



**Orkney & Shetland
Valuation Joint Board**



**2010/11
Audited
Statement of Accounts**

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Introduction

The Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board succeeded the Joint Valuation Committee on 1st April 1996, following a local government reorganisation, for the discharge of certain statutory functions relating to the preparation, publishing and maintenance of both the Valuation Roll and Council Tax List (Valuation List); the assessor provides the electoral registration function also on behalf of both island areas. All three documents (Valuation Roll, Council Tax Valuation list and Electoral Register) are available for public inspection at the Assessor's offices, at the main offices of the two constituent authorities and at public libraries.

The Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board is but one of the ten joint boards appointed by combinations of local authorities; there are 4 boards appointed by single local authorities making 14 boards in total. Each board appoints an independent assessor to ensure that valuations are seen to be free from political influence or interference. This is essential to the performance of the assessor's statutory duties which can involve situations where the interests of the local authority and the ratepayer may conflict.

The current Assessor is Michael A Forbes BSc IRRV FRICS who was appointed in April 2009. The Assessor is based in the Board's Shetland office in Lerwick. The Assistant Assessor is Dennis M Stevenson IRRV MRICS who is based in the Orkney Office in Kirkwall. Day-to-day business is sub-divided between the two offices on a geographic basis, with Orkney matters dealt with in the Kirkwall office and Shetland matters in Lerwick. The Board's Orkney office is at 8 Broad Street, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NX, adjacent to the cathedral. Tel No 01856 876222; Fax No 01856 870949. Copies of the Minutes of meetings and audited accounts of the Board can be obtained by emailing assessor@shetland.gov.uk.

The Board Composition

The Board is a separate public body from the two constituent authorities but draws its membership from them, each nominating 5 councillors to serve on the Board. The Board Members for 2010/11 are named below:

Orkney (Substantive)	Orkney (Substitute)	Shetland (Substantive)	Shetland (Substitute)
Mr R W Crichton (Convener)		Mr L Angus	Mrs L F Baisley
Mr S B Heddle	Mr J Foubister	Mr J Budge	Mr A T Doull
Mr J W R Moar	Mr E F Scott	Mr A T J Cooper	Mr A Duncan
Mr G L Sinclair		Mrs F B Grains	Mr A J Hughson
Mr D R Tullock		Mr F A Robertson (Vice-Convener)	Mr W H Manson

Explanatory Foreword

The purpose of this foreword is to explain the most significant aspects of the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board's financial performance, year end financial position and cash flows in a concise and understandable manner; for ease of understanding and in the interest of conciseness the foreword is structured below.

The Statutory Framework

Local authorities are defined as a council constituted under section 2 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994 and the Valuation Joint Boards (Scotland) Order 1995; the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and those bodies to which section 106(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 applies (i.e. committees, joint committees and joint boards, the members of which are appointed by local authorities and charities, etc).

In Scotland the local authority accounting framework is enacted as follows:

- the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, section 96, requires Scottish authorities to keep accounts;
- the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 section 12 places a duty of Best Value on the authority and also a duty to observe proper accounting practices; the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom (the Code) supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), the Best Value Accounting Code of Practice and the Prudential Framework and other statutory guidance issued under section 12 of the 2003 Act defines proper accounting practices for local authorities in the UK;
- the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2011 (SSI No.2011/64) amended the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985 (SI No.1985/267) to require local authorities in Scotland prepare a Remuneration Report as part of the annual statutory accounts;
- under paragraph 3 of the Local Authority Account (Scotland) Regulations 1985 (s1 1985/267, Finance circular 5/1985) the "proper officer" is formally responsible for the form of accounts; the Code requires this officer to sign, date and submit the un-audited statement of accounts to the authority and the Controller of Audit by 30th June.

The Code was developed by the CIPFA/LASAAC Code Board under the oversight of the Financial Reporting Advisory Board and has effect for financial years commencing on or after 1 April 2010.

The Code reiterates the primacy of legislative requirements whereby the overriding principle of public sector accounts is that where an accounting treatment is prescribed by law the legal requirement must be applied.

The overriding requirement of the Code is that the Statement of Accounts provides a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial transactions of the authority.

