

REPORT TO:	FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 15
DATE OF MEETING:	15th JUNE 2017	CATEGORY: Delegated
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND PLANNING	OPEN:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	LOUISE GLOVER 01283 595887 louise.glover@south-derbys.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ROSLISTON FORESTRY CENTRE – RESERVE FUNDS	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 Members approve the use of identified reserves for use as part of the management contract transfer and on site developments at Rosliston Forestry Centre.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The report seeks approval to use three allocated reserves for the transition of Rosliston Forestry Centre (RFC) to a new management contractor and a refresh of the site.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 There are three reserves funds in the Councils General Fund which relate to Rosliston Forestry Centre. These are:

RFC Repairs Reserve	£23,858
RFC The Glade	£35,893
RFC / Café	£68,107

- 3.2 The Repairs Reserve is under spend from 2016/17 and has been carried forward to support the maintenance and development of the site prior to the new contract. The Forestry Commission jointly fund that 2016/17 budget.
- 3.3 The Glade reserve relates to a large capital project that was finally completed in 2015 and was an underspend. There are no restrictions on its use other than for developments at the Forestry Centre.
- 3.4 Café reserve fund was established by the Forestry Centre Executive to retain a percentage of the income received by The Hub café as part of their tenancy. Initially it was considered prudent to retain the fund if repairs were required to the café building but as the fund has increased the Executive wish to use the fund as

per its original intension in terms of maintenance and development of the whole site. The fund has only been used previously to replace windows and has not been required for the past few years resulting in an accumulation to the present level. There are no stipulations on what the fund can be used for in terms of the café lease.

3.5 The Forestry Centre Executive want to have the flexibility over the coming months to be able to undertake works and developments which improve the site and make it 'fit for purpose' when it is transferred to a new contractor. Use of the identified reserves will allow this flexibility and will utilise existing RFC funds to be reinvested into the site.

3.6 The actual spend will be decided on as the tender process continues and negotiations begin with potential organisations, before the new management company is chosen.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The three reserve funds total £126,857 and this will provide a significant fund can prepare the Centre for the next stage of its operation.

4.2 The RFC Executive /Board is moving towards a reduction in costs for both council and Forestry Commission and if possible a situation where the site is cost neutral or makes a surplus.

4.3 The Forestry Commission who jointly fund the management of the site have contributed to the above reserves through the joint business plan and also invested £78,000 capital towards car park and bridge repairs in 2016/17.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 Rosliston Forestry Centre's continued development as a community and visitor attraction contributes significantly to the People, Place and Progress themes in the new Corporate Plan and the strategic objective of improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Rosliston Forestry Centre contributes to the South Derbyshire Sustainable Community Strategy and, in particular, the themes of Health and Well Being and Sustainable Communities. It has become an important community facility providing a venue for many local people and groups.

7.0 Background Papers

7.1 None