

Report To:	CABINET	Date:	20 FEBRUARY 2017
Heading:	GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2016/17 AND 2017/18		
Portfolio Holder:	CLLR JACKIE JAMES - CORPORATE SERVICES		
Ward/s:	ALL		
Key Decision:	YES		
Subject To Call-In:	YES		

Purpose Of Report

- To agree the General Fund Revenue Estimates for 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18.
- To agree the continuation of the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme.
- To agree the use of the Corporate Improvement Fund (£30k) for investment in Trade Waste recycling bins (recommendation 3 below).
- To agree policy changes relating to a number of operational areas (see recommendations 4 to 8 below and information within the report).

Recommendation(s)

1. that the General Fund Revenue Estimates for 2016/17 (Revised) and 2017/18 are recommended to Council for approval
2. that the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme continues in its current form for 2017/18
3. that the Council invests £30k from the Corporate Improvement Fund for the investment in the new bins required for the Trade Waste recycling project
4. that Area Committee Environmental budgets are revised as set out in the report
5. that the Council seeks sponsorship to reduce the overall cost of providing Christmas trees, lights and events
6. that the Council ceases the provision of a bespoke Equality advice service from Mansfield DC as part of the HR Shared Service, and provides formal notice to Mansfield DC, in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, to cease this provision from the Shared HR Service.

7. that the Council uses agency workers (rather than fixed term contracts) to provide staffing for seasonal environmental work
8. that the principle be agreed, pending a more detailed report, of a reduction in the size of the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, with a target saving of £100k

Reasons For Recommendation(s)

In order to set a balanced budget for 2017/18 which reduces the net cost of the Council's General Fund Revenue services, in line with future predictions of reductions in resources.

Alternative Options Considered (With Reasons Why Not Adopted)

None appropriate. Because the gap between the Council's resources and its expenditure needs is predicted to remain at a significant level until at least 2022/23, it is important that net savings continue to be made each year.

Detailed Information

Section 1 -The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy

The Council's previous Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) was agreed by Cabinet in February 2016. It set out details of the continuing necessity to make savings (£670k per year) to the Council's net expenditure.

The updated MTFS on this agenda will set out an updated savings strategy based upon the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement (December 2016) which removes more external funding from the Council than had been expected. The Government has announced another major change in policy which has had a negative effect on the settlement figures which had been previously forecast. This is the further reduction in the New Homes Bonus, which had already been reduced from a six to a four year award, and has now been reduced by a threshold, whereby the Council is not rewarded at all for the first 0.4% of new houses built in the district. This has a cumulative reducing effect, which reduces the Council's NHB payments from £2.6m in 2017/18 to £1.2m in 2022/23.

The Local Government Financial Settlement (details at Appendix A) has resulted in a decline in the resources provided by Government of £1.158m (12%) between 2016/17 and 2017/18. This decline is mainly due to a reduction in Revenue Support Grant. The Council's overall resources are predicted to fall by a total of £2.734m between 2016/17 and 2020/21, or a further 29%.

The reduction in Government resources between 2010/11 and 2020/21 is now forecast to be 51% (see Appendix A)

In response to this reducing resource position, a General Fund savings package of £1.005m is proposed in 2017/18. These savings will reduce the 2017/18 budget by £820k and will have a full year effect (reduction to the 18/19 budget) of £185k. Future savings targets will be agreed in the forthcoming MTFS report. The savings proposals which are summarised at Table 1 represent a balance between commercial income generation and improved efficiency.

If the revised savings proposals are agreed, the Council will present a balanced budget in line with the MTFs projections. Implementing these reductions will allow the Council to plan for the next five year period, during which the gap between the Council's need to spend, and the resources available will continue to be significant.

The aim of the Council's MTFs is that the balance in the General Fund Reserve remains above £1.35m over a five year period. The budget presented in this report results in the reduction of the General Fund Balance from £3.9m to £3.8m over the two year period, which is in line with the use of reserves anticipated in the MTFs. Section 5 assesses the level of the Council's reserves.