The Primary Financial Statements

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board's transactions for the year, its year-end position at 31 March and its cash-flows. All monetary amounts presented in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound for the purposes of presentation. The four primary financial statements and their relationships are explained in more detail below:

The Movement in Reserves Statement – shows the movement in reserves that must be set aside under statute and accounting regulations (i.e. unusable reserves); the Valuation Joint Board has no usable reserves.

The Surplus or (Deficit) on the Provision of Services line shows the true economic cost of providing the service which is different from the statutory amounts required to be funded from taxation in the year.

The Net Increase /Decrease before Transfers to Reserves line shows the statutory balance before any discretionary transfers to or from reserves are undertaken by the Board.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement - shows the economic costs of providing the service in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP) rather than the amount to be funded from taxation by way of central government grant-in-aid and amounts requisitioned from Orkney and Shetland Islands Councils. Where accounting costs are different from those to be funded from taxation in the year (e.g. IFRS pension costs) the difference is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Balance Sheet - shows the value (i.e. the net worth of the entity) of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Board.

The Cash Flow Statement - is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations are funded by way of grant-in-aid or income and of how the Board uses the cash and cash equivalents for its operating activities.

Financial Performance - Comparison of Outturn against Budget

The purpose of this statutory statement is to present a public statement on the stewardship of funds for the benefit of both members of the Valuation Joint Board and the public. The Valuation Joint Board is funded by Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council. The Board normally meets twice a year with its budget meeting taking place in January. The Valuation Joint Board's Budget is its prime annual planning document and actual expenditure is monitored against it during the year.

Expenditure (net of income from fees and charges) funded from central government and Orkney and Shetland Island Councils in 2010/11 is summarised below:

	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£	£	£
Expenditure:			
Employee Costs	446,451	438,061	8,390
Operating Costs	172,864	154,383	18,481
Fees and Charges	(3,000)	(3,040)	40
Total Expenditure	<u>616,315</u>	<u>589,404</u>	<u>26,911</u>

Overall for the year, the Valuation Joint Board was underspent compared to budget. A reduction in employees at the end of January led to the £8,390 underspend against employee costs. There were various minor over and underspends under operating costs making up the total variance of £18,481. The biggest differences between budget and actual spend were underspends in the joint budget totalling £10,931 on car allowance, travel costs, subsistence and external consultants; an underspend of £3,510 against property costs for Shetland, mainly due to service charge not increasing as much as budgeted due to low RPI, and an underspend of £4,000 for repairs & maintenance for Orkney. At the year-end there were reduced contributions from Shetland Islands Council of £9,989 and Orkney Islands Council of £6,783.

Pension Liability

In order to comply with Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) No. 17 (Retirement Benefits), a valuation of the Shetland Islands Council's Pension Fund was made by the Fund Actuary as at 31 March 2011. This indicated a net pension liability for the Valuation Joint Board of £499,000 compared to a net pension liability of £1,015,000 as at 31 March 2010.

The pension fund is a long-term commitment and is subject of a triennial actuarial valuation; the last valuation at 31 March 2008 recorded a funding level of 88% and the contributions the Council makes to the pension fund are in line with the actuary's valuation and recommendations.

Changes in Accounting Policies

A move to an IFRS based Code of Practice from a UK GAAP based SORP has resulted in a number of significant changes to accounting practice for local authorities, however, these changes have had minimal impact on the Board's transactions. The date of transition to the Code was 1 April 2009. IFRS 1 - First time adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards requires retrospective application to accounting policy changes.

Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments arise as a result of a correction of a material error or a change in accounting policy and changes have been applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied. The only prior period adjustment arose as a result from the conversion to IFRS, details of which can be found on page 19.

Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control

This statement is given in respect of the statement of accounts for the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board. I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated in connection with the resources concerned.

The system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, that transactions are authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected within a reasonable period.

The system of internal financial control is based on a framework of guidance and management information. Key aspects include:

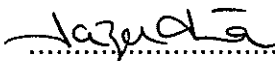
- a) comprehensive and up to date financial regulations;
- b) comprehensive budgeting systems;
- c) regular review of financial data;
- d) targeted reporting of budget against actual to managers; and
- e) close management of capital expenditure.

