**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority** **Item 6**

**Finance & Resources Committee**

**24 February 2026**

# Statement of Final Accounts 2024/25

## Purpose of the Report

1. To present the external auditors Audit Completion Report findings for 2024/25, and to obtain Members approval for the revised Statement of Accounts (SoFA).

## Recommendations

2. That Members:

    a. Note the Audit Completion Report (**Appendix 1**)

    b. Approve that the Chair of the F&R Committee sign the final SoFA for 2024/25. (**Appendix 2**)

    c. Approve that the Chair of the F&R Committee co-sign the letter of representation, along with the Treasurer (**Appendix 3**)

## Strategic Framework

3. The information and recommendations contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and support the strategic planning framework:

    - Corporate Plan Objective 30:

      Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report.

## Background

4. External audits are required annually, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Treasurer to sign and date the pre-audit SoFA, certifying that it represents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority.

5. The draft SoFA for 2024/25 was signed by the Treasurer and made available on the Authority's Website on 24 June 2025. Following the audit, the final SoFA for 2024/25 will be re-signed on 24 February 2026 (**Appendix 2**).

6. The audit timetable was modified by Government, this requires publication of the final 2024/25 accounts by 28 February 2026.

7. The Audit Completion Report presented by Forvis Mazars gives a summary of the audit for 2024/25 (**Appendix 1**).

8. Members will be aware that the previous two years SoFA's have received disclaimed opinions due to the missing audit in 2022/23.

9. In order to get the Authority back on track, the audit for 2024/25 also included a full audit of the year 2022/23 to build back assurances of the balances in that year.

10. There are no differences between the figures in the draft SoFA and the final SoFA for 2024/25 but there are some presentational changes, mainly due to the prior year restated figures which required more explanation and reference, see note 5 in the SoFA.

## Statement of Final Accounts

11. The format and content of the SoFA (**Appendix 2**) must comply with the CIFPA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) and is therefore largely outside the control of this Authority. The SORP sets out the proper accounting practice required for the SoFA within the statutory framework of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

12. An unqualified audit opinion has been received for 2024/25 from Forvis Mazars LLP.

## Financial Implications

13. The budget for 2024/25 audit was £48k. The 2022/23 Value for Money work was completed and charged already by Ernst & Young, but the additional audit work for 2022/23 will attract a fee for the hours worked, so the final charge for the 2024/25 audit will be in the region of £80k to £85k.

## Legal Implications

14. None.

## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Implications

15. None.

Michelle Clyde
Head of Finance



# Audit Completion Report

## Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority – year ended 31 March 2025

20 February 2026

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Members of the Finance & Resources Committee
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
Yoredale
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North Yorkshire
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Forvis Mazars
Bank Chambers
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
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20 February 2026

Dear Committee Members

## Audit Completion Report – Year ended 31 March 2025

We are pleased to present our Audit Completion Report for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2025. The purpose of this report is to summarise our audit findings and conclusions.

This report is intended solely for the Members of the Finance & Resources Committee for the purpose of communicating certain matters that, in our professional judgement, are relevant to your oversight of the financial reporting process. To the fullest extent permitted by law Forvis Mazars LLP accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability to any third party who purports to use or rely for any reason whatsoever on the report, its contents, conclusions, any extract, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification. Accordingly, any reliance placed on the report, its contents, conclusions, any extract, reinterpretation, amendment and/or modification by any third party is entirely at their own risk.

We appreciate the courtesy and co-operation extended to us by the Authority throughout our audit. We would be happy to discuss the contents of this report, or any other matters regarding our audit, with you in more detail.

Yours faithfully



Gavin Barker

Forvis Mazars LLP


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Our reports are prepared in the context of the 'PSAA Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and of Audited Bodies' and the 'Appointing Person Terms of Appointment' issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. This document is to be regarded as confidential to the Members of the Finance & Resources Committee. It has been prepared for the sole use of those charged with governance on behalf of the Authority. We do not accept any liability or responsibility to any other person in respect of the whole or part of its contents.

# 01

# Executive Summary

# Executive summary

## Scope

We have been engaged to audit the financial statements of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are prepared in accordance with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

We have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ('ISAs'), relevant ethical and professional standards, our own audit methodology and in accordance with the Code of Audit practice.

## Impact of the disclaimed audit opinions for 2023/24 on the 2024/25 audit

Members will recall that we carried out a full audit of the 2023/24 financial statements. However, we were unable to obtain assurance regarding the opening balances in advance of the backstop date of 28 February 2025, due to the disclaimer of opinion for the 2022/23 period by our predecessor auditor. In our view, the effects of the resulting lack of assurance was pervasive to the financial statements as a whole. This meant that despite all the work we had undertaken, we also had to issue a disclaimed opinion on the 2023/24 financial statements.

We therefore concluded that we had not obtained sufficient appropriate audit evidence to enable us to express an opinion on whether the financial statements present a true and fair view and had been prepared, in all material respects, in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. Consequently, as required by the ISAs, we modified our audit report and issued a disclaimer of opinion. This means, in our audit report issued on 26 February 2025, we did not express an opinion on the Council's 2023/24 financial statements.

In our Audit Strategy Memorandum 2024/25, dated 4 July 2025, we explained that we were hoping that guidance would be available to enable us to rebuild assurance for the disclaimed audit years (2022/23 and 2023/24) using a Proof in Total approach.

In our Audit Progress Report dated 9 November 2025, and presented to the Audit and Review Committee on 25 November 2025, we updated the Audit Strategy Memorandum by incorporating a significant audit risk on rebuilding assurance which had been missing from our original plan. At this point we were still awaiting guidance on the application of our audit approach, but on 5 December 2025, we reported via an e-mail update that the 'rebuilding assurance' guidance could not be issued, and that our firm alongside others in the sector, could not come up with a 'proof in total' approach that was consistent with the requirements of International Standards of Auditing (ISAs).

We agreed with management that we would seek to carry out a full audit of the 2022/23 financial year alongside the 2024/25 audit. This together with the work undertaken on the 2023/24 audit last year, would enable us to rebuild assurance over the opening balances and move towards issuing an unqualified opinion on the 2024/25 audit. This was only possible because there was only one disclaimed year to address (2022/23) and the Authority's audit is relatively small compared to our other audits.

The Authority's 2024/25 audit was the first backstopped audit where our firm had attempted to rebuild assurance using the historic testing approach. Our internal procedures required formal approval from our technical team to proceed with this approach. We received this approval. It required us to apply a lower level of performance materiality than we had initially planned, requiring larger sample sizes in our testing.

## Audit status

Our audit procedures are now substantially complete for both the year ended 31 March 2023 and the year ended 31 March 2025. The procedures we undertook last year provided the assurance we needed in relation to the year ended 31 March 2024. Please refer to the *'Status of our audit'* section for a list of significant audit matters outstanding at the date of this report. We will provide an update on completion of those outstanding matters by way of a follow-up letter.

We anticipate completing our work and issuing our audit report on 27 February 2026.

## Areas of focus and audit approach, and significant findings

We did make changes to our initial risk assessment and planned audit approach that was communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum dated 4 July 2025 in relation to the 2024/25 audit. In our Audit Progress Report dated 9 November 2025 we rectified an omission from the Audit Strategy Memorandum and included rebuilding assurance as a significant audit risk. This was explained to Members of the Audit and Review Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2025.

A further change occurred on 5 December 2025, when it was agreed that we would also carry out a full audit of 2022/23. For our 2022/23 testing, we have applied the same materiality benchmarks, significant risks and audit approach as we have for our 2024/25 testing.

Our significant risks and other areas of focus are set out in the 'Audit approach and risk summary' section, with a summary of our audit approach over those areas. Significant findings from our audit are set out in the 'Significant findings' section.



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# Executive summary

## Significant control deficiencies

We did not identify any significant deficiencies in internal control. Please refer to the 'Significant control deficiencies' section. We have not identified any non-significant control observations to date. This is set out in Appendix A.

The 2024/25 financial statements included a Prior Period Adjustment in relation to the 2023/34 financial statements to reflect corrections to accounting for the Grow Back Greener project. The Prior Period Adjustment was subject to a technical review by our specialist team. Amendments were made to the financial statements in respect of the Prior Period Adjustment, and this is explained further on page 25.

Although the reasons for the Prior Period Adjustment are indicative of a deficiency in internal control, we have not reported it as such. The reasons for us not reporting it separately are that management identified the errors itself and rectified them, including ensuring it was an isolated case and taking measures to prevent a recurrence.

## Audit misstatements

A summary of the adjusted and unadjusted misstatements above our reporting threshold that have been identified to date are set out in the 'Summary of misstatements' section.

## Audit opinion

At the time of issuing this report and subject to the satisfactory conclusion of our remaining audit work, we anticipate issuing an unqualified opinion, without modification, in relation to the Authority's accounts as set out in Appendix C.

## Value for Money

We anticipate having no significant weaknesses in arrangements or recommendations to report in relation to the arrangements that the Authority has in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Further detail on our Value for Money work is provided in section 8 of this report.

## Wider reporting powers

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Authority and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We received no questions or objections.

## Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)

The Authority is exempt from making a submission of WGA consolidation data as it has Minor Body status. As a result of this, we do not need to complete and submit a WGA Assurance statement to National Audit Office.

## Qualitative aspects of the Authority's accounting practices

We have reviewed Authority's accounting policies and disclosures and conclude that they comply with the 2024/25 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting, appropriately tailored to the Authority's circumstances.

Draft accounts were received from the Authority on 30 June 2025 and were of a good quality. The working papers supporting the financial statements were comprehensive and we were provided with all of the information we needed. Management were exceptionally helpful in supporting the audit and responding to our audit queries.

## Significant matters discussed with management

During our audit, we discussed the following significant matters with management:

- The Prior Period Adjustment relating to the Grow Back Greener Project; and
- Accounting for leases under IFRS 16, a new accounting standard from this year.

## Significant difficulties during the audit

Subject to the completion of our remaining work, we have not encountered any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.

## Other matters of significance

Subject to the completion of our remaining work, we encountered no significant difficulties during our audit and had no significant disagreements with management. There was effective co-operation and communication between Forvis Mazars, management, and the Authority during our audit. All requested information and explanations were provided to us.

Other matters we are required by ISA (UK) 260 *Communication with Those Charged with Governance* to communicate to you have been set out in Appendix E

# Executive summary

## 2022/23 audit work

The matters reported in this document primarily relate to the 2024/25 financial statements and the Prior Period Adjustment relating to the 2023/24 audit.

We have also carried out a full audit of the 2022/23 accounts using the historic testing approach. The primary objective of this was to provide assurance on opening balances relating to the disclaimed audit year.

By full audit we mean, we carried out for 2022/23, the following:

- Complete balance sheet audit;
- Complete audit of income and expenditure accounts; and
- Complete audit of all remaining statements and notes.

We were able to obtain the assurance we needed over opening balances, meaning that we are now in a position to move from the disclaimed audit opinions of the last two years to an unqualified audit opinion for the 2024/25 audit.

We are grateful to management for supporting what was effectively an audit of two years undertaken in one year. The timescales were particularly challenging and it could not have been achieved without management support.

# 02

## Status of the audit

# Status of our audit

Our audit work is substantially complete and there are currently no matters of which we are aware that would require modification of our audit opinion, subject to the satisfactory resolution of the outstanding matters set out below.

### Property, Plant and Equipment Valuations

Our work is still ongoing. We need to obtain assurance over the accuracy and completeness of disclosures, as well as the method adopted. This affects a number of notes across the statement of accounts.

### Other audit areas

We are continuing to complete and write up our work in a number of areas, although the scope for further issues arising is limited.

### Completion procedures

Completion procedures will continue up to the point where we receive the final signed set of financial statements from the Authority and the signed letter of representation from management. These procedures include ongoing completion and review of our audit file, checking the final version of each set of the financial statements and considering any events after the balance sheet date up to the point that we issue our audit opinion.

### Value for money arrangements

We have completed our work, but we will continue to assess arrangements up to the point of reporting which is planned by the end of February 2026.

**Status**

| | |
|---|---|
| ● | Likely to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements. |
| ● | Potential to result in a material adjustment or a significant change to disclosures in the financial statements. |
| ● | Not considered likely to result in a material adjustment or a change to disclosures in the financial statements. |
| ● | Work on value for money arrangements |

# 03

## Audit approach and risk summary

# Audit approach and risk summary

## Changes to our audit approach

We did make changes to our initial risk assessment and planned audit approach that was communicated in our Audit Strategy Memorandum dated 4 July 2025 in relation to the 2024/25 audit. In our Audit Progress Report dated 9 November 2025 we rectified an omission from the Audit Strategy Memorandum and included rebuilding assurance as a significant audit risk. This was explained to Members of the Audit and Review Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2025.

A further change occurred on 5 December 2025, when it was agreed that we would also carry out a full audit of 2022/23. For our 2022/23 testing, we have applied the same materiality benchmarks, significant risks and audit approach as we have for our 2024/25 testing.

## Materiality

The materiality we applied to the 2024/25 audit was:

- Overall materiality: £280k
- Performance materiality: £168k
- Triviality – our reporting threshold: £8k

The materiality we applied to the 2022/23 audit was:

- Overall materiality: £243k
- Performance materiality: £145k
- Triviality – our reporting threshold: £7k

# Audit approach and risk summary

| | Audit risk | Fraud risk | Judgement | Error | Substantive audit procedures | Tests of controls | Misstatement identified | Control recommendations | Conclusion | Page ref to finding |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Significant risks | Rebuilding assurance | ● | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ | Work is ongoing.<br>At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. | 13 |
| | Management override of controls | ● | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ | Work is complete.<br>We have not identified any significant issues to report. | 14 |
| | Valuation of Property, Plant and Equipment | ○ | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ○ | ○ | Work is ongoing.<br>At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report. | 15 |
| | Net defined benefit pension valuation | ○ | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | Work is complete. There was an unadjusted misstatement relating to the 2024/25 assurance letter from the Pension Fund auditor. | 16 |
| Key area of management judgement | Accounting for Leases (enhanced risk) | ○ | ● | ● | ● | ○ | ● | ○ | Work is complete. A number of amendments were agreed to the disclosures to fully comply with the new requirements. | 17 |



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# 04

# Significant findings

# Significant findings

The significant findings from our audit include our conclusions regarding the significant risks we identified and other key areas of judgement, which are set out in this section.

## Significant risks

### Rebuilding assurance

#### Description of the risk

Government introduced measures intended to resolve the local government financial reporting backlog. Amendments to the Accounts and Audit Regulations required the Authority to publish its audited 2023/24 financial statements and accompanying information on or before 28 February 2025.

The financial statements subsequently received a disclaimed audit opinion in 2023/24. As a result of the backstop arrangements, we determined that there was insufficient time to complete our audit procedures to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence, and, in our view, the effects of the resulting lack of evidence was material and pervasive to the financial statements as a whole.

On 5 June 2025, the National Audit Office issued LARRIG 06, 'Special considerations for rebuilding assurance for specified balances following backstop-related disclaimed audit opinions.' * This introduced local audit reset and recovery implementation guidance for local auditors to consider.

There is a risk that opening balances are materially misstated, the risk of which would need to be thoroughly assessed based on detailed risk assessment procedures. The overall risk of fraudulent financial reporting in previous reporting periods subject to disclaimers of opinion will also need to be assessed. The guidance introduces the concept of a Proof in Total approach, requiring fewer audit procedures to rebuild assurance when justified by the results of the risk assessment.

#### How we addressed this risk

The anticipated 'rebuilding assurance' guidance could not be issued, and our firm alongside others in the sector, could not come up with a 'proof in total' approach that was consistent with the requirements of International Standards of Auditing (ISAs). We subsequently agreed with the Authority that we would seek to carry out a full audit of the 2022/23 financial year alongside the 2024/25 audit, and together with the work undertaken on the 2023/24 audit last year. This was only possible because there is only one remaining disclaimed year to address (2022/23) and the Authority's audit is relatively small compared to our other audits.

#### Audit conclusion

Work is ongoing.

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

# Significant findings

## Significant risks (continued)

### Management override of controls

#### Description of the risk

Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits.

#### How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit work over:

- Accounting estimates impacting amounts included in the financial statements;
- Consideration of identified significant transactions outside the normal course of business; and
- Journal entries recorded in the general ledger and other adjustments made in preparation of the financial statements.

#### Audit conclusion

Work is complete.

We have not identified any significant issues to report.

ISA 240 in relation to fraud identifies a presumed risk of fraud in revenue recognition, but allows for this to be rebutted. We have rebutted the presumed risk on the grounds that the culture and ethical framework and the systems of internal control mean that the opportunities to manipulate the recognition of revenue are limited, and based on our assessment of the current financial position there is little incentive to do so. We still test the cut-off of revenue before and after the year end to ensure that revenue is recognised in the correct financial year, but we have not elevated this to a significant risk.

# Significant findings

## Significant risks (continued)

**Valuation of property, plant and equipment**

### Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material entries on the balance sheet as well as material disclosure notes in relation to the Authority's holding of Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE).

The Authority employs a valuation expert to provide information on valuations, however there remains a high degree of estimation uncertainty associated with the (re)valuations of PPE due to the significant judgements and number of variables involved.

### How we addressed this risk

We evaluated the design and implementation of controls which mitigate the risk. This included liaising with management to update our understanding on the approach taken by the Authority to valuations.

To gain assurance over the valuation of PPE, the following procedures were performed:

- Assessed the scope and terms of engagement with the Valuer;
- Assessed the competence, skills and objectivity of the Valuer;
- Assessed how management use the Valuer's report to value land and buildings included in the financial statements;
- Tested the accuracy of the data used in valuations;
- Challenged the Authority's and Valuer's' assumptions and judgements applied in the valuations;
- Reviewed the valuation methodology used, including the appropriateness of the valuation basis;
- Considered the reasonableness of the valuation by comparing the valuation output with market intelligence;
- Considered the reasonableness of the valuation by comparing the valuation output with market intelligence; and
- Ensured all required disclosures are reflected in the accounts and relevant notes.

