YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY **ITEM 8**

Committee: **FINANCE & RESOURCES**

Date: **26 September 2023**

Report: **STATEMENT OF FINAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22**

Purpose of the report

1. To submit for Members' approval, the Statement of Final Accounts (SOFA) for 2021/22.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That Members:

   a. approve the SOFA for the Financial Year Ended 31 March 2022, and the associated Annual Governance Statement (AGS);

   b. note that the approved SOFA and associated AGS will be signed by the Chair of the Authority and the Chief Executive, once the external audit of the SOFA has been concluded, provided that the overall opinion in the audit report is unqualified.

   c. note paragraph 8 regarding potential material adjustments on the conclusion of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund.

   d. note the content of the letter of representation which is appended to this report.

   e. note the additional fee proposed by Public Sector Audit Appointment (PSAA) of £12.3k for **2020/21** audit.

Strategic Planning Framework

3. The information and recommendations contained in this report are consistent with the Authority's statutory purposes and in particular its objective 32 to 'Operate governance arrangements that are fit for purpose, as reported through the Annual Governance Statement and the Annual Governance Report' and the action 'Produce the Statutory Accounts for 2021/22, and achieve an unqualified external audit opinion'.

Background

4. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Treasurer to sign and date the pre-audit SOFA, certifying that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Authority, thereafter making it available for public inspection. That aspect of the process for the 2021/22 accounts was completed by 31 May 2022. It is a requirement that this Statement must be re-certified prior to final approval by the Authority.

5. The audit of the accounts, and therefore publication of the Final SOFA, was delayed by a year due to a variety of complex factors; a lack of experienced staff in audit firms serving the local audit sector; Authority activities becoming more complex and commercial in nature; and a greater focus on audit quality risks. This has further increased work in some audit areas, which have put pressure on the sector. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) recognises this difficult situation across the local government sector and has set out a range of approaches to increase auditor supply.

6. The accounts for 2022/23 would normally come before September Committee for consideration, but as 2021/22 is only now being dealt with today, the 2022/23 accounts will come to a future Committee. This will follow the conclusion of the 2022/23 audit, (dates for which have not yet been agreed). Draft accounts for 2022/23 are however published on the Authority Website

7. The 2021/22 SOFA is appended to this report. The external audit work on these accounts commenced in August, and is substantially complete, but at the time of writing this report confirmation of the results of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund audit for 2021/22 were needed to formally complete the audit of the Authority Accounts.

8. If the conclusion of the audit of the North Yorkshire Pension Fund necessitates any material change to the SOFA, those results will be presented in the December Committee.

Statement of Final Accounts

9. The format and content of the SoFA (see **Appendix**) must comply with the CIFPA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: A Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). 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.

10. The AGS is included with the SOFA but, whilst it is not covered by the eventual ‘true and fair’ certification by the Treasurer and the External Auditor, it does require the approval of the Chair of F&R Committee and Chief Executive.

Audit Fees

11. As the Authority is part of the PSAA audit agreement, there is a facility to agree a fee variation for work which either goes beyond the standard audit agreement (e.g. re-assessing the Pension valuation), or for new work which is introduced due to new audit regulations or CIPFA requirements. The standard fee agreed for the current 5-year audit contract with Ernst & Young is £9.3k per annum (2022/23 audit is the final year).

12. PSAA considers each claim for additional audit services, irrespective of whether or not there is local agreement. The process for assessing fee variation proposals is on their website Fee variation process – PSAA, which includes considering the value and size relative to similar organisations.

13. In 2020/21 two new auditing requirements were introduced, the Value for Money Commentary and the ISA540 Standard (Environmental Management), which created additional work for auditors necessitating a fee variation over and above the variation which had been agreed for the prior year (£6.8k in 2019/20).

14. Our Auditors Ernst & Young applied to the PSAA for additional fees for the 2020/21 audit totalling £41.4k. Having reviewed all of the information provided to the PSAA from Ernst & Young, and comparing fee variations for other similar organisations for the same work, PSAA have proposed a fee variation of £12.3k, bringing the total fee for 2020/21 to £21.6k (£16.1k in 2019/20).

Conclusion

15. The national conditions for the auditing of local authorities remains extremely difficult, for the reasons outlined in this report. This factor, together with the developing complexity of the Authority's finances as we move onto an increasingly commercial footing, means an increase in fees is likely to remain an issue for the Authority. These are matters that might be worth revisiting with Government, with other National Park Authorities, in terms of whether such an auditing regime is still fit for purpose for Authorities of our size.

Michelle Clyde
Section 151 Officer
11 September 2023

YORKSHIRE DALES
National Park Authority

YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

2021/2022

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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 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, and

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

3. In performing the above, the Authority is also required to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.

4. The management and direction of the Authority is determined by the National Park Management Plan which is developed together with partner organisations operating within the Park, on a five-year cycle (2019-2024). It 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 2021/22 will be published when complete on our website under:

   Paper: Corporate Plan Progress 2021/22

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

   Good progress was made on most of the Authorities objectives in 2021/22, highlights included:

   a. The national *Farming in Protected Landscapes* programme (FiPL) was launched in the National Park, issuing grants worth over £440,000 to 34 farms;
   b. Restoration works were completed on 10 traditional farm buildings through Natural England's grant scheme, and two barns were repaired in Swaledale with funding from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust;

c. Carried out a Park-wide programme of repairs that meant 90% of rights of way were ‘easy to use’;
d. Completed a study of the wider benefits of designating the Coast-to-Coast route as a National Trail;
e. Delivered educational and skills-based activities to 2,780 school children from in and around the National Park;
f. Completed year 1 of the *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected* programme, the largest farm nature recovery programme in England;
g. Successfully completed the 5-year national trial of a ‘Payment by Results’ approach to agri-environment payments;
h. With funding from the Woodland Trust, White Rose Forest and others, we facilitated and supported the funding of 42 ha of new native woodland;
i. Granted planning permission for 132 new dwellings, the highest number approved since 2005/06;
j. Determined 82% of minor and 89% of ‘other’ planning applications within Government target times;
k. Completed improvements to the site of the National Park Centre in Malham to create a wider ‘visitor hub’;
l. 7 more apprentices were taken on by the Authority, as well as two trainees through the *Tees-Swale: Naturally Connected* programme;
m. Generated external income to support expenditure of over £9 million compared to an original budget of £8.5 million;
n. Retained the ‘Customer Service Excellence’ Award for the 12th consecutive year;
o. Reduced the Authority’s own annual carbon dioxide emissions by a further 4t (2%) on the previous year, and by 74% compared to 2005;

7. The membership of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is set out in legislation (Environment Act 1995). The overall role of the twenty-five Members is to ensure that the Authority fulfils National Park Purposes and does so in a way that best reflects the special qualities of the Park.

   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.

   - Fifteen Members are appointed from the local County Councils (North Yorkshire, Cumbria and Lancashire) and District Councils (Craven, Eden, Richmondshire and South Lakeland) and Lancaster City Council.

   - 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 represent the parishes in the National Park.

   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/

8. 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/

9. In 2021/22 the Authority employed 170 full and part time staff (110 women and 60 men).

10. Included in the above staff numbers were 5 Directors or Senior Managers (2 females and 3 males).

11. The Authority's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 are presented in the format laid down in the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: 2021/22 ('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 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.

12. 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.

13. **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.

14. 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').

15. 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'.

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

Attention is drawn to Note 27, which discloses the status of the Authority's overall liability in relation to its participation in the LGPS. As at 31 March 2022, the net liability (assets minus liabilities) stood at **£ 3.292m**, a decrease in the liability of **£2.327m** on the previous year's value (£5.619m).

There are a number of factors that have resulted in a net decrease to the deficit:

- Assets increased in real terms by £1.116m. Interest income on assets increased by £0.852m, net contributions to the fund were £0.313m, and losses on re-measurement of assets held at the start of the year were £0.049m;

- Liabilities decreased by £1.211m, which includes a £3.095m decrease due to changes in financial assumptions, £0.608m decrease due to experience gain, £0.005m decrease due to changes in demographic assumptions, increases in the current service cost which is the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year of £1.772m, interest

expenses of £0.964m, and net benefits paid of £0.249m. Any increase in corporate bond yields will decrease the value placed on liabilities for accounting purposes;

- The majority of the pension liabilities are linked to either pay or price inflation. Higher inflation expectations will lead to a higher liability value. The assets are either unaffected or loosely correlated with inflation meaning that an increase in inflation will increase the deficit and vice versa; inflation remained at historically low levels during the year.

- The majority of the Fund's obligations are to provide benefits for the life of the members following their retirement, so increases in their life expectancy will result in an increase in the liabilities.

- Although the organisation's pension liabilities will be paid out over many years into the future, accounting rules require that the value is based on bond yields on the last day of the financial year. This can cause volatility in year-end valuations.

SUMMARY OF REVENUE SPENDING

16. The main components of the budget for 2021/22 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. The figures reconcile to the Annual Outturn.

