Reserves descriptions and opening balance 2026/27

Appendix 1 is consistent with the Closing Balances table presented in the Revenue and Capital Outturn Report presented to Cabinet on 7th July 2026.

Council Revenue Reserves	Reserve Description	1st April 2026 £000
General Fund Balance (CORPORATE)	The General Fund is held to manage unforeseen risks to the Council's overall financial position. Any in-year overspend at the whole-Council level would normally be funded by this reserve.	(10,277)
Adult Social Care (DIRECTORATE)	These are overwhelmingly Health resources funded through ringfenced grant and rolled forward through the Better Care Fund pooled budget and Mental Health pooled budget. These pooled budget resources are managed through the Adult Joint Commissioning Group	(22,047)
Financial Risk Contingency (CORPORATE)	Budget set aside during 2023/24, 2024/25 & 2025/26 Outturns to provide resilience against any future financial shocks.	(16,821)
Commercial, Reset & Innovation (CORPORATE)	The commercial beginnings of this reserve were agreed as part of the 2018/19 Financial Outturn Report to support the Council's commercial development projects. Later further resources were approved to reserve by Council in February 2021 as a fund to sustain the Council's future financial resilience. This could include internal transformation activity and strategic infrastructure where these generate future quantifiable financial benefits.	(12,195)
Business Rates Income Reserve (CORPORATE)	Budgeted contributions set aside as future protection against Business Rates volatility. Recent significant appeals continue to justify a significant balance being maintained as well as the unknow impact of the government's reset in 2025.	(11,948)
Early Retirement and Voluntary Redundancy (CORPORATE)	Funding for early retirement and voluntary redundancy established as part of Staffing Reductions Consultation Report (2015) and further contribution agreed as part of the 2018/19 Outturn Report to Cabinet. This smoothing reserve is used to neutralise the in-year revenue impact of early retirement and redundancy.	(8,433)
Management of Capital (CORPORATE)	Resources earmarked to support approved corporate Capital Programme and transformation projects including Very Light Rail (£3m) and Woodlands School (£1m).	(7,325)

Public Health (DIRECTORATE)	Public Health Reserves made up a number of ring-fenced government grants for delivery of Public Health functions.	(5,508)
Adopted Highways (DIRECTORATE)	Developer contributions associated with highway adoption and improvement schemes under Section 278 Highway Agreements and Section 38 Highway Agreements to support the cost of Highway adoption.	(4,375)
Refugee Resettlement Programme (DIRECTORATE)	Funding to deliver the specific requirements of the grant conditions for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and the Resettlement of Vulnerable Children Scheme.	(4,071)
Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) (CORPORATE & DIRECTORATE)	Resources earmarked to support the Caludon Castle, New Homes for Old and Street Lighting PFI schemes over a 25-year period subject to the individual decisions to establish each of these schemes. The schemes' financial models show how these reserves will be utilised over time. 2016/17 Budget Setting approved the cash-flowed use of this reserve to support the Council's overall budget at £1m per year to be repaid from within an agreed timeframe.	(4,052)
Enforcement Fees (DIRECTORATE)	Housing Enforcement funds including licences and penalties received from Landlords to support enforcement activities.	(1,919)
Children's Services Contingency Fund (DIRECTORATE)	Creation of a contingency fund should it be needed to sustain or increase investment in the various central government led change programmes that are underway across Children's Services. Current investment is funded via time limited grant funding.	(1,561)
Friargate One Lifecycle Costs (DIRECTORATE)	A property fund for One Friargate to ensure maintenance costs expected to increase in years 5-10 are not a burden on annual revenue budgets.	(1,480)
ICT Replacement Programme (DIRECTORATE)	This represents the smoothing reserve used to manage the rolling corporate programme of laptop & PC replacement.	(1,313)
Insurance Fund (DIRECTORATE)	This smoothing reserve has traditionally provided financial security for insurance claims arising out of incidents that may have occurred but for which claims have not yet been received. In recent years it has also been utilised to fund insurance budget pressures including income loss caused by the move of some LEA schools to the Department of Education Risk Protection Arrangement and increased premiums.	(1,248)
CRSTS Revenue Capacity Funding (CORPORATE)	This Reserve is Revenue Grant called the Revenue Capacity Funding tranche 2 and 3 to support the continued development and delivery of the City Regions Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) Capital Programme.	(1,239)

Homes for Ukraine (DIRECTORATE)	Funding to deliver the specific requirements of the grant conditions for the Homes for Ukraine programme.	(1,183)
Other Directorate	Other smaller directorate reserves. (approximately 100 individual reserves with an average value of £200k each, and balances ranging from £100 to £870k)	(18,732)
Other Corporate	Smaller reserves & technical adjustments including Finance Lease smoothing reserve to support annual IFRS16 (International Financial Reporting Standards) lease accounting adjustments.	(8,989)
Total Council Revenue Reserves		**(144,717)**
Council Capital Reserves		
Useable Capital Receipts Reserve	Receipts generated over recent years formerly set aside for future Capital Programme investments within current and future capital programmes. Current commitments include Woodlands School (£2.1m).	(4,743)
Capital Grant Unapplied Account	Grant funding received in advance of spend, whereby there are no specific grant conditions to spend in the year. The funding reflects the decisions made as part of the Council's Corporate Capital Programme.	(74,793)
Total Council Capital Reserves		**(79,536)**
Schools & Central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserves		
Schools (specific to individual schools)	Reserves held by individual maintained schools. Subject to existing legal framework for schools. Reported to Schools Forum.	(22,178)
Central DSG Reserve	Central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Reserve. Must be used to support the Schools Budget as defined in the School and Early Years Finance Regulations. Usage is reported to and monitored by Schools Forum.	(15,940)
Total Schools & Central DSG Reserves		**(38,118)**
Total Reserves		**(262,371)**