Statement of Accounting Policies

Statement of Responsibility & Cautionary Note

The Draft 2015/2025 Long Term Plan was authorised for issue by Council on 22 April 2015.

The purpose of this Long Term Plan is to consult with the community on the planned activities and expenditure of Council over the next 10 years. The use of this information for other purposes other than for which it was prepared may not be appropriate.

Council is responsible for the prospective financial statements presented, including the appropriateness of the underlying assumptions and related disclosures. Actual financial results achieved for the period covered may vary from the information presented, and the variations may be material.

The prospective financial statements comply with Tier 1 PBE Accounting Standards (including PBE FRS 42 – Prospective Financial Statements and PBE FRS 46 – First Time Adoption of PBE Standards by Entities Previously Applying NZ IFRSs). The prospective financial statements have been prepared using the best information available at the time they were prepared.

Reporting Entity

The Buller District Council is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002.

The financial prospectives do not include the consolidated prospectives of Council Controlled Organisations, except for Westport Airport Authority which is a joint venture.

The primary objective of Buller District Council is to provide goods and services for the community or social benefit, rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, Buller District Council has designated itself and the group as a public benefit entity for the purposes of New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS).

Basis of Preparation

Statement of Compliance

The prospective financial statements of Buller District Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002: sections 95, 100, 101, 111 and Part 1 of Schedule 10 which includes the requirement to comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

These prospective financial statements are the second set of prospective financial statements prepared under Public Benefit Entity Accounting Standards. The Council is a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) and has elected to report as a Tier 1 Public Sector PBE and required to apply Tier 1 PBE Accounting Standards with effect from 1 July 2014.

These prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP. They comply with NZ IFRS, and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities. The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these prospective financial statements.

Measurement Base

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, modified by the revaluation of certain infrastructural assets, investment property and financial instruments.

Functional And Presentation Currency

The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($1,000) unless stated. The functional currency of Buller District Council is New Zealand dollars.

Changes in Accounting Policies

As a result of applying the new accounting standards, there have been no significant changes in the Council's accounting policies.

Standards, Amendments and Interpretations issued that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted

There are no standards, amendments and interpretations issued that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted

PBE's are subject to a Tier structure which determines the level of disclosure requirements. Council is classified as a Tier 1 entity by virtue that it is medium sized (expenses are between $2 million and $30 million) and is not publicly accountable. The power to levy rates does not make an entity publicly accountable, however if Council issued financial instruments it would be publicly accountable and would be classified as Tier 1. Being classified as Tier 2 entitles Council to apply the new Public Benefit Entity Accounting Standards Framework but with reduced disclosure requirements. These reduced disclosure requirements have been applied where applicable.

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are those entities where Buller District Council has the capacity to control their financing and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from the activities of the entity. This power exists where Buller District Council controls the majority voting power of the governing body or where such policies have been irreversibly predetermined by Buller District Council.

The subsidiaries of Buller District Council are Buller Holdings Limited, WestReef Services Limited, Westport Harbour Limited, Buller Recreation Limited, Buller Health Trust and Buller Arts and Recreation Trust (BART).

Buller District Council measures the cost of a business combination as the aggregate of the fair values at the date of exchange, of assets given, liabilities incurred or assumed, in exchange for control of the subsidiary plus any costs attributable to the business combination.

Any excess of the cost of the business combination over Buller District Council's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities, is recognised as goodwill. If Buller District Council's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities exceeds the cost of the business combination, the difference will be recognised immediately in the surplus or deficit.

The purchase method of consolidation has been used to prepare the consolidated financial statements, which involves adding together like items of assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses on a line by line basis. All significant intragroup balances, transactions, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

Buller District Council's investment in its subsidiaries is carried at cost in the Buller District Council's own "parent entity" financial statements.

The prospective financial statements only include prospectives for the parent entity (Buller District Council).

Associates

An associate is an entity over which Buller District Council has significant influence and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint venture.

Buller District Council accounts for an investment in an associate using the equity method. The investment in an associate is initially recognised at cost and the carrying amount is increased or decreased to recognise the share of the surplus or deficit of the associate.

The Council has two associates, Tourism West Coast and Denniston Heritage Trust. There is no equity investment and therefore no forecast results are equity accounted for in these prospective financial statements.

Joint Ventures

A joint venture is a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control.

