

Section 4.6.1 - Earmarked Reserves and General Balances Policy

Reserve	Balance at 1 April 2022	Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2023	Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2024	Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2025	Movement	Forecast Balance at 31 March 2026	Description
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	
Schools	14.6	-8.4	6.2	0.0	6.2	0.0	6.2	0.0	6.2	The scheme of Local Management of Schools (Education Reform Act 1988) requires individual schools carry forward surpluses and deficits.
Vehicles and Equipment	2.7	-0.1	2.6	-0.5	2.1	-0.1	2.0	0.3	2.3	To fund future replacement of vehicles and equipment
Grants and Contributions	24.7	-8.5	16.2	-7.6	8.6	-5.2	3.4	0.0	3.4	Holds overspent or underspent grants & contributions committed to be spent or recovered in future years. Excludes balance relating to DSG.
Government Initiatives	3.4	-3.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4	Holds underspends on budgets funded by un-ringfenced specific grants relating Government initiatives or agreed outcomes.
Trading Accounts	0.4	-0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	Holds funds relating to traded activities which are carried forward each year (whether surplus or deficit).
Council Elections	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.5	-0.5	0.0	0.2	0.2	To meet the cost of the County Council elections every four years.
Partnerships	2.4	0.0	2.4	-1.4	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	Holds funds relating to partnership arrangements including funds held on behalf of the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership.
On Street Car Parking	4.0	0.0	4.0	-0.8	3.2	0.0	3.2	0.0	3.2	Balance under the operation of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (Section 55).
Insurance	11.8	0.0	11.8	0.0	11.8	0.0	11.8	0.0	11.8	Covers the Council for insurance claims that, based in previous experience, are likely to be received and other insurance related issues.
Capital & Prudential Borrowing	47.9	18.9	66.8	-14.8	52.0	2.2	54.2	4.7	58.9	For financing capital expenditure in future years as set out in the Capital Programme.
Demographic Risk	9.0	4.0	13.0	4.0	17.0	4.0	21.0	4.0	25.0	Held to improve the financial resilience of the council in relation to the impact of carrying a negative DSG High Needs balance.
Youth Provision	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2	
Budget Priorities	18.5	-10.7	7.8	-2.0	5.8	-1.3	4.5	1.8	6.3	Funding to support the achievement of the Council's priorities
Budget Equalisation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2	-1.2	0.0	To manage the timing differences between funding changes and emerging pressures over the period of the MTFS.
COVID-19	26.3	-10.8	15.5	-7.4	8.1	-3.8	4.3	-2.3	2.0	To meet on-going costs associated with COVID-19.
Transformation	2.2	0.3	2.5	0.9	3.4	-3.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	To meet the costs of the transformation programme including service redesign.
Redundancy	3.3	0.0	3.3	-0.5	2.8	-0.5	2.3	-0.5	1.8	To meet the costs of any redundancy and pension strain costs.
Investment Pump Priming	2.0	0.0	2.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	To fund the feasibility costs of schemes or for pump priming schemes which are self-financing. Proposals for use of this funding included in 2023/24 budget. Assumed to be used in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
Business Rates	4.1	5.4	9.5	0.0	9.5	0.0	9.5	0.0	9.5	To smooth out any volatility in the business rates collected by the District Councils and City Council on behalf of the County Council.
Council Tax Collection Fund	6.0	-3.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0	To smooth out any volatility in the council tax collected by the District Councils and City Council on behalf of the County Council.
Total Reserves Excl Schools	169.0	-7.5	161.5	-30.9	130.6	-8.4	122.2	7.0	129.2	
Total Earmarked Reserves	183.6	-15.9	167.7	-30.9	136.8	-8.4	128.4	7.0	135.4	
DSG Unusable Reserve *	-23.6	-17.5	-41.1	-22.6	-63.7	-24.1	-87.8	-30.0	-117.8	
Total All Reserves	160.0	-33.4	126.6	-53.5	73.1	-32.5	40.6	-23.0	17.6	
DSG High Needs deficit within Unusable Reserve *	-29.8	-17.0	-46.8	-20.6	-67.4	-24.2	-91.6	-29.9	-121.5	* total excluding positive balances (eg. new schools set up fund offset by High Needs Deficit)