



Northumberland National Park Authority

Statement of Accounts

**For the year ended
31st March 2017**

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Summary of the 2016/17 Financial Year

Overview

In 2016/17 the Authority made significant progress in delivering its future plans with substantial investment in a number of key areas. Expenditure this year was significantly increased as a result of capital expenditure on the Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre. With the significant focus on such a large project, it is pleasing to report that the Authority has continued to invest resources and achieve across a broad programme of work, completing 81% of the actions set out in our 2016/17 annual work programme. This demonstrates that the Authority has delivered a balanced work programme during a time when significant focus was required during the construction phase of The Sill.

Overall this performance continues to represent a significant achievement and positive impact in the National Park, its communities and businesses.

Key Investments and Income

The highlight of the year has been the construction of The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre at the old Once Brewed site on Hadrian's Wall. The construction of the building was completed in June 2017 and the centre will open to the public in July 2017. The project was awarded a £7,748,000 grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2014/15. Prior to the start of this financial year, a total of £2,496,000 of funding had been received by the Authority in respect of the project. In 2016/17: £4,275,500 of Heritage Lottery Funds; a £500,000 Capital grant from Northumberland County Council and £28,000 of Youth Hostel Association funds were received. An additional £260,000 of charitable and philanthropic funds were drawn down in the year via the Northumberland National Park Foundation, taking the total funds received at the Balance Sheet date to £7,559,500. A long term loan of £1,208,000 was drawn down in the financial year from the Public Works Loan Board to further support the Capital build.

Further funding has been pledged from philanthropic and charitable sources. Fundraising will continue over the 5 years of the project in order to maximise the impact of The Sill and transform how people of all ages understand and explore the landscapes, history and heritage of Northumberland and the wider region.

The Authority continues to focus on improving commercial income generation, access to grants and philanthropic fund raising. Key to this has been work towards delivering our commercial income strategy, which was again substantially achieved for the year. In 2015/16, the Government extended 'Power of Competence' to the Authority which provides new opportunities for the Authority to explore

future income generation and we are continuing to investigate new ways in which we can use this new power to support the aims of the Authority.

Financial Performance

The financial performance in 2016/17 saw a Budget deficit outturn of £854,500 which decreased the General Fund reserves balance by £505,500 and reduced the capital grants unapplied reserve of £349,000 to nil. The Authority had taken significant action in prior years to reduce its ongoing costs in response to cuts in National Park grant and as a result its net operating expenditure of £2,396,000 was only 94% of National Park grant. The net operating surplus of £223,500, plus interest receivable of £14,000 was used to finance £237,500 of net project expenditure. A further £14,500 of project expenditure, together with Capital expenditure of £474,500 and loan interest payable of £16,500 was funded from reserves, reducing the General Fund balance by £505,500.

The Authority's long term pension liability increased by £450,000 to £3,400,000 following the Scheme's actuary's latest review. This is a long term funding liability and the Authority is continuing to reduce its historical liability with fixed annual payments of £58,500 per annum.

During the year the General Fund and Useable Reserves decreased by £854,500 to £1,640,000; however after allowing for earmarked reserves and the capital grants unapplied account the overall level of unallocated reserves increased by £10,000 to £1,116,500. The unallocated reserves allow the Authority to manage the budget timing differences arising from The Sill project and allow the Authority to invest in the next 3 year business plan from March 2017.

Summary

The Authority has in 2016/17 undertaken planned investment on the largest capital project ever undertaken by this Authority. This project has been delivered in line with budget and the Authority has in parallel resourced the highest level of achievement of its broader work programme for the past 3 years.

With stable funding from Government, a solid platform established for commercial income generation and continued development of its fundraising programme, the Authority is well positioned to take forward the priorities set out within its new Business Plan 2017-2021.

Tony Gates,
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

Further details on our plans and performance are provided within the reports that can be found on the Authority's website at:

<http://www.northumberlandnationalpark.org.uk>

Explanatory Foreword

INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The purpose of this foreword is to provide a clear and understandable guide to the most significant matters reported in the financial statements.

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement summarises the resources that have been generated and consumed in providing services and managing the Authority during the current and prior year. It also brings together all the gains and losses of the Authority for the year and shows the aggregate increase or decrease in net worth.

Movement in Reserves Statement

This statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and other reserves. The Surplus or (Deficit) 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. These are different to the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance.

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Authority. The net assets of the Authority (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves; that is those reserves that the Authority may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves is those that the Authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example 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 in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

Cash Flow Statement

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

Statement of Accounting Policies

Discloses the accounting policies used by the National Park Authority in compiling the financial statements.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This statement demonstrates how the funding available to the Authority for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated between the Authority's service headings.

Notes to the Accounts

Disclose more detailed information on the figures provided in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Before explaining the 2016/17 financial results it is appropriate to detail the current status of The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre. This is a major project which will have a significant impact on the Authority's accounts, particularly during the capital build phase of the project.

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre

The Sill is a bold, ambitious project that will transform how people of all ages understand and explore the landscapes, history and heritage of Northumberland and the wider North East. The Sill will be the UK's first dedicated landscape discovery centre and will form a gateway from which extensive learning, participation and research activities will be provided. It will become a leading education facility for landscape, conservation, countryside management, leisure, and tourism skills. A major purpose of The Sill is to enable the landscapes of Northumberland National Park and surrounding Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty to be opened up to a broad range of new audiences, including disadvantaged children, families, older people, disabled people and those less confident at exploring natural places.

The Sill will attract more than 100,000 visitors each year to a fully accessible, sustainable, all weather, all year-round landscape interpretation centre that also offers low cost YHA accommodation, retail and café facilities. As well as providing a building with all the facilities expected from modern day visitors The Sill will offer a comprehensive programme of interpretation, education and participation activities that will inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to celebrate value and conserve the unique natural and cultural features of the landscape. The centre will also deliver substantial economic benefits to the area, including a Rural Growth Business Hub to support the development of rural enterprises. Through its wide range of activities and operations The Sill will offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities which will strengthen links with local and regional communities through increased participation opportunities.

Total capital, in-kind and revenue costs for developing The Sill are £15.3m.

2016/17 Financial Results

Income in the Comprehensive Income & Expenditure Statement

The Authority's main source of income is National Park Grant from the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) which, at £2,539,600, amounted to 26% of its total income and 70% of its total non capital income in 2016/17. The Authority has been informed that National Park Grant will be protected for the next 3 years, including a modest annual inflation increase.

Income for many new projects and services continues to be dependent on gaining external grant aid and other sources of income. Greater management focus continues on improving commercial income generation and philanthropic fund raising as a way of offsetting the impact of cuts in National Park Grant and allowing the Authority to continue to deliver its ambitions. One key action to achieve this, has been to support the establishment of the Northumberland National Park Charitable Foundation, a charitable company limited by guarantee, which raises charitable funds to support projects which help to achieve objectives for the National Park. The Authority has provided support to set up of the Charitable Foundation however its Trustees and governance are fully independent of the Northumberland National Park Authority. The Foundation is fully approved by the Charity Commission, registration number 1161156. £260,240 of funds raised by the Foundation in 2016/17 were paid to the Authority in the Financial Year to support The Sill project and £50,000 was paid to support the restoration of sections of the footpath on Simonside.

Gross income to support the net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year was £1,074,314. This was £18,555 higher than the previous year due to a £45,185 increase in External Grants and a £26,630 decrease in Sales, fees and charges. An explanation is given below.

External Grant Income

The increase in grant income was made up of a number of year on year movements. The most significant movements are highlighted below.

- An increase of £305,457 in The Hadrian's Wall Cavalry project. 2015/16 was the first year of the project with the main delivery programmed in 2016/17 and 2017/18, and as a result the Arts Council grant funding increased. Match funding was also secured from other sources.
- A decrease of £327,927 in The Sill funding allocated to revenue. This is because the majority of funding received in the year pertaining to The Sill was recognised as capital funding during the construction phase of the project.
- £35,495 new burden funding received from the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2016/17 (none in 2015/16) in recognition of additional statutory requirements arising from the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 and The Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- £50,000 received in 2016/17 from The Community Foundation for the restoration of the footpath on Simonside.

Other income

The decrease in Sales, fees and charges income is made up of a number of year on year movements. The most significant movements are as follows;

- A Decrease in Visitor centre trading Income of £12,495. This is due to the Authority's retail and information centre at Once Brewed closing in September 2015 and a smaller, temporary Visitor centre facility being run from Walltown Kiosk until the opening of The Sill.
- A Drop in income from outsourcing NNPA staff expertise of £18,551, where the opportunities in any given year vary depending on partners requirements and budget.
- Income from Rents Receivable and Room Hire increased by £8,091. This is in respect of 100% occupancy of the Enterprise Hubs and offices, and increased demand for meeting room hire at the head office.

Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The gross Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement increased by £472,216 to £3,811,776; this increase was after a favourable year-on-year asset revaluation movement of £10,340 and an adverse year-on-year IAS19 pension cost movement of £10,000; excluding both of those adjustments the underlying gross Cost of Services increased by £472,556.

The notable reasons for this increase in expenditure are shown as follows:

Staff Costs

- Employee expenses have increased by £215,960 to £2,311,391. Of this increase, £10,000 relates to an IAS19 pension cost movement and £17,900 relates to an increase in the accumulated absence accrual. If these movements are disregarded, the increase is £188,060. The scale of the increase is due to the Authority expanding its staff base to manage The Sill project. In 2016/17 when The Sill becomes operational, staff costs will increase further.

Other costs

Non staff costs have increased year on year by £256,258. This is in the main due to an increase in project costs, in particular;

- An increase of £265,427 in costs relating to the Hadrian's Wall Cavalry project, 2015/16 was the first year of the project with the main delivery programmed in 2016/17 and 2017/18 and thus higher expenditure and income.
- An increase in revenue costs relating to the management of The Sill Project.

Total net operating expenditure for the year was £2,737,462; this was an increase of £453,661 on the previous year reflecting the increases in operating costs detailed above and the modest increase in operating income.

Finance and investment income at £14,240 increased by £1,116 during the year, this was due to timing differences between the receipt of loan funds for The Sill and the capital spend.

Finance and investment net expenditure at £92,250, increased by £5,374. This was made up of a positive IAS19 pension cost movement of £10,000 and a loan interest charge of £16,490. No loan interest was charged to expenditure in 2015/16.

Non specific grant income at £7,576,538 was £2,939,166 higher than the previous year due to higher capital grants of £2,896,239 raised for The Sill project together with a modest inflationary increase (1.7%) in National Park Grant.

Capital Expenditure and Assets Revaluations

During the year the Authority had capital expenditure of £7,045,604, full details are provided in note 24 of the accounts (Property Plant and Equipment).