Buller District Council has a 50/50 joint venture interest in the Westport Airport Authority with Ministry of Transport.

Buller District Council recognises in its prospective financial statements the assets it controls, the liability and expenses it incurs, and the share of income that it earns from the joint venture.

Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received. Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised by the reference to the stage of completion of the transaction at balance date based on the actual service provided as a percentage of the total services to be provided.

Rates Revenue

Rates are set annually by a resolution from Council and relate to a financial year. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year to which the rates have been set. Rates revenue is recognised when payable.

Other Revenue

Buller District Council receives Government Grants from the New Zealand Transport Authority, which subsidises part of Buller District Council's costs in maintaining the local roading infrastructure. Grants are received from the Ministry of Health for eligible sewerage and water schemes. The subsidies are recognised as revenue upon entitlement as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure are fulfilled.

Sales of goods are recognised when a product is sold to a customer. Sales are usually in cash. The recorded revenue is the gross amount of the sale.

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

Rental income is recognised on a straight line basis.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Dividends are recognised when the right to receive the payment has been established.

Borrowing Costs

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

Grant Expenditure

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

Discretionary grants are those grants that Buller District Council has no obligation to award and are recognised as expenditure when a successful applicant has been notified of the Buller District Council's decision.

Income Tax

Income tax expense in relation to the surplus or deficit for the period comprises current tax and deferred tax.

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable based on the taxable profit for the current year, plus any adjustments to income tax payable in respect of prior years. Current tax is calculated using rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by balance date.

Deferred tax is the amount of income tax payable or recoverable in future periods in respect of temporary differences and unused tax losses. Temporary differences are differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences or tax losses can be utilised.

Deferred tax is not recognised if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill, or from the initial recognition of an asset and liability in a transaction that is not a business combination, and at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit.

Deferred tax is recognised on taxable temporary differences arising from investments in subsidiaries and associates, and interests in joint ventures, except where the Council can control the reversal of the temporary difference and it is probable that the temporary difference will not reverse in the foreseeable future.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period when the liability is settled or the asset is realised, using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by balance date.

Current tax and deferred tax is shown against the surplus or deficit for the period, except when it relates to items charged or credited directly to equity, in which case the tax is dealt with in equity.

Leases

Finance Leases

A finance lease is a lease that transfers to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset, whether or not title is eventually transferred.

At the commencement of the lease term, Buller District Council recognises finance leases as assets and liabilities in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position at the lower of the fair value of the leased item or the present value of the minimum lease payments.

The amount recognised as an asset is depreciated over its useful life. If there is no certainty as to whether Buller District Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term, the asset is fully depreciated over the lease term or useful life, whichever is the shortest.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held on call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Bank overdrafts are shown as current liabilities in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position.

Trade & Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment.

Loans, including loans to community organisations made by Buller District Council at nil, or below market interest rates, are initially recognised at the present value of their expected future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar asset / investment. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. The difference between the face value and the present value of the expected future cash flows of the loan is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is objective evidence that Buller District Council will not be able to collect all the amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the assets carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted using the effective interest method.

Inventories

Inventories held for distribution or consumption in the provision of services that are not supplied on a commercial basis are measured at the lower of cost and current replacement cost.

Inventories held for use in the production of goods and services on a commercial basis are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of purchased inventory is determined using the FIFO method.

The write down from cost to current replacement cost or net realisable value is recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Non Current Assets Held for Sale

Non current assets held for sale are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through the sale transaction rather than through continuing use. Non current assets held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Any impairment losses for writedowns of non current assets held for sale are recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Any increases in fair value (less costs to sell) are recognised up to the level of any impairment losses that have previously been recognised.

Non current assets (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

Financial Assets

Buller District Council classifies its financial assets into the following four categories:

- Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit;
- Held-to-maturity investments;
- Loans and receivables; and
- Fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense.

The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition and re-evaluates this designation at every reporting date.

Financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs unless they are carried at fair value through surplus or deficit in which case the transaction costs are recognised in surplus or deficit.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade date, the date on which Buller District Council commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred, Buller District Council having transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price used is the current bid price.

The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. Buller District Council uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at balance date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long-term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as estimated discounted cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments.

Financial Assets at Fair Value through Surplus or Deficit

This category has two sub-categories:

- Financial assets held for trading
- Those designated at fair value through surplus or deficit at inception.