Section 2- The Council's Savings Strategy for 2017/18

Table 1 below sets out the proposals to make savings from the Council's budget in 2016/17. The General Fund proposals total £1.005m. Because of the lead in times required to make some of the major changes which are planned, an allowance has been made in the first year for a reduced saving of £820k.

Details of the Council's revised budget for 2016/17 and its estimates for 2017/18 are set out at appendices B,C,D and E.

Table 1 – Summary of the Council’s Savings Proposals, 2017/18

A full listing of these savings proposals is given in the table below. For completeness, savings to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are also shown. Some of the savings, such as the closure of Ashfield Homes Limited and the modernisation of cash collection provide savings to both funds.

Proposed Savings 2017/18 and 2018/19	General Fund		GF Total saving (£ 000s)	HRA		HRA Total saving (£ 000s)
	17/18 (£ 000s)	18/19 (£ 000s)		17/18 (£ 000s)	18/19 (£ 000s)	
Further Development of the Commercial Enterprise Strategy, and other Income Generation						
Rental of office space to DWP	28	27	55	0	0	0
Rental of office space to Notts Police	3	0	3	0	0	0
Installation of solar PVs at depot	2	0	2	0	0	0
Fees and Charges Review	11	0	11	0	0	0
Legal Services - potential charge for EIR requests	20	0	20	0	0	0
Trade Waste Recycling proposal - margin release	50	0	50	0	0	0
Building Control - Range of new charges	13	0	13	0	0	0
Environmental Health - pre-inspection visits	5	0	5	0	0	0
Pest Control - further income growth / cost reduction	10	0	10	0	0	0
SUB-TOTAL	142	27	169	0	0	0
Service Efficiencies						
Review of Members' Allowances	25	0	25	0	0	0
Savings from closure of AHL	200	0	200	300	0	300
Council Tax and Business Rates E Billing	20	0	20	0	0	0
Cash Collection	32	32	64	14	14	28
Leisure Review - Huthwaite Leisure Centre	53	27	80	0	0	0
Glass Collection proposal	24	26	50	0	0	0
Review of Selston Golf Course	35	35	70	0	0	0
Service Reviews	128	0	128	0	0	0
Reduction in Area Committee Environmental budgets	14	0	14	0	0	0
Review of Christmas Lights and events - initiative to increase sponsorship	10	31	41	0	0	0
Cessation of Equalities service provision from MDC	6	7	13	0	0	0
Environment Seasonal Working - Use of Agency staff rather than fixed term contracts	41	0	41	0	0	0
Corporate Structure Review	90	0	90	10	0	10
SUB-TOTAL	678	158	836	324	14	338
TOTAL SAVINGS	820	185	1,005	324	14	338

Section 3 - Specific Changes and Recommendations

Recommendation 2 - that the Council's Local Council Tax Support Scheme continues in its current form for 2017/18

Members will recall that this scheme was introduced in 2013/14, following extensive consultation with residents, who were very supportive of the Council's proposals.

The scheme allows the Council to reduce the Council Tax of those residents who would have qualified for Council Tax benefit under the old scheme, under a set of rules which is very similar to the old scheme. This scheme is now fully funded by the Council, Government support having ceased in 2014/15, and will be reviewed in the future to determine whether it is still fit for purpose.

It is proposed to continue the scheme unchanged in 2017/18.

Recommendation 3 - That the Council allocates £30k from the Corporate Improvement Fund for investment into new bins required to reconfigure the Trade Waste service into an integrated recycling service whilst also releasing a saving.

Trade waste customers have repeatedly said that they want to recycle more, so the Council is developing proposals which will seek to reorganise how trade waste is collected, with a view to creating a fully integrated recycling service. The operational details of this are being finalised and will be subject to a further delegated decision but to facilitate this change and realise a saving of up to £50k, an initial investment in new recycling bins is required. This will be met by an allocation of £30k from the Corporate Improvement Fund.

As part of this, the Council will be launching the 'Ashfield Green Business' scheme, as a thank you to our customers. The scheme means that businesses using Council waste and recycling services automatically receive bronze accreditation and if they also use other Council services like pest control, or become environmental volunteers, they could receive silver or gold accreditation.

