

# Report to Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee

Date: 26 June 2017

Report of: Treasurer to the Joint Committee

Subject: ANNUAL RETURN FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

## SUMMARY

This report sets out the Annual Return for the financial year ended 31 March 2017.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That Section 1 Accounting Statements for Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee be approved.
- (b) That Section 2 Annual Governance Statement for Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee be approved.
- (c) That the Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017 be noted.

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Audit Commission Act 1998 (Section 2 and Schedule 2) required Joint Committees to prepare accounts and undergo an audit separate from their constituent bodies. From 1 April 2015, implementation of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 means that Joint Committees are no longer required to have their accounts separately prepared and audited. The Government has made this change as the appropriate parts of the financial results of Joint Committees are reported in the accounts of their constituent bodies, so they will be audited by auditors appointed to audit the accounts of those bodies, and there is no separate audit appointment.
- 2. To provide consistency of information for the constituent bodies and to the Joint Committee an Annual Return for 2016/17 has been prepared and comprises the following sections for approval and information:
  - Section 1 Accounting Statement recording financial transactions during the year for both revenue and capital schemes.
  - Section 2 Annual Governance Statement
  - Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017.
- Section 1 Accounting Statement The Accounting Statement is presented for approval by the Joint Committee and is supported by details and explanations of the variances between the financial year 2016/17 and the previous financial year 2015/16.
- 4. Section 2 Annual Governance Statement The Annual Governance Statement is presented for approval by the Joint Committee and is supported by details of the key components upon which the Joint Committee has relied in agreeing each aspect of the Annual Governance Statement.
- Annual Internal Audit Report Fareham Borough Council's internal audit 2016/17 Certification Work and Report will be presented to the Joint Committee on completion of their testing which is being undertaken in the first quarter of 2017/18.
- 6. An Income and Expenditure statement, Balance Sheet, explanatory notes and details of the reserves held by the Joint Committee are then provided to complete the summary of the financial position at year end.
- 7. The final accounts for the joint Committee show a breakeven outturn in line with the revised budget. It has been possible for a higher contribution to be made to the Capital Works and Repairs and Renewals funds placing the Joint Committee in a stronger financial position to meet future capital works requirements.

# Section 1 - Accounting Statement for: Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee

	Year e	ending	Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.
1.Balances brought forward	1,332,287	1,541,031	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the body's financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation and/or levy	0	0	Total amount of local tax and/or levy received or receivable in the year, including funding from a sponsoring body.
3. (+) Total other receipts	1,905,323	2,029,945	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less income from taxation and/or levy (line 2). Include any grants received here.
4. (-) Staff costs	(248,995)	(258,196)	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the body's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	(1,448,124)	(1,296,238)	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1,541,031	2,016,542	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total cash and short term investments	1,605,968	2,044,132	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – to agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus other long term investments and assets	8,004,620	8,091,293	The original Asset and Investment Register value of all fixed assets, plus other long term assets owned by the body as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
I certify that for the yea accounting statements fairly the financial posit and expenditure, or pro-	in this annual r ion of the body operly present r	eturn present and its income	I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by the body on: 
payments, as the case Signed by Responsible	-	er	And recorded as minute reference:
 Date:			Signed by Chair of meeting approving these accounting statements.
			Date:
			Date

## 8. EXPLANATIONS OF VARIANCES BETWEEN ACCOUNTING YEARS

- 8.1 Annual Return Other Receipts (line 3)
- 8.1.1 Income from charges and sales of £2,029,945 was £116,545 above the revised budget and £124,622 higher than the previous year. The number of cremations carried out during 2016/17 has totalled 3,424 of which 80 were walk-through cremation services and 20 were carried out at no charge. This represents an increase of 184 (5.7%) compared with the previous financial year's total of 3,240; and of 13 (0.38%) compared with the total in 2014/15. The numbers of cremations for 2016/17 and the four previous financial years are set out in the table below. The number of cremations has been higher than anticipated in this financial year with the budget having been based on 3,200 cremations. Income from other areas, such as memorial cards and organ music, has fallen reflecting a continuation in the trend of a small decline in demand for these services. £28,148 has been received from the CAMEO TMAC scheme.