### Audit conclusion

Work is ongoing.

At the date of this report, we have not identified any significant issues to report.

# Significant findings

## Significant risks (continued)

### Net defined benefit pension valuation

#### Description of the risk

The financial statements contain material pension entries in respect of retirement benefits. The calculation of these pension figures can be subject to significant volatility and includes estimates based upon a complex interaction of actuarial assumptions.

There is a risk that the assumptions and methodology used in valuing the Authority's pension obligation are not reasonable or appropriate to the Authority's circumstances. This could have a material impact to the net pension liability in 2024/25.

#### How we addressed this risk

We discussed with management any significant changes to the pensions estimates prior to the preparation of the final accounts. In addition to our standard programme of work in this area, we addressed this risk by:

- Critically assessing the competency, objectivity and independence of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund's Actuary;
- Liaising with the auditors of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund to obtain confirmation that the controls are designed and implemented appropriately. This included the processes and controls in place to ensure data provided to the Actuary by the Pension Fund for the purposes of the IAS19 valuation was complete and accurate;
- Reviewing the appropriateness of the Pension Liability valuation methodologies applied by the Pension Fund Actuary, and the key assumptions included within the valuation. This included comparing them to expected ranges, utilising information provided by PWC, the consulting actuary engaged by the National Audit Office;
- Agreeing the data in the IAS 19 valuation reports provided by the Pension Fund's Actuary for accounting purposes to the pension accounting entries and disclosures in the Authority's financial statements; and
- Ensuring all required disclosures are reflected in the accounts and relevant notes.

#### Audit conclusion

Work is complete. There was an unadjusted misstatement relating to the 2024/25 assurance letter from the Pension Fund auditor.

# Significant findings

## Key areas of management judgment / enhanced risks

**Accounting for leases under IFRS 16**

*New for 2024/25*

### Description of the risk

IFRS 16 changes the definition of a lease compared to IAS 17 and IFRIC 4. The Authority will recognise lease liabilities and corresponding right of use assets.

On transition to IFRS 16 on 1 April 2024, the Authority will apply the standard retrospectively without restatement and with the cumulative effect of initially applying the standard recognised in the income and expenditure reserve at that date.

The Authority has previously made disclosures in its financial statements; however, this is a complex area, hence we have assessed it as a key area of management judgement and an enhanced risk.

### How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk by:

- critically reviewing the accuracy and completeness of the Authority's assessment of leases under IFRS 16; and
- Reviewing the accounting treatment for a sample of leases to test the valuation of the liability and right of use asset.

### Audit conclusion

Work is complete. A number of amendments were agreed to the disclosures to fully comply with the new requirements.

# Significant findings

## Wider responsibilities

Our powers and responsibilities under the 2014 Act are broad and include the ability to:

- issue a report in the public interest;
- make statutory recommendations that must be considered and responded to publicly;
- apply to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law; and
- issue an advisory notice under schedule 8 of the 2014 Act.

We have not exercised any of these powers as part of our 2024/25 audit.

The 2014 Act requires us to give an elector, or any representative of the elector, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Authority and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We have not received any questions or objections in relation to the 2024/25 audit.

# 05

# Internal control conclusions

# Significant control deficiencies

As part of our audit, we obtained an understanding of the Authority's internal control environment and control activities relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, which was sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls, we are required to communicate to the Authority any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identified in during our audit.

## Deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A control that is necessary to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Authority's internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in this section of our report are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported.

If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported.

Our comments in this section should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

## Significant deficiencies in internal control

A significant deficiency in internal control is one which, in our professional judgement, has the potential for financial loss, damage to reputation, or a loss of information which may have implications on the achievement of business strategic objectives. Our view is that observations categorised as a significant deficiency are of sufficient importance to merit the attention of the Authority.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in internal control as at the date of this report.

## Other observations

We also record our observations on the Authority's internal controls where, in our professional judgement, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency that do not constitute significant deficiencies in internal control but which we view as being important for consideration by management.

We have not identified any such control deficiencies as at the date of this report. This is confirmed in Appendix A.

# 06

## Summary of misstatements

# Summary of misstatements

## Unadjusted misstatements

Our overall materiality, performance materiality, and clearly trivial (reporting) threshold were reported in our Audit Strategy Memorandum, issued on 4 July 2025. Any subsequent changes to those figures are set out in the *'Audit approach and risk summary'* section of this report.

Management has assessed the misstatements in the table below as not being material, individually or in aggregate, to the financial statements and does not plan to adjust. We only report to the Authority unadjusted misstatements that are either material by nature or which exceed our reporting threshold.

## 2024/25 financial statements

| Description | | | Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | | Balance Sheet | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Dr (£ '000) | Cr (£ '000) | Dr (£ '000) | Cr (£ '000) |
| Dr. Pension Liabilities | | | | | 123 | |
| Cr. Pension Reserve | | | | | | 123 |
| The Pension Fund auditor identified an unadjusted difference in asset values during their audit of the Pension Fund. The above is an estimation of the impact on the Authority's asset valuations based on the Authority's share of Pension Fund assets. This is an understatement of asset values and is not material. | | | | | | |
| **Aggregate effect of unadjusted misstatements** | | | **0** | **0** | **123** | **123** |

We will obtain written representations confirming that, after considering the unadjusted misstatements, both individually and in aggregate, in the context of the financial statements taken as a whole, no adjustments are required.

# Summary of misstatements

## Adjusted misstatements

The misstatements in the table below have been adjusted by management. We report all individual misstatements above our reporting threshold that we identify during our audit and which management had adjusted and any other misstatements we believe Authority should be made aware of.

## 2024/25 financial statements

| Description | | | Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | | Balance Sheet | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Dr (£ '000) | Cr (£ '000) | Dr (£ '000) | Cr (£ '000) |
| Dr. Long term leased assets liability | | | | | 139 | |
| Dr. Current leased assets liability | | | | | 14 | |
| Cr. Leased assets – right of use asset value | | | | | | 153 |
| **These are amendments to the 2023/24 Prior Year Accounts:** Adjustment to reverse the restatement of leased assets under IFRS 16 as at 31 March 2024. Management restated the 2023/24 position, but the standard specifically states that the changes are to be applied in 2024/25 and the prior year position should not be restated. | | | | | | |
| **Aggregate effect of unadjusted misstatements** | | | **0** | **0** | **153** | **153** |

# Summary of misstatements

## Disclosure misstatements

We identified the following disclosure misstatements during our audit that have been corrected by management:

- All relevant primary statements and associated disclosures were updated to ensure that the Prior Period Adjustment relating to the Grow Back Greener project was properly reflected in the financial statements. A new note 5, Prior Year Adjustment – Restatement was added to fully explain the changes and the reasons for them.

**Prior Year Adjustment - Restatement**
The Closing Balances for 2023/24 are restated as follows:

Creditors of £202k were added to the 2023/24 balances and debtors of £18k were reversed from the 2023/24 balances to correct errors found.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - net expenditure was increased by £220k in Conservation of the Natural Environment, which increased the Cost of Services and Net Operating Expenditure, decreased the Net Surplus and increased the Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure by £220k.

Balance Sheet – Debtors were decreased by £18k, Creditors were increased by £202k. Usable reserves were decreased by £220k funded from £127k from Earmarked Reserves and £92k from the General Reserve Fund.

Cashflow – the Creditors balance has changed by £202k and Debtors by £18k, a net change of £220k. This has led to a restatement of the Adjustment to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements.

The errors relate to a large complex externally funded Woodland scheme Grow Back Greener and covers Authority staff consulting, current and future maintenance and capital grant payments. Due to errors relating to planting cut off dates for a small number of projects, the expenditure was understated by £202k. A debtor was also included where the income had already been received, overstating the income by £18k.

The errors were discovered whilst performing a full Grow Back Greener reconciliation during the preparation of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts. Due to the significant value of the error, the 2023/24 accounts were restated.

A full reconciliation of each project in the Grow Back Greener scheme will be performed in 2025/26 to ensure all creditor and debtor entries are appropriate. 2025/26 is the last year this scheme is available.

# Summary of misstatements

## Disclosure misstatements (continued)

We identified the following disclosure misstatements during our audit that have been corrected by management (continued):

- There were extensive changes to the accounting policies note and leasing notes to properly reflect the required disclosures in relation to the application of the new accounting standard, IFRS 16, leases. This included reflecting that the distinction between finance and operating leases no longer applies, the reversal of the restatement of the prior year figures (see adjusted misstatement) and the consequential impact on the disclosure of the right of use asset and lease liabilities in the notes.
- The external audit costs note was updated to reflect the latest position on audit fees.
- The accounting standards issued but not yet adopted note was updated to reflect that IFRS 16, leases had now been adopted.
- Other minor amendments and clarifications.

# 07

# Fraud considerations

# Fraud considerations

We have a responsibility to plan and perform our audit to obtain reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Your responsibilities

Management has primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud. It is important that management, with Audit and Review Committee oversight, place a strong emphasis on fraud prevention, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place, and fraud deterrence, which could persuade individuals not to commit fraud because of the likelihood of detection and punishment. This involves a commitment to creating a culture of honesty and ethical behaviour which is reinforced by the Audit and Review Committee's active oversight.

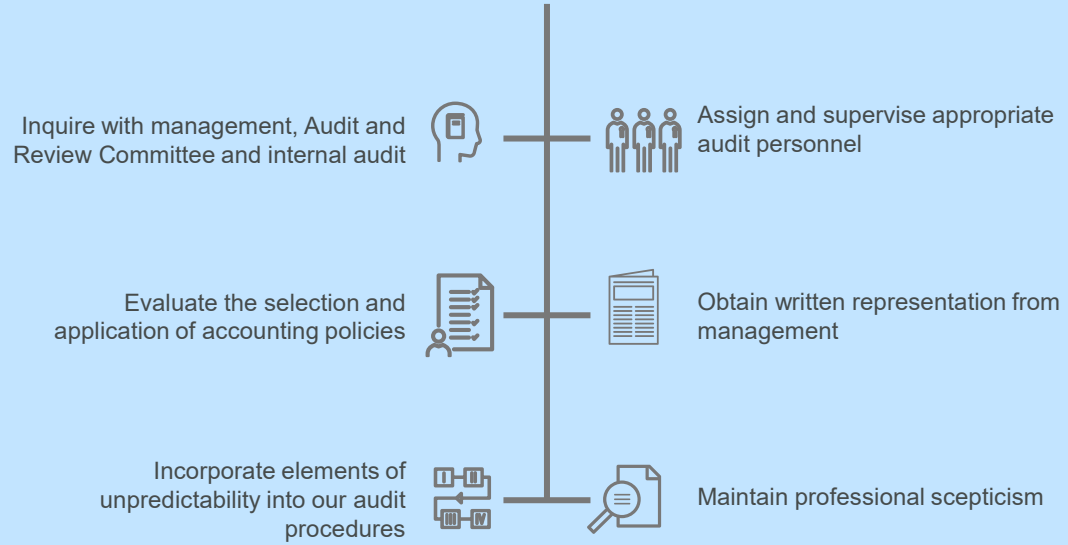
## Our responsibilities

We have a responsibility for obtaining reasonable assurance that the financial statements taken as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. The distinguishing factor between fraud and error is whether the underlying action that results in a misstatement is intentional or unintentional. Two types of intentional misstatements are relevant to us – misstatements resulting from fraudulent financial reporting, and misstatements resulting from the misappropriation of assets.

## ISA presumed fraud risks

As set out in the *'Audit approach and risk summary'* section, the risks of fraud as a result of management override of controls was identified as a significant risk.

## Our overall approach to fraud




## Our overall conclusion

**We did not identify any actual or suspected fraud involving management, employees with significant roles in internal control or others, where the fraud resulted in a material misstatement in the financial statements.**

# 08

## Value for Money

# Value for Money

## Approach to Value for Money

We are required to form a view as to whether the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The NAO issues guidance to auditors that underpins the work we are required to carry out in order to form our view and sets out the overall criterion and sub-criteria that we are required to consider.

This is the first audit year where we have undertaken our value for money (VFM) work under the full 2024 Code of Audit Practice (the Code). Our responsibility remains to be satisfied that the Authority's has proper arrangements in place, and to report in the auditor's report where we are not satisfied that arrangements are in place. Where we have issued a recommendation in relation to a significant weaknesses this indicates we are not satisfied that arrangements are in place. Separately we provide a commentary on the Authority's arrangements in the Auditor's Annual Report.

A key change in the 2024 Code of Audit Practice is the requirement for us to issue our Auditor's Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2025 to you in draft by the 30th November 2025. This is required whether our audit is complete or not. Should our work not be complete, we will report the status of our work and any findings to up to that point (and since the issue of our previous Auditor's Annual Report).

The Code requires us to structure our commentary to report under three specified criteria:

- **Financial sustainability** - How the Authority plans and manages its resources to ensure it can continue to deliver its services;
- **Governance** - How the Authority ensures that it makes informed decisions and properly manages its risks; and
- **Improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness** - How the Authority uses information about its costs and performance to improve the way it manages and delivers its services.

At the planning stage of the audit, we undertake work to understand the arrangements that the Authority has in place under each of the reporting criteria and we identify risks of significant weaknesses in those arrangements. Although we describe this work as planning work, we keep our understanding of arrangements under review and update our risk assessment throughout the audit to reflect emerging issues that may suggest significant weaknesses in arrangements exist.

In our Audit Strategy Memorandum dated 4 July 2025, we reported that we had not identified any risks of significant weaknesses in arrangements.

Where our risk-based procedures identify actual significant weaknesses in arrangements we are required to report these and make recommendations for improvement. Where such significant weaknesses are identified, we report these in the audit report by exception. We will also highlight emerging issues or other matters that do not represent significant weaknesses but still require attention from the Authority.

The primary output of our work on the Authority's arrangements is the commentary on those arrangements that forms part of the Auditor's Annual Report. This commentary will provide a summary of the work we have undertaken and our judgements against each of the specified reporting criteria.

A draft Auditor's Annual Report dated 10 November 2025 was shared with Members to comply with the new requirement to share a draft each year before the end of November. A final Auditor's Annual Report will be issued when we have issued our audit opinion, noting that there will be no significant changes from the draft.

## Status of our work

We have completed our work in respect of the Authority's arrangements for the year ended 31 March 2025 and we have not identified any significant weaknesses in arrangements that have required us to make a recommendation. Our draft audit report at Appendix C confirms that we have no matters to report in respect of significant weaknesses. As noted above, our commentary on the Authority's arrangements will be provided in the Auditor's Annual Report as set out above.

# Appendices

A: Internal control conclusions

B: Draft management representation letter

C: Draft audit report

D: Confirmation of our independence

E: Other communications

# Appendix A: Internal control conclusions

## Other deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A control that is necessary to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing.

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Authority's internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Authority's internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in Appendix A are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported. If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported. Our comments in Appendix A should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

We have not identified any internal control observations as at the date of this report.

# Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

**TO BE PROVIDED ON CLIENT LETTERHEAD**

The client should provide this letter to us on client headed note paper, it should be signed by the Chief Financial Officer and dated as close to (but not after) the date of the audit report as possible.

Address to:

Gavin Barker

Audit Director

Forvis Mazars LLP

Dear Mr Barker

**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2025**

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the period ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

**My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information**

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

**My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information**

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Authority you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

# Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

I confirm as Chief Financial Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

**Accounting records**

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Authority and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

**Accounting policies**

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Authority's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

**Accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value**

I confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and the data used by the Authority in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

I confirm:

- that the significant judgments made in making the accounting estimates have taken into account all relevant information of which management is aware;
- the consistency and appropriateness in the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by management in making the accounting estimates;
- that the assumptions appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, when relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures;
- that disclosures related to accounting estimates, including disclosures describing estimation uncertainty, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework;
- that appropriate specialised skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimates; and
- that no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and related disclosures included in the financial statements.

# Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

**Contingencies**

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Authority have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

**Laws and regulations**

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Authority has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

**Fraud and error**

I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving:
  - management and those charged with governance;
  - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
  - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

# Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

**Related party transactions**

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

**Impairment review**

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

**Charges on assets**

All the Authority's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

**Future commitments**

The Authority has no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

**Subsequent events**

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

**Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine**

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Council, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

**Tariffs**

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of changes in US trade policy in respect of tariffs, including the impact of reciprocal tariffs by other countries, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

# Appendix B: Draft management representation letter

**Going concern**

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Authority will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

**Annual Governance Statement**

I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority's risk assurance and governance framework, and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

**Narrative Report**

The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Authority's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

**Unadjusted misstatements [only include this section if applicable]**

We confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

**Arrangements to achieve economy, effectiveness and efficiency in Use of Resources (Value for Money arrangements)**

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all information that would be considered relevant to your work on value for money arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Clyde

Head of Finance (S151 Officer)

Date: To be confirmed [as close to the sign-off of the audit as possible]

# Appendix C: Draft audit report

**Independent auditor's report to the members of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

**Report on the audit of the financial statements**

**Opinion on the financial statements**

We have audited the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. 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 2024/25.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2025 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

**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 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.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the S151 Treasurer'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 2024/25, 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 S151 Treasurer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



forvis mazars

# Appendix C: Draft audit report

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The S151 Treasurer 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 S151 Treasurer for the financial statements**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the S151 Treasurer 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 2024/25, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The S151 Treasurer is also responsible for such internal control as the S151 Treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The S151 Treasurer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 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 S151 Treasurer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority 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.

# Appendix C: Draft audit report

Based on our understanding of the Authority, we considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: data protection and information governance regulation, employment regulation, health and safety regulation, procurement regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and anti-fraud and corruption and anti-bribery regulation.

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:

- gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Authority, the environment in which it operates, and the structure of the Authority, and considering the risk of acts by the Authority which were contrary to the applicable laws and regulations, including fraud;
- inquiring with management and the Audit and Review 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;
- inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- reviewing relevant meeting minutes in the year;
- 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 which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as 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.

