



Open Spaces and City Gardens

Date: MONDAY, 27 JULY 2015

Time: 2.30 pm

Venue: COMMITTEE ROOM - 2ND FLOOR WEST WING, GUILDHALL

Members: Alderman Ian Luder (Chairman)
Graeme Smith (Deputy Chairman)
George Abrahams (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Alex Deane
Alderman Gordon Haines (Ex-Officio Member)
Deputy Robert Howard
Wendy Mead
Barbara Newman
Virginia Rounding (Ex-Officio Member)
Jeremy Simons
Michael Welbank
Verderer Peter Adams (Observer)
Catherine Bickmore (Observer)
John Beyer (Observer)

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**Lunch will be served in the Guildhall Club at 1pm.
N.B. Part of this meeting may be subject to audio visual recording.**

**John Barradell
Town Clerk and Chief Executive**

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting.

For Decision
(Pages 1 - 6)

Open Spaces

4. **PROVISIONAL ADDITIONAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2016/17**
Report of the City Surveyor.
5. **ST BOTOLPH BISHOPSGATE BALL COURT IMPROVEMENTS**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.
6. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15- OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS**
Joint report of the Chamberlain and Director of Open Spaces.
7. **CONSOLIDATED REVENUE OUTTURN 2014/15**
Joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces.
8. **BUSINESS PLAN OUTCOME REPORT - QUARTER 1 2015/16**
Report of the Director of Open Spaces.

For Decision
(Pages 7 - 14)

For Decision
(Pages 15 - 24)

For Information
(Pages 25 - 30)

For Information
(Pages 31 - 36)

For Information
(Pages 37 - 54)

City Gardens

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**
Report of the Superintendent of Parks & City Gardens.

For Information
(Pages 55 - 56)

10. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED**

Part 2 - Non-Public Agenda

12. **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**
MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

For Decision

13. **DEBT ARREARS - INVOICED INCOME FOR PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2015**
Joint report of the Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces

For Information
(Pages 57 - 64)

14. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE**
15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED**

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OPEN SPACES AND CITY GARDENS
Monday, 8 June 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces and City Gardens held at Committee Room - 2nd Floor West Wing, Guildhall on Monday, 8 June 2015 at 1.45 pm

Present

Members:

Deputy Robert Howard
Alderman Ian Luder
Barbara Newman
Jeremy Simons
Graeme Smith
Verderer Peter Adams (Observer)
John Beyer (Observer)

Officers:

Paul Double	Remembrancer
Susan Attard	Deputy Town Clerk's
Natasha Dogra	Town Clerk's Department
Emma Sawers	Town Clerk's Department
Sue Baxter	Town Clerk's Department
Nigel Lefton	Remembrancer's Department
Sam Cook	Remembrancer's Department
Ed Wood	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department
Alison Elam	Group Accountant, Chamberlain's Department
Sue Ireland	Director of Open Spaces
Martin Rodman	Superintendent, West Ham Park
Esther Sumner	Open Spaces Business Manager
Louisa Allen	City Gardens Manager, Open Spaces Department
Jo Hurst	Epping Forest Business Manager, Open Spaces Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Catherine Bickmore, Deputy Alex Deane, Alderman Gordon Haines, Wendy Mead, Virginia Rounding and Michael Welbank.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ORDER OF THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL 23RD APRIL 2015

Resolved – that the Order of the Court of Common Council be received.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 29. The Town Clerk read out a list of Member's eligible to stand and Alderman Ian Luder, being the only Member to express his willingness to serve, was declared the duly elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

5. **ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN**

The Committee proceeded to elect a Deputy Chairman in accordance with Standing Order 30. The Town Clerk read out a list of Member's eligible to stand and Graeme Smith, being the only Member to express his willingness to serve, was declared the duly elected Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Appointment of a Representative to the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee

Following a ballot, Jeremy Simons was appointed as the representative to the Streets and Walkways Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

6. **MINUTES**

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

7. **PROMOTION OF A CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION (OPEN SPACES) BILL**

The Committee considered a report of the Remembrancer seeking agreement to the promotion of a private Bill in Parliament to make changes to the legislative framework governing the City Corporation's Open Spaces. The principal aims of the changes would be to clarify and expand the management powers available to the Corporation, to increase opportunities to generate revenue for the benefit of the Open Spaces (consistently with their status as public places of recreation and enjoyment), and to strengthen enforcement powers. The proposals followed informal local consultation that had previously been agreed by the Committee.

The Remembrancer was heard. Attention was drawn to the likelihood that appropriate policies about the exercise of the new powers, prepared in consultation with consultative committees and other interested parties, would assist in securing local support for the legislation. Members noted that in the event that new powers were obtained, the responsibility for exercising them would be that of the appropriate management committee.

Members were informed that the Bill was no longer intended to apply to West Ham Park as, owing to the particular legal position of that land, parliamentary powers were not considered necessary in order to achieve the relevant management objectives.

The Committee noted that if the proposals were also agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee, the Court of Common Council would be invited to authorise the sealing of a petition to Parliament in order to enable a Bill to be deposited in November this year.

Resolved – that the Committee approve a recommendation, subject to the concurrence of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Court of Common Council, that a City of London Corporation (Open Spaces) Bill be promoted to seek the legislative changes described in the Report.

8. **GRANT GIVING - REPORT OF CROSS-CUTTING SERVICE BASED REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Town Clerk concerning the outcome of the cross-cutting review of the City Corporation's grant giving activities.

It was noted that the proposals had been considered by the Resource Allocation Sub-Committee and Policy and Resources Committee, and were recommended for approval subject to responsibility for strategic oversight and performance management of the City Corporation's grant giving activities being given to the Finance Committee rather than to the Finance Grants Sub-Committee.

The Committee acknowledged that a de minimis limit would need to be established as part of the governance process.

The Director of Open Spaces informed Members that the review would provide more transparent governance and allow for a more structured approach to be taken to the ad hoc grants awarded by the various Open Spaces Committees.

The proposal for a formalised grants programme, which would be jointly governed by all Open Spaces Committees, would benefit from further discussion with Members. The Committee agreed that a Working Party should be formed to discuss the matter. The group would consist of up to three Members from the Open Spaces & City Gardens, Epping Forest & City Commons and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committees, 1 Member of the West Ham Park Committee and 1 representative of the Finance Grants Sub Committee.

The Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee appointed the Chairman and Deputy Chairman to the Working Party, and would seek a third appointment via email prior to the next Committee meeting. The Working Party would meet on 16 September at 9:30am and 25 November at 3:30pm and each meeting would last 1 hour.

RESOLVED – That:-

1. Approval be given for a more structured approach to grant giving which was jointly governed by all Open Spaces and which was publicised and managed as part of the City Corporation's suite of grants programmes; and
2. That a Working Party comprising of up to three Members from the Open Spaces & City Gardens, Epping Forest & City Commons and Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queens Park Committees, 1 Member of the West Ham Park Committee and 1 representative of the Finance Grants Sub

Committee be created to report back and update the Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee at their meeting on 7th December 2015.

9. **OPEN SPACES BUSINESS PLAN 2014/15 - OUTCOMES**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Open Spaces and noted that the Open Spaces Department Business Plan 2013-16 was approved by the Open Spaces and City Garden Committee on the 8th April 2014. Members noted that significant progress had been made against a number of projects this year. There had also been successes in non-capital projects, with progress being made in integrating Burnham Beeches and City Commons, the introduction of a land category board and the introduction of the new identity project, to promote the charitable trust status of our sites.

Discussions ensued regarding the usefulness of some of the key performance indicators, particularly financial management. Officers informed Members that the business plan reported to the Committee at their last meeting highlighted the need for further work to be undertaken in relation to KPIs to ensure that they were a useful and accurate reflection of the work of the department.

Resolved – that the business plan outcome report be received.

10. **SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE**

The Committee received an update from the City Gardens Manager and noted that the City Garden's budget is in line with agreed budget profiles.

Members noted that the annual summer bedding was currently being planted over the coming weeks, nectar rich species have been selected where possible. The Nigel Dunnnett scheme on Beech Gardens was complete. The planting consists of 39,000 plants and 18 trees. The planting for the pond had also been designed by Nigel Dunnnett and would be installed in July.

The City's in Bloom campaign was underway. The Friends had recruited volunteers to judge entries for the City wide campaign. Details of how to enter or nominate a garden, project, window box etc. can be found on the City Gardens pages on the website. Judges for London in Bloom are visiting the gardens in early July. Members noted that the Friends were aware of Open Spaces Committee meetings and were welcome to attend the meetings or request agendas if they wished to do so.

As part of the Open Squares Weekend 13/14 June, a diverse range and increase of activities had been planned for the weekend, in partnership with the friends. For the first time, four poets would be in residence in; Postman's Park, St Dunstan's in the East, Christchurch Greyfriars garden and Bunhill Fields Burial Ground. The poets would recite and create poetry about the gardens. A number of walks and talks had been organised and will be delivered by City Garden Guides, the Friends of City Gardens and the City Gardens team. Talks would be delivered by John Price, the author of the recently published book about the Watts Memorial; will take place in Postman's Park on both days.

Members noted that the Open Spaces Tree Lighting Ceremony would take place on 8th December 2015.

Resolved – that the update be received.

11. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There was no urgent business.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

MOTION: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act.

14. NON-PUBLIC MINUTES

Resolved – that the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed as an accurate record.

15. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

There were no questions.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT AND WHICH THE COMMITTEE AGREE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED WHILST THE PUBLIC ARE EXCLUDED

There was no urgent business.