The Treasurer is responsible for Internal Audit within the Board. The Service Manager – Internal Audit is responsible to the Treasurer for the day to day discharge of the internal audit function. It is the responsibility of Internal Audit to assist management in establishing an operating environment which is controlled, efficient and effective. Internal Audit plan and perform their work in accordance with an annual audit plan.

The effectiveness of internal financial control is also informed by:

- a) the work of managers within the Board;
- b) the work of internal audit, as mentioned above; and
- c) the external auditors in their annual letter and other reports.

The conclusion of Internal Audit was that the Board's system of internal control was adequate and effective.



31 August 2011

Hazel Sutherland C.P.F.A

Treasurer

Remuneration Report

Introduction

The remuneration report is set out in accordance with the Local Government Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985 (as amended by the Local Authority (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2011 (SSI No. 2011/64)). These Regulations require various disclosures on the remuneration and pension benefits of senior councillors and employees.

All information disclosed in the tables in this Remuneration Report was audited by Audit Scotland. The other sections of the Remuneration Report were reviewed by Audit Scotland to ensure that they are consistent with the financial statements.

Remuneration arrangements of Senior Councillors

The remuneration of councillors is regulated by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Regulations 2007 (SSI No. 2007/183). The Regulations provide for the grading of councillors for the purposes of remuneration arrangements, as the leader of council, the convener of the council, senior councillors and councillors.

These regulations set out the amounts a councillor may be paid for being a convener or vice-convener of a Joint Board. This is inclusive of any amount payable to them as either a councillor or senior councillor. The convener and vice-convener are the only two senior councillor positions recognised by the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board.

The Board has an arrangement with each Council to reimburse that Council for the additional costs of the councillor arising from them being a Convener or Vice-Convener of the Board. The disclosures made in this report are limited to the amounts paid to the Council by the Board for remuneration and does not reflect the full value of the remuneration that may be paid to the councillor.

The Convener and Vice-convener of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board are remunerated by the Council of which they are a Council Member.

Disclosure of remuneration for Senior Councillors

	Designation	2010-11				2009-10
		Salary, Fees and Allowances	Taxable Expenses	Benefits other than cash	Total Remuneration 2010-11	Total Remuneration 2009-10
		£		£	£	£
Mr R W Crichton	Convener	4,059.96	-	-	4,059.96	4,055.71
Mr F Robertson	Vice Convener	3,045.00	-	-	3,045.00	3,045.00

Remuneration of Senior Employees of Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board

The employees of the Valuation Joint Board are employed on the same terms and conditions as the employees of Shetland Islands Council. The Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee (SJNC) for Local Authority Services sets the salaries for the Chief Executives of Scottish local authorities. Circular CO/144 details the salaries paid to Chief Officers. The Assessor of the Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board is paid at spinal column point 29 on the Chief Officers' Pay Scale. These arrangements were agreed through

approval of the Board following local government reorganisation under the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994.

Disclosure of remuneration for Senior Employees

	Designation	2010-11			2009-10
		Salary, Fees and Allowances	Taxable Expenses	Total Remuneration 2010-11	Total Remuneration 2009-10
		£	£	£	£
Mr Michael Forbes	Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer	70,402.98	822.00	71,224.98	71,764.21

Mr Forbes is the only senior employee.

General Disclosure of Pay Band (Para 4 of the schedule)

Remuneration Bands	Number of Employees	
	2010-11	2009-10
£70,000 - £74,999	1	1

Pension Benefits

Pension details of Conveners and Vice Conveners of Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board

The pension disclosure for Joint Boards for a convener or vice-convener is limited to the contribution the Board has been asked to make to that person's pension by the Council of which the convener or vice-convener is a member. No accrued pension benefit needs to be disclosed. (per para 61 of the guidance).

Pension employer contributions – Senior Councillors

	Designation	In-Year Employer Pension Contributions	
		Year ending 31 March 2011	Year ending 31 March 2010
		£	£
Mr Robin Crichton	Convener	828.23	746.25
Mr Frank Robertson	Vice - Convener	505.47	471.98

Pension details of Senior Employees of Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board

Pension benefits for local government employees are provided through the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). The Pension Scheme is a funded Pension Scheme consisting of payments being received from members of the Scheme as well as from the Employer.