Outturn Summary of Revenue Spending

Accounts in Statement of Final Accounts Format 2021/22

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Expenditure	**£'000**	**£'000**	**£'000**
Conservation of Natural Environment	1,869	1,634	235
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	1,140	667	473
Recreation Management	2,318	2,124	194
Promoting Understanding	1,511	1,461	50
Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers	388	396	(8)
Development Control	776	765	11

Forward Planning	393	280	113
Corporate Management	1,719	1,768	(49)
Total Expenditure	**10,114**	**9,095**	**1,019**
Income			
Conservation of Natural Environment	(1,080)	(1,026)	(54)
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	(881)	(560)	(321)
Recreation Management	(1,370)	(1,676)	306
Promoting Understanding	(467)	(580)	113
Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers	0	(9)	9
Development Control	(247)	(284)	37
Forward Planning	(2)	(2)	0
Corporate Management	(84)	(108)	24
Total Income	**(4,131)**	**(4,245)**	**114**
Net Expenditure	**5,983**	**4,850**	**1,133**
Financed By:			
National Park Grant	(5,230)	(5,230)	(0)
Balance to reserves	(753)	380	(1,133)
	(5,983)	**(4,850)**	**(1,133)**

17. The Authority has reported an apparent net favourable variance against budget of **£1,133k** in 2021/22, however part of this is a product of accounting treatment, most notably being that a number of projects totalling **£619k** were incomplete as at 31 March 2022; the budgets to complete this work will be carried forward into 2022/23.

18. Putting the results into context, the 2021/22 budget contained the following targets:

- An income budget of **£9.4m**; actual income for 2021/22 was **£9.5m**, a positive variance of £0.1m**.**

- An expenditure budget, supported by the use of reserves of **£10.1m**; actual gross expenditure for 2021/22 was **£9.1m**, a positive variance of £1.0m**.**

19. These outcomes are a significant achievement for the Authority considering the continuing impact of covid-19 on staff; limited availability of materials and contractors; and restrictions placed on certain areas of our work, such as engagement.

20. Further movements which are not reflected in the above figures at 31 March 2022 are outlined in the Expenditure and Funding Analysis.

21. The Useable Reserves balance of **£4,251k** carried forward consists of Earmarked Reserves totalling **£3,269k,** and **£982k** General Reserves. This General Reserve balance will be used to cover the deficit in the Authority budget for 2022/23 as well as to provide match funding for future grant-funded projects currently under development. Note 3 of the SOFA details the Earmarked Reserves.

22. 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 2022/23, which is met by the current level of the Contingency Reserve (**£1,113k**).

23. Future Funding: The largest source of funding for the Authority is the core grant from DEFRA, which remains unchanged from 2021/22 in 2022/23 at £5,229.8k.

24. Major Capital Investments in 2021/22:

- Upgrade to for sign making equipment
- Plant for public rights of way works

The Authority does not currently require any borrowing to finance its capital works.

25. Provisions and Contingencies:

- There are currently no provisions.

26. Rounding:

- As individual figures are rounded to the nearest £0.1k, this may mean that some 'total' figures do not precisely match the sum of the individual figures.

27. CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PRESENTATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

28. The policies are set out formally in the Summary of Significant Accounting Policies. The policies adopted in 2021/22 are compliant with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom: 2021/22.

29. There have been no changes in policy.

30. Impact of Covid-19

When budgeting for 2021/22, the Authority took a prudent approach to income streams, taking into account a full lockdown at the start of the year, and possible further impacts during the remainder of the year. In the event, income has recovered to pre-covid levels apart from income from Car Parks which has seen the best year to date, remedial ground works, the result of higher visitor usage, are now needed to the car parks and will be undertaken in 2022/23.

Some projects were effected where they involved either contractors or engagement work. Although a number of staff contracted Covid-19 during the year, the impact on work has been limited, with Officers affected being able to work from home. Objectives are broadly on track, with some areas carried forward into 2022/23.

MICHELLE CLYDE

TREASURER TO THE YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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

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 2022.



Michelle Clyde
S151 Treasurer
Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

4 September 2023

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2022 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended). The financial statements comprise the:

- Movement in Reserves Statement,
- Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement,
- Balance Sheet,
- Cash Flow Statement,
- the notes to the financial statements 1 to 31 and associated accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as at 31 March 2022 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022).

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 for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Yorkshire Dales National Park 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 the Comptroller and Auditor General's AGN01, 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, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Yorkshire Dales National Park 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. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report set out on page 3 - 11, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The S151 Treasurer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of 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 themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we report by exception

We report to you if:

- in our opinion the annual governance statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information forthcoming from the audit or our knowledge of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law under Section 28 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and
- Accountability Act 2014 (as amended)
- we are not satisfied that the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We have nothing to report in these respects

Responsibility of the S151 Treasurer

As explained more fully in the Statement of the S151 Treasurer's Responsibilities set out on pages 11, 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 2021/22 as amended by the Update to the Code and Specifications for Future Codes for Infrastructure Assets (November 2022), and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and 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.

In preparing the financial statements, the S151 Treasurer is responsible for assessing the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Authority either intends to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 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.

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Authority and determined that the most significant are:

- Local Government Act 1972,
- The Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 as amended in 2018, 2020, and 2022,
- The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

In addition, the Authority has to comply with laws and regulations in the areas of anti-bribery and corruption, data protection, employment Legislation, tax Legislation, general power of competence, procurement and health & safety.

We understood how Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority is complying with those frameworks by understanding the incentive, opportunities and motives for non-compliance, including inquiring of management head of internal audit and those charged with governance and obtaining and reading documentation relating to the procedures in place to identify, evaluate and comply with laws and regulations, and whether they are aware of instances of non-compliance.

We corroborated this through our reading of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's committee minutes, through enquiry of employees to confirm the Authority policies, and through the inspection of employee handbooks and other information. Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures had a focus on compliance with the accounting framework through obtaining sufficient audit evidence in line with the level of risk identified and with relevant legislation.

We assessed the susceptibility of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by understanding the potential incentives and pressures for management to manipulate the financial statements, and performed procedures to understand the areas in which this would most likely arise. Based on our risk assessment procedures, we identified manipulation of reported financial performance (through improper recognition of revenue), inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure and management override of controls to be our fraud risks.

To address our fraud risk around the manipulation of reported financial performance through improper recognition of revenue, we obtained the Authority's year end income accruals, challenging assumptions and corroborating the income to appropriate evidence.

To address our fraud risk of inappropriate capitalisation of revenue expenditure we tested the Authority's capitalised expenditure to ensure the capitalisation criteria were properly met and the expenditure was genuine.
To address our fraud risk of management override of controls, we tested specific journal entries identified by applying risk criteria to the entire population of journals. For each journal selected, we tested specific transactions back to source documentation to confirm that the journals were authorised and accounted for appropriately.

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

Scope of the review of arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice 2020, having regard to the guidance on the specified reporting criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in December 2021, as to whether the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had proper arrangements for financial sustainability, governance and improving economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined these criteria as those necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2022.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether, in all significant respects, the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (as amended) 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.

Certificate

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Authority's Whole of Government Accounts consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our work on value for money arrangements.

Use of our 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 (as amended) and for no other purpose, as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Rob Jones (Key Audit Partner)
Ernst & Young LLP (Local Auditor)
Glasgow
26 September 2023

CORE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Movement in Reserves Statement

		General Fund Balance	Earmarked General Fund Reserve	Capital Grants Unapplied	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Authority Reserves
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Balance at 31 March 2021		**(88.1)**	**(3,755.7)**	**0.0**	**(3,843.8)**	**(3,903.3)**	**(7,747.0)**
Surplus on the provision of services	Page 18	**1,148.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1,148.2**	**0.0**	**1,148.2**
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Page 17	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(5,591.7)	(5,591.7)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		**1,148.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1,148.2**	**(5,591.7)**	**(4,443.5)**
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	Note 2	(1,555.2)	0.0	0.0	(1,555.2)	1,555.2	0.0
Net increase before transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**(407.1)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**(407.1)**	**(4,036.5)**	**(4,443.5)**
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	Note 3	(94.3)	94.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decrease/(Increase) in 2021/22	Page 18	**(501.4)**	**94.3**	**0.0**	**(407.1)**	**(4,036.5)**	**(4,443.5)**
Balance at 31 March 2022	Page 20	**(589.4)**	**(3,661.4)**	**0.0**	**(4,250.8)**	**(7,939.7)**	**(12,190.6)**
Balance at 31 March 2020		**(432.7)**	**(3,465.2)**	**0.0**	**(3,897.8)**	**(3,515.3)**	**(7,413.2)**
Surplus on the provision of services	Page 16	1,249.5	0.0	0.0	1,249.5	0.0	1,249.5
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Page 16	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	(1,583.3)	(1,583.3)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		**1,249.5**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1,249.5**	**(1,583.3)**	**(333.9)**
Adjustment between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	Note 2	(1,195.4)	0.0	0.0	(1,195.4)	1,195.4	0.0
Net decrease/(increase) before transfers to Earmarked Reserves		**54.1**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**54.1**	**(388.0)**	**(333.9)**
Transfers (to)/from Earmarked Reserves	Note 3	290.5	(290.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Decrease/(Increase) in 2020/21	Page 16	344.6	(290.5)	0.0	54.1	(388.0)	(333.9)
Balance at 31 March 2021	Page 19	(88.1)	(3,755.7)	0.0	(3,843.8)	(3,903.3)	(7,747.0)

