

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Open Spaces & City Gardens	10 Dec 2018
<b>Subject:</b> City Gardens Update	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> City Gardens Manager	<b>For Information</b>
<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces &amp; City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2018.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the report</li> </ul>	

## **Main Report**

### **Finance**

1. At the point of writing the budgets for both City Gardens and Bunhill Fields are on target to deliver a balanced budget for this financial year. There is increasing pressure on the budgets in future years as a result of budget reductions, a predicted reduction in the availability of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy, against the background of a significant rise in the number of people using our gardens.

### **Personnel**

2. Since July there has been no changes in personnel. There has been a slight rise in sickness absence. We will be introducing daily warm up sessions for all gardeners to try to reduce absence due to muscular skeletal problems.

### **Operational Activities**

3. The exceptionally hot and dry summer proved to be challenging for the City Gardens Team, with much of our time spent watering and collecting litter. Despite this we kept the gardens well managed and were visited by RHS judges for London and Britain in Bloom at the peak of the heatwave, who were very impressed by the quality of our spaces. See paragraphs 21 & 22.
4. The tree work contract that was entered into in 2018 is being terminated due to poor performance. A new term contract that will service City Gardens, West

Ham Park and the Cemetery and Crematorium will be advertised in January and we are in the process of securing interim provision through the procurement process.

5. City Gardens were successful in securing £29,000 in September from the Corporate Transformations Fund. This money will be used to provide all the Gardeners with mobile devices to improve communications and to improve processes that are currently paper based and inefficient.

### **Pets and Diseases**

6. **Box Disease:** With the ongoing issue of Box (*Buxus*) blight which has led to the death of many hedges throughout the City, City Gardens are starting an extensive replacement programme. Due to the significant cost that this is being funded from local risk, the programme will take several years to complete. Yew (*Taxus*) is the most obvious and common choice, however we are exploring alternatives to increase species diversity and increase resistance against plant-specific diseases.
7. **Vine Weevil:** Both the larvae and adult beetles are an increasing problem and have spread across the entire City. We have developed a treatment programme that requires applications at certain times of the year. The aim is to control the problem, rather than eradication, which is not a realistic expectation.

### **Break-ins at Depot**

8. Following the break-ins at the depot that were reported to Committee in July, new CCTV and security bollards have been installed, since which there have been no more attempted break-ins.

### **Rough Sleeping**

9. The rough sleepers at St Botolph without Bishopsgate were served Community Protection Orders by the City of London Police as a result of associated anti-social behaviour issues. They have been prohibited committing any anti-social behaviour in any City garden. We have had no problems with tents within the gardens since.

### **Project Updates**

10. **Barbican Planters:** Open Spaces have been commissioned to install four new bespoke planters on Willoughby Podium. This took place 21st November 2018.
11. **St Alphage's Garden:** Currently under construction, it is anticipated that planting will take place in February 2019, following a major refurbishment of the site.
12. **Monument Street/Lower Thames Street:** An enhancement of the area which has delivered a large raised planter and a new street tree and a water supply. City Gardens are due to fill the planter and carry out planting in December.

13. **Stonecutter Street – Goldman Sachs development:** This project will deliver 13 new street trees, 17 multi-stemmed trees and several large raised planters. Part of this project is on Transport for London land, which City Gardens will implement and maintain for one year, after which time this area will be handed back to the developer. The City will be responsible for ten street trees, five multi-stemmed trees and three large raised planters. The estimated planting date is March 2019.
14. **60-70 St Mary Axe:** The design incorporates three raised planters with multi-stem trees, underplanting and automated irrigation. The installation date is anticipated to be early 2019.
15. **Artizan Street:** The former car park ramp has been transformed in to a sloping garden along with raised planters and screen planting to enhance the streetscape. Irrigation will be included, and the anticipated planting date is spring 2019.
16. **Senator House:** The garden, constructed by the developer's contractor under licence, is nearing completion; snagging works by the developer need to be carried out. The specimen trees are already in place and the City Gardens team will be completing the remainder of the planting in December.
17. **Greening Cheapside:** With an increase in City workers and tourists the three planting beds around the Sugar Building and the St Paul's tube station are causing pedestrian congestion. Funded by the Cheapside BID, a design is being developed by the Public Realm team within the Department of Built Environment. The new scheme will see a reduction in the overall amount of green infrastructure but will increase the height of the planters and include seating and trees. Bedding is likely to be lost in this location although City Gardens are looking at a combined planting scheme (herbaceous and permanent) to try and make the planters as highly visual and pleasing as possible. The anticipated delivery date is March 2019.
18. **Millennium Bridge planters:** Two large planters, installed as part of the Riverside improvements will be planted in the coming months. These will boast multi-stemmed trees and robust underplanting to complement that used outside the City of London School.

