

North of Tyne Combined Authority

Statement of Accounts

**For the period 1 April 2023 to 6 May
2024**

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1.0 Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority's Responsibilities

The Authority is required:

- To make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. In this Authority, the officer is the Chief Finance Officer;
- To manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient, and effective use of resources and safeguard its assets; and
- To approve the Statement of Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer's Responsibilities

The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practice as set out in the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('The Code').

In preparing this Statement of Accounts the Chief Finance Officer has:

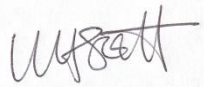
- Selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently,
- Made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- Complied with the local authority Code.

The Chief Finance Officer has also:

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

Certification of the Chief Finance Officer

I certify that the Statement of Accounts for the period ended 6 May 2024, required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 are set out in the following pages and that they give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and its income and expenditure for the period ended 6 May 2024.

Signed: 

Date: 21/02/2025

Mags Scott, Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer)

Statement of Approval of the Accounts

The Statement of Accounts for the year 1 April 2023 to 6 May 2024 is approved by the Cabinet of the North East Combined Authority

Signed: 

Date: 21/02/2025

Kim McGuinness, Mayor of the North East Combined Authority

2.0 Core Financial Statements and Explanatory Notes

2.1 Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Combined Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e., those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure line shows the accounting cost of providing the Combined Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. This is different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance. The net increase or decrease before transfers to earmarked reserves shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Combined Authority.

	Note	General Fund Balance	Earmarked Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Useable Reserves	Unusable Reserves Note 25	Total Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2022		(7,064)	(105,278)	(471)	(58,470)	(171,283)	(63,408)	(234,691)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		(59,861)	-	-	-	(59,861)	(6,674)	(66,535)
Adjustments between accounting Basis & funding Basis under regulations		31,060	-	-	(17,704)	13,356	(13,899)	(543)
(Increase)/Decrease in year		(28,801)	-	-	(17,704)	(46,505)	(20,573)	(67,078)
Transfers (to)/from Reserves	23	29,319	(29,319)	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward		(6,546)	(134,597)	(471)	(76,174)	(217,788)	(83,981)	(301,769)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure		(52,458)	-	-	-	(52,458)	592	(51,866)
Adjustments between accounting Basis & funding Basis under regulations		46,708	-	471	(44,751)	2,428	(2,428)	-
(Increase) /Decrease in year		(5,750)	-	471	(44,751)	(50,030)	(1,836)	(51,866)
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	23	(1,129)	1,129	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 6 May 2024		(13,425)	(133,468)	-	(120,925)	(267,818)	(85,817)	(353,635)

2.2 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice, rather than the amount charged to the General Fund which is set out in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

As part of the creation of the Combined Authority (NTCA) it was stated that a Joint Transport Committee (JTC) must be appointed which is endowed with the powers of the Integrated Transport Authority, which were previously endowed upon the North East Combined Authority (NECA) when the seven Local Authorities were part of it. NECA was appointed as the accountable body for the JTC.

NECA as the accountable body must split revenue, expenditure, assets and liabilities into those which relate to NECA and NTCA. The accounts for the Combined Authority thereby include a split of all income and expenditure relating to transport activity associated with the constituent authorities of North of Tyne.

2022/23				2023/24 to 6 May 2024		
Gross Exp £000	Gross Inc £000	Net Exp £000		Gross Exp £000	Gross Inc £000	Net Exp £000
29,449	(3,357)	26,092	Investment Fund	21,099	(1,535)	19,564
12,230	(13,848)	(1,618)	Corporate Costs	38,986	(53,457)	(14,471)
20,420	(26,409)	(5,989)	Adult Education Budget	19,768	(24,915)	(5,147)
80,727	(100,387)	(19,660)	Joint Transport Committee Costs	94,580	(40,484)	54,096
513	(301)	212	Invest North East	563	(325)	238
32,425	(13,410)	19,015	Local Enterprise Partnership	21,845	(18,305)	3,540
175,764	(157,712)	18,052	Cost of Services	196,843	(139,021)	57,820
			Other operating expenditure			
4,843	(4,261)	582	Financing & Investment income and expenditure	6,239	(12,966)	(6,727)
-	(78,495)	(78,495)	Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	-	(103,551)	(103,551)
180,607	(240,468)	(59,861)	(Surplus)/ Deficit on Provision of Services	203,083	(255,538)	(52,458)
		(6,674)	Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			592
		(66,535)	Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure			(51,866)

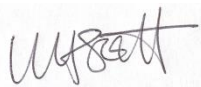
2.3 Balance Sheet as at 6 May 2024

The Balance sheet shows the values as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Combined Authority. The Net Assets of the Combined Authority (total assets less total liabilities) are matched by Reserves. Reserves are reported in two categories – Usable and Unusable. Unusable Reserves includes those which hold unrealised gains and losses (e.g., the Revaluation Reserve) where amounts only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences in the Movement in Reserves Statement line “adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations”.

31 March 2023 £000		Note	6 May 2024 £000
151,250	Property, Plant & Equipment	13	149,683
626	Pension Asset	21	-
48,661	Long Term Debtors	17	46,086
200,537	Long Term Assets		195,769
231,806	Short Term Investments	14	298,546
14,353	Short Term Debtors	16	14,405
45,136	Cash & Cash Equivalents	18	41,397
291,295	Current Assets		354,348
(1,030)	Short Term Borrowing	14	(883)
(78,035)	Short Term Creditors	19	(96,672)
(787)	Grants Receipts in Advance	8	(5)
(2,290)	Public Private Partnerships	20	(2,295)
(82,142)	Current Liabilities		(99,855)
(32,063)	Public Private Partnerships	20	(29,613)
(75,858)	Long Term Borrowing	15	(67,013)
(107,921)	Long Term Liabilities		(96,626)
301,769	Net Assets		353,635
	Financed By:		
(217,788)	Useable Reserves	22	(267,818)
(83,981)	Unusable Reserves	24	(85,817)
(301,769)	Total Reserves		(353,635)

I certify that the Statement of Accounts for the period ended 6 May 2024, required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and its income and expenditure for the period ended 6 May 2024.

Signed:



Date: 21/02/2025

Mags Scott, Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer)

2.4 Cash Flow Statement for period ended 6 May 2024

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Combined Authority during the reporting period. The Statement shows how the Combined Authority generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Combined Authority's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e., borrowing) to the Combined Authority.

2022/23 £000		Note	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
59,861	Net Surplus/(Deficit) on the provision of services		52,458
390	Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	26	17,705
(68,900)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	26	(76,433)
(8,649)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities		(6,270)
38,605	Investing Activities	27	9,712
(19,714)	Financing Activities	28	(7,181)
10,242	Net (Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents		(3,739)
34,894	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	18	45,135
45,136	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		41,397

2.5 Index to the Notes to the Financial Statements

The values within the financial statements are disclosed with rounding's which are appropriate to their individual presentation. Consequently, the tables in the Statement of Accounts may contain rounding differences.

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1. Narrative Explanatory Note on Devolution

Transfer of Services to the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority

On 2 November 2018, under the terms of the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2018 a new entity, the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority was created known as North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).

At this date, Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Metropolitan District Council and Northumberland County Council ceased to be members of the North East Combined Authority and became a member of the new NTCA; and the business of the North East Combined Authority, and the associated assets and liabilities, relating to the geography of Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland transferred to the new NTCA.

Under the Order, it is stated that NECA and NTCA must appoint a Joint Transport Committee (JTC), which is endowed with the powers of the Integrated Transport Authority previously endowed upon NECA. The Constitution of the JTC is such that at it meets the definition of Joint Control and it is classified accordingly as a Joint Operation.

At its first meeting on 20 November 2018, the JTC appointed NECA as its accountable body. As the accountable body NECA must split the revenue, expenditure, and assets and liabilities into those which relate to NECA and those which relate to NTCA:

- That which relates to Northumberland is wholly allocated to NTCA.
- That which relates to Durham is wholly allocated to NECA.
- That which relates to Tyne and Wear is allocated between NECA and NTCA on the basis of population using the ONS statistics used as a basis of dividing levy contributions.

North East Mayoral Combined Authority

On 12 March 2024, the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 was approved. The Order provides for the establishment on 7 May 2024 of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), comprising as constituent councils the seven north-east councils. The Order simultaneously abolishes the existing North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) and North East Combined Authority (NECA), and the office of the Mayor of North of Tyne.

The accounts for 2023/24 have been prepared on a going concern basis: that is, on the assumption that the authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. This means the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Balance Sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of the operation.

The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2023/24 (the Code) as published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting (CIPFA), sets out that transfers of services under combinations of public sector bodies do not negate the presumption of going concern. The Order provides appropriate continuity and transitional arrangements so that any acts of the existing combined authorities are to be treated as the acts of the new MCA. The Order also provides for the staffing, assets, rights and liabilities of the existing combined authorities to transfer to the MCA. This ensures that the regional transport arrangements which were previously overseen by the JTC and other funding programmes of NTCA and NECA will be maintained by the MCA without interruption. For this reason it is considered appropriate, in line with the Code, for these accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis.

Extended Financial Year End

The North East Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 also determined that in relation to the financial year beginning with 1 April 2023, the statement of accounts should be prepared as though that financial year were to end with 6 May 2024.

The Statement of Accounts covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 6 May 2024, a period of 12 months and 36 days. In preparing the Balance Sheet as at 6 May 2024, the following critical judgements were adopted by management:

- IAS 19 pension entries for the period to 6 May 2024 were based upon reports obtained from the pension actuaries at the balance sheet date.
- Loans and investment balances were obtained as at 6 May 2024.
- Cash and cash equivalents were accounted for on the basis of the actual position as at 6 May 2024.
- Unusable reserves were accounted for on the basis of the actual position as at 6 May.
- Non-current asset values at 31 March 2024 were updated to reflect any additions in the period 1 April 2024 to 6 May 2024, and depreciation provided for the period 1 April to 6 May on an estimated straight line basis.

April and May 2024 transactions were examined and estimates of income and expenditure for the period 1 April to 6 May 2024 were included in the CIES.

As a result of the extended accounting period for 2023/24 to 6 May 2024 (13 months and 6 days), and the prior period covering 2022/23 (12 months), care needs to be taken when drawing comparisons between the figures for each financial year.

2. Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis (EFA) shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (e.g., government grants and levies) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making between the different areas of the Combined Authority (including JTC) budget. Income and Expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The EFA presented in the accounts reconciles between the amounts in the Movement in Reserves Statement and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2023/24 to 6 May 2024

	Net Exp. Chargeable to General Fund	Adjs'. for Capital Purposes	Pension Adjs	Other Adjs	Net Exp. in CIES
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Investment Fund	19,564	-	-	-	19,564
Corporate Costs	(14,424)	-	52	(99)	(14,471)
Adult Education Budget	(5,147)	-	-	-	(5,147)
Joint Transport Committee	41,928	10,036	-	2,132	54,096
Invest North East	235	-	3	-	238
Local Enterprise Partnership	3,546	-	36	(42)	3,540
Net Cost of Services	45,702	10,036	91	1,991	57,820
Other Income & Expenditure	(51,452)	(59,585)	(57)	817	(110,278)
Surplus on Provision of Service	(5,750)	(49,549)	34	2,808	(52,458)

	2023/24
Opening General Fund Balances	(6,546)
Surplus on General Fund Balances in Year	(5,750)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	(1,129)
General Fund Balances at 6 May 2024	(13,425)

2022/23

	Net Exp. Chargeable to General Fund	Adjs'. for Capital Purposes	Pension Adjs	Other Adjs	Net Exp. in CIES
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Investment Fund	25,579	-	508	5	26,092
Corporate Costs	(1,852)	-	223	11	(1,618)
Adult Education Budget	(5,989)	-	-	-	(5,989)
Joint Transport Committee	(4,037)	(15,623)	-	-	(19,660)
Invest North East	90	-	96	26	212
Local Enterprise Partnership	17,467	-	1,389	159	19,015
Net Cost of Services	31,258	(15,623)	2,216	201	18,052
Other Income & Expenditure	(68,288)	(12,726)	(201)	3,302	(77,913)
Surplus on Provision of Service	(37,030)	(28,349)	2,015	3,503	(59,861)
Opening General Fund Balance					(7,064)
Surplus on General Fund Balance in Year					(37,030)
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves					37,548
General Fund Balance at 31 March 2023					(6,546)

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

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 disposal 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 i.e., Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices; and
- 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 that receivable in the year to those receivable without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

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

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Combined Authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs; and
- For Financing and Investment income and expenditure the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

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

North of Tyne Combined Authority Statement of Accounts for the period 1 April 2023 to 6 May 2024

- For Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure the adjustments relate to the timing differences for premiums and discounts; and
- For services this includes adjustments made from accruing compensated absences earned but not taken in the year

3. Income and Expenditure Analysed by Nature

2022/23		2023/24 to 6 May 2024		
Total		Cost of Services	Other Income & Expenditure	Total
£000		£000	£000	£000
7,501	Employee benefit expenses	11,164	-	11,164
114,759	Other Service Expenses	128,580	-	128,580
579	Support Service Recharges	1,275	-	1,275
-	Levies & Precepts	-	-	-
52,925	Depreciation, impairment and Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)	55,822	-	55,822
4,844	Interest Payments	-	6,239	6,239
180,608	Total Expenditure	196,841	6,239	203,082
(21,887)	Fees, charges and other service income (Tyne Tunnels tolls)*	(26,076)	-	(26,076)
(4,261)	Interest and Investment Income	-	(12,965)	(12,965)
(35,702)	Income from Transport Levy	-	(40,224)	(40,224)
(171,194)	Government grants and contributions	(109,034)	(63,230)	(172,264)
(7,425)	Other Income	(4,010)	-	(4,010)
(240,469)	Total Income	(157,120)	(98,419)	(255,539)
(59,861)	(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services	39,721	(92,180)	(52,459)

*Fees, charges and other service income relates wholly to tolls paid by users of the Tyne Tunnels.

4. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure figure recognised by the Combined Authority in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Combined Authority to meet future capital and revenue expenditure.

2022/23 Restated

2023/24 to 6 May 2024

General Fund	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Unusable Reserves		General Fund	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Unusable Reserves
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000

Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account

(1,938)	-	-	1,938	Reversal of items debited or credited to the CIES	(2,147)	-	-	2,147
2,290	-	-	(2,290)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	2,522	-	-	(2,522)
32,836	-	-	(32,836)	Other income that cannot be credited to the General Fund	6,696	-	-	(6,696)
(51,528)	-	-	51,528	Capital Grants and contributions applied	(54,215)	-	-	54,215
832	-	-	(832)	Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	941	-	-	(941)
8,773	-	-	(8,773)	<u>Insertion of items not debited or credited to the CIES</u>	25,130	-	-	(25,130)
164	-	-	(164)	Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment				
				Application of reserves to finance Capital Expenditure				
				Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund				

Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account

36,064	-	(36,064)	-	Grants and contributions unapplied credited to CIES	69,737	-	(69,737)	-
-	-	18,360	(18,360)	Application of grants to capital financing transferred to Capital Adjustment Account	-	-	24,986	(24,986)

2022/23 Restated

2023/24 to 6 May 2024

General Fund	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Unusable Reserves
£000	£000	£000	£000

General Fund	Capital Receipts Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Unusable Reserves
£000	£000	£000	£000

Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve

-	(1,787)	-	1,787	Loan principal repayments (Capital receipts)	(1,245)	(1,940)		3,185
-	1,154	-	(1,154)	Use of Capital Receipts to finance new capital expenditure		1,800		(1,800)
-	633	-	(633)	Application of capital receipts to repayment of debt		611		(611)

Adjustments involving the Financial Instruments

5,381	-	-	(5,381)	Amount by which finance costs charged to the CIES are different from finance costs chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(817)	-	-	817
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Adjustments involving the Accumulated Absences Reserve

203	-	-	(203)	Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	141			(141)
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Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve

(2,216)	-	-	2,216	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to CIES	(1,181)			1,181
305	-	-	(305)	Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	1,090			(1,090)
(104)	-	-	104	Interest expense on net defined liability/(asset)	57			(57)
31,062	-	(17,704)	(13,358)	Total Adjustments	46,708	471	(44,751)	(2,428)

5. Leasing

The Combined Authority entered into a short-term building lease on the 10th August 2021 which is classified as a short-term lease. The total rents payable in 2023/24 to 6 May 2024 were £0.154m (2022/23 £0.150m).