In addition, we evaluated management'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, in particular in relation to land and buildings valuations and pension disclosures, revenue recognition, 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 Review 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 Authority.

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.

# Appendix C: Draft audit report

We are also required to conclude on whether the S151 Treasurer'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 (Revised 2024), 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 year ended 31 March 2025.

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.

# Appendix C: Draft audit report

**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 Yorkshire Dales National Park 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 members of the 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 Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Certificate**

We certify that we have completed the audit of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Gavin Barker, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP (Local Auditor)

The Corner
Bank Chamber
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF

[*Date*: To be confirmed]

# Appendix D: Confirmation of our independence

We communicate any matters which we believe may have a bearing on the independence or the objectivity of Forvis Mazars LLP and the audit team. As part of our ongoing risk assessment, we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing our Audit Strategy Memorandum and therefore we remain independent.

# Appendix E: Other communications

| Other communication | | Response |
|---|---|---|
|  | **Compliance with Laws and Regulations** | We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed. |
|  | **External confirmations** | We did not experience any significant issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations. |
|  | **Related parties** | We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties.<br>We will obtain written representations from management confirming that:<br>a. they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; and<br>b. they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework. |
|  | **Going Concern** | We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with the chief financial officer that the Authority will be a going concern, and therefore we have not identified any evidence to cause us to consider that the use of the going concern assumption in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate.<br>We will obtain written representations from management, confirming that all relevant information covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements has been taken into account in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. |

# Appendix E: Other communications

| Other communication | | Response |
|---|---|---|
|  | **Subsequent events** | We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.<br><br>We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed. |
|  | **Matters related to fraud** | Our audit was designed to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. Please refer to the section titled 'Fraud considerations' for our fraud considerations and conclusion.<br><br>We will obtain written representations from management and, where appropriate, the Audit and Review Committee, confirming that:<br><br>a. they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud;<br><br>b. they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;<br><br>c. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:<br><br>i. management;<br><br>ii. employees who have significant roles in internal control; or<br><br>iii. others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and<br><br>d. they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others. |

# Appendix E: Other communications

| Other communication | | Response |
|---|---|---|
|  | **System of Quality Management** | To address the requirements of ISQM (UK) 1, our firm's System of Quality Management team completes, as part of an ongoing and iterative process, a number of key steps to assess and conclude on our firm's System of Quality Management, including:<br>• Ensuring there is an appropriate assignment of responsibilities under ISQM (UK) 1 and across Leadership<br>• Establishing and reviewing quality objectives each year, ensuring ISQM (UK) 1 objectives align with our firm's strategies and priorities<br>• Identifying, reviewing, and updating quality risks each quarter, taking into consideration a number of input sources (such as FRC / ICAEW review findings, internal monitoring findings, findings from our firm's root cause analysis and remediation functions, etc.)<br>• Identifying, designing, and implementing responses as part of the process to strengthen our firm's internal control environment and overall quality<br>• Evaluating responses and remediating control gaps or deficiencies<br>We perform an evaluation of our system of quality management on an annual basis. Our latest evaluation was performed as of 31 August 2024. Details of that assessment and our conclusion are set out in our 2023/2024 Transparency Report, which is available on our website here. |

# Contact

## Forvis Mazars

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**Gaurav Gandhi**
Audit Assistant Manager
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**Appendix 2**

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

# YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

# STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

# 2024/2025

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# Statement of Accounts

## Narrative Report

### Introduction

1. The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (the Authority) was constituted on 1 April 1997 under the Environment Act 1995.

2. The statutory purposes of English National Parks are set out in Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995. The Authority's role is clearly defined in Parliament by two statutory purposes:

   - To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park;

   - To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the National Park by the public.

   The purposes are underpinned in law by the 'Sandford Principle'. This makes it clear that the first purpose should take precedence over the second in cases of irreconcilable conflict.

3. The National Park Authorities also have a duty under Section 62(1) of the Environment Act in taking forward the national park purposes:

   - To seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

4. The vision and objectives of the Authority are largely determined by the statutory National Park Management Plan which is developed together with partner organisations, on a five-year cycle (2019-2024). The new plan is being developed (2025-2030). Both can be found on our website under:

   https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/about/national-park-management-plan/

5. The Corporate Plan is developed from the National Park Management Plan to implement the objectives in the latter; and then further refined into an annual action plan. Both documents can be found on our website under:

   https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/how-we-work/corporate-plan/

6. The Authority's achievements against objectives are reported annually. Reports for 2024/25 will be published on our website when complete under:

   Annual Reports: Corporate Plan progress 2024-25

https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/how-we-work/corporate-plan/

7. Good progress was made on most of the Authorities objectives in 2024/25, highlights included:

   Corporate Plan progress 2024-25 paper:
   https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/how-we-work/corporate-plan/

   - £2.45 million in grants paid to farmers and land managers in 2024/25 through the Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme to fund local projects that support nature, climate, people or place.

   - 92% of Public Rights of Way were assessed as being 'Easy to Use'; bridges at Kex Gill and Beamsley were replaced and new bridge installed at Horton-in Ribblesdale.

   - Over 7,900 people attended events run by the Authority, including the Dark Skies festival and Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected events

   - 12% of visitors using Miles without Stiles routes have a disability/long-term health condition. A new Tramper Route has been created at Aysgarth and build work is progressing on a new digital access hub and new accessible routes at Smardale

   - Year 4 of the National Lottery-funded Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected programme was completed, including creating or restoring 23 ha of rare upland haymeadow

   - Planning permission granted for 86 new dwellings, taking the average over the last 6 years to 92 per year

   - 82% of 'minor' and 91% of 'other' planning applications were determined within Government target times

   - 44 traditional barns were repaired, restored, or re-used, including 18 funded by FiPL

   - Over 8,000 people from under-represented groups attended activity days in the National Park

   - Over 1,500 young people attended educational activities in the National Park

   - Over £29,000 was raised to support maintenance works on the Three Peaks route

   - The Authority maintained its accreditation under the Customer Service Excellence standard.

8. The membership of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is set out in legislation (Environment Act 1995). The role of the twenty-five Members is to ensure that the Authority fulfils National Park Purposes.

9. Members have a duty to achieve the efficient, effective and accountable governance of the organisation in the best interests of the National Park, and to provide leadership, scrutiny and direction in pursuing the aim of sustainable development – balancing and integrating environmental, social and economic considerations.

10. Fifteen Members are appointed from four local Councils. 10 members are from North Yorkshire Council, 3 from Westmorland and Furness Council, 1 from Lancaster City Council and 1 from Lancashire County Council.

11. Ten Members are appointed by the Secretary of State; of these ten, six are 'national' appointments, in recognition of the national status of the area, and four come from the parishes in the National Park.

12. In December 2024, the Authority co-opted two young Members for a two-year term to increase the diversity of voices on the Finance and Resources Committee and who can influence our decision making. Whilst they do not have voting rights, our objective is to bring views from communities, sectors or groups whose voices are not often heard in our discussions. These include, but are not limited to, young people and people from under represented communities who are often users of the National Park but are not well represented in our formal structures.

    Details about our Members can be found on our website under:

    https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/how-we-work/our-people/members/meet-the-members/

13. Details of our various committees and reports from those committees can be found on our website under:

    https://www.yorkshiredales.org.uk/park-authority/how-we-work/committee-meetings/

14. At the 31st March 2025 the Authority employed 168 full and part time staff (109 women and 59 men). This total equates to 135.5 full time equivalent posts (111 FTE established posts and 24.5 FTE temporary posts).

15. Included in the above staff numbers were the Chief Executive Officer and 3 Directors (1 female and 3 males).

16. The Authority's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 are presented in the format laid down in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: 2024/25 ('The Code') published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and approved by the Accounting Standards Board.

    The Statements included in the accounts are as follows:

a) **Narrative Report –** the purpose of this is to indicate the most significant matters impacting on the Authority's financial position. In particular, it describes the Authority's financial performance and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its use of resources.

b) **Movement in Reserves Statement –** this shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' and other reserves. The Surplus on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the Authority's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The net increase/decrease before the Transfers to Earmarked Reserves line shows the General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Authority.

c) **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement –** this shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It shows income receivable and expenditure incurred in the year by the Authority in order to undertake its activities and services. It includes gains or losses relating to the revaluation of assets and the actuarial valuation of the pension fund assets and liabilities, which do not arise out of the Authority's provision of services.

d) **Expenditure and Funding Analysis –** this demonstrates how the funding available to the Authority for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Authority.

e) **Balance Sheet –** this shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The total net asset value of the Authority (assets less liabilities) is matched by the value of the total reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories, the first being usable reserves that may be used to provide services subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second being reserves that cannot be used to provide services. This includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (such as the 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 regulations'.

f) **Cash Flow Statement –** this shows the change in cash and cash equivalents of the Authority during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Authority generated and used cash and cash equivalents, classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Authority are funded by way of grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Authority. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been paid for from resources which are intended to contribute to the Authority's future service delivery.

## Accounting Policies

17. These accounts are supported by a Summary of Significant Accounting Policies detailing the basis upon which the accounts have been prepared and estimation techniques used. Supplementary notes provide further information on the figures stated in the accounting statements.

## Annual Governance Statement

18. Annual Governance Statement – this statement sets out the framework for financial control and corporate governance which the Authority has in place to ensure that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded. It is included at the end of this document but does not form part of the Statement of Accounts.

## Local Government Pension Scheme

19. The Authority is an admitted body to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund ('The Fund'), which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (the 'LGPS').

20. The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan with benefits earned up to 31 March 2014 being linked to final salary. Benefits after 31 March 2014 are based on Career Average Revalued Earnings scheme. Details of the benefits earned over the period covered by the following disclosure are set out in 'The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013' and 'The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations 2020 & 2023'.

21. Change in net position on the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

    Attention is drawn to Note 28, which discloses the status of the Authority's overall liability in relation to its participation in the LGPS. As at 31 March 2025, the *net deficit* (assets minus liabilities) stood at **£0.014m**, a decrease of **£0.002m** on the previous year's *net deficit* of **£0.016m**, this figure relates solely to the unfunded scheme. The actual status of the funded scheme was positive by £13.268m but is presented as zero due to the following asset ceiling calculation.

    IAS 19 Employee Benefits (2011) limits the measurement of the defined benefit asset to the 'present value of economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan.' IFRIC 14 addresses the interaction between a minimum funding requirement and the limit placed by paragraph 64 of IAS 19 on the measurement of the defined benefit asset or liability. Under these rules the surplus pension asset shown in the funded scheme on the balance sheet is zero, and in the unfunded scheme a £0.014m liability is shown.

22. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole is shown in the disclosures. The Fund holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments.

23. Asset volatility: The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields at the accounting date. If

assets underperform this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which, while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term, creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

24. Liabilities decreased by £4.992m. An increase in corporate bond yields will decrease the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the decrease in the assets as a result (to the extent the Fund invests in corporate bonds).

25. The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the members following their retirement, so decreases in their life expectancy will result in a decrease in the liabilities.

26. The impact of any known experience affecting the liabilities; the standard approach is to allow for any CPI inflation published at the accounting date, which will cover a period ending up to 1 month prior to the accounting date. CPI inflation affects the value of pensions in payment, deferred benefits, and active pension accounts.

**Summary of Revenue Spending**

27. The main components of the budget for 2024/25 and a comparison with the actual position are set out below. These figures are prior to the charges for the use of assets, and other technical accounting adjustments.

| **Outturn Summary of Revenue Spending** | **Actual** | **Budget** | **Variance** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure** | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Conservation of Natural Environment | 4,459 | 4,980 | 521 |
| Conservation of Cultural Heritage | 200 | 233 | 32 |
| Recreation Management | 3,221 | 3,373 | 152 |
| Promoting Understanding | 2,308 | 2,612 | 304 |
| Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers | 449 | 458 | 9 |
| Development Control | 792 | 840 | 48 |
| Forward Planning | 391 | 564 | 173 |
| Corporate Management | 2,092 | 1,973 | (119) |
| **Total Expenditure** | **13,911** | **15,032** | **1,121** |
| | | | |
| **Income** | | | |
| Conservation of Natural Environment | (3,650) | (4,018) | (368) |
| Conservation of Cultural Heritage | (55) | (93) | (39) |
| Recreation Management | (2,874) | (2,677) | 197 |
| Promoting Understanding | (1,201) | (1,237) | (36) |
| Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers | (27) | (25) | 2 |
| Development Control | (241) | (319) | (78) |
| Forward Planning | 0 | (15) | (15) |
| Corporate Management | (402) | (300) | 103 |
| **Total Income** | **(8,451)** | **(8,684)** | **(233)** |
| | | | |
| **Net Expenditure** | **5,460** | **6,348** | **888** |

| Financed By: | Actual | Budget | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| National Park Grant | (5,730) | (5,730) | 0 |
| Balance to reserves | 270 | (619) | (888) |
| | **(5,460)** | **(6,348)** | **(888)** |

28. The net outturn position for the year is a positive variance of £888k. After taking account of the proposed carry-forward budgets for projects totalling £549k this leaves a positive variance of £339k (2% of the budget). This includes £159k of additional net income, and £278k of salary savings.

29. Putting the results into context, the 2024/25 budget contained the following target:

- The Authority's target for income generation is such that we needed to secure enough income to support expenditure of **£9.7m**. The actual expenditure of **£13.9m** exceeded that target by **£4.2m,** and income of **£14.2m** was received against a budget of **£14.4m**.

30. Further movements which are not reflected in the above figures at 31 March 2025 are outlined in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.

31. The Usable Reserves balance of **£4,706k** carried forward consists of Earmarked Reserves totalling **£4,089k,** and **£617k** General Reserves. Note 3 of the SOFA details the Earmarked Reserves.

32. Revenue Working Balance: The Authority prudently seeks to maintain a permanent balance sheet reserve as a contingency against unexpected events. At present, the Authority has a target objective for the level of this contingency reserve to be set at 10% of total budget spend in 2025/26, which is met by the current level of the Contingency Reserve (**£1,313k**).

33. Future Funding: The largest single source of funding for the Authority is the core grant from DEFRA, which was £5,729.8k including a one off payment of £500k (£250k Capital and £250k Revenue).

34. Major Capital Investments in 2024/25, the Authority did not require borrowing to finance the capital programme:

- IT Equipment
- Asset under construction (building)
- Plant

35. Provisions and Contingencies:

| Absence Provisions | 31 March 2024 £'000 | 31 March 2025 £'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Opening Balance | 65 | 61 |
| Amounts used in year | (65) | (61) |
| Additional provision | 61 | 58 |
| Short Term Provision | 61 | 58 |

## Changes in Accounting Policies and Presentation of the Accounts

36. The policies are set out formally in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. The policies adopted in 2024/25 are compliant with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: 2024/25.

37. There have been no changes in policy.

**Michelle Clyde**
**Treasurer to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**

Finance Department, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL

## Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Authority is required:

a) to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to ensure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. For the Authority, that officer is the S151 Treasurer;
b) to manage its affairs to secure the economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets; and
c) to approve the Statement of Accounts.

The S151 Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the Authority's Statement of Accounts, in accordance with proper practices set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom ('the Code of Practice').

In preparing the statement of accounts, the S151 Treasurer has:

a) selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;

b) made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent, and;

c) complied with the Code.

The S151 Treasurer has also:

a) kept proper accounting records that were up to date; and

b) taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### Certificate of the S151 Treasurer

I certify that the Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority at the accounting date and the income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2025.



…….
Michelle Clyde
S151 Treasurer
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

24 February 2025

Approval of the Statement of Accounts on Behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

I confirm that this Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 was approved on behalf of the Authority at the meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee on 24 February 2026.

……

**Libby Bateman**
**Deputy Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee**

**24 February 2026**

# Independent auditor's report to the members of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

## Report on the audit of the financial statements

### Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. 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 2024/25.
In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2025 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25.

### 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 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.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the S151 Treasurer'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 2024/25, 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 S151 Treasurer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Statement of Accounts, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The S151 Treasurer 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 S151 Treasurer for the financial statements**
As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the S151 Treasurer 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 2024/25, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The S151 Treasurer is also responsible for such internal control as the S151 Treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The S151 Treasurer is required to comply with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 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 S151 Treasurer is responsible for assessing each year whether or not it is appropriate for the Authority 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 considered that non-compliance with the following laws and regulations might have a material effect on the financial statements: data protection and information governance regulation, employment regulation, health and safety regulation, procurement regulation, anti-money laundering regulation, and anti-fraud and corruption and anti-bribery regulation.

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:

- gaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Authority, the environment in which it operates, and the structure of the Authority, and considering the risk of acts by the Authority which were contrary to the applicable laws and regulations, including fraud;
- inquiring with management and the Audit and Review 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;
- inspecting correspondence, if any, with relevant licensing or regulatory authorities;
- reviewing relevant meeting minutes in the year;
- 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 which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the preparation of the financial statements, such as 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.

In addition, we evaluated management'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, in particular in relation to land and buildings valuations and pension disclosures, revenue recognition, 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 Review 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 Authority.

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 S151 Treasurer'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 (Revised 2024), 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 year ended 31 March 2025.

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 Yorkshire Dales National Park 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 members of the 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 Authority, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Certificate**
We certify that we have completed the audit of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice.

