



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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A National Statistics publication for Scotland

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PUBLIC SERVICES AND GOVERNMENT

Scottish Local Government Finance Statistics 2020-21

How much did local authorities spend on services in 2020-21?

Revenue expenditure is the cost of delivering services each year.

Gross **service expenditure** is total expenditure on services in year minus internal transfers.

Gross **service income** is total income authorities receive from services, such as service specific grants or income generated through fees, etc.

Net revenue expenditure is gross service expenditure minus gross service income. It reflects the amount of service expenditure to be funded by general funding or reserves.

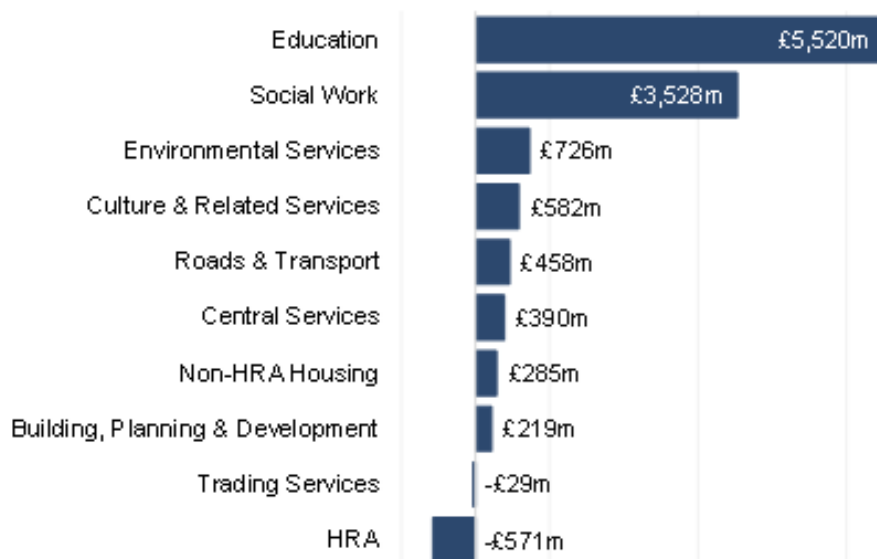
How did local authorities fund services in 2020-21?

General funding is largely made up of the **General Revenue Grant (GRG)**, **Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)** and **Council Tax**.

Local authorities use general funding to meet their net revenue expenditure on services and any other revenue expenditure that is not directly related to services, such as repayment of debt.

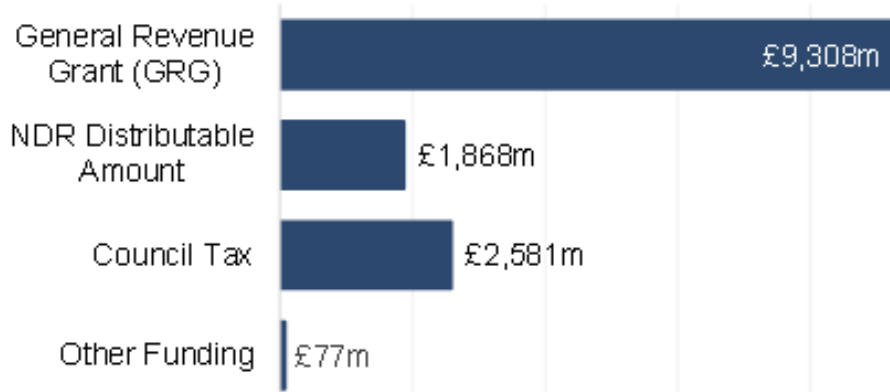
In 2020-21, local authorities' expenditure was **less** than their general funding. This **surplus** was added to local authorities' reserves.

Net Revenue Expenditure in 2020-21 by service, £ millions



Gross Service Expenditure	£20,394 million
- Gross Service Income	- £9,286 million
Net Revenue Expenditure	£11,108 million

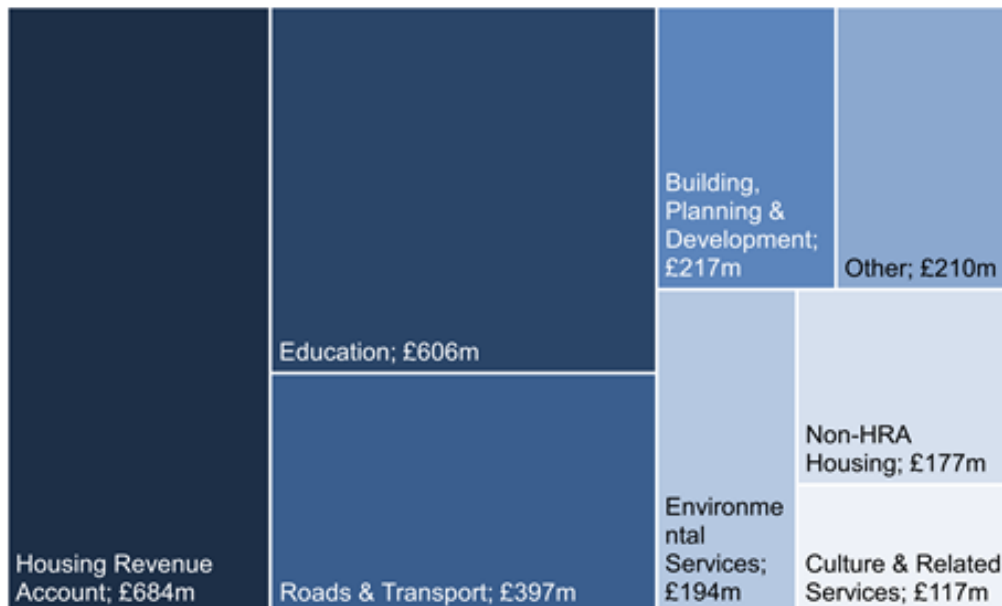
General Funding in 2020-21 by source, £ millions



General Funding	£13,834 million
- Net Revenue Expenditure	- £11,108 million
- Non-Service Expenditure	- £1,560 million
Surplus added to Reserves	£1,166 million

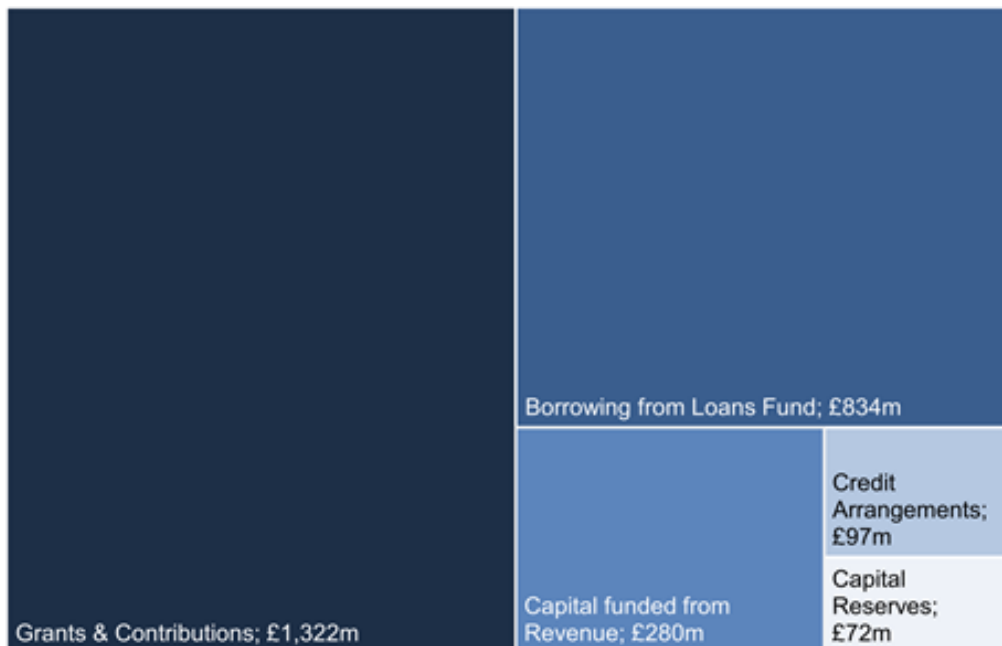
Capital Expenditure in 2020-21 by service, £ millions

Please note that 'Other' includes Social Work, Central Services and Trading Services.



Total Capital Expenditure = £2,604 million

Financing of Capital Expenditure in 2020-21 by source, £ millions



What was the value of capital investment in 2020-21?

Capital expenditure is expenditure that **creates** the **buildings and infrastructure** necessary to provide services, such as schools, flood defence, roads and vehicles.

Capital expenditure also includes **capital grants or loans to third parties** funded from borrowing.

How did local authorities finance the £2,604 million of capital expenditure incurred in 2020-21?

Local authorities can finance capital expenditure in a number of ways. The main sources of financing in 2020-21 were:

- **Grants & contributions**, including those from the Scottish Government;
- **Borrowing**; and
- Use of **revenue reserves**.

What reserves did local authorities have at 31 March 2021?

Usable reserves are local authorities' surplus income from previous years. This can be used to finance future revenue or capital expenditure.

The **General Fund** is the main usable **revenue** reserve, although there are other reserves that local authorities may be able to use.

There are also two usable **capital** reserves.

What debt did local authorities have at 31 March 2021?

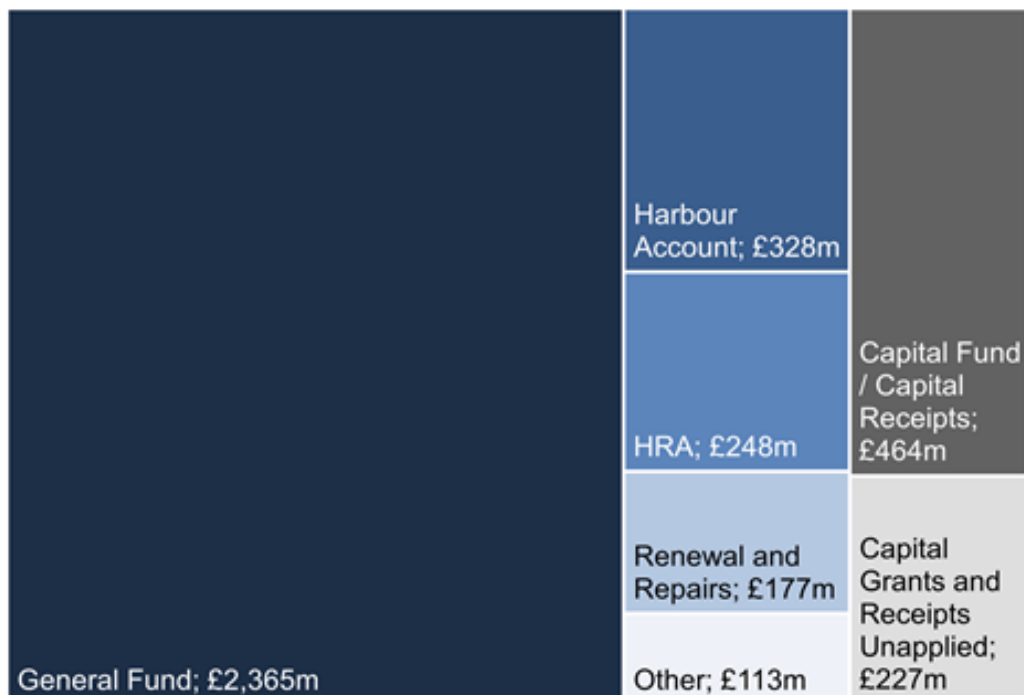
When a local authority borrows money or uses a credit arrangement to finance capital expenditure, a **debt** is created.

Local authorities have to repay this debt from future revenues.

In 2020-21, local authorities **repaid** £629 million of debt.

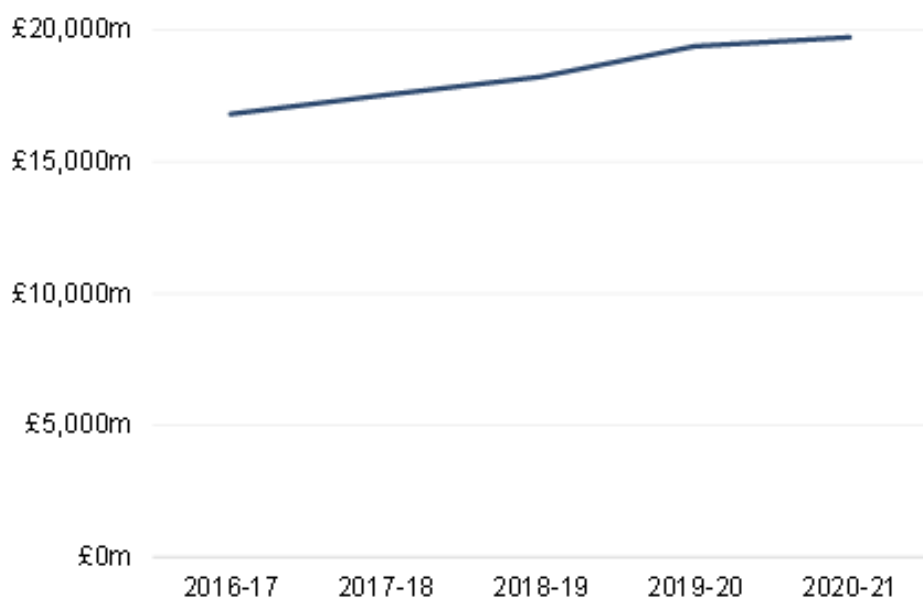
Usable Reserves at 31 March 2021, £ millions

'Other' revenue reserves includes the Insurance Fund.



Usable Reserves at 31 March 2021 = £3,924 million

Total Debt at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions



Total Debt at 31 March 2021 = £19,723 million

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1. Introduction

Local authorities are responsible for delivering a wide range of services, including education, social work, transport, housing, environmental services and cultural services. In Scotland, local government is primarily comprised of **32 councils**, the boundaries of which are shown in Annex A. There are also:

- **ten Valuation Joint Boards (VJBs)**, who provide valuation services to councils. Primarily, VJBs maintain the valuation roll for non-domestic properties and the Council Tax valuation list for domestic dwellings. These are then used as the basis for local taxation billing liability.
- **seven Regional Transport Partnerships (RTPs)**, established to lead on regional transport strategy and delivery by the Transport (Scotland) Act 2005.
- **the Tay Road Bridge Joint Board**, which is responsible for the operation, management and maintenance of the Tay Road Bridge.

Most of these additional boards are the collective responsibility of two or more councils – a list of local authority joint board membership is provided at Annex B. The Tay Road Bridge Joint Board comprises councillors from Dundee City, Fife and Angus, however finance is provided directly from the Scottish Government.

This publication provides a comprehensive **overview of the financial activity across the 50 local authorities described above**. It covers revenue expenditure and income, including local taxation; capital expenditure and financing; reserves and fixed assets; debt and prudential indicators; and pensions. Where appropriate, comparisons to 2019-20 and time series over the last five years have been included to provide broader context to the figures in this publication.

Expenditure and income figures are presented on a **funding basis** in this publication. This means local authorities have made adjustments to remove certain accounting transactions that have been charged to services, such as depreciation and pension costs. Local authorities will consider funding basis figures when making financial decisions, such as setting budgets or increases in Council Tax.

Please note, throughout the publication:

- all years refer to the relevant **financial year** running 1 April to 31 March;
- figures within tables / charts may not sum to the total exactly due to rounding;
- absolute zeroes are shown as '-' and rounded zeroes are shown as '0';
- all figures are presented in **cash terms**, this means they have **not** been adjusted for inflation;
- expenditure and income figures are presented as positive figures, however **net** expenditure figures may be presented as negative where gross income has exceeded gross expenditure and so the net position relates to income;
- General Fund figures include amounts relating to the Harbour Accounts for Orkney and Shetland Island Councils unless otherwise stated;
- gross revenue figures have been adjusted for inter-authority transfers;
- 'Roads & Transport' includes amounts relating to Road Bridges.

Local authorities were asked to record **expenditure incurred in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic**, as well as any **service specific Covid-19 grants** used, against the relevant subservice as far as possible. Where there was no appropriate existing subservice, for example activities relating to supporting individuals to shield or Test & Protect, the expenditure was recorded against Central Services: Other. Covid-19 related income received via GRG is included in the GRG income figure.

In 2020-21, local authorities administered a number of Covid-19 grants on behalf of the Scottish Government. In accordance with [LASAAC Guidance on Accounting for Coronavirus Grants](#), where local authorities' are acting as an intermediary in administering the receipt and payment process to the ultimate recipients of the funding, they are considered to be **acting as agent** on behalf of the Scottish Government and so the local authority should not recognise the transactions as income or expenditure to the authority itself. This means the income and expenditure associated with these grants is **not** included in any of the figures in this publication. However, data on the amount of agency grants paid out in 2020-21 was collected as part of the 2020-21 LFR and is available in the published LFR AG workbook.

Figures included in this publication for years prior to 2020-21 have been revised where necessary to ensure comparability to 2020-21 data or to correct any minor errors identified since the last publication. This means that figures may not match to those previously published. Please note that this publication will **only** be updated to reflect revisions which have a significant impact on the key figures or commentary. Minor revisions to source data files made after publication that have no material impact on the Scotland figures or key messages will **not** be made to this publication, but will be reflected in the 2021-22 Scottish Local Government Finance Statistics (SLGFS) publication.

Under the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014, **30 Integration Joint Boards (IJBs)** have been established in Scotland. IJBs are responsible for the planning of integrated arrangements and onward service delivery of health and social care for their constituent councils and health boards. This publication only includes expenditure that is recognised in councils' financial data, that is:

- local authorities' transfer payments to IJBs, with the total payment amount in year recorded as gross service expenditure against Social Work services;
- income local authorities receive from IJBs to commission services, recorded as gross service income against the relevant service;
- the expenditure that local authorities incur to commission those services, recorded as gross service expenditure against the relevant service.

Local authorities are also required to undertake community planning in partnership with other agencies responsible for public service delivery in an area, such as Health Boards, and Police and Fire bodies. However, the financial activity of these other agencies is not included in this publication.

More information on [this publication, including associated data available for download](#), and on [local government in Scotland](#) is available on the Scottish Government website.

2. Revenue Expenditure and Income

Revenue expenditure is the cost of delivering services each year and includes both service operating costs and overheads. These costs might include salaries, rent, building maintenance, supplies and services. The benefits from revenue expenditure are mainly received within the financial year. Revenue expenditure also includes costs that cannot be directly attributed to a service, such as the repayment of debt and where a local authority has used revenue resources to fund capital investment.

All local authorities are required to have a **General Fund** which is used to account for all revenue activity, except that relating to local authority housing. The General Fund is the principle revenue reserve of the local authority.

Where a council has housing stock, it is required to record expenditure and income relating to the direct provision of housing in their **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**. HRAs are generally self-financing, that is the income received is sufficient to cover expenditure incurred. Of the 32 councils, 26 have an HRA.

The Orkney County Council Act 1974 and the Zetland County Council Act 1974 require Orkney and Shetland to also hold a **Harbour Account**, a separate account and reserve fund specifically for harbour undertakings. Orkney and Shetland are also able to transfer money between their General Fund and their Harbour Accounts. For the purposes of this publication, expenditure and income relating to Harbour Accounts is included in General Fund figures unless otherwise stated.

Revenue expenditure is principally funded through service income and general funding – further detail on these sources of funding is provided in Chapters 2.1.4 and 2.3 respectively. Any **deficit (+)** in a local authority's revenue account is met from their reserves, and any **surplus (-)** is added to a local authority's reserves and carried forward to the next year. Chapter 2.4 provides more detail on the movement in General Fund and HRA reserves in 2020-21.

2.1 Expenditure and Income on Services

Net Revenue Expenditure, also known as the net cost of services, is the element of service expenditure that is funded by general funding or reserves. It is calculated as gross service expenditure minus gross service income. As shown in **Table 2.1**, the net revenue expenditure on local authority services, including HRA, was £11,108 million in 2020-21. This is broadly in line with net revenue expenditure in 2019-20, with an increase of only £30 million, or 0.3 per cent.

The net revenue expenditure figure reflects the **overall impact of the Covid-19 pandemic** on the cost to local authorities of providing services. In particular, this includes £607 million of additional Covid-19 expenditure; and £140 million Covid-19 service specific grant income that local authorities' received from the Scottish Government. Net revenue expenditure will also incorporate the much broader impacts of Covid-19 on existing streams of expenditure and income across services. Whilst these impacts cannot be quantified explicitly, the impact on the trends in gross expenditure and income are discussed in Chapters 2.1.3 and 2.1.4 respectively.

Table 2.1: Net Revenue Expenditure on Services in 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR 00

Category	General Fund	HRA	Total
Gross Service Expenditure	19,648	746	20,394
Gross Service Income	7,969	1,317	9,286
Net Revenue Expenditure	11,679	-571	11,108

2.1.1 Net Revenue Expenditure by Service

Chart 2.1 shows net revenue expenditure on services in Scotland in 2020-21. Education has the highest net revenue expenditure at £5,520 million followed by Social Work which has a net revenue expenditure of £3,528 million.

Chart 2.1: Net Revenue Expenditure in 2020-21 by Service, £ millions

Source: LFR 00

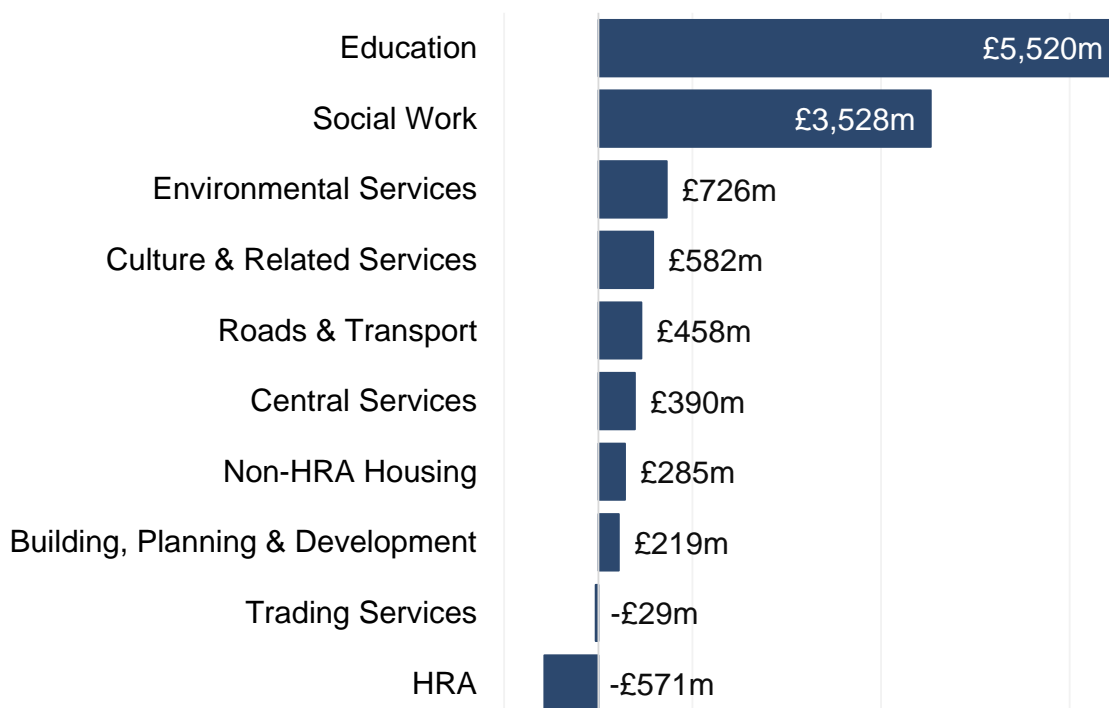


Table 2.2 shows how net revenue expenditure by service has changed between 2016-17 and 2020-21.

