

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

For consideration by Council on 18 July 2012

General Fund

Number	Service	Budget	Carry Forward Request
Requests in line with original budget purpose			£
1	Financial Services	HR/Payroll System Replacement	34,900
2	Health & Housing	Mortgage Repossession Prevention Grant	65,000
3	Regeneration & Planning	Local Development Framework - General Services	56,000
4	Regeneration & Planning	Local Development Framework - Consultancy	20,900
5	Regeneration & Planning	Morecambe Area Action Plan	39,700
			Sub Total
			216,500
Requests to change use of original budget underspend			
6	Community Engagement	Neighbourhood Mgt - Unallocated Grant Income	25,200
			Sub Total
			25,200
			Total General Fund Carry Forward Requests
			241,700

Housing Revenue Account

Requests in line with original budget purpose			
7	Health & Housing	Planned Maintenance	29,100
			Total HRA Carry Forward Requests
			29,100

Further details relating to each request are attached.....

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Financial Services
BUDGET HEADING	Software Payroll-Personnel
AMOUNT	£34,900

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

This request relates to funding of the HR/Payroll system replacement.

It was anticipated that the tendering, acquisition and implementation of the new HR/Payroll system would have been completed during 2011/12. However due to the tendering process having to go through OJEC and contract negotiations taking longer than originally envisaged, implementation has only just commenced with anticipated completion before March 2013. As a result, the initial one off implementation costs will now be incurred in 2012/13 for which this carry forward request is required.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request is for the full underspend of £34,900 on this budget . As the request is in excess of £10K then Full Council approval will be required.

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Health and Housing
BUDGET HEADING	Other Government Grants
AMOUNT	£65,000

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

Housing Minister, Grant Shapps, announced on 9th February 2012 a new £19 million Preventing Repossessions Fund to enable local authorities to help homeowners at risk of repossession. The resultant funding of £65,136 (Mortgage Repossession Prevention Grant) was received from the Government at the end of March 2012. Clearly this did not give any opportunity for the funding to be spent during 2011/12.

It is intended that the council make "interest free" loans available in line with Government guidance, and that during 2012/13 an amount of £30,000 be used for this purpose. The loans will be given on the basis that lenders are prepared to compromise on the debt owed in return for the loan payment, which in turn, will result in the threat of repossession being removed.

It is further proposed that an amount of £35,136 is set aside in a "Homeless Reserve". This funding can then be used on a variety of homeless prevention initiatives enabling the Housing Options service to minimise the numbers of homeless presentations. It should be noted that this reserve would also provide a safety net if the 2013/14 Homeless Prevention allocation is cut. Any surplus from the funding set aside for use in 2012/13 could be diverted into the homeless reserve for use in future years.

The impact of not retaining the full award of Mortgage Repossession Prevention Grant for tackling Homelessness will be considerable. Through the council's 'invest to save' approach we have managed, through homeless prevention initiatives, to reduce homelessness considerably in this authority over the last 6 years.

The changes to benefits entitlements through the Welfare Reforms and the current social and economic challenges are all having a negative impact on vulnerable households, and as a consequence the demand on the Housing Options Team has increased. As a service we are striving to maintain and improve homeless prevention services. In order to maintain the current levels it is important, that in these challenging times, the funding is maintained for its intended purpose and that the service has as many "tools" and options as possible to assist with the prevention of homelessness

Preventing homelessness is a named action under the Health and Wellbeing Priority in the corporate plan 2012-2015, and the use of this funding will help considerably to support this.

Financial Services Comments

The grant was received at the end of 2011/12 amounting to £65,136 from DCLG. As stated within the grant guidance – *"the funding is not ring-fenced, it is a named grant. It is important local authorities ensure it is used to support the maximum number of households in need of financial assistance, enabling them to stay in their homes. Final decisions on efficient and equitable deployment of this additional funding rest with local authorities and should be based on individual local need"*.

As the carry forward request is greater than £10K full Council approval will be required.

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	Regeneration & Planning
BUDGET HEADING	Local Development Framework – General Services
AMOUNT	£56,000

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.
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The budget relates to work on monitoring and preparing the policies for the Districts Local Development Framework. The Council is currently preparing three Development Plan Documents (DPD), along with undertaking to monitor the various areas the Framework covers such as Housing Need and preparing and producing formal Proposal Maps. These three documents are:

- Land Allocations,
- Development Management Policies
- Morecambe Area Action Plan

Changes in national policy and the implication of the delays in the implementation of the CIL regulations have impacted on the timescales for the drafting of the documents. The Policy team are currently preparing the draft LA and DM policy documents and, subject to Cabinet, the draft documents should be consulted on this autumn.

The budget is required to fund necessary consultancy work to support the development of the document including on-going monitoring.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request can be met from the underspend in 2011/12 totalling £56,200 against budget code.