Gavin Barker, Key Audit Partner
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP (Local Auditor)
The Corner
Bank Chamber
26 Mosley Street
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 1DF
Date:

# Core Financial Statement

## Movement in Reserves Statement

| | Note | General Fund Balance | Earmarked General Fund Reserve | Total Usable Reserves | Unusable Reserves | Total Authority Reserves |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| **Restated Balance at 31 March 2024 (see Note 5)** | BS | **(142)** | **(4,295)** | **(4,437)** | **(14,281)** | **(18,718)** |
| **Deficit on the provision of services** | IS | **91** | **0** | **91** | **0** | **91** |
| Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | IS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,342 | 1,342 |
| **Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure** | | **91** | **0** | **91** | **1,342** | **1,433** |
| Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations | 6 | (361) | 0 | (361) | 361 | 0 |
| Net (increase)/decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves | | **(270)** | **0** | **(270)** | **1,702** | **1,433** |
| Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves | 6 | (206) | 206 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in 2024/25 | BS | **(476)** | **206** | **(270)** | **1,702** | **1,433** |
| **Balance at 31 March 2025** | BS | **(618)** | **(4,089)** | **(4,706)** | **(12,579)** | **(17,285)** |
| **Restated Balance at 31 March 2023** | BS | **(725)** | **(3,207)** | **(3,932)** | **(17,583)** | **(21,515)** |
| Surplus on the provision of services | IS | (667) | 0 | (667) | 0 | (667) |
| Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | IS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,464 | 3,464 |
| Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | | **(667)** | **0** | **(667)** | **3,464** | **2,797** |
| Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations | 6 | 162 | 0 | 162 | (162) | 0 |
| Net decrease/(increase) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves | | **(505)** | **0** | **(505)** | **3,302** | **2,797** |
| Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves | 6 | 1,088 | (1,088) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Decrease/(Increase) in 2023/24 | BS | 583 | (1,088) | (505) | 3,302 | 2,797 |
| **Restated Balance at 31 March 2024 (see Note 5)** | BS | **(142)** | **(4,295)** | **(4,437)** | **(14,281)** | **(18,718)** |

# Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

## For the year ending 31 March 2025

| 2023/24 Restated (see Note 5) | | | | | 2024/25 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gross Expenditure | Income | Net Expenditure | Heading | Note | Gross Expenditure | Income | Net Expenditure |
| £000 | £000 | £000 | | | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| 3,460 | (2,679) | 781 | Conservation of the Natural Environment | | 4,516 | (3,650) | 866 |
| 898 | (629) | 269 | Conservation of Cultural Heritage | | 208 | (55) | 154 |
| 2,276 | (1,791) | 485 | Recreation Management and Transport | | 3,043 | (2,874) | 169 |
| 1,843 | (786) | 1,057 | Promoting Understanding | | 2,386 | (1,201) | 1,185 |
| 410 | (18) | 392 | Rangers, Estate Services and Volunteers | | 463 | (27) | 436 |
| 835 | (273) | 562 | Development Control | | 831 | (241) | 590 |
| 304 | 0 | 304 | Forward Planning | | 400 | 0 | 400 |
| 2,132 | (134) | 1,998 | Corporate and Democratic Core | | 2,160 | (125) | 2,035 |
| **12,157** | **(6,309)** | **5,848** | **Cost of Services** | | **14,008** | **(8,174)** | **5,834** |
| | | (0) | Net Loss on disposals of Fixed Assets | 9 | | | 26 |
| | | (263) | Interest and Investment Income | 2 | | | (275) |
| | | | Leased Assets Interest Cost | 2 | | | 3 |
| | | (363) | Revaluation (gains)/losses against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure | 2 | | | 615 |
| | | (218) | Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets | 32 | | | (383) |
| | | **(845)** | **Financing and Investing Income and Expenditure** | | | | **(14)** |
| | | **5,003** | **Net Operating Expenditure** | | | | **5,821** |
| | | (5,670) | National Park Grant | 8 | | | (5,730) |
| | | **(667)** | **Net Deficit/(Surplus)on Provision of Services** | | | | **91** |
| | | (804) | Revaluation (gains)/losses on Property, Plant and Equipment | 9 | | | 1,243 |
| | | 4,268 | Actuarial losses on pension assets and liabilities | 32 | | | 99 |
| | | **3,464** | **Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure** | | | | **1,342** |
| | | **2,797** | **Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure** | | | | **1,433** |

# Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2025

| 31 March 2024 £000 Restated (see Note 5) | | Note | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14,353 | Property, Plant & Equipment | 9 | 12,648 |
| 7 | Heritage Assets | 11 | 7 |
| 0 | Leased Assets | 12 | 137 |
| 64 | Long Term Investments | 13 | 20 |
| **14,424** | **Long Term Assets** | | **12,811** |
| 105 | Inventories | 15 | 124 |
| 36 | Short Term Investments | 13 | 44 |
| 1,268 | Short term Debtors | 16 | 1,142 |
| 4,835 | Cash and Cash Equivalents | 17 | 5,367 |
| **6,244** | **Current Assets** | | **6,678** |
| (61) | Short Term Provisions | 19 | (58) |
| | Leased Assets Liability | 12 | (30) |
| (1,873) | Short Term Creditors | 18 | (1,993) |
| **(1,934)** | **Current Liabilities** | | **(2,080)** |
| 0 | Leased Assets Liability | 12 | (110) |
| (16) | Pension Liability | 24 | (14) |
| **(16)** | **Long Term Liabilities** | | **(124)** |
| **18,718** | **NET ASSETS** | | **17,285** |
| 4,295 | Earmarked Reserves | 6 | 4,089 |
| 142 | General Fund Balance | 6 | 617 |
| **4,437** | **Usable Reserves** | 6 | **4,706** |
| 9,426 | Revaluation Reserve | 22 | 8,177 |
| 4,932 | Capital Adjustment | 23 | 4,474 |
| (16) | Pension Reserve | 24 | (14) |
| (61) | Accumulated Absences | 36 | (58) |
| **14,281** | **Unusable Reserves** | | **12,579** |
| **18,718** | **TOTAL RESERVES** | | **17,285** |

I confirm these Accounts were approved by the Yorkshire Dales National Park on 24 February 2026.

Signed on behalf of the Authority

……..
Libby Bateman, Deputy Chair of the Finance & Resources Committee

# Cash Flow Statement
## As at 31st March 2025

| 31 March 2024 £000 Restated (see Note 5) | Operating Activities | Note | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **667** | **Net Surplus/ (Deficit) on provision of services** | | **(91)** |
| 196 | Depreciation | 9/12 | 230 |
| 730 | Decrease in creditors | 18 | 120 |
| (445) | (Decrease)/Increase in debtors | 16 | 126 |
| 16 | Decrease/(Increase) in inventories | 15 | (19) |
| 104 | Pension Liability | 24 | (101) |
| (363) | (Increase)/Decrease in Revaluation of assets | 9 | 615 |
| 2 | Carrying amount of non-current asset disposal | 9 | 28 |
| (4) | Decrease in provisions | 19 | (4) |
| **236** | **Adjustment to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements** | | **995** |
| (3) | Adjustments for items included in the net surplus on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities | 9 | (2) |
| **900** | **Net Cashflows from Operating Activities** | | **903** |
| | **Investing Activities** | | |
| 3 | Income from sale of asset | 9 | 2 |
| (98) | Purchase of property, plant and equipment | 9 | (394) |
| 0 | Leased property, plant and equipment | 12 | (153) |
| **(95)** | **Net Cashflows from Investing Activities** | | **(546)** |
| | **Net Cashflows from Financing Activities** | | |
| (0) | Increase in Short- and Long-Term Investments | 13 | 36 |
| | Increase in outstanding liabilities relating to finance leases | 12 | 140 |
| **(0)** | | | **176** |
| **805** | **Net increase in cash and cash equivalent** | | **532** |
| 4,030 | Cash or cash equivalents at the start of the reporting period | | 4,835 |
| **4,835** | **Cash or cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period** | | **5,367** |

# Notes to the Core Financial Statements

## 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

### a. General

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2025. It has been prepared in accordance with the statutory framework established for England by the 'Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015', which require accounts to be prepared with proper accounting practices. The accounting policies adopted have been used consistently throughout the current and prior period.

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.

### b. Going Concern

The concept of a going concern assumes that an authority's functions and services will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The provisions in the Code in respect of going concern reporting requirements reflect the economic and statutory environment in which local authorities operate. These provisions confirm that, as authorities cannot be created or dissolved without statutory prescription, they must prepare their financial statements on a going concern basis of accounting.

Local authorities carry out functions essential to the local community and are themselves revenue raising bodies (with limits on their revenue raising powers, arising only at the discretion of central government). If an authority were in financial difficulty, the prospects are thus that alternative arrangements might be made by central government either for the continuation of the services it provides or for assistance with the recovery of a deficit over more than one financial year. As a result of this, it would not therefore be appropriate for local authority financial statements to be provided on anything other than a going concern basis. The Authority accounts are therefore produced under the Code and assume that services will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The Authority has to evaluate going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. General Reserves of £616k, and Contingency Reserves of £1,313k provide sufficient cover should the Authority need to call on them. Such a call can happen when the DEFRA core grant which is normally paid in advance each quarter, is paid late, and the Authority is obliged to use its reserves to temporarily cover the shortfall.

The short-term available cash of £5.4m at the balance sheet date is sufficient to finance more than 5 months of expenditure at approximately £1.1m per month. During this period the Authority's forecasted cash position would remain in positive position.

### c. Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from sales of goods is recognised when the 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 Authority.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the 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 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 are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when the payments are made.
- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. 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.

**d. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in three months or less from the 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 any bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand, and form an integral part of the Authority's cash management.

**e. 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 the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Authority's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the 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.

### f. 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 fixed assets during the year:

- Depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service, and
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which losses can be written off.
- Revaluation gains are credited to the Revaluation Reserve except where there has been a previous loss written off.

Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses are replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance by way of an adjusting transaction within the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### g. 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 benefits such as salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which employees render service to the Authority. An accrual is made for the cost of any type of leave entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but is then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that such benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which such absences occurs.

**Termination Benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the 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 service lines in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the Authority is demonstrably committed to the termination of the employment of an officer.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are 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 year-end.

**h. Post-Employment Benefits**

Subject to certain qualifying criteria, employees are eligible to join the North Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by North Yorkshire Council, which provides members with defined benefits earned as employees working for the Authority.

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

- The liabilities of the pension fund attributable to the 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 etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.

- The assets are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value;
    - quoted securities at current bid price;
    - unquoted securities at professional estimate;
    - unitised securities at current bid price;
    - property at market value.

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

    - current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year, allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the services for which the employees worked;
    - past service cost – the increase in liabilities 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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non Distributed Costs;
    - interest cost – the expected increase in the present value of liabilities during the year as they move one year closer to being paid, debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
    - expected return on assets – the annual investment returns on the fund assets attributable to the Authority, based on an average of the expected long-term return, credited to the Financing & Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
    - gains or losses on settlements and curtailments – the results of actions to relieve the 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 Non Distributed Costs;
    - actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions, debited or credited to the Pensions Reserve; and
    - contributions paid to the North Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme – cash paid as employers' contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Authority to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are 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 on the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits earned by employees.

**i. Financial Instruments**

Financial Instruments are formally defined within The Code as contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a matching financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. The term financial instrument covers both financial assets and financial liabilities and covers both the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables and trade payables and the most complex ones such as derivatives.

Accounting policies have been applied in line with The Code for Financial Instruments.

**j. Treasury Management**

The Authority has an arrangement with North Yorkshire Council whereby the balance of the Authority's bank account is merged each day with the balances of the Council and several other organisations. These balances are then invested by North Yorkshire Council and interest is paid to the Authority based on the actual overall interest rate achieved.

**k. Grants**

Grants are assistance in the form of transfers of resources to the Authority in return for past or future compliance with certain conditions relating to the operation of activities. Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Authority when there is a reasonable assurance that:

- the Authority has complied with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Authority are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contributions have been 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, and if not 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. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line or Non Specific Grant Income 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 Reserve. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

**l. Inventories**

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost price and net realisable value.

**m. Leases**

**The Authority as a Lessee**

The authority classifies contracts as leases based on their substance. Contracts and parts of contracts, including those described as contracts for services, are analysed to determine whether they convey the right to control the use of an identified asset, through rights both to obtain substantially all the economic benefits or service potential from that asset and to direct its use.

The Code expands the scope of IFRS 16 Leases to include arrangements with nil consideration, peppercorn or nominal payments.

Leases are recognised as right-of-use assets with a corresponding liability at the date from which the leased asset is available for use (or the IFRS 16 transition date, if later). The leases are typically for fixed periods in excess of one year but may have extension options.

The authority initially recognises lease liabilities measured at the present value of lease payments, discounting by applying the authority's incremental borrowing rate wherever the interest rate implicit in the lease cannot be determined. Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability include:

- fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the prevailing index or rate as at the adoption date
- amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- the exercise price under a purchase option that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise
- lease payments in an optional renewal period if the authority is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option
- penalties for early termination of a lease, unless the authority is reasonably certain not to terminate early

The right-of-use asset is measured at the amount of the lease liability, adjusted for any prepayments made, plus any direct costs incurred to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or restore the underlying asset on the site on which it is located, less any lease incentives received.

However, for peppercorn (low value or nil) leases, the asset is measured at fair value.

**Subsequent measurement**
The right-of-use asset is subsequently measured using the fair value model. The authority considers the cost model to be a reasonable proxy except for:

- assets held under non-commercial leases
- leases where rent reviews do not necessarily reflect market conditions
- leases with terms of more than five years that do not have any provision for rent reviews
- leases where rent reviews will be at periods of more than five years

For these leases, the asset is carried at a revalued amount. In these financial statements, right-of use assets held under index-linked leases have been adjusted for changes in the relevant index, while assets held under peppercorn or nil consideration leases have been valued using market prices or rentals for equivalent land and properties.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated straight-line over the shorter period of remaining lease term and useful life of the underlying asset as at the date of adoption.
The lease liability is subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest method.

The liability is remeasured when:

- there is a change in future lease payments arising from a change in index or rate
- there is a change in the group's estimate of the amount expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee
- the authority changes its assessment of whether it will exercise a purchase, extension or termination option, or there is a revised in-substance fixed lease payment.

When such a remeasurement occurs, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, with any further adjustment required from remeasurement being recorded in the income statement.

**Low value and short lease exemption**
As permitted by the Code, the authority excludes leases:

- for low-value items that cost less than £10,000 when new, provided they are not highly dependent on or integrated with other items, and
- with a term shorter than 12 months (comprising the non-cancellable period plus any extension options that the authority is reasonably certain to exercise and any termination options that the authority is reasonably certain not to exercise).

**Lease expenditure**
Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes interest, straight-line depreciation, any asset impairments and changes in variable lease payments not included in the measurement of the liability during the period in which the triggering event occurred. Lease payments are debited against the liability. Rentals for leases of low-value items or shorter than 12 months are expensed.

The cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the capital adjustment account from the I&E balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

**The Authority as a Lessor**
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.

**Operating Leases**
Where the Authority grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the other operating expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease or where this is initiated by a service to the individual service, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

**n. Overheads and Support Services**
Costs of management and administration are not re-allocated to the other cost headings within the accounts but are shown as Corporate and Democratic Core costs on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

**o. Property Plant and Equipment**
Assets that have a 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. Intangible assets are those without a physical substance such as websites and software.

**Recognition**
Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Authority and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. 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; and
- any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

The cost of an asset acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have a commercial substance. Where the asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Authority.

Donated assets are initially valued 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 at Fair Value as determined by IFRS13 Fair Value Measurement. Fair Value is the price that would be received from selling an asset, or paid to transfer a liability, in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Operational Property Plant and Equipment is measured per The CIPFA Code at Current Value Measurement; this is its existing use value. Specialised assets are valued at Depreciated Replacement Cost.

Property Plant and Equipment is valued on the basis required by CIPFA in accordance with the Statements of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance notes issued by The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

Assets are classified into the groupings required by the Code in the United Kingdom.

- Land, operational properties and other operational assets are included in the Balance Sheet at existing use value, net of depreciation.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at fair value are re-valued where there have been any material changes in the value, but as a minimum every five years. 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 an impairment loss previously charged to the Revenue Account.

On an annual basis all assets are reviewed for evidence of impairment (a decline in their realisable value due to specific events) by suitably qualified property professionals in line with the guidance in The Code. Where impairment is identified as part of this review or as a result of a valuation exercise, this is accounted for as follows:

- Where attributable to the clear consumption of economic benefits – the loss is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: or
- Otherwise – written off against any revaluation gains attributable to the relevant asset in the Revaluation Reserve, with any excess charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

**De-Minimis**
Single assets below the value of £1k will not be recorded in the asset register and will be expensed in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the appropriate service line unless the terms of a grant require it to be applied to capital expenditure. A separate asset directory is maintained recording all assets over £150 or of a portable nature, excluding stationery, retail inventory, and consumables.

**Depreciation**
Depreciation is provided for on all assets with a finite useful life (which can be determined at the time of acquisition or revaluation) according to the following policy:

- Buildings (but not the land on which they stand) are depreciated over their remaining useful lives depending on the state of repair of the building.

- Vehicles, plant, furniture and equipment are depreciated over their remaining useful lives depending on the nature of the asset. Assets which will not become impaired are not depreciated.

Remaining useful lives are periodically reviewed and the charge to revenue adjusted if appropriate.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method with a full year being charged in year one and no depreciation charged in the year of disposal. Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

**Components**
Where an asset has components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item (30% or more), or with a difference in economic life of 10 years or more, the components are depreciated separately. Items will be assessed under the above criteria when new assets are acquired, or existing assets are revalued.

**Disposal of Property Plant & Equipment**
When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposal are also credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received on disposals in excess of £10k are categorised as capital receipts and the balance credited to the Usable Capital Receipts Reserve if the receipt is not used in-year to purchase capital assets; it will only be used to finance new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Authority's underlying need to borrow. Receipts are appropriated to the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

**Asset Revaluation:**
The Authority commissions a full revaluation of its Land and Building assets every five years, the latest being completed on 31 March 2023, in the intervening years a desktop revaluation of a sample of assets is conducted. If there is a material difference in valuation, then this is reflected in the Accounts. For 2024/25, this exercise was undertaken by a MRICS-Registered Valuer employed by Align Property Valuers, using the guidance in the CIPFA 2024/25 Code which includes the adoption of 'IFRS13 Fair Value Measurement'.

**Revaluation Reserve**
This reserve is used solely to account for changes in asset values (either upwards or downwards) following revaluation.