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ending 31 March 2022

2020/21 **2021/22**

Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure	Heading	Note (N)/ Page (P)	Gross Expenditure	Income	Net Expenditure
£000	**£000**	**£000**			**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
1,148.5	(273.7)	874.9	Conservation of the Natural Environment	P18/19	1,857.8	(1,026.2)	831.6
593.9	(352.6)	241.4	Conservation of Cultural Heritage	P18/19	712.9	(559.8)	153.1
2,136.4	(1,260.2)	876.2	Recreation Management and Transport	P18/19	2,316.3	(1,676.7)	639.5
1,496.9	(431.6)	1,065.3	Promoting Understanding	P18/19	1,771.7	(580.4)	1,191.3
376.8	(13.3)	363.5	Rangers, Estate Services and Volunteers	P18/19	479.7	(8.5)	471.2
862.4	(307.8)	554.6	Development Control	P18/19	936.7	(283.8)	652.9
350.6	(14.8)	335.8	Forward Planning	P18/19	323.0	(1.6)	321.3
1,758.1	(106.5)	1,651.5	Corporate and Democratic Core	P18/19	2,070.1	(88.9)	1,981.1
8,723.6	**(2,760.4)**	**5,963.2**	**Cost of Services**		**10,468.0**	**(4,226.0)**	**6,242.0**
		(0.1)	Net Loss on disposals of Fixed Assets				0.8
		(29.6)	Interest and Investment Income	P18/19			(19.5)
		441.8	Revaluation losses against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure	P18/19			42.7
		104.0	Pension Interest Cost and Expected Return on Pension Assets	N27			112.0
		516.0	**Financing and Investing Income and Expenditure**				**135.9**
		6,479.3	**Net Operating Expenditure**				**6,378.0**
		(5,229.8)	National Park Grant				(5,229.8)
		1,249.5	**Net Deficit on Provision of Services**				**1,148.2**
		(1,583.3)	Revaluation gains on Property, Plant and Equipment	N15			(1,942.7)
		0.0	Actuarial gains on pension assets and liabilities	N27			(3,649.0)
		(1,583.3)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				(5,591.7)
		(333.9)	**Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure**				**(4,443.5)**

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2021/22

	Outturn figures £000	IFRS Adjustments IAS19 £000	Accumulated Absences Account £000	Capital Assets £000	Depreciation Adjust. £000	Interest & Technical Adiustment £000	Net Expenditure in Final Accounts £000
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
Conservation of Natural Environment	607.7	223.2	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	831.6
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	107.4	46.2	(0.5)	0.0	0.0	0.0	153.1
Recreation Management	447.7	182.3	0.6	(22.6)	58.1	(26.5)	639.5
Promoting Understanding	880.5	223.6	(2.3)	0.0	90.2	(0.6)	1,191.3
Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers	388.1	83.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	471.2
Development Control	481.2	172.4	(2.2)	0.0	1.4	0.0	652.9
Forward Planning	278.8	42.2	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	321.3
Corporate Management & Administration/Training	1,658.5	237.1	(1.4)	(4.8)	72.2	19.5	1,981.1
Non distributed costs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Net Cost of Services	**4,849.9**	**1,210.0**	**(4.8)**	**(27.4)**	**221.9**	**(7.6)**	**6,242.0**
Interest Received						(19.5)	(19.5)
Net loss on disposal fixed assets				0.8			0.8
Revaluation losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure				.	234.7		234.7
Revaluation gains against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure				.	(192.1)		(192.1)
Pension Interest costs		112.0					112.0
National Park Grant & Levies	(5,229.8)						(5,229.8)
Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**(379.9)**	**1,322.0**	**(4.8)**	**(26.6)**	**264.6**	**(27.2)**	**1,148.2**
Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets					(1,942.7)		(1,942.7)
Actuarial gain on pension assets and liabilities		(3,649.0)					(3,649.0)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(379.9)**	**(2,327.0)**	**(4.8)**	**(26.6)**	**(1,678.1)**	**(27.2)**	**(4,443.5)**
Opening General Fund Balance	(3,843.8)			**Unusable Reserves 2020/21**			(3,903.3)
Surplus on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(407.0)						(4,036.5)
Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2022	(4,250.8)			**Unusable Reserves 2021/22**			(7,939.7)

Expenditure and Funding Analysis 2020/21

	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	764.4	109.7	0.8		0.0	0.0	874.9
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	212.7	27.8	0.2		0.7	0.0	241.4
Recreation Management	791.2	111.9	2.8	(92.5)	62.8	0.0	876.2
Promoting Understanding	971.1	120.3	4.8	(129.1)	98.3	0.0	1,065.3
Rangers, Estate Services & Volunteers	320.6	42.1	0.9		0.0	0.0	363.5
Development Control	448.3	102.8	2.1		1.4	0.0	554.6
Forward Planning	311.0	23.9	0.9		0.0	0.0	335.8
Corporate Management & Administration/Training	1,464.7	129.6	3.5	(46.0)	70.2	29.6	1,651.5
Net Cost of Services	**5,283.9**	**668.0**	**15.9**	**(267.6)**	**233.4**	**29.6**	**5,963.2**
Interest Received						(29.6)	(29.6)
Net gain on disposal fixed assets				(0.1)			(0.1)
Revaluation losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure				.	447.2		447.2
Revaluation gains against previous losses in Comprehensive income and Expenditure				.	(5.4)		(5.4)
Pension Interest costs		104.0					104.0
National Park Grant	(5,229.8)						(5,229.8)
Net (Surplus)/Deficit on Provision of Services	**54.1**	**772.0**	**15.9**	**(267.8)**	**675.2**	**0.0**	**1,249.5**
Surplus on revaluation of non-current assets					(1,583.3)		(1,583.3)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**54.1**	**772.0**	**15.9**	**(267.8)**	**(908.1)**	**0.0**	**(333.9)**

Opening General Fund Balance	(3,897.8)	**Unusable Reserves 2019/20**	(3,515.3)
Surplus on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	54.1	(388.0)	(388.0)
Closing General Fund Balance at 31 March 2021	(3,843.8)	**Unusable Reserves 2020/21**	(3,903.3)

Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2022

31 March 2021 £000		Notes	31 March 2022 £000
9,586.1	Property, Plant and Equipment	5	11,290.8
6.5	Heritage Assets	6	6.5
91.7	Long Term Investments	6	95.2
	Intangibles		
9,684.3	**Long Term Assets**		**11,392.5**
90.7	Inventories	8	99.4
144.6	Short Term Investments	6	122.2
504.6	Short term Debtors	9	983.5
3,483.4	Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	4,031.6
4,223.4	**Current Assets**		**5,236.7**
0.0	Cash and Cash Equivalents	10	0.0
(69.3)	Short Term Provisions	12	(64.5)
(472.4)	Short Term Creditors	11	(1,082.1)
(541.7)	**Current Liabilities**		**(1,146.6)**
0.0	Long Term Provisions	12	0.0
(5,619.0)	Pension Liability	27	(3,292.0)
(5,619.0)	**Long Term Liabilities**		**(3,292.0)**
7,747.0	**NET ASSETS**		**12,190.6**
3,755.67385	Earmarked Reserves	3	3,661.4
88.09003	General Fund Balance	3	589.4
3,843.76388	**Usable Reserves**		**4,250.8**
4,442.1	Revaluation Reserve	15	6,350.4
5,149.4	Capital Adjustment Account	16	4,945.9
(5,619.0)	Pension Reserve	27	(3,292.0)
(69.3)	Accumulated Absences Account	18	(64.5)
3,903.269250	**Unusable Reserves**		**7,939.7**
7,747.033130	**TOTAL RESERVES**		**12,190.6**

I confirm that these accounts were approved by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority on 26 September 2023.

Signed on behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

…….
Chair of the Yorkshire Dales National Park

Cash Flow Statement
Year Ended 31 March 2022

31 March 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000
	Operating Activities	
(1,249.5)	**Net Deficit on provision of services**	**(1,148.2)**
233.4	Depreciation	221.9
16.1	Increase in creditors	609.7
109.6	Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	(478.8)
27.2	Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	(8.7)
772.0	Pension Liability (Note 27)	1,322.0
441.8	Decrease in Revaluation of assets (Note 5)	42.7
1.3	Carrying amount of non-current asset disposal	1.6
15.9	Increase/(Decrease) in provisions	(4.8)
1,617.2	**Adjustment to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements**	**1,705.6**
(1.4)	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	(0.8)
366.4	**Net Cashflows from Operating Activities**	**556.6**
	Investing Activities	
1.4	Proceeds from sale of asset	0.8
(269.0)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment (Note 5)	(28.2)
(267.6)	**Net Cashflows from Investing Activities**	**(27.4)**
	Net Cashflows from Financing Activities	
80.4	Long Term Investments	**18.9**
179.2	**Net increase in cash and cash equivalent**	**548.2**
3,304.2	Cash or cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,483.4
3,483.4	**Cash or cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period**	**4,031.6**

1. IAS8, Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

None.

