19. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

19.1. Reporting entity

The South Waikato District Council (Council) is a territorial authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002 and is domiciled in New Zealand.

The primary objective of Council is to provide services and social benefits to the community rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, Council has designated itself as a public benefit entity for the purposes of financial reporting. The prospective financial statements of the Council are for the ten years from 2018-19 to 2027-28.

19.2. Basis of preparation

Statement of compliance

The prospective financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which include the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP).

The prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP and they comply with Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Standards.

Measurement base

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, modified by the revaluations of land and buildings, certain infrastructural assets, and certain financial instruments (including derivative instruments).

Functional and presentation currency

The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($000). The functional currency of the Council is New Zealand dollars.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently for all periods presented in these financial statements.

Changes in accounting policies

There has been no changes in accounting policies.

19.3. Significant accounting policies

Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to Council and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents amounts receivable for goods or services in the normal course of business, net of discounts and sales related taxes. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised.

19.4. Revenue from non-exchange transactions

Rates

Rates are set annually by a resolution from Council and relate to a financial year. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year to which the rates have been set. Rates revenue is recognised when payable. Rates charged to Council properties are excluded from rates income in the profit or loss.

Revenue from water rates by meter is recognised on an accrual basis. Unbilled usage, as a result of unread meters at year end, is accrued on an average usage basis.

Water rates

Revenue from water rates by meter is recognised on an accrual basis. Unbilled usage, as a result of unread meters at year end, is accrued on an average usage basis.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised when:

- claimed, for work completed on previously approved programmes
- eligibility has been established by the grantor.

Council receives government grants from the New Zealand Transport Agency, which subsidises part of the costs of maintaining the local roading infrastructure. These subsidies are recognised upon entitlement, as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled.

Interest and dividends

Interest income is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method. The effective interest rate is the rate that discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial instrument.

Dividends are recognised as revenue when the right to receive payment have been established.

Financial contributions

Financial contributions are recognised as revenue when the Council provides, or is able to provide, the services for which the contribution was charged. Otherwise, the financial contributions are recognised as liabilities until such time as the Council provides, or is able to provide, the service.

All borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Vested assets

Where a physical asset is acquired for nil or nominal consideration, the fair value of the asset received is recognised as income. Assets vested in the Council are recognised as income when control over the asset is obtained.

19.5. Revenue from exchange transactions

Provision of services

Revenue from the provision of services (fees and charges) are recognised as income when the obligation to pay, by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at balance date, arises.

Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Grant expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria and are recognised as expenditure when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received.

Discretionary grants are those grants where the Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when approved by the Council and the approval has been communicated to the applicant.

Cost allocation policy

Direct costs are charged directly to significant activities. Indirect costs are charged to significant activities based on cost drivers and related activity/usage information. Direct costs are those costs directly attributable to a specific activity. Indirect costs are those costs that cannot be identified in an economically feasible manner with a specific significant activity.

Cost drivers for allocation of indirect costs

The cost of internal services not directly charged to activities are allocated as support costs using appropriate cost drivers such as actual usage, staff numbers and floor area.

Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if the carrying amount will be recovered through a sale rather than continuing use. This condition is met only when the sale is highly probable and the asset is available for sale in its present condition. Council must be committed to the sale, and a completed sale is expected within one year from the date of classification. Non-current assets classified as held for sale are measured at the lower of the asset's carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Any impairment losses for write-downs of non-current assets held for sale are recognised in profit or loss.

Any increase in fair value, less costs to sell, are recognised in profit or loss up to the level of any impairment losses that have been previously recognised.

Non–current assets held for sale are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

19.6. Property, plant and equipment

These are classified as:

Operational assets

These are tangible assets and include land, buildings and improvements, motor vehicles, the South Waikato Indoor Pools and associated equipment, and the library collection.

Infrastructural assets

These are fixed utility systems that provide a continuing service to the community and are not generally regarded as tradeable. They include:

- all property, plant and equipment associated with water supply, wastewater, stormwater and waste disposal, including the land that they are located upon
- all roads, service lanes, footpaths, street lights, carparks and associated street furniture
- all public toilets and restrooms, public halls and the land they are situated on.