£6,801,730 was spent during the year on the construction of The Sill building and £187,726 on fixtures and fittings.

£31,576 was spent on a new boiler at Eastburn and £13,551 towards car park ticket machines which was included as work in progress as at 31st March 2017.

£11,021 was spent on Final payments in respect of the completed capital works at Housesteads Car Park and Bulby's wood.

Pensions Reserve

The deficit on the Authority's Pension Reserve was increased by £450,000 to £3,400,000 reflecting the latest actuarial statement as detailed in note 12 (Unusable Reserves). The Pension Reserve is a non cash reserve which reflects a long term funding issue to be resolved by all Local Authorities.

Usable and Earmarked Reserves

During the year the level of Usable Reserves decreased by £854,469 to £1,640,324. The £854,469 movement reflects the Outturn Budget Net Expenditure. Of the £854,469 decrease in Usable Reserves £505,550 decreases the General Fund as revenue budget deficit and £348,919 is reversed out of the Capital Grants Unapplied reserve. This reflects the application of the prior year surplus of The Sill capital funding over expenditure.

The General Fund balance of £1,640,324 would reduce to £1,116,424 if all the Earmarked Reserves totalling £523,900 detailed in note 10 were utilised.

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

Responsibilities of the National Park Authority

The National Park Authority is required to:

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

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

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

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial Officer has:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent; and
- complied with the Local Authority Code.

The Chief Financial Officer has also:

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

Statement by the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that this Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Northumberland National Park Authority at the reporting date and its expenditure and income for the year ended 31st March 2017.

..... Chief Financial Officer

..... Date

Governance Statement

Introduction

Northumberland National Park Authority is required to undertake proper practices in relation to its accounts as defined by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. Thus an Annual Governance Statement is required for the year ending 31st March 2017. This needs to be produced alongside the Annual Accounts and be reviewed by the full Authority or a committee of the Authority. To assist this process the Finance and Audit Group (a working group and not a committee) discuss details with the relevant staff prior to consideration by the full Authority.

Scope

The Authority is responsible for ensuring its business is conducted in accordance with statutory standards and professional guidance and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory responsibility on the Authority to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are delivered. Therefore the Authority is responsible for ensuring a sound system of internal control is in place to facilitate the delivery of its functions, make arrangements to manage the risk, and to review its work to ensure that it is being delivered in an efficient and effective manner.

The Purpose of the Annual Governance Statement

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Authority's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised, the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. Risk is managed within the framework and risk appetite set by the Authority.

The system of internal control has been in place for the year ended 31st March 2017 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts and accords with proper practice.

The Internal Control Environment

Establishing and monitoring the achievement of the Authority's objectives

Medium Term Vision and 5 Year Framework

The Authority has a hierarchy of plans, headed by a statutory National Park Management Plan which sets a framework for its work for the next 20 years, with a planned review after 5 years. The Management Plan was reviewed in 2015/16 and a new Plan was adopted by the Authority in March 2016 and published in June 2016. The Management Plan sets out a vision and strategic aims for the National Park which are cascaded into outcomes and objectives for a 5 year period for the National Park Authority and its partners.

Each year the **National Park Management Plan Partnership** (consisting of key public bodies and other stakeholders) agrees a **National Park Management Plan Annual Action Plan** which incorporates the work programmes of partners. In addition to guiding the actions of the Partnership, the Management Plan 2016-21 guides the corporate priorities of the Authority as set out in the Business Plan for the Authority (2017 to 2021).

2017-2021 Business Plan

The **Business Plan** is used to provide a medium term framework for the National Park Authority's work programmes and to define the corporate priorities of the Authority.

The first three-years Business Plan align with the Medium-Term Budget Plan set across three years and agreed in March each year.

Operational Plan (Annual Work Programme)

An **Operational Plan** is prepared annually alongside the annual budget plan. It sets out the detailed annual work programme to deliver the Business Plan (and by extension the National Park Management Plan). These actions provide the detail for individual manager and staff work plans.

Governance, Policy and decision making

All internal policy is made by the Full Authority Board. Policy development is led within the departments and this work is always sponsored by a Head of Department or the Chief Executive. The development of policy is assisted by member policy conferences and is supported and informed by task and finish working groups of members, staff and partners. These informal conferences and groups report their findings and advice to the National Park Authority. All the members of the Authority are therefore able to take part in deciding policy. All key policy decisions are recorded in official and publicly available minutes.

Decision making is regulated by the Authority's Standing Orders, Scheme of Delegation, Financial Regulations and member and officer Codes of Conduct. The Scheme of Delegation is reviewed annually to ensure it is fit for purpose and takes account of legislative change.

The decision-making process benefits from high level legal and financial advice via the Chief Financial Officer, Monitoring Officer, internal audit service and external legal advisers and specialists. The Chief Executive ensures that the Authority has access to professional services from within and outside the staffing structure to provide specialist policy and legislative advice in key areas such as finance, human resources, health and safety, property and estates, development management, forward planning, historic buildings, ecology, archaeology and recreational access.

The £15.3m Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre Project is supported by a team of external specialists, who regularly report to senior management via the Sill Steering Group and the members via the Sill Project Board, including the key delivery partner the Youth Hostel Association. The Sill Project Board has delegated authority to take decisions and a full scheme of delegation is in place to provide strong and effective governance of this exceptional project.

Identifying, assessing and monitoring risks

The Authority manages risk through the **Strategic Risk Register**, which identifies areas of highest strategic risk over the period of the Business Plan. The Risk appetite is set by members of the Authority. The risk items are reviewed annually and actions are incorporated, via the Operational Plan, into work programmes including priority actions for senior managers. The management of the highest risks are reported to the Authority on a quarterly basis. In addition the Authority has separate programmes to address human resources and staff well-being, health and safety, local resilience, business continuity and equality.

Internal Audit is focussed on corporate risk and systems of control. This is high level advice which is in part influenced by the overall assurance framework but also takes account of the key control systems which underpin an efficient and effective organisation e.g. corporate governance and budgetary control. The work programme for internal audit is set by the Authority with advice from the Finance and Audit Group.

All new initiatives, which are outside of the annual Operational Plan, are discussed by the

Leadership Team before the project can be developed into a fully designed proposal. This control system allows new opportunities to be assessed against agreed priorities and targets and to assess their opportunity costs and benefits.

The Authority delivers continuing improvement through the work of its Review Panel. The Review Panel routinely uses independent members and expertise to bring fresh perspective on the delivery and improvement of its work. This process provides a programme with a level of internal support and challenge as part of the Authority's overall assurance framework. This is aligned with the Strategic Risk Register, however, aim to deliver recommendations for continued improvement of the Authorities work.

In accordance with its statutory responsibilities, the Authority has in place a Health and Safety Policy, related procedures and has an annual Health and Safety Action Plan which is regularly reviewed by the Authority. The facilitation and enabling of effective health and safety is supported by an employee Health and Safety Working Group.

Continuous Improvement: Ensuring economical, effective and efficient use of resources

Improvement Planning

The Authority has not been subject to a peer led review process since 2010. Since this time the Authority has re-engineered its delivery model to become more entrepreneurial and deliver more self generated income.

Efficiency

The Authority regularly market-tests many of its procured services; including property services, legal services and internal audit. The Authority's purchasing strategy is being used to drive improved services where the essential criterion is based on gaining best value and not just lowest cost service provision. These services will be market tested again in 2017/18.

Salary and associated employment direct costs for non project staff are the most significant resource for the Authority accounting for 73% of National Park Grant. The Authority aims to continually develop its staff and has been recognised as an Investor in People for over 15 years, with regular surveys showing increasingly enhanced levels of staff engagement. High levels of staff engagement with sickness at 3 days (1.5 days short term sickness) per member of staff, well below the public sector average at 8.5 days. An Organisation Development Strategy is in place and is regularly reviewed by the Authority.

The Authority achieves many of its objectives working with others in the private, public and voluntary sectors. Sharing of costs and pooling of resources through partnership working has ensured exceptionally good value for money in areas such as land management and natural environment initiatives, cultural heritage, National Trail management, sustainable transport and projects to adapt to extremes in weather. The opportunities and risks associated with partnerships are assessed on a case by case basis and higher levels of governance and control mechanism are in place where needed.

Financial management

The Authority's financial management arrangements conform to the majority of the requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government 2010. The notable exception being the Chief Financial Officer does not report directly to the Chief Executive and is not a member of the Leadership Team. In the current staffing structure the Chief Financial Officer reports to the Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer. The Chief Financial Officer reports directly to the full Authority and Finance and Audit Group on significant financial matters including the three year Medium-Term Financial Plan, treasury management, financial performance and audit work. Being a small

Authority this is deemed the most efficient and effective structure, the Chief Financial Officer does, however, have direct and unfettered access to the Chief Executive and Members as and when required in order to perform the role.

The roles and responsibilities of the Chief Financial Officer and the Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer are set out in the Financial Regulations as adopted by the Authority.

Responsibility for each of the budget heads and projects is given to the Heads of Department, line managers and other staff. All financial areas are audited through a prioritised plan. Annual trading accounts are produced and used to scrutinise and challenge the effective performance of the commercially important Eastburn Enterprise Hub, Visitor Centre sales operation and the Hadrian's Wall car park charging scheme.

Monthly reports to all budget managers are provided and actively scrutinised. All managers are required to keep up to date with their budget and report on this on a monthly basis. The Leadership Team reviews the budget quarterly with key issues being reported to members. A Finance and Audit Group consisting of members, the Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Services and the Chief Finance Officer meet on a quarterly basis to discuss the key financial business of the Authority, including providing a steer from members on the budget strategy and scrutinising the detail of the half and full year financial performance before the formal report is issued to the Authority. The Authority receives annual and quarterly financial reports. Key targets and areas of high corporate risk are reported quarterly to the Authority alongside performance.

Performance management

All targets and objectives with the National Park Management Plan, the Business Plan and Operational Plan are regularly monitored and reviewed. In addition Performance management is applied in a consistent way across the Authority. Key performance indicators, which are a mix of measures of activity, processes, outputs and outcomes are in place for the whole of the Authority's work.

Projects and other key areas of work are examined quarterly by the Leadership Team with significant issues being reported to the Authority. Heads of Department have regular meetings with their managers to progress more detailed areas of work, where lessons learned and activities to correct performance variations are discussed, agreed and implemented.

The Authority receives an annual review of performance and ensures current year's targets are based on previous year's performance. The annual review of performance by the Authority provides a regular check as to how far the annual work programme has contributed to the delivery of the vision as set out in the statutory National Park Management Plan. Performance is publicly reported including through publication of an Annual Report and the Authority's website. Annually, the Authority's performance on some key measures is presented alongside that of the other English National Park Authorities in order to provide better context which in some cases is helpful.

