

Committee(s)	Dated:
Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Committee	18 July 2016
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2015/16 – Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood and Queen's Park	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain & the Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Report author: Derek Cobbing, Chamberlain's Department	

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2015/16 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a better than budget position of £296,000 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	5,761	5,477	(284)
City Surveyor	1,520	1,609	89
Central Risk	(1,062)	(984)	78
Recharges	1,502	1,323	(179)
Total	7,721	7,425	(296)

The Director's better than budget position of £284,000 (Local Risk) is mainly due to a £222,000 underspend at Hampstead Heath, further detail can be found in paragraph 4a). This underspend has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £885,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. Requests to carry forward £191,000 of this underspend for projects at Hampstead Heath & Highgate Wood will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

The City Surveyor's worse than budget position of £89,000 is mainly due to a £105,000 overspend in the additional works programme which is partially off-set by a £16,000 underspend in the remaining Surveyor's Local Risk works, detailed reasons can be found in paragraph 4b).

The reduction of income (£78,000) in Central Risk is explained in paragraph 4c).

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2015/16 and the consequential implications for the 2016/17 budget are noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2015/16

1. The 2015/16 latest approved budget for Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park services overseen by your Committee received in November 2015 was £7.648M. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2016 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 2015/16

2. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2015/16 totalled £7.425M, an underspend of £296,000 compared with the final agreed budget.
3. 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.

Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood, and Queen's Park
Comparison of 2015/16 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget

	<i>Original Budget</i>	Final Agreed Budget	Revenue Outturn	Variation Increase/ (Decrease)	
	<i>£000</i>	£000	£000	£000	
LOCAL RISK					
Director of Open Spaces					Reason*
Hampstead Heath	4,783	4,805	4,583	(222)	
Hampstead STEM	49	43	43	0	
Queen's Park	540	540	506	(34)	
Highgate Wood	373	373	345	(28)	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	5,745	5,761	5,477	(284)	a)
City Surveyor					
City Surveyors Local Risk	250	449	433	(16)	
Additional Works Programme	1,812	1,071	1,176	105	
Total City Surveyor Local Risk	2,062	1,520	1,609	89	b)
TOTAL LOCAL RISK	7,807	7,281	7,086	(195)	
CENTRAL RISK					
Hampstead Heath	(1,108)	(1,073)	(995)	78	
Queen's Park	16	16	16	0	
Highgate Wood	(5)	(5)	(5)	0	
TOTAL CENTRAL RISK	(1,097)	(1,062)	(984)	78	c)
RECHARGES					
Insurance	98	128	106	(22)	
Support Services	483	677	565	(112)	
Legal	0	1	1	0	
Surveyor's Employee Recharge	215	224	235	11	
I. S. Recharge	109	265	271	6	
Recharges Within Fund (Directorate & Democratic Core)	238	201	140	(61)	
Recharges Across Fund (Structural Maintenance – Inspections)	0	6	5	(1)	
TOTAL RECHARGES	1,143	1,502	1,323	(179)	d)
OVERALL TOTAL	7,853	7,721	7,425	(296)	

*See paragraph 4

Reasons for Significant Variations

4. a) The Director of Open Spaces £284,000 better than budget position is mainly due to additional income generated at Hampstead Heath from facilities, weddings, filming and car parking charges. There were a number of vacant posts and projects which were not able to be completed due to the Ponds Project being a major focus for the site.

b) The City Surveyor's £89,000 worse than budget position is mainly due to an overspend on the completion of a 2012/13 additional works project.

c) The reduction of income of £78,000 in Central Risk is due to the budget for the maximum contribution to the running costs of Hampstead Heath from the Hampstead Heath Trust allowable under the transfer order being £1.185M. Income generated by the trust fund was £1.107M which leaves a shortfall of £78,000.

d) The £179,000 decrease in Recharges is mainly due to a reduction in Recharges to the Open Spaces Directorate (£51,000), this is because the learning programme at the Directorate was implemented later than anticipated. There was also a reduction in Support Services costs (£101,000) the majority of which was a reduction in Central Support within the Comptroller & City Solicitor where a reduced requirement was sought in respect of the Ponds Project, both the reductions are at Hampstead Heath.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2016/17

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. Overspends are carried forward in full and are met from the agreed 2015/16 budgets.
7. The Director's better than budget position of £284,000 (Local Risk) has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees which produce an overall better than budget position of £885,000 (Local Risk) of which £500,000 has been submitted for a carry forward.

Hampstead Heath and Highgate Wood have requested the following carry forwards:-

- £10,000 for a feasibility study to explore options for refurbishing the "Hive" building at Parliament Hill, to provide learning spaces and accommodation for the Learning Project Team and volunteers.

- £40,000 to complete the consultation of the sports review project and to fund the options appraisal (Hampstead Heath).
- £50,000 café improvement work in preparation for re-tendering exercise (Hampstead Heath).
- £60,000 for various consultations including the cafes, the Hampstead Heath Management Plan, and customer satisfaction surveys.
- £16,000 for replacement Pay & Display machines which have either been vandalised or have technical problems (Hampstead Heath).
- £15,000 electronic gate installation at Highgate Wood which needs to be installed for health & safety reasons.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Movement between Original 2015/16 and the final agreed Budget

Derek Cobbing
Senior Accountant

T: 020 7332 3519

E: derek.cobbing@cityoflondon.gov.uk