2. 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			2021/22
	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	(221.9)	0.0	0.0	221.9
Revaluation Losses on Property, Plant and Equipment	(234.7)	0.0	0.0	234.7
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	(1.6)	0.0	0.0	1.6
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:				
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund	27.4	0.0	0.0	(27.4)
Adjustments involving the Capital Receipts Reserve:				
Transfer of cash sale proceeds credited as part of the gain/loss on disposal to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	0.8		0.0	(0.8)
Revaluation Gains allocated to the Provision of Services to reverse losses in previous year charged to the Provision of Services	192.1	0.0	0.0	(192.1)
Adjustments involving the Pensions Reserve:				
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (note 27)	(1,884.0)	0.0	0.0	1,884.0
Employers Pension Contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	562.0	0.0	0.0	(562.0)
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	4.8	0.0	0.0	(4.8)
Total Adjustments	**(1,555.2)**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**1,555.2**

3. 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-21 £000	Movement £000	31-Mar-22 £000
Externally Funded Reserves			
Access for All	50.0		50.0
Attracting Families	49.3	(10.0)	39.3
CCC Rights of Way	55.0	(55.0)	0.0
Ingleborough Access Project - Natural England	84.0	(58.1)	25.9
Legacies	133.0	26.4	159.4
Northern Upland Chain	34.2	(34.2)	0.0
Swaledale Barns	61.4	(8.2)	53.1
NYCC Flood Repairs	34.3	(34.3)	0.0
Pond Creation Clif Bar	2.5	(2.5)	0.0
Operational Reserves			
B4RN Broadband Shares	30.0	42.7	72.7
Broadband Loans	153.4	(95.7)	57.7
Carry Forward Budgets 21/22	389.9	(389.9)	0.0
Carry Forward Budgets 22/23	0.0	619.4	619.4
Contingency (10% budgeted spend)	893.2	219.4	1,112.7
Reserve to balance 2021/22 Budget	378.0	(378.0)	0.0
Reserve to balance 2022/23 Budget	0.0	393.0	393.0
Loan Commitments	160.0	(73.0)	87.0
Property, Plant & Equipment Reserves			
IT (5 Year Replacement and Upgrade)	324.1	(90.7)	233.4
Plant & Equipment (5 Year Replacement)	81.0	2.0	83.0
Property (5 Year Maintenance)	276.4	0.5	276.9
Ranger Accommodation	200.0	0.0	200.0
Planned works and Ringfenced Matched Funding			
Rights of Way Erosion (2 year project)	84.0	(78.9)	5.1
Tees Swale - HLF 'Naturally Connected' (5 year project)	200.0	(50.0)	150.0
Blended Working Equipment & Licencing	82.0	(82.0)	0.0
Grow Back Greener (3 year project)	0.0	42.7	42.7
Total Earmarked Reserves	**3,755.7**	**(94.3)**	**3,661.4**
General Reserve	88.1	501.3	589.4
Total Usable Reserves	**3,843.8**	**407.0**	**4,250.8**

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 2021/22 which is carried forward into 2022/23, and any potential liabilities arising from loan and share commitments.

- 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.

- 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.

4. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in 2021/22.

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Credited to Non Specific Grant Income		
National Park Grant	5,229.8	5,229.8
Total Non-Specific Grant Income	**5,229.8**	**5,229.8**
Credited to Services		
DEFRA	-	419.1
Natural England	415.4	535.8
Heritage Lottery Fund	273.0	461.0
HMRC	37.6	-
Other Government Agencies	379.0	387.7
Other	240.7	307.7
Total Service Grants	**1,345.6**	**2,111.3**
Total Grants	**6,575.4**	**7,341.1**

5. (a) Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in 2021/22	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
At 1 April 2021	9,057.4	869.9	9,927.3
Additions	0.0	28.2	28.2
Disposals	0.0	(35.8)	(35.8)
Net Revaluation **increases** recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,801.6	0.0	1,801.6
Net Revaluation **decreases** recognised in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(42.7)	0.0	(42.7)
Other movements in cost or valuation		0.0	0.0
At 31 March 2022	**10,816.3**	**862.3**	**11,678.7**
Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment			
At 1 April 2021	0.0	341.2	341.2
Depreciation Charge	141.1	80.8	221.9
Depreciation written out on Revaluation	(141.1)	0.0	(141.1)
Disposals		(34.2)	(34.2)
At 31 March 2022	**0.0**	**387.8**	**387.8**
Net Book Value			
At 1 April 2021	9,057.4	528.7	9,586.1
At 31 March 2022	10,816.3	474.5	11,290.8

Movements in 2020/21	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Total Assets
Cost or Valuation	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
At 1 April 2020	8,096.2	678.9	8,775.1

Additions	43.2	225.8	269.0
Disposals	0.0	(34.8)	(34.8)
Net Revaluation **increases** recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	1,359.7	0.0	1,359.7
Net Revaluation **decreases** recognised in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	(441.8)	0.0	(441.8)
At 31 March 2021	**9,057.4**	**869.9**	**9,927.3**

Accumulated Depreciation and Impairment

At 1 April 2020	72.6	292.3	364.8
Depreciation Charge	151.0	82.4	233.4
Depreciation written out on Revaluation	(223.6)	0.0	(223.6)
Disposals	0.0	(33.5)	(33.5)
At 31 March 2021	**0.0**	**341.2**	**341.2**

Net Book Value

At 1 April 2020	8,023.6	386.6	8,410.3
At 31 March 2021	9,057.4	528.7	9,586.1

(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 30 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 has been replaced where at end of life, and a new CNC Router to produce signage was purchased. Buildings and Land have not received any major investment. Sites were re-valued at 31st March 2022 so any increase in value is included within the revaluation values.

(d) Capital Expenditure

The capital expenditure of £28.2 on Fixed Assets was financed by revenue expenditure (£27.4k), and by the proceeds on the sale of machinery (£0.8k).

(e) Analysis of Fixed Assets

The following table gives an indication of the significant fixed assets of the Authority at 31st March 2022:

Buildings	**31 March 2021 Number**	**31 March 2022 Number**
National Park Centres	3	3
Museum/National Park Centre	1	1
Public Conveniences	11	11
Administrative Building	2	2
Total	**17**	**17**

The Authority operates five National Park Centres; one is situated within the Dales Countryside Museum, and the National Park Centre at Reeth is housed in a building which is not owned by the Authority.

6. Heritage Assets and Investments

Heritage Assets

The Authority owns one Heritage Asset, a 10th Century Gold Viking Ring, which was purchased on the open market for £6.5k in December 2010; it is valued at cost which is considered to be its fair market value, and there is no depreciation.

Investments

	Short Term Within 1 year **£'000**	**Long Term** Over 1 year **£'000**	**Total £'000**
Investments			
Lune Rivers Trust Loan	87.0	0.0	87.0
B4RN Loans	35.2	22.5	57.7
B4RN Shares	0.0	72.7	72.7
Total Investments	**122.2**	**95.2**	**217.4**

The Authority issued an unsecured short term loan to the Lune Rivers Trust to cash flow a joint project.

The Authority issued eight unsecured loans on five year terms to an Industrial and Provident Society, Broadband for the Rural North through the Sustainable Development Fund. Three loans were repaid in 2021/22, leaving five remaining. Interest is accruing at rates of between 4% and 5% and is repayable with the capital sum at the end of the loan period. The remaining loans are due to be repaid between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Authority also holds long term unsecured shares of £72.7k with the same organisation.

7. Financial Instruments

(a) Financial Assets: Cash, loans and receivables

The Authority cash balance includes cash held with North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC), 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 NYCC 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 NYCC on behalf of the Authority, the Authority has adopted NYCC'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

Loans and Receivables Less than 1 year	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
The Lune Rivers Trust	52.0	87.0
Broadband for the Rural North	102.3	35.2
North Yorkshire County Council Treasury	3,476.9	4,031.6
	3,631.2	**4,153.8**

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:

  i. The Authority's overall borrowing limits;
  ii. Its maximum and minimum exposures to fixed and variable interest rates;
  iii. 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 NYCC. 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	316.6	8.3	1.5	0.0	0.0

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. Movements in interest rates have a complex impact on the Authority. As the Authority has no borrowings the risk is restricted to a loss of earnings on interest income.

8. Inventories

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

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Opening Balance	**117.9**	**90.7**
Purchases	39.7	198.7
Recognised as an expense in year	(65.3)	(187.3)
Written off balances	(1.6)	(2.7)
Closing Balance	**90.7**	**99.4**

9. Debtors

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

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Central Government Bodies	350.0	638.1
Other Local Authorities	3.2	40.9
Public Corporations and trading funds	-	-
Other Entities and individuals	151.5	304.5
Total Debtors	504.6	983.5
Including:		
Prepayments	33.4	43.7

Provision for Doubtful Debt

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

10. Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Cash held by the Authority	2.1	2.1
Bank Current Account	4.4	3.9
Term Deposit with North Yorkshire County Council Treasury	3,476.9	4,025.6
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	**3,483.4**	**4,031.6**

Interest received from the deposit with North Yorkshire County Council Treasury in 2021/22 was £11.2k (£22.0k 2020/21). Accumulated Loan interest accrued was £29.4k, £21.7k of which was repaid by 31st March 2022, leaving £7.7k due (£22.8k 2020/21).