In addition, the Authority produces a **State of the Park Monitoring Report** which provides high level outcome measures to further inform progress on the overall 'state of health' of the National Park and reflects changes and challenges in the economic, social and environmental setting facing Northumberland National Park.

Review of Effectiveness

The external auditors provide an annual management letter to the Authority following the annual audit. Issues raised within the letter are considered by the Authority and the Leadership Team in order to address any areas requiring action.

During the year the Leadership Team consider the findings of each internal audit report, agree the acceptance or otherwise of recommendations and approve the management response. The implementation of recommendations agreed are monitored on a regular basis. The Finance and Audit Group discuss the Annual Report which summarises the work undertaken in year before it is considered by the Authority annually.

Internal Control

Internal Audit reported on the following audit areas in 2016/17:

- Key Financial Controls
- IT General Controls Health check

In addition the internal audit providers:

- undertook consultancy work on the Sill: New ways of working – Activities; and
- facilitated a risk management workshop with the Executive Team and Authority members to assist their role on risk management in the context of a draft / emerging new strategic risk register.

The Head of internal auditor concluded the Authority has an adequate and effective framework for **Risk Management, Governance and Internal Control**. However, their work identified further enhancements to the framework of risk management, governance and internal control to ensure it remains adequate and effective. In detail, as a result of these audits and a follow-up audit of previous recommendations:

- 6 recommendations were categorised as low priority;
- 10 recommendations were categorised as medium priority; and
- 0 recommendations were made in the high priority category

This provides reassurance for board members and the management of the Authority.

..... Chief Executive

..... Chairman

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

Opinion on the Authority's financial statements

We have audited the financial statements of Northumberland National Park Authority for the year ended 31 March 2017 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014. The financial statements comprise the:

- Authority Movement in Reserves Statement;
- Authority Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement;
- Authority Balance Sheet; and
- Authority Cash Flow Statement.

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 2016/17.

This report is made solely to the members of Northumberland National Park Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 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.

Respective responsibilities of the Director of Finance (S151 officer) and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 10, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Chief Financial Officer (S151 Officer) and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Statement of Accounts to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Northumberland National Park Authority as at 31 March 2017 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 2016/17.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the information given in the Statement of Accounts for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

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 Authority;
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- we make written recommendations to the audited body under Section 24 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014;
- 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;
- we issue an advisory notice under Section 29 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014; or
- we make an application for judicial review under Section 31 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Conclusion on Northumberland National Park Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources

Authority's responsibilities

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

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 to satisfy ourselves that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. The Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office ("NAO") requires us to report to you our conclusion relating to proper arrangements.

We report if significant matters have come to our attention which prevent us from concluding that the Authority has put in place 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.

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, having regard to the guidance on the specified criterion issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General ("C&AG") in November 2016, as to whether Northumberland National Park Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criterion as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

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 Northumberland National Park Authority had put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance issued by the C&AG in November 2016, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, Northumberland National Park Authority put in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2017.

Certificate

We certify that we have completed the audit of the accounts of Northumberland National Park Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the National Audit Office.

Nicola Wright
for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Appointed Auditor
Newcastle upon Tyne
September 2017

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2017

2015/16 (Restated)				2016/17		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
				£	£	£
308,703	(59,442)	249,261	Conservation of Natural Environment	264,763	(36,565)	228,198
132,596	(85,489)	47,107	Conservation of Cultural Heritage	392,775	(389,763)	3,012
334,193	(347,695)	(13,502)	Recreation Management and Transport	385,758	(390,330)	(4,572)
678,777	(447,261)	231,516	Promoting Understanding	756,785	(104,092)	652,693
314,306	(8,885)	305,421	Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	326,220	(8,301)	317,919
149,993	(34,680)	115,313	Development Control	156,121	(33,067)	123,054
193,548	(6,719)	186,829	Forward Planning and Communities	230,169	(42,118)	188,051
1,227,444	(65,588)	1,161,856	Corporate Management and Administration	1,299,185	(70,078)	1,229,107
3,339,560	(1,055,759)	2,283,801	Cost of Services	3,811,776	(1,074,314)	2,737,462
137,289	-	137,289	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 3)	-	-	-
100,000	(13,124)	86,876	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 4)	106,490	(14,240)	92,250
-	(4,637,372)	(4,637,372)	Non specific grant income (Note 5)	-	(7,576,538)	(7,576,538)
		(2,129,406)	(Surplus) on the Provision of services			(4,746,826)
		(16,885)	Revaluation gain on Land and Buildings revalued on the 31 st March 2017 (Note 24)			(15,912)
		(520,000)	Actuarial (gains)/ losses on Pension Fund assets and liabilities (Note 19)			310,000
		(536,885)	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			294,088
		(2,666,291)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(4,452,738)

The above Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account shows a true and fair view of the income and expenditure of the Authority for the year ended 31st March 2017.

The accounting policies and notes on pages 24 to 61 form an integral part of these financial statements.

..... Chief Financial Officer Date

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – Restatement of Comparatives for the Year Ended 31 March 2016

	15/16 Published Accounts Gross Expenditure	Re- allocated Corporate and Admin expenses	15/16 Restated Accounts Gross Expenditure	15/16 Published Accounts Gross Income	Re- allocated Corporate and Admin income	15/16 Restated Accounts Gross Income	15/16 Published Accounts Net Expenditure	Re- allocated Corporate and Admin expenses	15/16 Restated Accounts Net Expenditure
Conservation of Natural Environment	462,981	(154,278)	308,703	71,442	(12,000)	59,442	391,539	(142,278)	249,261
Conservation of Cultural Heritage	162,996	(30,400)	132,596	88,489	(3,000)	85,489	74,507	(27,400)	47,107
Recreation Management and Transport	419,441	(85,248)	334,193	351,695	(4,000)	347,695	67,746	(81,248)	(13,502)
Promoting Understanding Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	925,886	(247,109)	678,777	464,261	(17,000)	447,261	461,625	(230,109)	231,516
Development Control	465,832	(151,526)	314,306	14,885	(6,000)	8,885	450,947	(145,526)	305,421
Forward Planning and Communities	235,627	(85,634)	149,993	41,680	(7,000)	34,680	193,947	(78,634)	115,313
Corporate Management and Administration	302,092	(108,544)	193,548	14,719	(8,000)	6,719	287,373	(100,544)	186,829
	364,705	862,739	1,227,444	8,558	57,000	65,588	356,117	805,739	1,161,856
Cost of Services	3,339,560	-	3,339,560	1,055,759	-	1,055,759	2,283,801	-	2,283,801

The changes to the 2016/17 Code of Practice on Local Authority accounting in the United Kingdom as a result of the 'Telling the Story' consultation have resulted in a change in the way that we report our Corporate and Administrative costs and a corresponding restatement of our comparative figures. The costs of all of the Authority's Corporate and Administrative services are now shown separately on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and are no longer apportioned across services. This is in line with the Authority's arrangements for accountability

Movement in Reserves Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2017

	General Fund Balance £	Earmarked General Fund Reserves £	Capital Grants Unapplied £	Total Usable Reserves £	Unusable Reserves £	Total Authority Reserves £
Balance as at 31 March 2015	926,168	1,123,300	-	2,049,468	(1,032,074)	1,017,394
Movement in Reserves during 2015/16						
Surplus / (Deficit) on the provision of services	2,129,406	-	-	2,129,406	10,002	2,139,408
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	536,885	536,885
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	2,129,406	-	-	2,129,406	546,887	2,676,293
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(2,033,000)	-	348,919	(1,684,081)	1,684,081	-
Net Increase/(Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	96,406	-	348,919	445,325	2,230,968	2,676,293
Transfers to/ from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	83,900	(83,900)	-	-	-	-
Increase/ (Decrease) in 2015/16	180,306	(83,900)	348,919	445,325	2,230,968	2,676,293
Balance as at 31 March 2016	1,106,474	1,039,400	348,919	2,494,793	1,198,894	3,693,687
Movement in Reserves during 2016/17						
Surplus / (Deficit) on the provision of services	4,746,826	-	-	4,746,826	-	4,746,826
Other comprehensive income and expenditure	-	-	-	-	(294,088)	(294,088)
Total comprehensive income and expenditure	4,746,826	-	-	4,746,826	(294,088)	4,452,738
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations (Note 9)	(5,252,376)	-	(348,919)	(5,601,295)	5,601,295	-
Net (Decrease) before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(505,550)	-	(348,919)	(854,469)	5,307,207	4,452,738
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves (Note 10)	515,500	(515,500)	-	-	-	-
Increase/ (Decrease) in 2016/17	9,950	(515,500)	(348,919)	(854,469)	5,307,207	4,452,738
Balance as at 31 March 2017	1,116,424	523,900	-	1,640,324	6,506,101	8,146,425

The accounting policies and notes on pages 24 to 61 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2017

31 March 2016		Note	31 March 2017
£			£
4,255,098	Property, Plant and Equipment	24	11,228,981
16,396	Intangible Assets	25	2,725
4,271,494	Long Term Assets		11,231,706
4,939	Inventories	27	5,630
427,027	Short Term Debtors	28	863,314
2,649,230	Cash and Cash Equivalents	29	1,556,106
3,081,196	Current Assets		2,425,050
(609,003)	Short Term Creditors	30	(825,225)
-	Short Term Borrowing	32	(37,414)
(609,003)	Current Liabilities		(862,639)
(100,000)	Long Term Loan	32	(1,247,692)
(2,950,000)	Pensions Liability	19	(3,400,000)
(3,050,000)	Long Term Liabilities		(4,647,692)
3,693,687	Net Assets		8,146,425
2,494,793	Usable reserves	11	1,640,324
1,198,894	Unusable reserves	12	6,506,101
3,693,687	Total Reserves		8,146,425

The above Balance Sheet presents a true and fair financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2017.

The accounting policies and notes on pages 24 to 61 form an integral part of these financial statements.

