

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	HEALTH AND STRATEGIC HOUSING
BUDGET HEADING	HOMELESSNESS
AMOUNT	£20,000

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

The CLG only gave notification in mid March that they had awarded the council extra Homelessness Grant funding due to our outstanding performance during the 09/10 year. The funding (£20,000) was received by the council at the end of March 2010, making it impossible to spend within 09/10.

We remain heavily committed to the homelessness prevention initiatives and use this funding as an "invest to save" pot. The funding is used to prevent individuals or families from being evicted from private rented tenancies or to secure a private rented tenancy through a bond or deposit. This funding would prevent up to 40 households becoming homeless.

Although not a ring fenced grant, CLG have stated there is an expectation that it should be spent on homeless prevention initiatives.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

Without this funding, the council will be able to assist less households and it is likely that more households would be accepted as statutorily homeless. This involves more work for the homeless officers and could incur an increase in the Bed and Breakfast budget.

Performance against targets would probably suffer as prevention has been key to the achievements of targets over the last few years.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request can be funded from the balance remaining on the Homelessness Account in 2009/10 amounting to £29,100. As the request is in excess of £10,000 then full Council approval will be required.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
BUDGET HEADING	Youth Games - Income
AMOUNT	£5,200

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

In October 2008 it was agreed to request the return of any outstanding funds held for grant purposes from the Lancaster, Morecambe & District Sports Council following the termination of the SLA with the Council in relation to future International Youth Games events.

The Sports Council was wound up shortly afterwards and it has taken some time to obtain details of their accounts and the money owing.

Finally in March 2010 the former Sports Council bank account was closed and all monies remaining transferred to the City Council.

Whilst some of the £5,234.65 received can be traced back to unused grant from the City Council this also includes funds received by the Sports Council from other sources which need to be identified and the money returned.

Since the money was received towards the end of the last financial year and there was insufficient time to complete the analysis due to other priorities, a carry forward into 2010/11 of the full amount is requested so that this can be done and monies owed elsewhere paid to their rightful owner.

The sum identified as being unused Council grant will then fall into balances.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

The Council must return any sums identified as belonging to other organisations or individuals and if the carry forward is not approved, the budget will not be available to do this.

Financial Services Comments

The Council received an additional income amount of £5,234.65 in 2009/10 and it is requested that this amount be carried forward to 2010/11 in order to identify how the amount is split out between funders and repaid to the relevant organisations.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	FINANCIAL SERVICES
BUDGET HEADING	New Burdens Grant (Council Tax Billing)
AMOUNT	£5,300

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

This is an additional grant received to cover recurring and additional costs associated with Council Tax billing. The grant was received in March 2010 and was going to be used to fund new software to produce the council tax bills for 2012/13. This project was due to start in March but was unfortunately delayed until April.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

The project is budgeted to cost £25,000 and additional funding would need to be identified, in addition the additional grant received in 2009/10 would need to be repaid back to government thus incurring an extra cost of £5,200 in 2010/11.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward can be funded from the total £10,400 additional grant income received in 2009/10.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	Community Engagement – Customer Services
BUDGET HEADING	Customer Insight
AMOUNT	£6,600

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

The spend did not occur in 2009/10 due to lack of resource in Customer Services due to longstanding vacancies. These have now been filled.

This work is needed because:

- We have not proactively asked our citizens their views on our customer service since 2008. As customer service is often the area of the council customers deal with most this can play a key role in their perception of the council overall.
- The information provided is needed to inform a number of important decisions around the following - service levels, demonstration of value for money, identification of where savings can be made, opening hours.
- We know that migration to cheaper channels e.g. internet, phone will help us achieve savings however we need to know why and how citizens are happy to use them.
- In addition this research will contribute to how we shape and develop our existing partnership working with Lancashire County Council and other public sector partners.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

The implications for service delivery if the carry forward is not approved are:

- We will not be able to make informed decisions around how we deliver customer service.
- We may waste time and money adopting delivery channel solutions that are not acceptable to our customers.
- We risk not being able to make savings where acceptable to customers.
- We will lack the customer insight to work effectively with our public sector partners.

Financial Services Comments

There was an underspend of £6,600 in 2009/10 on the Services - Customer Insight budget of £7,500.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Community Engagement- Wellbeing
BUDGET HEADING	Happy Mount Park
AMOUNT	£3,000

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

We would normally have the contract maintenance carried out in March for the plant room for upcoming season of the splashpark. This year additional repairs were required prior to this work being commissioned which resulted in the work running into 2010.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

The next seasons budget will not be available at a time when the commissioning / contract maintenance is required.

Financial Services Comments

Happy Mount Park had a net overspend of £5,400 at outturn which was mainly due to delays in completing re-negotiated rent agreements, plus overspends on electricity and equipment maintenance.

However, included in the net overspend was one specific underspend of £3,000 relating to contract maintenance which had not taken place due to timing issues. As a result there will be two charges totalling £6,000 during 2010/11 against a budget of £3,000, which would result in an overspend should the carry forward request not be approved.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Regeneration and Policy
BUDGET HEADING	Winning Back West End
AMOUNT	£24,100

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

HCA grant funding held for ongoing project costs while project is in a state of re-appraisal following selected developer retracting their bid for the site.

LCC are contracted and bound by the funding agreement to develop and appraise an alternative option which is ongoing. In the meantime the properties continue to incur management costs.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

If the costs can not be met with HCA funds the council will have to meet the costs.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request can be funded from the balance remaining on the Property Account in 2009/10 amounting to £52,000. As the request is in excess of £10,000 then full Council approval will be required.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	REGENERATION & POLICY
BUDGET HEADING	LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK
AMOUNT	£28,200

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

The General Fund Revenue Budget for 2009/10 was updated to take account of both Income and Expenditure following the receipt of The New Burdens (Habitats Regulations Assessments and Climate Change Planning Policy Statement) Payment from the CLG. The Grant is intended to compensate local planning authorities for additional work that must be undertaken because of the presence of designated European Sites* within their boundaries.