Undischarged operating lease rentals at 6 May 2024 amounted to £0.417m, comprising of the following elements:

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Due Year 1	154	156
Due Year 2-5	417	261
Due after Year 5	0	0
Total	571	417

6. Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

The financing and investment income & expenditure shown in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement consists of:

	Note	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Interest payable and similar charges		4,740	6,239
Interest on defined benefit liability	21	104	(57)
Interest receivable and similar income		(4,262)	(12,909)
Total		582	(6,727)

7. Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

The taxation and non-specific grant income shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement consists of:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Transport Levy	(35,702)	(40,321)
Non-ringfenced Government Grants	(20,000)	(2,000)
Non-Specific Capital Grants	(22,793)	(61,230)
Total	(78,495)	(103,551)

8. Grants and Contributions Income

The Combined Authority has received a number of grants and contributions that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that would require the monies to be returned to the provider if they are not met. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
<u>Capital Receipts in Advance</u>		
NECA Office for Low Emission Vehicles	(23)	(5)
Other Grants	(764)	-
Total	(787)	(5)
Shown as Short-Term Liability on the Balance Sheet	(787)	(5)
Total	(787)	(5)

The following grants were credited to the net cost of service within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Adult Education Budget	(26,138)	(24,915)
Bus Service Improvement Plan	(53,014)	-
Transforming Cities Fund	(6,000)	-
Local Transport Plan	(6,322)	(7,920)
Active Travel Fund	(8,448)	(2,297)
Covid 19 Business Support	-	-
Mayoral Capacity Fund	(1,000)	(1,000)
Brownfield Housing Fund	-	(238)
European Grants	(858)	(2,098)
Growth Hub	(390)	(420)
LEP Core Funding	(932)	(250)
Business Recovery Grants	(193)	-
Community Renewal	(367)	-
Made Smarter	(800)	(799)
Levelling Up Support Grant	(625)	(300)
Multiply	(1,248)	(1,607)
UK Social Prosperity Fund	(5,754)	(9,887)
Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator	(469)	(50)
Corporate Contributions from Local Authorities	(222)	(587)
Enterprise Advisor Programme	(221)	(313)
Local Transport Fund	(5,644)	(613)
Active Travel Capability	-	(953)
Levelling Up Fund	-	(1,889)
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI)	-	(279)
Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant	-	(244)
Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)	-	(2,614)
Education Vision	(52)	-
Contributions KAM Programme	(161)	(169)
Contributions Net Zero North East	(220)	(105)

EY Primary Pilot	(407)	-
City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement	(2,555)	(1,281)
Careers Grant	-	(319)
Skills Bootcamp	(4,931)	(12,096)
Youth Employment Partnership	(39)	-
Local Nature Recovery Strategies (DEFRA)	-	(152)
Mayors Election	-	(100)
Create Growth Programme	-	(425)
DESNES In person energy advice for wider NE Region	-	(170)
NEMCA North East Flexible Pot S31	-	(20,000)
NEMCA North East Investment Fund	-	(14,000)
Challenge North of Tyne	-	(110)
Other grants and contributions (individually under £0.100m)	(1,390)	(834)
Total	(128,400)	(109,034)

9. Members' Allowances

	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Allowances	67	74
Total	67	74

10. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Combined Authority's Senior Officers was as follows:

2022/23				2023/24 to 6 May 2024		
Salary, Fees & Allowances £000	Pension Contributions £000	Total £000		Salary, Fees & Allowances £000	Pension Contributions £000	Total £000
155	7	162	Chief Executive (LEP) Helen Golightly	271	24	295
154	8	162	Head of Paid Service/NTCA Chief Executive (Formerly Managing Director)** Henry Kippin	171	26	197
163	8	171	Director of Policy and Performance Ruth Redfern (to July 2023)	38	6	44
66	1	67	Innovation Director (LEP)	-	-	-
73	4	77	Director Invest North East	83	13	96
73	4	77	Skills Director (LEP)	83	12	95
74	4	78	Strategy & Policy Director (LEP) (to April 2023)	5	1	6
73	4	77	Business Growth Director (LEP)	83	12	95
135	-	135	Managing Director of Transport Operations*	153	-	153
966	40	1,006	Total	887	94	981

* The Managing Director of Transport Operations is a NECA employee, working on behalf of the Joint Transport Committee, therefore under the Joint Transport Committee arrangements the remuneration paid to the Managing Director of Transport Operations is included in the table above, although NTCA are only responsible for their proportion of his salary costs based on the population split.

**From the 7th of June 2022 this post now includes the responsibilities of the Statutory post of Head of Paid Service.

Two of the Statutory Officers of the Combined Authority - Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer are not formal employees of the Combined Authority and are not therefore included in the statutory disclosures above. Their services are based on agreed number of days per week and charged including expenses by their respective local authority employers, these are shown in the interests of transparency.

2022/23				2023/24 to 6 May 2024		
Payment for agreed days £000	Expenses £000	Total £000		Payment for agreed days £000	Expenses £000	Total £000
88	-	88	Janice Gillespie, Interim Chief Finance Officer, S.73 Officer (Secondment from North Tyneside Council)	148	-	148
23	-	23	John Softly Interim Monitoring Officer (SLA Newcastle City Council)	26	-	26
-	-	-	Christine Reed, Consultant Director of Policy and Performance	188	-	188
111	-	111	Total	362	-	362

The number of other officers who are directly employed by the Combined Authority, who received remuneration greater than £50,000 (excluding employers' pension contributions) was as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
£50,000-£54,999	15	17
£55,000-£59,999	8	19
£60,000-£64,999	1	11
£65,000-£69,999	1	4
£70,000-£74,999	2	2
£75,000-£79,999	0	0
£80,000-£84,999	3	2
£85,000-£89,999	0	2
£90,000-£94,999	0	1
£95,000-£99,999	0	0
£100,000-£104,999	0	2

The number of exit packages with total cost per band and total cost of the compulsory and other redundancies are set out in the table below:

Exit package cost band (a)	Number of compulsory redundancies (b)		Number of other departures agreed (c)		Total number of exit packages by cost band (b) + (c)		Total cost of exit packages in each band £000	
	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
£								
0-20,000	4	-	1	-	5	-	13	-
20,001-40,000	1	-	-	-	1	-	21	-
40,001-60,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
60,001-80,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
80,001-100,000	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	97
100,001-150,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	5	5	1	1	6	6	34	97

The above table provides details of exit packages. The packages included within each band are those that have been agreed by the Combined Authority. The agreement may be legal, contractual or constructive at the end of the financial year. The costs include all relevant redundancy costs including compulsory and voluntary redundancy costs, pension contributions in respect of added years, ex gratia payments and other departure costs.

11. Audit Costs

The Combined Authority has incurred the following costs in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Fees payable to the appointed Auditor under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014	28	88

12. Related Party Transactions

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

In this context, related parties include:

- Central Government
- Members of the Cabinet
- Officers of the Combined Authority
- NTCA Constituent Authorities
- Joint Transport Committee Constituent Authorities
- Other Public Bodies
- Other Entities

Central Government is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Combined Authority operates and provides much of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of some of the transactions that the Combined Authority has with other parties. Grants received from government departments are set out in **Note 8**.

Members of the Cabinet have direct control over the Combined Authority's financial and operating policies. The total of Members' allowances payable to elected members of the Combined Authority is shown in **Note 9**. During 2023/24 no works or services were commissioned from companies in which any members had an interest.

Officers – During 2023/24 there have been no pecuniary interests involving the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer or the Monitoring Officer to the Combined Authority.

NTCA Constituent Authorities – The leaders of the three constituent authorities serve as members on the NTCA Cabinet. Details of material transactions with the seven north east authorities are set out in the table below.

Joint Transport Committee Constituent Authorities – From 2 November 2018, the Joint Transport Committee has been in establishment, comprised of the seven North East local authorities. Figures reported in these accounts include the NTCA share of Joint Transport Committee activity, and details of material transactions with the seven authorities are set out in the table below.

Other public bodies – The Combined Authority has a direct relationship with the Passenger Transport Executive for Tyne and Wear (Nexus) through the North East Combined Authority (NECA). Details of material transactions with Nexus are set out in the table overleaf.

2022/23					2023/24 to 6 May 2024			
Receivables	Income	Expenditure	Payables		Receivables	Income	Expenditure	Payables
£000	£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000	£000
				NTCA Constituent Authorities				
(69)	(36,565)	14,062	2,961	Newcastle	(939)	(40,743)	17,786	4,417
(69)	(23,895)	11,700	432	North Tyneside	(419)	(27,495)	11,120	5,579
(424)	(6,909)	4,531	997	Northumberland	(942)	(7,207)	5,618	5,652
				NECA Constituent Authorities				
(322)	(3,720)	3,609	694	Durham	(583)	(5,704)	19,889	553
(489)	(362)	1,786	391	Gateshead	(292)	(6,963)	3,408	1,687
(32)	(115)	1,760	282	South Tyneside	(192)	(98)	2,010	786
(30)	(109)	11,397	1,623	Sunderland	(2,259)	(94)	9,573	5,426
				Other Public Bodies				
(84)	-	36,041	32	NECA	(459)	-	40,593	429
(846)	(87)	30,288	3,657	Nexus	(589)	(174)	34,605	17,129

NECA is the accountable body for the Joint Transport Committee and as such must split revenue, expenditure and assets and liabilities into those which relate to NECA and those which relate to NTCA. The basis of dividing the levy contributions is done on a proportion of population in respect of the five Tyne & Wear authorities, with North of Tyne authorities proportion based on Newcastle and North Tyneside population and the NECA authorities split on the population of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland. The contribution relating to Northumberland, however, is administered by North of Tyne and therefore shown as wholly allocated within the North of Tyne accounts and Durham is wholly shown in the NECA accounts.

13. Property, Plant and Equipment

2023/24 to 6 May 2024		
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 April 2023	2,359	772
Additions	76	141
Reclassification from Assets Under Construction	112	(112)
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-
Other Adjustments	(20)	23
At 6 May 2024	2,527	824
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment		
At 1 April 2023	(996)	-
Depreciation charge for the period	(159)	-
At 6 May 2024	(1,155)	-
Net Book Value		
At 1 April 2023	1,363	772
At 6 May 2024	1,372	824

There were no material capital commitments at the balance sheet day of 6 May 2024.

2022/23

	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment £000	Assets Under Construction £000	Total Property, Plant & Equipment £000
Cost or Valuation			
At 1 April 2022	2,359	624	2,983
Additions	-	148	148
Reclassification	-	-	-
Impairment recognised in the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Other adjustments	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	2,359	772	3,131
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairments			
At 1 April 2022	(863)	-	(863)
Depreciation charge	(133)	-	(133)
At 31 March 2023	(996)	-	(996)
Net Book Value			
At 1 April 2022	1,497	624	2,121
At 31 March 2023	1,363	772	2,135

Note 13a: Property, Plant and Equipment (Highways Infrastructure Assets)**Movements on balances**

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

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

	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Net book value (modified historical cost)		
At 1 April	150,123	149,117
Additions	10	25
Derecognition	-	-
Depreciation	(1,806)	(1,988)
Impairment	-	-
Other movements in cost	790	333
At financial year end	149,117	147,487

Reconciliation to Balance Sheet

	31 March 2023	6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Infrastructure assets	149,117	147,487
Other PPE assets	2,135	2,196
Total PPE assets	151,252	149,683

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Structures - net book value

NTCA has estimated a net book value at 6 May 2024 for its structures at £147.487m (31 March 2023 £149.117m). This is fully represented by the tunnels owned by the authority. The remaining useful lives for its tunnels are assessed to be as follows:

Northbound vehicle tunnel	59 years
Southbound vehicle tunnel	107 years
Pedestrian and cyclist tunnels	59 years

14. Financial Instruments

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Combined Authority that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the Combined Authority during the year are held under the following classifications:

Financial Assets	Non-Current				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Amortised cost	-	-	48,661	46,086	231,806	298,546	12,131	13,783
Total Financial Assets	-	-	48,661	46,086	231,806	298,546	12,131	13,783
Non-financial Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,222	621
Total	-	-	48,661	46,086	231,806	298,546	14,353	14,404

Financial assets held at amortised costs

Financial assets are classified at amortised cost only if both of the following criteria are met:

- The asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

All of the financial assets fit these criteria and are classified at amortised cost.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due for goods and services delivered. They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and are therefore classified as current. Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of the consideration. Trade receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and are therefore measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Due to the short-term nature of held to maturity investments, their carrying value is considered to be the same as their fair value.

Financial liabilities held at amortised cost

	Non-Current				Current			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Amortised cost	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,030)	(883)	(27,915)	(83,465)
Total financial liabilities	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,030)	(883)	(27,915)	(83,465)
Non-financial liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	(50,121)	(13,207)
Total	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,030)	(883)	(78,036)	(96,672)

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Combined Authority and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to the Combined Authority.

The contractual terms for these financial liabilities give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and they have been accordingly classified at amortised cost.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to financial instruments are made up as follows:

31 March 2023				6 May 2024		
Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Total		Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost	Financial Assets at Amortised Cost	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
3,240	1,500	4,740	Interest Expense	6,239	-	6,239
-	104	104	Interest payable/(receivable) on defined benefit liability/asset	-	-	-
3,240	1,604	4,844	Total expense in Surplus on the Provision of Services	6,239	-	6,239
-	(2,721)	(2,721)	Investment Income	-	(13,602)	(13,602)
-	(1,541)	(1,541)	Movement on Soft Loan Adjustment	-	(694)	(694)
-	(4,262)	(4,262)	Total Income on Surplus on Provision of Services	-	(14,296)	(14,296)
3,240	(2,658)	582	Net gain/(loss) for the year	6,239	(14,296)	(8,057)

Fair Value of Assets & Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost

Financial assets classified as loans and receivables and all non-derivative financial liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 6 May 2024, using the following methods and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Combined Authority have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The value of 'Lender's Option Borrower's Option' (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options. Lender's options to propose an increase to the interest rate on the loan have been valued according to a proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps. Borrower's contingent options to accept the increased rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 6 May.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument; and
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to be approximate to the carrying amount.

For 2023/24 the fair values shown in the table below are split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities e.g., bond prices.
- Level 2 – fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability: Fair values have been estimated by discounting the loans' contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instruments at the appropriate market rates for local authority loans of equivalent remaining term. The value of "Lender's Option Borrower's Options" (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options: lenders' options to propose an increase to the interest rate on the loan have been valued according to a p proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps; borrower's contingent options to accept the increased rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate.
- Level 3 – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs: consideration of the estimated creditworthiness of the organisation receiving the loans based on their financial performance and track record of payment.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value.

	Level	31 March 2023		6 May 2024	
		Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Financial liabilities held at amortised cost	2	(76,888)	(73,984)	(88,308)	(73,079)
Total		(76,888)	(73,984)	(88,308)	(73,079)
Financial Assets at amortised cost					
Held to Maturity Investments	2	231,806	231,806	298,546	298,546
Nexus loan debtor	2	13,935	13,537	13,377	13,377
Other loan debtors	3	34,183	34,183	44,889	44,889
Total Financial Assets		279,924	279,526	356,812	356,812

Soft Loans

Soft loans are loans made to third parties at a preferential rate of interest, i.e., below the market rate. In previous years, the Local Enterprise Partnership issued a small number of loans as part of its North East Investment Fund activity to encourage economic development in the region. Details of soft loans are set out in the table below.

- Durham University - Development of Centre for Innovation and Growth, research and development facility to work with partners and private companies to develop new technologies and processes.
- Hyperbaric (previously Neptune Test Centre) - Construction of deep-water test tank at Neptune Enterprise Zone.
- Boiler Shop - Development including office and conferencing space at South Street/Boiler Shop, Stephenson Quarter.