In order to make this change, investment of £30k in new recycling bins for businesses to use, will be required. It is appropriate to use the Corporate Improvement Fund for this purpose, as it represents a "Spend To Save" project, for which the Fund is intended.

Appendix D summarises the movement in this reserve and Appendix E lists the changes in detail.

Recommendation 4 - that Area Committee Environmental budgets are revised as set out in the report

The Council currently provides each member with £750 a year to fund floral displays, replace bins and improve street furniture (signs and benches); managed through the Area Committees. It is proposed that the Council continue to fund floral displays whilst retaining a reduced allowance for other maintenance items. This would provide a saving of £12.5K.

The area budget will continue to be allocated on a pro rata basis according to the number of elected members per area. The new area budgets are set out below:

- Sutton £4,550
- Kirkby £2,800
- Hucknall £3,500
- Rurals £1,400

Recognising the importance of town centres and high profile sites within the district, the bulk of the budget will be ring-fenced to provide floral displays and planters in these high profile areas.

Officers will recommend costed floral displays to the Area Committee for approval. It should be noted that due to the timings involved, orders for the 2017 display have already been placed and the Area Committees will be advised accordingly at the next meeting. Any residual funding after the floral displays have been purchased can be used for any incidental maintenance and replacement requests e.g. for litter bins, or street name plates. These will need to be prioritised to ensure the best use of the available funding.

The Council will continue to use innovative approaches to fund wider regeneration projects and will look to lever in additional capital resources to fund more fundamental street furniture replacement programmes.

Recommendation 5 - that the Council seeks sponsorship to reduce the overall cost of providing Christmas trees, lights and events

It is proposed to save £41k from this £66k budget by seeking sponsorship with local businesses for the Christmas lights and events which are currently funded by the Council. The Council will work with "Mansfield and Ashfield 2020" to progress these negotiations.

If this initiative is not successful in significantly reducing overall costs, the size and coverage of future Christmas events will need to be reviewed during 2017/18.

Recommendation 6 - Cessation of the provision of a bespoke Equality advice service from Mansfield DC as part of the HR Shared Service

In 2016, both the Council and Ashfield Homes self-assessed as meeting the 'Achieving' level of the Local Government/Social Housing Equalities Frameworks confirming that policies, practices and procedures relating to equalities and diversity practice are now sufficiently embedded across the organisation.

Now this has been achieved, it is believed that having a specific role via the shared HR service provided by Mansfield District Council (MDC) is no longer required. The Council will still comply with Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Duty that necessitates provision of specific policy, practice and publishing of annual data e.g. equality objectives and annual workforce profile which will be undertaken by Council services and managers. This would offer a budget saving of £13k.

In accordance with the service level agreement, the Council will be required to provide MDC with a minimum 6 months formal notice to cease the provision of the equalities service via the shared HR service.

Recommendation 7 - that the Council uses agency workers (rather than fixed term contracts) to provide staffing for seasonal environmental work

To support the environmental requirements of the district the Council requires an additional 15 FTEs during the growing season – e.g. for grass cutting etc, both for its own operations and for supporting the highways contract.

Agency staff were originally used because this was found to be helpful in terms of flexibility and productivity and reduced the amount of time required in terms of recruitment and management. The Council changed its policy in around 2014 and has since been using short term contracts, which was seen as good practice in employment. This is understandable but an unintended consequence of this is it has increased cost and created additional burdens for the team, both in terms of setting up the recruitment process, as well as then managing employees if they are either poorly performing or have issues with attendance. Within a fixed term contract there is little the Council can do to resolve this given people are only employed for a short time. With agency the Council can address issues more quickly and maximise productivity.

By returning to agency a saving of £41k could be delivered.

Recommendation 8 - that the principle be agreed, pending a more detailed report, of a reduction in the size of the Council's Corporate Leadership Team, with a target saving of £100k

The Chief Executive is developing proposals to restructure the Corporate Leadership Team, and will be bringing a detailed report to Cabinet in the near future. It is important that all areas of the Council are considered in service reviews, given that the resourcing position has changed since many teams were last reviewed.

