

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Executive – 5 December 2012

Earmarked Reserves Review

Report of the Strategic Finance Officer

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Williams, Leader of the Council)

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Earmarked Reserves have been reviewed to ensure that they are still required.
- 1.2 £62,167.44 of earmarked reserves are no longer required to be held and it is recommended that these are transferred to the General Fund Reserve.
- 1.3 £239,652.08 of earmarked reserves are no longer required to be held and it is recommended that these are transferred to the HRA Reserve.

2. Background

- 2.1 Taunton Deane Borough Council holds a number of earmarked reserves for various purposes. The S151 Officer has a responsibility to ensure that the level of earmarked reserves is reviewed each year.
- 2.2 In the report “Financial Outturn 2011/12” to Executive on 11 July 2012 details of the reserves were given and appendix G listed the reserves held by the Council.

3. Review of the Reserves

- 3.1 The level of earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2012 was £7.072m (General Fund and HRA). This includes money set aside for a variety of specific revenue purposes. This does not include £3.336m in General Fund balances or the £1.356 in HRA balances.
- 3.2 The Strategic Finance Officer has reviewed the earmarked reserves to ensure that the level of each reserve is adequate and that the purpose for which the funds were set aside still applies. Any reserves which are not deemed necessary should be transferred back to the General Fund Revenue Account (or HRA depending on the original source of the funding). Under financial regulations this is classed as a virement and

therefore requires Executive approval.

- 3.3 Each reserve has been reviewed and there are various reserves, totalling £301,819.52 that are no longer required. £62,167.44 relates to the general fund and £239,652.08 relates to the HRA. The returned reserves are detailed as follows;

Earmarked Reserve	£	GF/ HRA	Reason
Corporate Services Support	6,000.00	GF	No longer required
Environmental Services Staffing	10,000.00	GF	No longer required
Food Hygiene General Provisions	5,350.00	GF	No longer required
Listed Building Grants	1,823.95	GF	No response to Deputy s151 query therefore assumed no longer required
Retained Functions Reserve	3,000.00	GF	No longer required
Leisure Suspense Account	31,193.49	GF	No longer required
Higher Holway	1,800.00	GF	No longer required
Civil Contingencies Fund	3,000.00	GF	Can release £3k of the reserve as this is not required.
General Fund Total	62,167.44		
HRA Heating Reserve	239,652.08	HRA	No longer required
HRA Total	239,652.08		
Grand TOTAL	301,819.52		

- 3.4 The remaining Earmarked Reserves are listed in Appendix A noting the budget holder.

- 3.5 In its meeting on 26 November 2012, Corporate Scrutiny considered this report. They agreed with the recommendation to transfer the above reserves into their corresponding general fund.

In considering this report Corporate Scrutiny has asked for a further report on the specific earmarked reserves listed below:-

- CEO Initiatives
- Self Insurance Fund
- Youth Homelessness Fund
- Performance and Client Consultancy
- Growth and Regeneration Service Costs.

The date of the committee that will consider these reports has yet to be agreed.

4. Finance Comments

4.1 This is a finance report and there are no further comments to be made.

5. Legal Comments

5.1 There are no legal implications in this report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

6.1 Many of the reserves aid the provision of the Corporate Aims

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

7.1 Some of the reserves aid the provision of environmental and community safety.

8. Equalities Impact

8.1 There are no equalities impacts

9. Risk Management

9.1 There is a risk that some of the reserves returned to the General Fund/HRA Reserve are required. This risk has been mitigated by a request from finance for information on the use of the reserves. The risk is low.

10. Partnership Implications

10.1 There are no partnership implications

11. Recommendations

11.1 That Executive recommends to Full Council that £62,167.44 of surplus earmarked reserves are returned to the General Fund Reserve and £239,652.08 to the HRA Reserve in 2012/2013 financial year.

