

# **Report to the Resources Select Committee**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

***Date of meeting: 6 December 2016***

**Portfolio: Finance**

**Subject: Invest to Save Update**

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

To note the update on the various schemes funded through Invest to Save.

## **Executive Summary:**

In setting the budget for 2015/16 Council decided that, as the balance on the General Fund Reserve exceeded the minimum requirement and further savings were required, £0.5 million should be transferred from the General Fund Reserve into an Invest to Save earmarked reserve. This was subsequently topped up with an additional £154,000 during the current year. It was intended that this earmarked reserve would be used to finance schemes that would reduce the Continuing Services Budget (CSB) in future years.

When the Finance and Performance Management Cabinet Committee met in June a report was requested to update Members on the progress of the approved schemes. A detailed appendix is attached setting out dates and amounts of allocations with comments on each scheme. There is still £219,000 available in the fund, although a proposal to use £40,000 to create three new car parks is being considered by Cabinet on 3 November. This report went to the FPMCC meeting on 10 November 2016.

## **Reasons for Proposed Decisions:**

To comply with a request from this Committee.

## **Other Options for Action:**

Members could ask for additional information on individual schemes or suggest additional or alternative uses for the Invest to Save Fund.

## **Report:**

1. The Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) approved by Council in February 2015 included CSB reductions of £1,089,000 for the revised 2014/15 estimates and £573,000 for 2015/16. Despite these significant savings it was anticipated that further reductions would be required of £250,000 in 2016/17 and £400,000 in 2017/18. The MTFS also predicted that at the end of 2018/19 the balance on the General Fund Reserve would still comfortably exceed the minimum requirement set by Members. Given the adequacy of reserves and the need for savings, it was felt that the establishment of an Invest to Save Fund may help generate some new and creative ideas to deliver services differently or generate income.

2. Prior to the approval of the 2016/17 budget by Council in February 2016 a total of six schemes had been approved for Invest to Save funding and £309,000 of the fund balance of

£500,000 had been allocated. A further three allocations were made by the March and April Cabinet meetings, which included the accommodation review and work on the future funding and structure of the museums service, these reduced the balance of unallocated funds to £92,000. As the fund had proved useful in generating savings schemes, Members agreed a top up of £154,000 in closing the 2015/16 accounts.

3. The most recent business cases were considered by the FPM Cabinet Committee in June and approval was given for some capital works at North Weald Airfield to extend a vehicle compound. A structural survey of the current main reception area and a programme management system for prototype activities were also approved.

4. The following appendix sets out how much has been allocated to each scheme, the dates of approval and comments on progress to date.

**Resource Implications:** Most of the Invest to Save Fund schemes are likely to deliver the savings that were predicted when they were approved. There is an unallocated balance of £219,000 currently available, although Cabinet are considering a proposal to allocate £40,000 on 3 November.

**Legal and Governance Implications:** None.

**Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:** None.

**Consultation Undertaken:** None.

**Background Papers:** None.

**Impact Assessments:**

Risk Management

There is a risk that if progress is not monitored the schemes might not be implemented and the opportunities not fully realised.

**Due Regard Record**

This page shows **which groups of people are affected** by the subject of this report. It sets out **how they are affected** and how any **unlawful discrimination** they experience can be eliminated. It also includes information about how **access to the service(s)** subject to this report can be improved for the different groups of people; and how they can be assisted to **understand each other better** as a result of the subject of this report.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires that due regard must be paid to this information when considering the subject of this report.

Date / Name	Summary of equality analysis
28/10/16	There are no equality implications arising from the recommendation of this report.
Director of Resources	Relevant implications arising from individual schemes to achieve net savings will have been identified and considered by the responsible Director.