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management.

Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading unless they are designated as hedges. Assets in this category are classified as current assets if they are either held for trading or are expected to be realised within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

After initial recognition they are measured at their fair values. Gains or losses on re-measurement are recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Currently Buller District Council recognises derivative financial instruments in this category.

Held to Maturity Investments

Held to maturity investments are assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that Buller District Council has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity.

After initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses when the asset is impaired or derecognised are recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Currently Buller District Council does not hold any financial assets in this category.

Loans and Receivables

These are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market.

After initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Gains and losses when the asset is impaired or derecognised are recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit. Loans and receivables are classified as "trade and receivables" and short and long term investments in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position.

Investments in this category include loans to subsidiaries and other companies and term deposits.

Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense

Financial assets at fair value through other prospective comprehensive revenue and expense are those that are designated into this category at initial recognition or are not classified in any of the other categories above.

This category encompasses:

- Investments that Buller District Council intends to hold long-term but which may be realised before maturity.
- Shareholdings that Buller District Council holds for strategic purposes. Buller District Council's investments in its subsidiary and associate companies are not included in this category as they are held at cost whereas this category is to be measured at fair value.

After initial recognition these investments are measured at their fair value.

Gains and losses are recognised directly in other comprehensive revenue and expenses except for impairment losses, which are recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Investments in this category include shares in other companies.

Impairment of Financial Assets

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

Any cumulative losses previously recognised in equity will be removed from equity and shown in the surplus or deficit.

Derivative Financial Instruments

Buller District Council uses derivative financial instruments to hedge exposure to interest rate risks arising from financing activities. In accordance with its treasury policy, Buller District Council does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes. However derivatives that do not qualify for hedge accounting are accounted for as trading instruments.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently re-measured at their fair value at each balance date.

The gain or loss on re-measurement to fair value is recognised immediately in prospective surplus or deficit. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged.

The fair value of interest rate swaps is the estimated amount that Council would receive or pay to terminate the swap at the balance sheet date, taking into account current interest rates and the current creditworthiness of the swap counterparties. The fair value of forward contracts is their quoted market price at the balance sheet date, being the present value of the quoted forward price.

Buller District Council has not adopted hedge accounting to account for its derivative financial instruments.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consist of:

Council Assets – These include land, buildings, plant and machinery, motor vehicles, office equipment, library books and the Airport runway.

Infrastructure Assets – These include roads, footpaths, traffic facilities, street lights, bridges, culverts, water reticulation, storm water reticulation, sewerage reticulation and landfill.

Harbour Assets – These include land, buildings, wharves, plant and machinery, office equipment, motor vehicles and harbour vessels.

WestReef Assets – These include leasehold improvements, plant and equipment, office equipment, office furniture, fittings and computer equipment.

Buller Health Trust Assets – These include plant and equipment and furniture and fittings.

Property, plant and equipment is shown at cost or revaluation, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to Buller District Council and the cost of the item can be reliably measured.

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposal are included in the prospective surplus or deficit. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to accumulated funds.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposal are included in the prospective surplus or deficit. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to accumulated funds.

Subsequent Costs

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

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis on all property, plant and equipment, other than land, at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives.

The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Council Assets	Depreciation Rate (%)	Useful Life (Years)
Motor vehicles	15%	7
Office Equipment	10% to 50%	2 - 5
Plant and machinery	3.33% to 15%	7 - 30
Buildings	1% to 10%	10 - 100
Library Books	10%	10
Airport runway:		
Basecourse	1.3%	75
Seal	5%	20

Harbour Assets	Depreciation Rate (%)	Useful Life (Years)
Wharves	1.67%	60
Buildings	2.5%	40
Plant and Machinery	3.3% to 10%	10 - 30
Office Equipment	20% to 33.5%	3 - 5
Motor Vehicles	10% to 20%	5 - 10
Harbour Vessels	5% to 6.7%	15 - 20

WestReef Services Limited Assets	Depreciation Rate (%)	Useful Life (Years)
Leasehold Improvements	6.5% to 15%	6.7 - 15
Plant and Equipment	5.5% to 40%	2.5 – 18
Vehicles	8% to 29%	3 - 12
Office Equipment	8% to 40%	2.5 - 12.5
Office Furniture and Fittings	8% to 24%	4 - 12.5
Computer Equipment	18% to 36%	3 - 5.5