Section 4 - Council Tax Options

District Councils are limited to a maximum increase of £5 at Band D. Any proposal to increase Council Tax by more than this would trigger a referendum.

This increase would be equivalent to £3.33 at Band A, or around 6 pence per week.

A £5 increase at Band D (2.85% overall) would generate the Council £163k additional income, as opposed to no increase. The MTFS assumes this level of increase from 2017/18 to 2019/20.

The figures used in this report assume a £5 at Band D, for illustrative purposes.

Section 5 - The Council's Reserves

All Councils are facing a period of financial uncertainty. Although the Council secured a four year package of funding with the submission of its Efficiency Plan in October 2016, this agreement only covered Revenue Support Grant, which will reduce to nil by 2020/21.

Less than two months after this agreement, Government reduced without prior notice another funding source, New Homes Bonus. This will eventually settle at a level which is £1m lower than in previous assumptions.

The greatest future uncertainty is the revised scheme for Business Rates Retention, which the Government has stated will be implemented in 2019/20, but for which there are as yet no details available. The MTFs assumes a steady growth in Retained Business Rates, based upon inflationary increases to the multiplier (the tax rate). However, district councils are considered to be vulnerable in any future re-allocation of resources, for a number of reasons:

- They do not provide social care, which has become a focus for national policy
- They collect Business Rates for many large hospitals. The NHS is financing a national campaign to argue that hospital trusts and foundation trusts are in fact charities, which would be eligible for 80% charitable relief on their business rates. Nationally, an unfavourable outcome would divert many millions of pounds from local government to the NHS.
- They bear a disproportionate share of the losses to appeals against valuations, for which there is a national backlog (administered by the Valuation Office Agency), creating a deal of uncertainty

At times of financial uncertainty councils need to ensure that they have enough funds in reserve to deal with the impact of resourcing changes in the medium term, to give the organisation chance to amend its plans to meet the available financial envelope.

If these budget plans are approved, the Council will hold £3.8m in its General Fund Reserve and £3.4m in its General Fund Earmarked Reserves at 31 March 2018. Within these Earmarked Reserves, an NNDR Equalisation Reserve has been created (value £398k at 31 March 2018). This is considered necessary because of the calculation of budget figures for Business Rates are dependent upon several estimates, especially around appeals, which are considered to be volatile.

The minimum allowable balance in its General Fund Reserve, in accordance with previous Cabinet decisions, is £1.35m. There is no prescribed minimum for Earmarked Reserves, as each one is managed in accordance with the specific need identified.

The MTFs targets, discussed elsewhere on this agenda, identifies savings targets which by using a proportion of the Reserve each year, reduce the balance to just above £1.35m by 31 March 2023.

The Council has a good record of meeting the targets set in its MTFs, having made more than £7m of savings since 2010, and has set out in this report further savings for 2017/18, which it has robust action plans to deliver. It can therefore be concluded that the current level of reserves is adequate in the context of this budget, the Council's MTFs and the future financial uncertainty.

This position will be thoroughly reviewed during financial year 2017/18.

Section 6 - Budget Consultation

The Council undertook an extensive consultation seeking views on its overall budget strategy and on a number of individual initiatives. Residents were supportive of the options which have been progressed, and some of the proposals (for example to make changes at Edgewood Leisure Centre) have not been progressed due to residents' expressing views in opposition to the proposal.

A report on the results of the survey is available at

<http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/your-council/public-data/spending/budget-2017-consultation/>

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The Revenue Budget underpins all of the Corporate Plan's objectives

Legal:

The Council must set a legal budget by 11 March 2017.

Finance:

This report is effective from 1 April 2017 and has the following financial implications:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	As set out in the report
General Fund – Capital Programme	Further reports on this agenda will cover other budget areas
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	Further reports on this agenda will cover other budget areas
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	Further reports on this agenda will cover other budget areas

Human Resources / Equality and Diversity:

Many of the initiatives summarised in this report will have Human Resource implications. Each of these will be dealt with in accordance with the Council's policies on organisational change.