The Capital Adjustment Account represents amounts set aside from revenue resources to finance expenditure on fixed assets and other capital transactions.

**p. Heritage Assets**
Heritage Assets are carried on the Balance Sheet. Heritage Assets are non-current assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities. They are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

The Authority has conducted a full review to identify any relevant Heritage Assets. The Authority holds Heritage Assets in the Dales Countryside Museum.

Heritage Assets are measured at valuation where available and the asset is recognised within the Balance Sheet. Valuations are reviewed with sufficient frequency to ensure measurement remains current.

Heritage Assets are not subject to depreciation as they are considered to have indefinite lives.

Heritage Assets below the Authority's normal de-minimis value of £5k are not capitalised.

The assets are viewed on a daily basis by visitors, items of significant value are held in specially designed glass security cabinets, and the building is alarmed.

**q. Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute (REFCUS)**

Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute represents expenditure which may be properly capitalised, but which does not result in the creation of any Fixed Asset to the Authority. In line with the guidance contained in The Code, this expenditure is written off to the relevant service within the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year the expenditure is incurred, because the Authority does not control the economic benefits arising from this expenditure. Any statutory provision that allows capital resources to meet the expenditure shall be accounted for by debiting the capital adjustment account and crediting the General Fund balance and showing as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## r. Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

### Provisions

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

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

Where payments are then made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. The provisions are reviewed on an annual basis.

### Contingent Liabilities

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

## s. Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policy

In applying the accounting policies set out above, the 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:

There is a degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government. However, the Authority had determined that this uncertainty is not currently sufficient to provide an indication that the assets of the Authority might be impaired as a result of a need to close facilities and reduce levels of service provision.

The adoption of IFRS 16 Leases required several key areas of judgment. These included determining the lease term where contracts contained extension or break clauses, assessing whether arrangements contained a lease component, and deciding if cost could be used as a proxy for current value for right-of-use assets. Additional judgments were applied in identifying low-value, variable rent and short-term leases eligible for exemption and in selecting an appropriate discount rate for measuring lease liabilities.

## t. Reserves

The Authority sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against 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.

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

### u. 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 Authority about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes may differ from estimations.

The items in the Authority's Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 for which there is a significant 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 at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. | The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured, the figures have been adjusted to present value. A 0.1% p.a. change in the discount rate assumption would result in an approximate net change of £587k plus or £540k minus. A 0.1% p.a. change in salary inflation would result in a net change of £613k plus or minus. A 0.1% change in the pension increase rate would result in a net change of £640k plus or £587k minus. A 1 year change to members' life expectancy would result in a net change of £635k plus or £591k minus. |
| Buildings | Repairs and maintenance are provided by the Authority to buildings; if there were to be a further cut back in Government funding there is a potential that buildings would not be maintained to the same standard and the value could be impaired. | If the useful lives of the buildings are reduced, depreciation charges will increase and the carrying amount of the asset will fall. For every year that the useful life of the asset is reduced, the effect on the accounts is that the annual depreciation charge will change but this is negated by the annual desktop valuation of our assets, which results in a revaluation. |
| Provisions | Any cuts to the Authority's core Defra grant may lead to unexpected redundancy costs (none planned). | There is potential that there could be additional costs which are currently unquantifiable. |

**v. Presentation of Accounting Statements**
The accounts are presented in the format required by the Service Reporting Code of Practice, in accordance with the Service Expenditure Analysis developed specifically for National Park Authorities.

**w. VAT**
VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from His Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

**x. Events after the Balance Sheet Date**
The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Financial Officer on 30 June 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2025, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of the information.

**y. Accounting Standards that have been issued but have not yet been adopted**
There are therefore no accounting changes due in 2024/25 that are anticipated to have a material effect on the Authority's financial performance or financial position.

## 2. Expenditure and Analysis

| Expenditure and Analysis 2024/25 | Outturn figures | IFRS Adjustments IAS19 | Accumulated Absences Account | Capital Assets | Depreciation Adjust. | Interest & Technical Adjustment | MRP Leased Assets | Net Expenditure in Final Accounts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** |
| Conservation of Natural Environment | 809 | 60 | 0 | (3) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 866 |
| Conservation of Cultural Heritage | 146 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 154 |
| Recreation Management | 347 | 45 | (1) | (275) | 71 | (3) | (14) | 169 |
| Promoting Understanding | 1,107 | 54 | (1) | (54) | 78 | 0 | 0 | 1,185 |
| Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers | 421 | 16 | (1) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 436 |
| Development Control | 551 | 38 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 590 |
| Forward Planning | 391 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 400 |
| Corporate Management & Administration/Training | 1,690 | 53 | (1) | (61) | 78 | 275 | 0 | 2,035 |
| **Net Cost of Services** | **5,460** | **282** | **(4)** | **(392)** | **230** | **272** | **(14)** | **5,834** |
| Interest Received | | | | | | (275) | | (275) |
| Net loss on disposal fixed assets | | | | 26 | | | | 26 |
| Revaluation losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure | | | | . | 641 | | | 641 |
| Revaluation gains against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure | | | | . | (26) | | | (26) |
| Lease Interest Paid | | | | | | 3 | | 3 |
| Pension Interest Income | | (383) | | | | | | (383) |
| National Park Grant & Levies | (5,730) | | | | | | | (5,730) |
| **Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services** | **(270)** | **(101)** | **(4)** | **(366)** | **845** | **(0)** | **(14)** | **91** |
| Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets | | | | | 1,243 | | | 1,243 |
| Actuarial loss on pension assets and liabilities | | 99 | | | | | | 99 |
| **Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure** | **(270)** | **(2)** | **(4)** | **(366)** | **2,088** | **(0)** | **(14)** | **1,433** |
| | | | | | | | | |
| **Opening General Fund Balance** | **(4,437)** | | | **Unusable Reserves 2023/24** | | | | **(14,281)** |
| Surplus on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | (270) | | | | | | | 1,702 |
| **Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2025** | **(4,706)** | | | **Unusable Reserves 2024/25** | | | | **(12,579)** |

| Expenditure and Analysis 2023/24 Restated | Outturn figures | IFRS Adjustments IAS19 | Accumulated Absences Account | Capital Assets | Depreciation Adjust. | Interest & Technical Adjustment | Net Expenditure in Final Accounts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Conservation of Natural Environment | 404 | 64 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 313 | 781 |
| Conservation of Cultural Heritage | 263 | 8 | 0 | (3) | 1 | 0 | 269 |
| Recreation Management | 377 | 47 | 0 | (11) | 60 | 11 | 485 |
| Promoting Understanding | 935 | 58 | (4) | 0 | 68 | 0 | 1,057 |
| Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers | 374 | 17 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 392 |
| Development Control | 521 | 40 | (1) | 0 | 2 | 0 | 562 |
| Forward Planning | 293 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 304 |
| Corporate Management & Administration/Training | 1,674 | 78 | (2) | (81) | 65 | 263 | 1,998 |
| **Net Cost of Services** | **4,841** | **322** | **(4)** | **(95)** | **196** | **587** | **5,848** |
| Interest Received | | | | | | (263) | (263) |
| Revaluation gains against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure | | | | . | (363) | | (363) |
| Pension Interest costs | | (218) | | | | | (218) |
| National Park Grant & Levies | (5,670) | | | | | | (5,670) |
| Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services | (828) | 104 | (4) | (95) | (167) | 323 | (667) |
| **Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets** | | | | | **(804)** | | **(804)** |
| Actuarial loss on pension assets and liabilities | | 4,268 | | | | | 4,268 |
| Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | (828) | 4,372 | (4) | (95) | (971) | 323 | 2,797 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Opening General Fund Balance** | **(3,932)** | **Unusable Reserves 2022/23** | **(17,583)** |
| Surplus on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure | (505) | | 3,302 |
| **Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2024** | **(4,437)** | **Unusable Reserves 2023/24** | **(14,281)** |

## 3. Segment Reporting Reconciliation from the Outturn

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is that specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. This is the same basis used to make decisions about resource allocation, which are taken by the Members of the Authority. However, the outturn reports are prepared on a different basis from the accounting policies used in the financial statements. In particular:

- No charges are made in relation to capital expenditure (whereas depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses in excess of the balance on

the Revaluation Reserve and amortisations are charged in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

- Actual capital expenditure and income is included in committee reports but taken out of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- The cost of retirement benefits included in committee reports is based on payment of employer's pension contributions, rather than current service cost of benefits accrued in the year which is shown on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. A full analysis of these differences is provided in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis Statements in note 2.

**4. IAS8, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors**

None.

**5. Prior Year Adjustment - Restatement**

The Closing Balances for 2023/24 are restated as follows:

- Creditors of £202k were added to the 2023/24 balances and debtors of £18k were reversed from the 2023/24 balances to correct errors found.

- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - net expenditure was increased by £220k in Conservation of the Natural Environment, which increased the Cost of Services and Net Operating Expenditure, decreased the Net Surplus and increased the Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure by £220k.

- Balance Sheet – Debtors were decreased by £18k, Creditors were increased by £202k. Usable reserves were decreased by £220k funded from £127k from Earmarked Reserves and £92k from the General Reserve Fund.

- Cashflow – the Creditors balance has changed by £202k and Debtors by £18k, a net change of £220k. This has led to a restatement of the Adjustment to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements.

The errors relate to a large complex externally funded Woodland scheme Grow Back Greener and covers Authority staff consulting, current and future maintenance and capital grant payments. Due to errors relating to planting cut off dates for a small number of projects, the expenditure was understated by £202k. A debtor was also included where the income had already been received, overstating the income by £18k.

The errors were discovered whilst performing a full Grow Back Greener reconciliation during the preparation of the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts. Due to the significant value of the error, the 2023/24 accounts were restated.

A full reconciliation of each project in the Grow Back Greener scheme will be performed in 2025/26 to ensure all creditor and debtor entries are appropriate. 2025/26 is the last year this scheme is available.

## 6. Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis Under Regulations

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

| | Usable Reserves | | | 2024/25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | General Fund Balance | Capital Receipts Reserve | Capital grants Unapplied | **Unusable Reserves Movement** |
| | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account | | | | |
| Reversal of items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement: | | | | |
| Charges for depreciation | (230) | 0 | 0 | 230 |
| Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment | (641) | 0 | 0 | 641 |
| Amount of non-current assets written off on disposal or sale as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | (28) | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: | | | | |
| Statutory provision for financing capital investment | 14 | 0 | 0 | (14) |
| Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund | 392 | 0 | 0 | (392) |
| Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve: | | | | |
| Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | 2 | | 0 | (2) |
| Revaluation Gains allocated to the Provision of Services to reverse losses in previous year charged to the Provision of Services | 26 | 0 | 0 | (26) |
| Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve: | | | | |
| Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (note 27) | (497) | 0 | 0 | 497 |
| Employers Pension Contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year | 598 | 0 | 0 | (598) |
| Adjustments in the Accumulated Absences Account: | | | | |
| Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from the remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements | 4 | 0 | 0 | (4) |
| **Total Adjustments** | **(361)** | **0** | **0** | **361** |

## 7. Transfers To and From Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in earmarked reserves. The Authority's policy is that the Contingency Reserve is 10% of total budget expenditure.

| Earmarked Reserves | 31-Mar-24 £000 | 01-Apr-24 £000 Restated | Movement £000 | 31-Mar-25 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Non-DEFRA Externally Funded Reserves*** | | | | |
| Access for All | 31 | 31 | (31) | 0 |
| Attracting Families | 19 | 19 | (10) | 9 |
| Legacies | 140 | 140 | (34) | 106 |
| ***Operational Reserves*** | | | | |
| Contingency (10% budgeted spend) | 1,314 | 1,314 | (2) | 1,312 |
| Carry Forward Budgets 24/25 | 371 | 371 | (371) | 0 |
| Carry Forward Budgets 25/26 | 0 | 0 | 549 | 549 |
| Matched Funding Reserve | 500 | 500 | 0 | 500 |
| B4RN Broadband Shares | 100 | 100 | (36) | 64 |
| ***Property, Plant & Equipment Reserves*** | | | | |
| IT (5 Year Replacement and Upgrade) | 261 | 261 | 5 | 266 |
| Plant & Equipment (5 Year Replacement) | 134 | 134 | (24) | 110 |
| Property (5 Year Maintenance) | 623 | 623 | (546) | 77 |
| Ranger Accommodation | 399 | 399 | (399) | 0 |
| ***Planned works & Ringfenced Matched Funding*** | | | | |
| Tees Swale - HLF 'Naturally Connected' Project | 50 | 50 | (50) | 0 |
| Grow Back Greener (3 year project) | 248 | 121 | 11 | 132 |
| Hawes to Garsdale Project | 232 | 232 | 668 | 900 |
| Three Peaks Project | | | 61 | 61 |
| Coast to coast | | | 1 | 1 |
| **Total Earmarked Reserves** | **4,422** | **4,295** | **(206)** | **4,089** |
| **General Reserve** | **234** | **142** | **476** | **617** |
| **Total Usable Reserves** | **4,657** | **4,437** | **270** | **4,706** |

The Authority has determined the source of income behind these Reserves as follows:

- Externally funded reserves derive from income from third parties with specified outcomes for the Authority to deliver. The income is specifically for the given purpose and cannot be used for general National Park spending.

- Operational reserves ensure that the Authority can operate on a going concern basis, keeping enough reserves to cover as yet unknown financial liabilities; project work not completed from 2024/25 which is carried forward into 2025/26,

potential liabilities arising from share commitments and to cover the volatility of over half of the budget relying on self-generated income and less on core grant income from DEFRA.

- Property, plant and equipment reserves have been set aside to fund a rolling five-year maintenance programme to ensure the Authorities IT, Property and Ranger equipment can be maintained to a good and safe standard.

*a)* Planned works and ring fenced matched funding amounts are either commitments the Authority has made to match fund a larger project which is often over more than one year, or for work on a specific action or project in a future year which Members have agreed to set aside budget to cover.

## 8. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2024/25.

| | 31 March 2024 £000 | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| **Credited to Non Specific Grant Income** | | |
| National Park Grant Core Grant | 5,670 | 5,730 |
| **Total Non-Specific Grant Income** | **5,670** | **5,730** |
| | | |
| **Credited to Services** | | |
| DEFRA | 1,767 | 2,789 |
| Natural England | 631 | 1,315 |
| Heritage Lottery Fund | 586 | 0 |
| English Sports Council Lottery Fund | 8 | 0 |
| Environment Agency | 45 | 45 |
| Other Government Agencies | 343 | 564 |
| Other | 717 | 1,051 |
| **Total Service Grants** | **4,096** | **5,764** |
| | | |
| **Total Grants** | **9,766** | **11,493** |

## 9. Fixed Assets

### a) Property Plant and Equipment

| Non-Current Assets Movements in 2024/25 | Land & Buildings | Vehicles, Plant & Equipment | Assets Under Construction | Total Assets |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost or Valuation** | **£000** | **£000** | | **£000** |
| **At 1 April 2024** | 13,920 | 894 | **0** | 14,814 |
| Additions | 36 | 129 | 229 | 394 |
| Disposals | 0 | (145) | 0 | (145) |
| Net Revaluation **decreases** recognised in the Revaluation Reserve | (1,327) | 0 | 0 | (1,327) |
| Net Revaluation **decreases** recognised in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement | (615) | 0 | 0 | (615) |
| **At 31 March 2025** | **12,015** | **878** | **229** | **13,122** |
| **Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment** | | | | |
| **At 1 April 2024** | 0 | 461 | 0 | 461 |
| Depreciation Charge | 120 | 93 | 0 | 213 |
| Depreciation written out on Revaluation | (84) | 0 | 0 | (84) |
| Disposals | 0 | (117) | 0 | (117) |
| **At 31 March 2025** | **36** | **438** | **0** | **474** |
| **Net Book Value** | | | | |
| **At 1 April 2024** | 13,920 | 433 | 0 | 14,353 |
| **At 31 March 2025** | 11,978 | 441 | 229 | 12,648 |

| Movements in 2023/24 | Land and Buildings | Vehicles, Plant & Equipment | Total Assets |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Cost or Valuation** | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| **At 1 April 2023** | 12,858 | 880.0 | 13,738 |
| Additions | 0.0 | 98 | 98 |
| Disposals | 0.0 | (83) | (83) |
| Net Revaluation **increases** recognised in the Revaluation Reserve | 699 | 0.0 | 699 |
| Net Revaluation **decreases** recognised in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement | 363 | 0.0 | 363 |
| **At 31 March 2024** | **13,920** | **894** | **14,814** |
| **Accumulated Depreciation** | | | |
| **At 1 April 2023** | 0.0 | 451 | 451 |
| Depreciation Charge | 105 | 91 | 196 |
| Depreciation written out on Revaluation | (105) | 0.0 | (105) |
| Disposals | | (81) | (81) |
| **At 31 March 2024** | **0.0** | **461** | **461** |

| | Land and Buildings | Vehicles, Plant & Equipment | Total Assets |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **£000** | **£000** | **£000** |
| **Net Book Value** | | | |
| **At 1 April 2023** | 12,858 | 429 | 13,287 |
| **At 31 March 2024** | 13,920 | 433 | 14,353 |

**b) Depreciation**

The following useful lives and depreciation rates have been used in the calculation of depreciation:

- Buildings (but not the land they stand on) – between 25 and 50 years in line with the revaluation reports.
- IT Equipment - 4 years or relevant estimated useful lives if different.
- Other Plant and Equipment is depreciated over their various estimated useful lives dependant on the type of equipment.

### c) Major Capital Schemes

Plant and equipment was replaced at end of life, including IT equipment. A new building is underway but not complete and is shown at cost under Assets Under Construction. A desktop revaluation of assets was conducted at 31st March 2025 and revised figures are included in the asset valuations.

### d) Capital Expenditure and Capital Income

The capital expenditure of £394k on Fixed Assets was financed by capital grant of £250k, revenue income of £142k, and by the proceeds on the sale of plant of (£2k).