Description	Term remaining (Years)	Contracted Rate	Fair Value Rate	Opening Balance Fair Value	Loans Repaid	Increase in discounted amount	Closing Balance (fair value)	Closing Balance (Nominal)
				£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Durham University	5	1.90%	4.95%	5,822	(1,084)	173	4,911	4,580
Hyperbaric	6	0.00%	4.99%	2,909	(55)	62	2,916	3,511
Boiler Shop	1	4.50%	5.02%	1,900	(287)	150	1,764	1,259

15. Nature and Extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments

The Combined Authority'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 Combined Authority,
- Liquidity Risk- the possibility that the Combined Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments; and

- Market Risk- the possibility that financial loss might arise for the Combined Authority as a result of changes in such measures as interest rates and financial market movements.

The Combined Authority's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the resources available to fund services. Risk management is carried out by a central treasury team, under policies approved by the Combined Authority in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement. The statement provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as interest rate risk, credit risk and the investment of surplus cash.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Combined Authority's customers. This deposit risk is minimised through the Treasury Management Statement, which requires that deposits are not made with financial institutions unless they meet identified minimum credit criteria. The Treasury Management Statement also imposes a maximum sum to be invested with a financial institution located within each category. The credit criteria in respect of financial assets held by the Combined Authority are detailed fully in the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

The following table summarises the Combined Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk on financial assets. This analysis is based on credit rating advice received by Treasury Management advisors and focuses on the long-term investment grade rating issued to each financial institution. The highest possible rating is AAA, and the lowest rating is BBB:

Rating	6 May 2024 £000
AAA	41,398
Total Cash Equivalents	41,398
n/a – investment with Government Debt Management Office	188,561
n/a – investments with UK Local Authorities	22,087
n/a - investments with banks	81,136
n/a – investments with unrated building societies ¹	6,761
Total Short-Term Investments	298,545

¹In line with its agreed Investment Strategy, NTCA at the point of these accounts, did not place investments with any Building Society. NECA (in regard of those Investments which relate to JTC Investments) place investments for up to 1 year and up to £5m each with UK Building Societies without credit ratings with assets greater than £250m.

The Combined Authority's maximum exposure to credit risk in relation to its investments in banks and building societies 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 non-recovery applies to all the Combined Authority's deposits, but there was no evidence at the 6 May 2024 that this was likely to crystallise. Actions are taken immediately if an institution is downgraded, and deposits withdrawn in line with Treasury Management Strategy.

Customers for goods and services are assessed, considering their financial position, past experience and other factors, within individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings within parameters set by the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority has a low risk of default from its customers for goods and services since these are predominantly other local authorities or other public bodies such as Nexus.

Credit risk is taken into account in determining the appropriate rate of interest to be applied to the North East Investment Fund loans and in whether an investment decision is agreed.

Liquidity Risk

The Combined Authority has a comprehensive cash flow management system that seeks to ensure that cash is available as needed. If unexpected movements happen, the Combined Authority has ready access to borrowings from the money markets and the Public Works Loans Board. There is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under financial instruments. Instead, the risk is that the Combined Authority will be bound to replenish a significant proportion of its borrowings at a time of unfavourable interest rates. The Combined Authority sets limits on the proportion of its fixed rate borrowing during specified periods. The strategy is to ensure maturing loans may be replaced through a combination of careful planning of new loans taken out and (where it is economic to do so) making early repayments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is as follows:

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Between 1 and 2 years	(299)	(301)
Between 2 and 5 years	(451)	(150)
Between 5 and 10 years	-	-
More than 10 years	(75,108)	(66,261)
	(75,858)	(66,712)
Less than 1 year	(1,030)	(573)
Total Borrowing	(76,888)	(67,286)

All trade and other payables are due to be paid in less than one year.

Market Risk

Interest Rate Risk

The Combined Authority is exposed to risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings and investments. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Combined Authority. For instance, a rise in interest rates would have the following effects:

- Borrowings at variable rates - the interest expense charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise,
- Borrowings at fixed rates - the fair value of liabilities will fall,
- Investments at variable rates - the interest income credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services will rise,

- Investments at fixed rates - the fair value of the assets will fall.

Borrowings are not carried at fair value, so nominal gains and losses on fixed rate borrowings would not impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. However, changes in interest payable and receivable on variable rate borrowings and investments will be posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and affect the General Fund Balance. Movements in the fair value of fixed rate investments that have a quoted market price will be reflected in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

The Combined Authority has several strategies for managing interest rate risk. The policy is to ensure that the level of its borrowings in variable rate loans does not expose the portfolio to excessive movements in interest rates. During periods of falling interest rates, and where economic circumstances make it favourable, fixed rate loans will be repaid early to limit exposure to losses.

The treasury management team has an active strategy for assessing interest rate exposure that feeds into the setting of the annual budget and which is used to update the budget quarterly during the year. This allows any adverse changes to be accommodated. The analysis will also advise whether new borrowing taken out is fixed or variable.

Interest rate sensitivity analysis: an example of the impact of a change in interest rates is calculated in the risk assessment shown below. The assessment has been carried out assuming a 1% increase in interest rates (with all other variables such as principal and maturity periods being held constant). The results of this assessment are shown in the following table:

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowing	(1,500)	-
Increase/(decrease) in interest receivable on variable rate investments	(693)	(558)
Impact on the Surplus on Provision for Services	(2,193)	(558)

The increase in interest payable on variable rate borrowings is nil, because all NECA's borrowings, as related to JTC balances are at fixed rates. A decrease in the fair value of fixed rate borrowings liabilities would have no impact on the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. The impact of a 1% fall in interest rates would be as above, but with the movements being reversed. There have been no changes from the previous period in the methods and assumptions used.

If interest rates had been 1% higher with all other variables held constant, the financial effect would be a decrease of £7.815m in the fair value of fixed rate borrowings, although this would not impact on the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services or Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

16. Short Term Debtors

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Central Government Bodies	3,982	5,258
Other local authorities	8,439	5,062
NHS Bodies	-	-
Other Entities and Individuals	1,933	4,085
Total	14,354	14,405

17. Long Term Debtors

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Local Enterprise Partnership Loans	34,726	32,709
Nexus borrowing	13,935	13,377
Total	48,661	46,086

18. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Cash held by the Combined Authority	31,004	10,690
Cash equivalents	14,132	30,708
Total	45,136	41,398

19. Short Term Creditors

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Central Government Bodies	(201)	(167)
Other Local Authorities	(22,330)	(26,037)
Other Entities and Individuals	(55,504)	(70,468)
Total	(78,035)	(96,672)

20. Private Finance Initiatives and Similar Contracts

In November 2007, the then Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Authority entered into a 30-year contract with TT2 Ltd to construct a second vehicle tunnel under the River Tyne, refurbish the existing Tyne Tunnel and operate both vehicle tunnels alongside the pedestrian and cycle tunnels for the life of the contract. The second tunnel was opened 25 February 2011, and the refurbished original tunnel opened 21 November 2011. Both are included on the public sector Balance Sheet.

In 2023/24 the total payment under the contract was £32.047m (2022/23 £24.555m) of which £17.601m is shown in the accounts of the North East Combined Authority and the remaining £14.445m being shown in the accounts of the Combined Authority.

The contribution to the capital works by the private sector partner is recognised as a deferred income balance with a 6 May 2024 total value of £70.789m (31 March 2023 £76.384m), of which £38.881m is shown in the NECA accounts with the remaining £31.909m being shown in the NTCA Balance sheet. The table below shows an analysis of the Combined Authority's deferred income balances.

Deferred Income Release	
2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
£000	£000
Payable in 2024/25	(2,290)
Payable within 2 to 5 years	(9,161)
Payable within 6 to 10 years	(11,451)
Payable within 11 to 15 years	(11,451)
Payable within 16 to 20 years	-
Total	(31,909)

Payments

Payments made by the Combined Authority to TT2 Ltd are based on actual traffic volumes using the tunnel and so will vary from year to year.

21. Defined Benefits Pension Scheme

The Combined Authority currently participates in one post-employment scheme:

- Tyne and Wear Pension Fund administered locally by South Tyneside Council. This is a funded, defined benefit scheme, meaning that the Combined Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investments.

The Tyne & Wear Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme. The governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Fund's Pension Committee which consists of eight members from South Tyneside Council (which has legal responsibility for the Fund), four members from the other councils in Tyne & Wear, and three members each nominated by the trade unions and the employers. During 2017/18, the Fund, along with eleven other funds, created and now owns a Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulated investment management company called Border to Coast Pensions Partnership Limited.

Amounts recognised in Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	LGPS	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Cost of Services		
Current Service Costs	2,200	1,181
Past Service Costs	16	
Settlement Costs	-	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure		
Interest on net defined benefit asset	104	(52)
Interest on unrecognised asset	-	-
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus on the Provision of Services	2,320	1,124
Other Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:		
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	413	(245)
Actuarial gains due to changes in financial assumptions	(8,295)	(1,291)
Actuarial gains due to changes in demographic assumptions	-	(176)
Actuarial losses due to changes in liability assumptions	1,208	199
Adjustment loss (gain) due to restriction of surplus	-	2,100
Interest on unrecognised asset	-	5
Total Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(6,674)	592
Total amount recognised in the CIES	(4,354)	1,716

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Reconciliation of the Fair Value of the Scheme Assets

	LGPS	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Opening fair value of scheme assets	11,831	12,408
Interest Income	329	672
Remeasurement gain on plan assets	(413)	245
Employer contributions	305	1,090
Contributions by scheme participants	441	545
Net Benefits paid out	(85)	43
Settlements	-	-
Closing fair value of scheme assets	12,408	15,003

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities

	LGPS	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Opening balance at 1 April	15,864	11,782
Current Service Cost	2,200	1,181
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	433	615
Contributions by participants	441	545
Actuarial losses on liabilities – financial assumptions	(8,295)	(1,291)
Actuarial losses on liabilities – demographic assumptions	-	(176)
Actuarial gains on liabilities – experience	1,208	199
Net benefits paid	(85)	43
Past service costs	16	-
Net Increase in liabilities from disposals/acquisitions	-	-
Settlements	-	-
Closing balance at year end	11,782	12,898

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date.

Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Scheme History

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Fair Value of LGPS Assets	12,408	15,003
Present value of LGPS liabilities		
- Funded Defined Benefit Obligation	(11,782)	(12,898)
Surplus/(Deficit) on funded defined benefit scheme	626	2,105
Unrecognised Asset	-	(2,105)
Total Asset/(Liability) shown on Balance Sheet	626	-

The split of the defined benefit obligation at the last valuation date between the various categories of members was as follows:

	NTCA
Active members	95%
Deferred pensioners	4%
Pensioners	1%

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Combined Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £12.898m has an impact on the net worth of the Combined Authority recorded on the balance sheet, resulting in a neutral pension balance of £0m after unrecognised losses of £2.105m. However, statutory arrangements for funding any deficit mean that the financial position of the Combined Authority remains healthy:

- Any deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e., before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary.
- Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.
- The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Combined Authority in the period 7 May 2024 to 31 March 2025 is nil. In addition, Strain on the Fund contributions may be required. Expected payments direct to beneficiaries in the year to 31 March 2025 are nil in relation to unfunded benefits.

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. The Local Government Pension Scheme have been estimated by Aon, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the pension fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

A small proportion (9.0%) of the Pension Fund's investments are in direct property valuations and pooled residential property funds. The impact of Covid 19 has resulted in a significant reduction in the number of transactions in the market and consequently the relevant observable data available upon which to base a valuation judgement. As such, the Pension Fund's property investment manager has included a material valuation uncertainty clause in some of their valuation reports due to the possible impact of Covid 19. Therefore, there is less certainty, and a higher degree of caution should be attached to the valuations of those unquoted assets than would normally be the case. There is a risk that current valuations may be under or overstated in the accounts. The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 24.5 years.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

	Local Government	
	31 March 2023	6 May 2024
Mortality assumptions:		
Pensioner member aged 65 at accounting date (male)	21.6	21.0
Pensioner member aged 65 at accounting date (female)	24.6	24.2
Active member aged 45 at accounting date (male)	22.9	22.3
Active member aged 45 at accounting date (female)	26.1	25.6
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities:	% per annum	% per annum
Discount Rate	4.6	5.0
Rate of inflation – Consumer Price Index	2.6	2.6
Rate of increase in pensions	2.6	2.6
Pensions accounts revaluation rate	2.6	2.6
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1	4.1

The approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is shown in the table below:

	31 March 2023	Asset Split 6 May 2024		
	% Total	Quoted	Unquoted	Total
Equities	51.2	40.1	11.1	51.2
Property	10.5	0.0	9.9	9.9
Government Bonds	1.3	1.2	0.0	1.2
Corporate Bonds	19.5	18.9	0.0	18.9
Multi Asset Credit	4.5	4.5	0.0	4.5
Cash	1.8	0.8	0.0	0.8
Other*	11.2	0.0	13.5	13.5
Total Assets	100.0	65.5	34.5	100.0

*Other holdings may include hedge funds, currency holdings, asset allocation futures and other financial instruments. It is assumed that these will get a return in line with equities.

Actual Return on Assets

	Local Government	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Interest Income on Assets	329	672
Remeasurement gain (loss) on assets	(413)	245
Actual Return on Assets	(84)	917

Sensitivity Analysis

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the tables above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e., on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method.

The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period.

	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Discount rate assumption			
Adjustment to discount rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	12.588	12.898	13.220
% change in present value of total obligation	(2.4%)		2.5%
Projected service cost (£M)	0.940	1.033	1.084
Approximate % change in projected service cost	(4.7%)		4.9%

	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Rate of general increase in salaries			
Adjustment to salary increase rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	12.950	12.898	12.846
% change in present value of total obligation	0.4%		(0.4)%
Projected service cost (£M)	1.033	1.033	1.033
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.0%		0.0%

	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Rate of increase to pensions in payment and deferred pensions assumption, and rate of revaluation of pension accounts assumption			
Adjustment to pension increase rate			
Present value of total obligation	13.169	12.898	12.640
% change in present value of total obligation	2.1%		(2.0)%
Projected service cost (£M)	1.084	1.033	0.984
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.9%		(4.7)%

Post retirement mortality assumption	-1 year	Base Figure	+1 year
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption *			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	13.220	12.898	12.576
% change in present value of total obligation	2.5%		(2.5)%
Projected service cost (£M)	1.072	1.033	0.994
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.8%		(3.8)%

*a rating of + 1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them.

22. Usable Reserves

	Note	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
General Fund Balance	23	(6,544)	(13,425)
Earmarked Reserves	23	(134,599)	(133,469)
Capital Receipts Reserve		(471)	-
Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve		(76,174)	(120,924)
Total Usable Reserves		(217,788)	(267,818)

Earmarked Reserves are amounts which the Combined Authority has chosen to set aside from the General Fund Balance to be used for specific purposes.