..... Chief Financial Officer

..... Date

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2017

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(2,129,406)	Net (Surplus) on the provision of services	(4,746,826)
(138,911)	Adjustments to net surplus on the provision of services for non-cash movements (Note 13)	176,878
2,006,417	Adjustments for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing activities	4,791,446
(261,900)	Net cash flows from Operating Activities (Note 14)	221,498
(999,526)	Investing Activities (Note 15)	2,056,732
(100,000)	Financing Activities (Note 16)	(1,185,106)
(1,361,426)	Net (Increase) / Decrease in cash and cash equivalents	1,093,124
1,287,804	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	2,649,230
2,649,230	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period (Note 29)	1,556,106

The accounting policies and notes on pages 24 to 61 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Statement of Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Authority's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2017. The Authority is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (England) 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 2016/17, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

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

Property, Plant and Equipment

All expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis in the Statement of Accounts. Expenditure on Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised, provided that the Property, Plant and Equipment yields benefits extending over more than one year to the Authority and is greater in value than £25,000. This excludes expenditure on routine repairs and maintenance of Property, Plant and Equipment which is charged direct to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Property, Plant and Equipment are classified into the following groups, as required by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting 2016/17 issued by CIPFA:

- Land and Buildings are valued on the basis of the Code issued by CIPFA and in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Land and Buildings are re-valued every 5 years, or earlier if individual items have a significant change that could impact on their valuation.
- Surplus Land and Buildings are valued at Fair Value as recommended in the Code issued CIPFA and in accordance with the Statement of Asset Valuation Principles and Guidance Notes issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors;
- Plant and Equipment - included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of net current replacement cost and net realisable value in their existing use;
- Assets Under Construction are measured at historical cost and are transferred to the relevant asset category when they are deemed complete.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the 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.

Depreciation

Annual depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis at valuation or cost less residual value, divided by the estimated useful life of the asset. The useful lives of buildings range between 10 - 99 years and are based on details advised by independent valuers. Equipment useful lives range from 3 – 15 years depending on the type of asset. The charge is time-apportioned in the year of acquisition.

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

Third Party Capital Expenditure

Grants made to third parties to fund expenditure of a capital nature (e.g. sheds, walls, etc.) are immediately written off to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement if no lasting benefit will accrue to the National Park Authority. Any external grants received to finance this expenditure are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attached to the grant or contribution have been satisfied.

Intangible Assets

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Authority as a result of past events (e.g. software programmes) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Authority.

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Authority's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Authority can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Authority meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted 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.

Heritage Assets

Heritage Assets are non-current assets that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

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.

Where Heritage Assets are held within the Balance Sheet, the carrying amounts will be reviewed where there is evidence of impairment i.e. where an item has suffered physical deterioration or breakage or where doubts arise to authenticity. Any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

The acquisition or disposal of a Heritage Asset would require the approval of the Authority, if the criteria for capitalisation was met (i.e. it yields benefits extending over more than one year to the Authority and is greater in value than £25,000). In any other instance the approval of the Leadership Team or the relevant Head of Department would be necessary.

Records in relation to the assets themselves are held in the estates database and the Archaeologist holds separate records regarding the condition of the assets and planned routine maintenance.

If it is agreed to dispose of any Heritage Assets the proceeds are accounted for in accordance with the Authority'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 for capital receipts.

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

The Authority does not currently have any Heritage Assets held within the Balance Sheet.

Where the Authority considers that obtaining full valuations for assets would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the financial statements the asset is not recognised in the balance sheet, but included in the accounts as a disclosure.

Stock

Stock for re-sale at visitor centres, has been valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. In general, obsolete and slow-moving items are written-off against the value of stock shown in the Balance Sheet.

Debtors and Creditors

The revenue and capital accounts of the Authority are, in general, maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with International Accounting Standard (IAS) 18, applying a discretionary de-minimis of £500. The accounts reflect sums due to or incurred by the Authority during the year whether or not the amount has actually been received or paid in the year. Appropriate provision has been made, therefore, for creditors and debtors at 31st March 2017.

Provision for Doubtful Debts

The Authority will recognise and account for bad debt in the financial year that it is recognised that the debt, after all cost-effective methods to recover it have failed, will not be fulfilled. As a result of this policy no provision for doubtful debts is separately maintained.

Overheads

Costs of management and administration are not re-allocated to the other cost headings within the accounts, but are shown as 'Corporate Management and Administration Costs' on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account.

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 no more than 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.

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 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 relevant risks and uncertainties.

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

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.

Northumberland National Park Authority has entered into finance leases for property and the net book value of these are included in the land and buildings element of property, plant and equipment section of the balance sheet. There is no corresponding liability under finance leases as the lease payments due are nil or peppercorn. Equipment leases entered into are operating leases, and in these cases the rentals payable are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Capital Receipts

Amounts receivable from the disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment are credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve on an accruals basis.

Grants and Revenue Recognition

Revenue grants and other contributions are accounted for on an accruals basis and recognised in the financial statements when the conditions for their receipt have been complied with and there is a reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. Other income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Capital grants that have been received for the acquisition of Property, Plant and Equipment are accounted for on an accruals basis and credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when the conditions for their receipt have been complied with and there is reasonable assurance that the grant or contribution will be received. The grant is then transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Reserves

The Revaluation Reserve records the accumulated gains on Property, Plant and Equipment held by the Authority arising from increases in value, as a result of inflation or other factors (to the extent that these gains have not been consumed by subsequent downward movements in value).

The Reserve is also debited with amounts equal to the part of depreciation charges on assets that have been incurred only because the asset has been revalued. On disposal, the Revaluation Reserve balance for the asset disposed of is written out to the Capital Adjustment Account. The overall balance on the Reserve thus represents the amount by which the current value of Property, Plant and Equipment carried in the Balance Sheet is greater because they are carried at revalued amounts rather than depreciated historical cost.

Pensions

The pension liabilities of the Authority are accounted for using International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 "Employee Benefits" principles. Employees, subject to certain qualifying criteria, are eligible to join the Northumberland County Council Pension Fund, administered by Northumberland County Council, which provided members with defined benefits related to pay and service.

The Authority has complied with the requirements of IAS19, and in particular:

- The assets are measured at fair value;
- The attributable liabilities of the scheme are measured on an actuarial basis;
- The scheme liabilities are discounted at a rate that reflects the time value of money and the characteristics of the liability;
- The deficit in the scheme is the shortfall of the value of assets over the present value of liabilities;
- The current service cost is based on the most recent actuarial valuation at the beginning of the period;
- The interest cost is based on the discount rate and present value of liabilities at the beginning of the period;
- Actuarial gains and losses may arise from a new valuation or updates to the latest valuation;
- Past service costs are disclosed on a straight-line basis over the period the increased benefits vest; and
- Gains/losses arising on settlement or curtailment are measured at the date all parties become irrevocably committed to the transaction.

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 event and their estimated financial effect.

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

Financial Instruments

Financial Instruments are formally defined within the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom as contracts that give 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 and covers the most straightforward financial assets and liabilities such as trade receivables and trade payables and the most complex ones such as derivatives and embedded derivatives.

The accounting treatment of a financial instrument depends on its classification on initial recognition.

Financial Liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Authority 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 & Expenditure line in the CIES 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 Authority's borrowings this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable, and interest charged to the CIES is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Financial assets are assets which have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market. At the year end the only financial instruments held by the Authority are Short-Term Receivables.

Financial assets represented by the fixed term deposits are initially recognised at fair value and then subsequently carried in the balance sheet at amortised cost. Financial assets represented by receivables are short-duration receivables with no stated interest rate and are therefore measured at original invoice amount. There have been no revaluations of financial instruments in the period so there are no gains or losses recognised in the accounts; hence there is no variation between the carrying value and fair value of the bond.

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.

Notes to the Accounts

1. Expenditure and Funding Analysis for the Year Ended 31st March 2017

2015/16 (restated)				2016/17		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the funding and Accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments between the funding and Accounting basis	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure statement
209,918	39,343	249,261	Conservation of Natural Environment	201,340	26,858	228,198
43,307	3,800	47,107	Conservation of Cultural Heritage	(1,388)	4,400	3,012
135,415	(148,917)	(13,502)	Recreation Management and Transport	5,347	(9,919)	(4,572)
2,239,016	(2,007,500)	231,516	Promoting Understanding	6,039,393	(5,386,700)	652,693
240,716	64,705	305,421	Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	293,319	24,600	317,919
102,133	13,180	115,313	Development Control	105,874	17,180	123,054
178,329	8,500	186,829	Forward Planning and Communities	169,451	18,600	188,051
1,167,967	(6,111)	1,161,856	Corporate Management and Administration	1,176,502	52,605	1,229,107
4,316,801	(2,033,000)	2,283,801	Cost of Services	7,989,838	(5,252,376)	2,737,462
137,289	-	137,289	Other Operating Expenditure (Note 3)			
86,876	-	86,876	Financing and investment income and expenditure (Note 4)	92,250	-	92,250
(4,637,372)	-	(4,637,372)	Non specific grant income (Note 5)	(7,576,538)	-	(7,576,538)
(96,406)	(2,033,000)	(2,129,406)	(Surplus) /Deficit on the Provision of services	505,550	(5,252,376)	4,746,826
2,049,468			Opening balance on the General Fund	2,145,874		
96,406			Add Surplus (less Deficit) on the Provision of services	(505,550)		
2,145,874			Closing Balance on the General Fund	1,640,324		

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis for the Year Ended 31st March 2017 - Adjustments to the General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Balance

2016/17	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for Pension adjustments	Movement in accrual for accumulated absence	Total Adjustments
	£	£	£	£
Conservation of the Natural Environment	6,058	19,600	1,200	26,858
Conservation of the Cultural Heritage	-	4,200	200	4,400
Recreation Management and Transport	(21,319)	11,200	200	(9,919)
Promoting Understanding	(5,434,900)	42,000	6,200	(5,386,700)
Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	-	22,400	2,200	24,600
Development Control	2,680	12,600	1,900	17,180
Forward Planning and Communities Management and Administration	-	14,000	4,600	18,600
	37,205	14,000	1,400	52,605
Total (Deficit)	(5,410,276)	140,000	17,900	(5,252,376)
2015/16	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net change for Pension adjustments	Movement in accrual for accumulated absence	Total Adjustments
	£	£	£	£
Conservation of the Natural Environment	19,743	21,000	(1,400)	39,343
Conservation of the Cultural Heritage	-	4,200	(400)	3,800
Recreation Management and Transport	(163,317)	14,000	400	(148,917)
Promoting Understanding	(2,042,800)	36,400	(1,100)	(2,007,500)
Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	43,305	23,800	(2,400)	64,705
Development Control	2,680	11,200	(700)	13,180
Forward Planning and Communities Management and Administration	-	15,400	(6,900)	8,500
	(20,111)	14,000	-	(6,111)
Total (Deficit)	(2,160,500)	140,000	(12,500)	(2,033,000)

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

Amendments to the 2016/17 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting have been reviewed and are not considered to be relevant or are immaterial to the Authority.