The meeting ended at 2:30pm

Chairman

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Agenda Item 4

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject: Provisional Additional Works Programme 2016/17	Public
Report of: The City Surveyor	For Information
CS: 149/15	
Summary	
<p>This report sets out a provisional list of cyclical projects being considered for Open Spaces & City Gardens in 2016/17 under the umbrella of the “additional works programme”.</p> <p>The draft cyclical project list for 2016/17 totals approximately £0.21m and if approved, will continue the ongoing maintenance of the property and infrastructure assets.</p>	
Recommendation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• That your Committee notes the content of this report	

Main Report

Background

1. At the meeting of Resource Allocation sub Committee in January 2015 Members considered and approved a prioritised list of “additional works” projects for 2015/16.
2. The total value of the approved works packages was some £5.64m. Of this allocation Open Spaces, City Gardens and West Ham Park received £0.39m to allow all projects on the prioritised list to proceed in 2015/16.
3. This approved package of works continues a programme of works that has seen the additional investment of £1.3m at City Open Spaces, City Gardens, and West Ham Park over the last five years.

Current Position

4. I am in the process of finalising my review of our forward maintenance plans (20 years) which will form the basis of the next round of additional works bids for 2016/17.
5. The review is expected to be completed shortly. In the interim and to allow you to have a preview I attach at Annexe A the provisional list of projects for Open Spaces & City Gardens under consideration for 2016/17.
6. It should be noted that the provisional list for 2016/17 is subject to a final review prior to presentation to the Corporate Asset sub Committee in September 2015 and consideration and approval of the final list by the Resource Allocation sub Committee at the beginning of 2016.
7. Following guidance from the Corporate Asset sub Committee in regard to the level of funding available the list of works has been prioritised by using the following factors: Health and Safety, potential reputational impact and assessing operational need. Therefore only essential works are considered as part of the additional works programme.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

8. This provisional list for Open Spaces & City Gardens identifies a number of works that could be progressed within a reasonable timescale subject to funding being made available from the additional works programme, and providing that proposed expenditure is not affected by other decisions taken in respect of any particular property asset.
9. Once agreed the projects relating to the additional works programme will be reviewed to reflect strategic asset management decisions and the wider corporate objectives to ensure that the City can meet its overall criteria relative to the management of its property assets.
10. The proposals contained within the attached annexe lists support the theme "Protects, promotes and enhances our environment" within the City Together Strategy.

Implications

11. As indicated above, these provisional schedules are based on a preliminary review of the forward repairs and maintenance plans and are subject to further evaluation in terms of value to Open Spaces & City Gardens and with regard to overall corporate priorities, including availability of resources, sound asset management and accommodation provisions/arrangements. It is appreciated that no commitment to their funding can be implied or guaranteed at this stage.

Conclusion

12. The attached provisional list for 16/17 allows the ongoing cyclical repairs and maintenance of the City's Operational estate and Open Spaces & City Gardens in particular to continue.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Draft Additional Works Programme 2016/17

Alison Hurley

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City Surveyors Department

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Open Spaces & City Gardens

Committee	Location	Building	Description	Cost
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces	Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	MEMORIALS CONSERVATION	85,000
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces	Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	NOTABLE MEMORIALS OVERHAUL	10,000
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces	Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	PAVING OVERHAUL	10,000
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces	Bunhill Fields Burial Ground	RAILINGS AND BOUNDARY WALLS RESTORATION	40,000
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces (City)	Gardeners Depot, Castle Baynard St	MECH VENT SYSTEMS CLEANING & INSPECTION	500
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces (City)	General	CONSERVATION OF BOUNDARY WALLS/RAILINGS	60,000
Open Spaces, City Gardens & West Ham Park	Open Spaces (City)	General	RAILINGS DECORATION	10,000
		Total		215,500

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Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee <i>(for decision)</i>	27/7/2015
Community & Children's Services Committee <i>(for information)</i>	11/09/2015
Subject: St Botolph Bishopsgate Ball Court Improvements	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Decision
Summary	
<p>The Ball court in the Churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate is the responsibility of the City to maintain. The court has reportedly reached a stage where a full resurfacing is required. Section 106 funding is available to resurface the court and improve the surrounds subject to the provision of times on the court allocated for young people to use the facility. Working in partnership with the Church and the Department of Community & Children's Services, it is proposed to develop a scheme to carry out the improvement works and improve the promotion of the site.</p> <p>The opportunity will be taken to update the maintenance agreement between the Church and the City of London for this site.</p>	
Recommendation	
Members are asked to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the proposed works, in principle, to resurface the ball court and improve the court surrounds at the Churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate • Delegate authority to the Director of Open Spaces in conjunction with the Comptroller & City Solicitor to negotiate a new Churchyard maintenance agreement that includes provision for future maintenance of the ball court and provide for the old agreement to be of no further effect. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The Churchyard of St Botolph without Bishopsgate is maintained by the City of London under an agreement dating from 1970, under the provisions of the 1906 Open Spaces Act.

2. This agreement requires the City to maintain the site, including the ball court within the Churchyard, whilst the Church is responsible for the letting of the ball court, with associated fees belonging to the Church.
3. The ball court is primarily used by City workers and residents for netball and tennis and is one of only three public tennis courts in the City.
4. The Churchyard lies in a conservation area and contains listed buildings, monuments and other listed structures. It lies adjacent to a residential building to the south and offices or roads on the other boundaries.
5. A Church proposal for youth provision at St Botolph's Church, to be funded from the Heron Tower Section106 agreement dated 7th April 2006, has not proceeded and capital funding has been re-allocated, along with some funding for floodlighting at the Church, for the refurbishment and enhancement of the court on the basis that there will be dedicated times when it will be available for use by young people. This approach is supported by the Church and the Director of Community and Children's Services.
6. A Project Proposal for the improvement of the Ball Court at St Botolph Bishopsgate Churchyard was approved by the Projects Sub-committee in October 2014.

Current Position

7. In recent times the court has deteriorated greatly, the surface is crumbling and we are advised it is no longer fit to play on safely. The court is in need of a major renewal which is the responsibility of the City. However there has been no revenue funding allocated to this.
8. Drainage of the court surface is poor and also needs to be improved. The flood lighting is in need of upgrading and there is a need to repaint the fencing.
9. The court surrounds would benefit from improvement also. In particular there is stepped access and initial indications are that it would be feasible to upgrade this and put in adjacent level access. Improvements to the planting are also needed to improve the setting of the court which is in a Conservation Area and close to listed buildings.
10. The site has a history of rough sleeping and antisocial behaviour. The hedge which enclosed the access to the court has recently had to be cut low as a response to this. However having some planting adjacent to the court's chainlink fence is of value to soften the visual impact of the facility on the Churchyard.
11. The existing agreement is no longer fit for purpose and needs to be updated. In particular a sustainable funding solution for the maintenance of the court needs to be put in place with the agreement of the Church.
12. The income provided by the court is an important source of funding for the Church and enables them to carry out their activities in the Parish.
13. There is a need to ensure provision of access to the court for young people in particular, at an appropriate fee and youth provision is a requirement of the S106 funding.

Options

14. Your officers have had discussions with the Church authorities at both parochial and diocesan levels, who agree in principal that the Church should fund the costs of the court from the sports fees taken.
15. These discussions have also considered the appropriate mix of sports and the type of surfacing at the site. Netball is very popular in the area and there are long standing teams associated with the court. It is considered that the site should continue to be used primarily for netball and for tennis as a secondary use. Options for other sports were considered.
16. A sports business consultant has been engaged to assess the potential income and ongoing costs for a refurbished facility to ensure there is the ability to cover day-to-day maintenance, a sinking fund for periodic refurbishment and a reasonable income for the Church whilst allowing sufficient hours to be made available at appropriate times for youth provision at nominal cost.
17. Discussions are ongoing with the City's sports provider, Fusion Lifestyle, officers of the Community & Children's Services and the Lawn Tennis Association about supporting and promoting the community use of the site.

Proposals

18. The proposal is to improve drainage of the court, resurface and re-line the court and generally enhance the facilities, including improving the approach and access to the court, upgrading the floodlighting, providing ancillary equipment and redesign of the court surrounds.
19. The current agreement between the Church and the City will be revised to reflect the negotiated arrangements with the Church.
20. With the assistance of the Department of Community and Children's Services, we will seek to ensure that the availability of the court for youth/community use will be promoted and result in increased sporting activities by the target groups.
21. It is proposed to carry out the works using the City's term contractor JB Riney who have carried out similar tennis court resurfacing works for the City of London on Hampstead Heath. Other procurement would be carried out using the City's Procurement Service.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

22. The project links to the Corporate Strategic Aim to provide modern, efficient and high quality local services and policing within the Square Mile for workers, residents and visitors with a view to delivering sustainable outcomes.
23. It links to the Local Development Framework, Policy Core Strategy 19 (4):
"Improving inclusion and access to affordable sport, play and recreation, protecting and enhancing existing facilities and encouraging the provision of further facilities within major developments."
24. The project supports the Community & Children's Services Department Business Plan which has a priority to "Improve the health and wellbeing of City workers and residents". The proposals support this by seeking to provide good quality sport and

exercise facilities and improved access to leisure activities by groups who don't usually engage.

25. The Open Spaces Business Plan contains a Strategic Aim to "Promote opportunities to value and enjoy the outdoors for recreation, learning and healthy living". It seeks to deliver cross service working and maintain a programme of activities for health and wellbeing to promote our Open Spaces and the City of London's cultural activity.

