

Proposed Use of Uncommitted Reserve for Specific Purposes in 2023/24 Revenue and Capital Budgets

The improved uncommitted reserves position set out in Table 1 of this report allows a small number of high priority one-off projects identified by the Council's Administration Group to be taken forward as described below. All of these are one-off in nature and will not add to the Council's permanent cost base, some will save money compared to not making the investment. All are to be funded from uncommitted General Fund reserves.

Project/Proposal	Purpose	Cost £millions
Investment in road and other core infrastructure repairs	To increase the total funding available through the main revenue and capital budgets for repairs to Council roads, footpaths, bridges, etc.	1.000
Holiday Food and Fun	Continuation of existing programme to provide activities and food for vulnerable children and families in school holidays	0.200
Investment in Climate Change / Net Zero / Biodiversity	Creation of an initial fund to support projects and initiatives	1.000
Montrose Port/Zero 4 Links	Funding for consultancy work which will support delivery of Tay Cities projects	0.075
Additional Welfare Rights Staff – temporary for 23 months	To provide additional capacity during cost of living crisis. Funding will enable a minimum of 2 additional welfare rights officers to be deployed	0.100
Minor repair works – Arbroath Harbour	To enable a variety of repairs to be made around the harbour area. This project is shown in the Infrastructure and Environment capital budget as being funded from Reserves	0.100
Hardship Fund / Continuation of some LACER funded projects	The funding allocated from the Scottish Government through the LACER programme will soon be exhausted. The Council cannot afford to replicate that scale of funding (nearly £1.7m) but it is proposed to set a sum aside to continue to support those most in need	0.275
Provision for Education and Lifelong Learning (ELL) budget risks	There are a number of uncertainties and risks in relation to the ELL budget including government grant conditions in relation to staff numbers and ongoing uncertainty over pay. A sum is to be set aside in reserves as a commitment until such time as those risks and uncertainties have been clarified	0.350
Total		3.100