3. Other Operating Expenditure

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(137,289)	Gains/ (losses) on the disposal of non current assets	-
(137,289)	Total	-

4. Financing and Investment income and expenditure

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
100,000	Net interest on the net defined liability / (asset)	90,000
-	Interest payable	16,490
(13,124)	Interest receivable	(14,240)
86,876	Total	92,250

5. Non Specific Grant income

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(2,496,673)	National Park Grant *	(2,539,600)
(2,140,699)	Capital Grants and Contributions	(5,036,938)
(4,637,372)	Total	(7,576,538)

* Northumberland National Park Authority receives its net budget, as approved by Parliament, from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

6. Cost of Services income

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(640,719)	External grants	(685,904)
(415,040)	Sales, fees and charges	(388,410)
(1,055,759)	Total	(1,074,314)

The National Park Authority receives external grant aid and generates other income, such as car park charges, rental income, planning development fees and visitor centre sales.

7. Grant Income

The Authority credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive income and Expenditure Statement in 2016/17, with amounts over £10,000 only shown:

Credited to Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
	<u>For The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre</u>	
700,629	Heritage Lottery Fund	4,258,509
1,000,000	Rural Local Growth Fund	-
275,000	Northumberland National Park Foundation	250,240
65,000	Wolfson Foundation	-
50,000	Ballinger Charitable Trust	-
44,570	Youth Hostel Association	28,189
5,500	Other Capital Grants less than £10,000	-
-	Northumberland County Council	500,000
2,140,699	Total	5,036,938

Credited to Services

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
354,967	Heritage Lottery Fund – The Sill: National Landscape Discovery Centre	17,040
114,900	Natural England – Hadrian’s Wall National Trail	113,745
15,000	Northumberland County Council – Hadrian’s Wall National Trail	15,000
5,000	Cumbria County Council – Hadrian’s Wall National Trail	5,000
79,971	The Arts Council – Hadrian’s Wall Cavalry	308,678
23,110	The Arts Council – Sill Arts Project	26,890

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30,000	Natural England – Peatland Restoration	-
-	- Active Northumberland – Hadrian’s Wall Cavalry	15,000
-	- Natural England – Cheviot Hill tracks	15,715
-	- Carlisle City Council – Hadrian’s Wall Cavalry	28,000
-	- DCLG Self and Custom Build	20,850
-	- DCLG Brownfields	14,645
-	- Community Foundation – Simonside footpath	50,000
-	- Tullie House – Hadrian’s Wall Cavalry	23,750
-	- Northumberland National Park Foundation – Education room for The Sill	10,000
17,771	Other Revenue Grants each under £10,000	21,591
640,719	Total	685,904

The Authority may receive a number of grants, contributions and donations that are not yet recognised as income as they might have conditions attached to them that will require the monies or property to be returned to the giver. The items at year end are:-

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
21,890	The Arts Council – Sill Arts Project	-
17,570	Natural England – Cheviot Hill Tracks	1,855
-	- Defra – Border Uplands	49,590
-	- Carlisle City Council – Hadrian’s Wall Cavalry	10,000
8,764	Other Revenue Grants each under £10,000	7,165
48,224	Total	68,610

8. Income and Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement classified by nature.

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the same basis used to make decisions about resource allocation, which are taken by the Full Authority. A further analysis of the nature of income and expenditure is included below.

2016/17	Sales, Fees and Charges	Grants	Total Income	Employee Expenses	Depreciation and Impairment costs	Service Expenses	Total Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Conservation of the Natural Environment	(16,075)	(20,490)	(36,565)	218,700	6,058	40,005	264,763	228,198
Conservation of the Cultural Heritage	(4,335)	(385,428)	(389,763)	44,204	-	348,571	392,775	3,012
Recreation Management and Transport	(202,769)	(187,561)	(390,330)	175,706	12,496	197,556	385,758	(4,572)
Promoting Understanding	(50,162)	(53,930)	(104,092)	465,144	11,289	280,352	756,785	652,693
Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	(8,301)	-	(8,301)	284,065	-	42,155	326,220	317,919
Development Control	(33,067)	-	(33,067)	129,607	2,680	23,834	156,121	123,054
Forward Planning and Communities	(6,623)	(35,495)	(42,118)	155,397	-	74,772	230,169	188,051
Management and Administration	(67,078)	(3,000)	(70,078)	838,568	68,781	391,836	1,299,185	1,229,107
Total Surplus	(388,410)	(685,904)	(1,074,314)	2,311,391	101,304	1,399,081	3,811,776	2,737,462
2015/16	Sales, Fees and Charges	Grants	Total Income	Employee Expenses	Depreciation and Impairment costs	Service Expenses	Total Expenditure	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Conservation of the Natural Environment	(27,685)	(31,757)	(59,442)	217,862	19,743	71,098	308,703	249,261
Conservation of the Cultural Heritage	(5,518)	(79,971)	(85,489)	41,913	-	90,683	132,596	47,107
Recreation Management and Transport	(199,811)	(147,884)	(347,695)	145,925	9,776	178,492	334,193	(13,502)
Promoting Understanding	(69,154)	(378,107)	(447,261)	394,816	13,189	270,772	678,777	231,516
Rangers, Estates and Volunteers	(8,885)	-	(8,885)	270,853	950	42,503	314,306	305,421
Development Control	(34,680)	-	(34,680)	116,420	2,680	30,893	149,993	115,313
Forward Planning and Communities	(6,719)	-	(6,719)	152,135	-	41,413	193,548	186,829
Management and Administration	(62,588)	(3,000)	(65,588)	755,507	65,855	406,082	1,227,444	1,161,856
Total Surplus	(415,040)	(640,719)	(1,055,759)	2,095,431	112,193	1,131,936	3,339,560	2,283,801

9. 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.

2016/17	Usable Reserves		
	General Fund Balance (£)	Capital Grants Unapplied (£)	Movement in Unusable Reserves (£)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:			
Reversal of Items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	97,973	-	(97,973)
Charges for impairment of non-current assets	(10,340)	-	10,340
Amortisation of intangible assets	13,671	-	(13,671)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(5,036,938)		5,036,938
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	(451,648)		451,648
Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment	(22,994)		22,994
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:			
Application of grants to capital financing transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account		(348,919)	348,919
Adjustment primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:			
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	480,000		(480,000)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(340,000)		340,000
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:			
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	17,900		(17,900)
Total Adjustments	(5,252,376)	(348,919)	5,601,295

2015/16	Usable Reserves		
	General Fund Balance (£)	Capital Grants Unapplied (£)	Movement in Unusable Reserves (£)
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Adjustment Account:			
Reversal of Items debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	100,355	-	(100,355)
Charges for impairment of non-current assets	-	-	-
Amortisation of intangible assets	11,838	-	(11,838)
Capital grants and contributions applied	(1,791,780)		1,791,780
Amounts 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	137,289		(137,289)
Insertion of items not debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:			
Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	(269,283)		269,283
Adjustments primarily involving the Capital Grants Unapplied Account:			
Capital grants and contributions unapplied credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(348,919)	348,919	-
Adjustment primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:			
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	450,000		(450,000)
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(310,000)		310,000
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account:			
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	(12,500)		12,500
Total Adjustments	(2,033,000)	348,919	1,684,081

10. Transfers to/ (from) Earmarked Reserves

	Balance at 1st April 2016	Transfers out 2016/17	Transfers in 2016/17	Balance at 31st March 2017
<u>2016/17</u>	£	£	£	£
IT Capital Replacements	15,000	-	10,000	25,000
Planning Contingency	150,000	(50,000)	-	100,000
Eastburn Boiler Replacement	80,000	(80,000)	-	-
Legacy Donation Fund	48,900	-	-	48,900
Sill Phase 2 Investment	295,500	(295,500)	-	-
Sill Phase 2 Working Balances	450,000	(100,000)	-	350,000
Total Earmarked Reserves	1,039,400	(525,500)	10,000	523,900

Transfer as per Movement in Reserves Statement £ 515,500

	Balance at 1st April 2015	Transfers out 2015/16	Transfers in 2015/16	Balance at 31st March 2016
<u>2015/16</u>	£	£	£	£
IT Capital Replacements	75,000	(60,000)	-	15,000
Planning Contingency	150,000	-	-	150,000
Eastburn Boiler Replacement	80,000	-	-	80,000
Legacy Donation Fund	72,800	(23,900)	-	48,900
Sill Phase 2 Investment	295,500	-	-	295,500
Sill Phase 2 Working Balances	450,000	-	-	450,000
Total Earmarked Reserves	1,123,300	(83,900)	-	1,039,400

Transfer as per Movement in Reserves Statement £83,900

Further details on the purpose of each earmarked reserve are given below.

IT Capital Replacements

The earmarked reserve is to cover the future capital replacement cost of the Authority's IT capital equipment and infrastructure where the timing of future investment and the pace of technology improvements is too uncertain to include as a specific budget cost in the three year Business Plan.

Planning Contingency

The earmarked reserve is to cover the potential future legal costs of challenging or defending major planning decisions where it is not possible to know what might happen over the three year Business Plan period.

Eastburn Boiler

The hot water and central heating boiler at the Eastburn site was reaching the end of its economic life, and in 2015/16 The Authority approved an earmarked reserve of £80,000 to

cover the replacement of the boiler and improvements to the heating system in order to reduce operating costs and carbon emissions. The boiler was replaced in December 2016 at a lower cost of £31,576.

Legacy Donation Fund

The Authority has been the recipient of two legacies totalling £72,800, which have been placed in an earmarked reserve by the Authority as it wants to use the amounts received to fund projects that are appropriate to the donor's interests. £23,900 was released in 2015/16, reducing the earmarked balance to £48,900. No amounts were released during 2016/17. When suitable projects come forward for approval the funds will be released from the earmarked reserve.

Sill Phase 2 Investment

As part of the overall Sill project the Authority committed to a cash contribution of £295,500. This was released to the general fund during 2016/17.

Sill Phase 2 Working Balances

The reserve of £450,000 provides a 5% contingency to cover unplanned construction and fit out costs on the new building; this is in addition to normal contingencies contained within the detailed project costs. £100,000 was released to the general fund during 2016/17 and The Authority has approved the release of a further £318,000 to be spent in 2017/18.

11. Usable Reserves

Movements in the Authority's Usable Reserves are detailed in the Movement in Reserves Statement, Note 9 and the table below.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
2,049,468	Opening Balance	2,494,793
2,129,406	Surplus on the Provision of Services	4,746,826
(1,684,081)	Adjustments between accounting and funding basis (Note 9)	(5,601,295)
2,494,793	Total Usable Reserves	1,640,324

12. Unusable Reserves

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
880,248	Revaluation Reserve	883,819
3,291,246	Capital Adjustment Account	9,062,782
(2,950,000)	Pensions Reserve	(3,400,000)
(22,600)	Accumulated Absences Account	(40,500)
1,198,894	Total Unusable Reserves	6,506,101

Revaluation Reserve

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

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

The reserve only contains revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2007, the date that the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date were consolidated into the balance on the capital adjustment account.

