairment

A reduction in the value of a non-current asset to below its carrying amount on the Balance Sheet.

44. Infrastructure Assets

Non-current assets belonging to the Council that cannot be transferred or sold, on which expenditure is only recoverable by the continued use of the asset created. Examples are highways, footpaths and bridges.

45. Insurance Fund

The Insurance Fund covers the main classes of insurance and is earmarked for insurance purposes.

46. Intangible Assets

An intangible (non-physical) asset may be defined as such when access to the future economic benefits it represents are controlled by the Council. This Council's intangible assets are comprised solely of computer software licenses.

47. Interest Cost (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period of the scheme's liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

48. Inventories

Items the Council has procured and holds in expectation of future use. Examples are consumable stores and raw materials.

49. Liability

A liability is where the Council owes payment to an individual or another organisation. A current liability is an amount which will become payable or could be called in within the next accounting period e.g. creditors or cash overdrawn. A non-current liability is an amount which by arrangement is payable beyond the next year, at some point in the future, or is to be paid off by an annual sum over a period of time.

50. MiRS

The Movement in Reserves Statement (MiRS) shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into usable reserves (those reserves that can be applied to fund expenditure or to reduce taxation) and unusable reserves.

51. National Non-Domestic Rates Pool

All Non-Domestic Rates collected by local authorities are remitted to the national pool and thereafter distributed to Councils by the Scottish Government.

52. Net Carrying Value

The amount at which non-current assets are included in the Balance Sheet, i.e. their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided for depreciation.

53. Non-current Assets

These are created by capital expenditure incurred by the Council. They include property, vehicles, plant, machinery, roads, computer equipment etc.

54. Non-Distributable Costs

These are overhead costs where there is no direct linkage to services. Examples are the audit fee and historic pension costs.

55. Operating Leases

A lease where the ownership of the non-current asset remains with the lessor.

56. Past Service Cost (Pensions)

For a defined benefit scheme, the increase in the present value of the scheme's liabilities relating to employee service in prior periods arising in the current period as a result of the introduction of, or improvement to, retirement benefits.

57. Pension Reserve

The Pension Reserve recognises the Council's share of the actuarial gains and losses in the Strathclyde Pension Fund and the change in the Council's share of the net liability chargeable to the CIES.

58. Pension Scheme Liabilities

The liabilities of a defined benefit pension scheme for outgoing due after the valuation date. The scheme's liabilities, measured using the "project unit method", reflect the benefits that the employer is committed to provide for service up to the valuation date.

59. Post-Employment Benefits

All forms of consideration given by an employer in exchange for services rendered by employees that are payable after the completion of employment e.g. pensions in retirement.

60. Prior Year Adjustment

Material adjustments applicable to previous years arising from changes in accounting policies or from the correction of fundamental errors. This does not include normal recurring corrections or adjustments of accounting estimates made in prior years.

61. Provision

An amount put aside for future liabilities or losses which are certain or very likely to occur but the amounts or dates of when they will arise are uncertain.

62. Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

A Central Government Agency which provides loans for one year and above to Councils at interest rates based on those at which the Government can borrow itself.

63. Rateable Value

The annual assumed rental of land or property, which is for national Non-Domestic Rates purposes.

64. Related Parties

Bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Council or to be controlled or influenced by the Council. For the Council's purposes related parties are deemed to include the Elected Members, the Chief Executive and its Corporate Directors.

65. Remuneration

All sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses or allowances (as far as these sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the monetary value of any other benefits received other than in cash.

66. Repairs and Renewals Fund

The Repairs and Renewals Fund provides for the upkeep of specific assets held by the Council.

67. Reserves

The accumulation of surpluses, deficits and appropriation over past years. Reserves of a revenue nature are available and can be spent or earmarked at the discretion of the Council. Some capital reserves such as the Revaluation Reserve cannot be used to meet current expenditure.

68. Residual Value

The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life.

69. Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve represents the store of gains on the revaluation of fixed assets not yet realised through sales.

70. Revenue Expenditure

The day-to-day expenses of providing services.

71. Short-term Borrowing

Money borrowed where repayment is due in the following financial year.

72. Significant Interest

The reporting authority is deemed to have Significant Interest if it is actively involved and is influential in the direction of an entity through its participation in policy decisions.

73. Soft Loans

Loans made at significantly below market rates are deemed "soft loans" because there may be some element of subsidy between what the loan would have cost at market rates and the amount of interest actually charged. Examples include small start-up loans to small businesses.

74. Trust Funds

Funds administered by the Council for such purposes as awards and specific projects. Some of the Council's Trust Funds are Charities.

75. Useful Economic Life

The period over which the local authority will derive benefits from the use of a non-current asset.

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Inverclyde
council

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Date: 10 November 2022

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Brian Howarth, Audit Director
Audit Scotland
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8 Nelson Mandela Place
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G2 1BT

Dear Brian

Inverclyde Council
Annual Accounts 2021/22
Letter of Representation (ISA 580)

This representation letter is provided about your audit of the annual accounts of Inverclyde Council and its group for the year ended 31 March 2022 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for expressing other opinions on the remuneration report, management commentary and annual governance statement.

