

Committee(s)	Dated:
Epping Forest & Commons Committee	8 July 2019
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2018/19 – The Commons	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain & the Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Report author: Derek Cobbing – Chamberlains Department	

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2018/19 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a better than budget position of £303,000 for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year as set out below.

	Final Agreed Budget	Outturn	(Increase)/ Decrease
	£000	£000	£000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces			
<i>Expenditure</i>	(1,972)	(2,056)	(84)
<i>Income</i>	372	391	19
City Surveyor	(186)	(219)	(33)
Total Local Risk	(1,786)	(1,884)	(98)
Cyclical Works Programme	(705)	(342)	363
Central Risk	(49)	(28)	21
Recharges	(360)	(343)	17
Total	(2,900)	(2,597)	303

The Director of Open Spaces had a worse than budget position of £65,000 (Local Risk), this worse than budget position has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees which produces a City Cash overall worse than budget position of £83,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces excluding the learning programme. There were significant net variations within the Director of Open Spaces Local Risk and the Cyclical Works Programme, further detail can be found in paragraphs 4 and 5 respectively.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2018/19 is noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2018/19

1. The 2018/19 latest agreed budget for the services overseen by your Committee received in November 2018 was £2.884M. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2019 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 2018/19

2. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2018/19 totalled £2.597M, an underspend of £303,000 compared with the final agreed budget.
3. A summary comparison with the final agreed budget for the year is tabulated below. In the tables, income, increases in income and reductions in expenditure are shown as positive balances, whereas brackets are used to denote expenditure, increases in expenditure, or shortfalls in income. Reason(s) for any larger variances (greater than £50,000) are indexed in the table.

Comparison of 2018/19 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget

		Original Budget £000	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	(Increase) Decrease £000	Reason Paragraph
LOCAL RISK						
Director of Open Spaces						
Burnham Beeches						
	Expenditure	(618)	(681)	(709)	(28)	
	Income	148	182	188	6	
Stoke Common						
	Expenditure	(50)	(49)	(53)	(4)	
	Income	28	27	32	5	
City Commons						
	Expenditure	(1,188)	(1,242)	(1,294)	(52)	
	Income	125	163	171	8	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk						
	Expenditure	(1,856)	(1,972)	(2,056)	(84)	4
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk						
	Income	301	372	391	19	4
City Surveyor						
City Surveyors Local Risk						
		(145)	(186)	(219)	(33)	
Total City Surveyor Local Risk						
		(145)	(186)	(219)	(33)	
TOTAL LOCAL RISK						
		(1,700)	(1,786)	(1,884)	(98)	
Cyclical Works Programme						
		(981)	(705)	(342)	363	5
CENTRAL RISK						
Burnham Beeches						
		(18)	(33)	(18)	15	
City Commons						
		-	(16)	(10)	6	
TOTAL CENTRAL RISK						
		(18)	(49)	(28)	21	
RECHARGES						
Insurance						
		(19)	(15)	(19)	(4)	
Support Services						
		(158)	(202)	(191)	11	
Surveyor's Employee Recharge						
		(44)	(41)	(39)	2	
I.S. Recharge						
		(79)	(85)	(88)	(3)	
Recharges Within Fund (Directorate & Democratic Core)						
		(17)	(17)	(6)	11	
TOTAL RECHARGES						
		(317)	(360)	(343)	17	
OVERALL TOTAL						
		(3,016)	(2,900)	(2,597)	303	

Reasons for Significant Variations

- 4 The £84,000 increase in expenditure under the Director of Open Spaces is mainly due to a £29,000 additional grounds maintenance spend at Ashted Common due to an infestation of Oak Processionary Moth and their strategy of removing all known OPM nests, there was also an agreed (with the Director) overspend at Burnham Beeches of approximately £36,000 to fill the temporary hole left by absence of RPA grants for the year as we transfer to a new grants system. The remainder is due to Kenley tree safety works.
5. The City has the programme of cyclical maintenance works to maintain its operational properties in fair to good condition. This is delivered in a number of overlapping three-year programmes of works, and is delivered by the relevant departments, principally the City Surveyor, the Barbican Centre, and the Director of Built Environment. In 2018/19 the overall agreed budget for these three-year programmes was £13.420m including £2.254m additional funding for City Fund projects, of which £6.851m was spent. The programme is monitored by the Corporate Asset Sub Committee and the carrying forward of the £6.569m unspent balance (i.e. £3,471m City Fund and £3.098m City's Cash/Guildhall) is subject to separate arrangements as each programme is phased over a number of years and generally not expected to be fully spent within year. In 2018/19 the final agreed budget for these programmes overseen by your Committee was £705,000, of which £342,000 was spent and the £363,000 unspent balance will be carried forward to 2019/20.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2019/20

6. 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.
7. Overspends are carried forward in full and are met from the agreed 2019/20 budgets.
8. The Director's worse than budget position of £65,000 (Local Risk) has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees which for City's Cash produce an overall worse than budget position of £83,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces excluding the learning programme. Consequently the Director of Open Spaces has no carry forward requests within City Cash.

Appendices

- Appendix A – Movement between the Original 2018/19 budget and the 2018/19 Final Agreed budget

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Movement between the 2018/19 Original Budget and the 2018/19 Final Agreed Budget

The Commons	£000
Original Net Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	(1,700)
Director of Open Spaces	
Contribution Pay	(7)
Holiday back pay	(2)
Apprentices	4
Distribution of Director's resources to fund one-off projects	(40)
City Surveyor	
Members approved at Corporate Asset Sub Committee on 11 th July 2018 a report from the City Surveyor requesting additional budget following the BRM asset verification exercise by SKANSKA – this resulted in additional funding for the Epping Forest and Commons Committee.	(41)
Final Agreed Net Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	(1,786)