11. 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 2021 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Central Government Bodies	20.1	101.8
Other Local Authorities	183.1	286.8
Other Entities and individuals	269.1	693.5
Total Creditors	**472.4**	**1,082.1**

Including Income in Advance	20.4	135.1

12. Provisions

The provisions recorded on the balance sheet in 2021/22 can be analysed as follows:

Accumulated Absences

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.

	Accumulated Absences
	£000
Balance At 31 March 2021	**69.3**
Additional Provisions Made in 2021/22	64.5
Amounts used in 2022/22	(69.3)
Unused amounts reversed in 2021/22	0.0
Balance At 31 March 2022	**64.5**
Short Term Provision 2020/21	**64.5**

Balance At 31 March 2020	**53.4**
Additional Provisions Made in 2020/21	69.3
Amounts used in 2020/21	-53.4
Unused amounts reversed in 2020/21	0
Balance At 31 March 2021	**69.3**
Short Term Provision 2020/21	**69.3**

13. 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 3.

14. Unusable Reserves

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

15. Revaluation Reserve

The Code requires that the Revaluation Reserve reflects only changes that have arisen since 1 April 2007. On 31 March 2022 seven assets were revalued by Align property services. Assets which were not specifically valued but are

of a broadly similar nature to those which were revalued, have been revalued using the % change in value of the revalued assets.

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.

2020/21 £000	Revaluation Reserve	2021/22 £000
2,889.5	**Balance at 1st April**	4,442.1
2,306.7	Upward revaluation of assets	2,001.0
(723.4)	Downward revaluation of assets and impairment losses not charged to the Surplus/Deficit on the provision of services	(58.4)
1,583.3	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	1,942.7
(30.7)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(34.5)
1,552.7	Movement on Reserve in year	1,908.2
4,442.1	**Balance at 31st March**	**6,350.4**

16. 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 2021 £000		31 March 2022 £000
5,526.2	**Balance brought forward**	**5,149.4**
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(233.4)	Charges for depreciation and impairment of non-current assets	(221.9)
(441.8)	Revaluation increases/(decreases) on Property, Plant and Equipment charged to the Income Statement	(42.7)
(675.2)		(264.6)
30.7	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	34.5
(644.6)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in year	(230.1)
	Capital Funding applied in the year:	
1.4	Use of the Capital Receipts Reserve to finance new capital expenditure	0.8
266.4	Capital expenditure charged against the General Fund	25.8
5,149.4	**Balance carried forward**	**4,945.9**

17. 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 debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Authority has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.
The Authority participates in the North Yorkshire Pension Fund (Note 27).

2020/21 £000	Movement in Reserves Statement	2021/22 £000
1,373.0	Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	1,884.0
(601.0)	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year	(562.0)
772.0		**1,322.0**

18. 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.

2020/21 £000	Accumulated Absences	2021/22 £000
53.4	**Balance at 1 April**	69.3
15.9	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	(4.8)
69.3	**Balance at 31 March**	**64.5**

19. 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.

20. 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

	2020/21 £000	2021/22 £000
Allowances	89.9	93.4
Expenses	6.3	5.3
Total	**96.2**	**98.7**

21. Agency Services

In 2021/22 the Authority did not provide any agency services.

22. External Audit Costs

The Authority incurred £9.3k expenditure in relation to the audit of the Statement of Accounts by Ernst & Young LLP in 2021/22 (£9.3k in 2020/21), the contracted amount. The audit fee is in dispute with PSAA for 2020/21, and an additional fee was paid in 2021/22 of £6.7k which related to the audit of 2019/20, a decision on the 2020/21 additional fee requested is yet to be resolved.

23. 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	2020/21 No of Staff	2021/22 No of Staff
£50,000 - £54,999	6	8
£55,000 - £59,999	0	0
£60,000 - £64,999	0	0
£65,000 - £69,999	1	0
£70,000 - £74,999	2	1
£75,000 - £79,999	0	2
£80,000 - £84,999	0	0

£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	1
	10	**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 2020/21 or 2021/22.

Officers who are employed on a part time basis must be included in this analysis if their full time equivalent salary would have exceeded £50k. The Solicitor/Monitoring Officer falls into this bracket (22.5 hours) and the figures reported below are the actual salary and pension paid; the full time equivalent (FTE) figures are also shown for reference.

	2020/21	**2021/22**
	£	**£**
Chief Executive		
Basic Salary	94,325	95,740
Pension	15,941	14,552
Total	**110,266**	**110,292**
Director of Conservation & Communities		
Basic Salary	64,141	67,549
Pension	10,840	10,267
Total	**74,981**	**77,816**
Director of Corporate Services		
Basic Salary	64,141	65,263
Pension	10,840	9,920
Total	**74,981**	**75,183**

Director of Park Services		
Basic Salary	57,727	65,399
Pension	9,756	9,176
Total	**67,483**	**74,575**
Solicitor/Monitoring Officer		
Basic Salary	36,380	37,017
Pension	6,148	5,627
Total	**42,528**	**42,644**
(Part time post - 22.5 hours per week 60.8%)	69,935	70,126 (FTE)

24. 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 2021/22 is shown in note 20. 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 relationships.

Officers have day-to-day control of the running of the Authority's affairs. No material related party transactions have occurred with officers in 2021/22.

Transactions with Related Parties in 2021/22:

	Payments £000	Receipts £000	Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2022 £000	Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2022 £000
Related Parties Other				
Hudson House Ltd	9.2			
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust	19.9	(60.0)		
The Cragg & Carr Farm	8.0			
Local Government				

Bradford Metropolitan District Council		(0.3)		
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	1.0			
Broads Authority	8.7	(0.2)		
Calderdale MBC			4.4	
Craven District Council - Rates	90.3			
Craven District Council	8.1	(31.1)		(1.7)
Cumbria County Council	16.5		10.6	
Dartmoor National Park Authority	0.6			
Derbyshire County Council	39.1		23.1	
Durham County Council	152.9	(13.2)	75.8	
Eden District Council	3.9	(6.1)		
Exmoor National Park Authority	0.1	(0.2)		
Kirklees Council		(34.2)		
Lake District National Park Authority	6.7	(0.2)		
Lancashire County Council	59.5		58.5	
North Pennines AONB Partnership		(93.7)		(25.7)
North York Moors National Park Authority				
North Yorkshire County Council	41.3	(121.0)	13.3	
Northumberland National Park Authority	9.2	(0.1)	1.1	(0.2)
Oldham Council	22.7		22.7	
Peak District National Park Authority	83.9	(0.2)	66.4	
Richmondshire District Council		(47.2)		(0.3)
Richmondshire District Council - Rates Refund	(24.2)			
Scarborough Borough Council	1.0		0.2	
South Downs National Park Authority	1.8	(40.4)		(33.6)
South Lakeland District Council		(5.2)		(0.5)
Tameside MBC			10.5	

	Payments £000	Receipts £000	Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2022 £000	Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2022 £000
Central Government				
DEFRA		(5,648.9)		(57.6)
Environment Agency	5.7	(44.9)	5.2	(44.9)
Environment Agency (Vehicle Leases)	4.8			
Heritage Lottery Fund Yorkshire & the Humber		(461.0)		(174.1)
HM Courts & Tribunals				
HMRC (JRS)				
Natural England (Inc. Rural Payments Agency)	4.6	(548.4)		(335.4)
	575.3	**(7,156.5)**	**291.8**	**(674.0)**

Transactions with Related Parties in 2020/21:

	Payments	Receipts	Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2021	Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2021

	£000	£000	£000	£000
Related Parties Other				
Hudson House Ltd	9.2			
Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust	5.6	(81.0)		
Local Government				
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority	0.8		0.9	
Calderdale MBC	14.3		8.5	
Craven District Council - Rates	92.2			
Craven District Council	7.1	(85.1)	0.1	(1.6)
Cumbria County Council	0.1			
Derbyshire County Council	46.8		23.1	
Durham County Council	154.6		37.1	
Eden District Council	4.0	(2.7)		(0.1)
Lake District National Park Authority	11.4			
Lancashire County Council	42.5		37.0	
North York Moors National Park Authority	0.4	(1.5)		
North Yorkshire County Council	45.7	(231.5)	17.2	
Northumberland National Park Authority	1.3		1.3	
Oldham Council	32.5		32.5	
Peak District National Park Authority	39.4		18.9	
Richmondshire District Council	0.7	(62.2)	0.4	(0.6)
Richmondshire District Council - Rates	28.6			
Rochdale Borough Council	5.4		5.4	
	Payments £000	**Receipts £000**	**Outstanding Creditors 31 March 2021 £000**	**Outstanding Debtors 31 March 2021 £000**
Scarborough Borough Council	4.1		0.7	
South Downs National Park Authority	3.6			
South Lakeland District Council		(1.5)		(0.8)
Central Government				
DEFRA		(5,248.5)		
Environment Agency	0.9			
Environment Agency (Vehicle Leases)	14.9		17.8	
Heritage Lottery Fund Yorkshire & the Humber		(131.0)		(85.8)
HM Courts & Tribunals		(2.6)		
HMRC (JRS)		(37.6)		
Natural England (Inc. Rural Payments Agency)		(474.0)	2.3	(200.0)
	566.0	**(6,359.2)**	**203.3**	**(289.0)**

25. Leases

Under the Code, leases are classified as either operating or financing leases using the substance over form tests to assess if the asset is essentially 'owned'; if a lease is classified as a finance lease the asset is transferred to the Balance Sheet and a corresponding Finance Lease Liability is created. All current leases have been tested, and have been found to be correctly classified as operating leases, therefore there is no change to the accounting treatment or changes to the 2021/22 financial statements.