### e) Analysis of Fixed Assets

The Authority operates four National Park Centres; one is situated within the Dales Countryside Museum.

| | 31 March 2024 Number | **31 March 2025 Number** |
|---|---|---|
| **Buildings** | | |
| National Park Centres | 3 | 3 |
| Museum/National Park Centre | 1 | 1 |
| Public Conveniences | 11 | 11 |
| Administrative Building | 2 | 2 |
| **Total** | 17 | **17** |

## 10. Assets under construction

A ranger base is under construction at Langcliffe Quarry, this is valued at cost £229k.

## 11. Heritage Assets

The Authority owns one Heritage Asset, a 10th Century Gold Viking Ring, which was purchased on the open market for £7k in December 2010; it is valued at cost which is considered to be its fair market value, and there is no depreciation.

## 12. Leased Assets and Laibilities

In 2024/25 the Authority adopted IFRS 16 Leases as per the Code of Practice for Local Government Accounting in the United Kingdom. The main recognition criterion of IFRS 16 is the focus on the control and right to use an asset. Lessee leases will be classified as ‘residual’ and ‘non-residual’ leases and there will no longer be a distinction in lease type between ‘Operating’ and ‘Finance’ leases.

For the lessee, a single accounting model will require all Right of Use Assets with a term greater than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is deemed low value, to be recognised on the balance sheet as a capital asset along with a corresponding liability, measuring the value of the right of use over the remaining term. As right of use assets will be accounted for under capital requirements this will increase the Capital Financing Requirement.

IFRS 16 has been applied retrospectively, but with the cumulative effect recognised at 1 April 2024. This means that right of use assets and lease liabilities have been calculated as if IFRS 16 had always applied but recognised in 2024/25 as an opening balance adjustment and not by adjusting prior year figures. However, some practical expedients have been applied as required or permitted by the Code:

- Leases for items less than £10k, are exempt from the new arrangements and continue to be accounted for as revenue items under net cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

- Leases that do not exceed 365 days are classed as short-term leases and exempt from the new arrangements and continue to be accounted for as revenue items under net cost of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

**Leases brought into the Balance Sheet as at 1st April 2024**

Lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments as at 1st April 2024, discounted by the PWLB borrowing rates at that date or the date of lease.

Right of Use Assets are measured at the amount of the remaining lease liability. This has resulted in the following changes to the balance sheet :-

- Property, plant and equipment (right-of-use assets) of £137k
- Non-current creditors (lease liabilities) of £110k
- Current creditors (lease liabilities) of £30k

**Leased Assets**

This table shows the change in the value of right-of-use assets held under leases by the authority:

| | Buildings | Vehicles | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Balance at 1st April 2024** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| Transfer of Assets | 44 | 0 | 44 |
| Additions | 0 | 109 | 109 |
| Revaluations | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Depreciation and amortisation | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| **Balance at 31 March 2025** | **34** | **103** | **137** |

**Lease Liability**

| | Buildings | Vehicles | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Balance at 1st April 2024** | **0** | **0** | **0** |
| Additions | 109 | 44 | 153 |
| Minimum Revenue Provision | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| **Balance at 31 March 2025** | **101** | **39** | **140** |

**Transaction under leases**
The authority incurred the following expenses and cash flows in relation to leases:

| | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|
| **Comprehensive income and expenditure statement** | |
| Interest expense on lease liabilities | 3 |
| **Cash flow statement** | |
| Minimum lease payments | 19 |

**Maturity analysis of lease liabilities**
The lease liabilities are due to be settled over the following time frames (measured at the undiscounted amounts of expected cash payments):

| | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|
| Within 1 year | 37 |
| Between 2-5 years | 122 |
| Later than 5 years | 0 |
| **Total undiscounted liabilities** | **160** |

## 13. Investments

| | Short Term Within 1 year £000 | Long Term Over 1 year £000 | Total £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| B4RN Shares | 44 | 20 | 64 |

The Authority holds long term unsecured shares of £64k with Broadband for the Rural North (B4RN), £44k will be redeemed in early 2025. Interest of £3k was earnt in 2024/25.

## 14. Financial Instruments

**a) Financial Assets: Cash, loans and receivables**
The Authority cash balance includes cash held with North Yorkshire Council (NYC), as well as cash held in a bank account in the name of the Authority. Cash held by the Authority is swept over to the account held by NYC each evening and money in this account is available to the Authority within one day.

Financial Instruments are formally defined as contracts that give rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity. For the Authority, this definition covers the instruments used in Treasury Management activity, in the lending of money for investment purposes.

The Authority's Treasury Management is defined by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management. The code sets out a framework of operating procedures to reduce treasury risk and improve understanding and accountability regarding the Treasury position of the Authority.

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management requires:

- A Treasury Management Policy Statement (TMPS) stating the Authority's policies and objectives for its treasury management activities; and
- A framework of Treasury Management Practices (TMPs) setting out the manner in which the Authority will seek to achieve the policies and objectives set out above and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities. Because Treasury Management investment activity is undertaken by NYC on behalf of the Authority, the Authority has adopted NYC's TMPs.

The twelve recommended Treasury Management Practices are reviewed and updated as and when necessary in the light of regulatory and/or local policy changes and cover the following areas:

- Risk management;
- Performance measurement;
- Decision making and analysis;
- Approved instruments, methods and techniques;
- Organisation, clarity and segregation of responsibilities and dealing arrangements;
- Reporting requirements and management information arrangements;
- Budgeting, accounting and audit arrangements;
- Cash and cash flow management;
- Money laundering;
- Training and qualifications;
- Use of external service providers; and
- Corporate governance.

**b) Financial Instruments Balances**

| | **31 March 2024 £000** | **31 March 2024 Restated £000** | **31 March 2025 £000** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Creditors | (1,670) | (1,873) | (1,993) |
| Debtors | 1,286 | 1,268 | 1142 |
| Bank Current Account | 36 | 36 | 5 |
| Term Deposit with North Yorkshire Council Treasury | 4,797 | 4,797 | 5361 |
| Shares Held B4RN | 100 | 100 | 64 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **4,549** | **4,328** | **4,579** |

The financial instruments balance figures shown consist of the nominal value of loans plus any accrued interest at that date. This complies with the requirements for financial instruments in accordance with The Code.

**c) Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities carried at Amortised Cost**
The fair value can be assessed by calculating the present value of cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of the instruments, using the following assumptions:

- For loans receivable, the prevailing benchmark market rates have been used to provide fair value;
- Where an instrument (loan/investment) will mature in the next 12 months, the carrying amount is assumed to approximate fair value;
- The fair value of receivables is taken to be the invoiced or billed amount.

**d) Disclosure of nature and extent of risk arising from Financial Instruments**
The Authority's activities expose it to financial risks, the key risks being:

- Credit Risk – the possibility that other parties may fail to pay amounts due to the Authority, including cash balances held by NYCC;
- Liquidity Risk – the possibility that the Authority might not have funds available to meet its commitments to make payments;
- Market Risk – the possibility that financial loss might arise as a result of changes in such measures as interest rate movements.

**e) Procedures for Managing Risk**
The Authority complies with the CIPFA Prudential Code, the CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and the Investment Guide issued through the Local Government Act 2003. Risk is managed in the following ways:

- By adopting the requirements of the code of practice; and
- By approving in advance, prudential indicator limits for the following three years in relation to:

    1) The Authority's overall borrowing limits;
    2) Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable interest rates;
    3) Its maximum annual exposures to investments maturing beyond a year.

**Credit Risk**
Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions as well as exposures to the Authority's customers. Deposits are managed through the contract with NYC. Sales of goods are on a cash basis, and services are mainly delivered where there is a signed legal grant agreement. The Authority receives income predominantly from other Government Bodies so reducing commercial risk. Payment terms are 30 days from invoice. There are no invoiced customers past due date but impaired.

| Days Past Due | Current | 30 | 60 | 90 | 90+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Debtors Invoiced | 854 | -487 | 1 | 1 | 4 |

**Liquidity Risk**
The Authority has next-day access to investments and is funded centrally by DEFRA, grant funding is known in advance so working balances can be managed, and funding is received quarterly in advance. The Authority does not have any borrowing.

**Market Risk**
The Authority is exposed to interest rate movements on its investments.

## 15. Inventories

The movement in inventories on the balance sheet can be analysed as:

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 |
| **Opening Balance** | **121** | **105** |
| Purchases | 205 | 265 |
| Recognised as an expense in year | (220) | (246) |
| Written off balances | (1) | (1) |
| **Closing Balance** | **105** | **124** |

## 16. Debtors

The debtors which are under 1 year are recorded as current assets on the balance sheet, and are analysed as follows:

| | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| | £000 | £000 |
| **Organisation** | **Restated** | |
| Central Government Bodies | 510 | 396 |
| Other Local Authorities | 235 | 249 |
| Other Entities and individuals | 523 | 498 |
| **Total Debtors** | **1,268** | **1,142** |
| **Including:** | | |
| Prepayments | 44 | 44 |

Please note the impact of the Prior Period Adjustment as set out in Note 5 to the accounts.

**Provision for Doubtful Debt**
A provision has not been provided for doubtful debts; the debtors past due are expected to be paid.

Cash and Cash Equivalents
The balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents is made up of the following elements:

| | 31 March 2024 £000 | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| Cash Floats held by the Authority | 2 | 1 |
| Bank Current Account | 36 | 5 |
| Term Deposit with North Yorkshire Council Treasury | 4,797 | 5,361 |
| **Total Cash and Cash Equivalents** | **4,835** | **5,367** |

Interest accrued from the deposit with North Yorkshire Council Treasury in 2024/25 was £272k (£259k 2023/24). Share interest accrued was £3k.

## 17. Creditors

The creditors which are due in less than 1 year and which are recorded as current liabilities on the balance sheet can be analysed as follows:

| | 31 March 2024 £000 Restated | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| Central Government Bodies | 284 | 179 |
| Other Local Authorities | 438 | 166 |
| Other Entities and individuals | 1,151 | 1,647 |
| **Total Creditors** | 1,873 | 1,993 |
| Including Income in Advance | 354 | 317 |

Please note the impact of the Prior Period Adjustment as set out in Note 5 to the accounts.

## 18. Provisions

The provisions recorded on the balance sheet in 2024/25 can be analysed as follows:

Staff can carry over 5 days leave and up to 15 hours flexi time from one year to the next, the balance reflects the cost of the carried time.

| **Absence Provision** | 31 March 2024 £'000 | 31 March 2025 £'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Opening Balance | 65 | 61 |
| Amounts used in year | (65) | (61) |
| Additional provision | 61 | 58 |
| Short Term Provision | 61 | 58 |

## 19. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Authority's usable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Earmarked Reserves movements and balances are detailed in Note 5.

## 20. Unusable Reserves

Movements in the Authority's unusable reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

## 21. Revaluation Reserve

The Code requires that the Revaluation Reserve reflects only changes that have arisen since 1 April 2007. On 31 March 2025 a sample of assets were revalued and a percentage alteration was applied to all assets in the same category based on the movement in value in the sample.

Where assets have previously been devalued and the amount written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES), any increase in the value of these assets is written back to the CIES as a gain against the prior losses, the maximum amount being the prior loss value.

Any balance over this amount is then recorded as a gain in the Revaluation Reserve. If there are no prior losses recorded against the CIES, the whole increase in value is transferred to the Revaluation Reserve.

Where assets have decreased in value and there is no balance for previous increases in value in the Revaluation Reserve, or the balance is lower than the loss, the amount in the Revaluation Reserve will be reduced to zero, and the balance is written off to the CIES.

| 2023/24<br>£000 | Revaluation Reserve | 2024/25<br>£000 |
|---|---|---|
| 8,624.25 | **Balance at 1st April** | 9,426.1 |
| 803.98 | Upward revaluation of assets | 70.1 |
| 0.00 | Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the provision of services | (1,313.1) |
| 803.98 | Surplus or (Deficit) on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Provision of Services | (1,243.0) |
| (2.1) | Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation | (6.6) |
| 801.88 | Movement on Reserve in year | (1,249.5) |
| **9,426.1** | **Balance at 31st March** | **8,176.6** |

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

The account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007.

| 31 March 2024 £000 | | 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| **4,668** | **Balance brought forward** | **4,932** |
| | Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement: | |
| (196) | Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets | (230) |
| 363 | Revaluation increases/(decreases) on Property, Plant and Equipment charged to the Income Statement | (615) |
| 167 | | (845) |
| 2 | Revaluation adjustment between the carrying value and the Fair Value of assets | 7 |
| **31 March 2024 £000** | | **31 March 2025 £000** |
| 0 | Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Expenditure | 14 |
| 169 | Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year | (825) |
| | Capital Funding applied in the year: | |
| 3 | Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure | 2 |
| 92 | Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund | 364 |
| | Application of grants to capital financing from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account | |
| **4,932** | **Balance carried forward** | **4,474** |

## 23. Pension Reserve

The Pension 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 its Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs.

However, statutory arrangements require that benefits earned are financed as the Authority makes Employer's contributions to the pension fund, or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible.

The Authority participates in the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (Note 31).

| 2023/24 £000 | Movement in Reserves Statement | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 713.0 | Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code | 497.0 |
| (609.0) | Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year | (598.0) |
| **104.0** | | **(101.0)** |

## 24. 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 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

| 2023/24 £'000 | | 2024/25 £'000 |
|---|---|---|
| 65 | **Balance at 1 April** | 61 |
| (4) | Amount by which Officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements | (4) |
| **61** | **Balance at 31 March** | **58** |

## 25. Members Allowances

The Authority paid the following amounts to Members of the Authority during the year; Member allowances were increased in line with the Local Government employee pay settlement. Full details of the Authority's Member Allowance Scheme, and of allowances paid to individual Members, are available on the Authority's website at www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

| | 2023/24 £'000 | 2024/25 £'000 |
|---|---|---|
| Allowances | 104 | 103 |
| Expenses | 11 | 7 |
| **Total** | **115** | **110** |

## 26. Agency Services

In 2024/25 the Authority did not provide any agency services.

## 27. External Audit Costs

The fee of £15k for the 2022/23 audit by Ernst & Young LLP was accrued in these accounts, PSAA have since determined a fee of £8.5k for the incomplete audit for this year was appropriate and this was paid in September 2025. The agreed fee for 2023/24 was £43k along with variations of £5.7k. The scale fee for the 2024/25 audit is £48k, which has not been accrued as this will be completed in 2025/26.

## 28. Officers' Remuneration

Regulations require the Authority to disclose the number of staff receiving payments, including taxable benefits and pension contributions, of more than £50k in the relevant financial year. The number of employees who receive a remuneration of over £50k are as follows:

| Remuneration Band | 2023/24 No of Staff | 2024/25 No of Staff |
|---|---|---|
| £50,000 - £54,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £55,000 - £59,999 | 7 | 7 |
| £60,000 - £64,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £65,000 - £69,999 | 1 | 2 |
| £70,000 - £74,999 | 1 | 0 |
| £75,000 - £79,999 | 2 | 0 |
| £80,000 - £84,999 | 0 | 2 |
| £85,000 - £89,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £90,000 - £94,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £95,000 - £99,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £100,000 - £104,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £105,000 - £109,999 | 0 | 0 |
| £110,000 - £114,999 | 1 | 0 |
| £115,000 - £119,999 | 0 | 1 |
| | **12** | **12** |

The Regulations require the Authority to disclose the individual remuneration details of senior employees, including salary, fees and allowances; bonuses; expenses allowance; compensation for loss of employment; employer's pension contribution, and any other emoluments.

Reimbursement of actual receipted business expenses is not shown in this analysis, and no additional allowances are paid for expenses.

The regulations require that persons whose basic salary is in excess of £150k per annum must be identified by name, and that certain senior employees whose basic salary is £50k or more per year but less than £150k, must be listed individually by way of job title. None of the senior officers received fees, bonuses or compensation for loss of employment or any other emoluments in 2023/24 or 2024/25.

| | 2023/24<br>£ | 2024/25<br>£ |
|---|---|---|
| **Chief Executive** | | |
| Basic Salary | 101,083 | 103,610 |
| Pension | 13,242 | 13,159 |
| Total | **114,325** | **116,769** |
| | | |
| **Director of Conservation & Communities** | | |
| Basic Salary | 69,795 | 71,540 |
| Pension | 9,143 | 9,086 |
| Total | **78,938** | **80,626** |
| | | |
| **Director of Corporate Services** | | |
| Basic Salary | 67,818 | 71,540 |
| Pension | 8,884 | 9,086 |
| Total | **76,702** | **80,626** |
| | | |
| **Director of Park Services** | | |
| Basic Salary | 61,940 | 62,011 |
| Pension | 8,114 | 7,875 |
| Total | **70,054** | **69,886** |

## 29. Related Parties

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

**Members of the Authority** have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. The total of members allowances paid in 2024/25 is shown in note 25. The Register of Members' Interests (which the Authority is required to maintain, in accordance with the National Park Authority Members Code of Conduct) and any disclosures of direct or indirect pecuniary interests made in

accordance with section 94 of the Local Government Act 1972, were examined to identify transactions with related parties.

Many of the Authority's Members are also Members of parish, district and county councils and other organisations whose activities may or may be seen to affect those of the Authority. A number of Members are trustees of the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust and Hudson House Limited with which the Authority has close working relationship.

**Officers** have day-to-day control of the running of the Authority's affairs. A small number of related party transactions have occurred with officers in 2024/25 and can be found in Related Parties Other.

