

Committee: Barbican Residential Committee	Dated: 27 January 2022
Subject: Report of Action Taken	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	Contributing to a flourishing society.
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Town Clerk	
Report author: Julie Mayer – Committee and Member Services	For Information

Summary

DELEGATED DECISION UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 41(b) - Uplift in Service Charge: Funding Proposal for 1 FTC Gardener post on the Barbican Estate.

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman, in accordance with Standing Order No. 41 (b) since the last meeting.

Background

At the Residents' Consultation Committee (RCC) on 27 September 2021, the Gardens Advisory Group (GAG), a Working Party of the RCC, made a request for a temporary uplift in the service charge for gardening services to be made permanent. The RCC endorsed this recommendation, with many favourable comments about the improvements seen over the past year. RCC Members felt that making this uplift permanent would ensure that standards are maintained.

When the recommendation was put the BRC at its last meeting, as the recommendation was for a permanent uplift, Members asked to see further supporting information. As the Committee was not due to meet again until January 2022, the Committee agreed that a final decision should be delegated to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and Deputy of the Committee, with all Members being included in the consultation and receiving the supporting information. All comments received from Members supported the proposal.

Financial implications

Funding for the proposal for 1 full time equivalent (FTE), at approximately £50,000 per annum, (plus City on-costs) is available from the Department of Open Spaces, in line with monitoring the Internal Service Level Agreement. The funding is a service chargeable item, and well below the statutory consultation limit with leaseholders. The cost of making this uplift permanent amounts to approximately £25 per flat per year.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

The proposals meet the objectives of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan by shaping outstanding environments and contributing to a flourishing society.

Action taken:

The Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and Members of the Barbican Residential Committee, approved :

- 1) an uplift in the service charge, of approximately £25 per flat, per annum, to allow the continued employment of an extra gardener to work in the private gardens of the Barbican Estate; and
- 2) instructed officers to review this annually, in consultation with the Residents' Consultation Committee

Recommendations

Members are asked to note the action taken since the last meeting of the Committee.