#### Cremations

Cremations at nil charge (under 16)	2012/13 22	2013/14 27	2014/15 22	2015/16 26	2016/17 20
Walk through cremations					80
	4,080	3,933	3,389	3,214	3,324
Total cremations	4,102	3,960	3,411	3,240	3,424

	Actual	Actual	Budget
Variation between accounting years	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17
INCOME	£	£	£
Garden Improvement fund contributions	0	0	1,500
Memorial Cards	7,889	6,728	8,000
Cremation Fees	1,767,700	1,893,440	1,792,000
Book of Remembrance	54,161	52,483	54,200
Organ Music	38,005	36,283	45,000
CAMEO TMAC	26,137	28,148	0
Web broadcasting services	1,150	1,850	2,000
Other	10,281	11,013	10,700
TOTAL INCOME	1,905,323	2,029,945	1,913,400
Variation		124,622	
Expressed as a percentage		6.5%	

8.2 Annual Return – Staff Costs (line 4) and Other Payments (line 6)

## STAFF COSTS AND OTHER PAYMENTS

- 8.2.1 Employee expenditure of £258,196 was in line with the revised estimate of £258,200 for 2016/17.
- 8.2.2 Other expenditure of £1,296,238 was £151,886 lower in 2016/17 than the previous year.

	Actual	Actual	Budget
Variation between accounting years	2015/16	2016/17	2016/17
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£
Premises expenditure	441,988	420,977	453,000
Contribution to Constituent Authorities	500,000	520,000	520,000
Capital Expenditure	0	0	0
Capital and Repairs and Renewals Expenditure	244,985	133,105	115,000
Supplies and Services	261,151	222,156	232,200
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,448,124	1,296,238	1,320,200
Variation		-151,886	
Expressed as a percentage		-10.5%	

## PREMISES

- 8.2.3. **Repairs and Maintenance.** The total budget for premises repairs and maintenance, including grounds expenditure and energy costs, was £453,000. Actual expenditure of £420,977 was £32,023 below the revised budget level. Repairs and Maintenance was under budget by £11,602.
- 8.2.4 **Energy Costs.** Reduced energy consumption and competitive prices meant that actual expenditure of £89,609 was £19,391 was lower than the revised budget provision of £109,000 for this area of expenditure and £13,599 lower than in the previous financial year.

## SUPPLIES AND SERVICES

8.2.5 Expenditure of £222,156 was below the revised budget of £232,200 by £10,044. Book of Remembrance entries were £8,389 below budget and the amount of VAT reclaimable was £5,714 below budget. Medical Referee fees were higher than budgeted in line with higher cremation numbers during the year.

#### **REPAIRS AND RENEWALS/CAPITAL WORKS FUND**

8.2.6 During 2016/17 expenditure of £45,468 has been set against the Repairs and Renewals fund which was well within budget, and a contribution of £193,045 has been made to the Repairs and Renewals Fund in 2016/17. The balance of the fund being carried forward at the end of 2016/17 is £202,591; this is set out in Paragraph 10.3.

- 8.2.7. During 2016/17 expenditure of £86,672 has been has been set against the Capital Works fund. The contribution from revenue to the Capital Works Fund was set at £350,000 for 2016/17 however it has been possible to recognise a contribution of £415,571. The balance of the fund being carried forward at the end of 2016/17 is £1,669,358; this is set out in Paragraph 10.3.
- 8.2.8 During 2016/17 £1,509 of contributions towards the Garden Improvement Fund were received. It is proposed that the accumulated balance of £3,924.50 at the end of 2016/17 is carried forward to be used to replace some of the wooden seats with better quality seating and for shade tolerant herbaceous plants and bulbs to go under the beech trees towards the northern boundary. This will be completed in 2017/18.
- 8.3 Annual Return Cash and Short Term Investments have increased in 2016/17 enabling a replenishment of balances held to support future capital expenditure.

Variation between accounting years (line 8)	2015/16	2016/17
CASH AND SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS	£	£
Short Term Investment	1,332,800	1,541,000
Cash at Bank and In Hand	273,168	503,132
	1,605,968	2,044,132
Variation		438,164
Expressed as a percentage		27.2%

8.4 Annual Return - Fixed and Long Term Assets (line 9)

Historically, asset values have been included in the Annual Return at net current value. However, in line with proper practices as noted in Governance and Accountability for Local Councils each asset should be recorded on the asset register as its original purchase cost or where this is not known, a proxy value should be included. These values remain unchanged on the Annual Return until disposal, with only subsequent additions being added to the figure. Therefore the 2013/14 value of £7,906,707 increased in 2014/15 with additions of £97,910 as shown in the breakdown below, with no further additions in 2015/16. In 2016/17 there was £86,672 capital expenditure against cremator furnace relining.

