

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	7 July 2014
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2013/14 – Burnham Beeches, Stoke Common & City Commons	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces	For Information

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2013/14 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a better than budget position of £161,000 for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year as set out below.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces	1,603	1,534	(69)
City Surveyor	208	162	(46)
Recharges	418	372	(46)
Total	2,229	2,068	(161)

The Director's better than budget position of £69,000 (Local Risk) has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £232,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. It is proposed to carry forward £217,000 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.

Underspends in The City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme will be available to spend in subsequent years of the scheme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2013/14 and the consequential implications for the 2014/15 budget are noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2013/14

- The 2013/14 latest approved budget for the services overseen by your Committee received in November 2013 was £2.183m. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2014 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments the majority of which was to allow for an increase in Recharges and an increase in funds associated with Planning & Consultancy.

Revenue Outturn 2013/14

- Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2013/14 totalled £2.068m, an underspend of £161,000 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.

Summary Comparison of 2013/14 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget				
	Final Agreed Budget	Revenue Outturn	Variations Increase/ (Reduction)	Reason(s)
	£000	£000	£000	
Local Risk				
Burnham Beeches	461	459	(2)	
Stoke Common	19	14	(5)	
City Commons	1,123	1,061	(62)	3
Total Director of Open Spaces	1,603	1,534	(69)	
City Surveyor	77	57	(20)	
Additional Works Programme	131	105	(26)	
Total City Surveyor	208	162	(46)	
Total Local Risk	1,811	1,696	(115)	
Recharges				
Central Recharges	348	297	(51)	4
Recharges within funds	70	75	5	
Total Recharges	418	372	(46)	
NET EXPENDITURE	2,229	2,068	(161)	

Reasons for Significant Variations

3. The majority of the £62,000 underspend at City Commons within the Director of Open Spaces is due to an underspend of £24,000 in Rangers employee costs (Vacancies at West Wickham), an excess of £11,000 in income contributions the majority of which was a grant from SITA to restore a stand of small leaved lime (West Wickham), an £8,000 underspend in vehicle maintenance costs due to less breakdowns than anticipated (Ashted Common), and an underspend of £16,000 in minor improvements (delayed work re photovoltaic cells at Ashted Common). Part of the underspend was agreed to fund the over-wintering facility at Great Gregories, Epping Forest.
4. The majority of the £51,000 underspend in Central Recharges relate to Surveyor's Employee Recharges for West Wickham. Surveyor's Employee Recharges are allocated to the various areas of Epping Forest & Commons in proportion to works undertaken and less work was carried out at City Commons than anticipated.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2014/15

5. 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 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 Resources Allocation Sub Committee.
6. The Director's better than budget position of £69,000 (Local Risk) has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees which produce an overall better than budget position of £232,000 (Local Risk) of which £217,000 has been submitted for a carry forward as outlined below:
 - i) £44,000 towards refurbishment of St Brides, St Dunstan's in the East, & St Paul's Cathedral Garden.
 - ii) £89,000 (£60,000 vehicle purchase & £29,000 photovoltaic installation) at the Cemetery.
 - iii) £44,000 Great Gregories over-wintering facility at Epping Forest.
 - iv) £10,000 West Ham Park Nursery Business Plan.
 - v) £10,000 Feasibility Study – Parliament Hill.
 - vi) £20,000 New Signage – Hampstead Heath

7. The underspend in The City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme will be available to spend in subsequent years of the scheme.

Dr Peter Kane
Chamberlain

Sue Ireland
Director of Open Spaces

Contact:

Derek Cobbing
020 7332 3519

derek.cobbing@cityoflondon.gov.uk