The revaluation reserve during the year was increased by £15,912 to reflect the net valuation gain on assets following the revaluation of some of the Authority's farm and Car Park sites.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
875,384	Balance at 1 April	880,248
(12,021)	Difference between fair value depreciation and historical cost depreciation	(12,341)
16,885	Upward revaluation of assets	15,912
-	Downward revaluation of assets	-
16,885	Surplus or Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets not posted to the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	15,912
880,248	Balance at 31 March	883,819

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 amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to a historical cost basis). The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Authority as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

The Account contains gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be recognised by the Authority.

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

Note 9 provides the detail of all transactions posted to the Capital Adjustment Account, other than the adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
1,457,642	Balance at 1 April	3,291,246
	Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:	
(100,355)	• Charges for depreciation of non-current assets	(97,973)
-	• Net revaluation gains and (charges for impairment) of non-current assets	10,340
(11,838)	• Amortisation of intangible assets	(13,671)
(137,289)	• Amounts 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	-
(249,482)		(101,304)
12,021	Adjusting amounts written out of the Revaluation Reserve	12,341
(237,461)	Net written out amount of the cost of non-current assets consumed in the year	(88,963)
	Capital financing applied in the year:	
269,283	• Capital Expenditure charged against the General Fund Balance	451,648
1,791,780	• Capital grants and contributions credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	5,036,938
-	• Application of grants to capital financing from capital grants unapplied	348,919
-	• Statutory provision for the financing of capital investment charged against the General Fund	22,994
10,002	• Other adjustments between the General Fund and Capital Adjustment Account	-
2,071,065		5,860,499
3,291,246	Balance at 31 March	9,062,782

Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing difference arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Authority accounts for post employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 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 benefits earned to be financed, as the Authority makes employer's contributions to pension funds, or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pension 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.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(3,330,000)	Balance at 1 April	(2,950,000)
520,000	Actuarial gains or (losses) on pensions assets and liabilities	(310,000)
(450,000)	Reversal of items relating to the retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provisions Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(480,000)
310,000	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	340,000
<u>(2,950,000)</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(3,400,000)</u>

Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund Balance from accruing for holidays or other compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement as a result of the annual leave year differing to the financial year. Statutory arrangements require the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the account.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(35,100)	Balance at 1 April	(22,600)
35,100	Cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	22,600
(22,600)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(40,500)
12,500	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	(17,900)
<u>(22,600)</u>	Balance at 31 March	<u>(40,500)</u>

13. Cash Flow Statement – Non Cash Movements

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(100,355)	Depreciation Property Plant and Equipment	(97,973)
(11,838)	Amortisation Intangible Assets	(13,671)
-	Impairment Property Plant and Equipment	10,340
(10,002)	Movement between general fund and Capital Adjustment Account	-
(137,289)	Gains/ (losses) on the disposal of non current assets	-
(140,000)	IAS19 charges for Retirement Benefits	(140,000)
	<u>Items on an accruals basis:</u>	
(4,007)	• Decrease in stock	691
232,923	• (Increase)/ Decrease in Debtors	436,254
(322,515)	• (Increase)/ Decrease in Creditors	(216,189)
354,172	• Increase in Capital Accruals	197,426
(138,911)	Total Non Cash Movements	176,878

14. Cash Flow Statement – Operating Activities

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
1,927,491	Cash paid to and on behalf of employees	2,107,671
1,301,521	Operating cash payments	1,676,962
(2,496,673)	National Park Grant	(2,539,600)
(537,924)	Other external revenue grants	(699,069)
(438,898)	Other operating cash receipts	(325,079)
(17,417)	Bank interest received	(15,877)
-	Loan interest payable	16,490
(261,900)	Total cash flow from Operating Activities	221,498

15. Cash Flow Statement – Investing Activities

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
1,806,892	Cash paid to purchase property, plant and equipment	6,848,179
(2,006,418)	Cash inflow Capital Grants	(4,791,447)
(800,000)	Maturing fixed term bonds	-
(999,526)	Total cash flow from Investing Activities	2,056,732

16. Cash Flow Statement – Financing Activities

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
(100,000)	Cash receipts of long-term borrowing	(1,208,100)
	Repayments of long-term borrowing	22,994
(100,000)	Net cash flows from Financing Activities	(1,185,106)

17. Officers' Remuneration

The remuneration paid to the Authority's senior employees is as follows:

		Salary/ Fees, and Allowances £	Pension Contribution £	Total £
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)	2016/17	84,941	12,826	97,767
	2015/16	87,543	13,219	100,762
Head of Corporate Services and Monitoring Officer	2016/17	50,613	7,727	58,340
	2015/16	52,142	7,873	60,015
Sill Manager	2016/17	51,542	7,783	59,325

* A pay-rise of £5,943 per annum was approved for the Chief Executive post 2014/15 year end by the full Authority, in June 2015, to be effective from 1 April 2014. Therefore a one-off backdated payment was made in July 2015 and the 2015/16 figure above includes £5,943 of salary cost and £897 pension contribution relating to 2014/15.

The number of employees (including the Chief Executive) whose remuneration, excluding pension contributions that fell in each £5,000 band over £50,000 was:

2015/16		2016/17
1	£50,000 - £54,999	2
-	£55,000 - £59,999	-
-	£60,000 - £64,999	-
-	£65,000 - £69,999	-
-	£70,000 - £74,999	-
-	£75,000 - £79,999	-
1	£80,000 - £84,999	1

The number of exit packages with total costs per band are set out in the table below.

Exit package cost band	Total number of exit packages per cost band		Total cost of exit packages in each band	
	2015/16	2016/17	2015/16	2016/17
£0 - £30,000	-	2	-	20,523

18. Audit Costs

In 2016/17 Northumberland National Park Authority incurred the following fees relating to external audit:

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
11,568	Fees payable to Ernst & Young LLP with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor	13,041
11,568		13,041

19. Pensions

Introduction

The disclosures below relate to the funded liabilities within the Northumberland County Council Pension Fund (the "Fund") which is part of the Local Government Pension Scheme (the "LGPS") and related unfunded liabilities which have been included in the disclosure where appropriate.

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

The unfunded pension arrangements relate to termination benefits made on a discretionary basis upon early retirement in respect of members of the Local Government Pension Scheme under the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations.

Funding / Governance Arrangements of the LGPS

The funded nature of the LGPS requires Northumberland National Park Authority and its employees to pay contributions into the Fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension liabilities with investment assets. Information on the framework for calculating contributions to be paid is set out in the LGPS Regulations 2013 and the Fund's Funding Strategy Statement. The last actuarial valuation was at 31 March 2016 and the contributions

to be paid until 31 March 2020 resulting from that valuation are set out in the Fund's Rates and Adjustment Certificate.

The Fund Administering Authority, Northumberland County Council is responsible for the governance of the Fund.

Key assumptions

	31 st March 2017 % p.a.	31 st March 2016 % p.a.	31 st March 2015 % p.a.
Discount rate	2.6%	3.5%	3.3%
RPI Inflation	3.1%	2.9%	3.0%
CPI Inflation	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Pension Increases	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%
Salary increases	3.5%	3.3%	3.4%

The principal assumptions used by the actuary in updating the latest valuation of the unfunded benefits vary to a small degree to those set out above but do not warrant disclosure on the basis of materiality.

Mortality assumption

	31 st March 2017	31 st March 2016
<u>Males</u>		
Member aged 65 at accounting date	22.8	23.1
Member aged 45 at accounting date	25.0	25.3
<u>Females</u>		
Member aged 65 at accounting date	24.9	25.6
Member aged 45 at accounting date	27.2	28.0

Assets

The assets allocated to the Employer in the Fund are notional and are assumed to be invested in line with the investments of the Fund for the purposes of calculating the return to be applied to those notional assets over the accounting period. The Fund is large and holds a significant proportion of its assets in liquid investments. As a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid from the Fund in relation to an employer's liabilities. The assets are invested in a diversified spread of investments and the approximate split of assets for the Fund as a whole (based on data supplied by the Administering Authority) is shown in the disclosures.

The Administering Authority may invest a small proportion of the Fund's investments in the assets of some of the employers participating in the Fund if it forms part of their balanced investment strategy.

Asset Allocation

	Value at 31st March 2017			Value at 31st March 2016	Value at 31st March 2015
	Quoted £m	Unquoted £m	Total £m	Total £m	Total £m
Equities	8.57	0.56	9.13	7.27	7.26
Property	0.53	-	0.53	0.53	0.47
Govt. bonds	2.38	-	2.38	1.66	1.87
Corporate bonds	1.03	-	1.03	0.95	0.94
Cash	-	-	-	0.04	0.01
Other	-	0.52	0.52	0.33	0.13
Total	12.51	1.08	13.59	10.78	10.68

The fund is large and largely liquid and as a consequence there will be no significant restriction on realising assets if a large payment is required to be paid (e.g. bulk transfer value payment).

Reconciliation of funded status to Balance Sheet

	31st March 2017 £m	31st March 2016 £m	31st March 2015 £m
Fair value of assets	13.59	10.78	10.68
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(16.85)	(13.61)	(13.88)
Present value of unfunded defined benefit obligation	(0.14)	(0.12)	(0.13)
Asset / (liability) recognised on the Balance Sheet	(3.40)	(2.95)	(3.33)

The split of the liabilities at the last valuation between the various categories of members is as follows:

Active members	39%
Deferred Pensioners	25%
Pensioners	36%

Breakdown of amounts recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services and Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)

	For the year ended 31st March 2017 £m	For the year ended 31st March 2016 £m
Operating cost		
Current service cost*	0.36	0.35
Past service cost – incl. Curtailments	0.03	0.00
Financing Cost		
Interest on net defined liability / (asset) – funded pension scheme	0.09	0.10
Interest on net defined liability / (asset) – unfunded pension scheme	-	-
Pension expense recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	0.48	0.45

Remeasurements in Other Comprehensive Income

Return on plan assets (in excess of) / below that recognised in net interest	(2.23)	0.46
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in financial assumptions – funded pension scheme	3.45	(0.84)
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in financial assumptions - unfunded pension scheme	0.02	-
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	(0.33)	-
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to liability experience	(0.60)	(0.14)

Total Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	0.31	(0.52)
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Total Amount recognised	0.79	(0.07)
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* Allowance for administration expenses included in current service cost (£M)	0.00	0.01
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Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation- funded pension scheme

	For the year ended 31st March 2017	For the year ended 31st March 2016
	£m	£m
Opening defined benefit obligation	13.61	13.88
Current service cost	0.36	0.35
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	0.47	0.46
Contributions by participants	0.10	0.10
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in financial assumptions	3.45	(0.84)
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in demographic assumptions	(0.33)	-
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to liability experience	(0.60)	(0.14)
Net benefits paid out #	(0.24)	(0.20)
Past service cost (incl. curtailments)	0.03	-
Closing present value of liabilities	16.85	13.61

Consists of net benefits cash-flow out of the Fund in respect of the employer, including an approximate allowance for the expected cost of death in service lump sums and Fund administration expenses.