Buller Health Trust Assets	Depreciation Rate (%)	Useful Life (Years)
Plant and Equipment	7% to 50%	2 - 10
Furniture and Fittings	7% to 13.5%	7.4 – 14.3
Furniture and ffttings	16.2% to 48%	2.1 - 6.2

Infrastructure Assets	Depreciation Rate (%)	Useful Life (Years)
Roads:		
Formation	Not Depreciated	
Basecourse- unsealed roads	Not Depreciated	
Basecourse – sealed roads	1% to 2%	50 - 100
Seal	4% to 12.5%	8 - 25
Footpaths:		
Basecourse	Not Depreciated	
Pavement	1.25% to 10%	10 - 80
Traffic facilities	5% to 10%	10 - 20
Street lights	3.33%	30
Bridges	2% to 6.67%	50 - 100
Culverts	1.11% to 1.25%	80 - 90
Water Reticulation:		
Drains	Not depreciated	
Kerb and Channelling	1.25%	80
Pipes	1.10% to 4.10%	25 - 100
Valves, hydrants	1.67%	60
Intake structures	1.11% to 2%	50 - 90
Reservoirs	1.25%	80
Resource Consents	2.85%	35
Pump stations	2% to 6.67%	15 - 50
Treatment Equipment	2% to 6.67%	15 – 50
Tunnels	0.7% to 4%	25 - 150
Stormwater Reticulation:		
Pipes	1% to 1.54%	65 - 100
Sewerage Reticulation:		
Pipes	1% to 1.42%	70 - 100
Treatment Plants	1.11% to 6.67%	15 - 90
Pump Stations	1.11% to 6.67%	15 - 90
Manholes	1.11%	90

Capital work in progress is not depreciated. The total cost of the project is transferred to Property Plant and Equipment on its completion and then depreciated.

The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed and adjusted if applicable, at each financial year end.

Revaluation

Those asset classes that are revalued are valued on a basis described below. All other asset classes are carried at depreciated historical cost. The carrying values of revalued items are reviewed at each balance date to ensure that those values are not materially different to fair value.

Council Land - The Airport land was revalued to fair value as determined by market based evidence by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation was performed by Quotable Value with an effective date as at 30 June 2005. Council land is recognised at deemed cost.

Harbour Land - The Harbour land was revalued to fair value as determined by market based evidence by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation was performed by Quotable Value with an effective date as at 30 June 2005. Harbour land is recognised at deemed cost.

Infrastructural Assets – The infrastructural assets are valued on a two yearly valuation cycle at fair value determined on a depreciated replacement cost basis by an independent valuer. At balance date Buller District Council assesses the carrying values of its infrastructural assets to ensure that they do not differ materially from the assets fair value. The most recent valuation was performed by GHD Limited and the valuation is effective as at 30 June 2014. All infrastructural asset classes carried at valuation were valued. The total value of infrastructural assets valued by GHD Limited on 30 June 2014 was $253,270,000.

Accounting for Revaluation

Buller District Council accounts for revaluations of property, plant and equipment on a class of assets basis.

The results of revaluing are credited or debited to an asset revaluation reserve. Where this results in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is expensed in the prospective surplus or deficit. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that off-sets a previous decrease in value recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit, will be recognised first in the prospective surplus or deficit up to the amount previously expensed, and then credited to the revaluation reserve.

Intangible Assets

Goodwill

Goodwill is initially measured at its cost, being the excess of the cost of the acquisition over Buller District Council's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities. Goodwill on acquisition of subsidiaries is included in intangible assets by applying the purchase method.

Goodwill arising in business combinations is not amortised. Instead, goodwill is tested for impairment annually. After initial recognition, Buller District Council measures goodwill at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. An impairment loss recognised for goodwill will not be reversed in any subsequent period.

Goodwill is allocated to cash generating units for the purpose of impairment testing. The allocation is made to those cash generating units or groups of cash generating units that are expected to benefit from the business combination, in which the goodwill arose.

Investment Property

Properties leased to third parties under operating leases are classified as investment property unless the property is held to meet service delivery objectives, rather than to earn rentals or for capital appreciation.

Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs.