Table 2.2: Net Revenue Expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Service, £ millions

Source: LFR 00

Service	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% change between 2019-20 & 2020-21
Education	4,828	4,839	5,054	5,330	5,520	3.6%
Culture & Related Services	576	560	575	554	582	5.2%
Social Work	3,207	3,198	3,312	3,456	3,528	2.1%
Roads & Transport	399	432	384	382	458	19.7%
Environmental Services	679	688	678	684	726	6.1%
Building, Planning & Development	234	213	206	190	219	15.0%
Central Services	389	448	346	783	390	-50.2%
Non-HRA Housing	231	258	254	261	285	9.3%
Trading Services	-27	-30	-35	-36	-29	19.4%
General Fund Net Revenue Expenditure	10,517	10,605	10,774	11,604	11,679	0.6%
HRA	-504	-517	-524	-527	-571	-8.5%
Total Net Revenue Expenditure	10,012	10,088	10,250	11,077	11,108	0.3%

Net revenue expenditure on **Education** has increased by 3.6 per cent, or £190 million, in 2020-21. This is driven by increases in net expenditure for Primary and Secondary Schools, which have increased by 4.8 per cent and 4.5 per cent, or £101 million and £93 million, respectively. Whilst expenditure on Pre-primary schools has increased significantly, reflecting the ongoing expansion of Early Learning and Childcare provision, this has been offset by a significant increase service income from government grants.

Culture and Related Services saw an increase of 5.2 per cent, or £29 million, in net revenue expenditure in 2020-21. The increase mainly relates to an increase in net expenditure on Sports Facilities of 27.8 per cent, or £41 million, driven by both increased payments to Arm's Length External Organisations (ALEOs) and reduced income from fees and charges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This increase in net expenditure for Sports Facilities was offset by decreases in net revenue expenditure in other areas of Culture and Related Services.

Net revenue expenditure on **Social Work** increased by 2.1 per cent, or £72 million, in 2020-21 due to the increase in gross expenditure exceeding the increase in service income.

Net revenue expenditure on **Roads & Transport** has increased by 19.7 per cent, or £75 million, in 2020-21. This is mainly due to a substantial decrease in income from Parking Services (£46 million) combined with increased expenditure on winter road maintenance incurred (£17 million).

Environmental Services saw an increase of 6.1 per cent, or £42 million, in net revenue expenditure in 2020-21 as a result of both increased expenditure on, and decreased income from, waste management services.

Building, Planning & Development saw an increase of 15.0 per cent, or £28 million, in net revenue expenditure in 2020-21. This increase has been driven by a reduction in service income across building and planning services, combined with an increase in expenditure on Economic Development that exceeds the increase in income for this service.

Net revenue expenditure on **Central Services** has decreased by 50.2 per cent, or £394 million, between 2019-20 and 2020-21. This significant reduction is due to a one-off equal pay settlement of £463 million by Glasgow City Council in 2019-20. This is slightly offset by an increase in net expenditure due to the inclusion of Covid-19 expenditure and service income not related to any other subservices under in Central Services: Other.

Net revenue expenditure on **Non-HRA Housing** has increased by 9.3 per cent, or £24 million, in 2020-21. Around £10 million of this increase relates to an increase in net expenditure on Homelessness due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

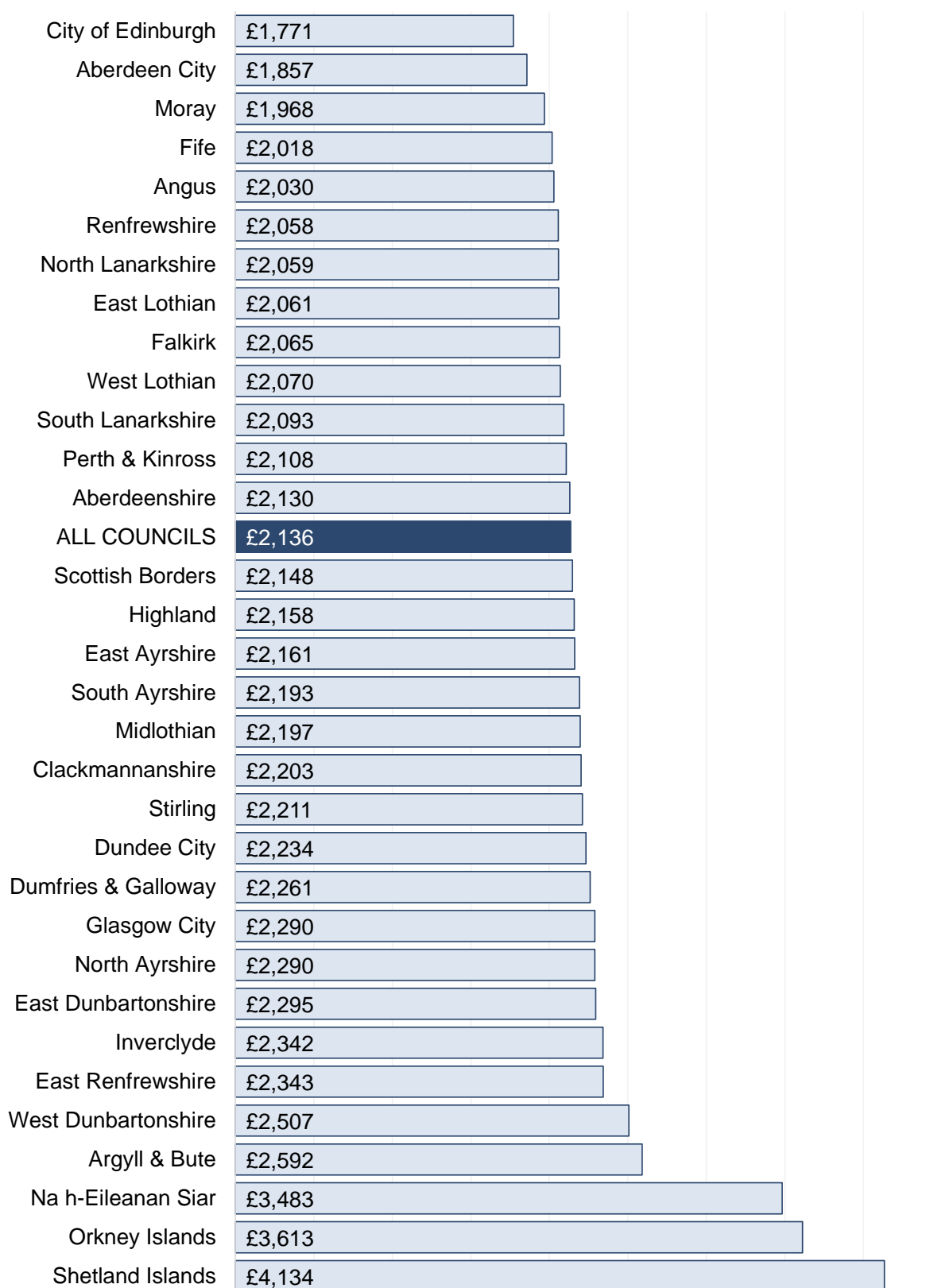
HRA and Trading Services both have negative net revenue expenditure, which means that the service income received for these services was **more** than the expenditure incurred to provide these services. As such, negative net revenue expenditure can be considered as net income. In recent years net expenditure for Trading Services has remained broadly stable and net expenditure for HRA has been decreasing – that is, the overall net income that local authorities have received from their HRA has increased.

2.1.2 General Fund Net Revenue Expenditure by Council

Chart 2.2 shows net revenue expenditure on General Fund services per person by council. In 2020-21, councils spent on average £2,136 per person, a slight increase from £2,121 per person in 2019-20. Spend per person varied across councils with island authorities having the highest spend per person.

Chart 2.2: General Fund Net Revenue Expenditure in 2020-21 by Council, £ per person

Source: LFR 00, Mid-Year Population Estimates



2.1.3 Gross Service Expenditure

Gross Service Expenditure is the total expenditure on local authority services within a financial year, adjusted for any intra / inter-authority transfers. In 2020-21, gross service expenditure was £20,394 million, an increase of 1.6 per cent, or £317 million, from 2019-20. **Table 2.3** shows gross service expenditure by type of expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Table 2.3: Gross Service Expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Expenditure Type, £ millions

Source: LFR 00

Expenditure Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% change between 2019-20 & 2020-21
Employee Costs	6,713	6,864	7,196	8,259	8,191	-0.8%
Operating Costs	6,828	7,090	7,467	7,562	8,064	6.6%
Transfer Payments	4,394	4,378	4,743	4,754	4,648	-2.2%
Support Services	824	743	735	728	743	2.0%
Adjustment for Intra / Inter Authority Transfers	-994	-1,005	-1,275	-1,227	-1,253	2.1%
Gross Service Expenditure	17,765	18,070	18,866	20,077	20,394	1.6%

In 2020-21, **employee costs** were the largest element of gross service expenditure, accounting for £8,191 million. These costs relate to salaries and wages, national insurance and superannuation contributions, cash allowances paid to employees, redundancy and severance payments and any other costs relating to employees. Employee costs in 2020-21 have decreased by 0.8 per cent, or £68 million, from 2019-20, however this is due to the 2019-20 employee costs figure including a one-off equal pay settlement of £463 million for Glasgow City Council. Employee costs have increased by 22.0 per cent, or £1,478 million, over the last five years.

Operating costs relate to costs for premises, transport, supplies and services, as well as payments made to third parties. In 2020-21, these accounted for £8,064 million of gross expenditure – an increase of 6.6 per cent, or £502 million, from 2019-20. This increase predominantly relates to an increase in payments to third parties.

Transfer payments accounted for £4,648 million of gross service expenditure in 2020-21, a decrease of 2.2 per cent, or £106 million, from 2019-20. This expenditure relates to payments for which no goods or services are received in return by the local authority, including payment of Housing Benefit and transfers to IJBs.

Support services costs are the smallest component of gross service expenditure, accounting for only £743 million. This is an increase of 2.0 per cent, or £14 million, from 2019-20. These are costs that are paid for services that support the provision of services to the public, such as IT, Human Resources, Legal services, Procurement services and Corporate services.

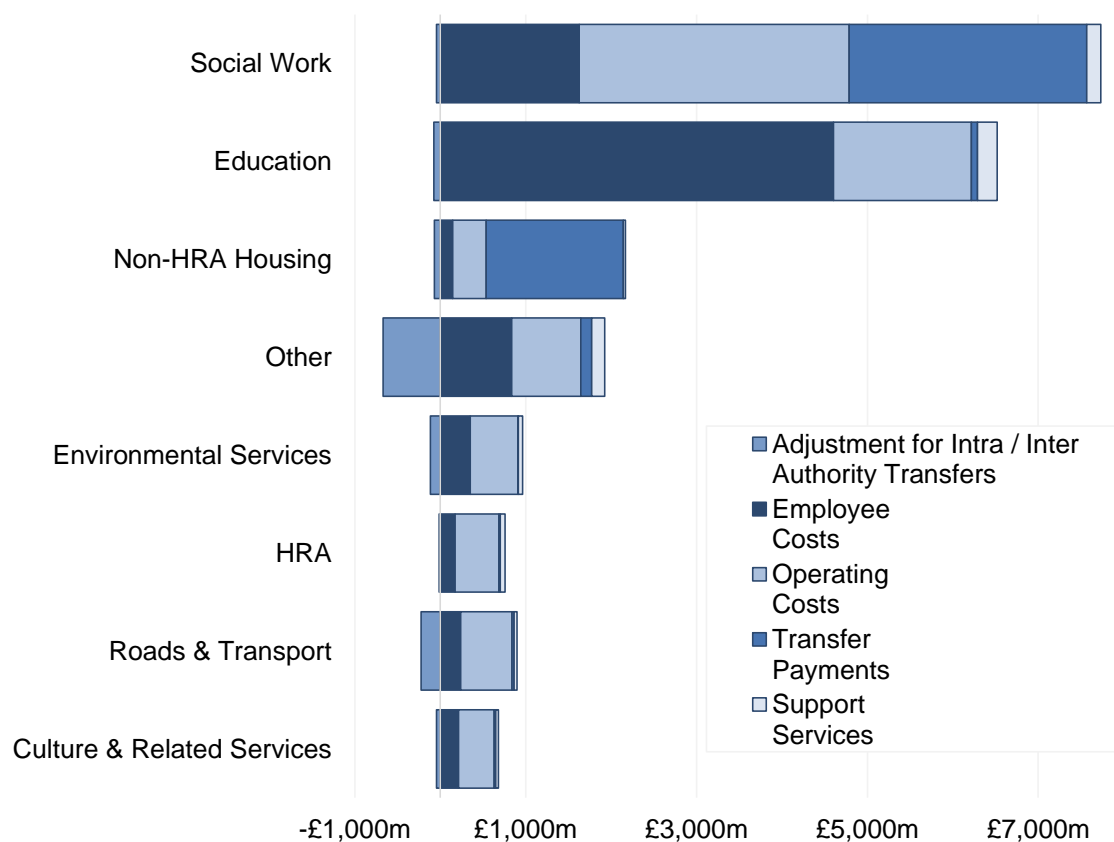
An **adjustment for intra / inter-authority transfers** of -£1,253 million has been made to the aggregate gross service expenditure figure. This is to prevent double counting of expenditure caused by transfers between different services within an authority and between different local authorities. The adjustment removes the total recharge income from other services, contributions from other local authorities and requisition income for VJBs and RTPs. Following the adjustment, expenditure is only reported against the authority or service area that commissioned the service.

Chart 2.3 shows the breakdown of gross service expenditure by service and by expenditure type. Education has a higher proportion of employee costs than other services – this is due to the higher number of staff employed within Education, in particular teachers. Social Work and Non-HRA Housing have high proportions of transfer payments which relates to amounts transferred to IJBs and the payment of Housing Benefits respectively. Other has the largest adjustment for intra / inter authority transfers which is due to Central Services and Trading Services having particularly high amounts of recharge income from other services.

Chart 2.3: Gross Service Expenditure in 2020-21 by Service and Expenditure Type, £ millions

Please note that ‘Other’ consists of Building, Planning & Development Services, Central Services and Trading Services.

Source: LFR 00



2.1.4 Gross Service Income

Gross Service Income is the total income a local authority receives directly in relation to services they provide. In 2020-21, local authorities received £9,286 million in service income, an increase of 3.2 per cent, or £287 million, from 2019-20.

Local authorities receive service income from a variety of sources. **Table 2.4** shows gross service income by type of income from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

Table 2.4: Gross Service Income from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Income Type, £ millions

Source: LFR 00

Income Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% change between 2019-20 & 2020-21
Government Grants	2,138	2,206	2,380	2,559	2,866	12.0%
Other Grants, Reimbursements and Contributions	3,077	3,240	3,638	3,756	3,926	4.5%
Customer and Client Receipts	2,537	2,537	2,598	2,685	2,494	-7.1%
Gross Service Income	7,752	7,982	8,616	9,000	9,286	3.2%

Government grants relates to grants local authorities receive to support specific services from either the Scottish or UK Governments, including Ring-Fenced Revenue Grants (RFRGs); grants from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) for Housing Benefit payments; and Covid-19 service specific grants. These figures will reflect the amount of grants **used** in the year specified – this may not match the amount of grants local authorities received in that year. This category does **not** include General Revenue Grant (GRG) as that is not provided to local authorities to fund a specific service. In 2020-21, government grants accounted for £2,866 million of service income, an increase of 12.0 per cent, or £307 million, from 2019-20.

Other grants, reimbursements and contributions includes contributions from NHS Boards and income from IJBs to commission social care services. This accounted for £3,926 million of service income in 2020-21 – an increase of 4.5 per cent, or £170 million, from 2019-20.

Customer and client receipts is income local authorities have received for sales, rents, fees and charges for services they provide. In 2020-21, this accounted for £2,494 million of service income, a decrease of 7.1 per cent, or £191 million, from 2019-20. This decrease reflects the impact that the Covid-19 pandemic has had on local authorities' ability to generate income. In particular, customer and client receipts for General Fund services only have decreased by 16.3 per cent, or £232 million, compared to 2019-20.

Chart 2.4 shows the breakdown of gross service income by service and income type. Social Work has the largest amount of service income, the majority of which is from other grants, reimbursements and contributions. This relates to amounts received from IJBs to commission social care services, as well as contributions received from NHS Boards.

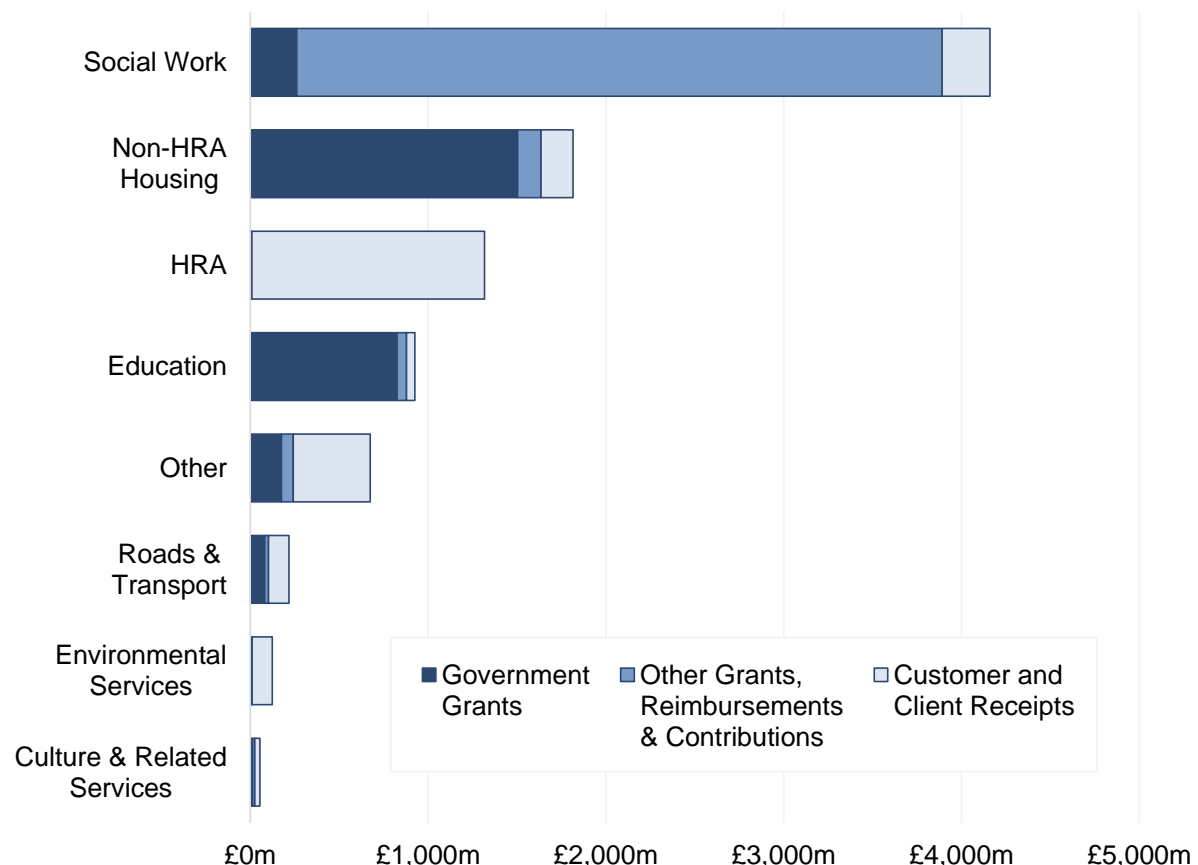
Both Non-HRA Housing and Education have high proportions of service income from government grants. For Non-HRA Housing, this relates to grants from the DWP to fund Housing Benefit payments. For Education, this amount reflects various Education RFRGs that local authorities received from Scottish Government.

Service income for the HRA is almost entirely made up of customer and client receipts which predominantly relates to rent payments received.

Chart 2.4: Gross Service Income in 2020-21 by Service and Income Type, £ millions

Please note that 'Other' consists of Building, Planning & Development Services, Central Services and Trading Services.