Implications

26. The current funding opportunity allows the City to fund the refurbishment and upgrading of the court. Capital funding of £176k has been allocated to this project from the following sources:
 - Heron Tower development Section 106 allocation of £98,100 for Youth Provision at the Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate.
 - In addition £62,675, also from the Heron Tower S106 agreement, originally for floodlighting at the Church, is now no longer needed for this purpose and the Church have agreed that this be applied to the sports area upgrade project also.
 - The above figures are subject to indexation which amounts to over £15k.
27. Application for Faculty or other statutory approvals will be sought for the improvement works as required.
28. With the assistance of the City Solicitor an updated agreement will be entered into which provides for the maintenance of the court on a self-financing basis.
29. The Church has requested that works be carried out as soon as possible as there is a loss of income while the court is unplayable. It is proposed to start an initial phase of works on site in the second half of August 2015.
30. The project received Project Sub-committee approved at Gateway 2 (Project Proposal) to proceed directly to a delegated Gateway 5 (Authority to Start Work) report to the Director of Open Spaces.

Conclusion

31. Proposals to improve the Ball Court at the Church of St Botolph without Bishopsgate are being developed from S106 funding made available from the Heron Tower development. This gives the opportunity to upgrade a popular sports facility in the City.
32. It also presents the opportunity to upgrade the site agreement with the Church so that the facility is maintained on a self-funding basis in the future.
33. Provision for young people to access the facility and take part in sports there, is being developed as part of this project, in partnership with Department of Community & Children's Services.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Location Plan
- Appendix 2 – Photographs of the site
- Appendix 3 – Existing and proposed plan of ball court

Background Papers:

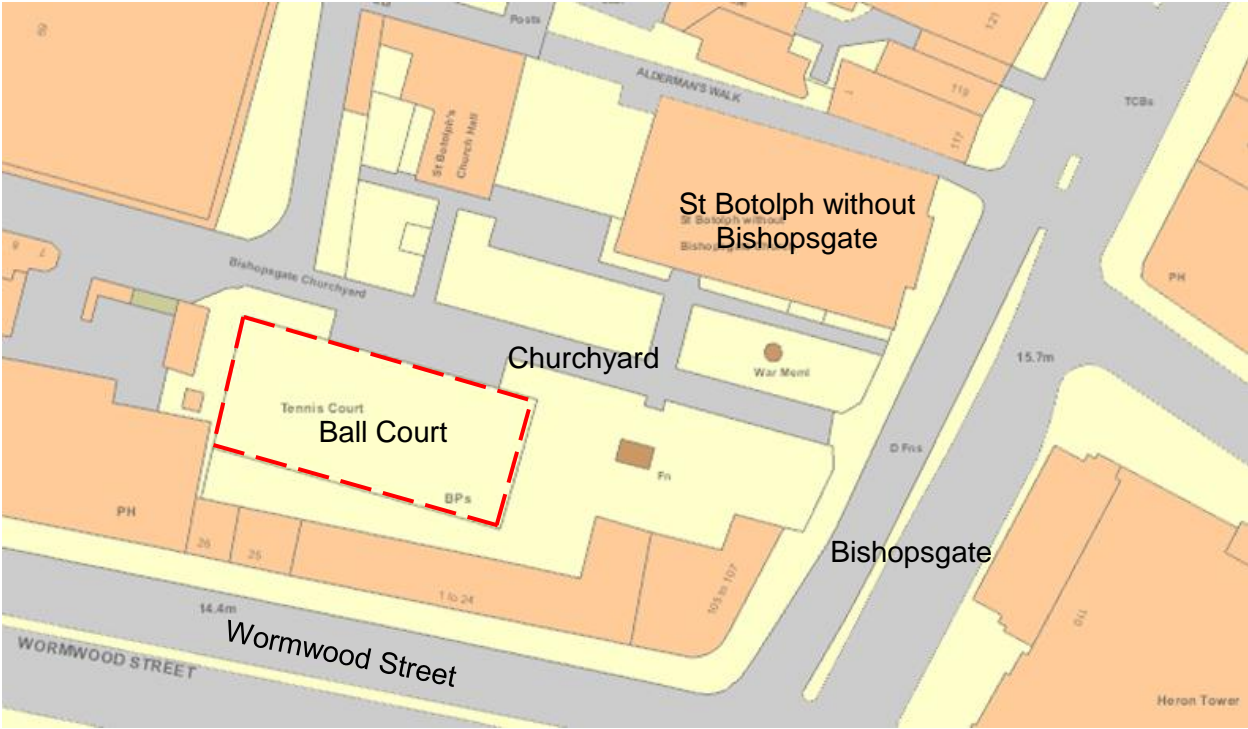
Report to Projects Sub Committee 8th October 2014: Project Proposal – St Botolph Bishopsgate Ball Court Improvements