Changes to the present value of the defined benefit obligation- unfunded pension scheme

	For the year ended 31st March 2017	For the year ended 31st March 2016
	£m	£m
Opening defined benefit obligation	0.12	0.13
Interest expense on defined benefit obligation	-	-
Actuarial (gains) / losses due to changes in financial assumptions	0.02	-
Net benefits paid out	-	(0.01)
Closing present value of liabilities	0.14	0.12

Changes to the fair value of assets during the accounting period

	For the year ended 31st March 2017 £m	For the year ended 31st March 2016 £m
Opening fair value of assets	10.78	10.68
Interest income on assets	0.38	0.36
Remeasurement gains / (losses) on assets	2.23	(0.46)
Contributions by the employer	0.34	0.30
Contributions by participants	0.10	0.10
Net benefits paid out	(0.24)	(0.20)
Closing fair value of assets	13.59	10.78

Actual return on assets

	For the year ended 31st March 2017 £m	For the year ended 31st March 2016 £m
Interest income on assets	0.38	0.36
Remeasurement gain / (loss) on assets	2.23	(0.46)
Actual return on assets	2.61	(0.10)

The Authority's contributions to the fund for the accounting period ending 31 March 2017 are estimated to be £0.35m. In addition unfunded benefits paid by the Authority directly to beneficiaries were nil in 2016/17 and is expected to be nil for the accounting period ending 31 March 2017.

Risks associated with the Fund in relation to accounting**Asset Volatility**

The liabilities used for accounting purposes are calculated using a discount rate set with reference to corporate bond yields. If assets underperform, this yield this will create a deficit in the accounts. The Fund holds a significant proportion of growth assets which while expected to outperform corporate bonds in the long term creates volatility and risk in the short term in relation to the accounting figures.

Changes in Bond Yield

A decrease in corporate bond yields will increase the value placed on the liabilities for accounting purposes although this will be marginally offset by the increase in the assets as a result.

Inflation Risk

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.

Life expectancy

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

Exiting Employees

Employers who leave the Fund (or their guarantor) may have to make an exit payment to meet any shortfall in assets against their pension liabilities. If the employer (or guarantor) is not able to meet this exit payment the liability may in certain circumstances fall on other employers in the Fund. Further the assets at exit in respect of 'orphan liabilities' may, in retrospect, not be sufficient to meet the liabilities. This risk may fall on other employers. 'Orphan liabilities' are currently a small proportion of the overall liabilities in the Fund.

Sensitivity Analysis

The approximate impact of changing the key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31st March 2017 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31st March 2018 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption mentioned is altered, all the other assumptions remain the same and are summarised above.

Sensitivity of the unfunded benefits has not been included on the basis of materiality.

Funded LGPS Benefits**Discount rate assumption**

	+0.1% pa	Base Figure	-0.1% pa
Adjustment to discount rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M's)	16.52	16.85	17.19
% change in present value of total obligation	-2.0%		2.0%
Projected service cost (£M's)	0.48	0.50	0.52
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-3.0%		3.1%

Rate of general increases in salaries

	+0.1% pa	Base Figure	-0.1% pa
Adjustment to salary increase rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M's)	16.92	16.85	16.78
% change in present value of total obligation	0.4%		-0.4%
Projected service cost (£M's)	0.50	0.50	0.50
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.0%		0.0%

Rate of increase to pensions in payment and deferred pensions assumption, and rate of revaluation of pension accounts assumption

	+0.1% pa	Base Figure	-0.1% pa
Adjustment to pension increase rate			
Present value of total obligation (£M's)	17.12	16.85	16.59
% change in present value of total obligation	1.6%		-1.6%
Projected service cost (£M's)	0.52	0.50	0.48
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.1%		-3.0%

Post retirement mortality assumption

	- 1 year	Base Figure	+ 1 year
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*			
Present value of total obligation (£M's)	17.35	16.85	16.35
% change in present value of total obligation	3.0%		-3.0%
Projected service cost (£M's)	0.52	0.50	0.48
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.6%		-3.6%

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

20. Members Allowances

The total Northumberland National Park Authority Members allowances paid in the year was £36,701 (2015/16 £39,120).

The total Northumberland National Park Authority Members travel and subsistence paid in the year was £8,035 (2015/16 £8,614).

21. Financial commitments

Operating Leases

The amount paid to lessors under the National Park Authority's operating leases in 2016/17 was £48,259 (2015/16 £42,906).

As at the balance sheet date, 31st March 2017, the National Park Authority had total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable leases of £72,108 (31st March 2016 £60,488):

	31st March 2017		31st March 2016	
	Land and Buildings £	Vehicles £	Land and Buildings £	Vehicles £
Operating leases:				
Payments due within one year	-	38,833	-	36,310
Payments due within two and five years	-	33,275	-	24,178
	-	72,108	-	60,488

Steel Rigg car park should be noted as an operating lease despite no annual rent being payable under the agreement. A profit sharing arrangement exists with the owners of the land, the National Trust. There is no defined end date to this arrangement and it will continue as long as both parties are agreeable.

22. Related Party Transactions

The Authority is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – 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.

Central Government

Central Government has significant influence over the general operations of the Authority – it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the Authority operates and provides the majority of its funding in the form of the "National Park Grant" from the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Note 5 sets out the amount of "National Park Grant" received during the year 2016/17.

Members

Members of the Authority have direct control over the Authority's financial and operating policies. The total of members' allowances paid in 2016/17 is shown in Note 20. Community and Sustainable Development Fund grants or invoices for the procurement of goods and services were paid to a number of organisations in which members were either trustees or

had positions on the governing body. Details are set out in the following table. In all instances the relevant members did not take part in any discussion or decision relating to the award of the grants.

Northumberland County Council

Of the eighteen Authority members who served during the year, six were nominated by Northumberland County Council. The Authority made and received payments for various services (excluding those relating to business rates and the pension fund) to Northumberland County Council during 2016/17. Details are set out in the following table.

Payments to related parties

	Nature of relationship	Payments to related party 2015/16 £	Due to related party at 31.3.16 £	Payments to related party 2016/17 £	Due to related party at 31.3.17 £
Northumberland County Council	a.	33,847	24,507	86,734	-
Bardon Mill & Henshaw Village Hall	b.	95	170	-	1,768
Elsdon Village Hall Trust*	b.	30	-	-	-
Glendale Agricultural Society	b.	11,920	-	12,800	-
Glendale Gateway Trust	b.	120	-	1,875	-
Greenhead Village Hall	b.	50	-	-	-
Harbottle Show	b.	100	-	100	-
Hexham Auction Mart Company Ltd	b.	180	-	150	-
Kirknewton Village Hall	b.	32	-	350	50
Tarset Village Hall	b.	85	-	-	-
Tynedale Agricultural Society	b.	697	-	1,400	-
Thropton Village First School	b.	-	-	-	-
Ingram Parish Council	b.	-	-	500	-
*No longer registerable interest in 2016/17					

Receipts from related parties

	Nature of relationship	Receipts from related party 2015/16 £	Due from related party at 31.3.16 £	Receipts from related party 2016/17 £	Due from related party at 31.3.17 £
Northumberland County Council (includes grants administered by Northumberland as the accountable body)	a.	1,032,792	5,557	536,272	288

Nature of relationship:

- a. Council with member representation on National Park Authority
- b. Authority member or linked to an Authority member.

23. Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below, together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Authority, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Authority that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

2015/16		2016/17
£		£
	- Opening Capital Financing Requirement	100,000
	<u>Capital Investment</u>	
455,782	Land and Buildings	11,020
55,936	Plant, Furniture and Equipment	31,576
1,641,818	Assets Under Construction	7,003,008
7,527	Intangible Assets	-
2,161,063		7,145,604
	<u>Sources of Finance</u>	
(1,791,780)	Government Grants and other contributions	(5,036,938)
	- Application of Grants to Capital financing from Capital Grants Unapplied	(348,919)
(269,283)	Direct Revenue Contributions	(451,648)
	- Repayment of loan principal	(22,994)
100,000	Closing Capital Financing Requirement	1,285,105
-		
	- Explanation of movements in year	
100,000	Expenditure financed from new external borrowing (not supported by government financial assistance)	1,285,105
100,000	Increase in Capital Financing Requirement	1,185,105

24. Property, Plant and Equipment

Movements in Property, Plant and Equipment during 2015/16:

	Land and Buildings £	Surplus Land and Buildings £	Plant, Furniture and Equipment £	Assets Under Construction £	Total £
Cost / valuation as at 1st April 2015	2,219,166	71,178	346,603	12,094	2,649,041
Movement in assets under construction	12,094	-	-	(12,094)	-
Additions	455,782	-	55,935	1,641,818	2,153,535
De-recognition & Disposals	(136,750)	-	(207,854)	-	(344,604)
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	16,885	-	-	-	16,885
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-
Cost / Valuation as at 31st March 2016	2,567,177	71,178	194,684	1,641,818	4,474,857
Accumulated Depreciation as at 1st April 2015	25,641	2,157	298,921	-	326,719
Depreciation Charge	67,665	719	31,971	-	100,355
De-recognition & Disposals	(9,686)	-	(197,629)	-	(207,315)
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-
Accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2016	83,620	2,876	133,263	-	219,759
Net Book Value as at 31st March 2015	2,193,525	69,021	47,682	12,094	2,322,322
Net Book Value as at 31st March 2016	2,483,557	68,302	61,421	1,641,818	4,255,098

Additions to Property, Plant and Equipment, have been financed through revenue and capital grants in 2015/16.

Following the completion of investment in the Eastburn, Hexham Enterprise Hub both the Authority's administrative offices and the Enterprise Hub, were re-valued as at the 31st March 2015. The re-valuations were carried out by James Ramsey, MRICS BSc (Hons) a Senior Surveyor of Newcastle City Council. The valuation was performed in accordance with the regulations set out by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) using the valuation methodology applicable to the asset classification.