Source: LFR 00



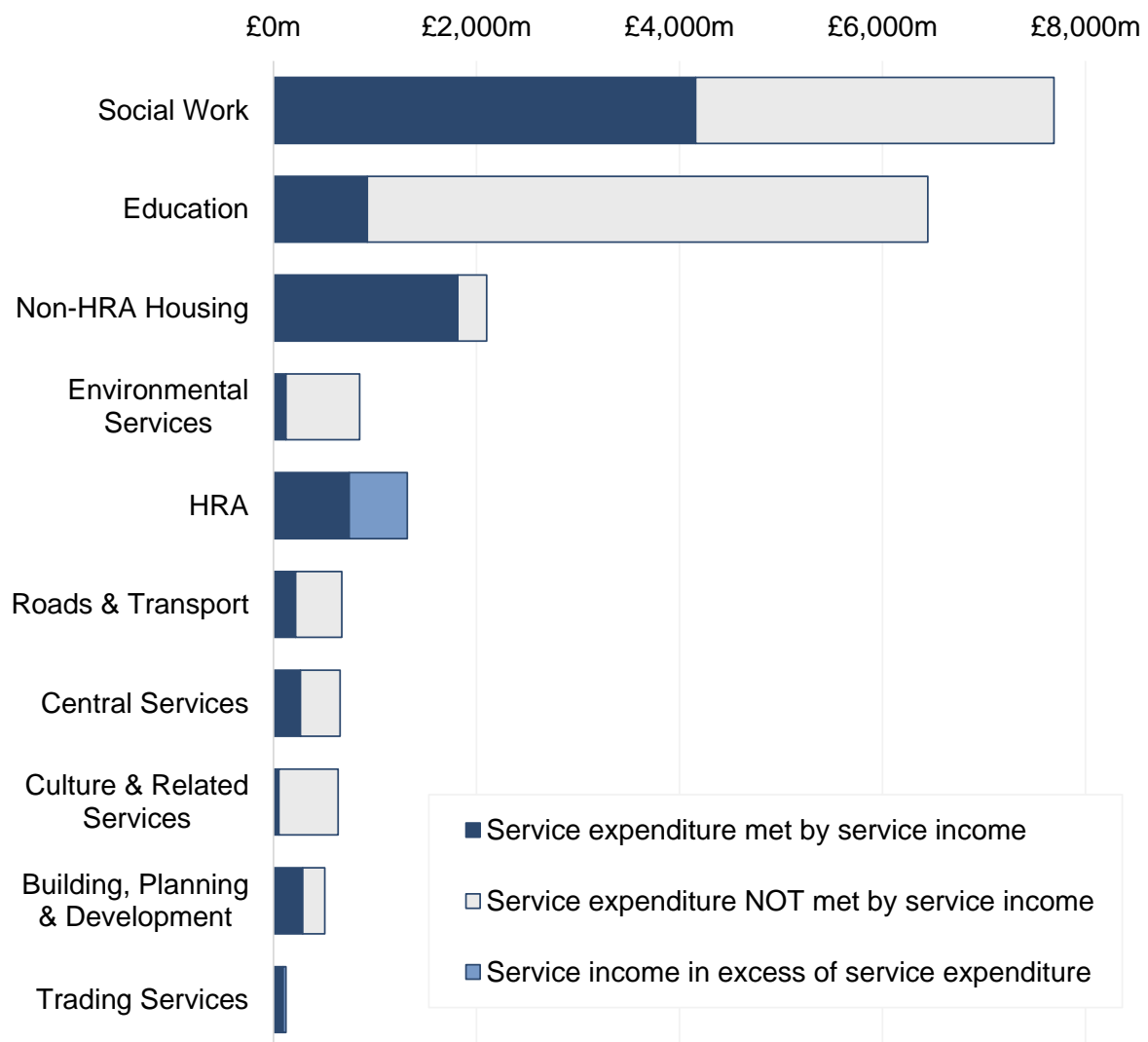
In 2020-21, 43 per cent of service expenditure was met by service income. **Chart 2.5** shows the proportion of service expenditure met by service income for each service. This varies significantly between services as they each receive different levels of grants and contributions, and services have differing abilities to generate service income in the form of customer and client receipts.

Service income **exceeded** service expenditure for HRA and Trading Services, generating surplus income for both services.

Service income was **less than** service expenditure for all other services, with the amount of service expenditure being funded by service income ranging from 8 per cent for Culture & Related Services to 86 per cent for Non-HRA Housing.

Chart 2.5: Service Expenditure met by Service Income in 2020-21 by Service, £ millions

Source: LFR 00



2.2 Other Expenditure and Income

Local authorities will also incur some revenue expenditure and income that is not attributable to specific services, such as interest paid or received, statutory repayment of debts, contributions to capital expenditure, proceeds of trading operations and any other operating expenditure.

In 2020-21, local authorities incurred £1,560 million of **other expenditure and income**. **Table 2.5** provides a breakdown of this figure, split by the General Fund and HRA. Interest paid and repayment of debts made up the majority of other expenditure, accounting for £851 million and £629 million respectively.

Table 2.5: Other Expenditure and Income in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note the following:

Income figures are presented as negative in this table.

'Interest Receivable and Similar Income' includes losses arising from derecognition of financial assets and recognition of credit losses on financial assets.

'Statutory Repayment of Debt' includes repayments relating to lending to other statutory bodies and so will differ to the repayment figures in Chapter 5.

Source: LFR A0

Expenditure / Income Type	General Fund	HRA	Total
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	704	146	851
Interest Receivable and Similar Income	-199	7	-192
Statutory Repayment of Debt	463	166	629
Capital Expenditure Funded from Revenue	75	203	279
Surplus (-) or Deficit (+) from Trading Operations	-6	-	-6
Other Operating Expenditure	-1	0	-1
Total Other Expenditure and Income	1,037	522	1,560

2.3 General Funding

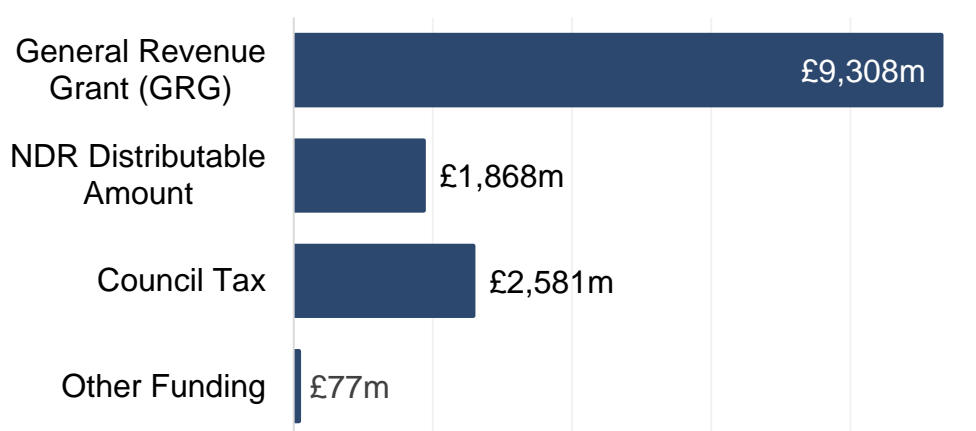
General funding, referred to as ‘Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income’ within local authorities’ accounts, principally consists of the General Revenue Grant (GRG) and local taxation, specifically Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) and Council Tax.

Total general funding available to authorities in 2020-21 was £13,834 million, an increase of 16.1 per cent, or £1,511 million, from 2019-20. **Chart 2.6** shows the total general funding available to local authorities in 2020-21 by type of funding.

Chart 2.6: General Funding in 2020-21 by Source, £ millions

Please note that ‘Other Funding’ includes government grants paid to joint boards and income received through NDR TIF and BRIS schemes (Chapter 2.3.2.3).

Source: LFR A0



General Revenue Grant (GRG) is the general grant paid to local authorities by the Scottish Government, including monies from the UK Government payable to a local authority, and is the main source of funding for local authorities. In 2020-21, GRG accounted for £9,308 million, or 67 per cent, of general funding. This figure includes £1,222 million of additional Covid-19 funding that local authorities received.

NDR accounted for £1,868 million, or 14 per cent, of general funding. This is a lower share of general funding than in prior years which reflects the introduction of two new reliefs introduced in 2020-21 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Scottish Government guarantees the combined sum of GRG and NDR funding to local authorities in each financial year. More detail on NDR is provided in Chapter 2.3.2 and more information on the process to determine local government funding from the Scottish Government is available in the [Local Government Funding: Process Overview publications](#).

Council Tax accounted for £2,581 million, or 19 per cent, of general funding in 2020-21 – this is consistent with prior years. More information on Council Tax is provided in Chapter 2.3.1.

Table 2.6 shows the breakdown of general funding figures between 2016-17 and 2020-21. As the combined total of NDR and GRG provided to local authorities is guaranteed, any decrease in the amount of NDR collected is compensated for by a corresponding increase in GRG. This is reflected in the percentage changes seen for GRG and NDR between 2019-20 and 2020-21 (+34.2 and -34.5 per cent respectively). The increase in GRG since 2019-20 will also have been driven by the inclusion of the additional £1,222 million of Covid-19 funding in the 2020-21 figure.

Council Tax has continued the steady increase seen over the last five years, with an increase of 3.5 per cent, or £88 million, from 2019-20.

Table 2.6: General Funding from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Source, £ millions

Please note the following:

GRG figures for 2018-19 and 2019-20 differ from the Finance Circular allocation due to £10m for Teacher’s Pay which was paid as part of the 2019-20 settlement but recorded by local authorities as income in 2018-19.

The 2020-21 GRG figure differs to the Finance Circular allocation due to the exclusion of amounts for two agency grants paid to local authorities via GRG.

‘Other Funding’ includes government grants paid to joint boards and income received through NDR TIF and BRIS schemes.

Source: LFR A0

General Funding Source	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% change between 2019-20 & 2020-21
GRG	6,839	6,799	6,885	6,937	9,308	34.2%
NDR Distributable Amount	2,769	2,666	2,636	2,853	1,868	-34.5%
Council Tax	2,091	2,278	2,376	2,493	2,581	3.5%
Other Funding	10	9	13	40	77	90.4%
Total General Funding	11,708	11,751	11,910	12,323	13,834	16.1%

2.3.1 Council Tax

Council Tax was introduced in Scotland on the 1 April 1993 to replace the Community Charge. It is a tax system based on dwellings and is a component of general funding for local authorities.

There are three factors that determine the amount of Council Tax that a dwelling is liable for:

1. **The market value of the dwelling as at the 1 April 1991.** Each dwelling is placed into one of eight bands from A to H, with Band A dwellings liable for the lowest rates of Council Tax and Band H attracting the highest.
2. **The Band D rate** which is set by the local authority, with other bands calculated as a ratio to Band D. The ratios determining the charges for properties in bands E to H were revised in 2017-18.
3. **A range of exemptions, discounts and reductions and increases** that are available in certain circumstances, or in some cases an increase in Council Tax due to the application of a levy.

The valuation range and ratio for each Council Tax band is given in **Table 2.7**.

Table 2.7: Valuation Range and Ratios by Council Tax Band

Please note the following:

“n/a” indicates where a total value is not applicable.

The ratios quoted applied from 2017-18 onwards.

Source: CTaxbase

Band	Valuation Band Ranges as at 1 April 1991	Ratio to Band D	No. of Chargeable Dwellings as at September 2020	Proportion of Chargeable dwellings
Band A	Under £27,000	6/9	499,845	19.8%
Band B	£27,001 to £35,000	7/9	575,744	22.8%
Band C	£35,001 to £45,000	8/9	408,663	16.2%
Band D	£45,001 to £58,000	9/9	345,554	13.7%
Band E	£58,001 to £80,000	473/360	345,211	13.7%
Band F	£80,001 to £106,000	585/360	203,442	8.1%
Band G	£106,001 to £212,000	705/360	130,702	5.2%
Band H	Over £212,000	882/360	13,726	0.5%
Total	n/a	n/a	2,522,887	100.0%

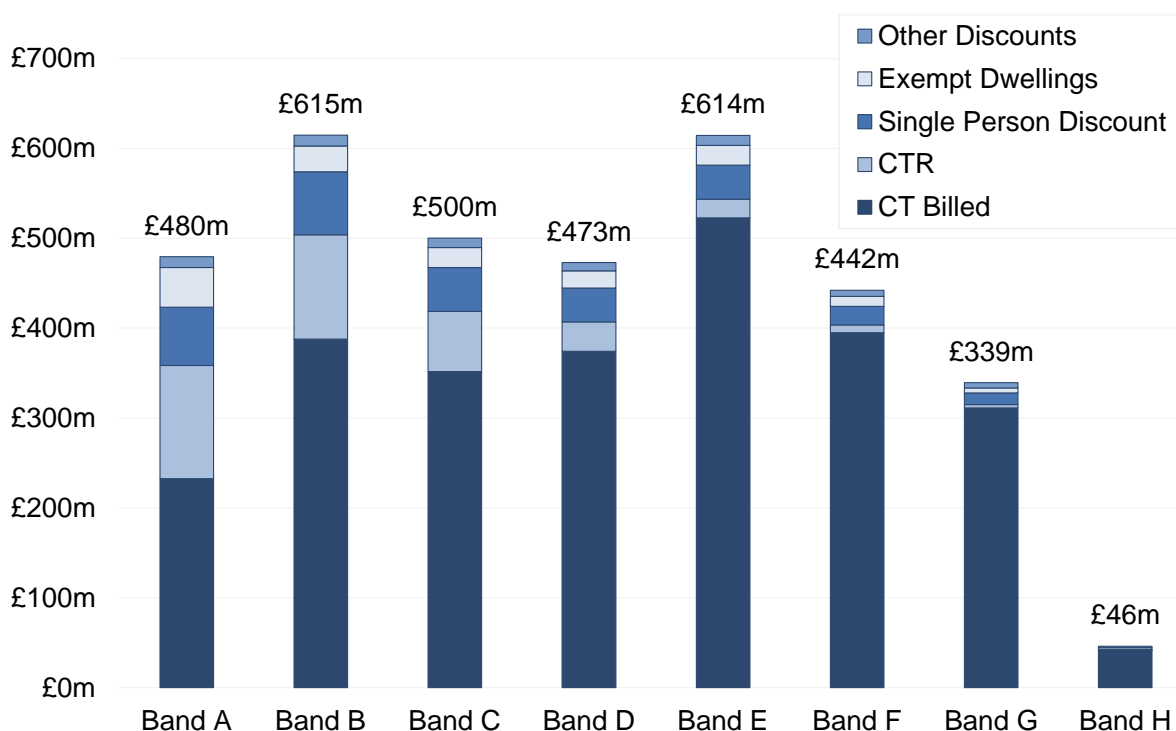
2.3.1.1 Collection and Yield of Council Tax

Local authorities are responsible for billing and collecting Council Tax. Before the start of each financial year, local authorities issue Council Tax bills to householders in each dwelling. Each bill is calculated by applying the appropriate band rate for the local authority, then applying any discounts, exemptions, reductions or increases – further details are provided in **Tables 2.12** and **2.13**.

Council Tax Potential Yield refers to the Council Tax yield if all dwellings paid the full rate for their relevant Band and local authority. **Chart 2.7** illustrates the gross Council Tax potential yield broken down into the Council Tax billed and the amounts not billed due to discounts and exemptions or where the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme has reduced a household's Council Tax liability.

Chart 2.7: Council Tax Potential Yield in 2020-21, £ millions

Source: CTaxbase and CTRR



Local authorities collect Council Tax relating to these bills over the year, and also continue to collect late amounts from previous billing years. The provisional in-year Council Tax collection rate in Scotland for 2020-21 was 94.8 per cent – this is the proportion of Council Tax billed for 2020-21 that was collected by 31 March 2021. The total, audited amount of Council Tax collected for Scotland, after CTR and including late payments of bills from prior years, was £2,581 million.

Table 2.8 shows the audited amount of Council Tax collected by each local authority in 2020-21. More information about bills issued in 2020-21 and the provisional amounts collected are available in the [Council Tax Collection Statistics, 2020-21](#) publication.

Table 2.8: Council Tax Income after CTR in 2020-21 by Local Authority, £ thousands

Please note that figures relate to income collected in 2020-21, which can include amounts that were billed in previous years.

Source: LFR A0

Local Authority	Net Council Tax Income
Aberdeen City	123,401
Aberdeenshire	151,268
Angus	52,071
Argyll & Bute	54,437
City of Edinburgh	283,496
Clackmannanshire	23,638
Dumfries & Galloway	69,783
Dundee City	56,379
East Ayrshire	52,577
East Dunbartonshire	65,077
East Lothian	58,585
East Renfrewshire	54,431
Falkirk	68,759
Fife	170,789
Glasgow City	231,895
Highland	129,714
Inverclyde	32,238
Midlothian	49,301
Moray	45,731
Na h-Eileanan Siar	11,633
North Ayrshire	57,335
North Lanarkshire	122,490
Orkney Islands	10,026
Perth & Kinross	87,424
Renfrewshire	83,037
Scottish Borders	60,215
Shetland Islands	10,106
South Ayrshire	60,328
South Lanarkshire	139,757
Stirling	52,163
West Dunbartonshire	36,765
West Lothian	76,626
Scotland	2,581,475

2.3.1.2 Chargeable Dwellings

Table 2.9 shows the number of dwellings in Scotland for each September from 2016-17 to 2020-21. There were a total of 2.654 million dwellings in Scotland in 2020-21, of which 130,845 were exempt for Council Tax purposes. This gave 2.523 million chargeable dwellings in 2020-21, an increase of around 2.7 per cent, or around 67,500 dwellings, since 2016-17.

Table 2.9: Total Number of Dwellings from 2016-17 to 2020-21

Source: CTaxbase

Financial Year	Total Dwellings	Exempt Dwellings	Chargeable Dwellings
2016-17	2,575,495	120,089	2,455,406
2017-18	2,594,821	121,324	2,473,497
2018-19	2,614,957	127,856	2,487,101
2019-20	2,636,639	131,706	2,504,933
2020-21	2,653,732	130,845	2,522,887

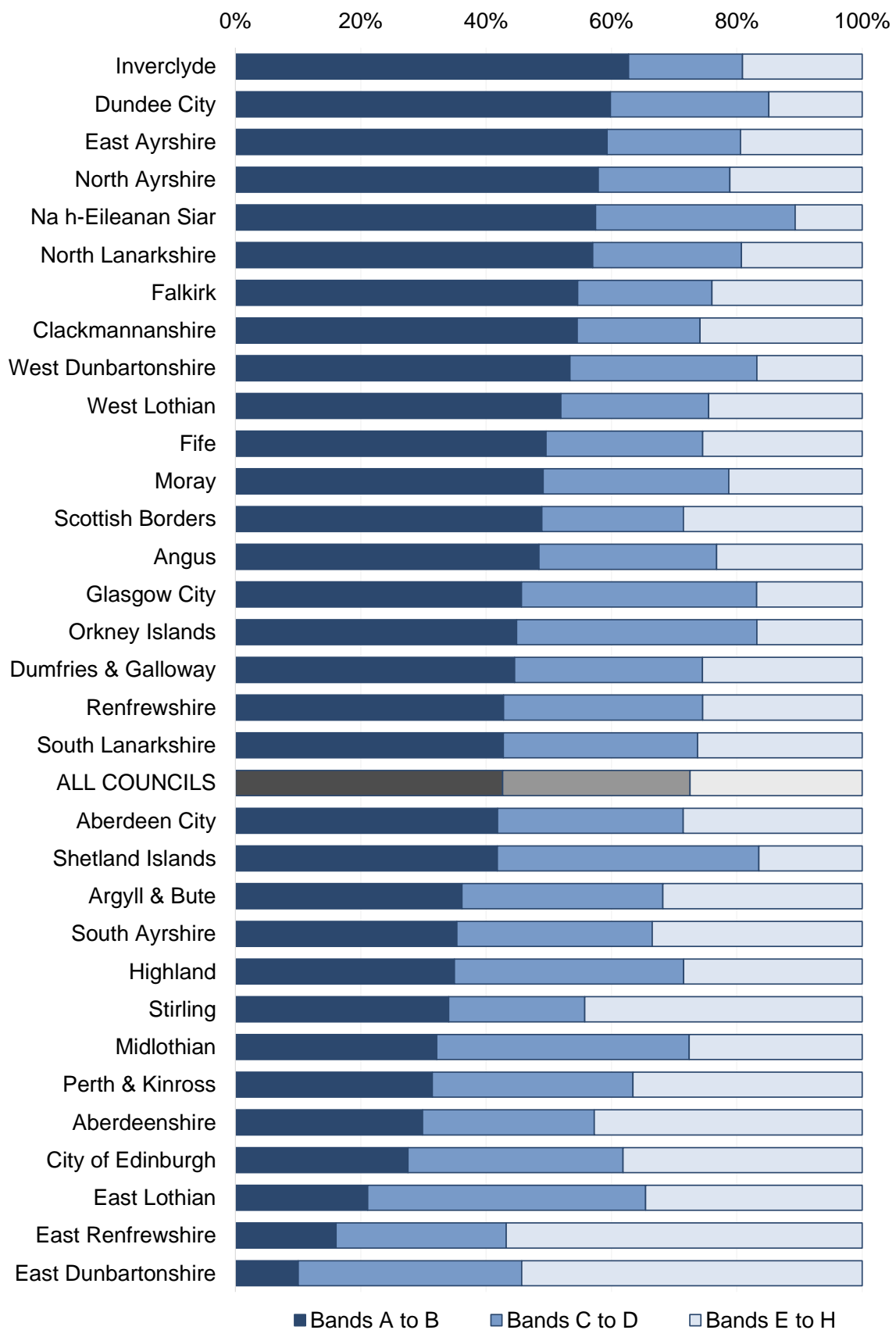
Chart 2.8 shows the distribution of chargeable dwellings across Council Tax bands in each local authority. Across Scotland, just under three-quarters of all chargeable dwellings are in Bands A to D. The distribution varies across local authorities due to variations in property market values. Na h-Eileanan Siar has the largest proportion of dwellings in Bands A to D at 89 per cent, whereas East Renfrewshire has the lowest proportion in Bands A to D at 43 per cent.

The ratios for Bands E to H, as shown in **Table 2.7**, were revised in 2017-18 and so dwellings in these bands, which make up just over a quarter of total dwellings, are subject to higher charges.

The three local authorities with the highest number of chargeable dwellings were Glasgow City, City of Edinburgh and Fife, making up over a quarter of the chargeable dwellings in Scotland between them. Further data on the number of chargeable dwellings by local authority and Council Tax band can be found in the [Council Tax supplementary tables](#).

Chart 2.8: Proportion of Chargeable Dwellings at September 2020 by Local Authority and Council Tax Band

Source: CTaxbase



2.3.1.3 Council Tax Rates and Average Bills

Each local authority determines their own Band D rate of Council Tax as part of their budget setting process. The rate for other bands is then calculated as a set ratio of the Band D rate, see **Table 2.7**, and so each local authority has different Council Tax rates. The 2020-21 Band D Council Tax rates for each local authority are shown in **Chart 2.9** ranging from £1,193 in Na h-Eileanan Siar to £1,409 in Midlothian.

Chart 2.9: Band D Council Tax Rate in 2020-21 by Local Authority

Source: CTAS

Na h-Eileanan Siar	£1,193
South Lanarkshire	£1,203
Shetland Islands	£1,206
Angus	£1,207
Orkney Islands	£1,208
North Lanarkshire	£1,221
Dumfries & Galloway	£1,223
Falkirk	£1,226
Scottish Borders	£1,254
West Lothian	£1,276
Fife	£1,281
East Renfrewshire	£1,290
West Dunbartonshire	£1,294
Aberdeenshire	£1,301
East Lothian	£1,303
Clackmannanshire	£1,305
ALL COUNCILS	£1,308
East Dunbartonshire	£1,309
Renfrewshire	£1,315
Perth & Kinross	£1,318
Moray	£1,323
Highland	£1,332
Inverclyde	£1,332
City of Edinburgh	£1,339
North Ayrshire	£1,343
Stirling	£1,344
South Ayrshire	£1,345
Argyll & Bute	£1,368
East Ayrshire	£1,375
Aberdeen City	£1,377
Dundee City	£1,379
Glasgow City	£1,386
Midlothian	£1,409

From 2007-08 to 2016-17, the Scottish Government and local government worked in partnership to freeze Council Tax rates each year. The one exception is Stirling, who reduced their Band D rate from £1,223 in 2007-08 to £1,209 in 2008-09, and subsequently to £1,197 in 2012-13. The Council Tax freeze caused the Scotland average Band D Council Tax rate to remain steady at £1,149 from 2007-08 to 2016-17 – a fall in real terms.

