



Item

2022/23 GENERAL FUND PROVISIONAL REVENUE CARRY FORWARDS

To:

Councillor Mike Davey, Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources Portfolio

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee 27 March 2023

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 2023/24 financial year in order to undertake or complete activities which were originally intended to take place in 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

The Executive Councillor, is recommended, following scrutiny and debate at Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee:

- a) To agree the provisional carry forward requests, totalling £351,070 as detailed in Appendix A, are recommended to Council to approve, subject to the final outturn position.

3. Background

- 3.1 Approval in principle is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2022/23 into the next financial year, 2023/24. Provisional carry forward requests which have been assessed for reasonableness by the Council's Head of Finance are being presented to the March 2023 Strategy & Resources Committee for approval at Council 25 May 2023, to ensure that officers have the appropriate authority to continue uninterrupted to deliver services and projects that have been delayed for the reasons specified in the appendix to this report .
- 3.2 Final carry forward requests will be presented to the Strategy & Resources Committee 3 July 2023, where the sums involved may differ from the estimates provided in March 2023, which have been provided for approval in principle.
- 3.3 Appendix A sets out the provisional list of items, for the General Fund, for which approval is sought to carry forward unspent budget from 2022/23 to the next financial year, 2023/24.

4. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

- 4.1 The financial implications of approving the provisional carry forwards of £351,070 budget from the current year into 2023/24, will result in a

reduced budgeted contribution from General Fund reserves for the current financial year, from £3,975k to £3,624k, with a corresponding decrease in the contribution to reserves in 2023/24.

- 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) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and 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) Community Safety

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

5. Consultation and Communication considerations

There are no direct consultation and communication implications associated with this report.

6. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

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

7. Appendices

- Appendix A – Provisional General Fund Carry Forward Requests

8. Inspection of papers

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

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Cost Centre	Portfolio	Provisional forecast variance position of cost centre (underspend)/overspend at January month end. Prior to carry forward	Cost Centre Description	Carry Forward Budget £	Cost Centre Contact	Comments
1050	Recovery, Employment and Community Safety	(33,026)	Community Safety	31,910	Keryn Jalli	This 2 year bid to fund the post of Community Youth Liaison Officer was delayed due to Covid-19. The post holder delivers a contextual safeguarding approach to managing behaviours of young people known for crime and anti-social behaviour in the city; this includes knife crime, child exploitation, criminal damage and anti-social behaviour. The post holder's work enables the council to reduce harm that young people are exposed to and reduce the risk to the community. A carry forward of the remainder of this budget is requested to enable us to continue covering the costs of the fixed term contracted post.
1424	Environment, Climate, and Biodiversity	(193,058)	Environmental Health Salaries	50,000	Yvonne O'Donnell	During Covid food inspections were put on hold and team diverted to doing covid work. Following the reopening of businesses, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) set out a recovery plan to inspect all high risk food businesses by certain deadlines which we achieved for 2022/23 by using contractors from a carry forward of salaries from 2021/22. Due to issues with contractors we were unable to fully catch up and only met our recovery plan target, hence the reason we did not spend the total carry forward for 22/23. The FSA have now stated that we are required to complete all our programme of food inspections including low risk in 2023/24, this equates to over 1000 inspections (this includes the back log since April 2020) to be completed for 2023/24. The current staffing resource will not enable us to fulfil our statutory obligation as set by the FSA, therefore I am requesting a carry forward to appoint contractors to carry out food inspections to support the team in order to meet this requirement. The remaining underspend will be able to offer back up as a one off saving.
1758	Finance, Resources and Transformation	(129,616)	Other Commercial Properties	100,000	Philip Doggett	The carry forward request of £100k is in respect of an unspent one-off budget that has been ringfenced to be paid as a leasing incentive to the proposed new tenant of 23 Market Street. The terms of the letting and agreement for lease provide for the Council to pay the tenant an incentive towards fit out costs upon opening for business. As the leasing incentive payment will not now be paid in the 2022/23 financial year, a budget of £100k is requested to be carried forward to the 2023/24 financial year.
1758	Finance, Resources and Transformation	(129,616)	Other Commercial Properties	20,000	Philip Doggett	Mill Lane Boathouse is one of 10 development schemes identified and approved at Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee in February 2021. This request is to carry over the prior approved feasibility funding, for architectural services, cost consultancy, planning services and valuation advice. The Boathouse and river frontage is included in the footprint of the wider planned Mill Lane redevelopment proposed by the University and forms part of the Mill Lane Supplementary Planning Document. There have been delays by the University bringing this forward. The Council's land holding includes a significant part of the river frontage in this location and as such, is considered to be an important element to any re-development proposals by the University. The proposal is to explore redevelopment of the site to create a new boathouse with associated office for punt operations, possibly a café and/or small residential scheme, either single or two storey. This is an opportunity to undertake a redevelopment to generate new revenue streams and improve the public realm.
1454	The Leader	(112,160)	Cambridge Northern Fringe East (CNFE)	112,160	Fiona Bryant	The refined programme to enable the Area Action Plan to be better aligned to the Development Consent Order and Local plan processes and resource capacity has meant a delay to the progress on the Core site development to 2023/4. The funding carried over is for project management, legal costs and community engagement.
8006	Finance, Resources and Transformation	(199,014)	Accountancy and Support Services	17,000	Caroline Ryba	Required to fund business partner training for accountants to provide strategic support for the Groups established following the senior management restructure. Amount reflects expected inflation of these training costs.
1057	Open Spaces, Food Justice and Community Development	(84,628)	Community Development Voluntary Support	10,000	Julie Cornwell	The carry forward will allow grants to be awarded as part of the King Charles III Coronation Celebration Grant Fund. £10,000 will allow support to be provided to a minimum of 20 community groups. Funding will be prioritised to those groups able to demonstrate how they will ensure their activity is inclusive to people on low incomes or those that are socially isolated. Funded groups must ensure that entry to events is free for Cambridge City residents.
1425	Environment, Climate, and Biodiversity	(40,197)	Tascomi - Env Health Software	10,000	Yvonne O'Donnell	This was a previous carry forward for the Tascomi implementation for consultancy work. The work in 2022/23 was carried out within existing resources and hence resulted in a significant underspend. As the project moves into phase 2 of the project to implement online forms, integration between IDOX (Tascomi) and Capita for online payments for licensing applications, online EH service requests and the progression of mobile working, there will be a requirement for further consultancy costs to implement the next phase of the project.
351,070				Total Carry forwards		