Restricted assets

These assets cannot be disposed of because of legal or other restrictions and provide a benefit or service to the community. They include:

- all property (excluding South Waikato Indoor Pools) associated with recreation, scenic, historic purposes, esplanade and local purpose reserves, including the reserve land
- all cemeteries
- all land contained within road reserves.

Measurement at recognition

All items of property, plant and equipment that qualify for recognition as assets are initially measured at cost. An item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset only if it is probable that any future economic benefits or service potential associated with them will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Measurement after recognition

Property, plant and equipment are shown at cost or revalued amount, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Those asset classes that are revalued are generally valued on a three year rotational basis to ensure revalued assets are carried at a value that is not materially different from fair value. All revaluations are either performed by independent and qualified valuers or in-house and peer-reviewed by independent and qualified valuers. All other asset classes are carried at depreciated historical cost.

Operational assets

Heritage assets

Valuation is at fair value as determined from market-based evidence. The most recent valuation performed by Webb Galleries was as at 30 June 2009.

Library collection

Valuation is at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Land and buildings

Valuation is at fair value as determined from market-based evidence. The most recent valuation exercise for buildings was performed by Telfer Young, Registered Valuers and Property Consultants, Rotorua, effective as at 30 June 2015.

Motor vehicles, plant and equipment, furniture and fittings

Valuation is at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Infrastructural assets

Land and buildings including land underneath roads were revalued effective 30 June 2015 by Telfer Young, Registered Valuers and Property Consultants, Rotorua, at current market value. The valuation methodology used for land underneath roads is the assessment of the value based upon an indicated value of the land adjoining the roads. Rural and urban roads have been separated and the average land value for adjoining land for each separate division applies. In some cases, a discount has been applied to the land value.

Landfill cell development, pipes and pumps are valued at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment costs.

Street furniture is valued at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment costs.

Roads, footpaths, streetlights, large culverts and bridges were revalued effective 30 June 2017 by professionally qualified in-house staff, and peer reviewed by Opus International Consultants Limited, Auckland at optimised depreciated replacement value. Each asset component was valued taking into account its remaining useful life.

Wastewater, stormwater disposal and water supply property, plant and equipment were revalued on 30 June 2016 by professionally qualified in-house staff, and peer reviewed by Beca Projects NZ Limited at optimised depreciated replacement value.

The underground reticulation pipework was also revalued on 30 June 2016 by professionally qualified in-house staff, and peer reviewed by Beca Projects NZ Limited, at optimised depreciated replacement value.

Paper roads with a total length of 151.378km are recorded at land value.

Costs incurred in obtaining any resource consents are capitalised as part of the asset to which they relate. If a resource consent application is declined then all capitalised costs are written off.

Restricted assets

Restricted land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation. The most recent market-based valuation was performed by Telfer Young, Registered Valuers and Property Consultants, Rotorua, effective as at 30 June 2015.

Parks and reserves assets were revalued effective 30 June 2015 at depreciated replacement value. The revaluation was undertaken using a combination of in-house staff and an external consultant, Robert Berghuis, Senior Valuer from Beca Projects NZ Limited. Both in-house staff and the external consultant have an extensive knowledge base and background in parks and reserves asset management.

The external consultant reviewed the useful lives and replacement cost unit values on Council's fixed assets register. The replacement cost unit values were updated to current market values by using, either:

- available current contract-supplier unit rates for equivalent asset types (giving the highest level of confidence) or
- the 2012 asset values/purchase cost adjusted for industry-specific inflation indices to represent estimated replacement costs for modern equivalent asset (MEA) components as at 30 June 2015 (giving a high level of confidence).

As part of the revaluation process, where assets that continue to be in commission are found to have a remaining life of nil (on Council's fixed assets register), an adjusted remaining useful life of 2.5% of the original base life has been made.

19.7. Accounting for revaluations

Council accounts for revaluations on property, plant and equipment on a class of asset basis.

The results of revaluing are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated as a separate component of equity in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset. Where this results in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is expensed through profit or loss. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that off-sets a previous decrease in value recognised in profit or loss will be recognised first in profit or loss up to the amount previously expensed and then credited to other comprehensive income.

