1. Statement of Main Accounting Policies

1.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's consolidated group account transactions for the 2019/2020 financial year and its position at the year-end on 31 March 2020. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which those Regulations require to be prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/2020 (the Code), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The Statement of Accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis of accounting on the assumption that the functions of the Council will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Chief Finance Officer reviews the Accounting Policies to give assurance that there are no material changes to those previously approved for the financial year.

The Group Accounts consolidate the accounts of the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest (see 1.22). The accounts for these Trusts are prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2015, and applicable regulations.

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is historical cost with the exception of the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

The notes to the accounts represent the single entity accounts but have been supplemented by additional notes incorporating group transactions where the activity is material.

1.2 Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract. However, as the Council borrowings and investments are either of a short duration or have fixed-interest rates, the 'effective interest rate' accounting method is generally equal to the fixed contractual cash flows on a single investment.

- 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 on the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected. The de minimis for the accrual of a single item is £1,000.

- Revenue from council tax and business rates is measured at the full amount receivable (net of any impairment losses) as they are non-contractual, non-exchange transactions and there can be no difference between the delivery and payment dates.

- Where the amount of an item of revenue or expenditure relating to the financial year is not known at the 31 March, estimation techniques are applied to ensure that the accounts reflect the most likely position.

1.3 Council Tax and Business Rates

Billing authorities act as agents, collecting Council Tax and Business Rates on behalf of the major preceptors (including Central Government for Business Rates), and as principals, collecting Council Tax and Business Rates for themselves. Billing authorities are required by statute to maintain a separate fund (the Collection Fund) for the collection and distribution of amounts due in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates. Under the legislative framework for the Collection Fund, billing authorities, major preceptors and central government share proportionately the risks and rewards that the amount of Council Tax and Business Rates collected could be less or more than estimated.

Accounting for Council Tax and Business Rates

The Council Tax and Business Rates income included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) is the Council's share of accrued income for the year. Regulations, however, determine the amount of Council Tax and Business Rates that must be included in the Council's General Fund. The difference, therefore, between the income included in the CIES and the amount required by regulation to be credited to the General Fund is taken to the Collection Fund Adjustment Account and included as a reconciling item in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet includes the Council's share of the end of year balances in respect of Council Tax and Business Rates relating to arrears, impairment allowances for bad debts, overpayments, prepayments and appeals.

Where debtor balances for the above are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the statutory arrangements will not be made (fixed or determinable payments), the asset is written down and a charge made to the Collection Fund. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the revised future cash flows.

1.4 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, in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy, investments identified as meeting short-term needs rather than for investment purposes. They are identified as those held 'on call' with a bank or building society rather than invested in longer term Fixed Deposits. They are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

Cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management. Bank overdrafts will also form part of cash and cash equivalents where the bank balance fluctuates between cash in hand and cash overdrawn between years.

1.5 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, ie 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 Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

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

1.6 Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets

Non-Current Assets are all Property, Plant, Equipment, Intangible and other assets that bring longer term benefits (for a period of more than one year) to the Council, its customers and the services it provides.

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
- revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- amortisation of intangible assets attributable to the service

The Council is not required to raise council tax to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisation. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are, therefore, replaced by a contribution in the General Fund Balance of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The General Fund is required to make an annual contribution from revenue towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement of an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance. This is called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP).

1.7 Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable during Employment

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

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy. These are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service, or where applicable, to a corporate service segment in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructure.

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

Post Employment Benefits

Most employees of the Council are members of the statutory Local Government Pension Scheme administered by Surrey County Council (the Surrey Pension Fund). This scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and annual pensions), earned while employees of the Council.

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

- The liabilities of the Surrey Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – ie 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 projected earnings for current employees.

- Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.3% in 2019/2020.

- The assets of the Pension Fund attributed to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

  - quoted securities – current bid price
  - unquoted securities – professional estimate
  - unitised securities – current bid price
  - property – market value

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

- Service cost comprising:

  - 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 as a result of a scheme amendment or curtailment 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 the Finance and Property Services segment. Annual pension increases are calculated using CPI.
  - net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset), ie net interest expense for the Council – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability (asset) at the beginning of the period - taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability (asset) during the period as a result of contribution and benefit payments.

