

Reserves Strategy

Report of the Section 151 Officer

For further information about this report please contact Jacqueline Fletcher, Section 151 Officer (via email: jacqueline.fletcher@shropshirefire.gov.uk).

1 Purpose of Report

This report provides a review of the Reserves position for 2026/27 and seeks approval for action, where necessary.

2 Recommendations

The Committee, having reviewed the Reserves position, recommends that the Fire Authority approve the proposed changes to the Reserve balances.

3 Background

This report presents an overview of the Reserves position at as Month 5. Recommended movements to the existing Reserves balances are contained within this report.

4 Reserves and Virements

The Fire Authority's reserves position is an integral part of the financial planning and capital strategy.

The table below outlines the year-to date Reserves position and movements that have happened through 2026/27.

In addition, the table proposes changes to existing balances.

Reserves Categories	01-Apr-26 Balance £'000	YTD Movement £'000	31-Aug-26 Balance £'000	Proposed Adjustment £'000	Proposed Balance £'000
General Reserve	500	-	500	- 112	388
Pensions and Other Staff Issues Reserve	1,817	-	1,817	- 500	1,317
Extreme Weather Reserve	219	-	219	-	219
Earmarked Capital Reserve	-	-	-	-	-
Major Projects Capital Reserve	4,552	-	4,552	-	4,552
Information, Comms and Technology Reserve	614	99	515	-	515
Usable Capital Receipts Reserve	225	-	225	-	225
Income Volatility Reserve	687	-	687	-	687
Service Transformation Programme Staff Reserve	484	228	256	-	256
Service Delivery Reserve	29	-	29	-	29
Training Reserve	89	100	- 11	500	489
Operational Equipment Reserve	279	-	279	-	279
Buildings Maintenance Reserve	387	-	387	-	387
General Fund Balance	- 112	-	- 112	112	0
TOTAL RESERVES	9,771	427	9,344	-	9,344

The balance against the Training Reserve has been depleted due to costs incurred for interim training facilities for new on-call recruits whilst the Telford Training Facilities are being re-developed and will be aligned within the Reserves strategy.

It is recommended that £500k is removed from the Pensions and other staff issues Reserve to direct towards this operational capability.

A full review of the Reserves Strategy will be undertaken in line with the Medium-Term Financial Plan

5 Financial Implications

The financial implications are as set out in the main body of the report.

6 Legal Comment

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

7 Initial Impact Assessment

An Initial Impact Assessment has been completed, with no issues identified.

8 Appendices

There are no appendices attached to this report.

9 Background Papers

There are no background papers associated with this report.