

APPENDIX C - HRA RESERVES POLICY

Reserves Protocol

- 1.1 For each reserve held by the Council there must be a clear protocol setting out:
 - The reason for and purpose of the reserve;
 - How and when the reserve can be used;
 - Procedures for the reserve's management and control; and
 - A process and timescale for review of the reserve to ensure continuing relevance and adequacy.
- 1.2 Details for each HRA reserve are set out below. Each reserve is managed and controlled by a Chief Officer. The responsible officer can authorise amounts of up to £10,000 to be taken from a reserve provided that its use is in line with the stated purpose of the reserve.
- 1.3 In addition the responsible officer must also consult with the Housing and / or Finance Portfolio Holders before authorising uses from reserves in excess of £10,000.
- 1.4 Reserves are reviewed and updated as part of the annual budget preparation and as part of the closure of accounts process to ensure that they continue to be required and are adequate in size. Earmarked reserves represent money that has been set aside for a clearly defined purpose, and which is available to meet future expenditure in that area. Balances represent unallocated funds which have not been earmarked and consequently are available to support any service area.
- 1.5 The values shown below for each reserve reflects their current position. The process for closing down the accounts at the year end will then allow for any outstanding in year commitments and contributions.
- 1.6 The underlying level of reserves is adequate and reflects the Council's stable financial position.

Description	Purpose	How and When Used	Responsible Officer	Value £000
HRA BALANCES	Balances are held by every organisation and are used to cushion the impact of unexpected events or emergencies, uneven cash flows and to avoid temporary borrowing	Can be used as a general contingency and should be maintained at a level of at least £100 per property	Interim Director Housing and Regeneration	783
HRA ELEMENT OF INSURANCE FUND	Funds held to meet the Council's self-insured liabilities where this is a more cost effective method of insuring than using an external company	Costs are incurred when insurance claims are settled. The level of the reserve is determined through actuarial reviews	Borough Treasurer	185
TV AERIAL RESERVE	To finance the costs of works to TV aerials	Once the current programme of works has been completed this reserve will no longer be required and will be deleted	Interim Director Housing and Regeneration	50
DISTRICT HEATING CHARGES RESERVE	This reserve holds the difference between the income raised from charges to tenants for the District Heating scheme and the cost of running this scheme (primarily gas charges).	It is Council policy to run this scheme on a cost recovery basis, and so it is necessary to maintain this reserve so that any surpluses that are achieved can be carried forward to fund lower charges to tenants in the future than otherwise would be possible	Interim Director Housing and Regeneration	124
SLIPPAGE RESERVE	This reserve is used to carry forward slippage on revenue and capital projects, where required	Enables the funding on schemes that are not completed at the financial year end to be carried forward so that the scheme can be completed in the next financial year	Interim Director Housing and Regeneration	0
BUDGET AND EFFICIENCY SAVINGS	This reserve is available to support the overall budget position	Used to deal with the financial challenges facing the Council over a medium term period	Interim Director Housing and Regeneration	0