	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
BUILDINGS	-		_
CREMATORIUM	2,401,353	2,401,353	2,401,353
New Paved Areas to Gardens	38,859	38,859	38,859
Improvements to Public Waiting Facilities	831,884	831,884	831,884
Replace Glazed Conservatory Roof	15,541	15,541	15,541
Renew Conservatory Glazed Screen	25,394	25,394	25,394
Overflow car park enlargement	105,901	105,901	105,901
EPA - Phase 2 Mercury Abatement scheme	151,844	151,844	151,844
CREMATORIUM	718,099	718,099	718,099
Staff Facilities	30,024	30,024	30,024
TOTAL BUILDINGS	4,318,899	4,318,899	4,318,899
PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
New Cremators - EPA 1990	1,250,073	1,250,073	1,250,073
Refuse Compactor	14,341	14,341	14,341
New cremulator	21,952	21,952	21,952
Replace cremator venturi ducts/nozzles	34,004	34,004	34,004
Cremator furnace relining	75,468	75,468	75,468
EPA - Phase 2 Mercury Abatement scheme	1,794,013	1,794,013	1,794,013
Cremator furnace relining	39,540	39,540	39,540
Cremators Hearth Replacement	19,858	19,858	19,858
Analyser Renewal	121,017	121,017	121,017
Mercury Abatement Scheme Retention			
Release	128,052	128,052	128,052
Cremator furnace relining	89,493	89,493	89,493
14/15 Additions : Cremator furnace relining	78,408	78,408	78,408
14/15 Additions : Hearth Replacement	19,502	19,502	19,502
16/17 Additions : Cremator furnace relining			86,672
TOTAL PLANT & EQUIPMENT	3,685,721	3,685,721	3,772,394
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	8,004,620	8,004,620	8,091,293

## Section 2 – Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of **Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee** our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, that:

	Agreed -		'Yes'		
	Yes	No	Means that the body :		
1. We approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	YES		prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.		
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.		
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the body to conduct its business or on its finances.	YES		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.		
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES		during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the body's accounts.		
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing the body and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.		
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the body's accounting records and control systems.	YES		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of the body.		
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	YES		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.		
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the body and where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	YES		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the yearend if relevant.		
This appual governance statement is approved by	Ci-	ned by:			
This annual governance statement is approved by the body and recorded as minute reference :	Ch	-			
	Da	ted			
Dated:	Sig Cle	ned by: erk			
	Da	ted			
	Da	ted			

## 9. SUPPORTING THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2016/17

9.1 The table below sets out a short explanation of the key components upon which the Joint Committee has relied in agreeing each aspect of the Annual Governance Statement.

1	• The accounting statements, prepared in the way prescribed by law, were approved by the Joint Committee on 26 June 2017 under minute [ ]
2	<ul> <li>The appointment of a professionally qualified and experienced Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer.</li> <li>A system of internal audit undertaken separately by Fareham BC.</li> <li>The Joint Committee's standing orders and Financial Regulations.</li> <li>The adoption of policies in respect of anti-fraud and corruption, and whistle blowing.</li> <li>Internal Audit issues arising and subsequent actions reported to the Joint Committee during 2016/17.</li> </ul>
3	<ul> <li>The Joint Committee is a single purpose body whose officers are well qualified and experienced to undertake their respective roles.</li> <li>The roles and responsibilities of the Joint Committee and the officer functions with clear delegations of their responsibilities are defined in the Memorandum of Agreement between the four constituent authorities and the scheme of delegation to officers.</li> <li>There is a financial strategy and capital programme approved annually.</li> <li>Decisions by the Joint Committee are taken on the basis of written reports from the officers.</li> <li>The Joint Committee is a member of the Federation of Burial and Cremation Authorities (FBCA) and complies with its code of practice and the law on cremation.</li> </ul>
4	<ul> <li>The accounts are open for public inspection, of which public notice is given annually in accordance with the regulations.</li> <li>The agendas, minutes and reports of each Joint Committee meeting are published on the Portchester Crematorium web site and are open for public inspection.</li> <li>An annual report is published and sent to each of the four constituent authorities.</li> </ul>
5	<ul> <li>The Joint Committee has in place a risk management policy and risk registers which are reviewed periodically.</li> <li>Specific risk registers are prepared when needed – for example in respect of the mercury abatement project.</li> <li>There is a business continuity plan.</li> <li>There is a biennial health and safety audit.</li> <li>The FBCA undertook an inspection in November 2009.</li> <li>Allianz was the Joint Committee's insurer during 2016/17.</li> </ul>
6	<ul> <li>Fareham BC's internal audit service carries out an annual review and every two years it carries out a planned programme of work based on a comprehensive risk assessment.</li> <li>The effectiveness of the internal audit function is undertaken by Fareham BC's Audit Committee, and reviewed annually.</li> <li>Internal Audit Reports, issues arising and subsequent actions reported to the Joint Committee during 2016/17.</li> </ul>
7	Internal Audit Reports, issues arising and subsequent actions reported to the Joint Committee during 2016/17.
8	Any relevant matters have been included within the accounting statements.