After nine years of the Council Tax freeze, the Scottish Government secured the agreement of local authorities to cap locally determined Council Tax increases to three per cent in cash terms in both 2017-18 and 2018-19. This continued into 2019-20 and 2020-21, when local government agreed Council Tax increases to be capped at three per cent in real terms, which was 4.79 per cent in cash terms in 2019-20 and 4.84 per cent in 2020-21. In 2020-21, 20 local authorities raised their Council Tax rates by the maximum 4.84 per cent, 2 by 4.79 per cent, 1 by 4.64 per cent, 1 by 4.60 per cent, 1 by 4.50 per cent, 1 by 4.27 per cent, 1 by 4.00 per cent, 1 by 3.95 per cent, and the remaining 4 raised their Council Tax rate by 3.00 per cent.

The average Council Tax bill per dwelling in 2020-21 was £1,201. This differs from the average Band D rate due to the distribution of dwellings across Council Tax bands, as can be seen in **Table 2.7** and **Chart 2.7**, and the application of discounts. **Table 2.10** shows how the average Council Tax bill for Scotland has changed each year from 2016-17.

Table 2.10: Average Council Tax Bill per Dwelling from 2016-17 to 2020-21

Please note that the minor changes between years where Council Tax was frozen are due to a number of factors, including the distribution of dwellings across bands; discounts and exemptions; new construction and removal of demolished housing from the roll.

Source: CTAS, CTaxbase and LFR 12

Financial Year	Before CTR	After CTR
2016-17	£997	£867
2017-18	£1,069	£936
2018-19	£1,106	£973
2019-20	£1,147	£1,013
2020-21	£1,201	£1,053

2.3.1.4 Council Tax Reduction (CTR)

Scotland's Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme was introduced in 2013 following the UK Government's abolition of Council Tax Benefit (CTB), with responsibility for Council Tax reduction schemes given to local government in England and the Scottish and Welsh Governments.

The CTR scheme reduces the Council Tax liability of lower income households in Scotland, and takes into account a household's earnings, composition and characteristics. The impact of CTR on the average Council Tax bill is also shown in **Table 2.10**. After taking these reductions in liability into account, the average bill per dwelling reduced by £148, from £1,201 in 2019-20 to £1,053 in 2020-21. These figures are averages and it is important to note that not everyone who pays Council Tax will be eligible for CTR; and that CTR levels will be different depending on individual household circumstances and characteristics.

The Scottish Government provides funding to local authorities to compensate them for the loss in tax receipts associated with the CTR scheme. In 2020-21, CTR funding totalled £376 million.

The amounts distributed to each local authority and the final, audited reduction in liability are shown in **Table 2.11**. The final, audited reduction in liability due to the CTR scheme was around £374 million across Scotland in 2020-21. This figure is £1.8 million less than the £376 million funding provided by the Scottish Government. The three local authorities with the largest CTR liability are Glasgow City, City of Edinburgh and North Lanarkshire.

Table 2.11: CTR Funding and Reduction in Liability in 2020-21 by Local Authority, £ thousands

Source: CTR Extracts and LFR 12

Local Authority	CTR Funding from SG	Final total reduction in liability
Aberdeen City	11,020	11,821
Aberdeenshire	9,477	9,434
Angus	5,967	5,807
Argyll & Bute	6,050	5,953
City of Edinburgh	28,472	28,075
Clackmannanshire	3,878	3,922
Dumfries & Galloway	9,975	9,752
Dundee City	13,511	13,255
East Ayrshire	10,062	10,093
East Dunbartonshire	5,182	5,114
East Lothian	5,655	5,672
East Renfrewshire	4,045	4,142
Falkirk	8,818	8,812
Fife	22,527	22,627
Glasgow City	76,424	75,762
Highland	13,816	13,881
Inverclyde	7,217	6,899
Midlothian	5,391	5,257
Moray	4,277	4,243
Na h-Eileanan Siar	1,459	1,419
North Ayrshire	12,741	12,877
North Lanarkshire	25,467	25,444
Orkney Islands	920	906
Perth & Kinross	6,847	6,821
Renfrewshire	14,685	14,404
Scottish Borders	6,180	5,925
Shetland Islands	765	764
South Ayrshire	8,873	8,712
South Lanarkshire	21,662	21,859
Stirling	4,527	4,596
West Dunbartonshire	9,097	8,884
West Lothian	11,013	11,023
Scotland	376,000	374,155

2.3.1.5 Changes to Council Tax Liabilities

Not all dwellings are liable to pay the full rate of Council Tax. Discounts, exemptions and increased rates can be charged for certain types of dwellings, and the CTR scheme is available to support lower income households in meeting their Council Tax liabilities.

Table 2.12 summarises the range of discounts, exemptions and reductions available and the change in liability that applies to each type. Please note that, in some cases, more than one type of discount, exemption or reduction may apply. The examples given in **Table 2.12** are typical but not exhaustive. [A full explanation of Council Tax discounts and exemptions is available on the Scottish Government website.](#)

Table 2.12: Council Tax Discounts, Exemptions, Reductions and Increases

Please note that in 2013-14, local authorities gained the discretionary power to remove the discount for Second Homes / Long Term Empty, or set a Council Tax increase of 100% on 'Long Term Empty – More than 12 months' properties.

Type of Support	Typical dwellings that are eligible	Reduction in liability
Discounts		
Single Person Discount	Chargeable dwellings in which there is only one resident or only one resident is not disregarded.	25% discount
Second Homes	Chargeable dwellings which are no one's sole or main residence, but are furnished and lived in for at least 25 days during any 12 month period.	10 - 50% discount or discount removed (actual change depends on local authority policy)
Long Term Empty – Less than 12 months (or 24 months for properties for sale or let)	Empty properties not meeting the criteria of a second home, or subject to a separate exemption.	10 - 50% discount (actual change depends on local authority policy)
Long Term Empty – More than 12 months (or 24 months for properties for sale or let)	Empty properties not meeting the criteria of a second home, or subject to a separate exemption.	Up to 50% discount or an increase of up to 100% (actual change depends on local authority policy)
Occupied entirely by disregarded adults	Chargeable dwellings occupied entirely by residents who are disregarded for a discount.	50% discount

Exemptions		
Occupied	Dwellings occupied solely by any combination of students, care leavers, those with a severe mental impairment, school leavers or persons under the age of 18.	100% reduction
Unoccupied	Dwellings which are empty and unfurnished for less than 6 months or empty and under repair for less than 12 months. Dwellings which are empty because their former residents have moved out for the purposes of receiving personal care by reason of old age, disablement or illness.	100% reduction
Reductions		
Disability reduction	Homes that have been adapted for a disabled person.	One CT Band, for example an eligible Band D property would be charged the Band C rate. Eligible Band A properties are charged 5/9 of the Band D rate.
CTR (Passported)	In receipt of Pension Credit (Guarantee), Jobseeker's Allowance (income based), Employment and Support Allowance (income related) or Income Support.	100% reduction
CTR (Not passported)	Low income household.	Up to 100% reduction (actual change is dependent on a means-test)

Table 2.13 shows the number of dwellings eligible for Council Tax discounts and reductions. Of the 2.522 million chargeable dwellings in Scotland, just over one million were eligible for a discount in 2020-21. The most common type of discount was the Single Person Discount, with around two-fifths of chargeable dwellings entitled to the discount in 2020-21. The CTR scheme supports almost half a million dwellings, or around one-fifth of chargeable dwellings, in meeting their Council Tax liability.

Around 72,000 dwellings are classified as second homes or long-term empty properties. Further statistics on these are available via [Housing Statistics Quarterly Update: December 2021](#).

Table 2.13: Number of Dwellings in Receipt of Council Tax Discounts and Reductions at September from 2016-17 to 2020-21

Please note the following:

Some dwellings may be eligible for more than one type of support, in these cases, the dwelling will be counted under each type of support it is eligible for.

It is not possible for some local authorities to separately identify Second Homes and Long Term Empty dwellings. For these authorities, the total number of Second Homes and Long Term Empty dwellings has been recorded under Second Homes.

Source: CTaxbase and CTR Extract

Type of Support	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Disability reduction	13,463	13,705	13,903	14,048	14,009
Single Person Discount	963,297	972,537	978,504	988,720	1,004,557
Second Homes	26,140	22,101	24,828	24,314	24,466
Empty Properties	36,236	37,135	39,110	40,963	47,333
Occupied entirely by disregarded adults	1,411	1,352	1,374	1,517	1,500
Dwellings not subject to discount	1,428,322	1,440,372	1,443,285	1,449,419	1,445,031
CTR recipients	495,660	489,560	481,100	471,790	500,620
All chargeable dwellings	2,455,406	2,473,497	2,487,101	2,504,933	2,522,887

2.3.2 Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)

Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) are a property tax for which the occupier of a non-domestic property is statutorily liable. A non-domestic property is an individual property used for non-domestic purposes, such as business premises and third and public sector properties.

The principles of NDR were established in the Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act 1854. This Act also provided for the appointment of the [Scottish Assessors](#), who are responsible for determining the classification and valuation of non-domestic and domestic properties, and are independent of both the Scottish Government and local authorities.

As at 1 April 2020, there were over 250,000 non-domestic properties on the Valuation Roll (see [Table 2.15](#)) which generated a net income of £1,816 million in 2020-21, as shown in [Table 2.14](#). This is the total **contributable amount** of NDR Income (NDRI). The contributable amount is equivalent to the gross amount paid by bill payers, net of any reliefs which are funded by the Scottish Government. However, the contributable amount is **not** net of any reliefs funded by local authorities themselves and so it differs from the collectable amount (the total amount collected from ratepayers).

Each local authority reports to the Scottish Government their contributable amount which is included in the annual NDR Account and published as part of the overall Scottish Government's annual accounts. The amount to be distributed to each authority as part of the annual local government finance settlement is known as the **distributable amount** and is set by the Scottish Government before the start of the financial year. In 2020-21, the distributable amount was set at £1,868 million – see [Chart 2.6](#) and [Table 2.14](#). [Annex C](#) sets out the calculation of the distributable amount for 2020-21.

Table 2.14: NDR Contributable and Distributable Amounts from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that the NDR Contributable Amounts reflect the final, audited income figures collected by local authorities. They are net of reliefs paid by Scottish Government, but gross of all local reliefs and top-ups to discretionary amounts paid by councils themselves.

Source: NDRI Audited Returns, Local Government Finance Circulars

NDR Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
NDR Contributable Amount	2,731	2,762	2,847	2,753	1,816
NDR Distributable Amount	2,769	2,666	2,636	2,853	1,868

The NDR pooling (the pool) arrangement requires all NDR paid to Scottish Ministers to be redistributed to local authorities. Until 1 April 2011, the NDRI was redistributed on the basis of population shares, however since that date, all local authorities now simply retain all of the NDRI collected in their area. As a result of this change, the distributable amount of NDRI is now allocated in proportion to each local authority's most recent prior year Mid-year NDRI Return. As the combined total of NDRI and GRG provided to local authorities is guaranteed by the Scottish Government, any decrease in the amount of NDRI collected is compensated for by a corresponding increase in GRG and vice versa. Any changes from the assumed collection amount in any year is paid out or recovered from local authorities in the calculation of future years' distributable amounts.

The distributable amount is based upon an estimate of the NDRI made prior to the year start, and includes prior year adjustments. It will not therefore match exactly the NDRI received in any year, as shown in **Table 2.14**, nor the total eventual contributions to the pool for any year. Final contributions to the pool are based on councils' provisional estimates of their contributable amount at the start of the year, their Provisional Contributable Amount (PCA), plus any increases in the previous year's outturn compared to the previous year's PCA. Final contributions to the pool (and distributions to councils) are set out in the [Non-Domestic Rating Account](#) and the resultant reconciliation figures are shown in Annex C.

2.3.2.1 Rateable Values (RVs)

NDR bills are based on the **Rateable Value (RV)** of a property. The RV is based on a legally defined valuation and broadly corresponds to the notional rental value the property could achieve in the open market if it were vacant and available to let, taking account of the type and nature of the property. As such, it is not necessarily a reflection of the profitability, turnover, or output of the ratepayer.

RVs are generally initially established when a non-domestic property comes into existence. Rateable non-domestic properties and their corresponding RVs are listed on the Valuation Roll, which is maintained by the Scottish Assessors. RVs are periodically updated at non-domestic revaluations. The Scottish Assessors undertook the last revaluation in 2017, assigning updated RVs to all non-domestic properties in Scotland. An [analysis of changes in the RV of non-domestic properties in Scotland following the 2017 revaluation](#) is available on the Scottish Government website. Revaluations have typically taken place on a five-year cycle, with the exception of a seven year cycle following the 2010 revaluation. The current cycle will be six years, the next revaluation having been delayed to 2023 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Following that, revaluations will take place every three years.

Table 2.15 shows the composition of properties, and associated RV, on the Valuation Roll by property type at 1 April 2020. The Valuation Roll is continually updated and the NDRI for 2020-21 won't be based solely on the snapshot of the Roll at April 2020. The composition of the Roll as at 1 April 2021 is also shown in Table 2.14b, Table 2.15a and Chart 2.10a in the associated Excel file. The [latest Valuation Roll statistics](#) are available from the Scottish Assessors Association website.

As at 1 April 2020, there were 256,875 properties on the Valuation Roll, with a total RV of £7,386 million. Shops and industrial subjects were the most prevalent types of property on the Valuation Roll, each making up 21 per cent of the number of properties, and 21 per cent and 17 per cent of the total RV respectively. Offices are the next largest category in terms of numbers and RV. Together, these three categories accounted for 60 per cent of properties on the Valuation Roll, and 53 per cent of total RV.

Table 2.15: NDR Properties at 1 April 2020 by Classification

Please note, the number of properties includes properties with a zero rateable value.

Source: Scottish Assessors Valuation Roll

Category	Number of properties	% of Properties on Valuation Roll	Rateable Value, £ thousands	% of RV on Valuation Roll
Advertising	1,775	0.7%	10,669	0.1%
Care Facilities	2,955	1.2%	121,799	1.6%
Communications	351	0.1%	25,129	0.3%
Cultural	1,417	0.6%	58,473	0.8%
Education and Training	3,636	1.4%	568,563	7.7%
Garages and Petrol Stations	4,173	1.6%	73,991	1.0%
Health and Medical	3,208	1.2%	232,992	3.2%
Hotels	6,067	2.4%	287,023	3.9%
Industrial Subjects	54,785	21.3%	1,281,038	17.3%
Leisure, Entertainment, Caravans etc.	25,669	10.0%	297,992	4.0%
Offices	45,414	17.7%	1,044,462	14.1%
Other	17,053	6.6%	145,741	2.0%
Petrochemical	138	0.1%	120,759	1.6%
Public Houses	3,593	1.4%	122,196	1.7%
Public Service Subjects	9,811	3.8%	355,299	4.8%
Quarries, Mines, etc.	667	0.3%	16,702	0.2%
Religious	6,042	2.4%	56,895	0.8%
Shops	53,957	21.0%	1,577,144	21.4%
Sporting Subjects	14,915	5.8%	35,510	0.5%
Statutory Undertaking	1,249	0.5%	954,059	12.9%
All Non-Domestic Properties	256,875	100.0%	7,386,437	100.0%

Chart 2.10 provides a breakdown of properties on the Valuation Roll by local authority and RV band: up to £18,000; between £18,000 and £51,000; and above £51,000. These RV bands were significant in 2020-21 as £18,000 was the cut-off for businesses being eligible for the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) (see Chapter 2.3.2.4) and £51,000 was the threshold above which either the Intermediate Property Rate (IPR) or the Higher Property Rate (HPR) was applied (see Chapter 2.3.2.2).

Across Scotland, 80 per cent of non-domestic properties had a RV of less than £18,000. Twelve per cent had a RV between £18,000 and £51,000. Eight per cent had a RV higher than £51,000, of which three per cent had an RV between £51,000 and £95,000 and five per cent had an RV above £95,000 – the HPR threshold. The number of properties above the HPR threshold by local authority are provided alongside the data for Chart 2.10 in the associated Excel file.

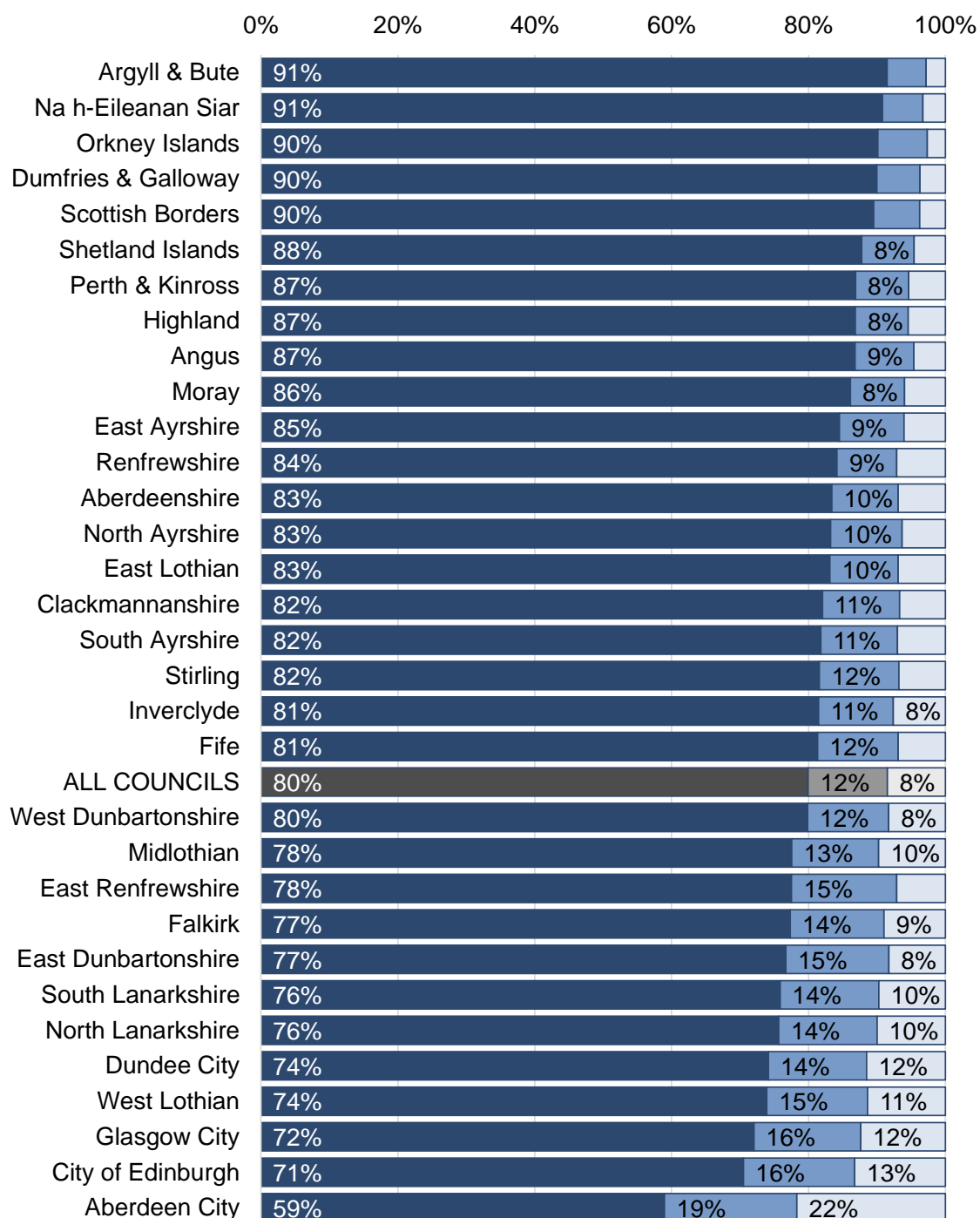
Chart 2.10: Proportion of NDR Properties at 1 April 2020 by Local Authority and Rateable Value Band

Please note the following:

The number of properties includes properties with a zero rateable value.

Some percentages are not displayed on the chart for presentational purposes. Percentages for all bands by local authority are available in the Chart 2.10 tab of the associated Excel file.

Source: Scottish Assessors Valuation Roll



■ RV less than £18,000 ■ RV between £18,000 and £51,000 □ RV more than £51,000

2.3.2.2 NDR Bills

NDR bills are calculated using the RV of the property, multiplied by a poundage set nationally and annually by Scottish Ministers, less any relief or exemption entitlement.

$$(\text{NDR Bill})_{\text{Property}} = (\text{RV})_{\text{Property}} \times (\text{Poundage})_{\text{National}} - (\text{Reliefs})_{\text{Property}}$$

Up to 2019-20 the Large Business Supplement (LBS) was applied to properties with an RV greater than the LBS threshold, in addition to the poundage, effectively increasing the poundage on these properties. In each of the three years 2017-18 to 2019-20 the LBS was 2.6p and the threshold was £51,000. In 2020-21 the LBS was replaced with two new rates – the Intermediate Property Rate (IPR), set at the poundage plus 1.3p with an RV threshold of £51,000, and the Higher Property Rate (HPR), set at the poundage plus 2.6p with an RV threshold of £95,000.

As NDR bills in Scotland are directly related to the RV of individual non-domestic properties, changes in the total RV occurring within a revaluation cycle, i.e. between revaluation years, impact on the amount of NDR available for collection, as shown in **Table 2.16**.

Since the last revaluation in 2017, the total RV has increased from £7,358 million at 1 April 2017 to £7,386 million at 1 April 2020. **Table 2.16** also shows that before the 2017 revaluation, the total RV had increased from £6,719 million in April 2015 to £6,796 million in April 2016. This was due to the net impact of several factors, including increases in the tax base from new properties or extensions of existing properties; and decreases as demolished properties are deleted from the Valuation Roll or as the RV is reduced as a result of appeals. Statistics on the revaluation appeals are published quarterly in the [NDR Revaluation Appeals Statistics](#) publication.

Inflation, however, is a key driver of growth in NDRI as changes in the poundage rate had previously typically been tied to the Retail Price Index (RPI), other than in the first year of a revaluation. For 2018-19, the poundage was increased by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to give a poundage of 48.0p. The change from RPI to CPI was in line with demand from businesses and supported by the independent Barclay Review of non-domestic rates which reported in 2017. The UK Government committed from 2020-21 to using CPI to uprate the equivalent of the poundage, although the Scottish Government is not legislatively bound to this upper limit.

