

Item

2021/22 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT PROVISIONAL REVENUE CARRY FORWARDS

To:

Councillor Mike Todd-Jones, Executive Councillor for Housing

Report by:

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Wards affected:

Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents details of any anticipated variances from budgets, where resources are requested to be carried forward into the 2022/23 financial year in order to undertake or complete activities anticipated to have taken place in 2021/22.
- 1.2 The position in relation to rephrasing of any investment as part of the Housing Capital Investment Plan will be reported to Housing Scrutiny Committee in the June 2022 committee cycle, alongside final revenue carry forward requests.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor, is recommended, following scrutiny and debate at Housing Scrutiny Committee, to:

- a) To agree the provisional carry forward requests, totalling £1,416,280 as detailed in Appendix A, are approved, subject to the final outturn position.

3. Background

Revenue Outturn

- 3.1 Approval in principle is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2021/22 into the next financial year, 2022/23. Provisional carry forward requests are being presented to the March 2022 Housing Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that officers have the appropriate authority to continue uninterrupted to deliver services and projects, from April 2022, that have been delayed for any reason.
- 3.2 Final carry forward requests will be presented in the June 2022 committee cycle, where the sums involved may differ from the estimates provided in March 2022, which have been provided for approval in principle.
- 3.3 Appendix A sets out the provisional list of items, for the Housing Revenue Account, for which approval is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2021/22 to the next financial year, 2022/23.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications of approving the provisional carry forwards of £1,416,280 budget from the current year into 2022/23, will result in a reduced requirement in the use of Housing Revenue Account reserves for the current financial year, from £14,099,420 to £12,683,140, with a corresponding increase in the use of reserves in 2022/23.
- 4.2 A decision not to approve a carry forward request will impact on officers' ability to deliver the service or scheme in question and this

could have staffing, equal opportunities, environmental and / or community safety implications.

(b) Staffing Implications

Any direct staffing implications arising from the delay in delivery of workstreams, or the carry forward of resource, will be considered and addressed by officers as part of each individual carry forward approval.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

There are no direct equality and poverty implications associated with this report.

(d) Environmental Implications

There are no direct environmental implications associated with this report.

(e) Procurement Implications

Any procurement implications arising from the delay in delivery of workstreams will be considered and addressed by officers as part of each individual carry forward approval.

(f) Consultation and Communication

Consultation with tenant and leaseholder representatives is an integral part of the Housing Scrutiny Committee process.

(g) Community Safety

There are no direct community safety implications associated with this report.

4. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Background information is held in the Council's financial management system.

5. Appendices

- Appendix A – Provisional HRA Carry Forward Requests

6. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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Telephone: 01223 – 457248 or email: julia.hovells@cambridge.gov.uk.

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2021/22 - Carry Forward Requests

Provisional Request to Carry Forward Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets from 2021/22 into 2022/23

Item		Request £
	Strategic Director - Jane Wilson	
	Supervision and Management General	
1	Housing Transformation - Housing Transformation activity has been delayed during 2021/22 as a result of the need to wait for detail surrounding the Housing White Paper and to ensure that activity is aligned with the corporate 'Our Cambridge' transformation programme. Further activity is now planned for 2022/23. Resource carried forward will also allow officers to fulfil a commitment to funding the fixed term role of Zero Tolerance Officer to enforce the Zero Tolerance policy, recognising that the appointment was delayed in 2021.	60,000
2	City Homes - Welfare Reforms - One-off additional funding to support tenants through the transition from Housing Benefit to Universal Credit has not been required during 2021/22, as the bulk of tenants have not yet been 'passported through' to the new system. This is likely to be at some point during 2022/23.	50,000
3	City Homes - Staffing - Funding was approved for 2 fixed term posts. A Tenancy Auditor, hoped to be in post for 12 months from April 2021 has been appointed from the end of February 2022 due to continued COVID constraints, with funding of £41,700 for 11 months to be carried forward. A dedicated Assistant Housing Officer to be in post from October 2021 for 12 months to tackle former tenants' arrears has not been successfully recruited to and as a result the 6 months funding in 2021/22 of £17,560 is requested as a carry forward so that the 12 month post can be recruited to from April 2022.	59,260
4	Resident Involvement - A project has been commissioned during 2021/22 to connect communal use computers in each of our sheltered schemes to facilitate digital inclusion. The project has been delayed due to the availability of resource to roll this out and therefore a carry forward has been requested.	3,150
	Supervision and Management Special	
	No carry forward items	
	Repairs and Maintenance	
5	Cyclical Maintenance – Heat Detectors - Due to the coronavirus pandemic the start of the heat detector works was delayed, and the contractor has experienced significant difficulties with gaining access to properties since that point. The carry forward will allow continued heat detectors to be installed to meet the agreed programme.	283,200
6	Cyclical Maintenance – Smoke Detectors - Due to the coronavirus pandemic the start of these smoke detector works was delayed, and the contractor has experienced significant difficulties with gaining access to properties since that point. The carry forward will allow continued smoke detectors to be installed to meet the agreed programme.	466,600
7	Risk and Compliance - Hardwire Testing - The 2021/22 electrical inspection programme has not been completed as a result of the contractor experiencing access issues to a number of the properties identified for inspection. Carry forward of resource will allow the contractor to continue undertaking electrical hard wire tests, and to ensure that the backlog is addressed, and the authority is compliant with legislation.	156,870
8	Risk and Compliance – Asbestos Surveys and Inspections - The underspend in the asbestos surveys budget from 2021/22 is requested to be carried forward to extend the contract for the fixed term Asbestos Officer for a further 9 months to continue with the asbestos investigations and surveys programme to ensure that compliance can be demonstrated, and appropriate action is taken.	45,760
9	Risk and Compliance - Fire Door Inspections - The contract for fire door inspections was terminated last year as a result of a slow start from the contractor. A new contractor has now been appointed, but it has taken time to mobilise the new arrangements, and as a result the programme has been unable to progress this year. A carry forward is requested to allow this work to be delivered in 2022/23.	266,440

Housing Committee - Housing Revenue Account

Revenue Budget 2021/22 - Carry Forward Requests

Provisional Request to Carry Forward Housing Revenue Account Revenue Budgets from 2021/22 into 2022/23

Item		Request £
10	<p>Asset Management - Water Conservation Project - Funding of £50,000 was approved in January 2021, to be split over two financial years, and to cover both research and pilot changes. Although work has been commissioned, the timing of delivery means that the budget will be required as a carry forward to complete the project.</p> <p>Appropriations</p>	25,000
11	<p>Underspending in the Housing Capital Programme in 2021/22 is likely to result in a reduced call upon revenue resources to fund capital expenditure. To ensure that any re-phased capital expenditure can be financed in 2022/23, it is requested to carry forward the approval to use the balance of revenue funding approved for 2021/22 into the following year. The financial sum will be confirmed as part of the outturn report presented in the June committee cycle.</p>	TBC
12	<p>Underspending in the Housing Capital Programme in 2021/22 is likely to result in a reduced call upon revenue resources to fund capital expenditure as identified above. This in turn will mean that the authority will not need to draw some of these resources from ear-marked reserves, but will instead need to do this in 2022/23. The financial sum will be confirmed as part of the outturn report presented in the June committee cycle.</p>	TBC
Total Revenue Carry Forward Requests for Housing Revenue Account / Housing Scrutiny Committee		1,416,280