

Use of General Fund Balance 2013/14

Report of the Treasurer

For further information about this report please contact James Walton, Treasurer, on 01743 255011 or Joanne Coadey, Head of Finance, on 01743 260215.

1 Purpose of Report

This report sets out proposals for the use of the General Fund balance following the 2013/14 financial year end.

2 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to recommend that the Fire Authority approve:

- a) The proposed use for the General Fund balance following the 2013/14 financial year end; and
- b) The contribution of future savings to the Unearmarked Capital Reserve for major building works.

3 Background

At its meeting on 9 July 2014, the Fire Authority was informed that, at the end of financial year 2013/14, a balance of £1.023m remained in the General Fund. It was reported that £153,000 of the balance was due to budgeted expenditure that had slipped into the following year, and Members were asked to approve that this amount be added to the revenue budget for 2014/15.

It was agreed that officers would bring the proposed use of this General Fund balance to Strategy and Resources Committee, for consideration and recommendation to the Fire Authority.

4 Proposed Use of General Fund Balance

	£'000
Balance at 31 March 2014	1,023
Slippage – added to revenue budgets 2014/15	-153
Balance	870

	£'000
Contributions to existing reserves and provisions:	
Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Reserve This would ensure that funds are available to continue the necessary ICT improvements and developments in future years.	330
Service Transformation Programme (STP) Staff Reserve This reserve is in place to fund secondments or new posts for the completion of STP projects. These projects will continue to run over the next few years, and the reserve provides the capacity to enable their completion.	240
Unearmarked Capital Reserve This reserve was used to part fund the Authority's refurbishment of the headquarters, workshop and fire station at Shrewsbury. It will now be used to fund future major building projects, focussing initially on the development of the Stafford Park site in Telford. It is proposed that any future savings are contributed to this reserve, to fund major building works, while avoiding debt charges in the revenue budget.	300
Total	870

5 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications other than those referred to in the report.

6 Legal Comment

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

An Initial Impact Assessment has been completed.

8 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.