The provision of the equalities service is provided by an Equalities Officer (EO) on a basis of 2 days/week each to ADC and MDC. MDC have advised that should ADC serve notice to cease this service that the EO will be placed at risk of redundancy and if unable to secure suitable alternative employment in accordance with the redeployment policies at both Council's, will be made redundant and a redundancy cost will be incurred.

Other Implications:

Trade Union comments:

Trade Union colleagues were consulted on 25 January and their comments are as follows:
The Trade Unions have been fully consulted and are clearly aware of the difficulties facing the Authority.

Reason(s) for Urgency (if applicable):

None

Background Papers

Settlement data from the Government web site

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APPENDIX A - The Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement

The Provisional Settlement was announced on 15 December 2016. The main points are discussed above at Section 1. The District Councils Network and the Local Government Association has made representations to the Government, expressing the sector's specific concerns about the unexpected and disappointing changes to the New Homes Bonus rules.

At the time of writing this report, the Final Settlement (the Government's opportunity to make any changes) had not been published. Media information suggests that the Parliamentary debate on the Final Settlement will take place after 20 February, but it is not known when the Final Settlement will be announced.

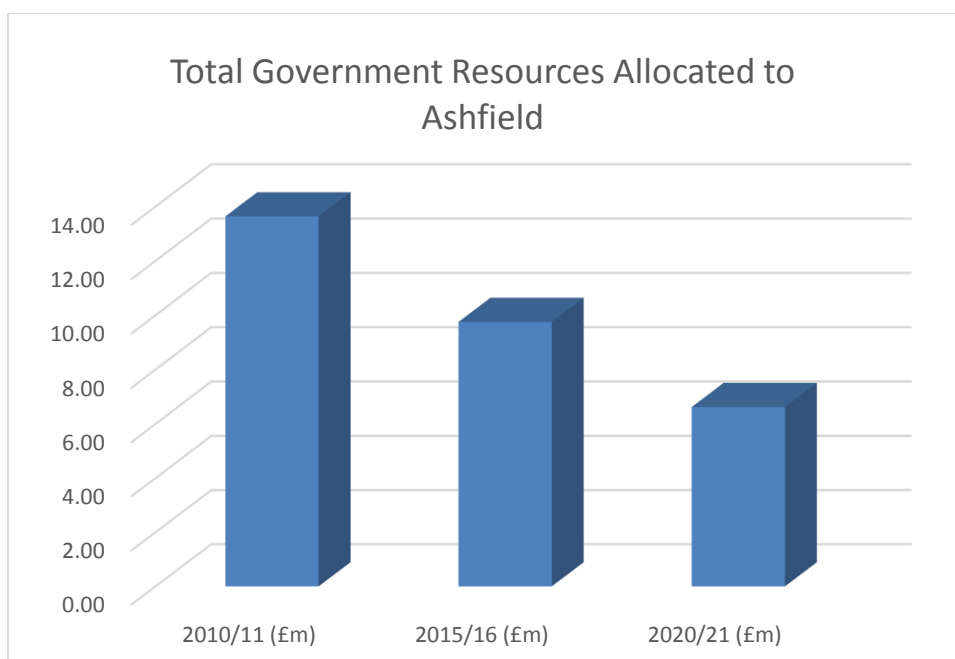
The key changes in the Provisional Settlement are summarised in Table 2 below:

Table 2: The 2017/18 Local Government Financial Settlement

	2016/17 (£ 000s) Final Settlement	2017/18 (£ 000s) Final Settlement	2018/19 (£ 000s) Projected amounts	2019/20 (£ 000s) Projected amounts	2020/21 (£ 000s) Projected amounts
Revenue Support Grant	1,859	1,148	697	194	0
Retained Business Rates	4,360	4,924	5,002	5,161	5,294
New Homes Bonus	3,088	2,578	1,976	1,604	1,323
Total Government Allocated Funding	9,351	8,193	7,675	6,959	6,617
Percentage reduction on 2016/17		12%	18%	26%	29%
Percentage reduction on 2010/11	31%	40%	44%	49%	51%

The chart below shows the overall picture of Government Funding to Ashfield over the period from 2010/11 to 2020/21.