I confirm to the best of my knowledge and belief and having made appropriate enquiries of the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team, the following representations given to you in connection with your audit of Inverclyde Council's annual accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

General

Inverclyde Council and I have fulfilled our statutory responsibilities for the preparation of the 2021/22 annual accounts. All the accounting records, documentation and other matters which I am aware are relevant to the preparation of the annual accounts have been made available to you for the purposes of your audit. All transactions undertaken by Inverclyde Council have been recorded in the accounting records and are properly reflected in the financial statements.

I confirm that the effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. I am not aware of any uncorrected misstatements other than those reported by you.

Financial Reporting Framework

The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 (2021/22 accounting code), and in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 and The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014.



Healthy
Working
Lives



In accordance with the 2014 regulations, I have ensured that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Inverclyde Council and its Group at 31 March 2022 and the transactions for 2021/22.

Accounting Policies & Estimates

All significant accounting policies applied are as shown in the notes to the financial statements. The accounting policies are determined by the 2021/22 accounting code where applicable. Where the code does not specifically apply I have used judgement in developing and applying an accounting policy that results in information that is relevant and reliable. All accounting policies applied are appropriate to Inverclyde Council circumstances and have been consistently applied.

The significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates are reasonable and properly reflected in the financial statements. Judgements used in making estimates have been based on the latest available, reliable information. Estimates have been revised where there are changes in the circumstances on which the original estimate was based or as a result of new information or experience.

Going Concern Basis of Accounting

I have assessed Inverclyde Council's ability to continue to use the going concern basis of accounting and have concluded that it is appropriate. I am not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on Inverclyde Council's ability to continue as a going concern.

Assets

Where a rolling programme of asset valuations has been used, I have satisfied myself that the carrying amount of assets at 31 March 2022 does not differ materially from that which would be determined if a revaluation had been carried out at that date.

I carried out an assessment at 31 March 2022 as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired and have recognised any impairment losses identified.

I have provided you with all information of which I am aware regarding any valuation exercises carried out after 31 March 2022.

There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the assets recognised within the financial statements.

Owned assets are free from any lien, encumbrance or charge except as disclosed in the financial statements.

Liabilities

All liabilities at 31 March 2022 of which I am aware have been recognised in the annual accounts.

Provisions have been recognised in the financial statements for all liabilities of uncertain timing or amount at 31 March 2022 of which I am aware where the conditions specified in the 2021/22 accounting code have been met. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the expenditure likely to be required to settle the obligation at 31 March 2022. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount of the provision has been discounted to the present value of the expected payments.

Provisions recognised in previous years have been reviewed and adjusted, where appropriate, to reflect the best estimate at 31 March 2022 or to reflect material changes in the assumptions underlying the calculations of the cash flows.

The accrual recognised in the financial statements for holiday untaken by 31 March 2022 has been estimated on a reasonable basis.

The pension assumptions made by the actuary in the IAS 19 report for Inverclyde Council have been considered and I confirm that they are consistent with management's own view.

There are no plans or intentions that are likely to affect the carrying value or classification of the liabilities recognised in the financial statements.

Contingent liabilities

There are no significant contingent liabilities, other than those disclosed in Note 24 to the financial statements, arising either under formal agreement or through formal undertakings requiring disclosure in the accounts. All known contingent liabilities have been fully and properly disclosed, including any outstanding legal claims which have not been provided under the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 and IAS 37.

With specific reference to equal pay claims I can confirm that it is not possible to quantify the contingent liability.

Fraud

I have provided you with all information in relation to:

- my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated because of fraud
- any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the financial statements
- fraud or suspected fraud that I am aware of involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control, or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Laws and Regulations

I have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements.

Related Party Transactions

All material transactions with related parties have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements in accordance with the 2021/22 accounting code. I have made available to you the identity of all the Inverclyde Council's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Remuneration Report

The Remuneration Report has been prepared in accordance with the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2014, and all required information of which I am aware has been provided to you.

Management commentary

I confirm that the Management Commentary has been prepared in accordance with the statutory guidance and the information is consistent with the financial statements.

Corporate Governance

I confirm that the Inverclyde Council has undertaken a review of the system of internal control during 2021/22 to establish the extent to which it complies with proper practices set out in the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016. I have disclosed to you all deficiencies in internal control identified from this review or of which I am otherwise aware.

I confirm that the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 and the information is consistent with the financial statements. There have been no changes in the corporate governance arrangements or issues identified, since 31 March 2022, which require to be reflected.

Group Accounts

I have identified all the other entities in which Inverclyde Council has a material interest and have classified and accounted for them in accordance with the 2021/22 accounting code. Any significant issues with the financial statements of group entities, including any qualified audit opinions, have been advised to you.

Common Good Fund

I confirm, to the best of my ability, that all material common good assets have been identified and correctly accounted for within the common good financial statements and, where appropriate, common good assets in use by the council have been assessed and accounted for in line with IAS 17.

Events Subsequent to the Date of the Balance Sheet

All events subsequent to 31 March 2022 for which the 2021/22 accounting code requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Yours sincerely

Alan Puckrin
Interim Director, Finance & Corporate Governance