19.8. Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment are depreciated on a straight-line basis at rates that reflect their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is charged to write off the cost or valuation of assets, other than land and properties under construction and road formation cost, over their estimated useful lives. The depreciation rates are applied at a component level and are dependent on the remaining useful life of each component. The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed, and adjusted if applicable, at each financial year end.

19.9. Operational and restricted assets

Heritage assets	Not depreciated
Land	Not depreciated
Buildings	40 - 100 years
Plant and equipment	5 - 30 years
Swimming pools	40 - 100 years
Motor vehicles	5 years
Computer equipment and furniture	3 - 10 years
Library equipment	5 - 10 years

Infrastructural assets

Roading Network

Top surface - rural	1 - 18 years
Top surface – urban	1 – 22 years
Pavement – rural	40 - 70 years
Pavement - urban	40 - 99 years
Culverts	25 - 80 years
Footpaths	10 - 80 years
Kerbs	80 years
Signs	6- 9 years
Streetlights and poles	25 - 70 years
Bridges	78 - 118 years
Land (including land under roads)	Not depreciated

Waste

Landfills, pipes and pumps	7 - 100 years

Wastewater Systems

Manholes	80 years
Treatment plant	5 - 80 years

Stormwater Systems

Reticulated pipework	50 - 90 years
Manholes and cesspits	90 years
Detention dams	60 years

Water Supply

Reticulated pipework	55 - 95 years
Valves and hydrants	80 years
Pump stations	Up to 100 years (dependent on componentry)
Storage tanks	25 - 80 years
Infrastructural buildings	40 - 100 years
Street furniture	3 - 10 years

19.10. Impairment

All assets, current and non-current, are tested annually for indicators of impairment or whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Value in use is the depreciated replacement cost for an asset where the future economic benefits or service potential of the asset are not primarily dependent on the assets ability to generate net cash inflows and where an entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits or service potential.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount the asset is impaired and the carrying amount is written down to the recoverable amount. For revalued assets the impairment loss is recognised in other comprehensive income. Where that results in a debit balance in other comprehensive income, the balance is recognised in profit or loss.

For assets not carried at a revalued amount, the total impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

The reversal of an impairment loss on a revalued asset is credited to the revaluation reserve. However, to the extent that an impairment loss for the class of asset was previously recognised in profit or loss, a reversal of the impairment loss is also recognised in profit or loss.

For assets not carried at a revalued amount the reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are included in profit or loss. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to general equity.

Subsequent cost

Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost can be measured reliably.

Assets under construction

Capital works under construction are valued at cost. The total cost of the project is transferred to the relevant asset class on its completion and then depreciated.

Vested assets

Certain infrastructure assets have been vested in Council and are recognised in profit or loss at fair value. These assets have been valued based on the actual quantities of infrastructure components vested and the current ‘in the ground’ cost of providing identical services. Vested assets include roads, the Talking Poles, pavement art, the Tokoroa town clock, the airport tower, Tokoroa Skateboard Park, and various culverts and water pipes. On initial recognition the fair value of vested assets is recognised in profit or loss. Subsequent to this vested assets are revalued together with other property, plant and equipment, and surpluses or deficits arising on revaluation are treated in the same way as other property, plant and equipment.

Rental property

Rental property is included in property, plant and equipment in accordance with PBE IPSAS, as the rental property is held to provide a social service rather than for rental income, capital appreciation or both.

19.11. Intangible assets

Computer software

Acquired computer software is capitalised on the basis of the cost incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as expense when incurred.

Carbon credits

Purchased carbon credits are recognised at cost on acquisition. They are not amortised, but are instead tested for impairment annually. They are derecognised when they are used to satisfy carbon emission obligations.

Easements

No value is attached to easements due to the difficulty in establishing their original cost or fair value.