Patrick Hegarty

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Appendix 1 – Location Plan

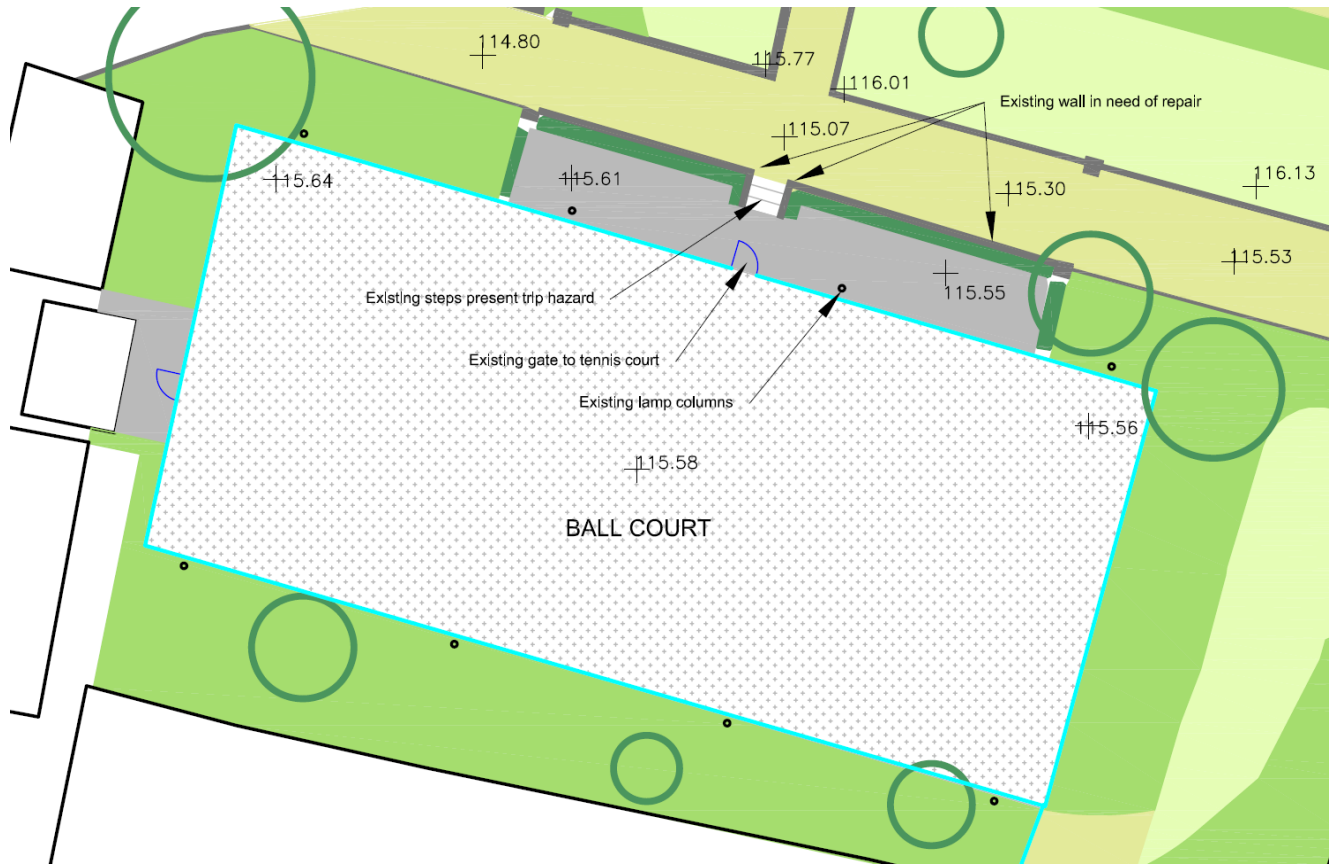


Appendix 2 – Photographs of the site

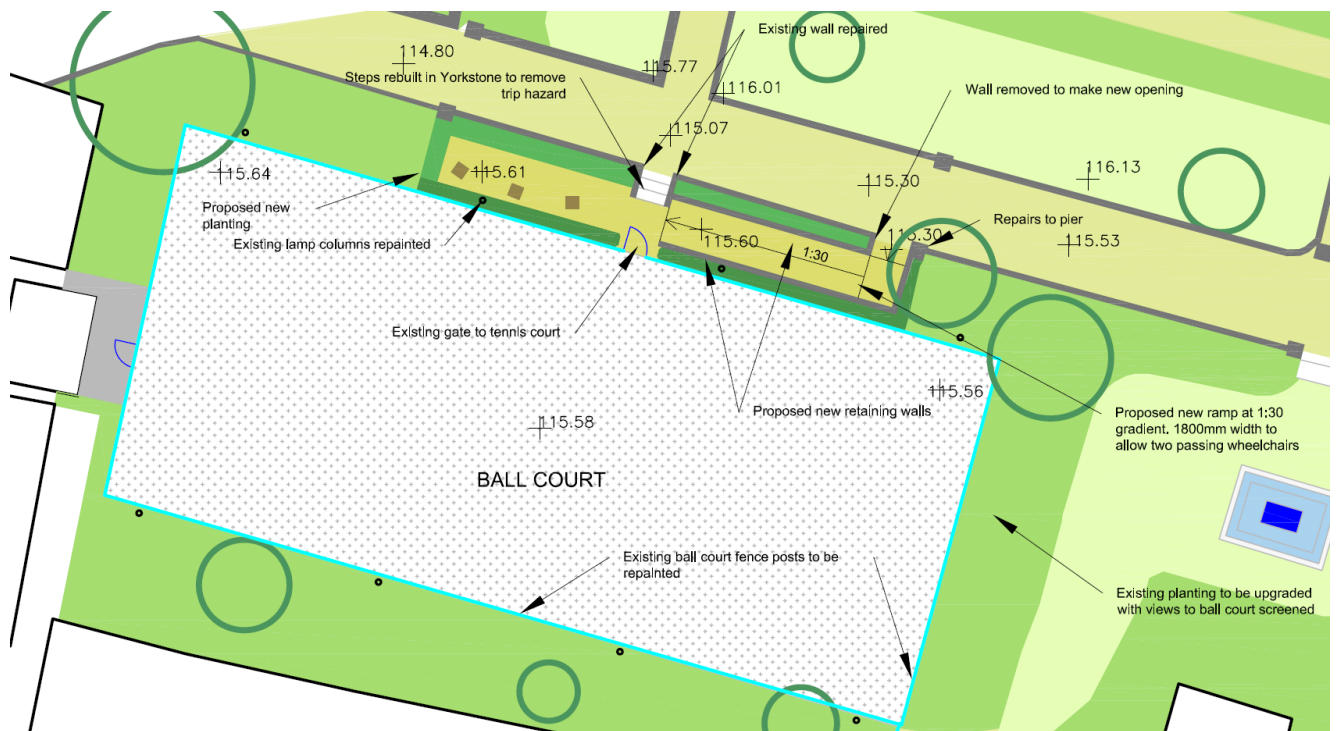




Appendix 3 – Existing and proposed plan of ball court



Existing plan of ball court



Proposed plan of ball court

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Agenda Item 6

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject:	Public
Revenue Outturn 2014/15- Open Spaces and City Gardens	
Report of:	For Information
The Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces	

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2014/15 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a £121,000 better than budget position for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year as set out below.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces	1,592	1,547	(45)
Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces)	155	169	14
City Surveyor	182	74	(108)
Total Local Risk	1,929	1,790	(139)
Recharges	(100)	(82)	18
Total	1,829	1,708	(121)

The Director of Open Spaces better than budget position of £45,000 has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. It is proposed to carry forward £437,000 of this underspend. These requests will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

The City Surveyors better than budget position of £108,000 is mainly due to one project being deferred at the Superintendent's request where funding was outstanding from an external source to fund an extended scheme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2014/15 and the consequential implications for the 2015/16 budget be noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2014/15

- The 2014/15 Latest Approved Budgets for the services overseen by your Committee were £1.818m and were received by your Committee in December 2014. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2015 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments. Movement of the Original Local Risk Budget to the final agreed budget is provided in Appendix A.

Revenue Outturn 2014/15

- Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2014/15 totalled £1.708M, an underspend of £121,000 compared with the final agreed budget.
- A summary comparison with the final agreed budget for the year is tabulated below. In the tables, figures in brackets indicate income or in hand balances, increases in income or decreases in expenditure.

Comparison of 2014/15 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget				
	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000	Reason*
Local Risk				
City Open Spaces	1,040	994	(46)	
Open Spaces Directorate	444	446	2	
Bunhill Fields	108	107	(1)	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	1,592	1,547	(45)	
Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces)	155	169	14	
City Surveyor's Local Risk	45	29	(16)	
Additional Works Programme	137	45	(92)	a
Total Local Risk	1,929	1,790	(139)	
Recharges				
Insurance	10	17	7	
I.S.Staff Recharges	364	358	(6)	
Surveyor's Recharges	61	61	0	
Central Support	221	292	71	b
Depreciation charges	29	29	0	
Admin Buildings	64	61	(3)	
Recharges Across Funds (Directorate)	(116)	(129)	(13)	
Recharges Within Fund (Directorate)	(632)	(662)	(30)	
Recharges Within Fund (Corporate & Democratic Core)	(101)	(109)	(8)	
Total Recharges	(100)	(82)	18	
NET EXPENDITURE	1,829	1,708	(121)	

* See paragraph 7

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2014/15

4. Chief Officers can request underspends of up to 10% or £500,000 (whichever is the lesser) of the final agreed local risk budget to be carried forward, so long as the underspending is not fortuitous and the resources are required for a planned purpose. Such requests are subject to the approval of the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.
5. Overspends are carried forward in full and are met from the agreed 2015/16 budgets.
6. The Director's better than budget position of £45,000 has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) of which £437,000 has been submitted for a carry forward as outlined below.
 - i) £35,000 for the Installation of heat exchange equipment to recycle waste heat at the Cemetery.
 - ii) The Directorate require £30,000 Specialist consultancy for user questionnaires and analysis which aligns with the Open Spaces Learning Programme as part of Service Based Review, £25,000 for a Business Analyst to undertake work in support of the Sports Programme (part of the SBR), £25,000 for the engagement of a specialist consultant to undertake an options appraisal to consider operating models and market potential for sports provision which is part of the Service Based Review sports programme, and a further £95,000 as a contribution to partly fill a shortfall in the budget which was previously met centrally and currently awaiting the outcome of a CBT funding application.
 - iii) £32,000 for the engagement of a temporary para-legal Wayleave Officer to update Oracle R12 and secure income as part of the Service Based Review is required by Epping Forest.
 - iv) Further to a business case £16,000 is required to replace a vehicle for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, which was ordered during 2014/15 but not supplied before year end.
 - v) £75,000 is required by Epping Forest for a specialist Tractor/Crane designed to increase productivity of wood chipping and reduce health & safety liabilities from RSI and Hand/Arm vibration. The business case was approved in 2014/15 but the supply is still awaited. A further £40,000 is required for landlord responsibilities to improve wiring, flooring etc ahead of Additional Works Programme investment following a recommendation by Environmental Health (L.B.Waltham Forest).
 - vi) £24,000 is required by Queens Park for new play equipment partly funded by community donations.
 - vii) £40,000 is required by West Ham Park for an 'invest to save' project as part of the Service Based Review to undertake improvements to vacant lodges to bring them up to a suitable standard for letting. Combined income will off-set carry forward after 2 years and aligns with the Corporate Asset Realisation Programme.

7. Reasons for Significant Variations

a) The £92,000 underspend in the City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme is due to one project being deferred at the Superintendent's request where funding was outstanding from an external source to fund an extended scheme.

b) The £71,000 overspend in Central Support Charges is mainly due to the Town Clerks having a new method in apportioning their time which has resulted in an increased charge. The change in apportionment method has not been reflected in the allocation of their budgets in 2014/15 but will be reflected going forward in the 2015/16 revised estimates.

Dr Peter Kane
Chamberlain

Sue Ireland
Director of Open Spaces

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Appendix A

	£000
Original Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	1,852
Director of Open Spaces	
Employees - Increase in employees at revised estimate stage within the Directorate met from transfers from other open spaces to fund Tax & N.I. on tied accommodation	54
Supplies & Services - The majority of this increase is due to an agreed carry forward for refurbishment work at City Gardens (St Brides St, St Dunstan's in the East, and St Paul's Cathedral Gardens)	63
Director of the Built Environment	
Premises - Small increase in electricity budget due to increase usage	1
City Surveyor	
Reduction in the Additional Works Programme due to re-phasing as the 14/15 original includes the full value of the 14/15 programme which is then smoothed out for revised estimates	(41)
Final Agreed Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	1,929

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Agenda Item 7

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject:	Public
Consolidated Revenue Outturn 2014/15	
Report of:	For Information
The Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces	

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by the Director of Open Spaces in 2014/15 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a better than budget position of £1.419M for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year as set out below.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces (excluding Nursery)	10,811	9,921	(890)
Director of Open Spaces (Nursery)	(52)	(8)	44
City Surveyor	4,181	3,403	(778)
Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces)	155	169	14
Total Local Risk	15,095	13,485	(1,610)
Central Risk	(512)	(552)	(40)
Recharges	4,280	4,511	231
Total	18,863	17,444	(1,419)

It is proposed to carry forward £437,000 from the Director's better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. These requests will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

The shortfall of £44,000 at the Nursery was partly offset by underspendings elsewhere with £20,000 being transferred to reserve which will be re-couped in future years.

The £778,000 underspend with the City Surveyor is mainly due to the re-phasing of the additional works programme over the life of the scheme to meet corporate priorities, the needs of the service, and a longer project lead-in over a longer period. There was also a £225,000 project at Capel Road where work was expected to be undertaken during the prescribed three year window of the additional works programme, but uncertainty remained as the future use of this facility. The Director of Open Spaces is undertaking a review of sports provision across all Open Spaces and thus the Members of CAsC agreed to allow funding of this project to be carried into a fourth year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this consolidated revenue outturn report for 2014/15 and the consequential implications for the 2015/16 budget are noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2014/15

1. The 2014/15 consolidated latest approved budget for the services overseen by your Committee received in February 2015 was £17.432M. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2015 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments. Detailed movement between Local Risk and the Latest Approved Budget have already been reported to each service committee. For information, the Cemetery and Crematorium has also been included in this report, to show the overall position for the Department, although it is reported to Port Health & Environmental Services Committee.

Revenue Outturn 2014/15

2. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2014/15 totalled £17.444M an underspend of £1.419M compared with the final agreed budget.