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

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

23. Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves

Restated	Balance 1 April 2022 £000	Transfers out 2022/23 £000	Transfers in 2022/23 £000	Balance 1 April 2023 £000	Transfers out 2023/24 £000	Transfers in 2023/24 £000	Balance 6 May 2024 £000
General Fund Balances	(7,065)	1,333	(812)	(6,544)	-	(6,879)	(13,423)
<u>General Fund Reserves</u>							
Investment Fund Reserve	(54,591)	12,645	-	(41,946)	21,819	(18,213)	(38,340)
JTC Revenue Grants unapplied	-	-	(38,412)	(38,412)	10,518	(3,679)	(31,573)
EZ Reserve	(10,394)	2,963	-	(7,431)	-	(1,670)	(9,101)
UK Social Prosperity Fund Reserve	-	-	(3,950)	(3,950)	-	(3,816)	(7,766)
Metro Fleet Replacement	(4,520)	-	(89)	(4,584)	98	(331)	(4,817)
Metro Reinvigoration Res	(3,834)	-	(71)	(3,905)	79	(265)	(4,091)
Tyne Tunnel Reserve	(3,491)	3,141	-	(350)	-	-	(350)
LGF SWAP Reserve	(2,983)	9,899	(6,567)	350	-	-	350
LEP General reserves	(475)	-	(201)	(676)	559	(281)	(398)
GBF Reserve	(17,627)	16,237	-	(1,390)	1,390	-	-
Bootcamp Wave 3	-	-	(1,134)	(1,134)	1,134	-	-
Strategic Capacity Reserve	-	-	(800)	(800)	336	(5,298)	(5,762)
Transport Devolution	-	-	(1,157)	(1,157)	176	-	(981)
Recovery Contingency Fund	(452)	-	-	(452)	452	-	-
Create Growth Programme Reserve	-	-	(425)	(425)	421	-	(4)
Strategic Reserve	(200)	-	-	(200)	-	-	(200)
Net Zero North East England Reserve	-	-	(151)	(151)	52	(2)	(101)
DFE Funding	(159)	41	-	(118)	118	-	-
Community Renew Fund	(931)	931	-	-	-	-	-
NEIF Reserve	-	130	(4,950)	(4,820)	8,216	(3,396)	-
DLUHC Capital Grant	-	-	(12,302)	(12,302)	11,989	-	(313)
DLUHC Grant	-	-	-	-	-	(125)	(125)
Adult Education Reserve	(3,459)	-	(5,301)	(8,760)	4,340	(8,371)	(12,791)
Brownfield Housing Revenue Reserve	(31)	-	(6)	(37)	-	(238)	(275)
Metro Studies	(583)	98	-	(485)	253	(9)	(241)
Bus Project	(242)	15	-	(227)	-	-	(227)
North East Ambition Reserve	(486)	486	(341)	(341)	341	-	-
CEC Enterprise Advisor	(290)	290	(129)	(129)	129	-	-
Election Fund Reserve	-	-	-	-	1,100	(1,100)	-

North of Tyne Combined Authority Statement of Accounts for the period 1 April 2023 to 6 May 2024

North East Flexible Pot	-	-	-	-	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
North East Investment Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	(14,000)	(14,000)
Reserves (balances < £0.1m)	(556)	380	(590)	(767)	618	-	(115)
Total Earmarked Reserves	(105,278)	47,256	(76,576)	(134,599)	64,139	(63,007)	(133,468)
Total General Fund Balances and Reserves	(112,343)	48,589	(77,388)	(141,143)	64,136	(70,111)	(147,117)

24. Unusable Reserves

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Capital Adjustment Account	(78,255)	(81,456)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(1,836)	(1,019)
Revaluation Reserve	(3,466)	(3,402)
Accumulated Absences Account	202	61
Pension Reserve	(626)	-
Total Unusable Reserves	(83,981)	(85,816)

Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account (CAA) absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The CAA is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis).

The CAA is credited with the amounts set aside by the Combined Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement. The CAA also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains. The Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations Statement (Note 4) provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the CAA, apart from those involving the Revaluation Reserve.

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Opening Balance 1 April	(67,877)	(78,255)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:		
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	1,938	2,147
Write down of New Tyne Crossing deferred income balance	(2,290)	(2,522)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	50,986	54,215
Write down of long-term debtors	2,349	3,185
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(47)	(64)
Capital financing applied in the year:		
Capital grants & contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(62,839)	(31,682)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(832)	(941)
Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	1,154	(1,800)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(164)	(25,130)
Debt redeemed using capital receipts	(633)	(611)
Closing Balance	(78,255)	(81,457)

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account (FIAA) absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for income and expenses relating to certain financial instruments and for bearing losses or benefiting from gains per statutory provisions. It provides a balancing mechanism between the different rates at which gains and losses (e.g., premiums on the early repayment of debt) are recognised under the Code and are required by statute to be met from the General Fund.

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	3,544	(1,836)
Transfer of balance from North East Combined Authority 1 April	-	
Proportion of premiums incurred in previous financial years to be charged against the General Fund in accordance with statutory requirements	(5,380)	817
Closing balance	(1,836)	(1,019)

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve (RR) contains the gains made by the Combined Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant & Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The RR contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date on which the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the CAA.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	to 6 May 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	(3,513)	(3,466)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	47	64
Closing balance	(3,466)	(3,402)

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences 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 year end. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

	2022/23	2023/24
	£000	to 6 May 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	405	202
Adjustment to the accrual required	(203)	(141)
Adjustment to the debtor in respect of leave taken in advance		
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the CIES on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(203)	(141)
Closing Balance	202	61

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 Combined Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Combined Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Combined Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Balance at 1 April	4,033	(626)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability/(asset)	(6,674)	592
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus on the Provision of Services in the CIES	2,216	1,181
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(305)	(1,090)
Interest expense on net defined liability/(asset)	104	(57)
Closing Balance	(626)	-

25. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Opening Capital Financing Requirement	79,951	78,434
Capital Investment		
Property, Plant and Equipment	158	217
Capital Loans	11,643	4,023
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	50,986	54,215
Sources of Finance		
Government Grants and Other Contributions	(61,685)	(31,682)
Capital Receipts	(1,787)	(2,411)
Sums set aside from revenue		
Use of reserves	-	(24,964)
Direct Revenue Contributions	-	(166)
Minimum Revenue Provision	(832)	(941)
Additional Voluntary Provision	-	-
Closing Capital Financing Requirement	78,434	76,725
Decrease in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	(1,517)	(1,709)
Decrease in Capital Financing Requirement	(1,517)	(1,709)

26. Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements and items that are Investing or Financing activities

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Surplus on the provision of services	59,861	52,458
Adjustments to Surplus on Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements		
Depreciation and Impairment	1,938	2,147
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	14,969	16,902
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(16,242)	1,143
Movement in Pension Liability	2,015	-
Other non-cash items charged to the surplus on the provision of services	(2,290)	(2,487)
	390	17,705
Adjustments for items included in the net surplus on the Provision of Services that are investing and financing activities		
Capital grants credited to surplus on provision of services	(68,900)	(76,433)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	(8,649)	(6,270)

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Interest Received	1,371	12,387
Interest Paid	(4,084)	(5,952)

27. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Purchase of Property, Plant & Equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(947)	(580)
Purchase of short- and long-term investments	(292,072)	(1,493,567)
Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	288,351	1,425,611
Other receipts from Investing Activities	43,273	78,247
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	38,605	9,711

28. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Repayment of short and long-term borrowing	(19,714)	(7,181)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(19,714)	(7,181)

29. Reconciliation of liabilities arising from Financing Activities

	1 April 2023	Financing Cash Flows	Changes which are not financing cash flows		6 May 2024
			Acquisition	Other	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long Term Borrowings	(75,758)	8,845	-	-	(67,013)
Short Term Borrowings	(1,030)	147	-	-	(883)
Total Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	(76,791)	8,992	-	-	(67,896)

	1 April 2022	Financing Cash Flows	Changes which are not financing cash flows		31 March 2023
			Acquisition	Other	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Long Term Borrowings	(75,766)	(92)	-	-	(75,858)
Short Term Borrowings	(21,025)	20,000	-	(5)	(1,030)
Total Liabilities arising from Financing Activities	(96,791)	19,908	-	(5)	(76,888)

30. Accounting Standards that have been issued but not yet adopted

Paragraph 3.3.2.13 of the Code requires changes in accounting policy to be applied retrospectively unless alternative transitional arrangements are specified in the Code. Paragraph 3.3.4.3 requires an authority to disclose 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 by the Code for the relevant financial year. There have been no changes in accounting policies introduced by the Combined Authority in 2023/24.

The standards introduced by the 2024/25 Code where disclosures are required in the 2023/24 financial statements, in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 3.3.4.3 of the Code, are:

a) **IFRS 16 Leases**: this new standard replaces IAS 17 from 2024/25 (delayed from 2020/21) and establishes a new model for lessees. There is not expected to be any impact on the single entity accounts, however there is an expected impact on the Group Accounts. The standard will affect the Group accounts as it changes the treatment of the lease of a building with a remaining term of 1.75 years at 31 March 2024. The expected impact is the recognition of a non-current asset and lease liability of c.£1.0m on the Group Balance Sheet.

b) **Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current** (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in January 2020. The amendments:

- specify that an entity's right to defer settlement must exist at the end of the reporting period
- clarify that classification is unaffected by management's intentions or expectations about whether the entity will exercise its right to defer settlement
- clarify how lending conditions affect classification, and
- clarify requirements for classifying liabilities an entity will or may settle by issuing its own equity instruments.

c) **Lease Liability in a Sale and Leaseback** (Amendments to IFRS 16) issued in September 2022. The amendments to IFRS 16 add subsequent measurement requirements for sale and leaseback transactions.

d) **Non-current Liabilities with Covenants** (Amendments to IAS 1) issued in October 2022. The amendments improved the information an entity provides when its right to defer settlement of a liability for at least 12 months is subject to compliance with covenants.

e) **International Tax Reform: Pillar Two Model Rules** (Amendments to IAS 12) issued in May 2023. Pillar Two applies to multinational groups with a minimum level of turnover. The amendments introduced:

- a temporary exception to the requirements to recognise and disclose information about deferred tax assets and liabilities related to Pillar Two income taxes, and
- targeted disclosure requirements for affected entities.

f) **Supplier Finance Arrangements** (Amendments to IAS 7 and IFRS 7) issued in May 2023. The amendments require an entity to provide additional disclosures about its supplier finance arrangements. The IASB developed the new requirements to provide users of financial statements with information to enable them to:

- assess how supplier finance arrangements affect an entity's liabilities and cash flows, and
- understand the effect of supplier finance arrangements on an entity's exposure to liquidity risk and how the entity might be affected if the arrangements were no longer available to it.

The standards described in b) to f) are not expected to affect the authority.

31. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying the Accounting Policies set out in these accounts, the Combined Authority 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:

Service Concession Arrangements

The Code requires arrangements where private sector contractors provide a service for a period using a dedicated asset to be assessed under an application of the principles within IFRIC12. There are two criteria used to determine whether arrangements fall under the scope of IFRIC12:

- The public sector entity controls or regulates the services that the operator must provide with the infrastructure, to whom it must provide them, and at what price.
- The public sector entity controls, through ownership, beneficial entitlement or otherwise, any significant residual interest in the infrastructure at the end of the service arrangement.

For arrangements falling under the scope of IFRIC 12, the public sector entity will recognise the cost of the Property, Plant and Equipment underlying the service concession as a tangible fixed asset. The New Tyne Crossing concession has been judged to meet both of the IFRIC 12 criteria and, accordingly, the cost of the new Tunnel and the refurbishment of the existing Tunnel are recorded within the Combined Authority's Property, Plant and Equipment on the Balance Sheet.

Transferred assets and liabilities in Local Government Pension Scheme transferred to TT2 Ltd

Assets and liabilities relating to membership accrued before 1 February 2008 transferred to TT2 Ltd on commencement of the concession agreement. The project agreement provides that should there be a shortfall in the TT2 fund at the actuarial valuation, which can be attributed to pre-2008 benefits, the Combined Authority will be required to reimburse the shortfall. As a result of the most recent triennial valuation, there is currently no reimbursement due.

Accounting for the North East Joint Transport Committee

As set out in Note 1, on 2 November 2018 the boundaries of NECA changed and the North East Joint Transport Committee was created. The assets and liabilities which transferred from the former Tyne and Wear Integrated Transport Authority to NECA on its creation in April 2014 are now jointly owned by NECA and NTCA, and assets, liabilities, income and expenditure (from the date of establishment) must be divided between the accounts of the two Combined Authorities.

For many of the assets and liabilities and revenue streams, these cannot be separated into those which relate to the authorities which are part of NECA and those which relate to the authorities which are part of NTCA. As a result, these balances have been apportioned between the two Combined Authorities on the basis of Tyne and Wear population.

32. 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 Combined Authority about the future or 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 Combined Authority's Balance Sheet at 6 May 2024 for which there is a risk of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year are as follows:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual 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 salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Combined Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	<p>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 salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets.</p> <p>The Pension Fund engages a firm of specialist actuaries to provide the Combined Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. See Note 21 Defined Benefits Pension Scheme for details of sensitivity analysis of the estimations.</p>
Fair Value Measurement	Estimation of the fair value measurement depends on a number of complex judgements	When the fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities cannot be measured based on quoted prices in active markets (i.e., Level 1 inputs), their fair value is measured using valuation techniques (e.g., quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets or the discounted cash flow (DCF) model). Where possible, the inputs to these valuation techniques are based on observable data, but where this is not possible judgement is required in establishing fair values. These judgements typically include considerations such as uncertainty and risk. However, changes in the assumptions used could affect the fair value of the authority's assets

		and liabilities. The significant unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement include management assumptions regarding discount rates – adjusted for regional factors.
Debtors Arrears	Calculation of bad debt provision	At 31 March 2023, the Combined Authority had a gross balance of £17.056m. A review of significant balances suggested that an impairment of doubtful debts of £2.703m was appropriate leaving a net balance of 14.353m. However, in the current economic climate there is an inherent risk that such an allowance would not be sufficient.

33. Accounting Policies

1. General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Combined Authority’s transactions for the 2023/24 financial year and its position at the year-end of 6 May 2024. The Combined Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with property accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

The Code requires that a Local Authority’s Statement of Accounts is prepared on a ‘going concern’ basis, that is, the accounts are based on the assumption that the Combined Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

On 12 March 2024 the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 was approved. The Order provides for the establishment on 7 May 2024 of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), comprising as constituent councils the seven north-east councils.

The Order simultaneously abolishes the existing North East Combined Authority (NECA) and the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) and the office of the Mayor of North of Tyne. The Code sets out that transfers of services under combinations of public sector bodies do not negate the presumption of going concern.

The Order provides appropriate continuity and transitional arrangements so that any acts of the existing combined authorities are to be treated as the acts of the new mayoral combined authority.

The Order also provides for the staffing, assets, rights and liabilities of the existing combined authorities to transfer to the mayoral combined authority. For this reason it is considered appropriate, in line with the Code, for these accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis.

2. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Combined Authority transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Combined Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Combined Authority can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction, and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Combined Authority.
- 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 receivable on investments and payments on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract; and
- 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 debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. The Combined Authority has a policy of not accruing for manual sundry creditors or sundry debtors' provision for less than £1,000, other than in exceptional circumstances.

3. 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 90 days or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

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

4. Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Services, support services and trading accounts 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; and,
- Amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Combined Authority is not required to raise the levy to fund depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement equal to an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Combined Authority in accordance with statutory guidance.

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

5. Contingent Liabilities

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Combined Authority a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Combined Authority. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required, or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts. There are no contingent liabilities disclosed in the period to 6 May 2024.

6. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

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

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave e.g., time off in lieu, flexi balances) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts which would be payable as a result of a decision by the Combined Authority to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the Corporate Costs line in the CIES when the Combined Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer or group of officers or making an offer to encourage voluntary redundancy.

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

7. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

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

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

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

8. Exceptional Items

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the Accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Combined Authority's financial performance.

9. Fair Value measurement

The Combined Authority measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets, assets held for sale and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- in the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The Combined Authority measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

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

The Combined Authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the Combined Authority's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

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

10. Financial Instruments

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Combined Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost.

Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

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

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive

Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Combined Authority has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Combined Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument and are classified into three types using an approach that is based on the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics.

- Amortised Cost – assets held within a business model with the sole objective of collecting contractual cash flows on specified dates that are solely payments of principal and interest.
- Fair value through other comprehensive income (FVOCI) – assets held within a business model with the objective to either sell the asset or collect contractual cash flows on specified dates that are solely payments of principal and interest; and,
- Fair value through profit and loss (FVPL) – objectives are achieved by any other means than collecting contractual cash flows.

The Combined Authority can at initial recognition of the asset override the above classifications in the following circumstances and the decision is irrecoverable:

- An equity instrument can be elected into FVOCI rather than FVPL if it is not held for trading.
- Any financial asset can be designated as measured at FVPL if this removes any deemed inconsistency in measurement by treating assets based upon the above classification.

Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Combined Authority becomes a 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 creditors to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Combined Authority, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

However, the Combined Authority can make loans to organisations at less than market rates (soft loans). When soft loans are made, a loss is recorded in the CIES (debited to the appropriate service) for the present value of the interest that will be foregone over the life of the instrument, resulting in a lower amortised cost than the outstanding principal.

Interest is credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES at a marginally higher effective rate of interest than the rate receivable from the organisations, with the difference serving to increase the amortised cost of the loan in the Balance Sheet. Statutory provisions require that the impact of the soft loans on the General Fund Balance is the interest receivable for the financial year – the reconciliation of amounts debited and credited to the CIES to net gain required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to for from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Combined Authority recognises expected credit losses on all its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cashflows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since and instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis expected losses. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

Fair Value through other Comprehensive Income

Changes in fair value are recorded against Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure gain/loss by an entry in the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve through the Movement in Reserves Statement.

However, interest is charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services as though the asset had been measured at amortised cost

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a future event that cashflows due under the contract will not be made, a charge for the value of the impairment is made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement with a corresponding entry being recognised in Other Comprehensive Income through the Financial Instruments Revaluation Reserve on the Balance Sheet.

When the asset is de-recognised the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in Other Comprehensive Income is reclassified from the Financial Instrument Revaluation Reserve to the Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services as a reclassification adjustment.

Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVPL)

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Combined Authority becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- Instruments with quoted market prices – the market price
- Other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis.

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 assets that the Combined Authority can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs – unobservable inputs for the asset

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

11. Government Grants and Contributions

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third- party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Combined Authority when there is reasonable assurance that:

- The Combined Authority will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and
- The grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Combined Authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until there is reasonable assurance that the conditions attached to the grant or contribution will be satisfied.

Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions and capital grants used to fund Revenue Expenditure Financed from Capital Under Statute) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Account are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

12. Group Accounts

NECA and the Combined Authority are required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2023/24 to produce Group Accounts to include services paid to Council Tax payers by organisations other than the Combined Authority itself in which the Combined Authority has an interest.

Although there has been no definitive ruling by CIPFA or central government in relation to Combined Authorities and Passenger Transport Executives, it is recognised that the accounts of Nexus fall within the definition of a subsidiary. As such, group accounts have been prepared on the basis of a full consolidation of the financial transactions and balances of the Combined Authority and Nexus. Nexus has been incorporated as a subsidiary, whereby the accounts of the two organisations are combined and any intra-group transactions are cancelled out.

For the 2023/24 accounts, NECA and the Combined Authority have fully complied with the requirements of the Code, providing group figures for 2023/24 and comparators for 2022/23. From 2010/11, Passenger Transport Executives have been required to produce their accounts under International Financial Reporting Standards, and as if the proper practices in relation to accounts applicable to a local authority were, so far as appropriate, applicable to an Executive. The group financial statements are prepared in accordance with the policies set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies above.

13. Joint Transport Committee

On 2 November 2018, the Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside and Northumberland Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2018 (the Order) changed the boundaries of NECA and established the new Mayoral Combined Authority.

The reconfiguration of NECA has been classed as a transfer by absorption meaning:

- NECA has accounted for its control up to the date of the reconfiguration albeit with clear disaggregation of the financial results relating to the functions being transferred; and
- Assets and liabilities transferred at book value.

The Order establishing the NTCA also required the seven local authorities to establish the Joint Transport Committee (JTC). Under the CIPFA Code, the JTC meets the definition of a 'joint operation' which determines its accounting treatment. Where a Joint Committee is accounted for as a Joint Arrangement each Joint Operator (in this case NECA and NTCA) must account for their own share of the assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses held or incurred jointly in their own single entity financial statements.

In order to comply with CIPFA Code, NECA must:

- Split the revenues between that which relates to NECA and the Combined Authority. In this case the constitution of the JTC and its funding arrangements suggests that, in the first instance, the revenues should be divisible into that which relates to Northumberland (allocated wholly to the Combined Authority), that which relates to Durham (allocated wholly to NECA) and that which relate to Tyne and Wear (requires further division into NECA and the Combined Authority).

- The revenues which relate to Tyne and Wear must then be divided into that which relates wholly to Newcastle and /or North Tyneside (allocated to the Combined Authority), that which relates wholly to Gateshead, South Tyneside and/or Sunderland (allocated to NECA) and that which relates to activities not wholly attributable under the preceding two points which requires apportionment.

The Order gives no clear instruction on the basis of division of revenues, but the Deed of Cooperation made on 4 July 2018 between the seven local authorities in the area provides that “those costs and liabilities which are attributable to the exercise of functions exclusively in the area of the Tyne and Wear Authorities shall be shared between the Tyne and Wear Authorities on a per capita basis relating to their resident populations at that time.”

By similar rationale and argument, the division of assets, liabilities and expenditure incurred will also be divided on this basis.

14. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment 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 Authority as Lessee

Rentals paid under operating leases are charge to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the service benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease; even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

15. Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services e.g., Finance and Legal services are shown within the Corporate Costs line on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on the basis of Service Level Agreements in accordance with the Combined Authority’s arrangements for accountability and financial performance and in accordance with guidance given by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), this is also the case for NECA.

16. Post-Employment Benefits

The Combined Authority and NECA are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme, which provides members with defined benefits relating to pay and service. Its pension obligations relate primarily to former employees.

The relevant fund is the Tyne & Wear Pension Fund, administered by South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council, from whom a copy of the annual report may be obtained. The Fund website may be visited at www.twpf.info.

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme:

- The liabilities of the pension fund attributable to the Combined Authority are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected 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, employee turnover rates and projections of earnings for current employees.
- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate determined annually, based on the indicative rate of return on high quality corporate bonds.
- The assets of the pension fund attributable to the Combined Authority are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:
 - Quoted securities at current bid price
 - Unquoted securities based on professional estimate
 - Unitised securities at current bid price
 - Property at market value

The change in the net pension's liability is analysed into the following components:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year, allocated in the CIES to the Combined Authority and NECA Corporate Costs line.
- Past service costs – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years, debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the CIES as part of the Combined Authority and NECA Corporate Costs line.
- Net interest on the net defined liability i.e., net interest expense for the Combined Authority – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the CIES. This is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability at the beginning of the period taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.
- Gains or losses on settlements and curtailments – the result of actions to relieve the Combined Authority of liabilities or events that reduce the expected future service or accrual of benefits of employees – debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Corporate Costs
- Remeasurements comprising:
 - The return on plan assets, excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability, charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure; and

- Actuarial gains and losses, changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions, charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure
- Contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer’s contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

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

In June 2023, the UK High Court (Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited) ruled that certain historical amendments for contracted-out defined benefit schemes were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation. The judgment has now been upheld by the Court of Appeal. The Local Government Pension Scheme is a contracted out defined benefit scheme, and amendments have been made during the period 1996 to 2016 which could impact member benefits. Work is being performed by the Government Actuary’s Department as the Local Government Pension Scheme actuary assess whether section 37 certificates are in place for all amendments and some of these have been confirmed however, at the date of these financial statements, the full assessment is not complete. Until this analysis is complete, Nexus is unable to conclude whether there is any impact on the assessed actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits, or if it can be reliably estimated. As a result, the Combined Authority does not consider it necessary to make any allowance for the potential impact of the Virgin Media case in the disclosure of the actuarial present value of promised retirement benefits in its financial statements. The Combined Authority will keep this issue under review.

Further details are provided in Note 21 to the accounts.

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

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

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

Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

18. Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accrual's basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Combined Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

- Infrastructure assets– depreciated historical cost.
- Assets Under Construction – cost.
- All other assets – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (EUV).

The following useful economic lives are used for PPE assets in relation to NECA: Tyne Tunnels 120 years, Tunnels vehicles, Plant and Equipment 30 years.

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

Where non-property assets that have short useful lives or low values (or both), 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, but as a minimum every five years. All valuations will be undertaken by or under the supervision of a fully qualified Chartered Surveyor (MRICS – Member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors). These revaluations are detailed within the Notes to the Core Financial Statements. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains.

Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

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

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

De Minimis Levels

The use of a de minimis level for capital expenditure means that in the above category's assets below the de minimis level are charged to the revenue account and are not classified as capital expenditure i.e., the asset is not included in the balance sheet unless they are part of an overall project costing more than the established de minimis level. For all capital expenditure the de minimis level is £10,000.

Impairment

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- Where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains); or

- Where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

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

Depreciation

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

Depreciation on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets (except Vehicles) is calculated by taking the asset value at the 6 May 2024 divided by remaining life expectancy. Depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition, but not the year of disposal.

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation that would have been charged based on their historic cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately. In the most recent valuations of the Tyne Tunnels, it was assessed that, although Mechanical and Electrical Services and the Toll Plazas have an economic life of 20 years, these formed less than 20% of the overall valuation and have not therefore been classed as significant components.

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 posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal.

Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e., netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. Receipts are required to be credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Combined Authority's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against the general fund, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

19. Provisions

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

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

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

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

20. Public Private Partnership (PPP) Contracts

Public Private Partnerships are agreements to receive services and provide capital jointly with the private sector. The New Tyne Crossing Partnership is judged to be such an arrangement.

The Code requires these arrangements to be assessed under an application of the principles within International Financial Reporting Interpretation Committee 12 (IFRIC12) 'Service Concessions'.

Arrangements fall in scope of the application where both of the following IFRIC 12 criteria are met:

- The public sector entity ('grantor') controls or regulates the services that the operator must provide with the infrastructure, to whom it must provide them, and at what price; and
- The grantor controls, through ownership, beneficial entitlement or otherwise, any significant residual interest in the infrastructure at the end of the service arrangement.

For any service concession within the scope of the application, the grantor will recognise the cost of the property, plant and equipment underlying the service concession as a tangible fixed asset. The New Tyne Crossing is considered to meet both IFRIC 12 criteria, and therefore the costs are recognised on the Combined Authority's Balance Sheet.

In most arrangements within the scope of the application, the grantor will account for the arrangement's financing by recording and measuring a long-term liability in accordance with IAS 17. This treatment reflects an obligation to pay the operator for the full value of the asset along with the operator's costs of finance. However, in the New Tyne Crossing project, TT2 Ltd (the operator) receives a defined proportion of the total toll revenue and uses this to meet its cost of constructing and operating both vehicle tunnels. The Combined Authority may therefore have no long-term obligation to transfer economic resources to TT2, and hence should not recognise a liability.

The provisions within the Payment Mechanism for payment of toll revenue to the operator are as follows:

- In each month a Shadow Toll is paid to the operator, this being a fixed amount per vehicle, adjusted for changes in RPI.
- Throughout the term, Formula Tolls for each vehicle type are defined to equal the corresponding vehicle Shadow Tolls; and
- The Formula Tolls are the initially defined sequence of tolls to be charged to users and collected by NECA. If NECA varies a Real Toll from its corresponding Formula Toll beyond a certain level, the operator is compensated for the effect of this adjustment on demand.

The Combined Authority therefore has no exposure to any risk and reward associated with the operator revenue, but only an executor contract to transfer the operator's share of total revenues to the operator as it is collected.

It therefore follows from this conclusion that the Combined Authority has no long-term obligation to transfer economic resources to the operator, since the operator revenue is in substance transferred directly to it. The Combined Authority therefore should not recognise a long-term liability to finance the project assets.

In relation to such an arrangement, the Code and the accompanying notes do not provide clear guidance. However, the guidance notes accompanying the Code suggest that the credit that matches the asset should be a deferred income balance. The Combined Authority has therefore recognised a deferred credit balance, added to as each Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the project were completed, and equal to the fair value of the asset addition under each Phase. This balance is then released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement over the life of the contract.

21. Reserves

The Combined Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service within the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. 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 the levy for the expenditure.

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

22. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Combined Authority has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charges so that there is not impact on the levy.

23. Tyne Tunnels Income

The majority of the income from tolls is received on a cash basis. Accruals are made to apportion income credited to the bank account to the correct financial year. Prepayments on permit accounts are also received, and the balance on these accounts are accrued as income received in advance at the period end.

24. Value Added Tax (VAT)

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

34. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Adjusting events after the Balance Sheet date

Where events take place after 6 May 2024 which provide information about conditions existing at 6 May 2024, the financial statements and notes are adjusted to reflect the impact of this information. No such events have taken place.

Non-adjusting Events after the Balance Sheet date

Where events take place after 6 May 2024 which do not relate to conditions at 6 May 2024 but which provide information that is relevant to an understanding of the Authority's financial position, the financial statements and notes are not adjusted but the relevant information is disclosed.

On 12 March 2024 the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024 was approved. The Order provides for the establishment on 7 May 2024 of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA), comprising as constituent councils the seven north-east councils. The Order simultaneously abolishes the existing NECA and NTCA, and the office of the Mayor of North of Tyne. The Order provides appropriate continuity and transitional arrangements so that any acts of the existing combined authorities are to be treated as the acts of the new mayoral combined authority. The Order also provides for the staffing, assets, rights and liabilities of the existing combined authorities to transfer to the mayoral combined authority. For this reason it is considered appropriate, in line with the Code, for these accounts to be prepared on a going concern basis and so no adjustments are required.

3.0 Group Financial Statements and Explanatory Notes

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3.1 Group Movement in Reserves Statement

	NTCA Usable Reserves	NTCA Unusable Reserves	Total NTCA Reserves	Authority Share of Nexus	Total Group Reserves
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(171,283)	(63,408)	(234,691)	(264,253)	(498,946)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(59,861)	(6,674)	(66,535)	(115,762)	(182,297)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	13,356	(13,899)	(543)	-	(543)
(Increase)/decrease in 2022/23	(46,505)	(20,573)	(67,078)	(115,762)	(182,840)
Balance at 31 March 2023 carried forward	(217,788)	(83,981)	(301,769)	(380,015)	(681,786)
Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(52,458)	592	(51,866)	(8,513)	(60,379)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations	2,428	(2,428)	-	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in 2023/24	(50,030)	(1,836)	(51,866)	(8,513)	(60,379)
Balance at 6 May 2024 carried forward	(267,818)	(85,817)	(353,635)	(388,528)	(742,164)

3.2 Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

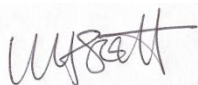
2022/23			2023/24 to 6 May 2024				
Gross Exp	Gross Inc	Net Exp					
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000		
29,449	(3,357)	26,092	Investment Fund	21,099	(1,535)	19,564	
12,230	(13,848)	(1,618)	Corporate Costs	38,986	(53,457)	(14,471)	
20,420	(26,409)	(5,989)	Adult Education Budget	19,768	(24,915)	(5,147)	
134,012	(142,233)	(8,220)	Joint Transport Costs	148,739	(79,711)	69,027	
513	(301)	213	Invest North East	562	(325)	237	
32,425	(13,410)	19,015	Local Enterprise Partnership	21,846	(18,305)	3,541	
229,050	(199,558)	29,492	Cost of Services	251,000	(178,249)	72,751	
10,599	(9,485)	1,115	Other operating expenditure				
-	(145,660)	(145,660)	Financing & Investment income and expenditure	G4	13,548	(23,675)	(10,127)
			Taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure	G5	-	(152,276)	(152,276)
13	-	13	Gain/loss on disposal of non-current assets		125	-	125
239,662	(354,703)	(115,041)	(Surplus)/ Deficit on Provision of Services		264,673	(354,200)	(89,527)
		(1,449)	Taxation credit charge for the year	G14			(654)
		(116,490)	Group (surplus)/deficit after taxation				(90,181)
		(65,807)	Re-measurement of the defined benefit liability	G13			29,711
		-	Gains on Revaluation of Property				90
		(182,297)	Total Comprehensive Income & Expenditure				(60,380)

3.3 Group Balance Sheet

31 March 2023 £000		Note	6 May 2024 £000
480,868	Property, Plant & Equipment	G7	515,074
3,201	Intangible Assets	G8	4,945
29,415	Pension Asset	G13	-
34,726	Long Term Debtors		32,708
547,666	Long Term Assets		552,727
231,806	Short Term Investments	G9	298,546
21,802	Short Term Debtors	G10	21,701
53,943	Cash & Cash Equivalents	G11	46,531
393	Inventories		421
307,944	Current Assets		367,200
(1,033)	Short Term Borrowing	G9	(884)
(59,902)	Short Term Creditors	G12	(75,129)
(787)	Grants Receipts in Advance	G6	(5)
(2,290)	Public Private Partnerships		(2,295)
(64,013)	Current Liabilities		(78,133)
(32,063)	Public Private Partnerships		(29,613)
(75,858)	Long Term Borrowing	G9	(67,013)
-	Grants Receipts in Advance	G6	-
-	Pension Liability	G13	(672)
(1,781)	Provisions		(2,154)
(652)	Deferred Taxation		-
(110,354)	Long Term Liabilities		(99,452)
681,786	Net Assets		742,162
	Financed By:		
(245,917)	Useable Reserves	G15	(295,634)
(435,869)	Unusable Reserves	G16	(446,528)
(681,786)	Total Reserves		(742,162)

I certify that the Accounts give a true and fair view of the financial position of the North of Tyne Combined Authority Group as at 6 May 2024.