## **Planning**

19. A list of planning applications that have been received since the last Committee meeting can be found in Appendix 1.

## **Community, Volunteering and Events**

20. **St Michael Cornhill:** City Gardens are working with Friends of City Gardens, who have applied for funding, to improve the planting within the garden

following an extensive refurbishment to the Vicarage which has had a detrimental effect on the garden.

21. **RHS London in Bloom:** City of London achieved a Gold and overall category winner in the Town Category, and Postman's Park was awarded Gold and overall winner in the Churchyard category.
  22. **RHS Britain in Bloom –** The team achieved a Gold award in the Town category, being the only London entry to achieve that level.
- **Appendix 1** - Planning Application City Gardens Consultations July – November 2018
  - **Appendix 2** – City Gardens update Non-Public items

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## Appendix 1

### Planning Application Open Spaces Consultations July – November 2018

<b>Application number</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
17/01050/FULMAJ	Tenter House 45 Moorfields London EC2Y 9AE	Demolition of existing and construction of an 18-storey office building with significant areas of vertical planting incorporated in the façade at various levels, garden spaces on the roof terraces.
18/00451/FULEIA	London Bridge London EC4	Installation to illuminate the bridge in conjunction with the Illuminated River Project.
18/00769/NMA	Senator House 85 Queen Victoria Street London EC4V 4AB	Non-material amendment to planning permission 17/00690/FULL dated 16.01.18 to facilitate changes to the drainage design.
18/00764/PODC	52-54 Lime Street & 21-26 Leadenhall (Prudential House), 27 & 27A Leadenhall Street (Allianz Cornhill House) & 34-35 Leadenhall Street & 4-5 Billiter Street (Winterthur House) London, EC3	Submission of an Open Spaces Specification and Open Spaces Method Statement for a paved area of private land accessible to the public.
18/00951/PODC	Emperor House 35 Vine Street London EC3N 2PX	Public realm specification as part of the S106 proposals around the new building, including street trees and a planted raised bed.
18/00878/FULMAJ	Stonecutter Court 1 Stonecutter	A new building with roof terraces. Laying out of a replacement private open space at ground level with hard and soft landscaping including a green

	Street London EC4A 4TR	wall. Includes the loss of small trees currently in the courtyard and replacement tree planting.
18/00932/MDC	Stone House And Staple Hall Bishopsgate, Devonshire Row London, EC2	Proposed trees and planters in a courtyard with public access.
18/01030/MDC	6-8 Bishopsgate & 150 Leadenhall Street London EC3V 4QT	Details for protection of trees that are to be retained during the demolition, construction and operation of the site.
18/01050/LBC	Festival Gardens, Cannon Street London EC4	Relocation by the City of London, of a stone water trough to the footway, north west of Festival Gardens.
18/00597/FULMAJ	Inner Temple Garden & Car Park Inner Temple London EC4Y 7HL	Amended application including proposed planted screening around pavilion on the Inner Temple lawn and changes to the material of the pavilions to reduce visual impact.
18/01116/FULL	St Paul's Cathedral St Paul's Churchyard London EC4M 8AD	Provision of a metal modular temporary access ramp sitting on the paved area to the west side of the South Transept entrance of St Paul's Cathedral, replacing the current temporary metal modular access ramp to the North Transept.
18/01105/FULL	10 Lower Thames Street London EC3R 6EN	Application for a new cafe/restaurant/bar pavilion on the Riverside Walkway at Dark House Wharf with significant re-landscaping of the adjacent Walkway.
18/01020/FULMAJ	1 - 12 Long Lane London EC1A 9HF	Demolition and new building with garden roof terraces and green walls at upper levels.