For 2019-20 Scottish Ministers set the poundage at 49.0p, a below inflation increase from the year before. For 2020-21 the poundage was increased below inflation to give a poundage of 49.8p, although the increase was offset by a 1.6% universal relief automatically applied to all properties, as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic, effectively delivering a poundage freeze. For 2021-22 the poundage was reduced to 49.0p, the same as in 2019-20.

At a revaluation, the poundage is reset by the Scottish Government, bearing in mind the resulting total RV change and the amount of revaluation appeals anticipated over the forthcoming cycle. In England, revenue-neutral revaluations are a statutory requirement, with the poundage generally decreasing in line with average RV increases, or vice versa. This is not the case in Scotland, with the 2017 revaluation and poundage actually leading to a decrease in anticipated revenue over the following cycle.

Table 2.16 shows the RV increased from £6,796 million to £7,358 million between 1 April 2016 and 1 April 2017 – mainly as a result of revaluation, with a corresponding decrease in the poundage from 48.4p to 46.6p.

The exemption of certain properties from rates, and the existence of relief schemes, such as the SBBS, can significantly reduce the amount paid in NDR bills, and therefore the NDRI, see Chapter 2.3.2.4.

Table 2.16: NDR Income, Total Rateable Value and Poundage from 2016-17 to 2020-21

Please note the following:

Revaluations occurred in 2010 and 2017.

NDRI figures are contributable income and, as such, reflect the final, audited income figures collected by local authorities. They are net of reliefs paid by Scottish Government, but gross of all local reliefs and top-ups to discretionary amounts paid by councils themselves.

“n/a” indicates years prior to the introduction of the IPR where there were no IPR rates or thresholds. The HPR / LBS and the IPR are applied in addition to the poundage for properties with an RV over the HPR / LBS or IPR threshold.

Source: NDRI Audited Returns and Scottish Assessors Valuation Roll

Category	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
NDRI, £ millions	2,731	2,762	2,847	2,761	1,816
Total RV at 1 April, £ millions	6,796	7,358	7,439	7,462	7,386
Poundage, pence	48.4	46.6	48.0	49.0	49.8
IPR, £	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.3
IPR threshold, £	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	51,000
LBS / HPR, pence	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
LBS / HPR threshold, £	35,000	51,000	51,000	51,000	95,000

2.3.2.3 Rates Retention Schemes

There are currently two policy initiatives that directly link to the amount of NDR collected: the **Business Rate Incentivisation Scheme (BRIS)** and **Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)**.

BRIS was introduced from April 2012 to incentivise local authorities to maximise existing NDRI and attract new economic growth. BRIS allows all local authorities that exceed their annual NDR buoyancy target, the target percentage increase in their tax base, to benefit from receiving additional grant, equal to 50 per cent of any additional NDRI. In effect, this means that only 50 per cent of the additional NDRI attributable to the increased buoyancy is deducted from the GRG.

This increased funding is carried forward between revaluation years, with each year's increased funding being carried forward to the next year and added to any new retention awarded, assuming the previous year's income is maintained. In 2020-21, the amount of additional funding received under this scheme was £5.1 million. This figure includes retentions relating to 2017-18 and 2018-19 which had not been reported in previous returns. Retentions related to 2019-20 will be reported in 2021-22 NDRI, totalling £1.6 million. The BRIS scheme has been temporarily suspended for 2020-21 and 2021-22, and as no local authority has increased its NDR income in those years, no amounts will be reported in 2022-23.

The Scottish Government is also piloting **TIF** which allows local authorities to fund public sector infrastructure, which unlocks private sector investment, contributing to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This growth is funded from future incremental NDRI that is expected to be generated as a result of attracting more businesses into the area thanks to the upfront public sector enabling investment.

TIF is currently being piloted through secondary legislation under existing provisions of the Local Government Finance Act (1992) in four local authorities: Argyll & Bute, Falkirk, Fife and Glasgow. Of these four pilots, Argyll & Bute, Falkirk and Fife reported TIF income in 2020-21. They collectively retained a total of £1.8 million NDRI in 2020-21.

2.3.2.4 NDR Reliefs

There are a number of types of NDR relief that reduce the NDR bill for qualifying properties. More information on [NDR reliefs in 2020-21 can be found in Finance Circular 6/2020](#) and the [NDR Relief Statistics 2020 publication](#) provides details of reliefs awarded as at 1 July 2020.

Table 2.17 shows the amount of relief provided for the main types of relief available for each year between 2016-17 and 2020-21. Local reliefs and the elements of discretionary reliefs funded by local authorities are not included.

The gross amount of relief provided has increased substantially from £591 million in 2016-17 to £1,724 million in 2020-21. Key reasons for this increase in total relief costs include:

- changes to the poundage;
- changes to the tax base due to recent growth in overall RV and increase in overall RV at revaluation;
- changes in relief entitlement;
- an increased awareness of relief schemes; and
- the introduction of new reliefs.

For example, the SBBS has been expanded in recent years and awareness of the scheme has increased, both of which will have contributed to the rise in cost of the SBBS.

Following the 2017 revaluation, a transitional relief scheme was introduced for pubs, hotels and restaurants (capped at a RV threshold of £1.5 million from 2018-19), and for offices in Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire. A relief for day nurseries and the Business Growth Accelerator (BGA) relief for new and improved properties were both introduced in 2018-19.

In April 2020, two new reliefs were introduced to help businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic: a 1.6% universal relief, and a 100% relief for Retail, Hospitality, Leisure, and Aviation (RHLA).

While the value of the RHLA relief and the 1.6% universal relief in 2020-21 was just over £1 billion, some ratepayers subsequently returned the value of those reliefs to the Scottish Government. As at 3 September 2021, the Scottish Government had received payments from relief recipients totalling £177.4 million reflecting the support that was automatically provided through the RHLA relief and 1.6% universal Relief in 2020-21 to these ratepayers.

Table 2.17 shows a decrease in 2020-21 for several reliefs; this was mainly due to displacement by RHLA relief: some properties eligible for 100% of the new RHLA relief would be awarded this as opposed any other relief to which they may have otherwise been entitled. In addition to this there were some slight eligibility changes to Empty Property relief and SBBS relief as outlined in [Finance Circular 6/2020: NDR Relief for 2020-21](#).

Table 2.17: Amount of NDR Relief Provided from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Relief Type, £ thousands

Please note the following:

Figures include mandatory and discretionary elements of relief where applicable, but exclude backdated payments of relief and exclude councils own contributions to reliefs.

'Other' includes Hardship Relief, Enterprise Areas; District Heating Relief; Mobile Mast Relief (from 2018-19); New Fibre Relief (from 2018-19); and Lighthouse Relief (from 2019-20, previously recorded as a deduction).

"n/a" is used for years prior to a relief being introduced or after a relief is discontinued.

Source: NDRI Audited Returns

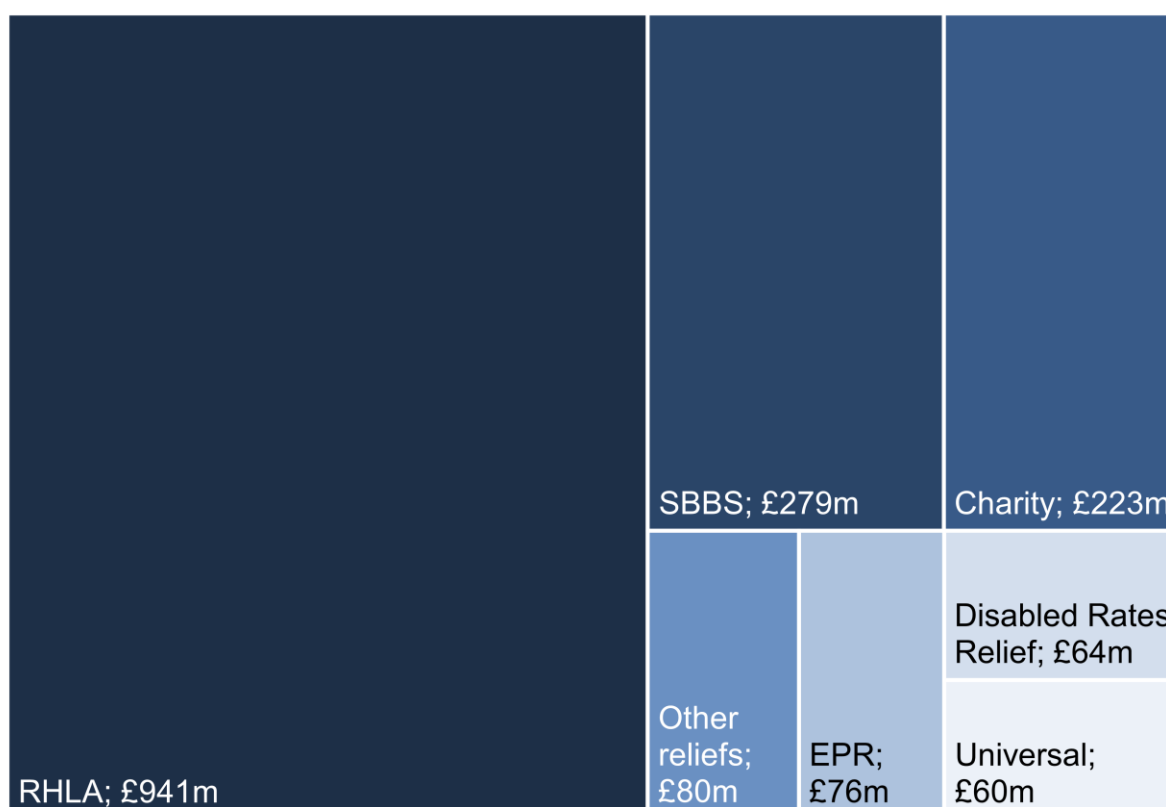
Relief Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Empty Property Relief (EPR)	93,682	93,988	90,937	85,424	76,438
Charity Relief	201,215	214,418	218,977	224,813	223,189
Sports Club Relief	13,851	13,620	15,739	15,747	14,783
Disabled Rates Relief	61,498	61,511	64,354	64,778	64,266
SBBS	187,029	240,663	261,684	278,055	279,441
Religious Exemptions	27,014	26,303	27,129	27,581	27,402
Rural Relief	4,114	3,988	3,946	3,914	3,822
Renewable Energy Relief	647	1,279	7,399	7,266	6,439
New Start Relief	398	497	447	172	n/a
Fresh Start Relief	607	436	1,690	3,812	2,321
Transitional Relief	n/a	26,330	11,899	5,243	36
Day Nursery Relief	n/a	n/a	9,604	9,788	9,601
BGA - Unoccupied New Build	n/a	n/a	5,660	3,468	2,973
BGA - New Occupied & Improved	n/a	n/a	11,207	31,713	10,519
Retail, Hospitality, Leisure and Aviation Relief (RHLA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	941,229
1.6% Universal Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60,062
Other	730	1,104	1,161	1,211	1,609
Gross Amount	590,784	684,137	731,835	762,985	1,724,131

Chart 2.11 shows the values of reliefs awarded during 2020-21. The RHLA, SBBS and Charity relief, including the mandatory reliefs and the parts of the discretionary reliefs which are funded by the Scottish Government, together accounted for £1,444 million, or around 84 per cent of the total amount of reliefs awarded.

Chart 2.11: Value of NDR Reliefs in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that ‘Other’ includes Sports Club Relief; Religious Exemptions; Rural Relief, Renewable Energy Relief; Fresh Start Relief; Transitional Relief; Day Nursery Relief; BGA Reliefs; Hardship Relief; Enterprise Areas; District Heating Relief; Mobile Mast Relief; New Fibre Relief; Reverse Vending Machines Relief; and Lighthouse Relief.

Source: NDRI Audited Returns



2.4 Surplus / Deficit to be met from Reserves

A **surplus (-)** occurs when a local authority’s revenue expenditure is **lower** than the amount of service income and general funding available to them. A surplus is added to a local authority’s reserves and carried forward to the next year.

A **deficit (+)** occurs when a local authority’s revenue expenditure is **higher** than the amount of service income and general funding available to them. Any deficit must be met from a local authority’s reserves.

The HRA reserve is not permitted to show a deficit at the end of the financial year and if this occurs, local authorities are required to transfer funds from the General Fund to cover this deficit.

Table 2.18 sets out the movement in the General Fund and HRA reserves in 2020-21. At 1 April 2020, local authorities held a total of £1,786 million in their General Fund (including Harbour) and HRA reserves. In year:

- local authorities' income exceeded their revenue expenditure, resulting in a **surplus** of £1,166 million. This significant surplus is largely attributable to additional Covid-19 funding from the Scottish Government that was confirmed late in the financial year and which remained unspent by 31 March 2021.
- local authorities transferred a total of £9 million out of the General Fund and HRA to other reserves held.
- local authorities' International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS) 9 unrealised gains increased by £1 million. IFRS 9 unrealised gains relate to the difference between the fair value of investments compared with their original cost. As the underlying investments have not yet been sold, the net gain is 'unrealised' and so is excluded from the revenue reserves balance as this gain is not available to fund future expenditure.

This meant that, overall, the General Fund and HRA increased by £1,156 million in year, giving a total balance of £2,942 million at 31 March 2021. More information on local authorities' reserves is provided in Chapter 4.1.

Table 2.18: Movement in Reserves in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that balance figures exclude amounts relating to unrealised gains that have been included in revenue reserves applying under IFRS 9: Financial Instruments.

Source: LFR 23

Movement	General Fund	HRA	Total
Balance as at 1 April	1,598	188	1,786
Add: Surplus (+) or Deficit (-) on provision of services <u>after</u> statutory adjustments	1,097	69	1,166
Add: Net movements in (+) or out (-) due to transfers between reserves	-1	-8	-9
Less: Increase (+) or decrease (-) in IFRS 9 unrealised gains	1	-	1
Balance as at 31 March	2,694	248	2,942

3. Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is expenditure that creates an asset, it includes the initial costs of acquisition and construction, and costs incurred subsequently to add to, replace part of, or service the asset. Subsequent costs arising from day-to-day services of an asset, known as repairs and maintenance, is **not** capital expenditure. Capital expenditure purchases or constructs the buildings and infrastructure necessary to provide services, such as schools, care homes, flood defences, roads, vehicles, plant and machinery. Due to the nature of capital expenditure, it can fluctuate substantially between years.

Capital expenditure also includes grants a local authority provides to a third party to fund capital expenditure of the third party; direct expenditure on a third parties' assets; and loans to third parties to support capital investment of a third party.

Capital expenditure can be financed by one or more of the following:

- capital grants and contributions;
- borrowing or credit arrangements;
- contributions from capital or revenue reserve funds;
- capital receipts from the sale of assets.

Chapter 4.1 provides more information on local authorities' capital reserve funds.

3.1 Capital Expenditure

In 2020-21, total capital expenditure was £2,604 million, a decrease of 31.4 per cent, or £1,190 million, from 2019-20.

Around £450 million of this decrease in capital expenditure relates to significant one-off sale and leaseback transactions for Culture and Related Services that were incurred by Glasgow City Council in 2019-20. A sale and leaseback transaction is where the owner of an asset sells it to a third party and then leases the same asset back from the new owner. The original owner, in this case Glasgow City Council, will then recognise the leased asset as capital expenditure incurred, whilst also recording income from the capital receipts generated by the sale of the asset.

It is likely that the remainder of the decrease reflects the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the construction industry during 2020-21, however it is not possible to explicitly quantify the impact of Covid-19 on capital expenditure.

Chart 3.1 shows the split of capital expenditure into these six categories in 2020-21. The majority of capital expenditure, £2,013 million or 77 per cent, related to new construction, conversions & enhancements to existing buildings.

Chart 3.1: Capital Expenditure in 2020-21 by Expenditure Type, £ millions

Please note, 'Third party capital projects funded from capital grant' and 'Revenue expenditure funded from borrowing' are also included in authorities' revenue figures.

Source: LFR CR

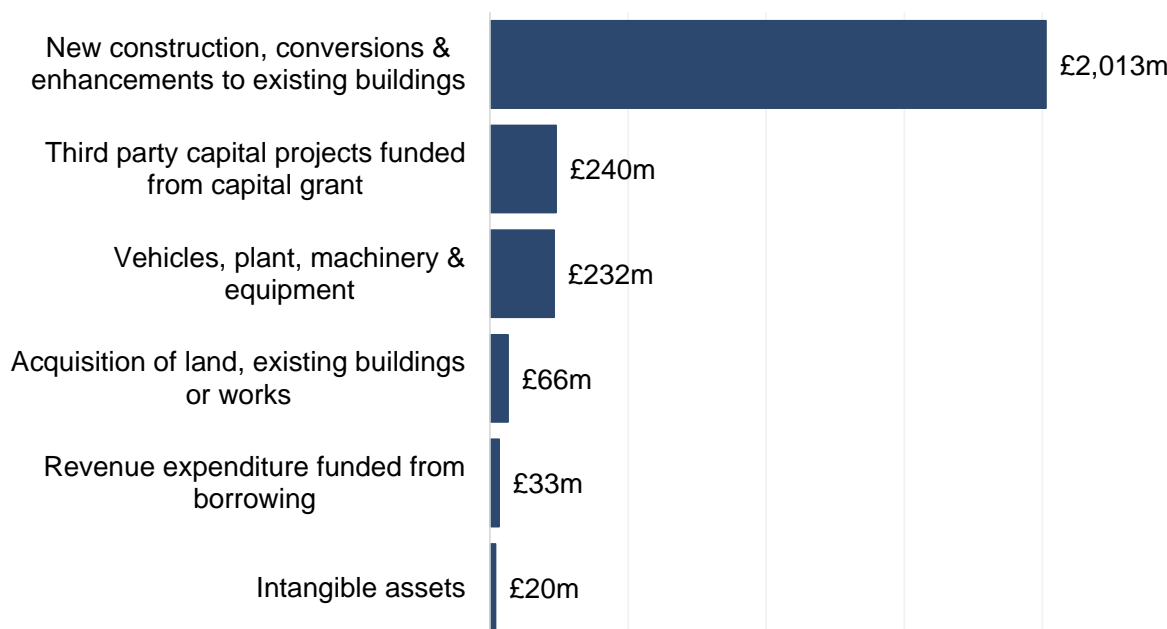


Table 3.1 shows a breakdown of capital expenditure between 2016-17 and 2020-21. New construction, conversions and enhancements to existing building has consistently accounted for the majority of capital expenditure over this period. However, this type of capital expenditure has decreased by 23.0 per cent, or £603 million, between 2019-20 and 2020-21, likely reflecting the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the construction industry.

Capital expenditure on acquisition of land, existing buildings or works has also seen a significant decrease between 2019-20 and 2020-21, however the majority of this decrease can be attributed to one-off sale and leaseback transactions by Glasgow City Council in 2019-20.

Table 3.1: Capital Expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Expenditure Type, £ millions

Please note, 'Revenue expenditure funded from capital grant and borrowing' is also included in authorities' revenue figures.

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years

Expenditure Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Acquisition of land, existing buildings or works	233	363	169	633	66
New construction, conversions & enhancements to existing buildings	2,358	2,255	2,317	2,616	2,013
Vehicles, plant, machinery & equipment	193	185	225	228	232
Intangible assets	10	5	5	17	20
Revenue expenditure funded from capital grant and borrowing	168	177	262	301	273
Total Capital Expenditure	2,962	2,984	2,977	3,794	2,604

3.1.1 Capital Expenditure by Service

Chart 3.2 shows capital expenditure in 2020-21 by service. HRA had the largest share of expenditure at £684 million, followed by Education with £606 million.

Chart 3.2: Capital Expenditure in 2020-21 by Service, £ millions

Please note, 'Other' includes Social Work, Central Services and Trading Services.

Source: LFR CR

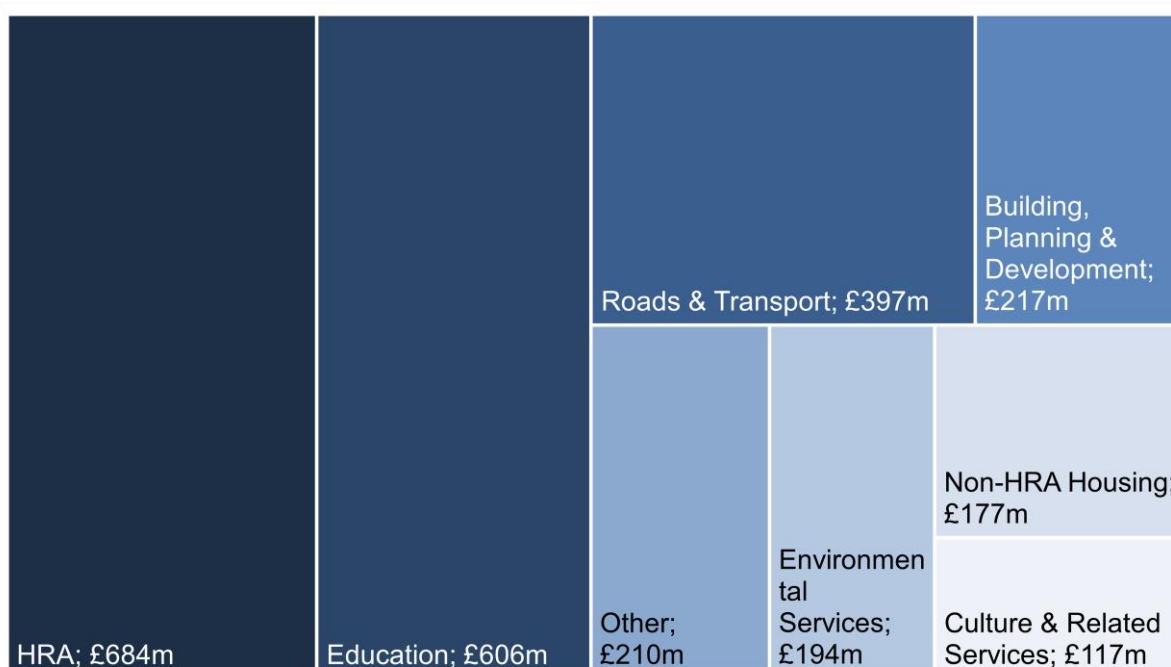
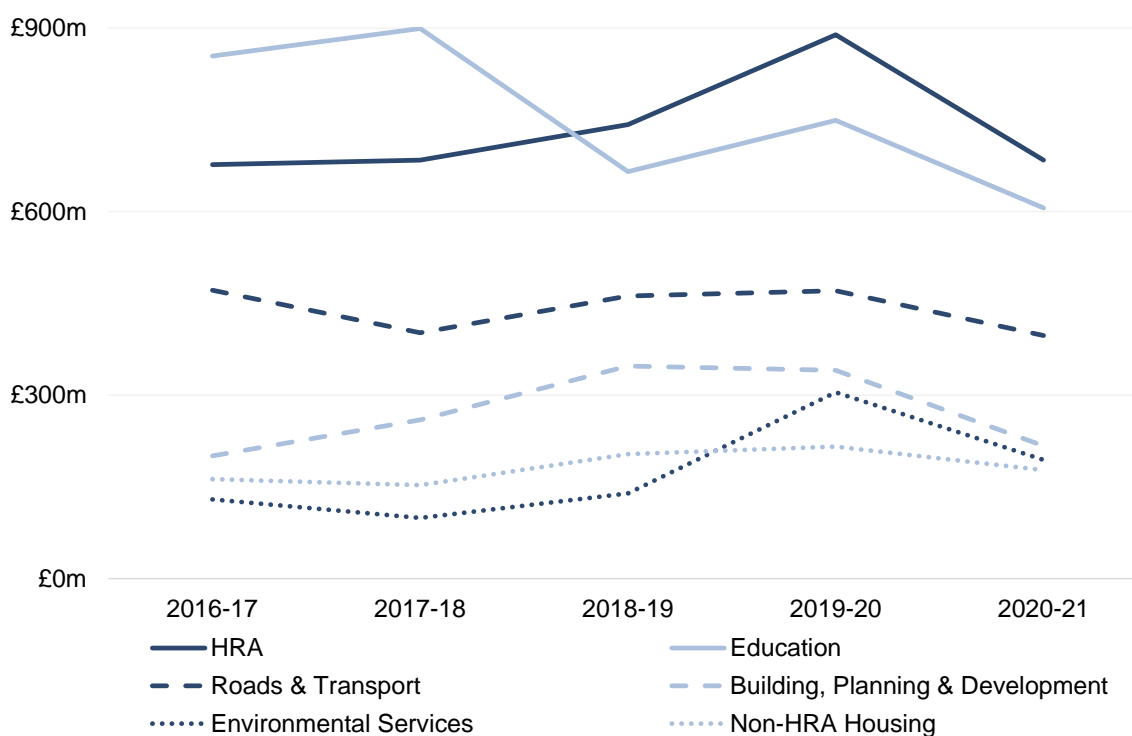


Chart 3.3 shows capital expenditure for 2016-17 to 2020-21 for the six services with the highest capital expenditure in 2020-21. Capital expenditure has decreased for all six services between 2019-20 and 2020-21, reflecting the overall decrease in capital expenditure in 2020-21.