Signed:



Date: 21/02/2025

Mags Scott, Chief Finance Officer (Section 73 Officer)

3.4 Group Cash Flow Statement

2022/23		Note	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
£000			
116,487	Surplus on the provision of services	G17	90,181
25,680	Adjustments to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements	G17	45,539
(142,970)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	G17	(133,379)
(803)	Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities		2,341
35,023	Investing Activities	G18	(5,068)
(21,568)	Financing Activities	G19	(4,686)
12,652	Net Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(7,412)
41,291	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		53,943
53,943	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	G11	46,531

3.5 Index to the Notes to the Group Financial Statements

The values within the financial statements are disclosed with rounding's which are appropriate to their individual presentation. Consequently, the tables in the Statement of Accounts may contain rounding differences.

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G1 Group Accounts

Under paragraph 9.1.17 of the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting 2023/24, authorities with interest in subsidiaries, associates and/or joint ventures shall prepare Group Accounts in addition to their single entity financial statements, unless their interest is considered to be not material.

The Group Accounts include the accounts of Nexus (in relation only to the proportion relating to the North of Tyne Combined Authority population basis) and have been prepared on a consolidation basis. The accounting policies adopted by Nexus are largely aligned with those of NECA and NTCA with the following minor differences:

Deferred Taxation

NTCA/NECA does not require a policy on Deferred Taxation. Deferred Taxation (which arises from the differences in the timing of the recognition of items, principally depreciation, in the accounts and by the tax authorities) has been calculated by Nexus on the liability method. Deferred tax is provided on timing differences which will probably reverse, at the rates of tax likely to be in force at the time of reversal.

Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets

Nexus uses the following estimated useful lives for each class of assets:

Asset

Freehold buildings
Short leasehold buildings
Infrastructure assets
Plant and Equipment
Vehicles
Marine Vessels
Intangibles

Estimated Useful Life

40 years
Over the lease term
20 to 50 years
5 to 30 years
5 to 10 years
30 years
5 to 10 years

Details of NTCA's depreciation policy can be found within the accounting policies of the single entity accounts. Nexus's policy is to commence depreciation on assets with effect from the month following capitalisation, whereas NTCA and NECA charge a full year depreciation in the year of acquisition.

Where Group Accounts are required, authorities must provide the main financial statements and the disclosure notes which add value to the understanding of the accounts. Disclosure notes have been produced to add more detail where the Group Accounts are materially different from the single entity accounts.

Copies of the single entity accounts for Nexus are available at www.nexus.org.uk

As described in the Note 1 to the single entity accounts, the establishment of the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) and the North East Joint Transport Committee on 2 November 2018 necessitates the division of income and expenditure, assets and liabilities relating to Joint Transport Committee activity between the NECA and NTCA accounts. Since all Nexus activity reported in the NECA Group Accounts relates to Transport at the Tyne and Wear level, it has been fully apportioned between NECA and NTCA on the basis of Tyne and Wear population using the ONS statistics used as the basis of dividing the levy contributions.

As described in Note 1b to the single entity accounts, the establishment of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority necessitated an extension to the 2023/24 year end to 6 May 2024. Nexus prepare accounts to a year end of 31 March. The Code states that the financial statements of the reporting authority and its subsidiaries should be prepared as of the same reporting date. When the end of the reporting period of the reporting authority is different from that of a subsidiary, the subsidiary prepares, for consolidation purposes, additional financial information as of the same date as the financial statements of the parent to enable the parent to consolidate the financial information of the subsidiary, unless it is impracticable to do so (9.1.2.56-9.1.2.57).

We consider that it is impracticable for Nexus to prepare additional financial information at 6 May 2024 due to the size and scope of the organisation and the timing around the period in which they will be producing their own financial statements.

The Code states that in this scenario, where the financial year-ends of the reporting authority and its subsidiary do not converge, adjustments shall be made for the effects of significant transactions or events that occur between that date and the date of the reporting authority's financial statements. The adjustments shall be restricted to the reporting period of the subsidiary and that of the reporting authority of not more than three months (9.1.2.59).

The accounts of Nexus have been updated to reflect the pension actuary's valuation at 6 May 2024, all other balances remain the same as the Nexus accounts prepared to 31 March 2024 as differences were deemed immaterial and therefore not significant.

As a result of the extended accounting period for 2023/24 to 6 May 2024 (13 months and 6 days), and the prior period covering 2022/23 (12 months), care needs to be taken when drawing comparisons between the figures for each financial year.

Assumptions made about the future and other major sources of uncertainty

The Group's net pension liability includes a share of the overall Pension Fund Investment assets. The Pension Fund has disclosed a material uncertainty, due to Covid-19, in respect of pension investments (direct property valuations and pooled residential property funds).

Please see Note 32 of the single entity accounts for NTCA's assumptions made about the future and other major sources of estimation uncertainty. Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions for Nexus can be found in the Nexus accounts at www.nexus.org.uk.

G2 Expenditure and Funding Analysis

2023/24 to 6 May 2024	Net Exp Chargeable to General Fund £000	Adj. for Capital Purposes £000	Pension Adj. £000	Other Adj. £000	Net Exp in CIES £000
Investment Fund	19,565	-	-	-	19,565
Corporate Costs	(14,424)	-	52	(99)	(14,471)
Adult Education Budget	(5,147)	-	-	-	(5,147)
Joint Transport Committee Costs	56,628	10,036	231	2,132	69,027
Invest North East	235	-	2	-	237
Local Enterprise Partnership	3,546	-	36	(42)	3,540
Net Cost of Services	60,403	10,036	322	1,991	72,752
Other Income & Expenditure	(68,418)	(94,620)	(57)	817	(162,278)
Surplus on Provision of Service	(8,014)	(84,584)	265	2,808	(89,527)

Opening General Fund Balance	(33,226)
Surplus on General Fund Balances in Year	(8,014)
General Fund Balance at 6 May 2024	(41,240)

2022/23	Net Exp Chargeable to General Fund £000	Adjs for Capital Purposes £000	Pension Adjs £000	Other Adjs £000	Net Exp in CIES £000
Investment Fund	25,579	0	508	5	26,092
Corporate Costs	(1,852)	0	223	11	(1,618)
Adult Education Budget	(5,988)	0	0	0	(5,988)
Joint Transport Committee Costs	75,675	(83,895)	0	0	(8,220)
Invest North East	90	0	97	26	213
Local Enterprise Partnership	17,467	0	1,389	160	19,016
Net Cost of Services	110,971	(83,895)	2,217	202	29,495
Other Income & Expenditure	(134,908)	(12,726)	(201)	3,303	(144,532)
Surplus on Provision of Services	(23,937)	(96,621)	2,016	3,505	(115,037)

Opening General Fund Balance	(26,140)
Surplus on General Fund Balances in Year	(23,937)
Transfers to Reserves	16,851
General Fund Balance at 31 March 2023	(33,226)

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

Adjustments for Capital Purposes - this column adds in depreciation and impairment and revaluation gains and losses in the services line, and adjusts for:

- Other Operating Expenditure – adjusts for capital disposal 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 i.e., Minimum Revenue Provision and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices; and
- 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 that receivable in the year to those receivables without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied throughout the year. The taxation and non-specific grant income and expenditure line is credited with capital grants receivable in the year without conditions or for which conditions were satisfied in the year.

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

- For services this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the authority as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs; and
- For Financing and Investment income and expenditure the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the CIES.

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

- For Financing and Investment Income & Expenditure the adjustments relate to the timing differences for premiums and discounts; and
- For services this includes adjustments made from accruing compensated absences earned but not taken in the year.

G3 Income and Expenditure Analysed by Nature

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
	Expenditure	
26,287	Employee benefit expenses	32,735
150,011	Other service expenses	140,566
3,797	Support Service Recharges	4,868
48,969	Depreciation, impairment and Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)	72,955
10,600	Interest Payments	13,549
239,662	Total Expenditure	264,673
	Income	
(44,632)	Fees, charges and other service income	(51,506)
(9,485)	Interest and investment income	(23,675)
(35,702)	Income from transport levy	(40,224)
(257,676)	Government grants and contributions	(233,994)
(7,208)	Other Income	(4,801)
(354,703)	Total Income	(354,200)
(115,041)	Surplus on the provision of services	(89,527)

G4 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
4,866	Interest payable and similar charges	6,363
699	Interest payable on defined benefit liability	-
-	Interest receivable on defined benefit liability	(1,459)
(4,450)	Interest receivable and similar income	(15,031)
1,115	Total	(10,127)

G5 Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income

2022/23		2023/24 to 6 May 2024
£000		£000
(35,702)	Transport Levy	(37,760)
(89,958)	Non-Specific Capital Grants	(112,517)
(20,000)	Non Ringfenced Government Grants	(2,000)
(145,660)	Total	(152,276)

G6 Grant Income and Other Contributions

The following grants and contributions were credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement within the Cost of Services:

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
(26,138)	Adult Education Grant	(24,915)
(13,852)	Metro Rail Grant	(12,531)
(1,000)	Mayoral Capacity Fund	(1,000)
4,754	Local Transport Fund	(613)
(4,149)	Local Transport Plan	(7,920)
(5,145)	Transforming Cities Fund	-
(2,538)	Nexus Energy Bill Relief Scheme	-
(876)	Nexus Non-Specific Grants	(483)
-	Adult Education Implementation Fund	-
(4,571)	Covid 19 Business Support	(475)
(8,448)	Active Travel Fund	(2,297)
(367)	Community Renewal Fund	
(1,248)	Multiply	(1,607)
(4,931)	Skills Bootcamp	(12,096)
(5,754)	UK Social Prosperity Fund	(9,887)
(53,014)	Bus Service Improvement Plan	(310)
(2,555)	City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlement	(1,281)
(5,644)	Local Transport Fund	
-	Levelling Up Fund	(1,889)
-	Zero Emission Bus Regional Areas (ZEBRA)	(2,614)
-	European Grants	(2,098)
-	NEMCA North East Flexible Pot S31	(20,000)
-	NEMCA North East Investment Fund	(14,000)
(6,979)	Other Grants and Contributions (individually under £100k)	(6,817)
(142,455)	Total	(122,833)

The Group has received a number of grants, contributions and donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached to them that would require the monies to be returned to the provider if they are not met. The balances at the year-end are as follows:

31 March 2023 £000		6 May 2024 £000
	Grants Receipts in Advance	
(787)	Grants & Contributions (individually under £1m) – Short Term	(5)
(787)	Total	(5)

G7 Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding Infrastructure Assets)

2023/24

	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Land & Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or Valuation				
At 1 April 2023	15,799	3,871	71,059	90,729
Additions	76	-	52,584	52,660
Transfers from Assets under Construction	172	-	(22,594)	(22,422)
Transfers to Intangibles	-	-	(81)	(81)
Derecognition – disposals	(590)	(13)	(45)	(648)
Revaluation recognised in Revaluation Reserve	-	(90)	-	(90)
Other Adjustments	375	-	23	398
At 6 May 2024	15,831	3,768	100,946	120,546
At 1 April 2023	(12,245)	(108)	-	(12,353)
Depreciation charge	(568)	(11)	-	(579)
Derecognition – disposals	462	12	-	474
At 6 May 2024	(12,351)	(107)	-	(12,458)
Net Book Value				
At 1 April 2023	3,554	3,763	71,059	78,376
At 6 May 2024	3,480	3,661	100,946	108,088

2022/23

	Vehicles, Plant, Furniture & Equipment	Land & Buildings	Assets Under Construction	Total Property, Plant & Equipment
Cost or Valuation	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 April 2022	15,621	1,640	59,039	76,300
Additions	-	-	75,665	75,665
Transfers from Assets under Construction	342	2,231	(63,599)	(61,026)
Transfers to Intangibles	-	-	(33)	(33)
Derecognition – disposals	(164)	-	(13)	(177)
Other Adjustments	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	15,799	3,871	71,059	90,729
At 1 April 2022	(11,838)	(141)	-	(11,979)
Depreciation charge	(509)	(12)	-	(521)
Derecognition – disposals	102	45	-	147
At 31 March 2023	(12,245)	(108)	-	(12,353)
Net Book Value				
At 1 April 2022	3,784	1,499	59,039	64,322
At 31 March 2023	3,554	3,763	71,059	78,376

Capital Commitments

At the year end, Nexus has entered into a number of contracts for the construction or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment in future years budgeted to cost £93.42m (2023: £160.36m) of which £42.11m would be attributable to NTCA on a population split basis. The major commitments are:

	Nexus total	Attributable to NTCA
	£m	£m
New fleet replacement	74.31	33.50
Whitley Bay Canopy	7.87	3.55
Metro Flow	4.38	1.97
Overhead Line	1.11	0.50

G7a: Property, Plant and Equipment (Highways Infrastructure Assets)**Movements on balances**

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

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

	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Net book value (modified historical cost)		
At 1 April	358,103	402,491
Additions	10	25
Transfer of Assets Under Construction	61,025	22,422
Derecognition	(1,845)	(392)
Depreciation	(16,989)	(18,236)
Impairment	-	-
Other movements in cost	2,187	676
At period end	402,491	406,986

Reconciliation to Balance Sheet

	31 March 2023	6 May 2024
	£000	£000
Infrastructure assets	402,491	406,986
Other PPE assets	78,376	108,088
Total PPE assets	480,867	515,074

The authority has determined in accordance with Regulation 30M of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England/Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2022 that the carrying amounts to be derecognised for infrastructure assets when there is replacement expenditure is nil.

Structures - net book value

NTCA has estimated a net book value at 6 May 2024 for its structures at £147.488m. This is fully represented by the tunnels owned by the authority. The remaining useful lives for its tunnels are assessed to be as follows:

Northbound vehicle tunnel	59 years
Southbound vehicle tunnel	107 years
Pedestrian and cyclist tunnels	59 years

G8 Intangible Assets

Intangible assets in the Group Accounts relate wholly to Nexus.

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
	Cost or Valuation	
5,919	Opening Balance	6,849
900	Additions	2,192
33	Transfers from Property, Plant & Equipment	81
(3)	Derecognition – Disposals	(208)
6,849	Total	8,914
	Amortisation	
(3,263)	Opening Balance	(3,648)
-	Derecognition – Disposals	143
(385)	Amortisation provided during the period	(463)
(3,648)	Total	(3,968)
3,201	Net Book Value at period end	4,945

G9 Financial Instruments

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Combined Authority that is represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset. The financial assets held by the Combined Authority during the year are held under the following classifications.