### Transactions with Related Parties in 2024/25:

| | Payments £000 | Receipts £000 | Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2025 £000 | Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Related Parties Other** | | | | |
| A S E Crisp & Son | 50 | | | |
| Croft Farm Partnership | 1 | | | |
| Curriculum Kitchen | 4 | | | |
| Hudson House Ltd | 10 | (1) | | |
| M Mezzanotte | 2 | | | |
| Neil Heseltine | 5 | | | |
| Orton Fells Farm Cluster | 16 | | | |
| The Cragg & Carr Partnership | 1 | | | |
| Town Head Farm | 3 | | | |
| Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust | 57 | (1) | | |
| **Local Government** | | | | |
| Derbyshire County Council | 58 | | 39 | |
| Durham County Council | 123 | | 30 | |
| Lake District National Park Authority | 38 | (15) | | |
| Lancashire County Council | | | 19 | |
| North Pennines National Landscape | | (198) | | (53) |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | 21 | (5) | 6 | (3) |
| North Yorkshire Council | 105 | (386) | 19 | (73) |
| North Yorkshire Council Rates | 139 | | | (1) |
| Northumberland County Council | 13 | | 13 | |
| Northumberland National Park Authority | 5 | (15) | | (15) |
| Oldham Council | 20 | | | |
| Peak District Mosaic | | (29) | | (29) |
| Peak District National Park Authority | 56 | (15) | 24 | (15) |
| South Downs National Park Authority | 1 | | | |
| Tameside MBC | 5 | | 5 | |
| Westmorland & Furness Council | 20 | (38) | 11 | (1) |

| | Payments £000 | Receipts £000 | Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2025 £000 | Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2025 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| York & North Yorkshire Combined Council | 5 | (75) | | |
| **Central Government** | | | | |
| Arts Council | | (29) | | |
| Active Travel | | (74) | | |
| DEFRA | | (8,539) | | |
| Environment Agency | 1 | (45) | 2 | |
| Environment Agency (Vehicle Leases) | 17 | | | |
| HM Revenue & Customs | | | 98 | |
| National Trails Uk | 4 | | | |
| Natural England | 4 | (1,340) | | (284) |
| | **782** | **(10,806)** | **266** | **(474)** |

## Transactions with Related Parties in 2023/24:

| | Payments £000 | Receipts £000 | Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2024 £000 | Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2024 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Related Parties Other** | | | | |
| Hudson House Ltd | 10.0 | | | |
| Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust | 35.3 | (35.0) | | |
| D Allen T/A C H Allen | 9.7 | | | |
| Croft Farm Partnership | 3.9 | | | |
| H Fawcett | 2.1 | | | |
| M Mezzanotte | 5.0 | | | |
| The Cragg & Carr Partnership | 2.9 | | | |
| **Local Government** | | | | |
| Bradford Metropolitan District Council | 0.2 | | | |
| Broads Authority | 2.2 | | | |
| Craven District Council - Rates | 97.6 | | | |
| Dartmoor National Park Authority | 0.2 | | | |
| Derbyshire County Council | 66.5 | | 47.8 | |
| Durham County Council | 187.9 | (4.0) | 43.0 | (3.9) |
| Kirklees Council | | (64.8) | | (31.0) |
| Lake District National Park Authority | 3.2 | (0.2) | | |
| Lancashire County Council | 79.5 | | 58.5 | |
| North Pennines AONB Partnership | | (184.0) | | (37.6) |
| North York Moors National Park Authority | 1.0 | (9.7) | | (14.1) |
| North Yorkshire County Council (Includes rates rebate in costs of £133k) | (31.0) | (470.8) | 19.3 | (122.7) |
| Northumberland National Park Authority | 14.7 | | 7.7 | |
| Oldham Council | | | 61.1 | |
| Peak District National Park Authority | 54.0 | (4.2) | 44.7 | |
| Richmondshire District Council | 0.2 | | | |

| | Payments £000 | Receipts £000 | Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2024 £000 | Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2024 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richmondshire District Council - Rates | 28.5 | | | |
| Rochdale Borough Council | 2.0 | | 2.0 | |
| Westmorland & Furness Council | 16.1 | (8.7) | 1.2 | (6.0) |
| **Central Government** | | | | |
| DEFRA | | (7,549.1) | | |
| Environment Agency | 0.9 | (45.0) | | |
| Environment Agency (Vehicle Leases) | 13.5 | | | |
| Heritage Lottery Fund Yorkshire | | (585.7) | | (161.9) |
| English Sports Council Lottery Fund | | (7.8) | | |
| National Trails Uk | | (47.1) | | (41.7) |
| Natural England | 4.1 | (466.2) | | (296.9) |
| | **610.3** | **(9,482.2)** | **285.3** | **(715.8)** |

## 30. Other Leases

The Authority has low cost or short-term agreements of less than twelve months which are not classed as Finance Leases.

### The Authority as a Lessee

| Assets | Section Charged in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement | Paid in 2023/24 £000 | Paid in 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Photocopiers | Corporate Management | 5 | 3 |
| Partnership Centres | Promoting Understanding | 29 | 30 |
| Triple Kiln | Promoting Understanding | 2 | 2 |
| Ranger Bases | Recreational Management | 26 | 10 |
| Vehicles | Recreational Management | 81 | 65 |
| | | **143** | **110** |

### The Authority as Lessor

| Assets | Section Revenue taken in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement | Received in 2023/24 £000 | Received in 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Land | Park management | 3 | 3 |
| Car Park & Toilets | Park management | 4 | 4 |
| Bowling Green | Park management | 1 | 1 |
| Centre Cafés | Prom. Understanding | 16 | 16 |
| | | **25** | **25** |

## 31. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

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

The Authority participates in the Local Government Pension Scheme administered by North Yorkshire Pension Fund; this is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

The Authority recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Net Cost of Services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. The charge the Authority is required to make is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The value of actuarial gains and losses recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year to the 31 March 2025 is a gain of £5,458k.

### Pension Scheme Adjustments affecting the Financial Statements

| 2023/24 £000 | Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| | **Cost of Service** | |
| 882.0 | Current Service Cost | 852.0 |
| 0.0 | Past Service Costs | 0.0 |
| 27.0 | Admin Costs | 28.0 |
| 22.0 | Effect of curtailments and settlements | 0.0 |
| **931.0** | | **880.0** |
| | **Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure** | |
| (218.0) | Net Interest Expense | (383.0) |
| 0.0 | Expected return on Assets in the Scheme | 0.0 |
| **(218.0)** | | **(383.0)** |
| **713.0** | **Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of service** | **497.0** |
| | **Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:** | |
| (2,190.0) | Return on plan assets | 969.0 |
| (508.0) | Actuarial gains arising on changes in demographic assumptions | (255.0) |
| (1,264.0) | Actuarial (gain)/loss arising on changes in financial assumptions | (6,218.0) |
| **(3,249.0)** | **Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** | **(5,007.0)** |

| 2023/24 £000 | Movement in Reserves Statement | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 713.0 | Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code | 497.0 |
| (609.0) | Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year | (598.0) |
| **104.0** | | **(101.0)** |

| 2023/24 £000 | | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 4,356.0 | **Balance at 1 April** | (16.0) |
| (4,268.0) | Actuarial gains/(losses) on pensions assets and liabilities | (99.0) |
| (713.0) | Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | (497.0) |
| 609.0 | Employers pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year | 598.0 |
| **(16.0)** | **Balance at 31 March** | **(14.0)** |

| 2023/24 £000 | **Estimated payment in future year** | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| **854** | Projected Service Cost | 595 |
| **854** | | **595** |

## Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-Employment Benefits

| 2023/24 £000 | | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 33,402 | **Benefit Obligation at beginning of period** | 33,810 |
| 909 | Current Service Cost | 880 |
| 1,552 | Interest on Pension Liabilities | 1,599 |
| 292 | Member Contributions | 304 |
| 0 | Past Service Cost | 0 |
| 519 | Experience (Gain)/Loss | 46 |
| (1,264) | Loss/(Gain) on Financial Assumptions | (6,218) |
| (508) | Loss/(Gain) on Democratic Assumptions | (255) |
| 22 | Curtailments | 0 |
| (1,114) | Benefits/transfers paid | (1,348) |
| **33,810** | | **28,818** |

| 2023/24 £000 | Change in Plan Assets during period | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|
| 37,758 | Fair Value of plan assets at beginning of the period | 41,505 |
| 1,770 | Interest on plan assets | 1,982 |
| 2,190 | Remeasurement Gain/(Loss) on assets | (969) |
| 0 | Expected return on plan assets | 0 |
| 0 | Administration expenses | 0 |
| 0 | Actuarial (Losses)/Gains on assets | 0 |
| 609 | Employer Contributions | 598 |
| 292 | Member Contributions | 304 |
| (1,114) | Benefits/transfers paid | (1,348) |
| **41,505** | **Fair Value of the plan assets at the end of period** | **42,072** |
| | | |
| (7,711) | Asset Ceiling Adjustment | (13,268) |
| **33,794** | **Adjusted Value of the plan assets at the end of period** | **28,804** |

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.

The increase in the fair value of the plan assets in the year was £567k (2023/24: decrease of £7,746k).

| **Present value of liabilities:** | **2024/25 £000** | **2023/24 £000** | **2022/23 £000** | **2021/22 £000** | **2020/21 £000** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fair value of assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme | 42,072 | 41,505 | 37,758 | 41,540 | 40,424 |
| (Surplus)/Deficit in the scheme: | 14 | 16 | (4,356) | 3,292 | 5,619 |
| **Total** | **42,086** | **41,521** | **33,402** | **44,832** | **46,043** |

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment benefits.

The total contribution expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31 March 2026 is £606k (£588k paid in 2024/25). The contribution rates are falling from 12.7% in 2024/25 to 12.4% in 2025/26. The next triennial review is due to adjust rates from 2026/27 onwards.

**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 liabilities have been assessed by Mercer, an independent firm of actuaries, and the main assumptions used in their calculations are:

| Financial Assumptions | 31 March 2024 % | 31 March 2025 % | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Discount Rate | 4.80 | 5.80 | |
| Salary Increases | 3.85 | 2.50 | |
| CPI Inflation | 2.60 | 2.50 | |
| Pension Increases | 2.60 | 2.50 | |
| Pension Accounts Revaluation Rate | 2.60 | 3.85 | |

| Mortality Assumptions | 31 March 2024 | 31 March 2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Life expectancy of male (female) | | |
| -current pensioner aged 65 | 22.1 (24.6) | 21.9 (24.5) |
| -future pensioner aged 45 | 23.0 (25.6) | 22.5 (25.5) |

| Pension Assets | 31 March 2024 % | 31 March 2025 % | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Equities | 47.2 | 60.6 | (9.6% unquoted) |
| Property | 6.1 | 5.9 | |
| Government Bonds | 12.3 | 14.8 | |
| Other Bonds | 7.3 | 7.6 | |
| Multi Asset Credit | 5.2 | 5.3 | |
| Cash/Liquidity | 4.7 | 1.5 | |
| Other | 17.2 | 4.3 | |
| | **100.0** | **100.0** | |

**History of Experience Gains and Losses**

The actuarial gains identified as movements on the Pension Reserve in 2024/25 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2025.

| | Experience (gains) and losses on liabilities | | Re-measurement (gain) or loss on Assets | | Actuarial (gains) and losses on liabilities | | Actuarial (gains) and losses | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Year** | **£000** | **%** | **£000** | **%** | **£000** | **%** | **£000** | **%** |
| 2024/25 | 46 | 0 | 6,526 | 16 | (6,473) | (0) | 99 | 0 |
| 2023/24 | 519 | 2 | 5,521 | 13 | (1,772) | (0) | 4,268 | 13 |
| 2022/23 | 3,444 | 10 | 5,164 | 14 | (17,564) | (1) | (8,956) | (27) |
| 2021/22 | 116 | 0 | 53 | 0 | (3,550) | (0) | (3,381) | (8) |
| 2020/21 | (342) | (1) | (7,708) | (19) | 8,050 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## 32. Contingent Liabilities

The Authority has a contingent liability to implement a 10-year environment plan at Langcliffe which forms the consideration for the plot of land exchanged in the same area.

## 33. Termination Benefits

There were no redundancy payments in 2024/25.

## 34. Investments and Loans

The Authority has shares of £64k with B4RN, interest for 2024/25 was £3k which was credited to the income and expenditure statement, £36k was redeemed in 2024/25 and £44k are due to be redeemed in early 2025.

## 35. Expenditure by Nature

| | 2023/24 £000 | 2023/24 £000 | 2024/25 £000 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Expenditure** | | **Restated** | |
| Employee benefits expenses | 5,729 | 5,729 | 5,994 |
| Other services expenses | 6,030 | 6,232 | 7,784 |
| Depreciation, amortisation, impairment | (167) | (167) | 845 |
| Interest costs | (218) | (218) | (380) |
| Loss on the disposal of assets | (0) | (0) | 26 |
| **Total Expenditure** | **11,373** | **11,575** | **14,270** |
| | | | |
| **Income** | | | |
| Fees, charges and other contributions | (2,230) | (2,230) | (2,488) |
| Interest & investment income | (263) | (263) | (275) |
| Government Grants & Contributions | (9,767) | (9,749) | (11,416) |
| | | | |
| **Total Income** | **(12,260)** | **(12,242)** | **(14,179)** |
| | | | |
| **(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services** | **(887)** | **(667)** | **91** |

## 36. Post Balance Sheet Events

In June 2023 the High Court ruled in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees. The ruling was that certain pension scheme rule amendments were invalid if they were not accompanied by the correct actuarial confirmation. The High Court ruling has since been appealed. In a judgment delivered on 25 July 2024, the Court of Appeal unanimously upheld the decision of the High Court.

An updated Government announcement was made on 5 June 2025.

Relevant certificates have been located in respect of the 2014 reforms. It is also believed a certificate will have been prepared in respect of the 2008 reforms, but the initial electronic search for this has meant paper files would now need to be retrieved from archive storage to try and locate this. No update has been received as to whether the certificate in respect of the 2008 reforms has been located.

While it is known there is potential for additional pension liabilities to be recognised, the impact in monetary terms is not known and it is reasonable to form the view that it is not reasonably estimable. While the Court of Appeal has upheld the High Court judgement, there are further actions that could be taken regarding the case. In addition, the certificate in respect of the 2008 reforms could be located.

On 5 June 2025, the Government announced that it will 'introduce legislation to give affected pension schemes the ability to retrospectively obtain written actuarial confirmation that historic benefit changes met the necessary standards.' Once the legislation has been passed, affected pension schemes will be able to obtain written confirmation from an actuary about the benefit changes that were previously made and apply that confirmation retrospectively without making the plan amendments void, if the changes met the necessary standards.

**37. Accounting Standards Issued but Not Yet Adopted**

The Code requires the disclosure of information relating to the expected impact of any accounting change that will be required by a new standard which has been issued but is yet to be adopted by the 2024/25 Code. The Code also requires that changes in accounting policy are to be applied retrospectively unless transitional arrangements are specified, this would result in an impact on disclosures spanning two financial years. There are no Accounting Standards issued but not yet adopted.

# Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

## 1. The purpose of the governance framework

1.1 The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority ('the Authority') is directed and controlled; and the activities through which it works alongside its stakeholders and the community. It enables the Authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether these objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and have ensured best use of resources and value for money, in pursuit of National Park purposes.

## 2. The system of internal control

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

2.2 The Authority's governance framework has been in place at the Authority throughout the year ended 31 March 2025 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

## 3. Responsibility

3.1 The Authority is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

3.2 The Authority also has a duty under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

## 4. How this responsibility is discharged

4.1 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Authority must put in place arrangements for the governance of its affairs, including the management of risk, that meet the highest standards and facilitate the effective exercise of its functions.

4.2 The Authority has approved and adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance which sets out principles consistent with the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance note on Delivering Good Governance in Local Government *(*revised and re-issued in 2016). A copy of the Local Code of Corporate Governance is published on the Authority's website and can be obtained from the Director of Corporate Services, Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL.

4.3 This Statement explains how the Authority has complied with the Code and also complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which require the Authority to prepare this Statement annually.

## 5. The Framework

5.1 The Authority's Corporate Governance Framework seeks to ensure that the principles of good governance are embedded in all aspects of its work. The adopted Local Code of Corporate Governance implements the core values of the Authority:

- Accountability: We will explain and take responsibility for our decisions and actions.
- Commitment: We will do what we say we will do.
- Improvement: We will continually strive to improve our performance in delivering National Park purposes.
- Integrity: All our relationships will be built on honesty, respect, transparency, equality, and impartiality.
- Open and approachable: We will be open to new ways of doing things and will work positively with others to achieve our objectives in ways that help them meet theirs.
- Valuing and empowering our People: We will value the people who work for us and will work to ensure that they are equipped, supported and empowered to provide professional services to the public.

5.2 The Code sets out that all Members of the Authority share responsibility for governance arrangements and requires the Monitoring Officer to review those governance arrangements and to report annually to the Audit & Review Committee on the findings of that review.

5.3 Ultimately, decision-making power rests with Authority Members, advised by officers. Decisions are taken at meetings of the full Authority; at Committees meetings (Finance & Resources, Audit & Review, Planning and Standards); or by officers under delegated powers. Operational management is the responsibility of the Chief Executive Officer, with the help and support of the Senior Management Team (SMT). The training and development needs of Members and officers are addressed in annual training plans.

## 6. Key Aspects.

6.1 The 2016 CIPFA guidance sets out key aspects of the corporate governance framework. These are:

### a) Developing codes of conduct which define standards of behaviour for Members and officers and ensuring that policies for dealing with whistleblowing and conflicts of interest are communicated effectively.

The Authority's vision is inextricably linked to its adopted core values and behaviours, which are widely publicised through policies, agendas, the website, staff induction and appraisals. Policies, codes and protocols are reviewed when there is a change in legislation or, in any event, every five years. Reporting arrangements for reviewing codes and protocols are to the Authority and the Audit & Review Committee.
The Authority maintains a Code of Conduct for Members and a Staff Code of Conduct which include reference to the Nolan Principles, and procedures for declarations of interests. The Staff Code of Conduct was reviewed and updated in October 2024.

The Authority's Member Code of Conduct was reviewed in December 2023 and changes were made to specifically refer to bullying and harassment, make further explicit reference to equalities and non-discrimination and to introduce an obligation on Members to consider the issue of public perception and potential conflict with a Member's public duties if the financial position or wellbeing of the Member/connected person is affected by an item of business (i.e. a prejudicial interest test). The review was also used to increase the gift and hospitality limit to £50 and include specific reference to non-participation in decision making if a member has a DPI (rather than referring to the provision in Standing Orders).