For local government employees this is a final salary pension scheme. This means that pension benefits are based on the final year's pay and the number of years that person has been a member of the scheme.

The scheme's normal retirement age for employees is 65.

From 1 April 2009 a five-tier contribution system was introduced with contributions from scheme members being based on how much pay falls into each tier. This is designed to give more equality between the cost and benefits of scheme membership. Prior to 2009 contributions rates were set at 6% for all non-manual employees.

The tiers and members contribution rates for 2010-11 remain at the 2009-10 rates, (due to negative increase in the cost of living index for 2010-11) and are as follows: Whole time pay	Contribution rate 2010-11	Contribution rate 2009-10
On earnings up to and including £18,000	5.5%	5.5%
On earnings above £18,000 and up to £22,000	7.25%	7.25%
On earnings above £22,000 and up to £30,000	8.5%	8.5%
On earnings above £30,000 and up to £40,000	9.5%	9.5%
On earnings above £40,000	12%	12%

If a person works part-time their contribution rate is worked out on the whole-time pay rate for the job, with actual contributions paid on actual pay earned.

There is no automatic entitlement to a lump sum. Members may opt to give up (commute) pension for lump sum up to the limit set by the Finance Act 2004. The accrual rate guarantees a pension based on 1/60th of final pensionable salary and years of pensionable service. (Prior to 2009 the accrual rate guaranteed a pension based on 1/80th and a lump sum based on 3/80th of final pensionable salary and years of pensionable service).

The value of the accrued benefits has been calculated on the basis of the age at which the person will first become entitled to receive a pension on retirement without reduction on account of its payment at that age; without exercising any option to commute pension entitlement into a lump sum; and without any adjustment for the effects of future inflation.

The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the person has accrued as consequence of their total local government service, and not just their current appointment.

Pension benefits – Senior Employees

Name	Designation	In-Year Employer Pension Contributions	
		Year ending 31 March 2011	Year ending 31 March 2010
		£	£
Mr Michael Forbes	Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer	15,347.86	14,755.94

Name	Designation		Accrued Pension Benefits		
			As at 31 March 2011	As at 31 March 2010	Increase (Decrease)
			£	£	£
Mr Michael Forbes	Assessor & Electoral Registration Officer	Pension	29,397.49	27,540.98	1,856.51
		Lump Sum	81,151.92	79,187.85	1,964.07

Michael Forbes

Michael Forbes
Head Assessor Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board

Frank Robertson

Frank Robertson
Vice Convener Orkney & Shetland Valuation Joint Board

Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

1. The Board's responsibility

The Board is required to:

- make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that the appointed Treasurer has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs;
- manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of resources and to safeguard its assets;
- acknowledge the audited accounts at a meeting of the Board within two months of receipt of the audit certificate and provide each of its constituent authorities with a copy of the audited accounts as soon as possible after the completion of the audit of accounts.

2. The Treasurer's responsibilities

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

It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to sign, date and submit the un-audited statement of accounts to Board and the Controller of Audit by 30th June.

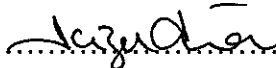
In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Treasurer has:

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

The Treasurer has also:

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

The Statement of Accounts presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board at the reporting date and its income and expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2011.


..... 31 August 2011
Hazel Sutherland C.P.F.A.
Treasurer

Movement in Reserves Statement

	Pension Reserve	Employee Benefits Accrual	Total unusable reserves
Balance as at 31 March 2009	441,000	8,469	449,469
Movement in reserves during 2009/10 (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	541,000	(1,844)	539,156
Other comprehensive I&E	33,000		33,000
Increase/(Decrease) in 2009/10	574,000	(1,844)	572,156

Balance as at 31 March 2010	1,015,000	6,625	1,021,625
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	Pension Reserve	Employee Benefits Accrual	Total unusable reserves
Balance as at 31 March 2010	1,015,000	6,625	1,021,625
Movement in reserves during 2010/11 (Surplus) or deficit on the provision of services	(287,000)	3,515	(283,485)
Other comprehensive I&E	(229,000)		(229,000)
Increase/(Decrease) in 2010/11	(516,000)	3,515	(512,485)