Movements in Property, Plant and Equipment during 2016/17:

Surplus
Furniture
Assets

	Land and Buildings £	Land and Buildings £	and Equipment £	Under Construction £	Total £
Cost / Valuation as at 31st March 2016	2,567,177	71,178	194,684	1,641,818	4,474,857
Movement in assets under construction	123,203	-	-	(123,203)	-
Additions	11,020	-	31,576	7,003,008	7,045,604
De-recognition & Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Revaluation Reserve	8,541	-	-	-	8,541
Revaluation increases / (decreases) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	9,103	-	-	-	9,103
Cost / Valuation as at 31st March 2017	2,719,044	71,178	226,260	8,521,623	11,538,105
Accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2016	83,620	2,876	133,263	-	219,759
Depreciation Charge	70,733	718	26,521	-	97,972
De-recognition & Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation written out to the Revaluation Reserve	(3,851)	(3,519)	-	-	(7,370)
Impairment losses / (reversals) recognised in the Surplus / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(1,162)	(75)	-	-	(1,237)
Accumulated depreciation as at 31 March 2017	149,340	-	159,784	-	309,124
Net Book Value as at 31st March 2016	2,483,557	68,302	61,421	1,641,818	4,255,098
Net Book Value as at 31st March 2017	2,569,704	71,178	66,476	8,521,623	11,228,981

Additions to Property, Plant and Equipment, have been financed through revenue, capital grants and loans in 2016/17.

In line with our strategy of revaluing our land and buildings on a cyclical basis, revaluations were carried out on all sites that were last valued in 2011/12. The re-valuations were carried out by James Ramsey, MRICS BSc (Hons) a Senior Surveyor of Newcastle City Council. The valuation was performed in accordance with the regulations set out by the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) using the valuation methodology applicable to the asset classification. The Authority is not aware of any material change in the value of any other Property, Plant and Equipment as at 31 March 2017.

Property owned or partially owned by the National Park Authority includes the following:

	31/03/2016	31/03/2017
Administrative offices	2	2
Rural Business Enterprise Hub	1	1
Visitor centres / tea rooms	3	3
Historic sites / buildings	3	3
Farms	1	1
Woods, parks, picnic sites	5	5
Car parks / toilets	6	6

Acquisitions

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre Building

Significant progress has been made on the construction of The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre. Practical completion took place in June 2017 with the public opening planned for 29 July 2017. All of the expenditure in the year (£6,801,731) has been included in 'Assets Under Construction'.

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Fixture and Fittings

£187,726 of fixtures and fittings relating to the fit out of the Centre and capitalised during the year have been included as 'Assets under Construction'

Other Acquisitions

During the year, £31,576 was spend on a replacement Boiler for Eastburn and £13,551 was spent on a car park charging point for the car park at Housesteads. £11,021 was spent on final payments in respect of the completed capital works at Housesteads car park.

Outstanding Capital Commitments

As at the 31st March 2017 the Authority had outstanding capital commitments on the following projects as shown below:

Committed but not yet spent:

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre £ 1,432,326

Approved but not yet committed

The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre £ 908,022

Uncertainties and Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions

Buildings are depreciated over useful lives that are dependent on assumptions about the level of repairs and maintenance that will be incurred in relation to individual assets. The current economic climate makes it uncertain that the Authority will be able to sustain its current spending on repairs and maintenance, bringing into doubt the useful lives assigned to assets.

If the useful life of the asset is reduced, depreciation charges will increase and the carrying amount of the asset will fall.

It is estimated that the annual depreciation charge for buildings will increase by £4.9k for every year that useful lives had to be reduced.

25. Intangible Assets

The Authority accounts for software as an intangible asset to the extent that the software is not an integral part of a particular IT hardware system and accounted for as part of the Property, Plant and Equipment.

Movements in Intangible Assets during 2015/16 and 2016/17 were as follows:

	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Cost / valuation balance as at 1 st April	27,853	35,381
Assets under construction	(14,453)	-
Acquisitions	21,981	-
Cost / valuation balance at as 31 st March	35,381	35,381
Cumulative Amortisation balance as at 1st April	7,147	18,985
Amortisation for the year	11,838	13,671
Cumulative Amortisation Balance as at 31 March	18,985	32,656
Net Book Value as at 31st March	16,396	2,725

There was no further expenditure on intangible assets approved or committed at year end.

26. Heritage Assets

The Authority does not currently have any heritage assets held within the Balance Sheet.

There are assets owned or leased on a long term basis by the Authority which are considered to fall within the category of Heritage Assets. These have not been valued due to the nature of the assets they are difficult to place a reliable value on and obtaining full valuations would involve a disproportionate cost in comparison to the benefits to the users of the financial statements.

The assets below are scheduled ancient monuments with the exception of the lime kiln which is a non designated heritage asset.

- Harbottle Castle, where the Authority has entered into a 40 year lease expiring in the year 2035;
- Woodhouses Bastle, where the Authority has entered into a 99 year lease expiring in the year 2092;
- Thirlwall Castle, where the Authority has entered into a 99 year lease expiring in the year 2098; and
- Tosson Lime Kiln, where the Authority has entered into a 40 year lease expiring in the year 2036.

Payments due under these leases are at peppercorn rates as per the lease agreements and there are no restrictions on public access to the sites above.

In addition within the Hareshaw Linn site owned by the Authority is part of a scheduled ancient monument. It is the remains of a 19th century dam used at Bellingham iron works which historically formed part of the site. This is not part of the valuation placed on the site.

27. Inventories

The total Northumberland National Park Authority Goods for Resale value at year end was £5,630 (2015/16 £4,939).

There was a write off of obsolete stock during the financial year totalling £65 (during 2015/16 £107 written off).

28. Debtors

Analysis of debtors total at year end by organisation type

31.03.16		31.03.17
£		£
73,111	Central Government Bodies	162,354
11,584	Local Authorities	45,580
342,332	Other entities and individuals	655,380
427,027		863,314

29. Cash and cash equivalents

31.03.16		31.03.17
£		£
2,350,186	Bank Deposits	1,086,396
297,354	Bank Accounts	468,680
1,690	Petty cash	1,030
2,649,230		1,556,106

30. Creditors

Analysis of creditors at year end by organisation type

31.03.16		31.03.17
£		£
30,635	Central government bodies	87,204
71,322	Other local authorities	73,143
507,046	Other entities and individuals	664,878
609,003		825,225

31. Financial Instruments

31.1 Financial Assets

Financial assets are assets which have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market. At the year end the only financial instruments held by the Authority are Short-Term Receivables totalling £863,314 (2015/16 £427,027).

Financial assets represented by short-term receivables have no stated interest rate and are therefore measured at cost.

The only financial assets held by the Authority are classified as loans and receivables.

31.2 Financial Liabilities

Long Term Financial liabilities are represented by long term loans included in the balance sheet as the outstanding principal repayable. In 2016/17, the Authority drew down its second long term loan from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This was a fixed term/ fixed interest loan for £1,208,000, repayable over 30 years. The fair value of the loans held by the Authority can be assessed by calculating the present value of the cash flows that will take place over the remaining term of loan. The fair values of the loan, provided by PWLB, are reported in Note 32.

Short-Term Financial liabilities represented by accruals and other payables are short-duration payables with no stated interest rate and are therefore measured at cost. All accruals and other payables totalling £825,225 (2015/16 £609,003) are due to be paid in less than one year.

There have been no revaluations of financial instruments in the period so there are no gains or losses recognised in the accounts; hence there is no variation between the carrying value and fair value.

31.3 Liquidity Risk

The Authority will ensure it has adequate though not excessive cash resources to enable it at all times to have the level of funds available which is necessary for achievement of its activities.

31.4 Interest Risk

The Authority is not exposed to any significant risks in terms of interest rate risk. Both PWLB loans were taken on a fixed rate of interest basis, whilst interest rates remained historically low. The Authority is exposed to risk in changes in interest receivable on short term deposits, as interest is posted to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and affects the General Fund balance pound for pound.

31.5 Exchange Risk

The Authority as far as possible limits its exposure to exchange rate fluctuations by ensuring transactions are carried out in sterling. The Authority has no financial assets, or liabilities, denominated in foreign currencies and therefore has no exposure to losses arising from movements in foreign exchange.

31.6 Credit Risk

This arises from deposit with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Authority's customers. The Authority has little exposure in this area as deposits are only placed on a short term to medium term basis therefore the risk is minimal.

No credit limits were exceeded during the period and the Authority does not expect any losses from non-performance by any of its counterparties in relation to short term deposits.

The Authority has not noted any problems with collection of debts and receives debts on a timely basis.

In relation to trade debtors at 31st March past due but not impaired, a total of £625 was outstanding between 30 and 60 days. All balances past due but not impaired with the exception of £385 had been collected prior to the accounts being approved for audit in June 2017.

32. Long Term Loans

The Authority's Short-term borrowing is as follows:-

31.03.16	Analysis by Type of Loan	31.03.17
£		
-	Public Works Loan Board	37,414

The Authority's Long-term borrowing is as follows:-

31.03.16	Analysis by Type of Loan	31.03.17	Interest Rate
£		£	
100,000	Public Works Loan Board (10 year loan)	81,354	1.73%
-	Public Works Loan Board (30 year loan)	1,166,338	2.45%
100,000	Total	1,247,692	

31.03.16	Analysis by maturity	31.03.17	Ave. Interest Rate
£		£	%
	Between 1 and 2 years	38,268	2.09
	Between 2 and 5 years	120,127	2.09
	Between 5 and 10 years	208,257	2.09
	Between 10 and 15 years	187,696	2.09
	Between 15 and 20 years	211,998	2.09
	Between 20 and 25 years	239,446	2.09
	Between 25 and 30 years	241,900	2.09
-	Total	1,247,692	2.09

The Code requires disclosure of the fair value of the loan, which is calculated by the PWLB based on the repayment rates prevailing on the dates below. This value is compared against the carrying value in the Balance Sheet, including debt repayments due within one year.

31.03.16	PWLB Fair Value	31.03.17
£		£
105,417	Total	1,465,739

The Fair Value is more than the carrying amount at 31st March each year because the fixed rate loan interest payable on existing loans is higher than the rates available for similar loans at that date. This Fair Value is derived by discounting the current fixed repayments remaining on the loan using the interest rates available at Balance Sheet date, with the result that if the Authority requested an early repayment of the loan, the lower interest rates prevailing at Balance Sheet date would result in the PWLB requesting a higher current value for the repayment than the amount outstanding shown in the Balance Sheet.

33. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Under IAS 10 – Events after the Balance Sheet Date, the Authority is required to disclose the date that the financial statements are authorised for issue. This establishes the date after which events will not have been recognised in the statement of accounts.

No events after the Balance Sheet date up to the authorisation date have been considered in the preparation of these accounts.