The Authority's Member Officer Protocol which sets out guidance on the relationship between Members and officers was reviewed in March 2025. The Authority also maintains a Social Media Protocol for Members which was updated in December 2023 to reflect the different means of social media, its changing pace and the way in which it is used.

The Authority has a Standards Committee. Two new Independent Persons were recruited in 2018 and appointed to the Standards Committee. The term of office for one of the Independent Persons was extended until June 2024 and has been further extended until June 2027. The term of office for the other Independent Person has been extended until June 2026. The Authority has also adopted an Independent Person Protocol which ensures that there is clarity about the Independent Person role and to make sure that there is clear separation of the roles of the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer and the Standards Committee. Both Independent Persons have received training on their role and attend the annual Independent Persons' conference.

The Monitoring Officer considers complaints concerning Member conduct in accordance with the Authority's Local Assessment Procedure. The Determination Procedure deals with allegations against Members where an investigation has been completed, the Investigating Officer has found a breach of the Code of Conduct and the Monitoring Officer, having consulted with the Independent Person, sends the matter for hearing before a Hearing Panel of the Standards Committee. Both procedures include provisions for consulting the Independent Person at certain stages.

Guidance is available for Members and officers in relation to declaration of interests and gifts and hospitality. The Register of Interest for each Authority Member is published on the Authority's website. The Director of Corporate Services maintains the register of officer declarations of interest and gifts and hospitality.

The Authority has confidential reporting arrangements in place to enable individuals, both internal and external, to make disclosures. A review of the Confidential Reporting Policy was last undertaken in December 2022 with amendments approved by the Authority.

The Authority also has a Complaints Policy, last reviewed in October 2021.

**b) Ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful.**

The Chief Executive Officer is the Authority's Head of Paid Service, who advises the Authority on issues of policy, staffing and resources. The Authority's Director of Corporate Services is the Authority's Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, who advises on issues of ethical conduct and the lawfulness of decision making. The Authority also employs a Chief Financial Officer who

ensures that there are proper arrangements in place to administer the Authority's financial affairs. Together these officers are responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful. The Deputy Monitoring Officer is also a Solicitor who attends and advises the Planning Committee. Financial Regulations set out arrangements governing the award of contracts, to ensure that procurement processes are fair, transparent and lawful, and that best value for money is being obtained.

Payment of allowances to Members is made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.

**c) Documenting a commitment to openness and acting in the public interest.**

The Authority's decision-making framework is set out in publicly available documents, including Standing Orders, the Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Officers and a description of the role of Authority Members in governance arrangements.

The Authority has adopted procedures for the openness of public meetings including access to and recording of meetings and for publishing decisions including contract awards.

**d) Establishing clear channels of communication with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, ensuring accountability and encouraging open consultation.**

The Authority has clear channels of communication with all sections of the community and other stakeholders, ensuring accountability and encouraging open consultation. This approach is supported at a local level by the Authority's operation of and participation in Parish Forums. The Authority's website and social media are key digital outlets complemented by traditional print and broadcast media, the publication of two newspapers for residents (two editions per year) and visitors (annually) and the use of direct mail.

In 2010 the Authority achieved the Governments' Customer Service Excellence (CSE) Standard. This is independently re-assed annually and has been retained every year since.

**e) Developing and communicating a vision which specifies intended outcomes for citizens and service users and is used as a basis for planning**

The Authority publishes its objectives, and commitment to the achievement of statutory purposes, in a number of plans. The National Park Management Plan (NPMP) establishes the vision for the National Park, and the highest level objectives that the Authority is committed to see achieved, working in partnership with stakeholders. Following extensive public consultation, the NPMP for the Park including the extended areas was adopted by the Authority in 2018 for the period 2018-2023. A public consultation process has been launched for the new NPMP.

**f) Translating the vision into courses of action for the Authority, its partnerships and collaborations**

An annual Corporate Plan translates the Authority's commitments in the NPMP into service-specific objectives, with annual targets and financial plans. This forms an integral part of the performance management regime.

Arrangements have been developed for the management of partnerships through which many of the outcomes in the NPMP are delivered. There are clear criteria as to whether the Authority should become or remain a member of a partnership, reported biennially to SMT and Audit & Review Committee. Work is done to seek to ensure the good governance of partnerships and a review of the governance arrangements of partnerships was completed in March 2022.

**g) Reviewing the effectiveness of the decision-making process, including delegated arrangements; decision making in partnerships; information provided to decision makers; and robustness of data quality.**

Standing Orders and the Scheme of Delegation to Committees and Officers are reviewed to take account of changes in legislation or otherwise every five years under the Authority's policy review framework. The Scheme of Delegation was reviewed in in December 2022 to reflect the structural changes to the Senior Management Team. Minor amendments were made in March 2023 following a review of Standards Procedures and in February 2025 under delegated powers. Standing Orders were reviewed by the Authority in March 2024.

Minutes of meetings and delegated decisions are published. The Chair and Chief Executive present feedback reports to the Authority and Member Champions report to the Authority on their work.

The Authority's Data Protection Policy was reviewed to ensure that the Policy and procedures are in accordance with changes to the legislation which took effect in May 2018.

**h) Measuring the performance of services and related projects, ensuring that they are delivered in accordance with defined outcomes; and that they represent best use of resources and value for money.**

It is a Corporate Plan objective to plan and manage all aspects of our priorities and targets to make the most effective use of our resources. A robust system of prioritising work programmes is in place and is reviewed regularly. Mid-year progress reports are presented to SMT and Audit & Review Committee; an end of year performance report is presented to the full Authority. Performance reviews are undertaken by small Member/officer teams including the relevant Member Champion and a member of the Audit and Review Committee. In addition to this structured approach to monitoring performance, value for money is underpinned by a detailed budget management process and by adherence to the Authority's Procurement Strategy and Financial Regulations, which cover the processes to be followed when contracting for goods and services.

**i) Defining and documenting the roles and responsibilities of Members and management, with clear protocols for effective communication in respect of the Authority and partnership arrangements**.

Members, Member Champions, the Chair of the Authority and co-opted Members each have role descriptions. Guidance for, and roles of, Member Champions have been reviewed and updated.

The Authority has adopted protocols on the roles and responsibilities of Members and on Member/Officer relations. These are particularly important for an organisation that has no political groupings and therefore no Group political leadership. Collective responsibility for decisions does not operate in the NPA in the way it does for 'mainstream' local authorities. All such protocols are kept up to date and reviewed when necessary (and at least once every five years).

The Authority reviews its arrangements for partnership working every two years to ensure that the partnerships it participates in are appropriate and effective. The Authority has adopted criteria which assist the Authority in its review.

**j) Effective financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government.**

The Authority is compliant with the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016). The Authority's Chief Financial Officer (s151 Officer) is the Head of Finance, who has a right of access to Senior Management Team meetings, has direct access as required to the Chief Executive and Members of the National Park Authority, and is directly responsible for the organisational leadership and management of an internal finance function along with suitably qualified staff.

**k) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the discharge of the Monitoring Officer function.**

The Authority employs a Monitoring Officer and a Deputy Monitoring Officer, both of whom are qualified Solicitors. The Director of Corporate Services is the Monitoring Officer and is a member of SMT. The Monitoring Officer attends and advises the Authority, Finance & Resources Committee, Audit & Review Committee and Standards Committee. The Deputy Monitoring Officer attends Planning Committee and, together with the Monitoring Officer, advises on issues of ethical conduct and the lawfulness of decision making.

**l) Ensuring effective arrangements are in place for the discharge of the Head of Paid Service Function.**

The Chief Executive Officer is the Authority's Head of Paid Service, and advises the Authority on issues of policy, staffing and resources.

Together the three Statutory Officers (Chief Executive, Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer) are primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful.

**m) Providing initial induction, and identifying the development needs, of Members in relation to their roles; supported by appropriate training.**

There is a Member induction process in place. The Policy Development Forum provides regular briefings, updates and training for Members on a range of issues. Compulsory planning training is provided to Members of the Planning Committee. An annual programme of Member training covering a wide range of topics was delivered in 2024-25 and is planned for 2025-26.

**n) Reviewing the effectiveness of the framework for identifying and managing risk; and for performance and demonstrating clear accountability.**

Risk management procedures link the process for identifying and managing risks explicitly to the achievement of the Authority's objectives. Risks are reviewed regularly with the Authority's insurance advisors, to ensure appropriate cover is in place both for existing and emerging issues. Operational and strategic risks are reported to SMT and to the Audit & Review Committee. The Authority's Risk Management Policy was revised in November 2023.

**o) Ensuring effective counter fraud and anti- corruption arrangements are developed and maintained in accordance with the Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (CIPFA 2014)**

The Authority's Anti-Fraud & Corruption Policy (last reviewed in September 2022) is in place to prevent fraud and corruption. Procedures exist to ensure that officers are aware of what steps to follow should they suspect a fraud. The Authority has reviewed its policies and procedures against the guidance published in October 2014 by CIPFA "Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption" and following key staff received appropriate training. Priority service areas for counter fraud and awareness training have been identified for refresher training later this year and wider fraud awareness updates are circulated to all staff to help promote a culture of detection and prevention. The Authority is satisfied that it has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.

**p) Ensuring that assurance arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019) and, where they do not, explain why and how they deliver the same impact.**

The Authority's internal audit arrangements comply with the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019 edition). Principle 3 of the Statement states that the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) must "be a senior manager with regular and open engagement across the organisation, particularly with the leadership team and with the audit committee." The role of Internal Audit is currently provided by Veritau Ltd which reports directly to the Authority's Audit & Review Committee. This approach is appropriate, proportionate and in accordance with the organisational responsibilities set out by CIPFA within the Statement which says "the individual could be someone from another organisation where internal audit is contracted out or shared. Where this is the case then the roles of the HIA and the client manager must be clearly set out in the contract or agreement." Both the "seniority" and "access to management" requirements are specified within the Authority's contract with Veritau Ltd.

**q) Undertaking the core functions of an audit committee, as identified in the Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (CIPFA, 2018).**

The Audit & Review Committee undertakes the core functions identified in CIPFA's Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities. These functions include raising the profile of internal control, risk management and financial reporting issues within the Authority, as well as providing a forum for the discussion of issues raised by internal and external auditors. The Committee also provides some scrutiny functions. Whilst noting that the

guidance states that ideally, Audit Committees should be separate from such activity, the size of the Authority means that the current arrangements are fit for purpose.

**r) Ensuring that the Authority provides timely support, information and responses to its External Auditors and promptly considers audit findings and recommendations.**

The relationship with the External Auditor is supported by planning and update meetings and by the preparation and submission of information required by them. At all times, the Auditor has access to the Statutory Officers of the Authority and, if necessary, to the Chair and Members.

The External Auditor reports directly to the Authority meeting at which the annual accounts are signed off. The Auditor subsequently issues an Annual Audit Letter, by which means they can highlight directly (and in a formal manner) to Members any issues that they might identify during their audit work. This 'direct line' for reporting helps to strengthen the Authority's approach to corporate governance.

The audit for 2022/23 was incomplete due to national issues with Local Government audit backlog and Ernst & Young did not have capacity to perform a full audit. Although a full audit was completed for 2023/24, both years were disclaimed due to the unverified opening figures for 2023/24.

## 7. Conclusion

7.1 This AGS is based on the review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance undertaken in November 2024 and on the 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

7.2 Checks are in place to ensure compliance with the governance framework: **Table A** identifies the issues raised in the 2023/24 AGS and records the actions taken.

7.3 The preparation of the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement has identified a number of corporate governance related actions which will be addressed over the next twelve months; these are listed in **Table B.**

## Table A: Matters raised within the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement

| Issue | Update on Action taken |
|---|---|
| Local Plan | The preferred list of sites and the outcome of public consultation were referred to the Authority for a formal decision in December 2024. Members authorised the list of preferred housing sites for inclusion in the publication version of the Local Plan and delegated authority to officers to finalise and progress the Local Plan text, mapping and background documents to Publication Stage in the New Year. |
| Reviews of corporate documents (strategies and policies), in line with the 5-year cycle of planned reviews. | (i) Staff Code of Conduct (completed October 2024)<br>(ii) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (pp to May 2025)<br>(iii) Communications Strategy (completed March 2025)<br>(iv) Protocol on Member officer relations (completed March 2025)<br>(v) Carbon Reduction Plan (pp to June 2025) |
| Financial Sustainability | The balanced budget for 2024/25 assumed an uplift in core grant of £500k per annum. Whilst this was received for 2024/25, work to address the shortfall in budget for 2025/26 has been undertaken following confirmation that this is has been removed and that at best a flat settlement will be received. The budget for 2025/26 is balanced using reserves due to an anticipated decrease in core funding. |
| External Audit | Hand over to the new auditor Forvis Mazars was completed in November 2024 and audits are now up to date. |
| Procurement Act 2023 | The Authority's Procurement Manual, Financial Regulations and other documents have been updated to reflect the new public procurement requirements. |

## Table B: Matters identified during the preparation of the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement

| Issue | Explanation |
|---|---|
| Local Plan | It is anticipated that the draft Local Plan 2025–2040 will be published during March/April 2025. There will be a six week period for consultees and stakeholders to submit formal representations. The Authority will consider the representations and decide what modifications are necessary to address them. The Authority will then decide whether to submit the Plan to the Planning inspectorate for Independent Examination. Submission could take place in July with the Examination possibly beginning in the Autumn. The Planning Inspectorate will determine the timetable and the details of the Examination. |
| National Park Management Plan 2025-2030 | Work to complete the updated NPMP (2025-30) is nearing completion. Public consultation on the draft objectives to be included in the updated Plan closed on 10 March 2025. Members agreed the Authority's own response on 25 March 2025. The final Plan should be adopted by the Authority in June. Once adopted, this will lead to a fundamental overhaul of the Authority's own objectives, which will then be included in the Corporate Plan from 2026/27. |
| Reviews of corporate documents (strategies and policies), in line with the 5-year cycle of planned reviews. | (i) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy (May 2025)<br>(ii) Carbon Reduction Plan (Jun 2025)<br>(iii) Planning Code of Good Practice (Dec 2025) |
| Financial Sustainability | The budget is balanced for 2025/26 using reserves due to an anticipated decrease in core funding. Core grant for future years will be confirmed after the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, which should provide details for the following three years. Any significant deficits in future years are likely to lead to a review of the work programmes. |
| External Audit | The 2024/25 annual audit is likely to be conducted in late 2025. The backstop date for publication of the Statement of Final Accounts is 27 February 2026. |



Mark Corner
**Chair of Audit & Review Committee**
**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**
15 April 2025



David Butterworth
**Chief Executive Officer**
**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority**
15 April 2025

**Appendix 3 – Letter of Representation 2024/25**

Mr Gavin Barker
Audit Director
Mazars LLP

24 February 2026

Dear Mr Barker

**Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2026**

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the period ended 31 March 2025 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25 (the Code), and applicable law.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy ourselves that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

**My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information**
I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

**My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information**
I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Authority you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.

- I confirm as Chief Financial Officer that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

**Accounting records**
I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all Authority and committee meetings, have been made available to you.

**Accounting policies**
I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Authority's financial position, financial performance and cash flows.

**Accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value**
I confirm that the methods, significant assumptions and the data used by the Authority in making the accounting estimates, including those measured at current and fair value, are appropriate to achieve recognition, measurement or disclosure that is in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

I confirm:

- that the significant judgments made in making the accounting estimates have taken account of all relevant information of which management is aware;
- that consistency and appropriateness in the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data was used by management in making the accounting estimates;
- that the assumptions appropriately reflect management's intent and ability to carry out specific courses of action on behalf of the entity, when relevant to the accounting estimates and disclosures;
- that disclosures related to accounting estimates, including disclosures describing estimation uncertainty, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the applicable financial reporting framework;
- that appropriate specialised skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimates; and
- that no subsequent event requires adjustment to the accounting estimates and related disclosures included in the financial statements.

**Contingencies**
There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Authority have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

**Laws and regulations**
I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Authority has complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

**Fraud and error**
I acknowledge my responsibility as Chief Financial Officer for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Authority involving:

    - management and those charged with governance;
    - employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
    - others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Authority's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

**Related party transactions**
I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

**Impairment review**
To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of the property, plant and equipment assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.

**Charges on assets**
All the Authority's assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

**Future commitments**
The Authority has no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

**Subsequent events**
I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law, require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

**Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine**
I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Council, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

**Tariffs**
I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of changes in US trade policy in respect of tariffs, including the impact of reciprocal tariffs by other countries, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and no disclosures are required in the financial statements.

**Going concern**
To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Authority will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.

**Annual Governance Statement**
I am satisfied that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) fairly reflects the Authority's risk assurance and governance framework, and I confirm that I am not aware of any significant risks that are not disclosed within the AGS.

**Narrative Report**
The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Authority's financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

**Unadjusted misstatements**
We confirm that the effects of the uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. A list of the uncorrected misstatements is attached to this letter as an Appendix.

**Arrangements to achieve economy, effectiveness and efficiency in Use of Resources (Value for Money arrangements)**
I confirm that I have disclosed to you all information that would be considered relevant to your work on value for money arrangements.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Clyde
S151 Treasurer
Date xx February 2026

Libby Bateman
Deputy Chair of the Finance & Resource Committee
Date xx February 2026

**APPENDIX**

# List of Uncorrected Misstatements

| Description | Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement | | Balance Sheet | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Dr (£'000) | Cr (£'000) | Dr (£'000) | Cr (£'000) |
| Dr. Pension Liabilities | | | 123 | |
| Cr. Pension Reserve | | | | 123 |
| **Aggregate effect of unadjusted misstatements** | **0** | **0** | **123** | **123** |

The Pension Fund auditor identified an unadjusted difference in asset values during their audit of the Pension Fund. The above is an estimation of the impact on the Authority's asset valuations based on the Authority's share of Pension Fund assets. This is an understatement of asset values and is not material.

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