Summary Comparison of 2014/15 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget			
	Final Agreed Budget	Revenue Outturn	Increase/ (Decrease)
	£000	£000	£000
Director of Open Spaces Local Risk			
Open Spaces Directorate	444	446	2
City Open Spaces	1,040	994	(46)
Bunhill	108	107	(1)
West Ham Park	682	682	0
West Ham Park - CBT	0	0	0
The Nursery	(52)	(8)	44
Epping Forest	2,665	2,526	(139)
Epping - CBT	0	0	0
HLF – Branching Out	7	10	3
Chingford Golf Course	(76)	(12)	64
Wanstead	123	130	7
Woodredon & Warlies	(28)	(42)	(14)
Burnham Beeches	410	414	4
Stoke Common	22	22	0
City Commons	1,086	1,086	0
Hampstead Heath	4,835	4,619	(216)
Hampstead Heath – CBT	0	0	0
Hampstead STEM	22	22	0
Queen's Park	529	474	(55)
Queens Park - CBT	0	0	0
Highgate Wood	366	356	(10)
Highgate Wood - CBT	0	0	0
City Cemetery & Crematorium	(1,424)	(1,913)	(489)
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	10,759	9,913	(846)
<i>City Surveyor Local Risk</i>	782	1,135	353
<i>Additional Works Programme</i>	3,399	2,268	(1,131)
<i>Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces) Local Risk</i>	155	169	14
Total Local Risk	15,095	13,485	(1,610)
Central Risk	(512)	(552)	(40)
Recharges	4,280	4,511	231
Overall Totals	18,863	17,444	(1,419)

3. Each Open Spaces Committee has previously received an outturn report relating to the services it oversees including explanations of the significant variations. Port Health & Environmental Services Committee has received a similar report in respect of the Cemetery & Crematorium.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2015/16

4. Chief Officers can generally request underspends of up to 10% or £500,000 (whichever is the lesser) of the final agreed local risk budget to be carried forward, so long as the under spending is not fortuitous and the resources are required for a planned purpose. Such requests are subject to the approval of the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.
5. Overspends are carried forward in full and are met from the agreed 2015/16 budgets.
6. Budget variations on services overseen by other committees has produced a better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) for the Director of Open Spaces of which £437,000 was submitted for a carry forward as outlined below.
 - i) £35,000 for the installation of heat exchange equipment to recycle waste heat at the Cemetery.
 - ii) The Directorate require £30,000 Specialist consultancy for user questionnaires and analysis which aligns with the Open Spaces Learning Programme as part of Service Based Review, £25,000 for a Business Analyst to undertake work in support of the Sports Programme (part of the SBR), £25,000 for the engagement of a specialist consultant to undertake an options appraisal to consider operating models and market potential for sports provision which is part of the Service Based Review sports programme, and a further £95,000 as a contribution to partly fill a shortfall in the budget which was previously met centrally and currently awaiting the outcome of a CBT funding application.
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and aligns with the Corporate Asset Realisation Programme.

Dr Peter Kane

Chamberlain

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Sue Ireland

Director of Open Spaces

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Agenda Item 8

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens - For information	27 July 2015
West Ham Park - For information	27 July
Epping Forest & Commons - For information	24 August
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park - For information	7 September
Subject: Business Plan outcome report - Quarter 1 2015/16	Public
Report of: Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Summary	
<p>This report presents the outcome of the first quarter of the 2015/16-17/18 business plan. It includes the departmental roadmap and the roadmaps for each of the division.</p> <p>Currently the Sports, Learning, and Lodges & Operational Property programmes are reporting as amber. All other programmes are green.</p> <p>It also reports on the Key Performance Indicators to date. There is still further work to be done in developing meaningful baskets of indicators for Finance and Developing Our Staff.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Members are asked to note this report</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. The business plan was approved by the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on 20 April 2015. The revised business plan reflected our charitable objectives and our vision “to preserve and protect our world class green spaces for the benefit of our local communities and the environment.”

Roadmap progress

2. The departmental roadmaps and each of the divisional roadmaps are appended to this report. Overall it can be seen that each of the programmes has been making progress, although initiation has been slightly slower than anticipated.
3. As discussed at previously at the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee meeting, further information on the progress of programmes will be provided by exception i.e. where a programme is amber or red.

Learning	Amber (steady state)	This project has been progressing well and a new operating model has been developed. It is being reported as amber as uncertainty about funding remains whilst the City Bridge Trust application is under consideration and as other funding opportunities not yet finalised.
Sports	Amber (steady state)	The amber rating reflects concern about resolution of management issues at one of the golf courses and the need to resolve a carry forward with respect to Wanstead Flats. There has been some slippage in timescales but the project lead is currently re-profiling the programme.
Lodges and operational property	Amber (improving)	Previously reporting as red due to delays in starting the project. Various work streams have now started and the City Surveyor and City Solicitor are both supporting the project.

4. Each Committee will be sent the Open Spaces Departmental Roadmap as well as the relevant divisional roadmap. Only the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee will receive all of the roadmaps.

Key Performance Indicators

Preserving the ecology and biodiversity of our sites

5. The business plan proposed a new basket of indicators of 2015/16, including:
 - Sites with current management plan
 - Green flags awards
 - Green heritage awards
 - SSSI condition
 - London in Bloom awards
 - Heritage assets at risk
6. As reported at the end of 2014/15, all the sites except Epping Forest have a current management plan and Epping Forest have just commenced the public consultation which will shape their new management plan. Members should be aware however that the Hampstead Heath management plan is due to expire in 2017.
7. The results of green flag, green heritage and London in Bloom will be available later in the year.

Customer satisfaction

8. The “60 second survey” project has not yet started this year as further work is being undertaken to ensure that the surveys are useful to sites on the ground. It has however been established that Epping Forest will not participate this year to allow them to focus their customer interaction on their management plan consultation exercise. It is anticipated that this consultation will produce some useful information about Epping Forest users that will further enhance the Forest’s understanding of its users and their requirements. In addition to the “60 second survey”, there are a number of additional customer surveys being undertaken as part of the roadmap projects. Bringing together these various sources of information should greatly enhance the department’s understanding of our communities.

Finance

9. It was flagged in the business plan that further work needed to be undertaken to develop a useful financial KPI. The current KPI of income as a proportion of expenditure was originally kept in place but it was proposed that a basket of KPIs be developed, audit was suggested that these could include successful delivery of roadmap projects, net profit evaluation of events and net profit evaluation of commercial activity.
10. The Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee recommended in June that the previous indicator of income as a proportion of expenditure be removed as it was not helpful or illustrative.
11. The new indicators are still being developed. The Promoting Our Services programme has already started to consider a policy and framework for events and tools to aid understanding of costs. It is anticipated that this information should assist in the development of new KPIs.

Developing our staff

12. In addition to the previous target of spending 1.5% of direct employee costs on training, it was proposed that a further basket of indicators would be developed. As part of our work on Investors in People, further consideration is being given to identification and evaluation of training which it is hoped can be used to develop KPIs.

<u>Division</u>	<u>Year to date spend on training as % of employee costs</u>
Burnham Beeches, Stoke & City Commons	0.2%
City Gardens	0.7%
Cemetery & Crematorium	0.7%
Directorate	1.3%
Epping Forest	0.9%
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park	0.2%
West Ham Park	0.4%

Energy efficiency and sustainability

13. This work is now being led as part of the Energy Efficiency project which is progressing well.

Cemetery & Crematorium

14. The Cemetery & Crematorium has an additional set of KPIs. Performance during the first quarter has been strong.

Target 2015/16	Q1 performance
Maintain 23% market share of cremations	23.7%
Maintain 8% market share of burials	8.1%
Income compared to income target	Income of £807,165 during the first quarter (an increase of over £100,000 on Q1 2014/15)
Percentage cremations using the new fully abated cremator – target of 60%	Currently at 67.6%

Corporate & Strategic Implications

15. The delivery of the Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16 – 17/18 will support the City of London’s strategic aim “to provide valued services to London and the nation” and the key policy priority of “maintaining the quality of our public services whilst reducing our expenditure and improving our efficiency”.

Conclusion

16. All the roadmap projects have now started, although this process has taken slightly longer than originally anticipated. The programme approach is driving a renewed focus on outcomes for our sites and communities which will assist the department in delivering both our vision and each of our charitable objectives.

Appendices

1. Open Spaces Departmental Roadmap
2. Burnham Beeches & City Commons
3. Cemetery & Crematorium
4. City Gardens & West Ham Park
5. Epping Forest
6. Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen’s Park

Background Papers:

- Open Spaces Business Plan 2015/16-17/18

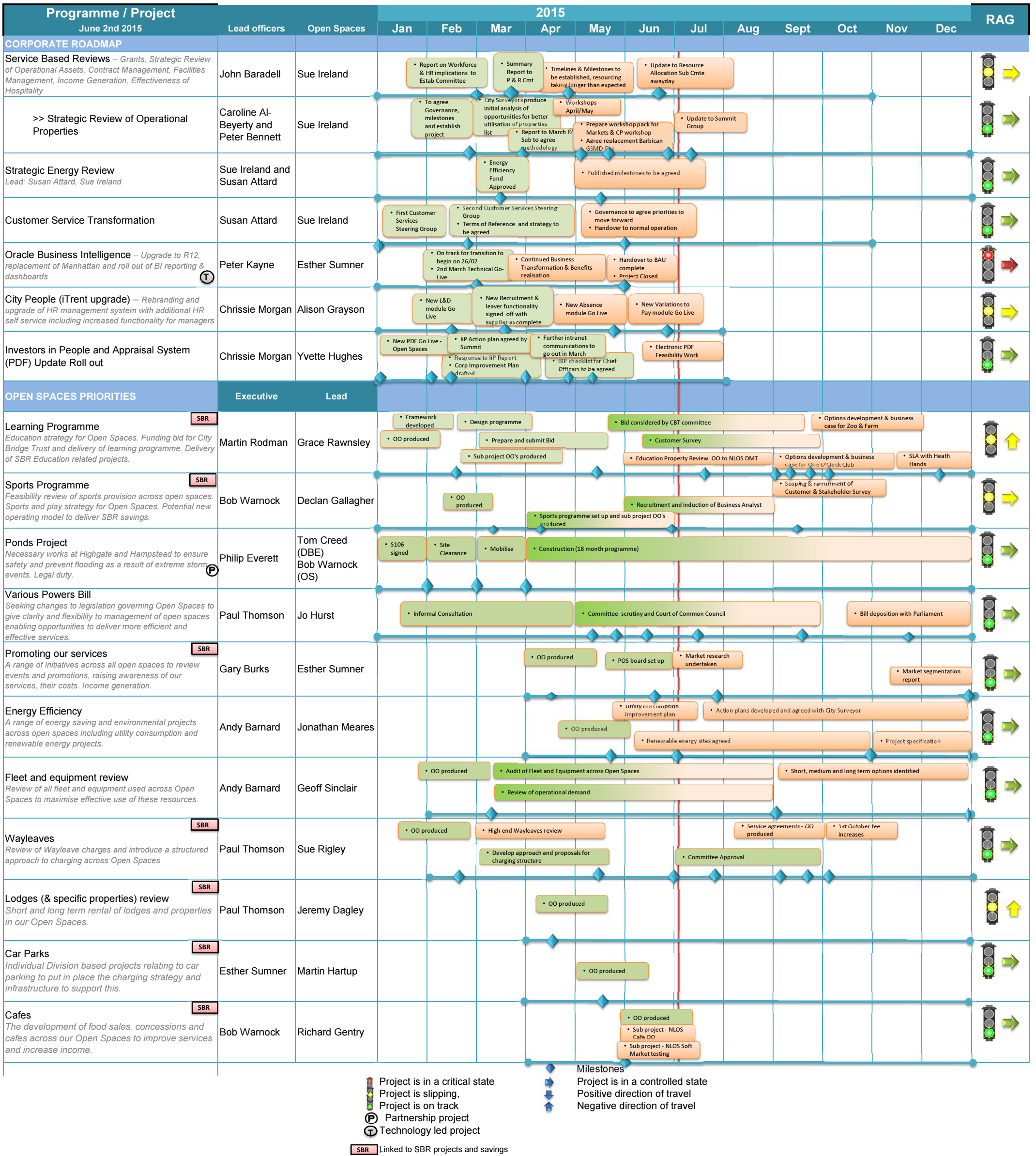
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Business Manager

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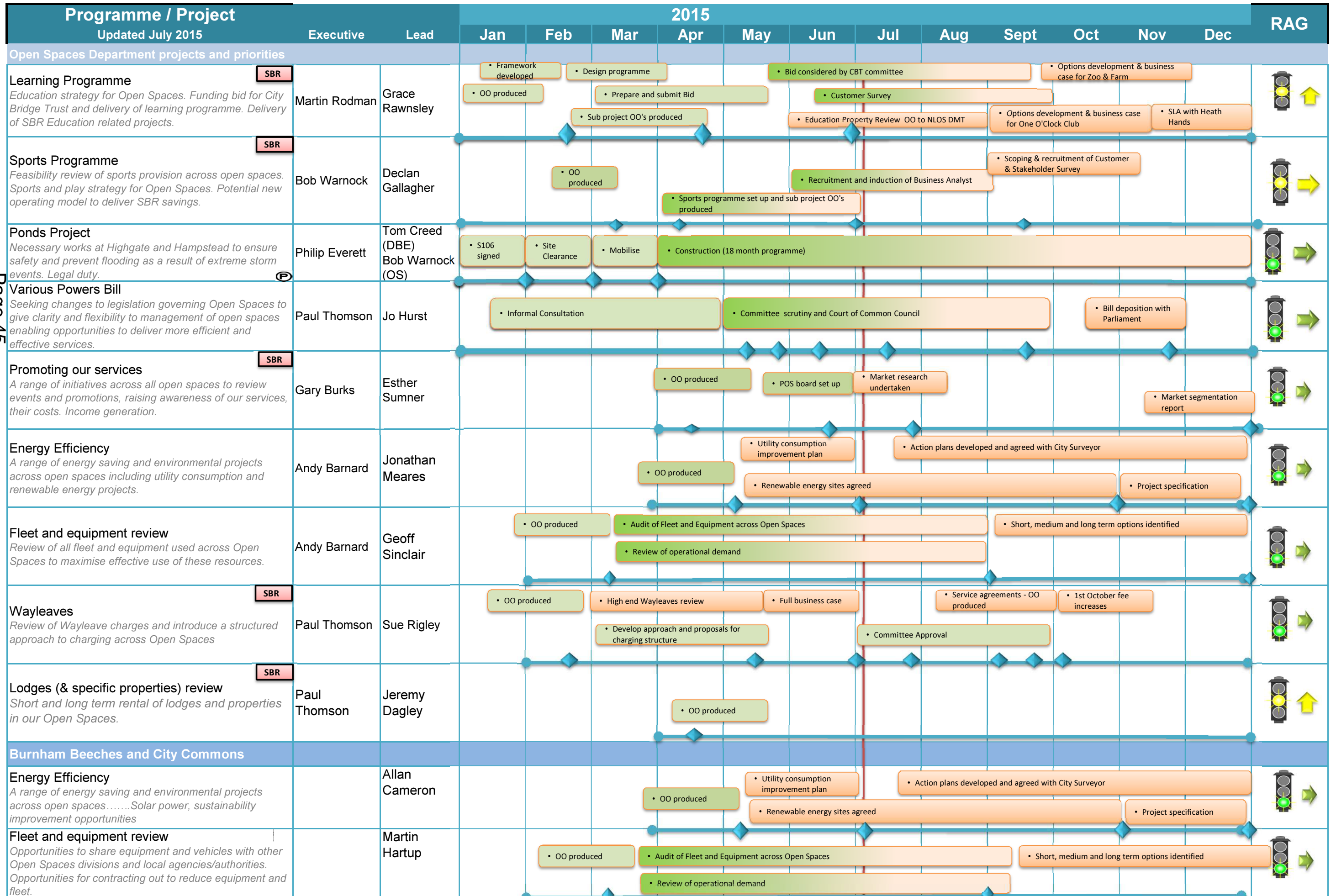
Open Spaces Roadmap



- 🚦 Project is in a critical state
- 🚦 Project is slipping
- 🚦 Project is on track
- 🚦 Partnership project
- 🚦 Technology led project
- 🚦 Linked to SBR projects and savings
- ➡ Milestones
- ➡ Project is in a controlled state
- ➡ Positive direction of travel
- ➡ Negative direction of travel

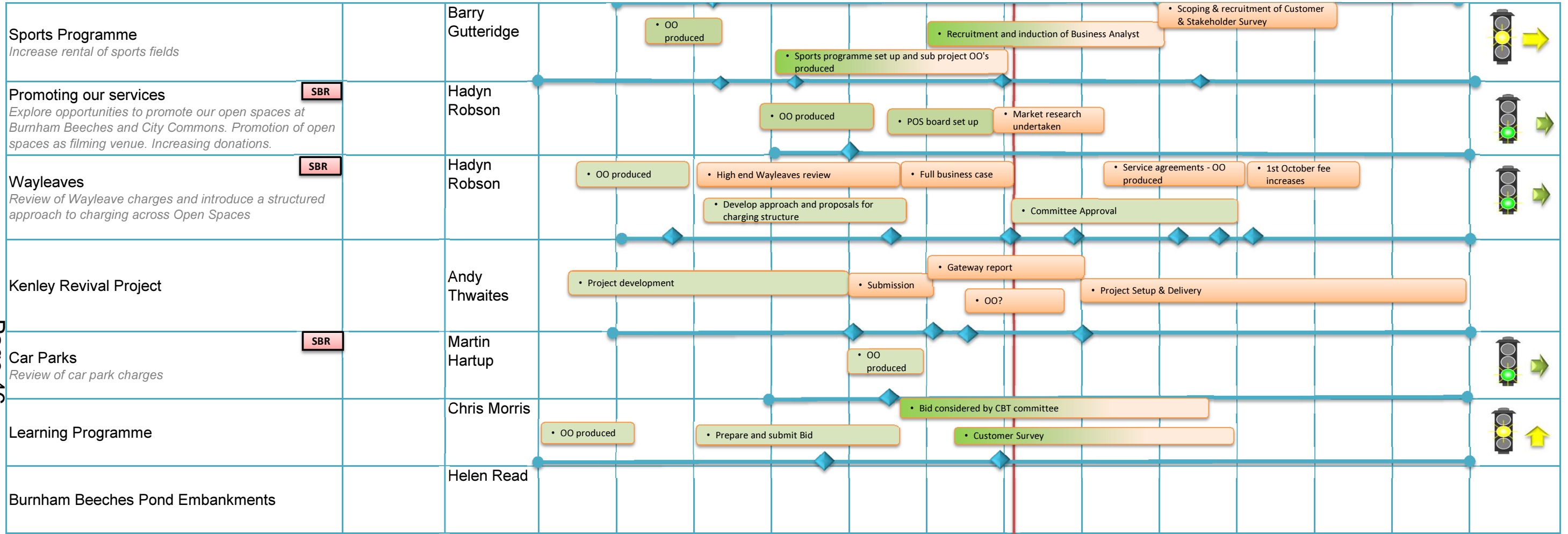
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Burnham Beeches and City Commons Roadmap