Chart 3.3: Capital Expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Service, £ millions

This chart excludes expenditure for Culture & Related Services; Social Work; Trading Services; and Other, including Central Services which, combined, accounted for less than 15% of total capital expenditure in 2020-21.

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years



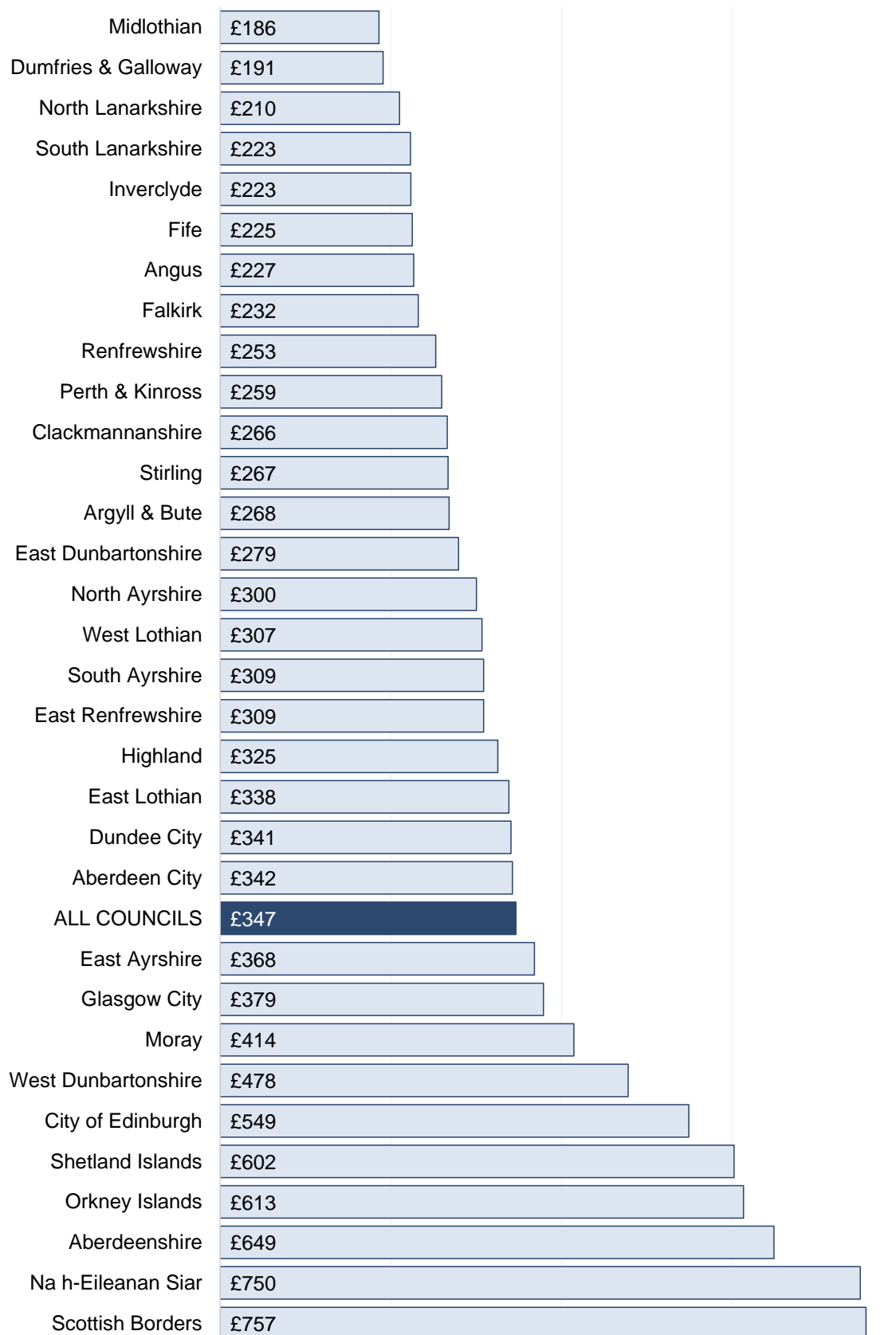
3.1.2 General Fund Capital Expenditure by Council

In any given year, capital expenditure per person varies substantially between local authority areas. This will in part reflect the different priorities of local authorities, however it also reflects differences in the timing of capital projects. Expenditure on capital projects can be highly variable as some projects can be high-value and infrequent, and expenditure per head in local authority areas will move, possibly substantially, from year to year as projects begin or wind down.

Chart 3.4 shows capital expenditure on General Fund services per person by council. In 2020-21, the average capital expenditure per person across all councils was £347, a decrease from £524 per person in 2019-20. Spend per person ranged from £186 per person in Midlothian to £757 per person in Scottish Borders.

Chart 3.4: General Fund Capital Expenditure in 2020-21 by Council, £ per person

Source: LFR CR, Mid-Year Population Estimates



3.2 Capital Financing

Chart 3.5 shows how local authorities financed their capital expenditure in 2020-21. The two main sources of financing were grants & contributions, £1,322 million, and borrowing from the Loans Fund, £834 million, which together accounted for over four-fifths (83 per cent) of all capital financing in 2020-21.

Capital **grants and contributions** are provided to local authorities to fund capital investment. This includes grants and contributions received from the Scottish and UK Governments; other government agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies (NDPBs); other local authorities; and private developers. The Scottish Government provides two types of capital grant funding to local authorities – a General Capital Grant (GCG) and a number of specific capital grants. The General Capital Grant accounted for just over a third (36 per cent) of grants and contributions in 2020-21.

More information on **borrowing** is provided in Chapter 3.2.1 and more information on the **Loans Fund** is provided in Chapter 5.1.1.

Chart 3.5: Capital Financing in 2020-21 by Source, £ millions

Please note that ‘Grants & Contributions’ and ‘Borrowing from Loans Fund’ include amounts used to fund grant to third party capital projects which will also be included in the revenue figures.

Source: LFR CR



Chart 3.6 shows capital financing by type from 2016-17 to 2020-21. All types of financing have decreased between 2019-20 and 2020-21, reflecting the overall decrease in capital expenditure incurred in 2020-21. Grants & contributions and borrowing continue to be the main sources of capital financing.

Changes in grants & contributions over this period have largely been driven by changes in capital grants from the Scottish Government. In particular, the 2016-17 figure excludes £150 million capital funding payments that were reallocated and included in the 2019-20 capital settlement, as agreed between the Scottish Government and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA).

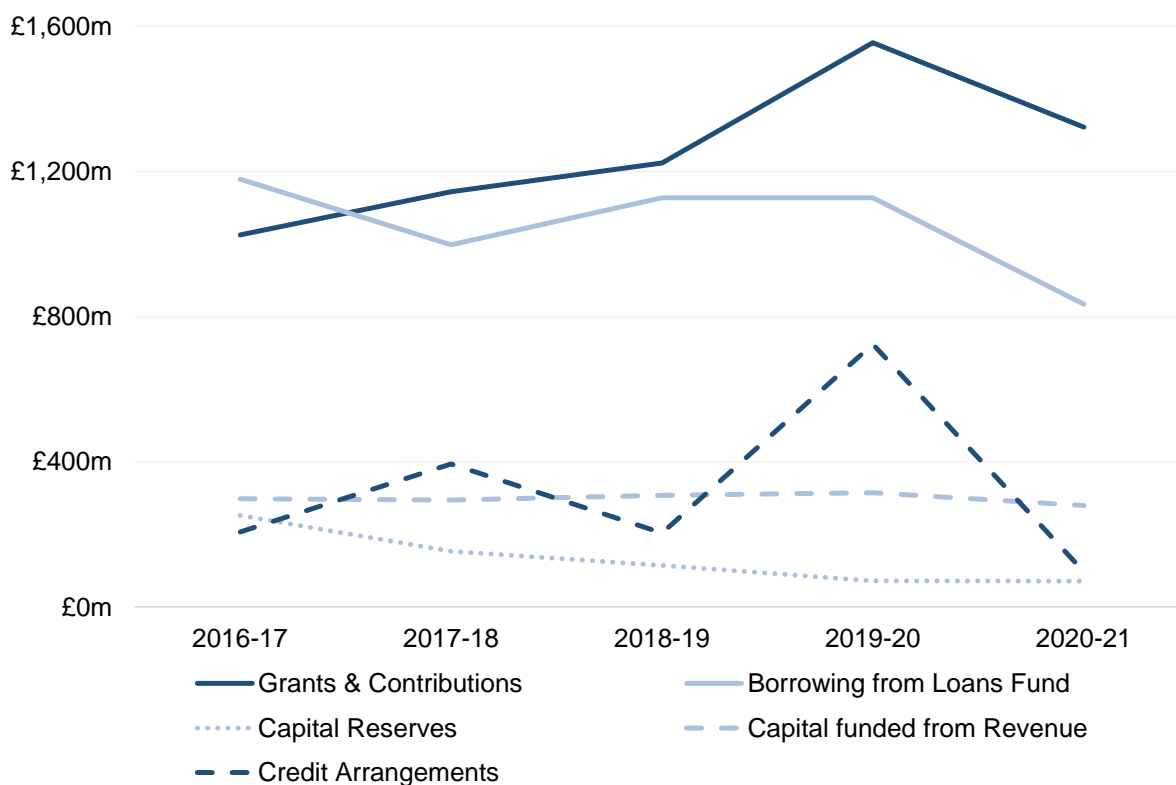
The fluctuations in borrowing reflect the nature of capital and can be influenced by the type of expenditure being undertaken in each year. In particular, the decrease in borrowing between 2019-20 and 2020-21 will reflect the overall reduction in capital expenditure incurred in 2020-21 due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Financing from credit arrangements was notably high in 2019-20 compared to other years, this was due to significant one-off sale and leaseback transactions for Culture and Related Services by Glasgow City Council. However, financing from credit arrangements in 2020-21 is at the lowest level in the five year period shown.

Chart 3.6: Capital Financing from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by Source, £ millions

Please note that ‘Grants & Contributions’ and ‘Borrowing from Loans Fund’ include amounts used to fund grants to third party capital projects which will also be included in the revenue figures.

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years



3.2.1 Borrowing and Credit Arrangements

Local authorities can borrow to fund capital expenditure, either through the borrowing of money or by way of a credit arrangement, such as a lease. The cost of repaying debt, including the interest costs, is expenditure to the revenue accounts. The costs of servicing debt in 2020-21 are provided in **Table 2.5**, which shows the cost of repayments and interest payable.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides councils with a general power to borrow money. Other local authorities' powers are set out in legislation specific to that authority. The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Scotland) Regulations 2016 sets out the purposes for which a local authority may borrow.

Table 3.2 provides a summary of borrowing and credit arrangements in 2020-21. Local authorities financed £834 million of capital expenditure from borrowing in 2020-21, this was a decrease of 26.1 per cent, £294 million, compared to the value of borrowing to finance capital expenditure in 2019-20. As discussed earlier in this chapter, this decrease reflects the overall reduction in capital expenditure incurred in 2020-21 due to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2020-21, local authorities also entered into credit arrangements, recognising debt of £97 million, a decrease of 86.6 per cent, or £627 million, from 2019-20. The majority of this decrease can be attributed to the one-off sale and leaseback transactions recorded by Glasgow City Council in 2019-20, as noted in Chapter 3.1.

Table 3.2: Borrowing and Credit Arrangement Summary for 2020-21, £ million

Please note that 'Advances for Capital Expenditure' includes borrowing from the Loans Fund used to fund grants to third party capital projects which will also be included in the revenue figures.

Source: LFR CR

Category	General Fund	HRA	Total
Advances for Capital Expenditure	558	256	815
Advances for Consented Borrowing	19	-	19
Total Loans Fund Borrowing	578	256	834
Credit Arrangements	97	-	97
Total Borrowing and Credit Arrangements	674	256	931

Trends for borrowing from the Loans Fund and credit arrangements between 2016-17 and 2020-21 are shown in **Chart 3.6** and discussed in Chapter 3.2.

3.3 Capital Receipts

Capital receipts is the term used to recognise income from the sale or disposal of an asset, such as land or council housing. As shown in **Table 3.3**, local authorities generated £93 million in capital receipts in 2020-21. This is a decrease of £448 million compared to 2019-20, however this is due to one-off sale and leaseback transactions recorded by Glasgow City Council in 2019-20, as noted in Chapter 3.1.

Table 3.3: Capital Receipts raised in 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR CR

Category	Capital receipts raised in year
General Fund	68
HRA	25
Total	93

Capital receipts may only be used to fund capital expenditure or for a purpose specified by statute, or statutory guidance. Local authorities can also hold capital receipts in a capital reserve for future use. This means the value of capital receipts raised in year may not equal the amount used in year. **Table 3.4** sets out how capital receipts were used in 2020-21.

Table 3.4: Use of capital receipts in 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR CR

Use	General Fund	HRA	Total
Fund capital expenditure	20	25	45
Repay debt	43	2	45
Fund equal pay settlement	-	-	-
Fund transformation projects	4	-	4
Fund premiums incurred on refinancing	-	-	-
Fund deferred premiums	-	-	-
Fund impact of Covid-19	-	-	-
Total capital receipts used in year	66	28	94

Local authorities used a total of £94 million capital receipts in 2020-21. The majority of these were used to fund capital expenditure and repayment of debt, which each accounted for 48 per cent of capital receipts used.

4. Reserves and Fixed Assets

4.1 Reserves

Usable reserves reflect a local authority's accumulation of surplus income that can be used to finance future revenue or capital expenditure on services. **Chart 4.1** shows the total usable reserves at 31 March 2021, by fund.

Chart 4.1: Usable Reserves at 31 March 2021, £ millions

Please note that 'Other' revenue reserves includes the Insurance Fund.

Source: LFR 23



The **General Fund** is the principle usable revenue reserve of the local authority. Any **deficit** in a local authority's revenue accounts is met from their General Fund, and any **surplus** is added to the General Fund reserve. The General Fund therefore reflects a local authority's accumulation of surplus income that can be used to finance future revenue expenditure on services or to fund future capital expenditure.

The Orkney County Council Act 1974 and the Zetland County Council Act 1974 require Orkney and Shetland to also hold a **Harbour Account**, a separate account and reserve fund specifically for harbour undertakings. Orkney and Shetland are also able to transfer money between their General Fund and their Harbour Accounts. In this chapter Harbour Account figures are presented separately, however they are included within General Fund figures in other chapters within this publication.

Where a council has housing stock, the accumulation of surplus income relating to housing is separately identified in their **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**.

In addition to the General Fund a local authority may also hold other statutory usable revenue reserves, such as a **Renewal and Repairs Fund**, an **Insurance Fund**, or other reserves specific to a local authority as permitted by legislation. Amounts will be transferred to and from the General Fund to these reserves.

Local authorities hold two **capital reserves** – the Capital Fund / Capital Receipts Reserve and a Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied Account.

The Capital Fund and Capital Receipts Reserve were previously identified separately but are now treated as a single reserve. The **Capital Fund / Capital Receipts Reserve** may be used for the purpose of meeting the cost of capital expenditure and for the repayment of principal on loans, but not any interest on loans.

The **Capital Grants Unapplied Account** holds capital grant that has been received but not yet used to fund capital expenditure, or capital receipts held pending their funding of specific expenditure as permitted by Scottish Ministers.

Local authorities also hold a number of **unusable reserves**, that is reserves which are not backed by cash resources and cannot be used to fund services. Unusable reserves include a Revaluation Reserve, where increases in the value of fixed assets are recorded. This reserve is not usable as an increase in value of an asset will not be realised until the asset is sold. Other unusable reserves include sums deferred or set aside as statutory adjustments which are used to ensure the Annual Accounts of a local authority reconcile to statutory requirements. As these are unusable reserves, they are not discussed in this publication. However this data is collected as part of the Local Financial Returns and is available in the published LFR 23 workbook. A summary of the movement in each unusable reserve in 2020-21 is also provided in the 'SLGFS 2020-21 – Additional Analysis – Reserves' supporting excel file.

A change in accounting practice in 2018-19 (IFRS 9) resulted in unrealised gains in the value of investments held by local authorities being included in the General Fund / HRA / Harbour reserve balances, rather than in an unusable reserve as before. This gain is unrealised as the investment is still held and any gain will only be realised if the investment is sold. The unrealised gain is therefore required to be earmarked and is not available to fund future revenue expenditure or to fund capital investment. The value of usable reserves presented in this publication therefore **exclude** any IFRS 9 unrealised gains held as part of the General Fund / HRA balances.

Table 4.1 sets out the movements across all reserves in 2020-21. Figures relating to the General Fund (including Harbour Account figures) and HRA were also presented in Chapter 2.4.

Local authorities had an increase of £1,191 million in their revenue reserves, and an increase of £9 million in their capital reserves in 2020-21. This means local authorities' usable reserves increased by £1,201 million overall, from £2,723 million at 1 April 2020 to £3,924 million at 31 March 2021.

Table 4.1: Movements in Usable Reserves in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that level of reserves held at 1 April and 31 March exclude amounts relating to unrealised gains that are included in revenue reserves in statutory Annual Accounts applying IFRS 9: Financial Instruments.

Source: LFR 23

Usable Reserve	Level of reserves held at 1 April	Net increase (+) or decrease (-) in year	Level of reserves held at 31 March
General Fund	1,329	1,036	2,365
Housing Revenue Account	188	61	248
Harbour Account	269	59	328
Renewal and Repairs	141	37	177
Insurance Fund	102	-3	99
Other Statutory Funds	13	2	14
Total Revenue Reserves	2,041	1,191	3,233
Capital Fund / Capital Receipts	475	-11	464
Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied	207	20	227
Total Capital Reserves	681	9	691
Total Usable Reserves	2,723	1,201	3,924

The majority of the increase in usable reserves relates to an increase in the General Fund of £1,036 million between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. This increase is largely attributable to additional Covid-19 funding from the Scottish Government that was confirmed to be paid via GRG on 18 March 2021. Any element of this funding which remained unspent at 31 March 2021 was added to local authorities' General Fund reserves to be carried forward for use in future years.

Local authorities are able to **earmark**, or set aside, part of their General Fund reserves for future use for a specific purpose. At 31 March 2021, local authorities' had earmarked 71.1 per cent, or £1,682 million, of their General Fund reserves.

Table 4.2 sets out the level of reserves held across all local authorities in Scotland at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Over this five year period, the most significant change is between 2019-20 and 2020-21 which is discussed earlier in this chapter.

Table 4.2: Level of Usable Reserves held at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Please note the following:

Figures exclude amounts relating to unrealised gains that are included in revenue reserves in statutory Annual Accounts applying IFRS: Financial Instruments.

Figures for 2019-20 may not match the 1 April 2020 figures shown in Table 4.1 due to restatements in local authorities' accounts between years.

Source: LFR 23

Usable Reserve	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
General Fund	1,178	1,153	1,143	1,315	2,365
HRA	169	177	177	188	248
Harbour Account	312	312	314	269	328
Renewal and Repairs	171	172	138	141	177
Insurance Fund	84	88	90	102	99
Other Statutory Funds	20	32	12	13	14
Total Revenue Reserves	1,934	1,935	1,874	2,027	3,233
Capital Fund / Capital Receipts	522	491	491	475	464
Capital Grants and Receipts Unapplied	45	147	180	207	227
Total Capital Reserves	567	638	671	681	691
Total Usable Reserves	2,501	2,573	2,546	2,708	3,924

4.2 Fixed Assets

Capital expenditure creates local authority assets. In 2020-21, the value of local authority fixed assets was £50,234 million, an increase of 4.0 per cent, or £1,920 million, from 2019-20. The value of local authority fixed assets from 2016-17 to 2020-21 is shown in **Table 4.3**.

Table 4.3: Value of Fixed Assets at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years

Fixed Asset Type	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	% change between 2018-19 & 2019-20
Operational assets	40,258	41,620	44,242	46,110	47,766	3.6%
Non-operational assets	1,810	1,780	1,875	2,139	2,384	11.4%
Intangible assets	51	56	65	65	85	30.9%
Total Assets	42,120	43,456	46,182	48,315	50,234	4.0%

Operational assets are assets a local authority can use when providing services, such as a school, council houses, vehicles etc. Almost all of local authorities' fixed assets are operational assets and the value of these has increased by 18.6 per cent, or £7,507 million, over this period.

