

List of Commonly Used Acronyms

Acronym	Description/Definition
ABG	Area Based Grant – a general grant from central government allocated directly to Local Authorities as additional revenue funding to areas. It is allocated according to specific policy criteria rather than general formulae.
AGS	Annual Governance Statement – this forms part of the Statement of Accounts and provides an overview of the Governance arrangements within the Council, along with any potential weaknesses.
BVACOP	Best Value Accounting Code of Practice – this Code issued by CIPFA identifies standard definitions of services and total cost for consistency of data for Government returns, and comparisons with other local authorities.
CAA	Comprehensive Area Assessment – now formally abolished by government but was the performance framework for Local Government.
CDC	Corporate and Democratic Core – central account which identifies the corporate costs of the authority, including Members and the democratic process.
CFR	Capital Financing Requirement – measures the authority’s underlying need to borrow, or finance by other long-term liabilities, its capital expenditure.
CI&E	Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – This new statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. It replaces the former Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses.
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy – the institute that sets the accounting rules and guidance for Local Government.
CLG	Department for Communities and Local Government – central government department which has the responsibility for Local Government.
DRC	Depreciated Replacement cost – valuation method used within the Statement of Accounts relating to the Replacement Cost less any accrued depreciation.
DWP	Department for Works and Pensions – largest central government department which amongst its responsibilities are Benefits payments.
HMRC	Her Majesty’s Revenue and Customs – central government organisation responsible for the administration and collection of national taxes including VAT.
FIAA	Financial Instruments Adjustment Account – this is a balance sheet account which is the balancing account to hold the differences between statutory requirements and proper accounting practices for borrowings and investments

FARA	Fixed Asset Restatement Account – this was the balance sheet account which contained the surplus arising from the revaluation of fixed assets, now called the Revaluation Reserve.
HRA	Housing Revenue Account – is a separate landlord account that any council with more than 50 council dwellings must keep.
IAS	International Accounting Standard – these provide detailed guidance on the application of IFRS.
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards – new international framework to ensure common approach to the production of Statement of Accounts across the world.
LAA	Local Area Agreement – set out the properties for a local area agreed between central government and a local area (the local authority and Local Strategic partnership) and other key partners at the local level.
LAAP	Local Authority Accounting Panel – issues LAAP Bulletins to local authority practitioners. These Bulletins provide guidance on topical issues and accounting developments and when appropriate provide clarification on the detailed accounting requirements.
LASAAC	Local Authority (Scotland) Accounts Advisory Committee – operates in the same way as CIPFA within England, and often works in partnership with CIPFA on accounting guidance through a Joint Committee.
LGA	Local Government Association – the body that represents Local Government nationally, this body has a key lobbying role with central government.
MIRS	Movement in Resources Statement – this statement replaces the former Statement of Movement on the General Fund Balance and the note on the movement in reserves. It represents the changes in the Council’s financial resources.
MRP	Minimum Revenue Provision –this represents the minimum which authorities must repay on their debts each year.
NDR or NNDR	National Non Domestic Rates – sometimes called business rates – these are collected by Local Authorities and are the way that those who occupy non-domestic property contribute towards the cost of local services.
NAO	National Audit Office – The National Audit Office (NAO) scrutinises public spending on behalf of Parliament. The NAO does not yet audit local government spending, this is the responsibility of the Audit Commission.
OMV	Open Market Value – valuation method within the accounts which relates directly to the current valuation of the asset.
PFI	Private Finance Initiative – is a way of creating “public-private partnerships” (PPPs) by funding public infrastructure projects with private capital

POP	Purchase Order Processing – the new method by which goods and services are electronically ordered at the Council.
PPE	Property Plant and Equipment – new IFRS terminology for fixed assets.
PPP	Public-private Partnership – describes a government service or private business venture which is funded and operated through a partnership of government and one or more private sector companies.
PWLB	Public works Loan Board – this is a central government body which makes loans to local government and other prescribed public bodies from the National Loans Fund.
RICS	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors – is an independent, representative professional body which regulates property professionals and surveyors in the United Kingdom and other sovereign nations.
S151	Section 151 – this refers to Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 where it states that every local authority shall make arrangements for the proper administration of their financial affairs and shall secure that one of their officers has responsibility for the administration of those affairs.
SOLACE	Society of Local Authority Chief Executives – organisation that represents Chief Executives within Local Government.
SSAP	Statement of Standard Accounting Practice – accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Committee. SSAPs have now generally been replaced by Financial Reporting Standards.
STC4	Stourport Town Centre 4 – Bridge Street area of Stourport which is in the process of being enhanced.
TUPE	Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations – protects employees' terms and conditions of employment when a business is transferred from one owner to another.
UKGAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the UK or UK GAAP – are the overall body of regulation establishing how company accounts must be prepared in the United Kingdom. This includes not only accounting standards but also UK company law. IFRS supersedes IFRS for local government accounts from 2010/2011.
UoR	Use of Resources – now formally abolished, however, for the last six years this has been used by auditors to assess how well local authorities are managing their finances and other resources.
VFM	Value for Money – this represents a formal review by the auditors on whether the Council is delivering Value for Money to its residents. This opinion forms part of the overall audit certificate.
WETT	Worcester Enhanced Two Tier – a programme whereby all Worcestershire local authorities are working together to investigate shared services and joint working to become more efficient and effective.