



Walsall Council

Summary of Accounts 2023/24

Details of Walsall Council's spending during the past financial year

This summary set of accounts are not subject to audit, however they are derived from figures within the 2023/24 statement of accounts and are presented as an overview.

Introduction

The council's full set of accounts (the statement of accounts) is a large document. Its content is largely prescribed by accounting standards that all local authorities have to follow. This summary is intended to give the reader a brief, uncomplicated view of the council's financial results in 2023/24.

Financial review

In the financial year ended 31 March 2024, the council received income of £825.123 million and saw expenditure of £816.557 million, resulting in a surplus on the provision of services of £8.566 million. However, after adding in statutory accounting adjustments of £18.406 million for items such as depreciation, impairments of fixed assets and entries in relation to pension costs, and accounting for funds set aside for specific future use of £10.698 million, the net surplus for the year was £0.858 million. These adjustments are required by regulation to enable the council to remove costs which are not actual cash payments such as depreciation, otherwise council tax levels would need to be raised to cover such accounting costs.

Capital investment in 2023/24 totalled £91.230 million (£96.314 million in 2022/23). The expenditure was on items such as improvements to the borough's roads and junctions, and investment in businesses and organisation in the borough to encourage growth and new employment. This investment was largely paid for from grants, asset sales and borrowing.

What do we spend money on and how is it funded?

Revenue Expenditure

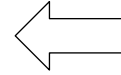
Provided by	Income	£m	%
Government	Government grants	(241.855)	29%
Government	Dedicated schools grant	(187.440)	23%
Government	Non domestic rates	(75.000)	9%
Citizen	Council tax	(143.861)	17%
Citizen	Other income (rents, fees and charges, specific grants)	(176.967)	22%
Total		(825.123)	100%

← What income we received

Type of expenditure	£m	%
Employees	290.631	37%
Depreciation, impairment and disposal of assets	27.997	3%
Supplies and services	157.204	19%
Precepts/Levies	11.701	1%
Other running costs	329.024	40%
Total	816.557	100%

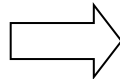
What we spent it on →

Service	£m	%
Children's Services & Customer Engagement - Education	246.363	30%
Adult Social Care, Public Health & The Hub	181.826	22%
Children's Services & Customer Engagement - Other	178.573	22%
Economy, Environment & Communities	79.295	10%
Resources & Transformation	97.439	12%
Centre	4.281	1%
Precepts/Levies (WMCA)	11.701	1%
Other	17.079	2%
Total	816.557	100%



The services it provides

Revenue summary



Revenue summary	£m
Income	(825.123)
Expenditure	816.557
(Surplus) / deficit on the provision of services	(8.566)

Category	£m
Charges for depreciation and impairment	(26.369)
Revaluation losses	(0.596)
Capital grants and contributions	72.339
Disposal of fixed assets	(1.032)
Pension costs	6.116
Other statutory movements	(32.052)
Total	18.406

When completing the statement of accounts we include certain adjustments to meet the requirement of accounting standards. This summary shows the further adjustments that are then undertaken, as prescribed, to remove them, ensuring that they do not result in an increase in council tax.

Final position for the year



	£m
Net revenue expenditure	(8.566)
Adjustments for costs (as above)	18.406
Funds set aside for specific future use	(10.698)
(Surplus) / Deficit for the year	(0.858)

Capital Expenditure

The council also spends money on improving and repairing the land and property owned by the council so that first class public services can be offered, such as purchasing, upgrading and improving assets such as buildings and roads. In 2023/24 a total of approximately £91 million was spent on capital investment. This was split as follows:

Capital expenditure	2023/24
Type of asset	£m
Land and buildings	20.656
Vehicles and equipment	3.990
Highways Infrastructure	20.952
Community assets	0.820
Heritage Assets	0.261
Assets under construction	1.329
Subtotal	48.008
Intangible assets	4.454
Revenue expenditure funded from capital	36.959
Provision of capital loans to associate company	1.809
Total	91.230

The following table shows how Walsall Council has paid for capital expenditure this year.

Capital Financing	2023/24
Source	£m
Borrowing	22.723
Capital receipts	1.935
Donated assets	0.082
Capital grants and contributions	64.334
Revenue	2.156
Total	91.230

What are we worth – Walsall Council’s balance sheet

The council’s balance sheet gives a snapshot of the council’s financial position at year end. It shows what the council owns (its assets) and what it owes (its liabilities). It also gives details of how these are all funded. Below is a summary balance sheet for the financial year ending 31 March 2024.

Balance sheet category	£m	Explanation
Fixed assets	611.462	Property, equipment
Other long term assets	70.741	Investments and long term debtors
Stock	0.235	Value of goods held such as food
Money owed to the council	119.987	By citizens and businesses
Investments	8.093	Short term cash deposits
Cash and cash equivalents	52.942	Cash in bank
Assets - owned by the council	863.460	
Money owed by the council	(98.269)	To businesses for goods purchased
Borrowing by the council	(250.610)	To fund capital expenditure
Pensions liability	(103.685)	Total pension liability
Other long term liabilities	(1.767)	Finance leases and PFI
Liabilities - owed by the council	(454.331)	
Total assets less liabilities	409.129	
Financed by:		
Distributable reserves	(280.416)	Can be used to fund future years
Non redistributable reserves	(232.398)	Accounting balances mainly for financing
Pensions reserve	103.685	Total pension assets
Total reserves	(409.129)	

As at 31 March 2024 Walsall Council’s balance sheet shows a net worth of £409.129 million. It must be noted that Walsall Council is in good financial health when comparing the ability to pay its current liabilities. Walsall Council also has a balanced budget set for 2024/25.

The statement of accounts are prepared on a going concern basis.

Cash flow

Walsall Council handles significant amounts of cash relating to both revenue and capital during the year. The cash flow shows the movement of money into and out of the Council’s bank accounts. The statement does not show money owed to the council or owed by the council.

Money received by the council, or cash inflows, can come from a variety of sources such as local taxation, government grants, bank interest and fees and charges.

The cash outflows include purchases, interest and principal payments on loans, salaries and other costs and expenses.

	£m
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year	49.993
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	52.942

Glossary

Please see the glossary included within the statement of accounts for an explanation of some of the accounting terms used within this document.

The statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with the Accounting Code of Practice. The figures for this summary were originally compiled having regard to proper accounting practice.

The audit of the council's 2023/24 accounts is being carried out by Grant Thornton. It is due to be completed by 30 September 2024.

A full copy of the council's accounts is available at www.walsall.gov.uk. Alternatively call 01922 650708 to obtain a copy.