Non-operational assets are assets that a local authority cannot currently utilise, for example an asset that is still under construction or an asset that is being held for disposal. **Intangible assets** are non-physical assets, such as computer software. Non-operational assets and intangible assets together accounted for 4.9 per cent of local authorities' total fixed assets in 2020-21.

5. Debt and Prudential Indicators

5.1 Debt

When a local authority borrows money or uses a credit arrangement to finance capital expenditure a debt liability is created that the local authority has to repay from future revenues. A local authority is required to make loans fund advances in respect of capital expenditure it has determined should be met from borrowing. Loans fund advances are repaid in future years.

Table 5.1 provides a summary of local authorities' debt at 31 March 2021. **Total debt** across local authorities at 31 March 2021 was £19,723 million, an increase of 1.8 per cent or £345 million, from 31 March 2020.

Table 5.1: Total Debt at 31 March 2021, £ millions

Source: LFR CR

Debt Type	General Fund	HRA	Total
Loans Fund Advances outstanding	11,794	4,173	15,967
Credit Arrangements	3,754	2	3,756
Total Debt	15,548	4,175	19,723

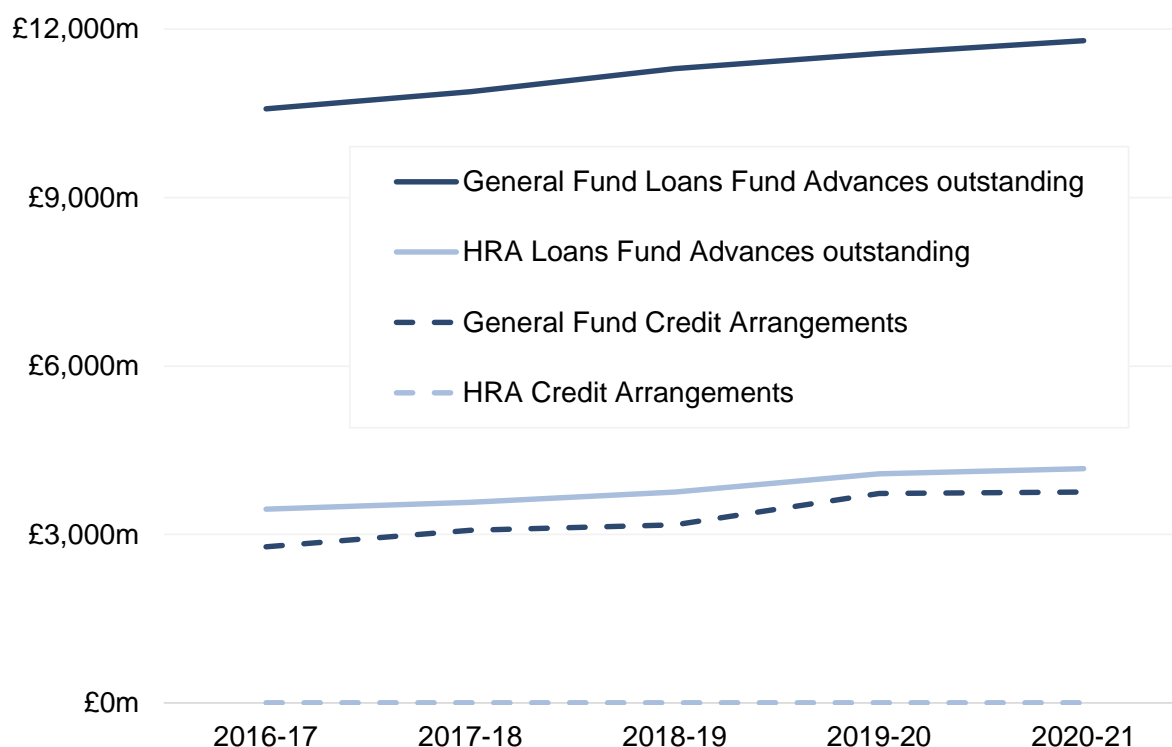
Total General Fund debt equated to £2,844 per person, an increase of £45 from £2,799 per person at 31 March 2020. Total HRA debt equated to £13,289 per HRA dwelling, an increase of £203 from £13,086 per HRA dwelling at 31 March 2020.

Chart 5.1 shows total debt at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by type of debt and split by General Fund and HRA. Total debt has increased by 17.3 per cent, or £2,910 million, over this period. The split of total debt across the four categories shown has remained fairly consistent across this period with General Fund borrowing accounting for around three-fifths of total debt; HRA borrowing accounting for just over one-fifth; and General Fund credit arrangements accounting for just under one-fifth of total debt.

More information on the Loans Fund and credit arrangements, as shown in **Table 5.1** and **Chart 5.1**, are provided in Chapters 5.1.1 and 5.1.2.

Chart 5.1: Total Debt at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years



5.1.1 Loans Fund

The Local Authority (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Scotland) Regulations 2016 require a local authority to maintain a Loans Fund. Advances are made from the Loans Fund to record the amount of expenditure a local authority has determined should be met from borrowing, as permitted by legislation. The repayments made to the Loans Fund are the amount to be met in each financial year from a local authorities' revenue accounts.

The value of a Loans Fund will **increase** whenever an advance is made for expenditure incurred, or loans made, in any financial year. The value of a Loans Fund will **decrease** when Loans Fund Advances are repaid by making a charge to the General Fund or HRA. The balance on a Loans Fund at 31 March each year represents the amount of past expenditure a local authority has liability to fund from its future revenue budgets.

A local authority will borrow externally to fund the advances made from the Loans Fund. The balance on the Loans Fund should be similar to the value of external borrowing but there may be legitimate differences between the two values. Local authorities may borrow internally, that is use cash reserves, rather than borrowing externally, or may borrow in advance of incurring the actual expenditure to take advantage of favourable interest rates.

Table 5.2 provides a summary of local authorities' Loans Funds in 2020-21. The overall value of the Loans Fund across all local authorities at 31 March 2021 was £15,967 million, an increase of 2.0 per cent, or £320 million, from 1 April 2020.

Table 5.2: Loans Funds Advances Outstanding in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that these figures only reflect local authorities own debt and exclude amounts relating to lending to other statutory bodies.

Source: LFR CR

Movement	General Fund	HRA	Total
Loans Fund Advances outstanding at 1 April	11,565	4,083	15,647
Add: New advances from the Loans Fund	578	256	834
Less: Repayments made in year	348	166	514
Less: Transfer in (+) or out (-) of assets	-	-	-
Loans Fund Advances outstanding at 31 March	11,794	4,173	15,967

5.1.2 Credit Arrangements

Credit arrangements, such as finance leases, Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Public Private Partnerships (PPP) including the Scottish Non Profit Distributing (NPD) model, are not charged to the Loans Fund. However they are a form of borrowing and so are included in the total debt figures.

Table 5.3 provides a summary of local authorities' credit arrangements in 2020-21. The overall value of credit arrangements outstanding across all local authorities at 31 March 2021 was £3,756 million, a decrease of 0.8 per cent, or £30 million, from 1 April 2020. This decrease reflects that repayments made exceeded the value of new credit arrangements taken up in year.

Table 5.3: Credit Arrangements in 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR CR

Movement	General Fund	HRA	Total
Credit Arrangements brought forward at 1 April	3,784	2	3,786
Add: New Credit Arrangements in year	97	-	97
Less: Repayments made in year	127	0	127
Credit Arrangements outstanding at 31 March	3,754	2	3,756

5.2 Prudential Indicators

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) Prudential Code sets out a framework for a local authority to demonstrate its capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable. A number of prudential indicators are set and monitored against three year capital expenditure plans. Further, the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 places a local authority under a statutory duty to set their own maximum capital expenditure limits and they must be set with regard to the Prudential Code. The key prudential indicators are:

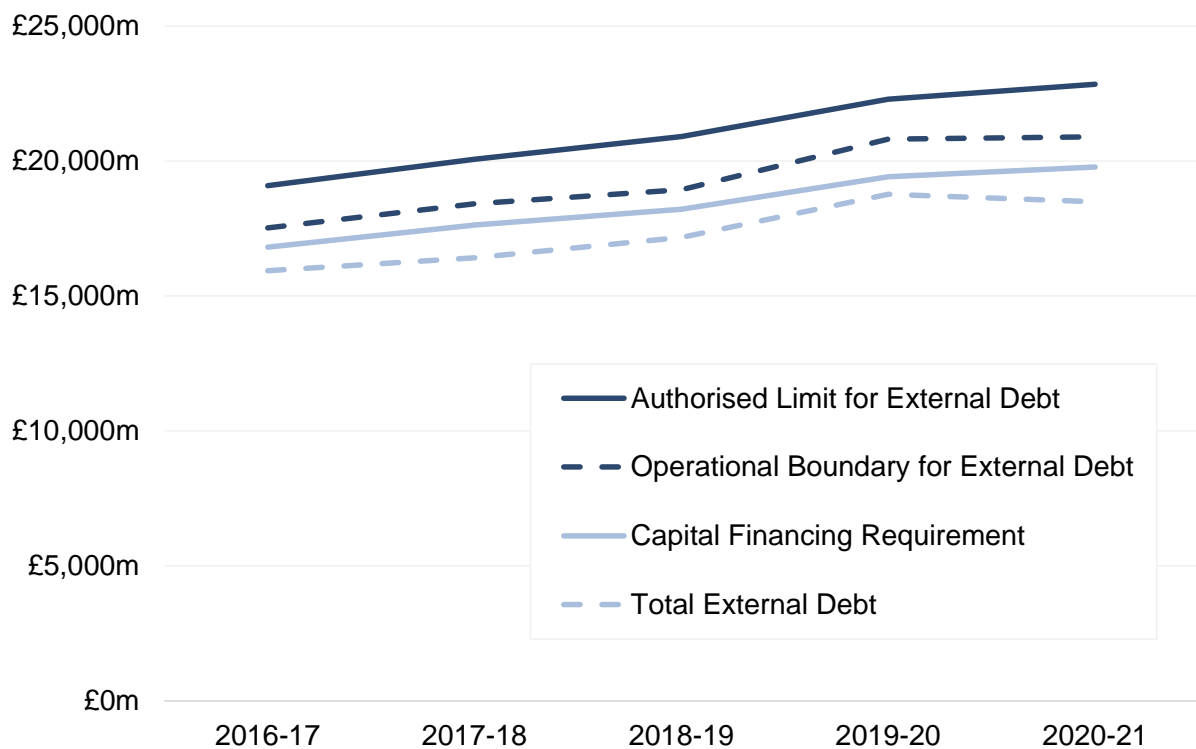
- Capital Financing Requirement
- Total External Debt
- Operational Boundary
- Authorised Limit

Chart 5.2 shows the change in prudential indicators between 2016-17 and 2020-21. All four indicators have increased at similar rates over this period. More information on the individual indicators is provided in the remainder of this chapter.

Chart 5.2: Prudential Indicators at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that the treatment of loans to other statutory bodies in the CFR and Total External Debt figures may vary between local authorities for years prior to 2020-21, however this relates to comparatively small values and so is not material.

Source: LFR CR for 2019-20 and 2020-21, CR Final for all other years



5.2.1 Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

The **Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)** represents the amount of capital expenditure a local authority has determined should be met from borrowing or funded from a credit arrangement, with the repayment of the debt met from future local authority budgets.

The CFR will increase each year by the amount of new capital expenditure to be financed by borrowing or credit arrangements, and will decrease by the amounts repaid. The CFR represents an authority's underlying need to borrow money.

Table 5.4 shows the CFR calculation for 2020-21. The CFR increased from £19,485 million at 1 April 2020 to £19,775 million at 31 March 2021. This means that local authorities had a higher amount of new capital expenditure to be financed by borrowing than amounts repaid in 2020-21. This increase in CFR was reflected across both the General Fund and HRA.

Table 5.4: Capital Financing Requirement in 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that these figures exclude amounts relating to lending to other statutory bodies.

Source: LFR CR

Movement	General Fund	HRA	Total
Capital Financing Requirement at 1 April	15,304	4,181	19,485
Add: Capital exp. financed by borrowing	578	256	834
Add: Capital exp. financed by credit arrangements	97	-	97
Less: Loans Fund repayments	348	166	514
Less: Credit Arrangements repayments	127	0	127
Capital Financing Requirement at 31 March	15,503	4,272	19,775

Chart 5.2 shows that local authorities' CFR has increased over the last five years which reflects the increase in local authority borrowing over this period.

5.2.2 Total External Debt

Total External Debt reflects local authorities' gross external borrowing and other long term liabilities. This may be **less than the CFR** where an authority has chosen to utilise cash reserves rather than borrow externally. Total External Debt may be **more than the CFR** where a local authority has chosen to borrow in advance of actual capital expenditure; however the Prudential Code limits borrowing in advance to the CFR amount plus up to two years planned capital expenditure to be funded from borrowing.

Table 5.5 shows that total external debt at 31 March 2021 was £18,487 million. Around four-fifths (79.7 per cent) of total external debt related to external borrowing, with the remainder relating to credit arrangements outstanding.

Table 5.5: Total External Debt at 31 March 2021, £ millions

Please note that these figures reflect actual gross external debt as calculated for comparison to the Capital Financing Requirement as per the Prudential Code.

Source: LFR CR

External Debt Type	Total
Actual external borrowing	14,731
Credit arrangements outstanding	3,756
Total External Debt	18,487

As shown in **Chart 5.2**, the CFR continues to remain above total external debt. This means that local authorities continue to be under-borrowed, that is they are utilising internal cash reserves rather than borrowing externally. At 31 March 2021, total external debt was 93.5 per cent of the CFR, which is in line with prior years.

5.2.3 Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

The **Operational Boundary** is based on local authorities' capital spending plans and should reflect the most likely, or prudent, but not worst case scenario for borrowing. In general, it is not significant if an authority breaches the operational boundary for a short period, however a sustained or regular trend above would be significant. At 31 March 2021, the Operational Boundary was £20,894 million across local authorities.

The **Authorised Limit** represents the maximum amount that the authority may borrow and is set at a level that reflects capital expenditure plans but includes headroom to allow for unusual cash movements, i.e. treasury management. The Authorised Limit across all local authorities was £22,850 million at 31 March 2021.

As shown in **Chart 5.2**, neither the operational boundary nor the authorised limit have been breached in the last five years. This means that local authorities' borrowing has consistently remained below these limits.

6. Pensions

Expenditure and income from local authority pension funds are entirely separate from the expenditure and income of the authorities' themselves. In accordance with Regulations 9 and 65 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Scotland) Regulations 2014, expenditure on pensions, lump sums and the costs of managing the pension are paid from the Pension Fund. Income from employer and employee contributions is paid into this fund, which then generates investment income.

Expenditure and income figures should not be used to gauge the health of a pension fund, as the ratio of expenditure to income will depend on a number of factors, including age of the fund and whether it is open or closed to new members. The relative financial health of the pension scheme is gauged through the three-yearly actuarial valuations carried out on each of the funds.

Table 6.1 shows the movement in net assets of the local government pension funds in 2020-21. The **opening net assets of the pension funds** at 1 April 2020 was £46,067 million. This increased by 25.2 per cent, or £11,586 million, over the year such that the **closing net assets** at 31 March 2021 was £57,654 million. The majority of this increase is driven by the total net return on investment in year of £11,977 million – this is discussed in more detail in Chapter 6.2.

Table 6.1: Movement in net assets of pensions funds in 2020-21, £ millions

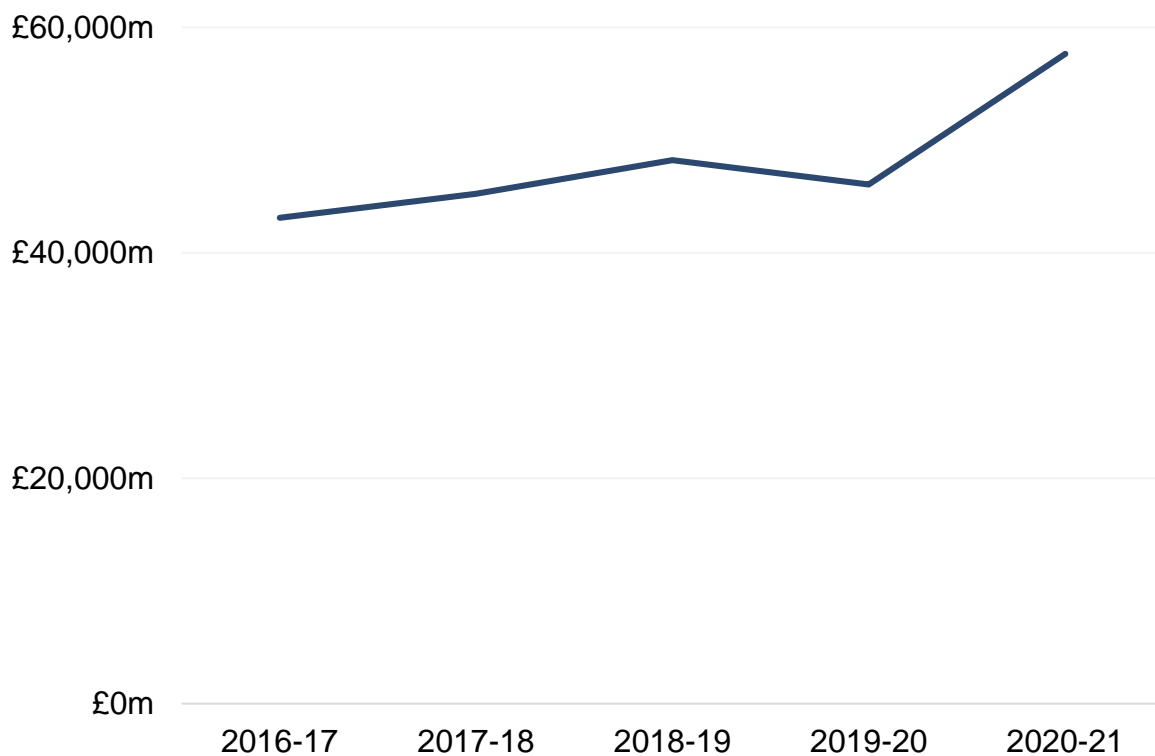
Source: LFR 24

Movement	2020-21
Opening net assets of the fund at 1 April	46,067
Add: Contributions receivable	1,480
Less: Benefits payable	1,486
Less: Payments to and on account of leavers	8
Net additions (+) / withdrawals (-) from dealings with members	-15
Less: Management expenses	353
Add: Net return on investments	11,977
Less: Revaluation of insurance buy-in contract	22
Net increase (+) / decrease (-) in the fund in year	11,586
Closing net assets of the fund at 31 March	57,654

Chart 6.1 shows the closing net asset position of local government pension funds from 2016-17 to 2020-21. As already shown in Table 6.1, the closing net asset position in 2020-21 has increased compared to 2019-20. The only decrease in net assets for the period shown is between 2018-19 and 2019-20 – this was due to the decrease in the market value of pension investments across all local authorities as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the financial market at the start of 2020. Over the five year period, closing net assets have increased by 33.7 per cent, or £14,537 million, from £43,117 million in 2016-17 to £57,654 million in 2020-21.

Chart 6.1: Closing Net Assets of the Pension Funds at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR 24

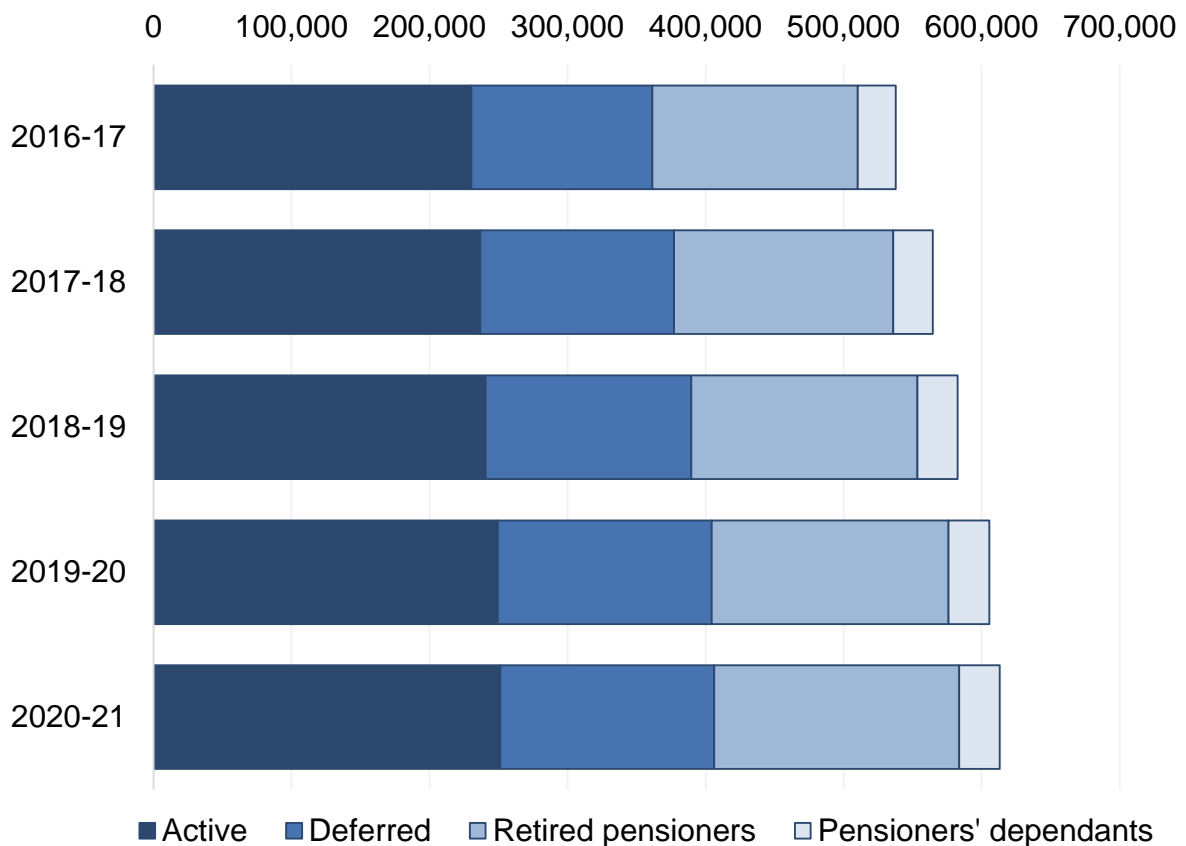


6.1 Members, contributions and benefits

Chart 6.2 shows the number of members enrolled in local government pension schemes between 2016-17 and 2020-21 by type of member. At 31 March 2021, there were a total of 613,195 members enrolled in these pension schemes, an increase of 14.0 per cent, or 75,367 members, from 2016-17.

