

Scotland Excel

To: Joint Committee

On: 30 June 2017

**Report
by
Director Scotland Excel**

Budget Drawdown Reserves Usage 2017/18

1. Introduction

Joint Committee members will note that within the financial statements for 2016/17, a surplus of £101,958 was reported for the period. This was primarily due to the postponement of IT projects including the migration of the IT infrastructure.

Further progress has been made on these projects and funding is now required to support this and additional work within the organisation.

2. Scotland Excel – IT Projects

The Scotland Excel planned IT migration plan was, following discussion with Renfrewshire IT staff, revised as a result of changes planned by Renfrewshire to their IT infrastructure. It would have been inappropriate to proceed on the basis that had been planned when, working in conjunction with Renfrewshire Council; there was the opportunity to be part of their migration to a cloud environment. This was previously reported to the February 2017 Executive Sub Committee.

Migration is now well underway and funding to support this project is now required within 2017/18.

In addition to the IT infrastructure project, a project to progress the development of a spend data repository was delayed in 2016/17. This project has made some progress including the introduction of data analytics tools. Further progress is anticipated in mid-2017 and requires additional funding.

A total of £50k is requested to progress this phase of the IT projects.

3. Scotland Excel – Office Upgrade

Scotland Excel has made initial changes to its office space to support the recent growth of the organisation. Existing furniture and fittings have now grown beyond its typical lifespan and is of a size and type not conducive to agile and smart working or to support further growth. Renfrewshire council has made significant

improvements throughout its main offices and Scotland Excel wishes to follow this lead. Working with facilities staff within Renfrewshire council, we propose initiating the first phase of these office changes by investing £50k to change a proportion of the existing furniture.

4. Recommendation

The Joint Committee is requested to approve the drawdown of £100k from reserves to fund the above projects.