Amortisation of intangible assets

The carrying amount of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised on a straight-line basis over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date that the asset is derecognised. The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in profit or loss. The useful lives and associated amortisation rates of major classes of intangible assets have been estimated as follows:

Computer software	3 – 7 years

19.12. Financial instruments

Financial assets

Investments are recognised and derecognised on trade date where the purchase or sale of an investment is under a contract whose terms require delivery of the investment within the timeframe established by the market concerned. Investments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except for those financial assets classified as fair value through profit or loss which are initially measured at fair value. Financial assets are classified into the following specified categories: financial assets ‘at fair value through profit or loss’, ‘held-to-maturity’ investments, ‘available-for-sale’ financial assets and ‘loans and receivables’. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition.

Financial assets at fair value

Financial assets in this category are either financial assets held for trading or financial assets designated as at fair value through profit or loss.

A financial asset is classified as held for trading if:

- it has been acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the near future or
- it is a part of an identified portfolio of financial instruments that the Council manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking or
- it is a derivative that is not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss includes any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset. The fair value of loans and receivables has been determined using cash flows discounted at a rate base on the South Waikato District Councils borrowing rate of 5.00%.

These consist of forward foreign exchange contracts that are assets. Council uses these derivative financial instruments to hedge exposure to foreign exchange fluctuations. However, as permitted by PBE IPSAS 29, Council does not employ hedge accounting techniques in its accounting for derivative financial instruments. After initial measurement these assets are measured at fair value. Any gain or loss arising from a change in the fair value is recognised in profit or loss. Council does not currently hold any of these investments.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

These consist of forward foreign exchange contracts that are assets. Council uses these derivative financial instruments to hedge exposure to foreign exchange fluctuations. However, as permitted by PBE IPSAS 29, Council does not employ hedge accounting techniques in its accounting for derivative financial instruments. After initial measurement these assets are measured at fair value. Any gain or loss arising from a change in the fair value is recognised in profit or loss.

Held to maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity that Council's management has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. These investments are recorded at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment, with revenue recognised on an effective interest basis. Currently Council does not hold any assets in this category.

Loans and receivables

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market are classified as loans and receivables. Loans and receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less any impairment. Loans and receivables are classified as trade and other receivables in the balance sheet and include rates receivable, accrued income and New Zealand Transport Agency subsidies receivable.

Available for sale financial assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are those non-derivative financial assets that are designated as available-for-sale or are not classified as loans and receivables, held-to-maturity investments or financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Certain shares held by Council are classified as being available-for-sale and are stated at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in fair value are recognised directly in the investment revaluation reserve, until the investment is disposed of or is determined to be impaired, at which time the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in the Investment revaluation reserve is included in profit or loss for the period.

Dividends on available-for-sale equity instruments are recognised separately in profit or loss in the statement of comprehensive income when Council's right to receive payment is established.

These include bonds and shares, the investment in Local Authority Shared Services Limited and Local Government Civic Assurance. If these assets are traded in an active market they are measured at their fair value using quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price used is the current bid price. If the financial assets are not traded in an active market, their fair value is determined using valuation techniques. Council uses a variety of valuation methods and makes assumptions based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Of the remaining financial assets, if quoted market prices of similar financial assets in the market are not available, other techniques such as discounted expected cash flows are utilized to determine their fair value, or otherwise cost is used.

Impairment of financial assets

At each balance sheet date Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Any impairment losses are recognised in the profit or loss.

Financial assets, other than those at fair value through profit or loss, are assessed for indicators of impairment at the end of each reporting period. Financial assets are impaired where there is objective evidence that, as a result of one or more events that occurred after the initial recognition of the financial asset, the estimated future cash flows of the investment have been impacted.

For unlisted shares classified as available for sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the security below its cost is considered to be objective evidence of impairment.

For all other financial assets, including redeemable notes classified as available for sale and financial lease receivables, objective evidence of impairment could include:

- Significant financial difficulty of the issuer or counterparty or
- Default or delinquency in interest or principal payments.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost, the amount of the impairment is the difference between the asset’s carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the financial asset’s original effective interest rate.

The carrying amount of the financial asset is reduced by the impairment loss directly for all financial assets with the exception of trade receivables, where the carrying amount is reduced through the use of an allowance account. When a trade receivable is considered uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against the allowance account. Changes in the carrying amount of the allowance account are recognised in profit or loss.