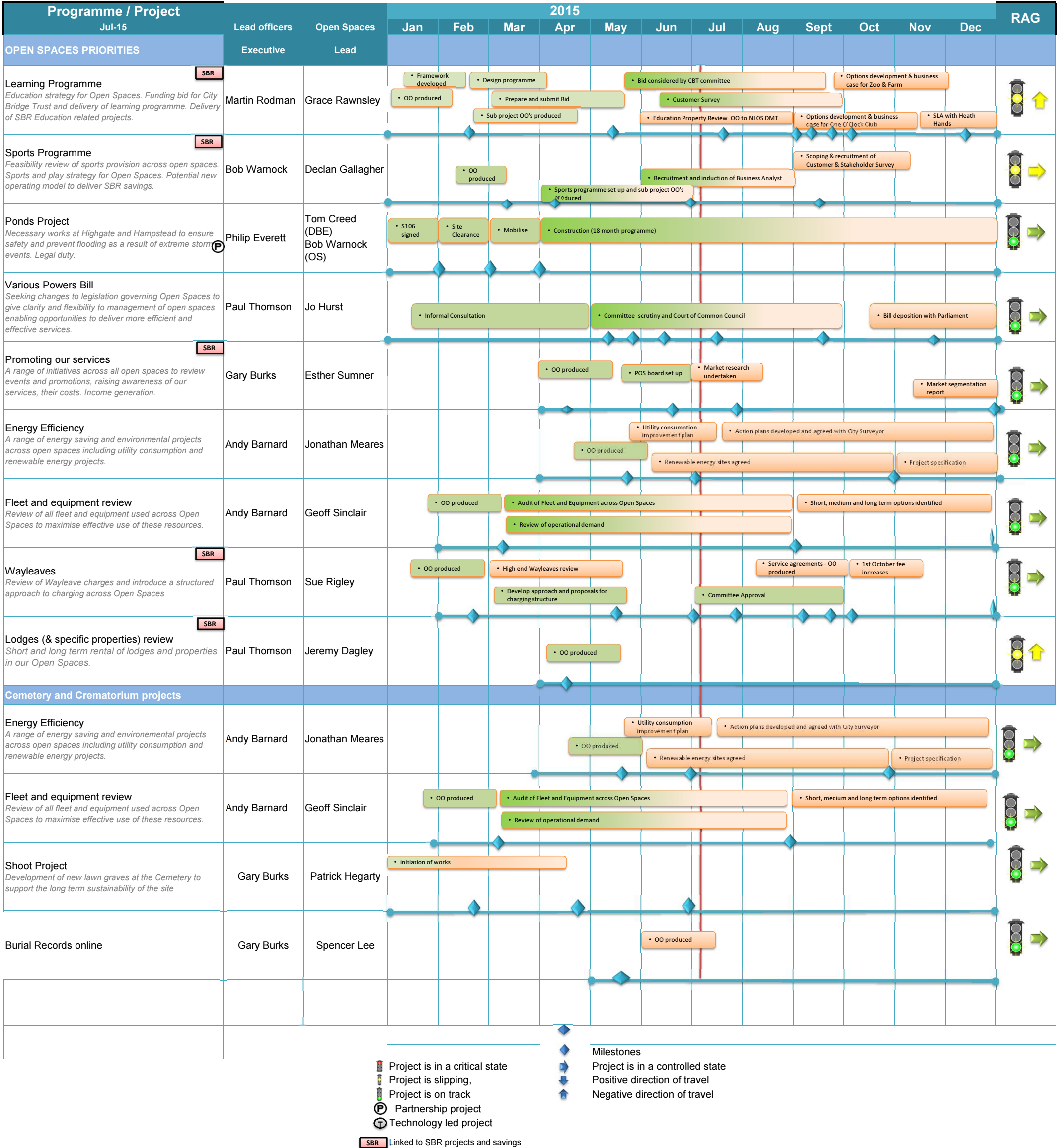
Burnham Beeches and City Commons Roadmap

Page 46



- Project Milestone
- Project is in a critical state
- Project is slipping
- Project is on track
- Project is in a controlled state
- Positive direction of travel
- Negative direction of travel
- Project Closed

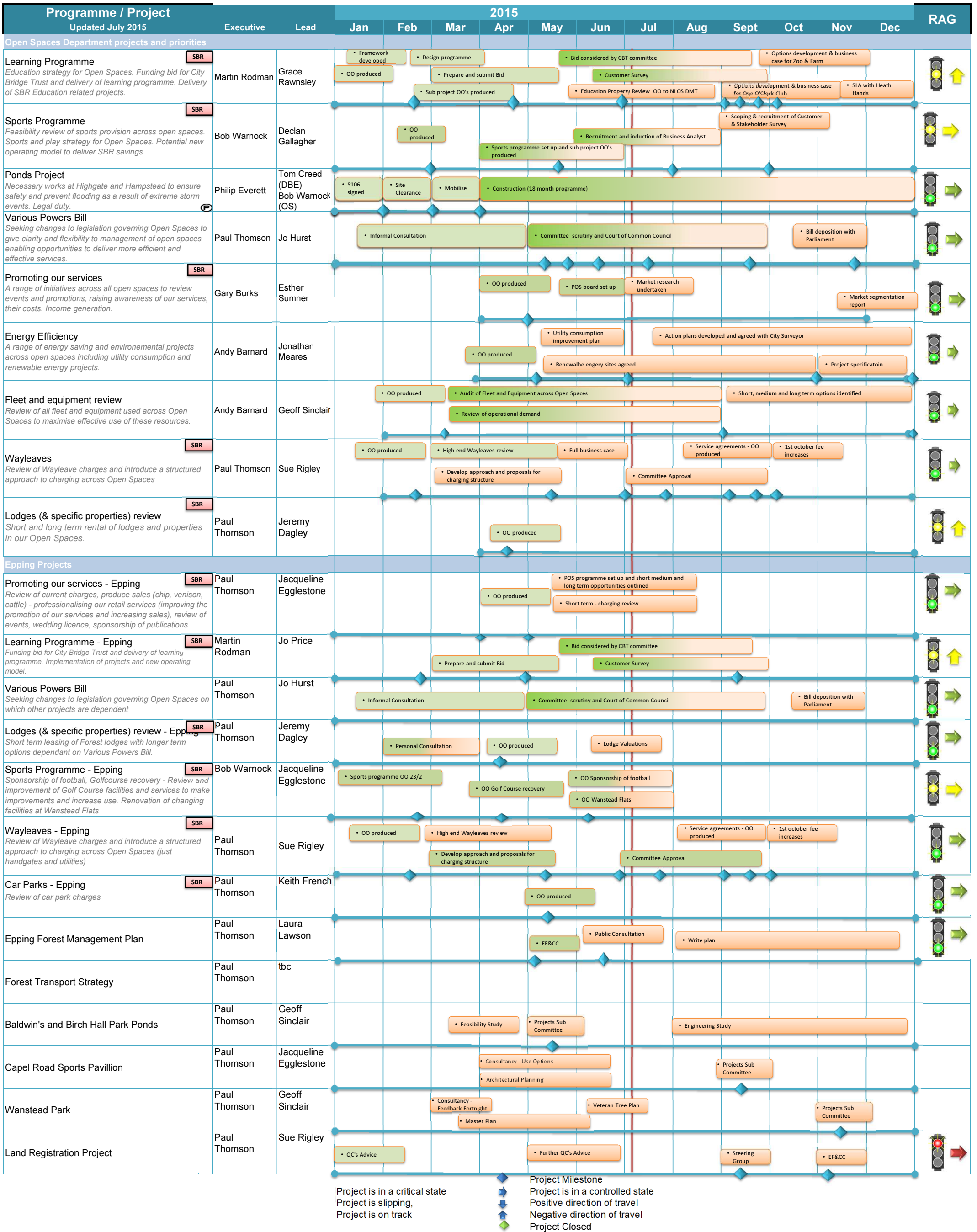
Cemetery and Crematorium Roadmap



- Project is in a critical state
- Project is slipping,
- Project is on track
- Partnership project
- Technology led project
- Linked to SBR projects and savings
- Milestones
- Project is in a controlled state
- Positive direction of travel
- Negative direction of travel

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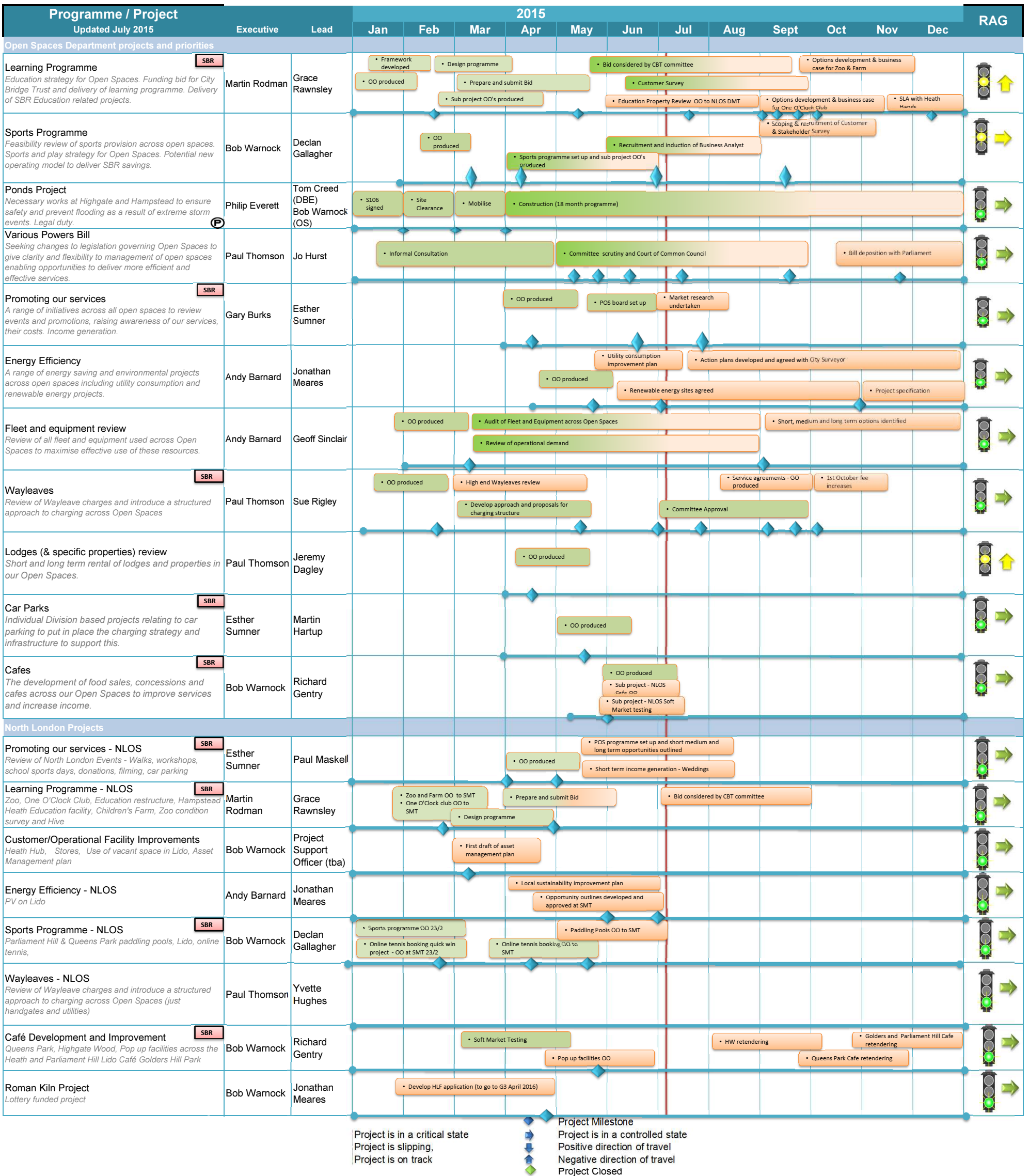
Epping Forest Roadmap