- Remeasurements comprising:

  - the return on plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
  - actuarial gains and losses - changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

- Contributions paid to the pension fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the pension fund in settlement of liabilities - not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund Balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council 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 transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

1.8 Events after the Reporting Period

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

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

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

1.9 Financial Instruments

The definition of a financial instrument is "any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity".

The term 'financial instrument' covers both financial assets and financial liabilities. These range from straightforward trade receivables (trade debtors) and trade payables (trade creditors) to more complex transactions such as financial guarantees, derivatives and embedded derivatives. The Council's borrowings and investment transactions are also classified as financial instruments. There has been no change in the valuation technique used during the year for the financial instruments. Amounts relating to council tax, business rates and payments and overpayments of Housing Benefit etc are outside the scope of these accounting provisions as they are statutory debts and do not arise from contracts.

Financial Liabilities

A Financial Liability is an obligation to transfer economic benefits controlled by the Council that is represented by a contractual obligation to deliver cash or another financial assets to another entity or an obligation to exchange financial assets and liabilities with another entity under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the Council.

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For the Council's borrowing, this means that the amount presented on the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Borrowing costs are interest payments and other costs incurred in connection with the borrowing of funds. The Council has a policy of expensing borrowing costs and they are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account Balance to be spread over future years.

Financial Assets

A financial asset is a right to future economic benefits controlled by the Council that are represented by cash or other instruments or a contractual right to receive cash or another financial asset.

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

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

The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (ie where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the balance sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement. However, at the 31 March the interest due but not received is included with the investment figure shown on the Balance Sheet, rather than treated as a debtor.

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

The Council's portfolio of investments and Trade Receivables are measured at amortised cost. This form of measurement does not change the amount of cash receivable under the terms of the transaction.

Expected Credit Loss Model

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost (or where relevant FVOCI), either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit and Loss

The Council does not have any material assets on its Balance Sheet classified required to be measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss.

1.10 Government Grants and Contributions

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

- the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments; and

- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due to the Council are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

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

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund or Housing Revenue Account 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. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

Grants to cover general expenditure, eg retained Business Rate income and New Homes Bonus are non-ring-fenced and are credited to Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The Council approved its Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Scheme to take effect from March 2019. The levy will be charged on new builds (chargeable developments for the Council) with appropriate planning consent. The Council charges for and collects the levy, which is a planning charge. The income from the levy will be used to fund a number of infrastructure projects to support the development of the area.

The CIL is received without outstanding conditions. It is therefore recognised at the commencement date of the chargeable development in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in accordance with the accounting policy for government grants and contributions set out above. CIL charges will be largely used to fund capital expenditure. However, up to 5% of the charges may be used to fund revenue expenditure for administration expenses.

1.11 Heritage Assets

Heritage assets are assets held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture and are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geological or environmental associations. Provided that they meet this definition, heritage assets can be tangible such as historic buildings, civic regalia, museum collections and works of art or intangible such as recordings of historical events.

The carrying amounts of heritage assets are reviewed where there is evidence of impairment, eg where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise as to its authenticity. Any impairment is recognised and measured in accordance with the Council's general policies on impairment – see 1.17 page 33 in this Statement of Main Accounting Policies. If a heritage asset is disposed of, the proceeds would be accounted for in accordance with the Council's general provisions relating to the disposal of property, plant and equipment.

Disposal proceeds are disclosed separately in the notes to the financial statements and are accounted for in accordance with statutory accounting requirements relating to capital expenditure and capital receipts (see 1.17 page 34).

Recognition and Measurement: Heritage assets are recognised and measured (including the treatment of revaluation gains and losses) in accordance with the Council's accounting policies on property, plant and equipment. They are principally measured at insurance valuation based on market value updated annually or external valuation if appropriate.

The Council has set a de minimis level for the recognition of heritage assets of £5,000.