The Authority as a Lessee

The Authority has operating leases, as follows:

Assets	Section Charged in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Paid in 2020/21	Paid in 2021/22
		£000	£000
Photocopiers	Corporate Management	4.8	4.8
Partnership Centres	Promoting Understanding	27.9	27.9
Triple Kiln	Promoting Understanding	1.0	1.3
Wainwarth Force	Promoting Understanding	0.1	0.1
Bolton Mine	Promoting Understanding	0.5	0.0
Ranger Bases	Recreational Management	26.8	27.6
Vehicles	Recreational Management	81.1	76.5
		142.2	**138.2**
The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years:			
Leases due within next 12 months		117.2	112.7
Leases due between one and five years		85.2	38.4
Leases due later than 5 years		0.8	0.6
		203.1	**151.7**

The Authority as Lessor

All the leases are supported by signed agreements where the rental income is fixed for a period of time and payable in instalments. Leases do not give the option to buy at a reduced rate; the Authority retains ownership of the assets.

The Authority has operating leases, as follows:

Assets	Section Revenue taken in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement	Received in 2020/21	Received in 2021/22
		£000	£000
Land	Park management	2.7	3.3
Car Park & Toilets	Park management	2.0	4.0
Bowling Green	Park management	0.7	0.9
Centre Cafés	Prom. Understanding	9.5	16.3
		14.9	**24.5**

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable leases in future years are:

	2020/21	2021/22
	£000	£000
Leases due within next 12 months	26.0	24.5
Leases due between one and five years	33.0	33.1
Leases due later than 5 years	46.6	38.3
	105.7	**95.9**

26. Termination Benefits

Redundancies of £2k were paid for fixed term contracts which came to an end in 2021/22.

27. 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 2022 is a gain of £3381k.

Pension Scheme Adjustments affecting the Financial Statements

2020/21 £000	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	2021/22 £000
	Cost of Service	
1,251.0	Current Service Cost	1,754.0
18.0	Admin Costs	18.0
	Effect of curtailments and settlements	
1,269.0		**1,772.0**
	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	
104.0	Net Interest Expense	112.0
104.0		**112.0**
1,373.0	**Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the surplus or deficit on the provision of service**	**1,884.0**
	Re-measurement of the net defined benefit liability comprising:	
(7,708.0)	Return on plan assets	49.0
0.0	Actuarial gains arising on changes in demographic assumptions	5.0
8,050.0	Actuarial loss/(gain) arising on changes in financial assumptions	(3,095.0)
1,715.0	**Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**	**(1,157.0)**

2020/21 £000	Movement in Reserves Statement	2021/22 £000

1,373.0	Reversal of net charges made to the surplus or deficit on the provision of services for post-employment benefits in accordance with the code	1,884.0
(601.0)	Actual amount charged against the General Fund Balance for pensions in the year	(562.0)
772.0		**1,322.0**

2020/21 £000		**2021/22 £000**
(4,847.0)	**Balance at 1 April**	(5,619.0)
0.0	Actuarial gains/(losses) on pensions assets and liabilities	3,649.0
(1,373.0)	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	(1,884.0)
601.0	Employers pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	562.0
(5,619.0)	**Balance at 31 March**	**(3,292.0)**

2020/21 £000	**Estimated payment in future year**	**2021/22 £000**
1882	Projected Service Cost	1749
1882		**1749**

Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-Employment Benefits

2020/21 £000		**2021/22 £000**
36,779	**Benefit Obligation at beginning of period**	46,043
1,269	Current Service Cost	1,772
839	Interest on Pension Liabilities	964
234	Member Contributions	244
(342)	Experience (Gain)/Loss	(608)
8,050	Loss/(Gain) on Financial Assumptions	(3,095)
0	Gain on Democratic Assumptions	5
(786)	Benefits/transfers paid	(493)
46,043		**44,832**

2020/21 £000	**Change in Plan Assets during period**	**2021/22 £000**
31,932	Fair Value of plan assets at beginning of the period	40,424
735	Interest on plan assets	852
7,708	Remeasurement Gain/(Loss) on assets	(49)
601	Employer Contributions	562
234	Member Contributions	244
(786)	Benefits/transfers paid	(493)
40,424	**Fair Value of the plan assets at the end of period**	**41,540**

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 £1116k (2020/21: £8492k).

	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Present value of liabilities:	**£001**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
Fair value of assets in the Local Government Pension Scheme	41,540	40,424	31,932	31,308	29,049
Deficit in the scheme:	3,292	5,619	4,847	4,076	3,607
Total	**44,832**	**46,043**	**36,779**	**35,384**	**32,656**

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the Authority has in the long run to pay post-employment benefits. The net liability of £3,560k has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Authority as recorded in the Balance Sheet; however statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Authority remains healthy:

- The deficit on the local government pension scheme will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees (i.e. before payments fall due), as assessed by the scheme actuary.

The total contribution expected to be made to the Local Government Pension Scheme by the Authority in the year to 31 March 2023 is £531k (£572k paid in 2021/22). The reduced amount is due to a reduction in contribution rates from 15.2% in 2021/22 to 13.5% in 2022/23, this rate is expected to rise in 2023/24 with the next triennial review.

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:

	31 March 2021	31 March 2022
Financial Assumptions	**%**	**%**
Discount Rate	2.10	2.70
Salary Increases	3.95	4.25
CPI Inflation	2.70	3.00
Pension Increases	2.70	3.00

Mortality Assumptions

Life expectancy of male (female)		
-current pensioner aged 65	21.9 (24.0) years	22.5 (24.9) years
-future pensioner aged 45	23.6 (25.8) years	23.4 (26.0) years

Pension Assets	**31 March 2021**	**31 March 2022**
	%	**%**
Equities	57.8	55.7
Property	6.1	7.4
Government Bonds	16.2	16.8
Other Bonds	2.1	7.7
Cash/Liquidity	3.3	1.1
Other	14.5	11.3
	100.0	**100.0**

History of Experience Gains and Losses
The actuarial gains identified as movements on the Pension Reserve in 2021/22 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2022.

	Experience (gains) and losses on liabilities		Remeasurement (gain) or loss on Assets		Actuarial (gains) and losses on liabilities		Actuarial (gains) and losses	
Year	**£000**	**%**	**£000**	**%**	**£000**	**%**	**£000**	**%**
2021/22	(608.0)	(1.4)	49.0	0.1	(3,090.0)	(0.1)	(3,649.0)	(8.1)
2020/21	(342.0)	(0.7)	(7,708.0)	(19.1)	8,050.0	0.2	0.0	0.0
2019/20	1,577.0	4.9	307	0.8	(715.0)	(0.02)	1,169.0	3.7
2018/19	45.0	0.1	(1,189.0)	(4.2)	2,084.0	1.9	940.0	2.9
2017/18	136.0	0.4	(1,938.0)	(4.9)	617.0	1.9	(1,185.0)	(2.0)

As at 31 March 2022, the Authority did not have any outstanding contributions to the North Yorkshire Pension Fund.

28. Contingent Liabilities

There are no contingent liabilities.

29. Investments and Loans

A short term loan was granted to Lune Rivers Trust in-year, as at 31st March 2022 the outstanding balance was £87k, repayment is due in 2022/23. The Lune Rivers Trust can borrow up to £160k at any one time to finance a joint rivers project.

Five loans to Broadband For the Rural North (B4RN) were outstanding as at 31st March 2022 totalling £56.5k, including £6.5k accrued interest. Three loans were repaid in year totalling £97.9k, including £21.7k accrued interest; the remaining loans are due to be repaid between 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Authority has shares of £72.7k with B4RN, being a £70k initial investment; interest accrued is used to buy more shares at £1 per share.

30. Expenditure by Nature

	2020/21	2021/22
	£000	**£000**
Expenditure		
Employee benefits expenses	4,687	4,951
Other services expenses	3,803	5,295
Depreciation, amortisation, impairment	675	265
Interest costs	104	112
Loss on the disposal of assets	(0)	1
Total Expenditure	**9,269**	**10,623**
Income		
Fees, charges and other contributions	(1,399)	(2,121)
Interest & investment income	(30)	(20)
Government Grants & Contributions	(6,591)	(7,335)
Total Income	**(8,020)**	**(9,475)**
Deficit on the provision of services	**1,249**	**1,148**

31. 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 2021/22 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. IFRS16 Finance Leases was to have been introduced in the 2020/21 code. However, CIPFA has since deferred the start date until 1 April 2024. The impact of IFRS 16 cannot yet reasonably be estimated and work will be undertaken to inform the impact on the 2024/25 Accounts. There are therefore no accounting changes due in 2021/22 that are anticipated to have a material effect on the Authority's financial performance or financial position.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

1. General

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2021/22 financial year and its position at the year end of 31 March 2022. 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. These practices comprise the 'Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22' supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2015 Act.