Over this ten year period, Government funding to Ashfield is expected to reduce overall by 51%. There is still a great deal of uncertainty over the future regime for distributing Retained Business Rates, from 2019/20.



APPENDIX B - Summary of Budgets, 2016/17 and 2017/18

<u>General Fund Revenue Account</u>	Original Estimate 2016/17 (Post AHL transfer) £ 000s	Revised Estimate 2016/17 £ 000s	Budget increases or (Reductions) £ 000s	Proposed Budget 2017/18 £ 000s	Increases or (reductions) over Revised Estimate 2016/17 £ 000s
Service Expenditure	13,597	13,622	25	13,824	202
Capital Financing Charges	1,425	1,560	135	1,975	415
Other Interest Payable/Receivable	(34)	(34)	0	20	54
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,988	15,148	160	15,819	671
Revenue Support Grant	(1,859)	(1,859)	0	(1,148)	711
Retained Business Rates	(4,213)	(4,360)	(147)	(4,924)	(564)
New Homes Bonus	(3,088)	(3,088)	0	(2,578)	510
Council Tax	(5,604)	(5,603)	1	(5,873)	(270)
Council Tax Collection Fund Adjustment	(100)	(100)	0	(28)	72
Business Rates Collection Fund Adjustment	(44)	(44)	0	457	501
Other Funding	0	(248)	(248)	0	248
TOTAL FUNDING	(14,908)	(15,302)	(394)	(14,094)	1,208
DEFICIT or (SURPLUS) before transfers to / from earmarked reserves	80	(154)	(234)	1,725	1,879
Transfers to earmarked reserves	248	486	238	48	(438)
Transfers from earmarked reserves	(514)	(821)	(307)	(1,147)	(326)
NET DEFICIT (or SURPLUS) to be funded from (or transferred to) the General Fund Reserve	(186)	(489)	(303)	626	1,115
<u>General Fund Reserve</u>	Original Estimate 2016/17 (adjusted for agreed changes) £ 000s	Revised Estimate 2016/17 £ 000s	Budget increases or (Reductions) £ 000s	Proposed Budget 2017/18 £ 000s	Increases or (reductions) over Revised Estimate 2016/17 £ 000s
Balance brought forward 1 st April	(3,895)	(3,895)	0	(4,384)	(489)
Transfer to (from) General Fund	(186)	(489)	(303)	626	1,115
Balance carried forward 31st March	(4,081)	(4,384)	(303)	(3,758)	626

APPENDIX C - Budget Changes 2016/17 to 2017/18

		Sub-total (£ 000s)	Budgeted Use or (Contribution to) of General Reserve at each stage
ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2016/17			(226)
<u>Changes approved by Council during 2016/17</u>			
Changes to service expenditure		190	
Changes to contingencies		(150)	40
ADJUSTED ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2016/17 (Post AHL Transfer)			(186)
<u>Changes between Adjusted Original and Revised Estimate 2016/17</u>			
<u>Service Expenditure</u>			
Minor net in year changes	25	25	
<u>Capital Financing</u>			
Capital Financing Expenditure	135		
Other interest paid / received	0	135	
<u>Funding</u>			
Retained Business Rates	(147)		
Council Tax	1		
Other Funding (NDR refunded from preceptors)	(248)	(394)	
<u>Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves</u>			
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	238		
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	(307)	(69)	(303)
REVISED ESTIMATE 2016/17			(489)
<u>Changes between Revised Estimate 2016/17 and Original Estimate 2017/18</u>			
<u>Service expenditure</u>			
Budget reductions as per Table 1	(820)		
Increases in contributions to the Superannuation Fund	545		
Agreement of 1% Pay Award for 2017/18	150		
Net cost of the New Cross and Broomhill Support Teams	10		
Payment of the Apprenticeship Levy	48		
Creation of a Commercial Investment Budget (funded from a specific reserve)	50		
Inclusion of a budget for costs of organisational change (funded from a specific reserve)	150		
Other minor changes	69	202	
<u>Capital Financing</u>			
Capital Financing Expenditure	415		
Other interest paid / received	54	469	
<u>Funding</u>			
Revenue Support Grant	711		
Retained Business Rates	(564)		
New Homes Bonus	510		
Council Tax	(270)		
Council Tax Collection Fund Adjustment	72		
NDR Collection Fund Adjustment	501		
Other Funding (NDR refunded from preceptors)	248	1,208	
<u>Transfers to/from Earmarked Reserves</u>			
Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	(438)		
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves	(326)	(764)	1,115
ORIGINAL ESTIMATE 2017/18			626

