

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR COUNCIL SERVICES**

**24 October 2013**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources**

**Use of 2012/13 budget underspends**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To seek permission to utilise the underspends bid for in the 2012/13 revenue outturn report.

To propose the return of unused underspends to general reserves

**2. Information and Analysis**

In the 2012/13 revenue outturn report the Department bid to utilise part of the underspend on a number of projects. In order to gain access to those funds the report recommended that Departments seek permission from the relevant Cabinet member. This report seeks approval to use the underspends for the areas outlined below:

**Training £0.050m**

Last year the Corporate Resources Department training budget was underspent due to, amongst other issues, access to external funding, and the use of alternative methods of delivering training. However, the 2013/14 departmental training budget is significantly outstripped by the resources required to meet identified development needs in divisional Learning and Development plans and access to last year's underspend will go some way to meeting the funding shortfall.

**Equalities Working groups £0.0015m**

The Council has three employee network groups; the Disabled Worker's Group, The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Worker's Group and the Black, Ethnic Minority Group. The request for the carry forward of underspend is to meet an identified development need for the Chairs and Secretaries of these groups to assist them in effectively undertaking their responsibilities.

## **Minor Works £0.300m**

Previously, minor works schemes under £10,000 have been charged to capital budgets, but the accounting regulations no longer allow us to do this. Works which would fall into this category include the following:

School's Access Initiative

Access Improvements

Children's Homes Minors

Adult Care Minors

Carbon Reduction

Other / Sundries - anything not falling into the above categories such as minor security issues

Most of these works can be urgent and arise due to sudden changes in circumstances, legislative requirements or to fulfil Council policy.

From 2014/15, departments will need to make provision within their revenue budgets for this type of work.

## **Changing the Way Derbyshire Works £0.100m**

Over the last three years the CWDW Accommodation Project has received a budget of £140,000 per annum from Corporate Resources underspends to fund small revenue costs associated with the project such as removal costs, furniture orders and other items which cost less than £10,000 and therefore cannot be charged to any capital budget. Although the project is under review, it continues to deliver savings for the Council and implementation of previously approved staff relocations and building closures are still taking place, for example in Ilkeston. It is therefore imperative that a revenue budget continues to be available to enable the continued funding of the staff relocations already approved in order to deliver the savings identified.

## **Return of Underspend to reserves £0.2415m**

The Department also bid for £0.030m for Public Relations and £0.200m for a departmental contingency. Given the projected underspend in these areas it is proposed that these sums are transferred to general reserves.

In the Outturn Report the Director of Finance was given permission to spend up to £0.030m on a review of the internal audit function. The total cost of the review is £0.020m, leaving £0.010m to be returned to reserves.

The Department originally bid £0.0030m for the equalities working Groups. Only half of this is required, leaving £0.0015m to be returned to reserves.

**5. Key Decision**

No.

**6. Background Papers**

Files and reports held by the Director of Finance in rooms 237 and 202.  
Revenue outturn report 2012/13 – Cabinet 30/7/13

**7. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the funds be released for the purposes outlined in the report.  
Underspends of £0.2415m be returned to general reserves

**John Pitt**

**Strategic Director – Corporate Resources**