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.

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 £982k, and Contingency Reserves of £1,113k 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, the Authority is obliged to use its reserves to temporarily cover the shortfall.

The short-term available cash of £4.0m at the balance sheet date is sufficient to finance more than 5 months of expenditure at approximately £0.8m per month. During this period the Authority's forecasted cash position would remain in positive position.

2. 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.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include 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.

7. Post-Employment Benefits

Subject to certain qualifying criteria, employees are eligible to join the North Yorkshire Local Government Pension Scheme, administered by North Yorkshire County 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 return 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.

8. 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.

9. Treasury Management

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

10. 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.

11. Inventories

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

12. Leases

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

The leases are assessed according to the length and value of the lease, the responsibilities for maintenance and insurance, and the ability to purchase the asset at a reduced value at the end of the lease. All Authority leases have been classed as operating leases under the rules in IFRS standards on Leasing – IAS 17.

The Authority as a Lessee

The Authority has entered into leasing arrangements that are defined by The Code as operating leases. In these cases, the rentals payable are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefitting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

The Authority as a Lessor

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 Cost of Service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight line basis over the life of the lease.

13. 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.

14. Property Plant & 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.

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). North Yorkshire County Council last undertook a full market valuation of the Authority's land and buildings as at 31 March 2018; a full revaluation is required at least every five years.

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 no residual value at 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 2018. Interim desk top revaluations are completed each year to ensure assets are valued correctly; if there is a material difference in valuation, then this is reflected in the Accounts. For 2021/22, this exercise was undertaken by a MRICS-Registered Valuer employed by North Yorkshire County Council, using the guidance in the CIPFA 2021/22 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.

15. 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 £1k are not capitalised.

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

16. 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. The Authority has not identified any such contingent liabilities as at 31 March 2022.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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 at 31 March 2022 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. A 0.1% p.a. change in the discount rate assumption would result in an approximate net change of £992k plus or £947k minus. A 0.1% p.a. change in salary inflation would result in a net change of £180k plus or minus. A 0.1% change in the pension increase rate would result in a net change of £811k plus or £766k minus. A 1 year change to members' life expectancy would result in a net change of £1578k plus or £1578k minus.

Pension Assets	Estimated asset values can fluctuate with the markets.	There is potential that the asset values will not cover the obligations of the schemes liabilities. The fund has a triennial valuation where contribution rates are set to offset the risk the Pension will be underfunded.
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. Valuations can cause the asset values to fluctuate.	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.

20. 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.

21. VAT

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

22. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Chief Financial Officer on 06/07/22. 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 2022, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect the impact of the information.

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

IFRS16 Finance Leases was to have been introduced in the 2020/21 Code. However, CIPFA has since deferred the start date until 1 April 2024. There are therefore no accounting changes due in 2021/22 that are anticipated to have a material effect on the Authority's financial performance or financial position.

Annual Governance statement 2021/22

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 accounts to, engages with, and leads 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 2022 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 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 can be obtained from the

Monitoring Officer, 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 & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended) 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, transparency, equality, and impartiality
- Open and approachable: We will work with others honestly and openly 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 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 meetings of Committees (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, 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 an Employee Code of Conduct which include reference to the Nolan Principles, and procedures for declarations of interests. The Authority's Member Code of Conduct was reviewed in 2017, with a minor amendment made in March 2020 to include a new general obligation which requires Members to promote an inclusive and diverse culture in the Authority. The Employee Code of Conduct was last reviewed in 2018. The Authority's Member Officer Protocol which sets out guidance on the relationship between Members and officers was reviewed in March 2020 when the Authority also adopted a Social Media Protocol for Members.

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 has been extended until June 2024. Both Independent Persons have received training on their role and attend annual training.

The Standards Committee meets to consider complaints concerning Member conduct and has procedures in place for dealing with allegations. Those procedures include provisions for consulting the Independent Person at certain stages of the investigation. Guidance is available for Members and officers in relation to declaration of interests and gifts and hospitality. The Register of Interests for each Authority Member is published on the Authority's website.

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 2018 with amendments approved by the Audit & Review Committee.

The Authority also has a clear Policy in place for dealing with Complaints; this was 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 employs a Solicitor/Monitoring Officer, to advise on issues of ethical conduct and the lawfulness of decision making, and a Chief Financial Officer. The Deputy Monitoring Officer is also a Solicitor who attends and advises the Planning Committee. Together they are responsible for ensuring compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures, and that expenditure is lawful.

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, a statement of the powers delegated to Committees and officers, and a description of the role of Authority Members in governance arrangements.

The Authority has adopted procedures for 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 bolstered 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 2019 for the period 2019 - 2024.

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. Revisions are reported to the Audit & Review Committee and agreed by the full Authority. The Scheme of Delegation was reviewed in March 2021.

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 and the Chair of the Authority each have job 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 (2015).

The Authority is compliant with the CIPFA Statement on The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010). The Authority's Chief Financial Officer (s151 Officer) is the Director of Corporate Services, who sits on the Senior Management Team, 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 Monitoring Officer is a member of SMT, and 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 2021.

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 strategic risks to the Audit & Review Committee.

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 is in place (last reviewed in 2017) 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 that review key staff received appropriate training.

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). 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.

The overall opinion of the Internal Auditor on the controls operated by the Authority is that they provided **Substantial Assurance**. There were no significant control weaknesses which, in the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit, needed to be considered for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement. The Management actions agreed have been implemented.

q) Undertaking the core functions of an audit committee, as identified in the Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police (CIPFA, 2015).

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 (Ernst & Young) and promptly considers audit findings and recommendations.

The relationship with the External Auditor is supported by regular 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.

7. Conclusion

7.1 This AGS is based on the review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance undertaken in November 2021 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 2020/21 AGS and records the actions taken.

7.3 The preparation of the 2021/22 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 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement

Issue	Update on action taken
Review of Protected Landscapes - Glover Review	The Government published its response to the Landscapes Review on 15 January 2022 together with a consultation which closes on 9 April 2022. Members discussed the response at a policy development forum on 1 February 2022 and will agree the Authority's response to the consultation at the meeting of the Authority on 29 March 2022.
Local Plan	The Authority considered a report on local occupancy and residential barn conversion policy at the meeting of the Authority in December 2021. Members agreed to retain and extend the occupancy strategy out to the whole National park during the next Local Plan period 2023 – 2040 and to extend the criteria for occupancy targeted housing to make it more favourable to working age households. It was also agreed that the next Local Plan should only permit residential conversions for permanent occupancy rather than holiday letting uses. Following the publication of the Planning White Paper in August 2020, no decisions have yet been made by Government regarding changes to the Development Plan system in England. A further update is expected from government this Spring.
Reviews of corporate documents (strategies and policies), in line with the 5-year cycle of planned reviews; dates relate to Corporate Plan actions, 2020/21. (i) Data Protection Policy (May 2021) (ii) People Management Strategy (May 2021) (iii) Conclude examination of Politically Restricted Posts (August 2021) (iv) ICT Strategy (December 2021) (v) Property Strategy (December 2021) (vi) Complaints, Compliments and Comments (February 2022) (vii) Procurement Strategy (March 2022) (viii) Member Champion Guidance (March 2022)	(i) Completed April 2021 (ii) Completed May 2021 (iii) Completed September 2021 (iv) To be completed by December 2022 (v) Completed December 2021 (vi) Completed October 2021 (vii) Completed February 2022 (viii) Completed March 2022 (ix) Completed August 2021

(ix) Media Procedure and Protocol (March 2022) (x) Biodiversity Action Plan (March 2022)	(x) To be presented to Members at the Authority meeting in June 2022
CIPFA's Financial Management Code	
(i) Review our treatment of regular underspend 'carry-forward' budgets at year end, to ensure that the levels of such are appropriate and to identify any problems in the delivery timetable.	(i) Completed
(ii) Review the format of the management accounts, to ensure that it meets the Leadership Team's requirements.	(ii) Completed
(iii) Review the procurement component of Financial Regulations; any substantial changes to be supported by appropriate training for users.	(iii) Completed
(iv) Improve the understanding of relevant Officers about when the finance team should be consulted, to improve project design and management.	(iv) Completed
(v) Monitor the results from Equality Impact Assessments to demonstrate that that we have taken these into account when assessing the 'Equity' aspect of the Value for Money (VfM) of service delivery.	(v) Completed
(vi) Establish training needs for promoting financial literacy amongst Members and officers, and deliver training.	(vi) Completed on 13 December 2022
(vii) Consider how best to approach the matter of a Financial Resilience Assessment, identifying a solution that is appropriate and proportionate to our circumstances.	(vii) Completed
(viii) The next full revisions of our two Asset Management plans (IT, Property) will take into account the Code's Guidance Notes on this issue.	(viii) IT Strategy was updated and went to F&R Committee on 6 December 2022
(ix) For new programmes and other complex projects, improve the "option appraisal" aspect of the evaluation process. (Completed)	(ix) Completed
(x) Prepare a financial policy note which gives a comprehensive picture of the	(x) Completed

Authority's processes for managing balance sheet risk. (December 2021) (xi) The next Annual Governance Statement to include explicit mention of VfM issues, and the Authority's approach to these. (March 2022)	(xi) Completed
Coronavirus	The Authority has continued to take account of national guidance that has impacted on the Authority's governance arrangements and taken appropriate action.

