

Committee(s) Barbican Estate Residents Consultation Committee Barbican Residential Committee	Dated: 25/03/2024 08/04/2024
Subject: Decisions taken under delegated authority or urgency powers	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	In main report
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	In main report
If so, how much?	In main report
What is the source of Funding?	In main report
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	In main report
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Julie Mayer - Town Clerk's Department	

Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order Nos. 41(a) and 41(b).

Main Report

(1) REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGETS - LATEST APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24 AND ORIGINAL 2024/25 - EXCLUDING DWELLINGS SERVICE CHARGE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

(2) SERVICE CHARGE EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ACCOUNT – LATEST APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24 AND ORIGINAL BUDGET 2024/25 BACKGROUND

At the Meeting of the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC) on 22nd January 2024, Members received the above two budget reports for approval.

Members (of the BRC) had also received the draft minutes of a Special Meeting of the Barbican Residents Consultation Committee (RCC) held on 17th January 2024, together with further information requested in respect of variances to the service charges. The RCC had expressed concerns in that the revised budget appeared to present an overspend, which would have implications for leaseholders, and that this should have been flagged earlier in the process. Members (of the BRC) therefore agreed to defer taking a decision.

Given the time pressures associated with the approval of the budget reports, Members agreed to consider the two reports at an urgent, informal meeting of the BRC, which RCC Members would be invited to observe. Members asked for the reports to be more transparent in terms of miscellaneous and support services.

To facilitate a decision being made thereafter, the Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in formal consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the BRC, who would in turn exercise their own discretion and courtesy to consult the RCC.

At the informal meeting of the BRC on 29th January 2024, the Chair of the RCC was invited to address the Committee and stressed that, if the timescale had not been so tight in terms of the City of London Corporation's budget setting timetable, there might have been a push back on some items. However, residents were prepared to be pragmatic, and recommended that the reports be agreed, on the understanding that the wider Barbican Estate Office Transformation Programme, the planned audits and approach to service charges are taken forward.

Action Taken

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the BRC, and having noted the comments from the Informal Meeting of the BRC on 29 January 2024, agreed to:

REVENUE & CAPITAL BUDGETS - LATEST APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24 AND ORIGINAL 2024/25 - EXCLUDING DWELLINGS SERVICE CHARGE INCOME & EXPENDITURE

1. Approve the provisional 2024/25 revenue budget for submission to the Finance Committee.
2. Approve the draft Capital Budget.
3. Authorise the Chamberlain to revise the revenue and capital budgets to allow for further implications arising from departmental re-organisations and other reviews including corporate projects.

SERVICE CHARGE EXPENDITURE & INCOME ACCOUNT – LATEST APPROVED BUDGET 2023/24 & ORIGINAL BUDGET 2024/25

4. Approve the provisional 2024/25 net £Nil revenue budget and its recommendation for submission to the Finance Committee.
5. Note the request of Members of the RCC that the City Corporation undertake a root and branch review of the way the Service charge budgets are compiled, justified, managed, monitored and presented, sufficient that RCC and BRC can make timely and insightful comments, appropriately challenge, generally ensure that they bear scrutiny and that they are more easily understandable.

Appendix - Notes taken at the Special Meeting of the RCC held on 29th January 2024