Balance as at 31 March 2011	499,000	10,140	509,140
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Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

2009/10		Note	2010/11
£			£
363,306	Employee costs		129,576
68,263	Property costs		65,080
2,656	Supplies & services		2,449
14,746	Transport		15,320
64,537	Administration Costs		66,359
43,883	Payments to other bodies		76,175
34,000	Pension interest cost and expected return on pension assets		12,000
<u>591,391</u>	Cost of Services		<u>366,959</u>
(3,232)	Sales, fees & charges		(3,040)
(557,003)	Requisitions from Member Authorities	16	(589,404)
<u>31,156</u>	(Surplus)/Deficit on the provision of services		<u>(225,485)</u>
541,000	Actuarial (gains)/losses on pension assets/ liabilities		(287,000)
<u><u>572,156</u></u>	Total comprehensive income and expenditure		<u><u>(512,485)</u></u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2011

1 April 2009 £	31 March 2010 £		Note	31 March 2011 £
		Current Assets		
9,366	21,126	Short-term Debtors	8	28,803
9,366	21,126			28,803
		Less Current Liabilities		
(17,835)	(27,751)	Short-term Creditors	9	(38,943)
(8,469)	(6,625)	Net Assets Excluding Pension Liability		(10,140)
(441,000)	(1,015,000)	Pension Liability	11	(499,000)
(449,469)	(1,021,625)	Net Liabilities Including Pension		(509,140)
		Represented by		
(8,469)	(6,625)	Employee Benefits Accrual	10	(10,140)
(441,000)	(1,015,000)	Pension Reserve	10	(499,000)
(449,469)	(1,021,625)			(509,140)

The unaudited accounts were issued on 29 June 2011 and the audited accounts were authorised for issue on 31 August 2011.



 Hazel Sutherland C.P.F.A.
 Treasurer

Cash Flow Statement

2009/10 £		2010/11 £
	Operating Activities	
	Cash Inflows	
(286,070)	Contributions - Orkney Islands Council	(284,850)
(290,995)	- Shetland Islands Council	(304,691)
<u>(3,232)</u>	Other Operating Cash Receipts	<u>(3,040)</u>
<u>(580,297)</u>	Cash inflows generated from operating activities	<u>(592,581)</u>
	Cash Outflows	
408,150	Cash Paid to and on Behalf of Employees	435,585
<u>156,067</u>	Other Operating Cash Payments	<u>149,319</u>
<u>564,217</u>	Cash outflows generated from operating activities	<u>584,904</u>
(16,080)	Net Cash inflows from operating activities	(7,677)
<u>(16,080)</u>	Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	<u>(7,677)</u>
5,046	Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	21,126
(21,126)	Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	(28,803)
<u>(16,080)</u>	Net cash inflow in cash and cash equivalents in year	<u>(7,677)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1: Summary of Accounting Policies

General Principles

The Code specifies the applicable accounting policies for:

- selecting measurement bases for recognising assets, liabilities, gains and losses in the statement of accounts;
- making changes to reserves;
- the minimum disclosure requirements.

A valid estimation technique can be used to derive the monetary amount (i.e. the one that best reflects the economic reality of a transaction or event) to be recognised in the financial statements in such circumstances when the basis of measurement for the monetary amount cannot be applied with certainty (and the range of options is considered to be material).

Accounting Conventions and Concepts

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

The concept of the Valuation Joint Board as a going concern is based on the premise that its functions and services will continue in existence for the foreseeable future.

The concept of materiality derives from the premise that financial statements need not be precisely accurate to represent a true and fair view. It is a matter of professional judgement as to whether users of the accounts could come to different conclusions about the Board's standards of stewardship or make different economic decisions as a result of deviations from the provisions set out in the Code.

The Valuation Joint Board accounting policies which are significant in terms of the amounts recognised in its financial statements are summarised (a – f) below.

a) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Board transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.
- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Board can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Board.

b) Accumulated Absences

An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the wage and salary rates applicable in the following accounting year, being the period in which the employee takes the benefit.

c) Cash and Cash Equivalents

In the Cash Flow Statement cash and cash equivalents (represented by funds held by Shetland Islands Council) are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand.

d) Employee Benefits

Benefits Payable During Employment

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

Participation in Pension Schemes

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

Employees of Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board are members of the Shetland Island Council Local Government Pension Scheme which is administered locally.