Via a Cabinet Member Decision the Council resolved to include the New Burdens Payment within the Local Development Framework budget as the grant is being deployed to pay Hyder, an Environmental Consultancy, to undertake Sustainability Appraisal (SA); Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) all designed to ensure that objective consideration is given to protecting European Sites from potential impacts of development proposed in forthcoming Local Development Documents.

* Lancaster District has four "European Sites":

- Morecambe Bay SAC/SPA/Ramsar;
- Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC;
- Bowland Fells SPA;
- Leighton Moss SPA and Ramsar.

Two payments have been made to Hyder in 2009/10 and it was thought that further payments would have been made but progress on preparing Local Development Documents has been slower than previously anticipated because of competing activities, particularly the need to accommodate the Strategic Housing function within the Planning and Housing Policy Team. The request is that the New Burdens grant is carried forward to 2010/11 to finance further work to be undertaken by Hyder.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

If the Local Development Framework documents are not advanced, the Council will be vulnerable to planning permissions being granted on appeal for inappropriate sites, as the development industry recovers.

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant has been used to fund this type of LDF work in the past.

Financial Services Comments

The 2009/10 budget was updated via a Cabinet Member Decision for the first instalment of a grant allocation of £16,800 for planning for climate change. Of this allocation there is currently an underspend of £11,400 which is committed. In addition, the second grant allocation of £16,800 was received in March 2010, however this is not currently committed. It should be noted that the planning for climate change grant is not a ringfenced grant.

The request is for both amounts totalling £28,200 to be carried forward into 2010/11.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Information Services
BUDGET HEADING	Equipment Maintenance
AMOUNT	£16,600

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

This spend was due to take place in relation to the joint project between Lancaster and Preston City Councils in order to provide disaster recovery and backup facilities remotely for each other. The project was delayed while Preston obtained additional funding for an enhanced link between the two sites.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

If this does not go ahead then the future ongoing annual savings of £10,000 already identified against Disaster Recovery will not be realised. As well as extending the current disaster recovery contract we will also have to purchase additional disk space because this project also provides for an amount of near line archiving.

Financial Services Comments

There was an underspend of £16,600 in 2009/10 on the Equipment Maintenance budget of £26,000 and it is requested that this underspend is carried forward to 2010/11 and utilised to fund the disaster recovery project in conjunction with Preston City Council. As the request is in excess of £10,000 then full Council approval will be required.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	COUNCIL HOUSING
BUDGET HEADING	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR
AMOUNT	£6,000

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

Republishing of ASB Policy & Strategy was scheduled for 2009/2010, but was delayed because of the possible introduction of minimum standards for tackling ASB across the Community Safety Partnership.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

Landlords are required to publish their ASB policies and procedures (Section 218A, housing Act 1996). Without the carry forward, we would be unable to fund the publication of revised policies and tenants would not be aware of current standards and procedures.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward can be funded from the £6,000 under spend on this budget in 2009/10.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Council Housing
BUDGET HEADING	Mgt & Admin – Printing & Stationery
AMOUNT	£7,700

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

In 2009/10, the Council has agreed to implement Choice Based Lettings. This will be introduced later in 2010/2011, and will require the printing of a significant amount of new stationery, application forms and literature to publicise the scheme.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

Failure to properly publicise the scheme would result in a low take up and a failure to ensure that the new scheme is accessed by those families in the greatest housing need.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward can be funded from the under spend on this budget in 2009/10 of £7,800.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	COUNCIL HOUSING
BUDGET HEADING	Mgt & Admin – Grant Income
AMOUNT	£60,500

11

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

Grant received from CLG in respect of Choice Based lettings project 2010/11. The majority of the spend will relate to purchase of specialised software required for CBL implementation.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

Unable to deliver Choice Based Lettings which is a government target and council priority.

Financial Services Comments

A grant allocation of £60,500 was received in 2009/10 for the implementation of Choice Based Letting. The carry forward request can be funded from the total net underspend on this account of £64,000. As the request is in excess of £10,000 then full Council approval will be required.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	COUNCIL HOUSING
BUDGET HEADING	Consultancy
AMOUNT	£10,000

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

The Government have proposed to Review the Council Housing Finance system to make it fairer for both the tenant and taxpayer. There were delays in the publications of the proposals and the long awaited, consultation document 'Council Housing: a real future - prospectus' was finally published on 24th March 2010, for which the consultation period ends on the 6th July 2010. The work has to be carried out to enable us to respond to the Governments proposals.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

Unable to fulfil the requirements of the Housing Revenue Account financial review which is a government priority.

Financial Services Comments

The underspend in 2009/10 was £10,000. The carry forward request can be accommodated within this.

2009/10 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	COUNCIL HOUSING
BUDGET HEADING	Planned Maintenance - Electrical Inspections
AMOUNT	£25,500

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2009/10 and why we are still committed to doing this work in 2010/11.

Contract was not let until later in the financial year than was originally anticipated and thus it was not possible to complete works by 31st March 2010.

What the implications for service delivery will be if the carry forward is not approved.

The contract sum is committed and without the carry forward, would mean that electrical inspections identified for 2010/11 will not be completed.

Financial Services Comments

The overall net underspend on Planned Maintenance in 2009/10 was £72,500. The carry forward request can be accommodated within this.

As the request is in excess of £10,000 then full Council approval will be required.