

Committee(s)	Dated:
Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee	13 July 2021
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2020/21 – Open Spaces & City Gardens	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	n/a
What is the source of Funding?	n/a
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	n/a
Report of: The Chamberlain & the Director of Open Spaces	For Information
Report author: Beatrix Jako – Chamberlains Department	

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2020/21 with the final agreed budget for the year.

The Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee is the strategic overarching committee for all of the Open Spaces and whilst this report details the 2020/21 revenue outturn position for the Directorate, Learning Programme, City Gardens and Bunhill Fields, revenue outturn reports for all of the other Open Spaces (excluding Keat’s House, Monument, Cemetery & Crematorium, and Tower Bridge which are reported to their respective committees) are also provided in the appendices.

The Director of Open Spaces local risk budget was underspent by £5,000 with an overspend on all risks of £107,000. This is summarised in the table below.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces			
<i>Expenditure</i>	(2,915)	(2,866)	49
<i>Income</i>	628	584	(44)
Director of the Built Environment(City Gardens)	(137)	(124)	13

City Surveyor	(49)	(37)	12
Total Local Risk	(2,473)	(2,443)	30
Cyclical Works Programme	(96)	(132)	(36)
Central Risk	(51)	(45)	6
Recharges	612	505	(107)
Total	(2,008)	(2,115)	(107)

There were significant variations within the Director of Open Spaces and Recharges, further detail on these variations can be found in paragraphs 4a), 4b) and 4c) respectively.

The Director of Open Spaces had a favourable budget position of £5,000 (Local Risk), this Outturn position has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces across all Open Spaces a City's Cash overall favourable budget position of £83,000 (Local Risk), and a favourable overall budget Local Risk position of £1.249m for City Fund (the majority of which is an increase in income generated at the Cemetery & Crematorium).

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2020/21 is noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2020/21

1. The 2020/21 latest agreed budget for the services overseen by your Committee received in February 2021 was £1.994m. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2021 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments. There was an overall increase of £14,000 in approved adjustments which consist of a £25,000 increase in Local Risk expenditure (of which £13,000 are increases to the centrally funded apprentices budget and £12,000 are for additional payments made to staff regarding additional work in relation to COVID-19), a £1,000 increase to the Supplementary Revenue Project budget, and a £12,000 reduction in Recharges. Movement of the original Local Risk budget to the final agreed budget is provided in Appendix A.

Revenue Outturn 2020/21

2. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2020/21 totalled £2.115m, an unfavourable budget variance of £107,000 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.

City Gardens, Bunhill Fields & The Open Spaces
Directorate
Comparison of 2020/21 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed
Budget

		Original Budget £000	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	(Increase) Decrease £000	Reason*
LOCAL RISK						
Director of Open Spaces						
City Gardens	Expenditure	(1,691)	(1,727)	(1,788)	(61)	4a)
	Income	580	580	577	(3)	
Bunhill Fields	Expenditure	(116)	(119)	(120)	(1)	
	Income	-	-	-	-	
Directorate	Expenditure	(1,024)	(709)	(622)	87	4b)
	Income	-	-	-	-	
Learning Programme	Expenditure	(443)	(360)	(336)	24	
	Income	48	48	7	(41)	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	Expenditure	(3,274)	(2,915)	(2,866)	49	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	Income	628	628	584	(44)	
Director of the Built Environment (City Gardens)		(137)	(137)	(124)	13	
City Surveyors Local Risk		(44)	(49)	(37)	12	
TOTAL LOCAL RISK		(2,827)	(2,473)	(2,443)	30	
Cyclical works Programme		(334)	(96)	(132)	(36)	
CENTRAL RISK						
City Gardens		-	(4)	(1)	3	
Bunhill Fields		-	(1)	(1)	-	
Directorate		-	(46)	(43)	3	
Learning Programme		-	-	-	-	
TOTAL CENTRAL RISK		-	(51)	(45)	6	
RECHARGES						
Insurance		(17)	(17)	(18)	(1)	
Admin Buildings		(94)	(94)	(88)	6	
Support Services		(281)	(281)	(439)	(158)	
Surveyor's Employee Recharge		(64)	(64)	(63)	1	
I.S. Recharge		(97)	(97)	(130)	(33)	
Film Liaison Staff Costs		-	(11)	(11)	-	
Capital Charges		-	(26)	(27)	(1)	
Recharges Within Fund (Directorate, Democratic Core, & Learning)		1,120	889	988	99	