The pension scheme is a defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Authority and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.

Arrangements for the award of discretionary post retirement benefits upon early retirement is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made, however, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pensions liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The cost of retirement benefits is recognised in the reported cost of services when earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. The charge against council tax, however, is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Statutory provisions require the amount payable by the Valuation Joint Board to be the amount paid directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

This treatment requires appropriations to and from the Pension Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits

for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the Valuation Joint Board balance of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

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

e) Exceptional Items and Prior Period Adjustments

An adjustment has been made in the 2009/10 accounts to reflect the employee statutory adjustment account.

Effect of Changes on Opening Balance Sheet 01 April 2009:

	Opening Balance April 2009 £	Re- statement £	Correction Required to opening Balance £
Effect of Employee Benefits Accrual	(441,000)	(449,469)	(8,469)

Effect on Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement 2009/10:

	As Previously Stated £	As Restated £	Correction Required to opening Balance £
Effect of Employee Benefits Accrual	(33,000)	(31,156)	1,844

Effect on the Opening Balance Sheet 31 March 2010 is illustrated in the table below:

	Opening Balance April 2010 £	Re- statement £	Correction Required to opening Balance £
Effect of Employee Benefits Accrual	(1,015,000)	(1,021,625)	(6,625)

f) Overheads and Support Services

Whereby, under agreement with the Board, the constituent authorities place their own staff at the disposal of the Board, the Board pays to that authority such amounts as may be agreed for such services. The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Best Value Accounting Code of Practice 2010/11 (BVACOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received.

2. Critical Judgements in applying accounting policies

There is a high degree of uncertainty about future levels of funding for local government in general, however, the Valuation Joint Board has determined that this uncertainty is not an indication that the Orkney and Shetland Island Councils intend to close facilities or reduce levels of service provision.

3. Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. Actuaries are engaged to provide the Authority with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The effects on the net pensions liability of changes in individual assumptions can be measured. For instance, a 0.5% decrease in the discount rate assumption would result in an increase in the pension liability of £244,000, however, the assumptions interact in complex ways. During 2010/11, the Authority's actuaries advised that the net pensions liability had decreased by £516,000 as a result of future pension increases being linked to the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) and not the Retail Prices Index (RPI), following the Chancellor's budget statement on 22 June 2010.

4. Employee Benefits Accrual

The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

2009/10	Employee Benefits Accrual	2010/11
£		£
(8,469)	Balance at 1 April	(6,625)
8,469	Settlement or cancellation of accrual made at the end of the preceding year	6,625
(6,625)	Amounts accrued at the end of the current year	(10,140)
	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	
(6,625)	Balance at 31 March	(10,140)

5. Events after the Balance Sheet Date

The Statement of Accounts was authorised for issue by the Treasurer on 31 August 2011. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or notes.

6. Adjustments between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Valuation Joint Board in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to meet future expenditure. Such adjustments involve the Pension Reserve and Employee Benefits Accrual by which amounts charged for holiday pay to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are different from the cost of settlements chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements.

	31 March 2011	31 March 2010
	£	£
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve:		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (see note 17)	(158,000)	97,000
Employer's pension contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(71,000)	(64,000)
Adjustment involving the Employee Benefits Accrual:		
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	3,515	(1,844)
Total Adjustments	(225,485)	31,156

7. Transfers to/from other Statutory Reserves

Pension assets and liabilities have been included in the accounts on the basis of Financial Reporting Standard No.17. Assets of the pension scheme have been included at fair value, generally mid-market value, and liabilities have been measured on an actuarial basis using appropriate estimates and assumptions. In particular, scheme liabilities have been discounted at the "current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities", which is often referred to as "AA Corporate Bond Rate" which are detailed in the notes to the Balance Sheet.