Depreciation: Most of the heritage assets are not subject to depreciation because of indeterminable lives, high residual values or the valuations being updated annually. However, depreciation may be charged if appropriate and in accordance with the Council's general policies on depreciation shown at 1.17 on page 33.

1.12 Interests in Companies and Other Entities

The Council, as sole Trustee, has a material interest in the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest. According to the Code both are considered a subsidiary for the purpose of preparing this Statement of Accounts and, therefore, the Council is required to produce group accounts incorporating the accounts of the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest.

1.13 Long-term Contracts

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

1.14 Investment Property

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale. In such cases the asset is then accounted for as property, plant and equipment.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. As a non-financial asset, Investment Properties are measured at highest and best use. They are not depreciated but are revalued annually, by the Council's valuer, according to market conditions at the year-end unless the carrying value is not materially different from the fair value. Gains and losses on revaluation are accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £10,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

1.15 Leases

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

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets.

The Council as Lessee

Finance Leases

The Council has no material assets acquired under finance leases.

Operating Leases

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

The Council leases in a small number of assets under operating leases.

The Council as Lessor

Finance Leases

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance

Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line on the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (ie netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease (long-term debtor) asset in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor (together with any premiums received), and
- finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are received, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

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

Operating Leases

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained on the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to Net Cost of Services or Investment Properties in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (eg there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

The Council owns a number of non-current assets that are leased out under operating leases.

1.16 Overheads and Support Services

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to service segments in accordance with the Council's arrangements for accountability and financial performance. The HRA element is charged to the HRA revenue account.

1.17 Property, Plant and Equipment

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

Recognition: Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council 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 (ie repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred.
The Council has a de minimis level for the recognition of non-current assets of £5,000 for vehicles, plant and equipment (including Information Technology equipment) and £10,000 for land and buildings.

Component Accounting: this requires assets to be separated into component parts and recognised, depreciated and derecognised separately where those component parts have a cost that is significant in relation to the total cost of the asset and require a different useful life and method of depreciation to be used.

Measurement: Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:
- The purchase price.
- Any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

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

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

- Infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost.
- Dwellings - current value, determined using the basis of Existing Use Value for Social Housing (EUV-SH).
- Land and buildings – current value, determined as the amount that would be paid for the asset in its existing use (existing use value EUV).
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment – depreciated historical cost.
- Surplus assets – the current value measurement base is fair value, estimated at highest and best use from a market participant's perspective.

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

Council Dwellings and land and buildings were valued in accordance with the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) http://www.rics.org/uk/ Statement of Asset Valuation Practice and Guidance Notes (Red Book) as supplemented by the Manual of Valuation (White Book) by the Council's valuer who is RICS qualified.

Assets included in the Balance Sheet at current value are revalued regularly, and as a minimum every five years, to ensure that their carrying amount is not materially different from their fair value at the year-end. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

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

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

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

The de minimis level for land and buildings is £10,000 and vehicles, plant and equipment £5,000.

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

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for as follows:

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

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

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

Depreciation is charged to the services that receive the benefit of the assets during the year. It is reversed out of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- Council Dwellings – componentised basis for dwelling stock valued on replacement cost of each component.
- Buildings (General Fund and HRA non dwelling) – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the property as estimated by the valuer.
- Vehicles, Plant and Equipment – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset.
- Infrastructure – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset.
- Surplus Assets – straight-line allocation over the useful life of the asset as estimated by the valuer.

Depreciation on HRA assets – depreciation is charged in accordance with proper practices to the HRA. The Code requires an amount equal to the total depreciation charge for all HRA assets to be transferred to the Major Repairs Reserve (MRR) to establish resources available for capital spend on HRA assets. This is transacted through the Movement in Reserves Statement to remove the impact on the HRA.

The estimated useful lives for depreciation purposes are reviewed on revaluation and when assets are coming to the end of their current useful life. Estimated useful lives are updated, if appropriate, and the new estimated useful life used to calculate the depreciation charge for the year by dividing the carrying value of the asset over the new estimated useful life. Where useful lives have been changed in 2019/2020, the effect on the depreciation charge for the year is immaterial.

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components with a significant cost in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

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.

