

Delivering our Strategic Priorities and MTFS Reserve

This reserve will act as a one off fund to provide the financial capacity, either through direct investment – revenue and/or capital or through servicing external borrowing, for the West Suffolk authorities to drive forward the delivering of a sustainable Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and the delivery of the new Strategic Plan.

In 2013/14 the Council commissioned an Empty Homes report in the sum of £0.016m in order to assist with maximising the number of empty homes brought back into circulation, which was funded from the New Homes Bonus (NHB). To date the only other draw on this reserve (following a formal council decision) is detailed in exempt paper D227 on the Haverhill Research Park where £0.11m of NHB was ring-fenced to offer financial support for an anchor tenant at the research park. The £0.110m remains allocated within the reserve until such time as it is drawn down.

The table below summarises the proposed funding from this reserve as part of the 2015/16 budget process.

Area	One-Off Funding	Annual Funding that spans more than one year	Comments
The range and delivery of options contained in the housing strategy document	TBC (£3m included as a pending item in the Councils capital programme, funded from capital receipts)	TBC	In progress, following adoption of the West Suffolk Housing Strategy, report F115. £3m included as a pending item in the Councils capital programme, funded from capital receipts, however this pending item is still subject to a full council decision.
Developing a Community Energy Plan	£0.085m invest to save on next phase of solar for council properties. £50k for larger scale solar and renewable energy generation technologies	Annual funding of £0.54m for rent a roof solar. Total of £1.62m (2015/16 to 2017/18)	As detailed in Cabinet report CAB/SE/14009 Developing a Community Energy Plan
Capital Invest to Save Fund	£0.5m		Invest to Save reserve to support capital projects that have an invest to save / invest to earn outcome. Fund allocation will be subject to a report (a) through to Cabinet.

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Feasibility budgets for key capital projects	£0.1m		Feasibility fund for commissioning external support and expert advice for future capital projects. Fund allocation to be delegated to the Head of Resources and Performance in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance. Spend to be reported through to Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee as part of the quarterly budget monitoring report
Continuation of Locality Budgets		Annual funding of £112.5k. <i>Total of £225k (2015/16 and 2016/17)</i>	First year review of Locality Budgets and new approach to grants to be considered at Cabinet on 24 March 2015, via Grant Panel.
Part funding of commissioning pot - community chest (new approach to Grants)		Annual funding of £55k. <i>Total of £110k (2015/16 and 2016/17)</i>	Funding for 2015/16 and 2016/17 Locality Budgets and part funding for Community Chest (new approach to Grant), future years included in base budget.
Investing in the continuation of the shared service agenda and transformation of service delivery	TBC	TBC	In progress as part of the delivery of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The proposals outlined in the above table result in an uncommitted balance of £0.656m in the Strategic Priorities/MTFS reserve to be used to fund or facilitate those items in the table that are currently not quantified, in particular the range and delivery of options contained in the housing strategy document.