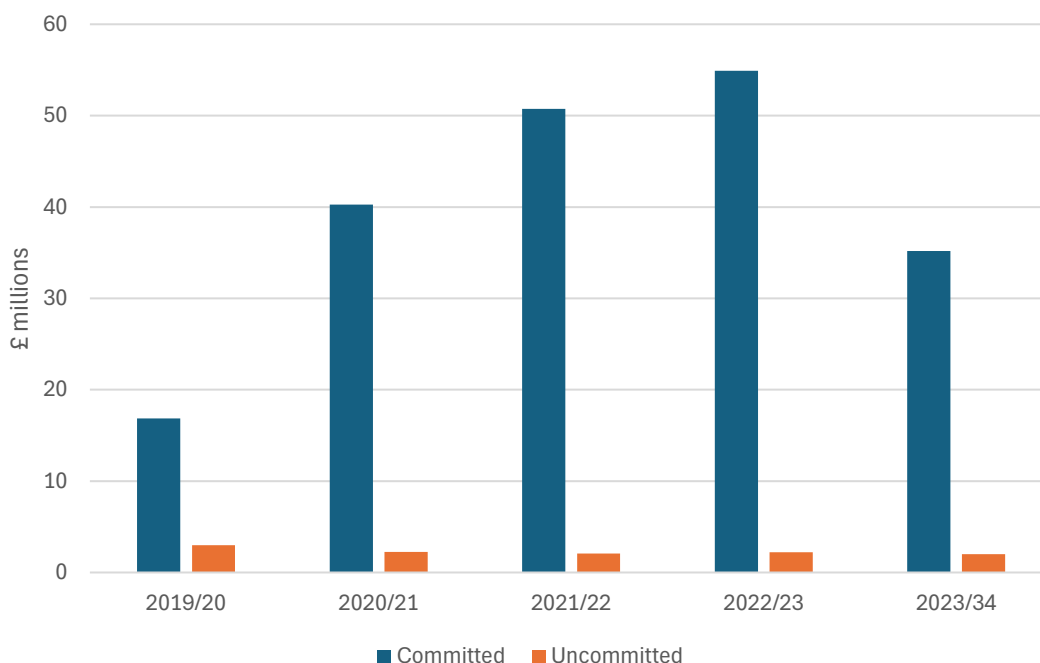


- Risk and Inflation reserve, £4.1 million

46. As part of the annual revenue budget setting process, the Head of Finance and Property Services assesses and reflects on the appropriateness of the unallocated general fund balance. The review is undertaken each year to ensure that sufficient funds are held in reserve to deal with the financial consequences of uncertain future events. For 2023/24 the council agreed that the uncommitted General Fund Balance would be a minimum of £2 million. The uncommitted general fund balance at 31 March 2024 is £2.0 million.

Exhibit 4 Analysis of general fund balance



Source: West Lothian Council Annual Accounts

Capital expenditure was lower than budget in 2023/24

47. Total capital expenditure in 2023/24 was £95.6 million compared to a budget £100.4 million. General services budget accounted for £72.2 million with the remaining £23.4 million for the housing revenue account (HRA). The general services expenditure was slightly above the budget by £2.9 million with the HRA being underspent by £7.6 million.

48. The underspend in housing capital has been attributed to a number of reasons including industrial action delaying some schemes, identification of RAAC in some properties which changed the scope of works and lack of interested suppliers for tender exercises.