

Assumptions made about the future and other sources of estimation uncertainty

The Statement of Accounts contains figures that are based on assumptions or estimates about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Whilst these take into account historical experience, current trends, professional guidance and other relevant factors, actual results could be different. The main items in the Council's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2018 for which there is a risk of adjustment in future financial years are:

Item	Uncertainty	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
Valuation, where required of Property, Plant and Equipment assets, Heritage assets and Investment properties	Valuation of property interests involves assessment of a number of variables such as market conditions, useful life, cost of reconstruction, assessment of condition, use of a discount factors for social housing etc. Valuations are undertaken on a more frequent basis than the minimum 5 year period to ensure valuations and impact of assumptions are regularly reviewed. Indications of any significant impairment are considered annually. Valuations are undertaken by qualified Chartered Surveyors, or experts in the relevant field in accordance with the Practice Statements and Guidance notes set out in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Valuation Standards (The Red Book) and any other relevant guidance or experience.	Any changes to valuations and any associated depreciation charges to services for non current assets are required to be reversed out in the accounts, so this will not have an impact on Council Tax or rents.
Financial Instrument assets	These are reviewed annually for significant impairment using data such as historic risk of default and other reviews of recoverability. For financial assets not quoted on a recognised exchange or where it is difficult to provide accounting valuations where required e.g. valuations of the Council's shareholding in Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd, an estimate using multipliers of Earnings Before Interest Tax Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) are used.	Any change in the fair value of Cardiff City Transport Services Ltd as a result of the use of multipliers can be significantly variable, however this has no impact on the level of Council Tax as changes are reflected by a corresponding amendment in the available for sale reserve.
Provisions	The Council makes a number of provisions for liabilities that it may face where a reasonable estimate of value can be made at the balance sheet date. In most cases these are subject to legal claims such as those for insurance. Provisions relating to landfill sites subject to a high level of estimation primarily given the length of period over which they are to be considered. Professional internal and external advice is used to determine the need and value of provisions.	The outcomes of assumptions will have an impact on the Outturn in future years, however due to the uncertain nature of these events, are difficult to quantify.
Arrears	At 31 March 2018, the Authority was owed for items such as sundry debtors, Council Tax, Non Domestic Rates (NDR) and rents. After taking into account trends in past collection experience and other relevant changes that may impact on collectability such as the economic climate, a level of impairment or provision for doubtful	Improvements in collection will improve future reported Outturn position, however where customers are finding it difficult to pay this will require increases in the level of provisions currently set aside.

Appendix 3

Item	Uncertainty	Effect if Actual Results Differ from Assumptions
	debts is assumed which may, or may not be sufficient.	
Pensions Liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, inflation, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Professional actuaries are engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions are difficult to measure as they interact in different ways.