Chart 6.2: Number of members at 31 March from 2016-17 to 2020-21 by type

Source: LFR 24



The split of types of member has remained broadly consistent across the five year period shown. **Active** members, that is members who are actively contributing to the pension fund, have been the largest category of members across all five years, accounting for just over two-fifths (41.0 per cent) of the total membership in 2020-21. **Deferred pensioners**, that is members who choose to continue to work beyond retirement age, made up around a quarter (25.3 per cent) of the total in 2020-21. **Retired pensioners** have been the second largest group across all five years, accounting for 28.9 per cent of the total in 2020-21. **Pensioners' dependants** are the smallest group and make up only 4.8 per cent.

6.1.1 Contributions from Members

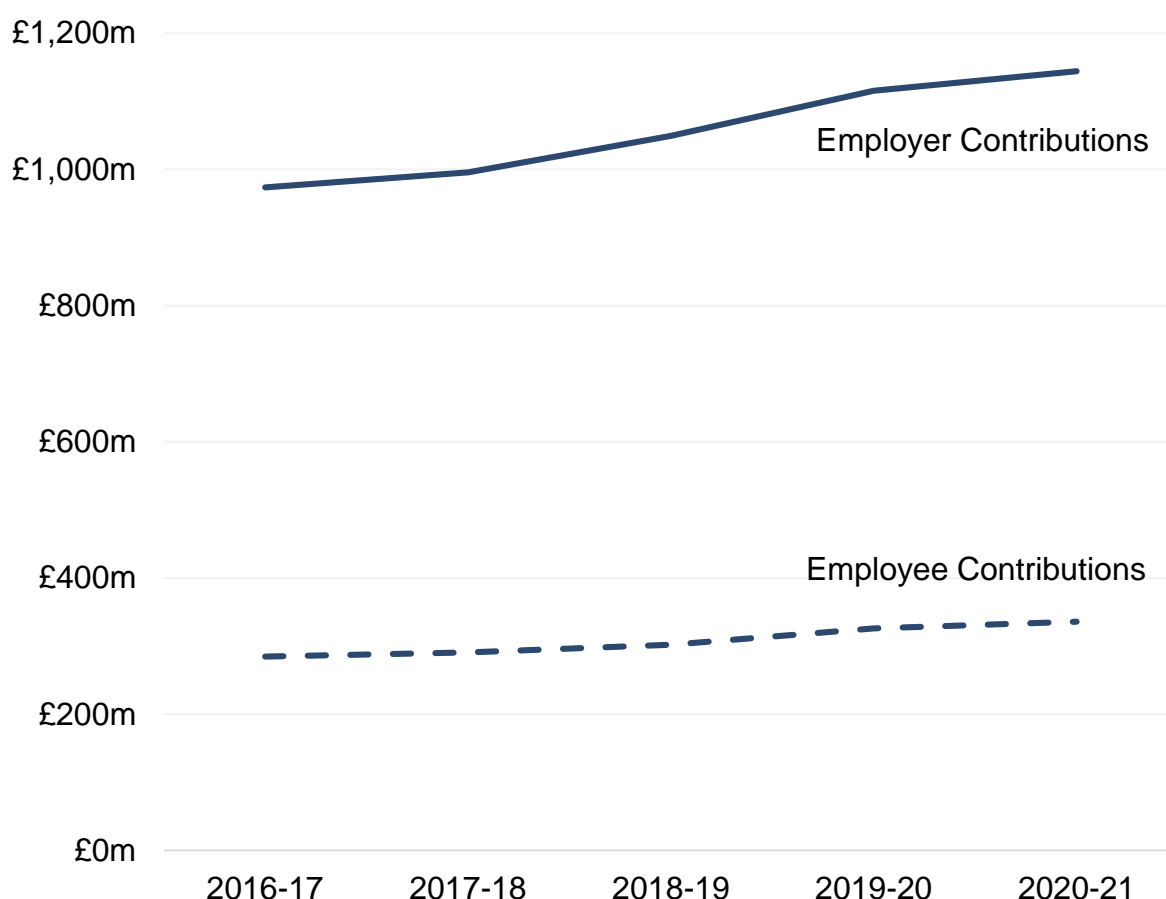
Contributions from employees and employers represent payments for pensionable service accrued during the year which will be paid out as part of an overall pension at a future date. These contributions can be thought of as income to the pension fund and are dependent on the number of contributing employees, both full time and part time.

Contributions from employees are fixed at a set percentage of pay, depending on level of salary. Contribution rates from employers are variable and are reviewed on a triennial basis, with actuaries determining the contribution rates for the following three years. This means contributions from employees and employers tend to remain stable over time, as shown in **Chart 6.3**.

Chart 6.3: Contributions received from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Please note that contributions include those from other employing authorities.

Source: LFR 24



In 2020-21, **total contributions** provided £1,480 million of income, an increase of 2.6 per cent, or £38 million, from 2019-20. Just over three-quarters of total contributions (77.3 per cent or £1,144 million) came from **employers**, with the remainder coming from **employees**. This proportional split of total contributions has been stable over this five year period.

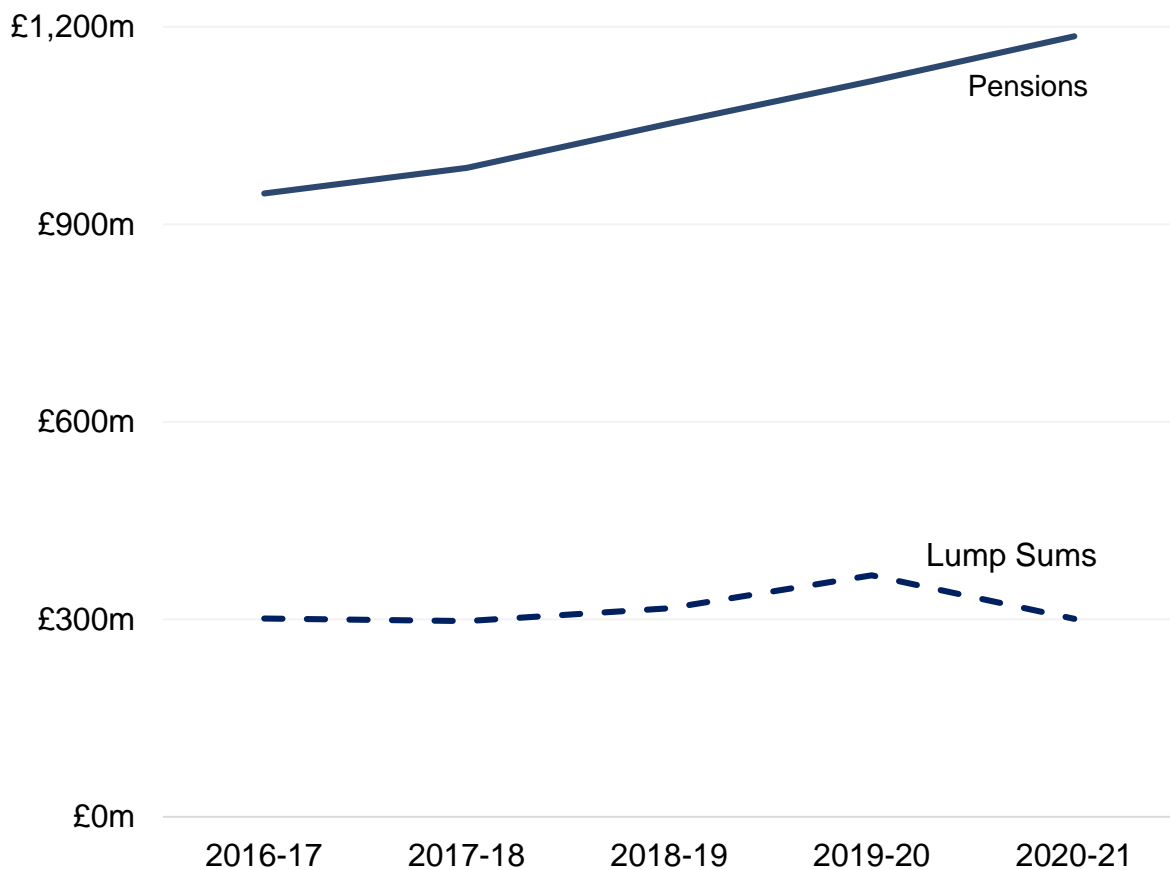
6.1.2 Benefits Paid to Members

Benefits paid to members include pension payments to retirees or dependents, as well as lump sum payments made to members on retirement or upon death. Benefits paid may also include payments made for injuries, however these figures are often zero or of small value.

Chart 6.4 shows the pensions and lump sum payments made to members over the last five years. Total **pensions** paid out in 2020-21 was £1,185 million. This has increased year on year since 2016-17. Total **lump sums** paid out in 2020-21 was £301 million; these payments increased year on year to a peak of £367 million in 2019-20 then decreased back to the same figure as in 2016-17.

Chart 6.4: Pensions and Lump Sums paid out from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR 24



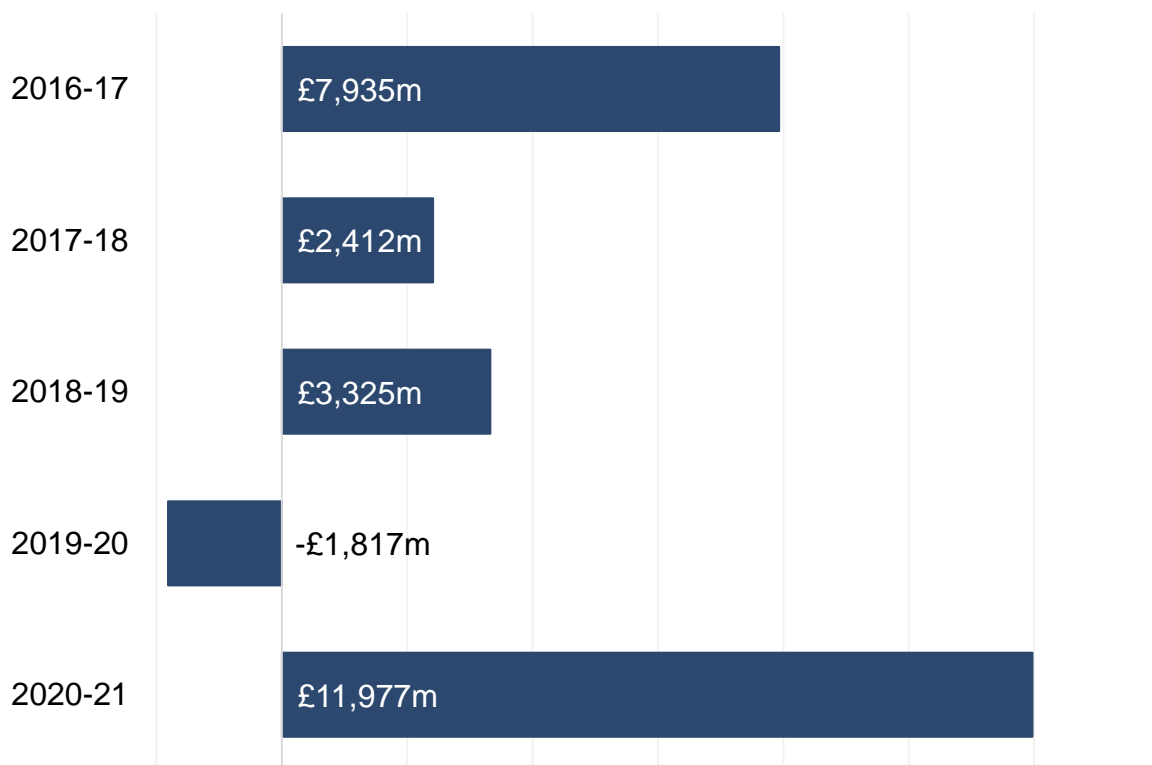
6.2 Net Return on Investments

Pension funds invest in financial markets and other assets. These investments are generally managed separately to the administration of contributions and benefits of the scheme. A pension fund's net return on investment reflects income and expenditure incurred directly relating to the investment, as well as any changes in the market value of the investment, in year. This figure does **not** include expenses paid to manage the investment. Therefore, the net return on investment is volatile and is directly influenced by investment conditions; for example, changes in financial markets.

Chart 6.5 shows the net return on investment from 2016-17 to 2020-21. In 2020-21, net return on investment was £11,977 million, an increase of £13,819 million from 2019-20. The negative net return in 2019-20 reflected the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on financial markets at the start of 2020 and the corresponding decrease in pension investments across all local authorities. The variation in net return on investment between years reflects the volatility of this figure.

Chart 6.5: Net return on investments from 2016-17 to 2020-21, £ millions

Source: LFR 24



7. Data Sources

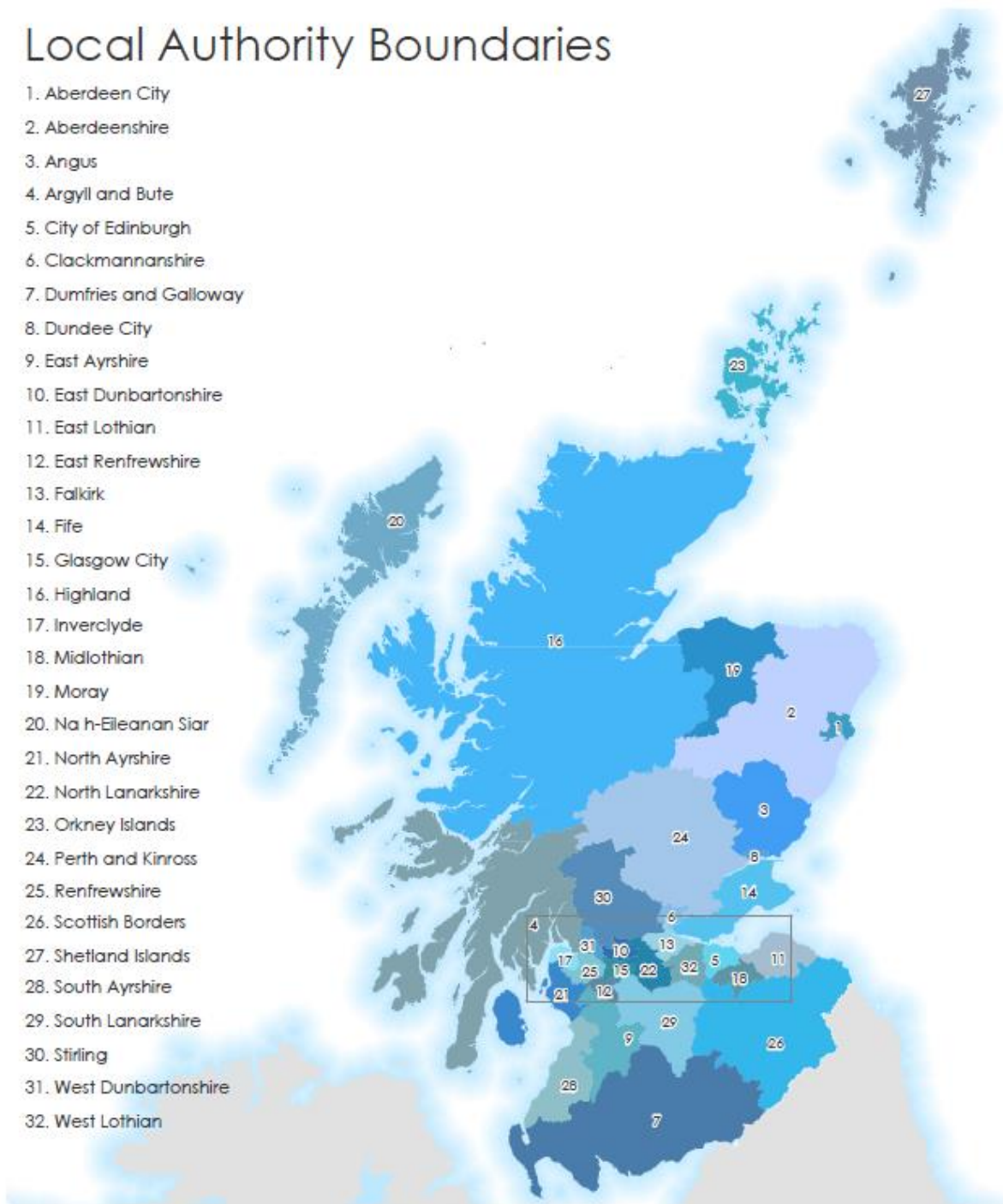
This publication contains data from a range of sources. Information on these data sources is provided in this chapter along with links to relevant web pages for further information.

- The [Local Financial Returns \(LFRs\)](#) are a series of detailed returns that collect final, audited expenditure, income, reserves and pension figures for all local authorities in Scotland on an annual basis. The LFRs are the main data source for this publication.
The full 2020-21 LFR workbooks, which provide all the source data by local authority, have been made available alongside this publication.
- The [Council Tax Receipts Return \(CTRR\)](#) monitors collection levels relating to council tax and community charge from all councils in Scotland on an annual basis. It collects information on the amounts billed and received, and to which year the payment refers.
- The [Council Tax Base \(CTaxbase\)](#) figures give the number of properties in each council tax band in each council area, including those with exemptions and discounts.
- The [Council Tax Assumptions \(CTAS\) return](#) asks councils to set out the assumptions used in setting their Band D council tax levels, and discounts provided for second homes and long-term empty properties.
- Local authorities are asked to provide individual [Council Tax Reduction \(CTR\) record level extracts](#) on a monthly basis. Local authorities are asked to extract their data on a specified date which means the extract provides a snapshot for each month.
- The [Non-Domestic Rates Income \(NDRI\) returns](#) collect data on the amount of NDR income each year. For this there is a cycle of four returns to collect estimates and then final amounts of NDRI – the Provisional Contributable Amount (PCA); Mid-Year Estimates (MYE); Notified; and Audited.
- The [Scottish Assessors Valuation Roll](#) is a public document that contains an entry for all non-domestic properties except those specifically excluded by law.
- [Local Government Finance Circulars](#) provide financial advice and guidance to local government, including details of local government settlements.
- [Mid-year population estimates](#) for Scotland are produced by National Records for Scotland (NRS) on an annual basis.
- [Annual Housing Revenue Account \(HRA\) statistics](#) provide an estimate of the number of HRA dwellings.

Annex A: Local Authority Boundaries

Local Authority Boundaries

1. Aberdeen City
2. Aberdeenshire
3. Angus
4. Argyll and Bute
5. City of Edinburgh
6. Clackmannanshire
7. Dumfries and Galloway
8. Dundee City
9. East Ayrshire
10. East Dunbartonshire
11. East Lothian
12. East Renfrewshire
13. Falkirk
14. Fife
15. Glasgow City
16. Highland
17. Inverclyde
18. Midlothian
19. Moray
20. Na h-Eileanan Siar
21. North Ayrshire
22. North Lanarkshire
23. Orkney Islands
24. Perth and Kinross
25. Renfrewshire
26. Scottish Borders
27. Shetland Islands
28. South Ayrshire
29. South Lanarkshire
30. Stirling
31. West Dunbartonshire
32. West Lothian



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Scale: 1:2,930,000

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Annex B: Local Authority Joint Board Membership

Please note that Helensburgh and Lomond are part of SPT, while the rest of Argyll & Bute is part of HITRANS.

Council	Valuation Joint Board (VJB)	Regional Transport Partnership (RTP)
Aberdeen City	Grampian	NESTRANS
Aberdeenshire	Grampian	NESTRANS
Angus	Tayside	TACTRAN
Argyll & Bute	Dunbartonshire & Argyll & Bute	SPT / HITRANS
City of Edinburgh	Lothian	SESTRAN
Clackmannanshire	Central	SESTRAN
Dumfries & Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway	SWESTRANS
Dundee City	Tayside	TACTRAN
East Ayrshire	Ayrshire	SPT
East Dunbartonshire	Dunbartonshire & Argyll & Bute	SPT
East Lothian	Lothian	SESTRAN
East Renfrewshire	Renfrewshire	SPT
Falkirk	Central	SESTRAN
Fife	Fife	SESTRAN
Glasgow City	Glasgow	SPT
Highland	Highland & Western Isles	HITRANS
Inverclyde	Renfrewshire	SPT
Midlothian	Lothian	SESTRAN
Moray	Grampian	HITRANS
Na h-Eileanan Siar	Highland & Western Isles	HITRANS
North Ayrshire	Ayrshire	SPT
North Lanarkshire	Lanarkshire	SPT
Orkney Islands	Orkney & Shetland	HITRANS
Perth & Kinross	Tayside	TACTRAN
Renfrewshire	Renfrewshire	SPT
Scottish Borders	Borders	SESTRAN
Shetland Islands	Orkney & Shetland	ZetTrans
South Ayrshire	Ayrshire	SPT
South Lanarkshire	Lanarkshire	SPT
Stirling	Central	TACTRAN
West Dunbartonshire	Dunbartonshire & Argyll & Bute	SPT
West Lothian	Lothian	SESTRAN

Annex C: Calculation of the 2020-21 NDR Distributable Amount, £ millions

Please note that PCA = Provisional Contributable Amount; and SFC = Scottish Fiscal Commission.

Balance brought forward 31/03/2019 as per Non Domestic Rating Account 2018-19		23,821
Closing Balance		23,821
Final Balance brought forward 31/03/2019		
Opening Balance		23,821
Add: PCA 2019-20 (actual)	2,890,168	
Less: Distributable Amount 2019-20	2,853,000	
	37,168	
		60,989
Reconciliation of 2018-19		
Add: Audited Amount 2018-19 (actual)	2,846,547	
Less: Notified PCA 2018-19 (actual)	2,882,664	
	-36,118	
		24,871
Reconciliation of 2017-18		
Add: Audited Amount 2017-18 (in 2018-19 account)	-	
Less: Notified Amount 2017-18 (in 2018-19 account)	-	
	-	
		24,871
Closing Balance for 2019-20		24,871
Balance brought forward 31/03/2020		
Opening Balance		24,871
Actual PCA 2020-21	1,916,327	
Estimated reconciliation of 2019-20		
Add: Mid-Year Estimate 2019-20 (SFC)	2,844,078	
Less: PCA 2019-20	2,890,168	
	-46,090	
Estimated movement on Pool 2020-21	1,870,238	
Net balance on 2019-20 Pool inc. balance b/f at 31/03/2020		1,895,108
Less: Distributable Amount for 2020-21		1,868,030
Estimated balance at 31/03/2021		27,078

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