

**Appropriations to and from General Fund Earmarked Reserves****Appropriations for 2025/26**

The proposed appropriations to and from earmarked reserves included within the 2025/26 budget are:

**Appropriations to Reserves****1. £3,850 to the New Homes Bonus Reserve**

For 2025/26 the Council continued to receive New Homes Bonus Grant. However, MHCLG intends that 2025/26 will be the final year of the grant in its current format, so it is proposed that any monies continue to be used to support one-off projects.

**2. £108,000 to the Elections Reserve**

Replenishment of the Elections Reserve which continues to be put under pressure by the increased costs of running local and national elections.

**3. £3,507,000 to the Business Transformation Reserve**

A 'one-off' grant allocation of £3,507,000 for 2025/26 will be received by Southend-on-Sea City Council as part of the national Extended Producer Responsibility Programme. To provide as much flexibility to the Council and given the volatility and current forecast overspend in 2024/25 as at November 2024, it is proposed to hold this grant within this reserve and then review its application as part of the 2024/25 Provisional Outturn report to Cabinet in June 2025.

**Total Appropriations to Reserves****£3,618,850**

**Appropriations to and from General Fund Earmarked Reserves****Appropriations from Reserves****1. £288,000 from the Capital Reserve**

£288,000 to fund several capital projects as part of the existing capital investment programme budget for 2025/26.

**2. £110,000 from the Business Transformation Reserve**

Funding for multi-year projects agreed during 2023/24 and 2024/25.

**3. £329,000 from the Technology Transition and Systems Modernisation Reserve**

Funding to deliver year 5 of the Technology Modernisation programme.

**4. £151,000 from the Transformation Implementation Reserve**

Funding to help enable the delivery of the organisations proposals for savings and investments as outlined in Appendices 5 and 6.

**5. £306,000 from the Business World ERP Reserve**

Funding to enable the delivery of Phase 2 of the ERP project.

**6. £511,000 from the Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve**

The DSG reserve is positively investing in a Speech and Language therapy service to support our SEND learners and an additional Early Years and Child Care Improvement teacher support post, whilst longer term funding sustainable options are explored.

**Total Appropriations from Reserves****£1,695,000**