After initial recognition, Buller District Council measures all investment property at fair value as determined annually by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation of investment property was carried out by Quotable Valuations with an effective date as at 30 June 2014.

Gains or losses arising from a change in the fair value of investment property are recognised in the surplus or deficit

Impairment of Non Financial Assets

Non-financial assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment.

Assets that have a finite useful life are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the assets fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

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

The value in use for cash generating assets is the present value of expected future cash flows.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount the asset is impaired and the carrying amount is written down to the recoverable amount. For revalued assets the impairment loss is recognised against the revaluation reserve. Where that results in a debit balance in the revaluation reserve, the balance is recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

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

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

For assets not carried at a revalued amount (other than goodwill) the reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the prospective surplus or deficit.

Employee Entitlements

Short Term Benefits

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

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

Buller District Council recognises a liability for sick leave to the extent that absences in the coming year are expected to be greater than the sick leave entitlements earned in the coming year. The amount is calculated based on the unused sick leave entitlement that can be carried forward at balance date, to the extent that Buller District Council anticipates it will be used by staff to cover future absences.

Buller District Council recognises a liability and expense for bonuses where contractually obliged or where there is a past practice that has created a constructive obligation.

Long Term Benefits

- Long Service Leave and Retirement Leave

Entitlement that are payable beyond 12 months, such as long service leave and retirement gratuities, have been calculated on an actuarial basis. The calculations are based on:

- Likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based on years of service, years to entitlement and the likelihood that staff will reach the point of entitlement : and
- The present value of the estimated future cashflows. A discount rate of 5.7%, and a inflation factor of 2.5% were used. The discount rate is based on the weighted average of Government interest rates for stock with terms to maturity similar to those of the relevant liabilities. The inflation factor is based on the expected long term increase in remuneration for employees

Superannuation Schemes

- Defined Contributions Schemes

Obligations for contributions to defined contribution superannuation schemes are recognised as an expense in the prospective surplus or deficit as incurred.

Provisions

Buller District Council recognises a provision for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that expenditures will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

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

Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at their fair value. After initial recognition, all borrowings are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Equity

Equity is the communities interest in Buller District Council and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into a number of reserves.

The components of equity are:

- Retained earnings;
- Restricted reserves; and
- Asset revaluation reserve.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements are stated exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables, which are stated on a GST inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is included as part of receivables or payables in the Prospective Statement of Financial Position.

The net GST paid to, or received from the IRD, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as an operating cash flow in the Prospective Statement of Cashflows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Cost Allocation

Buller District Council has derived the cost of service for each significant activity using the cost allocation system outlined below.

Direct costs are those costs directly attributable to a significant activity. Indirect costs are those costs, which cannot be identified in an economically feasible manner, with a specific significant activity.

Direct costs are charged directly to significant activities. Indirect costs are charged to significant activities using an appropriate cost driver.

Critical Accounting Estimates & Assumptions

In preparing these prospective financial statements Buller District Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations or future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The estimates and assumptions that form a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

Landfill Aftercare Provision

The Landfill Aftercare Provision Note discloses an analysis of the exposure of Buller District Council in relation to estimates and uncertainties surrounding the landfill aftercare provision.

Infrastructural Assets

There are a number of assumptions and estimates used when performing valuations over infrastructural assets which include:

- The physical deterioration and condition of an asset, eg Council could be carrying an asset at an amount that does not reflect its actual condition. This is particularly so for those assets which are not visible such as stormwater, wastewater and water supply pipes that are underground. The risk is minimised by Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition modelling assessments of underground assets;
- Estimating any obsolescence or surplus capacity of an asset; and
- Estimates are made when determining the remaining useful lives over which the asset will be depreciated. These estimates can be impacted by local conditions, eg weather patterns and traffic growth. If useful lives do not reflect the actual consumption of the benefits of the asset, then Council could be over or under estimating the annual depreciation charge recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit. To minimize the risk, Council's infrastructural asset useful lives have been determined with reference to the NZ Infrastructure Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines published by the National Asset Management Steering Group, and have been adjusted for local conditions based on past experience. Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modeling are also carried out regularly as part of Council's Asset management planning activities, which gives Council further assurance over its useful

Experienced independent valuers prepare Council's infrastructural asset revaluations. The last valuation was prepared by GHD Limited on 30 June 2014.