TABLE B: Matters identified during the preparation of the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement

Issue	Explanation
Review of Protected Landscapes - Glover Review	The Government's response to the Landscapes Review published on 15 January includes a consultation on its response to the review which closes on 9 April 2022. Members will agree a response to the consultation at the meeting of the National Park Authority on 29 March 2022. The Government's response contains significant proposals which impact on the Governance of the Authority; specifically a review of the statutory purposes, amendments to the 1995 Environment Act and changes to Membership.
Local Plan	The next public consultation on the emerging Local Plan is anticipated in May This will invite comments on the Authority's preferred policies for the new Local Plan. A decision will also be made about the timetable and the process for consultation on housing site options.
Reviews of corporate documents (strategies and policies), in line with the 5-year cycle of planned reviews.	(i) Biodiversity Action Plan (June 2022) (ii) Access to Information Statement (August 2022) (iii) Enforcement Policy (September 2022) (iv) Anti- Fraud and Corruption Policy (September 2022) (v) Income Generation Strategy (September 2022) (vi) ICT Strategy (December 2022)
Member Training	Prepare an annual training plan for Members (including financial training). (April 2022)
Financial Sustainability	Carry out work to address Authority budget shortfalls.
People Management	Develop and implement an action plan following the recommendations from the Investors in People reassessment undertaken in 2021.
External Audit	Re-contract for external audit services through participating in the national Public Sector Audit Appointments procurement process. (December 2022)
Treasury Management Code and Prudential Code	Develop our approach to the revisions of these Codes published in December 2021 (which have their 'soft' launch' in 2022 and full implementation 2023/24). (March 2023)

Signed

Chair of the Authority
Neil Heseltine

Chief Executive
David Butterworth

Date 26 September 2023
On behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority.

26 September 2023

Ernst & Young
2 St Peter's Square
Manchester
M2 3DF
United Kingdom

This letter of representations is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority ("the Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2022. We recognise that obtaining representations from us concerning the information contained in this letter is a significant procedure in enabling you to form an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority as of 31 March 2022 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended in accordance with CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

We understand that the purpose of your audit of our financial statements is to express an opinion thereon and that your audit was conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), which involves an examination of the accounting system, internal control and related data to the extent you considered necessary in the circumstances, and is not designed to identify - nor necessarily be expected to disclose - all fraud, shortages, errors and other irregularities, should any exist.

Accordingly, we make the following representations, which are true to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as we considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing ourselves:

A. Financial Statements and Financial Records

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities, under the relevant statutory authorities, for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

2. We acknowledge, as members of management of the Authority, our responsibility for the fair presentation of the financial statements. We believe the financial statements referred to above give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance (or results of operations) and cash flows of the Authority in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/*22,* and are free of material misstatements, including omissions. We have approved the financial statements.

3. The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are appropriately described in the financial statements.

4. As members of management of the Authority, we believe that the Authority has a system of internal controls adequate to enable the preparation of accurate financial statements in accordance with the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22, that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. We have disclosed to you any significant changes in our processes, controls, policies

and procedures that we have made to address the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our system of internal controls.

5. We confirm the Authority does not have securities (debt or equity) listed on a recognised exchange

B. Non-compliance with law and regulations, including fraud

1. **We acknowledge that we are responsible to determine that the Authority's activities are conducted in accordance with laws and regulations and that we are responsible to identify and address any non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.**

2. We acknowledge that we are responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud.

3. We have disclosed to you the results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

4. We have no knowledge of any identified or suspected non-compliance with laws or regulations, including fraud that may have affected the Authority (regardless of the source or form and including without limitation, any allegations by "whistleblowers"), including non-compliance matters:

    - involving financial statements;
    - related to laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the Authority's financial statements;
    - related to laws and regulations that have an indirect effect on amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, but compliance with which may be fundamental to the operations of the Authority's activities, its ability to continue to operate, or to avoid material penalties;
    - involving management, or employees who have significant roles in internal controls, or others; or
    - in relation to any allegations of fraud, suspected fraud or other non-compliance with laws and regulations communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

C. Information Provided and Completeness of Information and Transactions

1. We have provided you with:

    - Access to all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other matters;
    - Additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
    - Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

2. All material transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and all material transactions, events and conditions are reflected in the financial statements, including those related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. We have made available to you all minutes of the meetings of the Authority and committees held through to the most recent meeting.

4. We confirm the completeness of information provided regarding the identification of related parties. We have disclosed to you the identity of the Authority's related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware, including sales, purchases, loans, transfers of assets, liabilities and services, leasing arrangements, guarantees, non-monetary transactions and transactions for no consideration for the period ended, as well as related balances due to or from such parties at the year end. These transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

5. We believe that the methods, significant assumptions and the data we used in making accounting estimates and related disclosures are appropriate and consistently applied to achieve recognition, measurement and disclosure that is in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

6. We have disclosed to you, and the Authority has complied with, all aspects of contractual agreements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance, including all covenants, conditions or other requirements of all outstanding debt.

7. From 27 April 2022, the date of our last management representation letter, through the date of this letter we have disclosed to you any unauthorized access to our information technology systems that either occurred or to the best of our knowledge is reasonably likely to have occurred based on our investigation, including of reports submitted to us by third parties (including regulatory agencies, law enforcement agencies and security consultants) , to the extent that such unauthorized access to our information technology systems is reasonably likely to have a material impact to the financial statements, in each case or in the aggregate.

D. Liabilities and Contingencies

1. All liabilities and contingencies, including those associated with guarantees, whether written or oral, have been disclosed to you and are appropriately reflected in the financial statements.

2. We have informed you of all outstanding and possible litigation and claims, whether or not they have been discussed with legal counsel.

3. We have recorded and/or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities related to litigation and claims, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed in the financial statements all guarantees that we have given to third parties.

E. Subsequent Events

1. There have been no events, including events related to the COVID-19 pandemic, subsequent to period end which require adjustment of or disclosure in the financial statements or notes thereto.

F. Other information

1. We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Statement of Accounts other than the Financial Statements and the Independent Auditor's Report.

2. We confirm that the content contained within the other information is consistent with the financial statements.

G. Going Concern

1. The notes to the Core financial statements disclose all the matters of which we are aware that are relevant to the Authority's ability to continue as a going concern, including significant conditions and events, our plans for future action, and the feasibility of those plans.

H. Retirement benefits

1. On the basis of the process established by us and having made appropriate enquiries, we are satisfied that the actuarial assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities are consistent with our knowledge of the business. All significant retirement benefits and all settlements and curtailments have been identified and properly accounted for.

I. Use of the Work of a Specialist – Pension Assets and Liabilities

1. We agree with the findings of the specialists that we engaged to evaluate the valuation of pension assets and liabilities and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

2. We agree with the findings of the specialists that we engaged to evaluate the valuation of land buildings and have adequately considered the qualifications of the specialists in determining the amounts and disclosures included in the financial statements and the underlying accounting records. We did not give or cause any instructions to be given to the specialists with respect to the values or amounts derived in an attempt to bias their work, and we are not otherwise aware of any matters that have had an effect on the independence or objectivity of the specialists.

J. Valuation of Pension Assets and Liabilities

1. We confirm that the significant judgments made in making the accounting estimate for the valuation of pension assets and liabilities have taken into account all relevant information and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic of which we are aware.

2. We believe that the selection or application of the methods, assumptions and data used by us have been consistently and appropriately applied or used in making the accounting estimate for the valuation of pension assets and liabilities.

3. We confirm that the significant assumptions used in making the accounting estimate for the valuation of pension assets and liabilities appropriately reflect our intent and ability to carry out *the specific courses of action* on behalf of the entity.

4. We confirm that the disclosures made in the financial statements with respect to the accounting estimate(s), including those describing estimation uncertainty and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, are complete and are reasonable in the context of the CIPFA LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22.

5. We confirm that appropriate specialized skills or expertise has been applied in making the accounting estimate for the valuation of pension assets and liabilities.

6. We confirm that no adjustments are required to the accounting estimate(s) and disclosures in the financial statements, including due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

K. Reserves

1. We have properly recorded or disclosed in the financial statements the useable and unusable reserves.

Yours faithfully,

Clare Burrows
(Monitoring Officer)

Neil Heseltine
(Chair of the Authority)

Yoredale, Bainbridge,
Leyburn, North Yorkshire, DL8 3EL
Tel: 0300 456 0030 or **01969 652300**
Fax: 01969 652399
Website: www.yorkshiredales.org.uk
E-mail: info@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Chief Executive: David Butterworth