	Non-current				Current			
	Investments		Debtors		Investments		Debtors	
	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Amortised cost	-	-	34,726	32,708	231,806	298,546	19,592	21,081
Total Financial Assets	-	-	34,726	32,708	231,806	298,546	19,592	21,081
Non-financial Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,209	621
Total	-	-	34,726	32,708	231,806	298,546	21,801	21,702

Financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets are classified at amortised cost only if both of the following criteria are met:

- The asset is held within a business model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows; and
- The contractual terms give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest.

All of the Group's financial assets fit these criteria and are classified at amortised cost.

Trade receivables

Trade receivables are amounts due for goods and services delivered. They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and are therefore classified as current. Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of the consideration. Trade receivables are held with the objective of collecting the contractual cash flows and are therefore measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Due to the short-term nature of held to maturity investments their carrying value is considered to be the same as their fair value.

Financial Liabilities held at amortised cost

A financial liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Combined Authority and can be represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or financial assets or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity that is potentially unfavourable to Combined Authority.

	Non-current				Current			
	Borrowings		Creditors		Borrowings		Creditors	
	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Amortised cost	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,033)	(884)	(9,774)	(61,921)
Total Financial Liabilities	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,033)	(884)	(9,774)	(61,921)
Non-financial Liabilities	-	-	-	-	-	-	(50,129)	(13,207)
Total	(75,858)	(67,013)	-	-	(1,033)	(884)	(59,903)	(75,128)

The contractual terms for the Group's financial liabilities give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest, and they have been accordingly classified at amortised cost.

Income, Expense, Gains and Losses

The gains and losses recognised in the CIES in relation to financial instruments are made as follows:

Fair Value of Assets & Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost

Financial assets classified as loans and receivables and all non-derivative financial liabilities are carried in the Balance Sheet at amortised cost. Their fair values have been estimated by calculating the net present value of the remaining contractual cash flows at 6 May 2024, using the following method and assumptions:

- Loans borrowed by the Combined Authority have been valued by discounting the contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instrument at the appropriate market rate for local authority loans.
- The value of “Lender’s Option Borrower’s Option” (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options. Lender’s options to propose an increase to the interest rate of the loan have been valued according to a proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps. Borrower’s contingent options to accept the increased rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate.
- The fair values of other long-term loans and investments have been discounted at the market rates for similar instruments with similar remaining terms to maturity on 31 March.
- No early repayment or impairment is recognised for any financial instrument.
- The fair value of short-term instruments, including trade payables and receivables, is assumed to approximate to the carrying amount.

31 March 2023			6 May 2024			
Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Total		Financial Liabilities at amortised cost	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Total
£000	£000	£000		£000	£000	£000
5,568	-	5,568	Interest expense	6,363	-	6,363
5,568	-	5,568	Total expense in Surplus on Provision of Services	6,363	-	6,363
	(4,454)	(4,454)	Investment Income	-	(15,031)	(15,031)
	(4,454)	(4,454)	Total income in Surplus on Provision of Services	-	(15,031)	(15,031)
5,568	(4,454)	1,114	Net (gain)/loss for the year	6,363	(15,031)	(8,668)

For 2023/24 the fair values are shown in the table below are split by their level in the fair value hierarchy:

- Level 1 – fair value is only derived from quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.
- Level 2 – fair value is calculated from inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability: Fair values have been estimated by discounting the loans’ contractual cash flows over the whole life of the instruments at the -appropriate market rates for local authority loans of equivalent remaining term. The value of “Lender’s Option Borrower’s Option” (LOBO) loans have been increased by the value of the embedded options: lenders’ options to propose an increase to the interest rate on the loan have been valued according to a proprietary model for Bermudan cancellable swaps; borrower’s contingent options to accept the increased rate or repay the loan have been valued at zero, on the assumption that lenders will only exercise their options when market rates have risen above the contractual loan rate;
- Level 3 – fair value is determined using unobservable inputs: consideration of the estimated creditworthiness of the organisation receiving the loans based on their financial performance and track record of payment.

The fair values calculated are as follows:

		31 March 2023		6 May 2024	
	Level	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000	Carrying Amount £000	Fair Value £000
Financial liabilities at amortised cost	2	(76,888)	(73,984)	(67,897)	(52,667)
Total		(76,888)	(73,984)	(67,897)	(52,667)
Financial Assets at amortised cost					
Held to Maturity investments	2	231,806	231,806	298,546	298,546
Other debtors		34,183	34,183	44,889	44,889
Total		265,989	265,989	343,435	343,435

Short-term debtors and creditors are carried at cost as this is a fair approximation of their value. Details of the nature and extent of risks arising from Financial Instruments are set out in Note 16 of the single entity accounts.

G10 Short Term Debtors

31 March 2023 £000		6 May 2024 £000
8,751	Central Government Bodies	10,552
12,048	Other Local Authorities	7,588
21	NHS Bodies	1
982	Other Entities and Individuals	3,561
21,802	Total	21,702

G11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

31 March 2023 £000		6 May 2024 £000
31,553	Cash	18,979
22,389	Short term deposits	27,553
53,943	Total	46,532

G12 Short Term Creditors

31 March 2023 £000		6 May 2024 £000
(3,276)	Central Government Bodies	(3,146)
(22,961)	Other Local Authorities	(26,914)
(33,665)	Other Entities and Individuals	(45,069)
(59,902)	Total	(75,129)

G13 Defined Benefit Pension Schemes

NTCA and Nexus participate in the Tyne & Wear Pension Fund (the Fund) administered locally by South Tyneside Council, which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). This is a funded defined benefit scheme, meaning that the authorities and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets.

In addition, there are arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement – this is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash must be generated to meet actual pension payments as they eventually fall due.

Consolidated Pension Liability

The Group pension liability of £0.672m (£17.593m asset in 2022/23) is the sum of the NTCA and Nexus net pension liability.

Transactions relating to post-employment Benefits

The following transactions relating to the LGPS and Unfunded Benefits provided by the NTCA Group have been included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and Movement in Reserves Statement during the year:

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	LGPS		Discretionary Benefits	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Cost of Services				
Current Service Costs	10,664	5,454	-	-
Past Service Costs	-	-	-	-
Settlement Costs	16	-	-	-
Exceptional loss on transfer of pension liability loss	-	-	-	-
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure				
Interest Cost	5,706	6,926	22	68
Expected Return on Scheme Assets	(5,028)	(8,524)	-	-
Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus on the Provision of Services	11,358	3,856	22	68
Other Post Employment Benefit charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Return on plan assets (excluding the amount included in the net interest expense)	(6,674)	(1,498)	-	-
Remeasurement of the net Defined Benefit Liability	(59,120)	(425)	(13)	(72)
Adjustment loss/(gain) due to surplus restriction	-	31,692	-	-
Total Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income & Expenditure	(65,794)	29,769	(13)	(72)
Total amount recognised in the CIES	(54,436)	33,625	9	(5)

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Reconciliation of the Fair Value of the Scheme Assets

	LGPS		Discretionary Benefits	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
Opening fair value of scheme assets	198,025	195,942	-	-
Interest Income	5,357	10,147	-	-
Remeasurement gain on plan assets	(6,040)	4,253	-	-
Employer contributions	2,117	3,357	-	113
Contributions by scheme participants	1,858	2,249	-	-
Net Benefits paid out	(5,374)	(7,092)	-	(113)
Net decrease in assets from Stadler Transfer	-	-	-	-
Settlements	-	-	-	-
Closing fair value of scheme assets	195,943	208,856	-	-

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities

	LGPS		Discretionary Benefits	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
Opening balance at 1 April	(224,259)	(165,740)	(897)	(787)
Current Service Cost	(10,664)	(5,454)	-	-
Interest Cost	(6,037)	(8,481)	(22)	(68)
Contributions by participants	(1,858)	(2,249)	-	-
Remeasurement of the Net Defined Liability	71,718	11,322	13	70
Net benefits paid	5,374	7,092	113	113
Past service costs	(16)	-	-	-
Net increase in liabilities from NEMOL transfer	-	-	-	-
Settlements	-	-	-	-
Closing balance at 31 March	(165,740)	(163,510)	(793)	(672)

The expected return on scheme assets is determined by considering the expected returns available on the assets underlying the current investment policy. Expected yields on fixed interest investments are based on gross redemption yields as at the balance sheet date. Expected returns on equity investments reflect long-term real rates of return experienced in the respective markets.

Scheme History

Fair Value of LGPS Assets

Present value of LGPS liabilities
- LGPS liabilities

Deficit on funded defined benefit scheme

Discretionary benefits

Unrecognised asset (asset ceiling)

Total Surplus

2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
195,943	208,856
(165,741)	(163,509)
(30,202)	45,346
787	(672)
-	(45,346)
(29,415)	(672)

The split of the defined benefit obligation at the last valuation date between the various categories of members was as follows:

	NTCA	Nexus
Active members	95%	40%
Deferred pensioners	4%	11%
Pensioners	1%	49%

The weighted average duration of the defined benefit obligation for scheme members is 29.3 years for NTCA and 17.4 years for Nexus.

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Combined Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment (retirement) benefits. The total liability of £163.509m has an impact on the net worth of the Combined Authority recorded on the balance sheet, resulting in a positive pension balance of £0.672m. However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Combined Authority remains healthy:

- The deficit on the local government scheme will be made good by contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e., before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary.
- Finance is only required to be raised to cover discretionary benefits when the pensions are actually paid.
- The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31 March 2025 is nil for NTCA and £4.760m for Nexus (of which £2.146m is attributed to NTCA).

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels etc. Both the Local Government Pension Scheme and discretionary benefits liabilities have been estimated by Aon, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the pension fund being based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in updating the latest valuation of the Fund for IAS19 purposes were:

Group Statement of Accounts

NTCA	Local Government	
	31 March 2023	6 May 2024
Mortality assumptions:		
Pensioner member aged 65 at accounting date (male)	21.6	21.0
Pensioner member aged 65 at accounting date (female)	24.6	24.2
Active member aged 45 at accounting date (male)	22.9	22.3
Active member aged 45 at accounting date (female)	26.1	25.6
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities:	% per annum	% per annum
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.60	5.10
Rate of inflation – Consumer Price Index	2.60	2.70
Rate of increase in pensions	2.60	2.70
Pensions accounts revaluation rate	2.60	2.70
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10	4.20

Nexus	LGPS		Discretionary Benefits	
	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024	2022/23	2023/24 to 6 May 2024
Mortality assumptions:				
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners				
Men	21.6	21.0	21.8	21.0
Women	24.6	24.2	25.0	24.2
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners				
Men	22.9	22.3	n/a	n/a
Women	26.1	25.6	n/a	n/a
Discount rates:	%p.a.		%p.a.	
Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	4.7	5.1	4.7	5.1
Rate of inflation – Consumer Price Index	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Rate of increase in pensions	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.7	2.7	n/a	n/a
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7	4.2	n/a	n/a

The approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is shown in the table below:

	31 March 2023	Asset Split 6 May 2024		
	% Total	Quoted	Unquoted	Total
Equities	51.2	40.1	11.1	51.2
Property	10.5	0.0	9.9	9.9
Government Bonds	1.3	1.2	0.0	1.2
Corporate Bonds	19.5	18.9	0.0	18.9
Multi Asset Credit	4.5	4.5	0.0	4.5
Cash	1.8	0.8	0.0	0.8
Other*	11.2	0.0	13.5	13.5
Total Assets	100.0	65.5	34.5	100

*Other holdings may include hedge funds, currency holdings, asset allocation futures and other financial instruments. It is assumed that these will get a return in line with equities.

Actual Return on Assets

	Local Government	
	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Interest Income on Assets	5,357	10,147
Remeasurement gain on assets	(7,006)	3,842
Actual Return on Assets	(1,649)	13,989

Sensitivity Analysis

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the tables above. The sensitivity analyses below have been determined based on reasonably possible changes of the assumptions occurring at the end of the reporting period and assumes for each change that the assumption analysed changes while all the other assumptions remain constant.

The assumptions in longevity, for example, assume that life expectancy increases or decreases for men and women. In practice, this is unlikely to occur, and changes in some of the assumptions may be interrelated. The estimations in the sensitivity analysis have followed the accounting policies for the scheme, i.e., on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The methods and types of assumptions used in preparing the sensitivity analysis below did not change from those used in the previous period. Sensitivity of unfunded benefits has not been included on materiality grounds.

Group Statement of Accounts

Discount rate assumption	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Adjustment to discount rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	328.78	334.13	339.81
% change in present value of total obligation	-1.6%		1.7%
Projected service cost (£M)	7.91	8.27	8.64
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-4.4%		4.5%

Rate of general increase in salaries	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Adjustment to salary increase rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	334.80	334.13	333.46
% change in present value of total obligation	0.2%		-0.2%
Projected service cost (£M)	8.27	8.27	8.27
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.0%		0.0%

Rate of increase to pensions in payment and deferred pensions assumption, and rate of revaluation of pension accounts assumption	+0.1% per annum	Base Figure	-0.1% per annum
Adjustment to pension increase rate			
Present value of total obligation	339.14	334.13	329.45
% change in present value of total obligation	1.5%		1.4%
Projected service cost (£M)	8.64	8.27	7.91
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.5%		-4.4%

Post retirement mortality assumption	-1 year	Base Figure	+1 year
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption *			
Present value of total obligation (£M)	342.48	334.13	325.78
% change in present value of total obligation	2.5%		-2.5%
Projected service cost (£M)	8.58	8.27	7.96
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.7%		-3.7%

*a rating of + 1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table for an individual that is 1 year older than them.

G14 Deferred Tax Liability

The movement for the year comprises:

	2022/23 £000	2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
Capital Allowances	(298)	(569)
Roll over relief on capital gains	(118)	-
Tax effect of losses	(1,030)	1,218
Other timing differences	(3)	5
Total	(1,449)	654

The balance at the year-end comprises:

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Excess of capital allowances over depreciation	1,479	2,051
Roll over relief on capital gains	436	437
Tax effect of losses	(1,214)	(2,435)
Other timing differences	(49)	(54)
Total	652	-

G15 Usable Reserves

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
General Fund Balance	(34,675)	(41,240)
Earmarked Reserves	(134,597)	(133,470)
Capital Grants Unapplied	(76,174)	(120,925)
Capital Receipts Reserve	(471)	-
Total Usable Reserves	(245,917)	(295,635)

G16 Unusable Reserves

	31 March 2023 £000	6 May 2024 £000
Revaluation Reserve	(4,572)	(4,420)
Capital Adjustment Account	(400,249)	(441,821)
Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	(1,836)	(1,019)
Accumulated Absences Account	202	61
Pension Reserve	(29,414)	671
Total Unusable Reserves	(435,869)	(446,528)

The Financial Instruments Adjustment Account and Accumulated Absences Account relate to NTCA only and can be found in Note 24 of the single entity accounts.

Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Authority arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant & Equipment. The balance is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- Revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost.
- Used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation; or
- Disposed of and the gains are realised.

The Reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date on which the Reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

	£000
Balance at 1 April 2022	(4,603)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation – written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	31
Revaluation gain recognised in Revaluation Reserve	-
Balance at 31 March 2023	(4,572)
Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation – written off to the Capital Adjustment Account	61
Revaluation gain recognised in Revaluation Reserve	90
Balance at 6 May 2024	(4,420)

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. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis).