APPENDIX D - The Council's Earmarked Reserves

The table below sets out the estimated changes in the Council's Earmarked Reserves up to the end of 2017/18.

Earmarked Reserve	Balance at 31.3.16	Forecast contributions in 16/17	Forecast withdrawals in 16/17	Forecast balance at 31.3.17	Forecast contributions in 17/18	Forecast withdrawals in 17/18	Forecast balance at 31.3.18	See note
	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	(£ 000s)	
Corporate Change and Renewal	(1,482)		50	(1,432)		250	(1,182)	a
Revenue Grant Reserve	(1,265)		443	(822)		282	(540)	b
Joint Crematorium Reserve	(647)			(647)			(647)	c
Corporate Improvement Fund	(807)		167	(640)		244	(396)	d
Business Rates Equalisation Reserve	(150)	(248)		(398)			(398)	m
Insurance Related Funds	(280)			(280)			(280)	e
Asset Renewal Reserve	(429)	(200)	48	(581)		300	(281)	f
District Planning Enquiry	(151)		79	(72)		70	(2)	g
Elections	0	(38)		(38)	(38)		(76)	h
Joint Use Maintenance Fund	(218)		32	(186)	(10)		(196)	j
Harold Farr Bequest	(11)		1	(10)		1	(9)	k
LAMS Reserve	(32)			(32)			(32)	l
TOTAL of all Earmarked Reserves	(5,472)	(486)	820	(5,138)	(48)	1,147	(4,039)	
TOTAL excluding Joint Crematorium Committee	(4,825)	(486)	820	(4,491)	(48)	1,147	(3,392)	

Notes

(a) This fund pays for the ongoing costs of organisational change (redundancy and pension strain costs). £50k has also been set aside to support the funding of commercial initiatives. This is referred to in the Council report of 16 February on Changes to Financial Regulations.

(b) Revenue schemes for which the Council has received grant money, but which will be spent in future years.

(c) This reserve shows in the Council's accounts but the money is actually held by Mansfield DC as custodians of the Joint Crematorium. Ashfield's "share" of this reserve would be approximately 42%, if the facility was ever disposed of.

(d) This fund has typically been used for improvement projects over the last four years. It is currently funding the IT Transformation Projects, part of the New Cross Support Team, and the Nottinghamshire-wide Broadband projects, among others.

(e) Money which the Council has set aside to pay for excess amounts relating to insurance claims. The adequacy of this fund is assessed annually.

(f) This fund contributes to the cost of capital investments, and could be called on in an emergency to repair or renew assets. It is planned to use £300k of this reserve to fund capital projects in 2017/18 (see Capital Strategy, February 2016).

(g) Funds set aside for the cost of the enquiry relating to the Council's Local Plan.

(h) Funds set aside to equalise the Council's contribution to the District Elections every four years.

(j) Funds set aside for future repair liabilities at the Council's joint use facilities.

(k) Funds bequeathed to the Council which are granted to residents for projects on an annual basis.

(l) The surplus on interest generated from the Council's assistance with the Local Authority Mortgage Scheme. This money must be held in case of potential defaults on mortgages. None have occurred to date.

(m) Funds transferred to reserves to deal with the volatility of forecast Retained Business Rates Receipts. This is referred to in Section 5.