8. Short-term debtors

	31 March 2011	31 March 2010
	£	£
Other local authorities	28,803	21,126

9. Short-term creditors

	31 March 2011	31 March 2010
	£	£
Other local authorities	15,879	15,742
Other entities and individuals	23,064	12,009
Total short-term creditors	38,943	27,751

10. Unusable Reserves

31 March 2010		31 March 2011
£		£
1,015,000	Pensions Reserve	499,000
8,469	Employee benefits accrual	10,140

11. Pension Reserve

31 March 2010		31 March 2011
£		£
441,000	Balance at 1 April	1,015,000
541,000	Actuarial gains or losses on pensions assets and liabilities	(287,000)
97,000	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(158,000)
(64,000)	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	(71,000)
1,015,000	Balance at 31 March	499,000

12. Amounts Reported for Resource Allocations

This provides a Subjective Analysis of the surplus or deficit on the Provision of Services included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

The income and expenditure of the Joint Board's contributing authorities recorded in the budget reports for the year is as follows:

Valuation Joint Board Income & Expenditure 2010/11	Orkney Islands Council	Shetland Islands Council	TOTAL
	£	£	£
Expenditure			
Employee costs	219,030	219,030	438,060
Property costs	23,434	41,646	65,080
Supplies & services	1,308	1,141	2,449
Transport costs	7,660	7,660	15,320
Administration costs	32,457	33,902	66,359
Payments to other bodies	2,304	2,872	5,176
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	286,193	306,251	592,444
Income			
Fees and Charges	(1,480)	(1,560)	(3,040)
TOTAL INCOME	(1,480)	(1,560)	(3,040)
CONTRIBUTION BY AUTHORITIES	284,713	304,691	589,404

13. Reconciliation of Contributing Authorities Income and Expenditure to Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of Contributing Authorities income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Net expenditure on Contributing Authorities analysis	(589,404)	(557,003)
Net expenditure of services and support services not included in the analysis	363,919	588,159
Cost of services in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(225,485)	31,156

14. External Audit Costs

The Authority has incurred the following costs in respect of external audit services provided by Audit Scotland in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice:

	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Fees payable to Audit Scotland with regard to external audit services carried out by the appointed auditor for the year	6,655	6,500
Fees payable to Audit Scotland in respect of fixed charge	960	1,300
Total	7,615	7,800

15. Grant and other Income

	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Sales, fees and charges	3,040	3,232
Total	3,040	3,232

16. Related Parties

The Valuation Joint Board's related parties are those bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or significantly influence the Joint Board, or to be controlled or significantly influenced by the Joint Board. The Joint Board is required to disclose material transactions that have occurred with related parties and the amount of any material sums due to or from related parties. Related party relationships require to be disclosed where control exists, irrespective of whether there have been transactions between the related parties.

The member authorities of the Valuation Joint Board have contributed requisitions in the following proportions to enable the Valuation Joint Board to carry out its objectives. The Valuation Joint Board in turn pays Shetland Islands Council for support services. The amount paid in respect of these services for the year ended 31 March 2011 was £6,542 (2009/10 £8,350).

2009/10			2010/11
£			£
	Council		
266,008	Orkney Islands Council	48.3%	284,713
290,995	Shetland Islands Council	51.7%	304,691
557,003		100.0%	589,404

17. Retirement Benefits

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its employees, the Valuation Joint Board offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Board has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement. The scheme for employees is Shetland Islands Council Pension Fund, which is administered by Shetland Islands Council. This is a "funded" defined benefit final salary scheme meaning that the Valuation Joint Board and its employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liability with investment assets.

17b. Transactions relating to retirement benefits

	Local Government Pension Scheme	
	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		
<i>Cost of Services:</i>		
• current service cost	71,000	42,000
• past service costs	(241,000)	21,000
• settlements and curtailments	0	0
<i>Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure</i>		
• interest cost	148,000	124,000
• expected return on scheme assets	(136,000)	(90,000)
<i>Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</i>	(158,000)	97,000
<i>Other Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>		
• actuarial gains and losses	287,000	(541,000)
<i>Total Post Employment Benefit Charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</i>	129,000	(444,000)
<i>Movement in Reserve Statement</i>		
• Reversal of net charges made to the Surplus or Deficit for the provision of services for post employment benefits in accordance with the Code	(158,000)	97,000
<i>Actual amount charged for pensions in the year</i>		
• Employer's contributions payable to scheme	71,000	63,000
• Retirement benefits payable to pensioners	1,000	1,000

