

**PROPOSED ALLOCATIONS FROM THE BUDGET SUPPORT RESERVE -
PROGRAMME UPDATE**

(Cabinet Member with Special Responsibility Councillor Whitehead)

Cabinet received a report from the Chief Officer (Resources) which sought consideration of proposed allocations from the Budget Support Reserve to enable the progress of related matters.

The options, options analysis, including risk assessment and officer preferred option, were set out in the report as follows:

Approve the allocations as proposed:

Essentially the proposals are to help ensure that the Council has adequate capacity to develop and take forward its plans, in a timely and structured manner to help ensure successful outcomes. There is risk in terms of abortive costs for example, should the business case for any proposal prove unviable. There is also risk that the allocations will be insufficient, or that suitable and timely expertise cannot be secured, as further examples. These are typical project risks and would be mitigated through the governance arrangements proposed. Relevant Officers would be held to account, in support of good governance.

Amend/defer the proposed allocations

Should Cabinet consider this option, the rationale and implications of any proposed amendment would need to be considered and addressed.

Do not approve the allocation

Should this option be chosen, then the Council could not reasonably expect to deliver its key projects in any timely fashion, and this would impact on the achievement of outcomes at set out in the Council Plan, and on the achievement of financial targets as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). If no additional capacity was to be facilitated at any point, this would require fundamental reconsideration of the Council's direction and its budget, together with supporting strategies and plans.

The relevant Officers' preferred option is to approve the allocations as proposed, for the reasons stated.

Councillor Whitehead proposed, seconded by Councillor Pattison:-

"That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved."

Councillors then voted:-

Resolved unanimously:

- (1) That Cabinet approves a total allocation of £300K from the Budget Support Reserve to cover Programme Management Capacity and Project Support Capacity, with the allocations managed under the governance arrangements as set out in the report.

Officer responsible for effecting the decision:

Financial Services Manager

Reasons for making the decision:

The purpose of the Budget Support Reserve is to provide resources to help finance capacity, feasibility/review and other development work in support of the Council's corporate planning and budgeting arrangements. Work was currently ongoing to review the City Council's existing projects to ensure the projects and project governance is robust and supports successful delivery. Many of the projects are linked to the Council's transformation, digital and commercial agendas and short-term specialist support is required to progress the projects, which will assist the Council in modernising and provide for income generation in the future.