Recharges Across Fund (Directorate
Recharges)

TOTAL RECHARGES

416	313	293	(20)
983	612	505	(107)

4c)

OVERALL TOTAL

(2,178)	(2,008)	(2,115)	(107)
----------------	----------------	----------------	--------------

Reasons for Significant Variations

4. a) The £61,000 adverse variance within expenditure for City Gardens is partly due to a £15,000 additional transport related spend due to the short length of ULEZ complaint vehicles leases and a higher than anticipated spend for servicing. There was also a £46,000 overspend on equipment, furniture and materials due to the cost of replacement of essential machinery, plants for projects, higher than anticipated irrigation costs due to aging equipment and increased spend relating to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff due to COVID-19.
- b) The £87,000 better than budget position for the Directorate within Local Risk is partly due to an underspend in the Directorate with regard to Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) costs. The Directorate holds the department's budget for OPM. The department is working with the Forestry Commission on a targeted approach to OPM nest removal and spraying and as such there was less OPM related activity. In addition the Directors resources were targeted to help balance other budget pressures across the Department and this included postponing planned project expenditure.
- c) The £107,000 variation in Recharges is mainly due to an increase in expenditure associated with the level of support services provided during the year (£158,000), and an overall increase in incoming recharges (£99,000) to the Directorate and the Learning Programme where costs associated with these areas are recharged out to other Open Spaces.
- d) The Department's additional costs associated with Covid-19 relating to this Committee totalled £8,142 in 2020/21.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2021/22

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 2021/22 budgets.
7. The Director's favourable budget position of £5,000 (Local Risk) has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees which for City's Cash produce an overall favourable budget position of £83,000 (Local Risk) and for City Fund an overall favourable budget position of £1.749m

(Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. There were no carry forward requests submitted by the Director of Open Spaces within City Cash and City Fund which relate to this committee.

Strategic Implications

8. None

Financial Implications

9. All financial implications contained within the report.

Resource Implications

10. None.

Legal Implications

11. None.

Risk Implications

12. None.

Equalities Implications

13. None.

Climate Implications

14. None.

Security Implications

15. None

Public sector equality duty

16. Our fees and charges are regularly benchmarked with neighbouring / competing facilities, but we will continue to informally assess any negative impact on protected characteristic groups.

Conclusion

17. This report presents the revenue outturn position for 2020/21 for Members to consider

Appendices

- Appendix A - Movement between the Original 2020/21 Budget and the Final 2020/21 Agreed Budget
- Appendix B - Outturn Report 2020/21 (Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee)
- Appendix C - Outturn Report 2020/21 (Epping Forest & Commons Committee)
- Appendix D - Outturn Report 2020/21 (West Ham Park Committee)

Beatrix Jako

Acting Senior Accountant

E: Beatrix.Jako@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Appendix A

Movement between the 2020/21 Original Budget and the 2020/21 Final Agreed Budget

Open Spaces and City Gardens	£000
Original Net Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces, City Surveyor, director of the Built Environment)	(2,827)
Director of Open Spaces	
Apprentices – centrally funded	(4)
Contribution pay	(6)
Resetting of departmental Budgets 2020/21 due to COVID-19 pandemic	128
Allocation from the Corporate COVID-19 fund to the Directorate	(65)
Allocation from the Directorate to fund COVID-19 related costs	65
Allocation from the Directorate to fund unsuccessful 2019/20 carry forward bids	190
Allocation from the Directorate to cover Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) costs	63
Additional payment to staff regarding work in relation to COVID-19	(12)
City Surveyor	
Planned & Reactive Works including Cleaning	(5)
Final Agreed Net Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	(2,473)