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Appendix A

Description	Portfolio	Responsible Officer	31/03/2012	06/11/2012
DLO Vehicle Replacement Reserve	Corporate Resources	Chris Hall	-116,671.32	-319,318.32
Capital Financing Reserve - General Fund Projects	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-1,130,607.55	-1,180,607.55
Capital Financing Reserve - HRA Projects	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-78,801.91	-78,801.91
Halcon Regeneration Scheme Project Costs	Housing Services	James Barraah	-65,000.00	-65,000.00
Climate Change	Community Leadership	Simon Lewis	-24,110.00	-4,110.00
Asset Management - Tone Leisure	Sports Parks & Leisure	Alison North	-783,546.72	-763,546.72
Core Council Review (CCR) - Property Services	Corporate Resources	Brendan Cleere	-146,880.00	-131,880.00
Bursary Account General Provisions	Corporate Resources	Richard Bryant	-5,829.34	-5,829.34
CEO Initiatives	Corporate Resources	Penny James	-60,164.91	-59,184.91
Cordwest Invest. Bequest Accounts	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-190.06	-190.06
Cordwest Revenue Bequest Accounts	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-164.00	-164.00
Corporate Training	Corporate Resources	Penny James	-57,988.09	-39,358.09
DLO Trading Account Reserve	Corporate Resources	Chris Hall	-222,374.32	-206,374.32
Elections	Corporate Resources	Craig Morse	-35,000.00	-21,530.00
Energy Efficiency Reserve	Corporate Resources	Simon Lewis	-45,146.80	-45,146.80
Environmental Services Staffing	Environmental Services	Scott Weetch	-10,350.00	-7,850.00
FE Colthurst Revenue Bequest Accounts	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-390.74	-390.74
FE Colthurst Trust Bequest Accounts	Corporate Resources	Maggie Hammond	-710.07	-710.07
Healthy Workplace	Corporate Resources	Martin Griffin	-28,032.33	-28,032.33
Housing Enabling	Housing Services	Jo Humble	-217,611.42	-215,248.14
Deane Helpline	Housing Services	Richard Burge	-5,930.00	-0.00
Self Insurance Fund	Corporate Resources	Linda Pocock	-750,000.00	-750,000.00
LABGI	Economic Dev & Arts	David Evans	-38,012.98	-38,012.98
Leasehold Schemes HRA Advanced Payments	Housing Services	Phil Webb	-9,638.60	-9,638.60
Local Plan Enquiry General Provisions (LDF)	Planning Policy & Transport	Tim Burton	-237,762.65	-218,462.65
Market Closure Sales / Firepool	Economic Dev & Arts	Mark Green	-31,618.79	-0.00
Planning Delivery Grant - Revenue (HPDG)	Planning Policy & Transport	Joy Wishlade	-237,087.22	-212,087.22
Restorative Justice	Corporate Resources	Scott Weetch	-10,000.00	-10,000.00
Retained Functions Reserve	Corporate Resources	Richard Sealy	-23,000.00	0.00

Appendix A

Strategic Director SA	Corporate Resources	Shirlene Adam	-10,400.00	-15,900.00
Tenants Forum	Housing Services	Jayne Hayres	-4,000.00	-4,000.00
Taunton Deane In Bloom Co-ordinator	Sports Parks & Leisure	Chris Hall	-2,573.54	-2,573.54
Travel Plan	Corporate Resources	Joy Wishlade	-36,051.99	-46,051.99
Unison	Corporate Resources	Martin Griffin	-8,000.00	-8,000.00
	Planning Policy &			
White Lining	Transport	John Lewis	-6,769.07	-6,769.07
Works of Art and Public Arts Project	Economic Dev & Arts	Tim Burton	-20,810.00	-20,810.00
CCR DLO Transformation	Corporate Resources	Brendan Cleere	-77,681.00	-77,681.00
Habitat Regulations Research	Environmental Services	Ian Clarke	-17,620.00	-17,620.00
Asset Management - General Services Non-HRA	Corporate Resources	Mark Green	-218,051.42	-218,051.42
Civil Contingencies Fund	Corporate Resources	John Lewis	-3,000.00	-3,000.00
Housing Loans to Private Sector Mortgagees	Housing Services	Jim Vernon	-28,841.00	-28,841.00
		Stephen		
Youth Homelessness Fund	Housing Services	Boland/Simon Lewis	-133,470.00	-86,470.00
Heritage New Burdens Grant	Economic Dev & Arts	Ian Clarke	-16,840.00	0.00
Land Charges New Burdens Grant	Corporate Resources	Tonya Meers	-101,420.00	-101,420.00
Performance & Client Consultancy	Corporate Resources	Richard Sealy	-144,000.00	-144,000.00
Eco Towns Projects Funding	Economic Dev & Arts	Mark Green	-149,200.00	-149,200.00
New Homes Bonus Reserve	Housing Services	Shirlene Adam	-391,980.00	-1,039,720.00
Olympic Torch Reserve	Economic Dev & Arts	David Evans	-60,000.00	-20,860.00
Strategy	Corporate Resources	Simon Lewis	-13,000.00	-13,000.00
CLG Preventing Repossessions Fund	Housing Services	David Jones	-34,927.00	-34,927.00
Court Desk Funding	Housing Services	David Jones	-18,500.00	-18,500.00
HB Reform - Transitional Funding for Homelessness	Housing Services	David Jones	-16,951.00	-16,951.00
Growth & Regeneration Service Costs	Growth & Regeneration	Joy Wishlade	-885,575.47	-545,835.47
Total Earmarked Reserves for Revenue Purposes				
Grand Total Earmarked Reserves			-6,772,281.31	-7,031,656.24