# **INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

EXPENDITURE/INCOME ON SERVICE	Net Expenditure 2016/17 £
Employees Premises Supplies and Services Depreciation Income	258,196 466,445 222,156 323,727 -2,026,052
Cost of Services	-755,528
Other Operating Expenditure Pension interest costs and expected return on pension assets Interest Receivable	25,000 -3,893
Surplus on Provision of Service	-734,421
Actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities	-25,000
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-759,421
Reverse actuarial gains / losses on pension assets / liabilities Contributions to Constituent Authorities Reverse Depreciation of Fixed Assets included in Cost of Service Contributions to Capital Works Fund Contributions to Repairs & Renewals Fund Contribution to / from pensions reserve Contribution from reserves to finance repairs and renewals / capital works	25,000 520,000 -323,727 415,571 193,045 -25,000 -45,468
	0

# BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

2015/16 £	Property, Plant & Equipment	<u>2016/17</u> £
4,822,421	Land and buildings	4,684,696
2,009,727	Plant and equipment	1,910,398
6,832,148	Long Term Assets	6,595,094
0,032,140	Long Term Assets	0,000,004
1,332,800	Short Term Investments	1,541,000
13,098	Short term debtors & Prepayments	41,571
273,168	Cash - at Bank and in hand	503,132
1,619,066	Current Assets	1,619,066
== 004		
-75,621	Short Term Creditors	-65,239
-2,416	Receipts in advance	-3,925
-78,037	Current Liabilities	-78,037
-755,000	Pension scheme liability	-770,000
-755,000	Long Term Liabilities	-770,000
	-	
7,618,177	Net Assets	7,841,633
	Reserves	
-1,541,029	Usable Reserves	-2,016,539
-6,077,148	Unusable Reserves	-5,825,094
-7,618,177	Total Reserves	-7,841,633
1,010,111		7,041,000

#### 10. BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2017

10.1. The Balance Sheet shows the final financial position of the Joint Committee as at 31 March 2017. This includes items that are not separately disclosed as part of the Annual Return, namely revaluation and depreciation of non-current assets, short-term debtors and creditors and Pension Scheme Liability and Reserves that are held by the Joint Committee. These are set out in greater detail in the notes below.

<b>Net Book Value At 1 April 2015</b> Additions	Land & Buildings £ 4,318,899 0	Plant & Equipment £ 3,685,721 0	Revaluation Restatement £	<b>Total</b> £ 8,004,620 0
Donations	0	Ū		0
As at 31 March 2016	4,318,899	3,685,721		8,004,620
Crematorium Building	Revaluation in	2013/14	1,107,665	1,107,665
Accumulated Deprecia At 1 April 2015	tion and Impai -466,418	<b>rment</b> -1,479,466		-1,945,884
Depreciation charge Impairment Losses	-137,725	-196,528		-334,253 0
As at 31 March 2016	-604,143	-1,675,994	0	-2,280,137
Net Book Value At 31 March 2016	3,714,756	2,009,727	1,107,665	6,832,148
<b>Net Book Value At 1 April 2016</b> Additions Donations	Land & Buildings £ 4,318,899 0	Plant & Equipment £ 3,685,721 86,672		<b>Total</b> £ 8,004,620 86,672 0
<b>At 1 April 2016</b> Additions	<b>Buildings</b> £ 4,318,899	<b>Equipment</b> £ 3,685,721	Restatement	£ 8,004,620 86,672
<b>At 1 April 2016</b> Additions Donations	<b>Buildings</b> £ 4,318,899 0 4,318,899	Equipment £ 3,685,721 86,672 3,772,394	Restatement	£ 8,004,620 86,672 0
<b>At 1 April 2016</b> Additions Donations As at 31 March 2017	Buildings £ 4,318,899 0 4,318,899 Revaluation in	Equipment £ 3,685,721 86,672 3,772,394 2013/14	Restatement £	£ 8,004,620 86,672 0 8,091,293
At 1 April 2016 Additions Donations As at 31 March 2017 Crematorium Building Accumulated Deprecia	Buildings £ 4,318,899 0 4,318,899 Revaluation in tion and Impai	Equipment £ 3,685,721 86,672 3,772,394 2013/14	<b>Restatement</b> £ 1,107,665	£ 8,004,620 86,672 0 8,091,293 1,107,665
At 1 April 2016 Additions Donations As at 31 March 2017 Crematorium Building Accumulated Deprecia At 1 April 2016 Depreciation charge	Buildings £ 4,318,899 0 4,318,899 Revaluation in tion and Impai -604,143	Equipment £ 3,685,721 86,672 3,772,394 2013/14 rment -1,675,994	<b>Restatement</b> £ 1,107,665	£ 8,004,620 86,672 0 8,091,293 1,107,665 -2,280,137 -323,727