With the exception of available for sale equity instruments, if, in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognised, the previously recognised impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss to the extent that the carrying amount of the investment at the date the impairment is reversed does not exceed what the amortised cost would have been had the impairment not been recognised.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities including debt instruments issued by Council are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into.

The accounting policies adopted for specific financial liabilities are as follows:

Bank borrowings

Interest bearing bank loans are initially measured at fair value net of transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Debt instruments

Council issues bonds from time to time to raise funds. These are initially measured at fair value net of transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables

Trade payables are initially measured at fair value, and are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Derivative financial instruments

These are mainly forward foreign exchange contracts. These are initially measured at fair value on the contract date, and are re-measured to fair value at subsequent reporting dates. Any gain or loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

Council activities expose it primarily to the financial risks of changes in foreign exchange rates and interest rates. Council uses derivative financial instruments (primarily foreign currency forward contracts) to mitigate its risks associated with foreign currency fluctuations which relate to certain firm commitments and forecasted transactions. The significant interest rate risk arises from bank loans.

The use of financial derivatives is governed by Council's policies as approved by Council resolution, and which provide written principles on the use of financial derivatives consistent with Council's risk management strategy. Council does not use derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Investments in Council controlled organisations

Council has an interest (2.7%) in a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), Local Authority Shared Services Limited. Council has no significant influence on operational or financial policies.

As this investment is not traded on an active market and quoted market prices of similar financial assets are not available, the fair value cannot be measured reliably. The investment is therefore measured at cost.

Inventories

Inventories held for distribution or consumption in the provision of services are measured at the lower of cost or current replacement cost. The cost to these inventories is assigned by using the weighted average cost formula. The write down from cost to current replacement cost is recognised in profit or loss.

Foreign currencies

All foreign currency transactions during the financial year are brought to account using the exchange rate in effect at the date of the transaction. At each balance sheet date, monetary items denominated in foreign currencies are re-translated at the rates prevailing on the balance sheet date. Non-monetary items carried at fair value that are denominated in foreign currencies are re-translated at the rates prevailing on the date when the fair value was determined. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date of transaction.

Exchange differences arising on the settlement of monetary items, and on the re-translation of monetary items, are included in profit or loss for the period. Exchange differences arising on the re-translation of non-monetary items carried at fair value are included in profit or loss for the period except for differences arising on the re-translation of non-monetary items in respect of which gains and losses are recognised directly in other comprehensive income. For such non-monetary items, any exchange component of that gain or loss is also recognised directly in other comprehensive income.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, demand deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three month or less from the date of acquisition.

Goods and services tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements are stated exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables, which are stated on a GST inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to the Inland Revenue (IRD) is included as part of receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet. The net amount of GST paid or received from the IRD, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as an operating cash flow in the statement of cash flow. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

19.13. Employee benefits

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date are measured at nominal values based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date, annual leave earned, but not yet taken at balance date, retiring and long service leave entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months, and sick leave.

A liability for sick leave is recognised to the extent that compensated absences in the coming year are expected to be greater than the sick leave entitlement earned in the coming year. The amount is calculated based on the unused sick leave entitlement that can be carried forward at balance date, to the extent that it will be used by staff to cover those future absences.

Long-term entitlements

Entitlements that are payable beyond 12 months, such as long service leave and retiring leave have been calculated on actuarial basis using the service of professional actuaries. The actuarial calculations are based on an assumed salary increase of 3.5% per annum and a discount rate between 1.97% and 4.75% per annum. The discount rate is derived from the forward rates on NZ Government Bonds over recent periods. It’s also assumed that all employees will retire at the age of 65 and will resign in accordance with the withdrawal rate assumption taken from the Treasury Circular 1998/15. Any actuarial gain or loss resulting from re-measurement of these liabilities is recognised in profit or loss.

Employees appointed to the staff prior to 31 December 1989 who retire from Council with not less than ten years continuous service are eligible for retirement leave. Employees appointed to the staff prior to 1 April 1992 are eligible for long service leave.