Newly acquired/enhanced assets receive a full depreciation charge in their first year, regardless of the precise timing of the expenditure. Assets disposed of receive no depreciation charge in the year of disposal.

Following a revaluation, a full year of depreciation is charged in the year of revaluation on the new valuation.

Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale: When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and is then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previous losses recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

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

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

When an asset is disposed of or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (ie netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts received for a disposal in excess of £10,000 are categorised as capital receipts. A proportion of capital receipts relating to housing disposals is payable to the Government. The balance of receipts remains within the Capital Receipts Reserve, and can then only be used for new capital investment or set aside to reduce the Council's underlying need to borrow (the capital financing requirement). Receipts are appropriated to the Capital Receipts Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

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

1.18 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

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

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the

Balance Sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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

The Council has a provision for losses on backdated Business Rate appeals that would be unavoidable costs if the District Valuer upheld appeals.

Waverley sets an amount aside from revenue to meet potential bad debts but this does not meet the definition of a provision.

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

Contingent liabilities are not recognised on the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

Contingent Assets: A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council.

Contingent assets are not recognised on the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

1.19 Reserves

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back to the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against council tax for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets and retirement benefits - they do not represent usable resources for the Council. These reserves are detailed in the notes to the financial statements on page 61.

1.20 Value Added Tax (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.

1.21 Fair Value Measurement

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

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

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

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

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

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

Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the Council can access at the measurement date

Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly

Level 3 - unobservable inputs for the asset.

1.22 Group Accounts

Nature of Interest: The Group Accounts consolidate the accounts of the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest in the form of a subsidiary relationship as the Council is the sole trustee of both and has the ability to direct the operating and financial policies (within Trust objectives) with a view to gaining service potential from the activities undertaken by the Trusts.

Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust (Haslemere Leisure Centre) is an important part of the Council's Leisure provision. In 2008 the Council entered into a 15 year management contract for the operation of this centre.

The Ewart Bequest owns land at Farnham on which are built small dwellings suitable for elderly people of limited financial resources. It is an important part of the Council's housing service.

Basis of Consolidation: The Group Accounts have been prepared on the basis of a full consolidation of the financial transactions and balances of the Council, the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest, each having a year-end of 31 March 2020.

The assets of the trust are revalued in line with the accounting policies at 1.17.

Degree of Commitment: The Council performs a role of stewardship over the charitable trusts included in the Group Accounts. As such it has a degree of commitment to meet any accumulated deficits or losses. However, the risks associated with this commitment are not considered material.

Trust Accounts: The annual report and accounts for the Trusts are prepared in accordance with The Charities Act 2015, and applicable regulations. The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheets for the Trust Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 are included on pages 92 to 95 for information.

The full charity accounts are subject to audit/review according to audit thresholds. For the 2019/2020 accounts both the Shottermill Recreation Ground Trust and the Ewart Bequest are subject to independent review. The accounts can be obtained from the Charity Commission website: http://apps.charitycommission.gov.uk/showcharity/registerofcharities/RegisterHomePage.aspx or Waverley Borough Council.

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

The Council is required to disclose information relating to the impact of an accounting change required by a new standard that has been issued, but not yet adopted, in the 2019/2020 financial statements.

For the 2019/2020 accounts the accounting changes to disclose are in relation to:

- IFRS16 Leases – the recognition of 'right of use' assets on the Balance Sheet for lessees. The CIPFA/LASAAC Local Authority Accounting Code Board (CIPFA/LASAAC) has agreed to defer the implementation of IFRS 16 Leases for one year in-line with the government's Financial Reporting Advisory Board's proposals for central government departments. This will mean the effective date for implementation is 1 April 2021.

- IAS19 Employee Benefits - relating to plan amendment, curtailment or settlement. This amendment has been adopted in the 2020/21 Code and will therefore be applicable for the 2020/21 financial year reporting.

- Amendments to IAS28 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures: Long-term Interests in Associates and Joint Ventures

- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2015-2017 Cycle

- IAS1/IAS 8 Changes on the definition of Materiality

These accounting changes are not anticipated to have a material impact on the financial statements of the Council.