17c. Assets and Liabilities in Relation to Post-employment Benefits

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities (defined benefit obligation):

Funded liabilities: Local Government Pension Scheme		
	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 April	2,858,000	1,862,000
Current service cost	71,000	42,000
Interest cost	148,000	124,000
Contributions by scheme participants	24,000	21,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(304,000)	999,000
Benefits paid	(63,000)	(211,000)
Past service costs	(241,000)	21,000
Closing balance at 31 March	2,493,000	2,858,000

Reconciliation of fair value of the scheme assets:

Local Government Pension Scheme		
	2010/11	2009/10
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 April	1,843,000	1,421,000
Expected rate of return	136,000	90,000
Actuarial gains and losses	(17,000)	458,000
Employer contributions	70,000	63,000
Contributions by scheme participants	24,000	21,000
Benefits paid	(62,000)	(210,000)
Closing balance at 31 March	1,994,000	1,843,000

17d. Fund History

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Present Value of liabilities	(2,165,000)	(1,926,000)	(1,862,000)	(2,858,000)	(2,493,000)
Fair value of assets	1,941,000	1,871,000	1,421,000	1,843,000	1,994,000
Deficit	(224,000)	(55,000)	(441,000)	(1,015,000)	(499,000)

The total contributions expected to be made by the Valuation Joint Board to Shetland Islands Council Pension Fund in the year to 31 March 2012 is £71,000.

17e. Basis for estimating assets & liabilities

The Valuation Joint Board's share of the liabilities of Shetland Islands Council Pension Fund have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, that estimates the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent upon assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels and so on. The Scheme's liabilities have been assessed by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of Actuaries, and the estimates are based on the latest full valuation of the Fund at 31 March 2008.

The principal assumptions used by the actuary have been:

2009/10	Year ended	2010/11
£		£
	Long-term expected rate of return on assets in the scheme	
		7.5%
7.8%	• Equity investments	4.9%
5.0%	• Bonds	5.5%
5.8%	• Others	4.6%
4.8%	• Cash	
	Mortality assumptions	
	Longevity at 65 for current pensioners	
21.5 years	• Men	21.5 years
24.9 years	• Women	27.0 years
	Longevity at 65 for future pensioners	
23.5 years	• Men	23.5 years
27.0 years	• Women	27.0 years
3.8%	Rate of inflation	2.8%
5.3%	Rate of increase in salaries*	5.1%
7.3%	Rate of increase in pensions	7.0%
5.5%	Rate for discounting scheme liabilities	5.5%

* salary increase assumption for 31 March 2011 is 1.0% p.a. for the first 2 years

The pension scheme's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

31 March		31 March
2010		2011
%	Year ended	%
80	Equity investments	80
8	Bonds	9
12	Other Assets	11
100		100

17f. History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains identified as movements on the Pension Reserve in 2010/11 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2011:

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
	%	%	%	%	%
Difference between the expected and actual return on assets	0.9%	(15.5%)	(42.3%)	24.9%	(0.9%)
Experience gains and losses on liabilities	0	0	3	0	(0.1%)

Appendix A

Independent Auditor's Report

Independent auditor's report to the members of Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board and the Accounts Commission for Scotland

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of Orkney and Shetland Valuation Joint Board for the year ended 31 March 2011 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The financial statements comprise the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statements, Movement in Reserves Statement, Balance Sheet, and Cash-Flow Statement, the related notes and the Summary of Accounting Policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union, and as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2010/11 (the 2010/11 Code).

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 123 of the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Respective responsibilities of the Responsible Financial Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities set out on page 12, the Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. My 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) as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. Those standards require me 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 body's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Responsible Financial Officer; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, I read all the other financial and non-financial information in the financial statements to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on financial statements

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view in accordance with applicable law and the 2010/11 Code of the state of the affairs of the joint board as at 31 March 2011 and of the income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union, as interpreted and adapted by the 2010/11 Code; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003.

Opinion on other prescribed matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the remuneration report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with The Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 1985; and
- the information given in the Explanatory Foreword for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required to report to you if, in my opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit; or
- the Statement on the System of Internal Financial Control does not comply with the 2010/11 Code.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.



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31 August 2011

