

Appropriations to and from General Fund Earmarked Reserves

Appropriations for 2024/25

The proposed appropriations to and from earmarked reserves included within the 2024/25 budget are:

Appropriations to Reserves

1. £26,000 to the New Homes Bonus Reserve

The Council currently continues to receive New Homes Bonus Grant. Given the uncertainty over the level of this grant in the future, it is proposed that any monies continue to be used to support one-off projects.

2. £625,000 to the Capital Reserve

£2,500,000 which was used to support the overall budget in 2022/23 will be repaid into the reserve over the following four years at a rate of £625,000 per annum.

3. £250,000 to the General Reserve

£1,000,000 which was used to support the overall budget in 2023/24 will be repaid into the reserve over the following four years at a rate of £250,000 per annum.

4. £100,000 to the Elections Reserve

Replenishment of the Elections Reserve which has been depleted over recent years, largely due to increased costs associated with COVID-19 measures and the impact of inflation.

5. £1,160,000 to the Service Redesign Reserve

Provision for the costs associated with multiple service redesigns that form part of the 2024/25 savings proposals.

6. £2,500,000 to the Adult Social Care Reserve

Replenishment of the Adult Social Care Reserve. It is expected that the 2023/24 reserve will be required to fund the in-year deficit. The forecast outturn at November 2023 (Period 8) for Adult Social Care is £4.551M.

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7. £2,500,000 to the Children’s Social Care Reserve

Replenishment of the Children’s Social Care Reserve. It is expected that the 2023/24 reserve will be required to fund the in-year deficit. The forecast outturn at November 2023 (Period 8) for Children’s Social Care is £7.022M.

8. £1,617,000 to the Social Care Grant Reserve

Additional Social Care Grant was announced as part of the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, published on 5 February 2024. £100,000 of the £1,717,000 extra allocation received by Southend-on-Sea City Council will be used in 2024/25 to fund Dementia Carer Support (Appendix 5: 04-AHCA). The remaining balance £1,617,000 will be initially appropriated to this reserve, while consideration is given to ensure the most effective use is made of this ‘one-off’ funding.

Total Appropriations to Reserves **£8,778,000**

Appropriations from Reserves

1. £47,000 from the Capital Reserve

£47,000 to fund several capital projects proposed as part of the 2024/25 budget package.

2. £205,000 from the Business Transformation Reserve

Funding for multi-year projects agreed during 2022/23 and 2023/24.

3. £1,180,000 from the Technology Transition and Systems Modernisation Reserve

Funding to deliver year 4 of the Technology Modernisation programme.

4. £145,000 from the Transformation Implementation Reserve

Funding to help enable the delivery of the organisations proposals outlined in Appendices 6, 7 and 8.

5. £275,000 from the Business World ERP Reserve

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

6. £11,000 from the Grant Reserve

One-off funding to support an existing project in Economic Inclusion.

Total Appropriations from Reserves **£1,863,000**