

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Ashtead Common Consultative Committee	30 January 2013
Subject: City Commons – Management Priorities for 2013/14	Public
Report of: The Superintendent of the City Commons	For Information
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report presents the management priorities for the City Commons Division that will guide the annual work programme during the period 01 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 inclusive.</p> <p>The priorities are laid out in a new format that results from a recent review of the business processes in City Commons and reflects the five aims of the business plans for the Open Spaces Department and the City Together Strategy.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>The management priorities, with associated projects, core duties and routine work activities will be funded by the existing local risk budgets for City Commons.</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the report. 	

Main Report

Background

1. The City Commons are managed through three charities: Ashtead Common (Charity Reg. No. 1051510); Coulsdon Commons (Charity Reg. No. 232988); and West Wickham Commons (Charity Reg. No. 232989).
2. Previously the annual work programme for City Commons Division has been guided by the business plan for the Open Spaces Department, which links to the City Together Strategy.
3. The organisational priorities contained therein were cascaded through one Divisional Plan to separate management plans and annual work programmes for each of the seven open spaces.

Current Position

4. Following a review of this charitable status, our business processes and the methods for reporting, the organisational priorities are now applied using a balanced scorecard to develop a single annual work programme.

5. The priorities link to other organisational business plans and balance our work programme through four modified aims: to provide an open space service; to protect and conserve open spaces; to manage our people; and to make connections with our stakeholders.
6. The priorities are presented as headlines from the annual work programme to the respective consultative committees for information. They represent priority or key projects and not core duties or routine work activities.
7. As part of a cultural change project arising from the business process review we also updated our vision for the City Commons Division: *Working together to care for our open spaces, now and for the future.*
8. The next step is to develop a meaningful business plan for City Commons.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

9. The balanced scorecard, management priorities and annual work programme better support the five themes of the City Together Strategy and reflects the charitable status of our open spaces.

Implications

10. The projects and tasks outlined in this report will be funded by the local risk budgets of the City Commons Division. The provision and maintenance of services and facilities is funded from City's Cash.
11. Management options for nature conservation will be funded by grant income from the Environmental Stewardship Scheme, whilst maintaining the land in good agricultural and environmental condition will be funded by the Single Payment Scheme. Both schemes require Cross Compliance standards and regulations to be applied to all our agricultural holding.
12. The annual work programme addresses soft landscaping issues and poses no direct implications for the City Surveyor's property maintenance, nor impacts on the revenue works programme.

Conclusion

13. This report presents the proposed management priorities for the City Commons Division for the period 2012 to 2013.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – City Commons Balanced Scorecard
- Appendix 2 –City Commons Management Priorities for period 2013/14

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