As the combined request is in excess of £10,000 Full Council approval will be required

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	Regeneration & Planning
BUDGET HEADING	Local Development Framework – consultancy
AMOUNT	£20,900

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

Spending has been delayed due to progress on LDF being behind schedule. Whilst work has progressed as per the Local Development Scheme the current programme for Plan adoption of the Development Management and Land Allocation DPD means work will need to be carried out in 2012/13.

The main call on the money is for a formal sustainability appraisal and habitats regulations screening of LDF documents, which will take place in 2012/13. If the carry forward is not approved further delays will be incurred.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request is the balance of the 2011/12 underspend on this budget

As the request is in excess of £10K Full Council approval will be required

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	Regeneration & Planning
BUDGET HEADING	Morecambe Area Action Plan
AMOUNT	£39,700

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

Much work to prepare the plan was undertaken in 2011/12. The public were consulted on the Outline Options for the Area Action Plan in autumn 2011 and since then the AAP team have been continuing to develop the plan and continue their engagement with stakeholders to help inform the plan. Other work pressures though have meant progress in 2011/12 was a little slower than anticipated and in particular the call on consultancy support less than anticipated. More of this is now required in 2012/13. A first draft plan will be reported to Cabinet and Council approval this summer for consultation this autumn.

The carry forward is required to appoint consultants to help ensure that the plan is sound and viable and to provide support as necessary for the council in taking the draft plan through the final examination process. The consultancy support required includes for work on Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment in line with regulations.

The budget also includes separately for any activity the Council as land owner might want to undertake to help advance any development opportunities arising from the plan including the undertaking of any competitions to procure future development partner(s).

Financial Services Comments

The amount requested is the full value of the underspends at 2011/12 outturn for Morecambe Area Action Plan budget.

As the request is in excess of £10K, Full Council approval will be required.

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

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SERVICE	Community Engagement (Partnerships)
BUDGET HEADING	Poulton Neighbourhood Management and Winning Back the West End
AMOUNT	PNM £7,700 WBTWE £17,500

The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

This request is to carry forward surplus external grant funding that has not paid to some projects due to their failure to provide sufficient evidence of spend and not meeting the requirements of audit reconciliations. The money related to Neighbourhood Management programmes in Poulton and the West End of Morecambe.

No proposals to spend these monies have been made whilst continued efforts have been on going with the original funders over the use of this money, namely Lancashire County Council for WBTWE and GONW for PNM (no longer in existence, work now responsibility of Department of Communities and Local Government).

The proposal is to use these funds for a purpose in line with the original objectives, and in the geographic areas the funding was earmarked to, namely feasibility work concerned with the Morecambe Area Action Plan (MAAP), particularly for a Visitor Centre and Performance Space (for which the hope is of European funding match).

The MAAP impacts on both the West End and Poulton neighbourhoods where community and stakeholder engagement identified significant issues relating to connectivity of the town and main visitor focus on the promenade. In particular, the proposal aims to bring initial resources to assist in the early delivery of strategic projects identified as economic priorities and 'step-change' initiatives which will impact on these areas.

Financial Services Comments

The carry forward request is for the full unallocated GONW and County grant income totalling £25,200.

Although there was no specific commitment against this unallocated income during 2011/12, this has arisen through a lack of response from original funders for its recycled use. Risk of clawback by funders is considered low as the grant was originally allocated several years ago and has never been reclaimed.

It should be noted that if the request is approved, then a re-designation of use will be required from Community Engagement – Partnerships (Accountable Body for grant) to Regeneration & Planning in 2012/13. If the request is not approved then it will remain in unallocated balances.

As the request is in excess of £10K Full Council approval will be required.

2011/12 REQUESTS FOR CARRY FORWARD

SERVICE	Repairs and Maintenance
BUDGET HEADING	HRA Planned Maintenance
AMOUNT	£29,100

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The reasons why the spend didn't occur during 2011/12 and why we still have a commitment for it in 2012/13.

The Repairs & Maintenance Section operate a schedule of planned revenue works to the council's housing stock. The following works were planned to be completed prior to the end of the financial year but were unable to for the following reasons :-

Ventilating Services (£15,600) – gaining access to various properties proved difficult which resulted in various timing delays. The works can be complete in conjunction with the Re-roofing contract.

Electrical Inspections (£3,500) – delays by the contractor resulted in some works being completed in 2012/13. All works relating to 2011/12 have now been invoiced and paid for.

Fire Risk Assessments (£10,000) – staff shortages within the technical team has resulted in existing workloads being re-prioritised. This scheme has suffered as a consequence leading to specified properties not being assessed.

Financial Services Comments

The overall net underspend on Planned Maintenance in 2011/12 was £200,000. The carry forward request can be accommodated within this.

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