Project Milestone
 Project is in a critical state
 Project is slipping,
 Project is on track
 Positive direction of travel
 Negative direction of travel
 Project Closed

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NLOS Roadmap



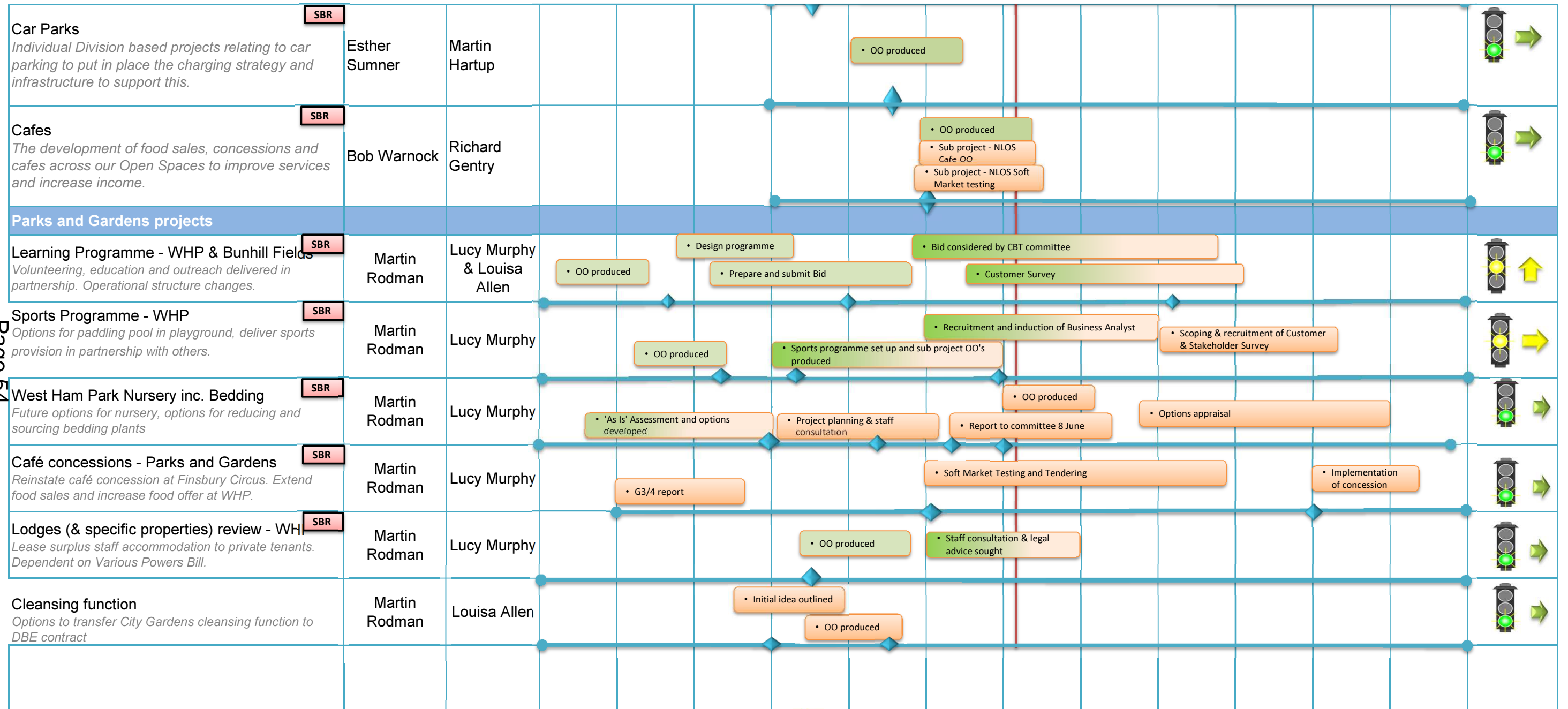
Project Milestone
 Project is in a critical state
 Project is slipping,
 Project is on track
 Project is in a controlled state
 Positive direction of travel
 Negative direction of travel
 Project Closed

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City Gardens Roadmap

Programme / Project Updated July 2015			2015												RAG	
Executive	Lead	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec			
Open Spaces Department projects and priorities																
SBR	Martin Rodman	Grace Rawnsley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework developed OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design programme Sub project OO's produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and submit Bid 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bid considered by CBT committee Customer Survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education Property Review OO to NLOS DMT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options development & business case for Zoo & Farm Options development & business case for One O'Clock Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SLA with Heath Hands 						
SBR	Bob Warnock	Declan Gallagher		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports programme set up and sub project OO's produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and induction of Business Analyst 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping & recruitment of Customer & Stakeholder Survey 						
	Philip Everett	Tom Creed (DBE) Bob Warnock (OS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> S106 signed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site Clearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction (18 month programme) 										
	Paul Thomson	Jo Hurst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal Consultation 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee scrutiny and Court of Common Council 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill deposition with Parliament 						
SBR	Gary Burks	Esther Sumner			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> POS board set up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market research undertaken 									
	Andy Barnard	Jonathan Meares			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utility consumption improvement plan Renewable energy sites agreed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plans developed and agreed with City Surveyor 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project specification 					
	Andy Barnard	Geoff Sinclair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit of Fleet and Equipment across Open Spaces Review of operational demand 						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short, medium and long term options identified 						
SBR	Paul Thomson	Sue Rigley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High end Wayleaves review Develop approach and proposals for charging structure 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee Approval 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service agreements - OO produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st October fee increases 			
SBR	Paul Thomson	Jeremy Dagley			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OO produced 											

City Gardens Roadmap



- ◆ Project Milestone
- ◆ Project is in a critical state
- ◆ Project is slipping,
- ◆ Project is on track
- ◆ Project is in a controlled state
- ◆ Positive direction of travel
- ◆ Negative direction of travel
- ◆ Project Closed

Committee:	Date:
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject:	Public
Superintendent's update July 2015	
Report of:	For Information
Superintendent of Parks & Gardens	
Summary	
<p>This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since June 2015.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Note the report.	

Main Report

Budget

1. The City Gardens budget is in line with agreed budget profiles.

Personnel

2. A full complement of staff is in place.

Operational Activities

3. The last of the summer annual bedding schemes were planted out by the team at the end of June and are providing a good display despite the hot weather experienced recently.
4. As a result of one of the busiest winter/spring project work periods, the team have been catching up with general maintenance tasks across the City Gardens as well as preparing the gardens for judging from the London Gardens Society and London in Bloom.

Events

5. Open Squares Weekend 13/14 June.

The City Gardens team supported the event with a truly impressive array of activities available across the City's green spaces, ranging from walks, talks and visits to Fann Street wildlife garden, Sir John Cass primary school roof garden, Golden Lane baggers, the new Barbican Station pop-up garden and the Nigel Dunnett planting at Beech Gardens. There were five poets and an author of a recently published book talking about the Watts memorial, all of which contributed to making a diverse and entertaining range of events to cater for new and existing audiences. Nomura Bank and the Eversheds roof gardens received over 1,800 visitors each and the Friends of City Gardens raised an impressive £750 from selling teas and coffees and plant donations, almost double last year's fundraising amount. As a whole the City received approximately 5,000 visitors, double from last year. The Open Squares organisers estimate that the City received approximately half the visitors across London for the whole weekend.

6. London in Bloom judges visited the City on 8th and 14th July. Staff arranged two comprehensive tours covering many aspects of the City Gardens service including a couple of the recently re landscaped gardens, Beech Gardens and St Olave churchyard as well as the new planned green space at Aldgate. The judges were introduced to a number of the gardening team, volunteers, residents, the Friends of City Gardens, City Guides and partners.

7. City in Bloom judging is under way organised by the Friends of City Gardens who have received 110 applications, including applications from businesses, schools, residents, estates and community groups. A celebration event will be held on 14th September.

Property Matters

8. None to report

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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