Presentation of employee entitlements

Sick leave, annual leave, vested long service leave and non-vested long service leave, and retirement gratuities expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date, are classified as a current liability. All other employee entitlements are classified as a non-current liability.

Superannuation schemes

Defined contribution scheme

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation schemes are recognised as an expense in profit or loss.

19.14. Public equity

Public equity is the community's interest in the Council, as measured by the value of total assets less total liabilities. Public equity is disaggregated and classified into a number of reserves to enable clearer identification of the specific uses Council makes of its accumulated surpluses. The components of equity are:

- general equity (retained earnings)
- restricted reserves
- Council-created reserves
- property revaluation reserves
- investment revaluation reserves.

Reserves are a component of equity generally representing a particular use to which various parts of equity have been assigned.

General equity (retained earnings)

General equity refers to reserves that do not fall into any of the four categories below.

Restricted reserves

Restricted reserves are those reserves subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by Council without reference to the Courts or a third party. Transfers from these reserves may be made only for certain specific purposes or if certain specified conditions are met. The reserves represent balances held from the collection of targeted rates and charges on activities that are funded from targeted rating or those same activities funding depreciation.

Council created reserves

Council-created reserves are a part of the accumulated balance and are established at the will of Council. Council may alter them without reference to any third party or the Courts. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of Council.

Property revaluation reserves

Revaluation reserves arise from certain asset classes being revalued.

Investment revaluation reserve

The investment revaluation reserve contains cumulative unrealised gains and losses in investments classified as 'available for sale' in accordance with PBE IPSAS 29.

Leasing

Leases are classified as finance leases whenever the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Operating leases

Council as lessee

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Council as lessor

Rental income from operating leases is recognised on a straight-line basis over the term of the relevant lease.

Provisions

Council recognises a provision for future expenditure of uncertain amount when there is a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that expenditures will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation, using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense.

Landfill post-closure provision

Council, as operator of the Tokoroa and Putāruru landfills, has a legal obligation under its resource consent, to provide on-going maintenance and monitoring services at the landfill site after closure. A provision for closure and post-closure costs is recognised as a liability when the obligation for closure and post-closure expenses arises.

A calculation of these future costs has been discounted and is measured based on the present value of future cash flows expected to be incurred, taking into account future events, including new legal requirements and known improvements in technology. The discount rate used is a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to Council. Amounts provided for landfill closure and post-closure are capitalised in the landfill asset where they give rise to future economic benefit to be obtained. Components of the capitalised landfill asset are depreciated over their useful lives.

Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires Council to make specified payments to reimburse the holder for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payment when due.

Financial guarantee contracts are disclosed as contingent liabilities. The amount of these contingent liabilities is equal to the loan balances guaranteed.

Critical judgements and estimations

The preparation of financial statements in conformance with PBE IPSAS requires judgments, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenditures.

The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revisions affect both current and future periods.

Management has made the following judgments and estimations that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Property, plant and equipment

As the Council is a Public Benefit Entity, property plant and equipment are valued at depreciated replacement cost that is based on an estimate of either fair value or current gross replacement costs of improvement less allowances for physical deterioration and optimisation for obsolescence and relevant surplus capacity. There are certain assets such as wastewater or stormwater related assets which may be affected by changes in the measurement of qualitative standards which could affect the results of future periods.

The depreciation method used reflects the service potential of assets and is reviewed each year to ensure that there is no under maintenance of assets which could affect the results of future periods.

Classification of investments

Council has designated all its bond investments as ‘available for sale’, rather than ‘held to maturity’, although they all have specific maturity dates. This was due to significant disposals within this class of financial asset before maturity in previous financial years. Therefore, unrealised gains and losses on these investments are recognised as a movement in other comprehensive income. The carrying amount of the available for sale financial assets is disclosed in the notes to the financial report.

19.15. Long service leave provisions

Key assumptions concerning the future have been made in the actuarial calculation of long service leave and retiring leave. These are disclosed in the notes to the financial report.

19.16. Landfill closure and post-closure provision

Assumptions about the future have been made in the calculation of the landfill closure and post closure cost provisions. These are disclosed in the notes to the financial report.