## 10.2 Short-Term Debtors and Short-Term Creditors

The variation between Short Term Debtors and Short Term Creditors is set out in the table below :-

	2015/16	2016/17
<u>Debtors</u>	£	£
Short Term Debtors – Fees	13,098	26,000

The year end Debtors have increased overall as at 31 March 2016 by £12,902.

Creditors	2015/16 £	2016/17 £
Short Term Creditors	75,621	67,424
Fareham Borough Council	27,075	14,838
Facultative Technologies	0	0
Grounds Maintenance	9,010	4,468
Public Utilities	7,241	8,185
Consultants Fees	5,210	0
Medical Referees	16,434	17,677
Other Creditors	6,171	18,062
HMRC	4,480	4,194

The year end Creditors have decreased overall as at 31 March 2017 by £8,197.

#### 10.3 Usable Reserves

This note sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund balances in earmarked reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans and the amounts posted back from earmarked reserves to meet General Fund expenditure during 2016/17.

	Balance at 1 April	Transfers Out	Transfer In	Balance at 31 March
	2016	2016/17	2016/17	2017
	£	£	£	£
General Fund	141,402	0	3,188	144,590
Capital Works Fund	1,341,425	-87,638	415,571	1,669,358
Repairs & Renewals Fund	55,014	-45,468	193,045	202,591
Total	1,537,841	-133,106	611,804	2,016,539

#### 10.4 Unusable Reserves

Unusable Reserves summary	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Revaluation Reserve	1,543,999	1,499,951
Capital Adjustment Account	5,288,149	5,095,143
Pensions Reserve	-755,000	-770,000
	6,077,148	5,825,094

#### **Revaluation Reserve**

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. An increase in valuation was recognised in 2013/14 following a revaluation of the crematorium buildings.

#### **Capital Adjustment Account**

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Capital Adjustment Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement. Depreciation, impairment losses and amortisation are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Joint Committee as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

Capital Adjustment Account	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Opening Balance as at 1 April	5,578,354	5,288,149
Capital financing from revenue in year	0	86,672
Less depreciation provision in year	-334,253	-323,727
Historical Cost Adjustment	44,048	44,048
Balance as at 31 March	5,288,149	5,095,142

#### **Pensions Reserve**

The Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) is administered by Hampshire County Council. This is a funded defined benefit final salary scheme, meaning that the Joint Committee and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets. The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Joint Committee accounts for post employment benefits in the Income and Expenditure Accounts as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Joint Committee makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pay any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Joint Committee has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

Pension Reserve	2015/16	2016/17
	£	£
Opening Balance	-775,000	-755,000
Net service cost	-56,000	-53,000
Interest income on assets	41,000	44,000
Interest cost	-65,000	-66,000
Actuarial gain / loss	85,000	-188,000
Contributions to liabilities	15,000	251,000
Closing Balance	-755,000	-770,000

#### **Background Papers**

Report to the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee 'Revenue Budget 2016/17 December 2015. Report to the Portchester Crematorium Joint Committee 'Annual Return 2015/16' June 2016.

Andy Wannell CPFA Treasurer to the Joint Committee Civic Offices Fareham

For further information on this report please contact Kate Busby on 01329 824685.