The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement of assets.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

	£000
Balance at 1 April 2022	(329,276)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:	
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	17,239
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale	1,865
Other income that cannot be credited to the General Fund	(2,290)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	50,986
Write down of long-term debtors	2,349
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(47)
Capital financing applied in the year:	
Capital grants & contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(139,144)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(832)
Use of Capital Receipts to fund capital expenditure	1,154
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(1,633)
Debt redeemed using capital receipts	(633)
Transfer to and from Reserves	13
Balance at 31 March 2023	(400,249)
Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the CIES:	
Charges for depreciation & impairment of non-current assets	18,628
Amounts of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale	496
Other income that cannot be credited to the General Fund	(2,522)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	54,215
Write down of long-term debtors	3,185
Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	(61)
Capital financing applied in the year:	
Capital grants & contributions credited to the CIES that have been applied to capital financing	(86,243)
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	(941)
Use of Capital Receipts to fund capital expenditure	(25,918)
Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	(2,411)
Debt redeemed using capital receipts	(2,411)
	(441,821)

Pension 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 Authority accounts for post-employment benefits in the CIES as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

	£000
Balance at 1 April 2022	27,125
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit liability	(65,807)
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus on the Provision of Services in the CIES	11,398
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners	(2,234)
Interest expense on net defined asset	104
Balance at 31 March 2023	(29,414)
Balance at 1 April 2023	(29,414)
Remeasurements of the net defined benefit asset	29,637
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus on the Provision of Services in the CIES	3,919
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners	(3,470)
Balance at 6 May 2024	672

G17 Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements and items that are Investing or Financing Activities

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
116,487	Surplus on the provision of services	90,181
	Adjustments to Surplus on Provision of Services for Non-Cash Movements:	
17,745	Depreciation, Impairment and Amortisation	19,136
2,025	Loss/(Gain) on disposal of non-current assets	774
29,204	Increase in Creditors	39,390
(28,802)	Increase in Debtors	(10,803)
17	Decrease/(Increase) in Inventories	(29)
9,148	Movement in Pension Liability	405
(3,657)	Other non-cash items charged to the surplus on the provision of services	(3,334)
25,681	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities:	45,539
(143,847)	Capital grants credited to surplus on provision of services	(130,273)
877	Other adjustments for items that are financing or investing activities	(3,106)
(803)	Net cash flow from operating activities	2,341

The cash flows for operating activities include the following items:

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
3,045	Interest Received	12,387
(1,553)	Interest Paid	(5,952)

G18 Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
(77,363)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment, investment property and intangible assets	(55,208)
(292,072)	Purchase of short-term and long-term investments	(1,493,567)
286,810	Proceeds from short-term and long-term investments	1,410,077
117,648	Other receipts from investing activities	133,629
35,023	Net cash flows from investing activities	(5,067)

G19 Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
(20,324)	Repayments of short and long-term borrowing	(7,770)
(1,244)	Other payments and receipts for financing activities	3,084
(21,568)	Net cash flows from financing activities	(4,686)

G20 Reconciliation of liabilities arising from Financing Activities

	1 April 2023 £000	Financing Cash Flows £000	Changes which are not financing cash flows £000	6 May 2024 £000
Long-term borrowings	(75,858)	8,845		(67,013)
Short-term borrowings	(1,033)	147	3	(883)
Total liabilities from financing activities	(76,891)	8,992	3	(67,896)

	1 April 2022 £000	Financing Cash Flows £000	Changes which are not financing cash flows £000	31 March 2023 £000
Long-term borrowings	(75,766)	(92)		(75,858)
Short-term borrowings	(21,025)	20,000	(8)	(1,033)
Total liabilities from financing activities	(96,791)	19,908	(8)	(76,891)

G21 Summary of Capital Expenditure and Sources of Finance

2022/23 £000		2023/24 to 6 May 2024 £000
77,609	Opening Capital Financing Requirement	76,092
	Capital Investment	
75,675	Property, Plant & Equipment	52,660
-	Capital Loans	4,023
900	Intangible Assets	2,185
50,986	Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute	54,215
	Sources of Finance	
(633)	Capital Receipts	(2,411)
(126,144)	Government Grants and other Contributions	(85,522)
	Sums set aside from Revenue	
(1,469)	Direct Revenue Contributions	(954)
(832)	Minimum Revenue Provision	(941)
-	Use of reserves	(24,964)
-	Additional Voluntary Provision	-
76,092	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	74,383
(1,517)	Decrease in underlying need to borrow (unsupported by Government financial assistance)	(1,709)

4.0 Supplemental Information

4.1 Glossary of Terms

A

Abbreviations: The symbol 'k' followed by a figure represents £ thousand. The symbol 'm' following a figure represents £ million.

Accounting period: the period of time covered by the accounts, normally twelve months commencing on 1 April. For 2023/24, the accounting year was extended to 6 May 2024, the date of the demise of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, prior to the establishment on 7 May 2024 of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority. The end of the accounting period i.e., 6 May 2024 is the balance sheet date.

Accounting policies: Those principles, bases, conventions, rules and practices applied by an entity that specify how the effects of transactions and other events are to be reflected in its financial statements.

Accruals: Income and expenditure are recognised as they are earned or incurred, not as money is received or paid.

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

Amortise: To write off gradually and systematically a given amount of money within a specific number of time periods.

Assets: Items of worth which are measurable in terms of money.

Assets Held for Sale: Those assets, primarily long-term assets, that the Authority wishes to dispose of through sale to others.

B

Bad (and doubtful) debts: debts which may be uneconomic to collect or unenforceable in law.

Balances: the reserves of the Authority, both revenue and capital, which represent the accumulated surplus of income over expenditure on any of the funds.

Balance Sheet: a statement of the recorded assets, liabilities and other balances at the end of an accounting period.

Budgets: A statement of the Authority's forecast expenditure, that is, net revenue expenditure for the year.

C

Capital Adjustment Account: The account accumulates (on the debit side) the write down of the historical cost of fixed assets as they are consumed by depreciation and impairments or written off on disposal. It accumulates (on the credit side) the resources that have been set aside to finance capital expenditure. The same process applies to capital expenditure that is only capital by statutory definition (revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute). The balance on the account represents timing differences between the amount of the historical cost of fixed assets that has been consumed and the amount that has been financed in accordance with statutory requirements.

Capital expenditure: Expenditure on the acquisition of a fixed asset or expenditure which adds to and not merely maintains the value of an existing fixed asset.

Capital receipts: Monies received from the disposal of land and other fixed assets, and from the repayment of grants and loans made by the Authority.

Cash and cash equivalents: this comprise cash in hand, cash overdrawn and short-term investments which are readily convertible into known amounts of cash.

Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting (The Code): The Code specifies the principles and practices of accounting to give a 'true and fair' view of the financial position and transactions of a local authority.

Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement: This account summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Authority during the financial year.

Consistency: The principal that the accounting treatment of like items within an accounting period and from one period to the next should be the same.

Contingent Asset: A contingent asset is a possible asset arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Authority's control.

Contingent Liability: A contingent liability is either (i) a possible obligation arising from past events whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the Authority's control, or (ii) a present obligation 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.

Corporate & Democratic Core: The corporate & democratic core comprises all activities which local authorities engage in specifically because they are elected, multipurpose authorities.

Creditors: An amount owed by the Authority for work done, goods received, or services rendered but for which payment has not been made.

Current assets: which will be consumed or cease to have value within the next accounting period, e.g., inventories and debtors.

Current liabilities: amounts that the Authority owes to other bodies and due for payment within 12 months.

Current Service Cost (Pension): The increase in the present value of a defined benefit scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Curtailment (Pensions): For a defined benefit pension scheme an event that reduces the expected years of future service of present employees or reduces for a number of employees the accrual of defined benefits for some or all of their future service. Examples include termination of employee's service through redundancy or amendment of the terms affecting future benefits.

D

Debtors: Monies owed to the Authority but not received at the balance sheet date.

Defined Benefit Scheme (Pensions): A pension or other retirement scheme other than a defined contribution scheme. Usually, the scheme rules define the benefits independently of the contributions payable, and the benefits are not directly related to the investments of the scheme. The scheme may be funded or unfunded.

Depreciation: The measure of the wearing out, consumption or other reduction in the useful economic life of an asset.

E

Earmarked reserves: A sum set aside for a specific purpose.

Emoluments: Payments received in cash and benefits for employment.

Estimation Techniques: methods adopted by the Authority to arrive at estimated monetary amounts, corresponding to the measurement bases selected, for assets, liabilities, gains, losses and changes to reserves.

Events after the Balance Sheet Date: Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the Balance Sheet date and the date when the Statement of Accounts are authorised for issue.

Expected Rate of Return on Pensions Assets: This is an actuarially calculated estimate of the return on the scheme's investment assets during the year.

External Audit: the independent examination of the activities and accounts of Local Authorities to ensure the accounts have been prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and proper practices and to ensure the Authority has made proper arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

F

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

Fees and Charges: Income arising from the provision of services, for example, charges for the use of leisure facilities.

Financial Instrument: Document (such as a cheque, draft, bond, share, bill of exchange, futures or options contract) that has a monetary value or evidences a legally enforceable (binding) agreement between two or more parties regarding a right to payment of money.

Finance Lease: A lease that transfers substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of a fixed asset to the lessee. The payments usually cover the full cost of the asset together with a return for the cost of finance.

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account: The reserve records the accumulated difference between the financing costs included in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account and the accumulated financing costs required in accordance with regulations to be charged to the General Fund Balance

G

General Fund: The total services of the Authority.

General Reserves and Balances: monies held by the Authority to deal with unforeseen events that might arise. The Authority must maintain a prudent level of such balances.

Going Concern: The concept that the Authority will remain in operational existence for the foreseeable future, in particular that the revenue accounts and balance sheet assume no intention to curtail significantly the scale of operations.

I

Impairment: A reduction in the value of a fixed asset below its carrying amount on the balance sheet resulting from causes such as obsolescence or physical damage.

Intangible Assets: An asset that is not physical in nature, e.g., software licences.

Interest Costs (Pensions): For a defined benefit scheme, the expected increase during the period in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are one period closer to settlement.

Investment Properties: Interest in land and buildings where construction work and development has been completed and the asset is held for its investment potential, any rental income being negotiated at arm's length.

L

Leasing: a method of acquiring the use of an asset by paying a rental for a specified period of time, rather than purchasing it outright. The two methods are:

- Operating Leases – may generally be described as those which do not provide for the property in the asset to transfer to the Authority, only the rental will be taken into account by the lessee; or
- Finance Leases – are leases that transfer substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset to the lessee. The asset is recorded on the lessee's balance sheet.

Levies: similar to precepts, these sums are paid to other bodies. They are items of expenditure on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The body that charges a levy on the Authority is the North East Combined Authority (transport levy).

Liabilities: Any amount owed to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future.

M

Materiality: An item is material if its omission, non-disclosure or misstatement in the financial statements could be expected to lead to a distortion of the view given by the financial statements.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP): An amount charged by the Authority to the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Account, for debt redemption or for the discharge of other credit liabilities.

Movement in Reserves Statement: The statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority.

N

Net Book Value: The amount at which fixed assets are included in the balance sheet, being their historical cost or current value less the cumulative amounts provided by depreciation.

Net Debt: The Authority's borrowings less cash and liquid resources.

P

Private Finance Initiative (PFI): public authority/private sector partnerships designed to procure new major capital investment resources for local authorities.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE): Assets that yield benefits to the Authority and the services that it provides for a period of more than one year. Examples include land, buildings and vehicles.

Provisions: These are sums set aside to meet liabilities or losses which have been incurred but where the amount and/or timing of such costs are uncertain.

Prudence: This accounting concept requires that revenue is not anticipated until realisation can be assessed with reasonable certainty. Provision is made for all known liabilities whether the amount is certain or can only be estimated in the light of the information available.

Public Works Loan Board (PWLB): This is a Government agency which provides loans to local authorities at favourable rates.

R

Related Parties: A related party transaction is the transfer of asset or liabilities or the performance of services by, to or for a related party irrespective of whether a charge is made. An example could be the purchase, sale, lease, rental or hire of assets between related parties.

Remuneration: defined as sums paid to or receivable by an employee and sums due by way of expenses allowances (as far as those sums are chargeable to UK income tax) and the money value of any other benefits received other than in cash. Pension contributions payable by the employer are excluded.

Reserves: These are sums set aside to meet possible future liabilities where there is no certainty about whether or not these liabilities will be incurred.

Residual Value: The net realisable value of an asset at the end of its useful life. Residual values are based on prices prevailing at the date of the acquisition (or revaluation) of the asset and do not take account of expected future price changes.

Revaluation Reserve: The reserve records the accumulated gains on the fixed assets held by the Authority arising from increases in value as a result of inflation or other factors.

Revenue Expenditure: Expenditure on providing day-to-day services, for example employee costs and premises costs.

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute: Expenditure which may be properly incurred, but which does not result in an asset owned by the Authority e.g., grants to other organisations for capital purposes.

S

Section 73 Officer: the Council officer designated under Section 73 of the Local Government Act 1972 to take overall responsibility for the financial administration of the Authority.

T

Treasury Management: this is the process by which the Authority controls its cash flow and its borrowing and lending activities.

Treasury Management Strategy (TMS): a strategy prepared with regard to legislative and CIPFA requirements setting out the framework for treasury management activity for the Authority.

U

Unusable Reserves: The Authority cannot use this category of reserves to provide services. Includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (e.g., revaluation reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement of Reserves Statement line 'adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulation.'

Useable Reserves: Those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use.

Independent Auditor's report to the Members of North East Combined Authority as successor body of the North of Tyne Combined Authority

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of the North of Tyne Combined Authority ('the Authority') and its subsidiaries ('the Group') for the period ended 6 May 2024, which comprise the Authority and Group Movement in Reserves Statements, the Authority and Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, the Authority and Group Balance Sheets, the Authority and Group Cash Flow Statements 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 the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority and the Group as at 6th May 2024 and of the Authority's and the Group's expenditure and income for the period then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities section of our report. We are independent of the Authority and the Group in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – transfer of the North of Tyne Combined Authority's functions to the North East Mayoral Combined Authority

We draw attention to note 1 (narrative explanatory note on devolution)33.1 (accounting policies, general principles) and note 34 (events after the balance sheet date) of the financial statements, which highlight that as a result of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (Establishment and Functions) Order 2024, the North of Tyne Combined Authority's functions transfer to the new North East Mayoral Combined Authority from 7 May 2024. These notes further disclose that as services continue to be provided by another public sector entity, the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, and taking into account the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, other than the issue highlighted above in the Emphasis of Matter paragraph, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the Narrative Report, Annual Governance Statement and the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Chief Finance Officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the Chief Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Chief Finance Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Finance Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Chief Finance Officer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2023/24 and prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis, on the assumption that the functions of the Authority will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Chief Finance Officer is responsible for assessing whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority and the Group to prepare its accounts on the going concern basis and disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our 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 our 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 economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Based on our understanding of the Authority, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to the Local Government Act 2003 (and associated regulations made under section 21), the Local Government Finance Acts of 1988, 1992 and 2012, and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements.

To help us identify instances of non-compliance with these laws and regulations, and in identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect to non-compliance, our procedures included, but were not limited to:

- inquiring with management and the Audit and Standards Committee, as to whether the Authority is in compliance with laws and regulations, and discussing their policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations;
- communicating identified laws and regulations throughout our engagement team and remaining alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout our audit; and
- considering the risk of acts by the Authority and the Group which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We evaluated the Chief Finance Officer's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting manual journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias through judgements and assumptions in significant accounting estimates, and significant one-off or unusual transactions.

Our audit procedures in relation to fraud included but were not limited to:

- making enquiries of management and the Audit and Standards Committee on whether they had knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- gaining an understanding of the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud;
- discussing amongst the engagement team the risks of fraud; and
- addressing the risks of fraud through management override of controls by performing journal entry testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of irregularities including fraud rests with management and the Audit and Standards Committee. As with any audit, there remained a risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.

We are also required to conclude on whether the Chief Finance Officer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. We performed our work in accordance with Practice Note 10: Audit of financial statement and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom, and Supplementary Guidance Note 01, issued by the National Audit Office in November 2024.

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

Report on the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

Matter on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if, in our view, we are not satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the period ended 6 May 2024.

We have nothing to report in this respect.

Responsibilities of the Authority

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We are required under section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively. We have undertaken our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice, having regard to the guidance issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2024.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception under the Code of Audit Practice

We are required by the Code of Audit Practice to report to you if:

- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make a recommendation under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under sections 28, 29 or 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Use of the audit report

This report is made solely to the Members of the North East Combined Authority in respect of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, as a body, in accordance with part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and as set out in paragraph 44 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the North East Combined Authority those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Members of the North East Combined Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack.



Gavin Barker
Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP

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26 February 2025