

Committee(s): Gresham (City Side) Committee – For decision Finance Committee – For decision	Dated: 25 October 2024 10 December 2024
Subject: Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Estimate 2025/26	Public
This proposal Delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
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 Community and Children’s Services	For Decision
Report author: Benjamin Chen Sverre, Chamberlains Department	

Summary

This report presents the annual submission of the revenue budgets overseen by your Committee. It seeks approval for the 2024/25 latest revenue budget and the proposed revenue budget for 2025/26, as shown at Appendices A3 - A5 and summarised in Table 1 below, for subsequent submission to the Finance Committee.

Divisions of Service (a service overview is provided at Appendix A1 & A2)	Original Budget 2024/25 £'000	Estimate 2025/26 £'000
Chamberlain		
- City Moiety: 50% share of Gresham Estate	315	314
- Discretionary Expenditure: Support to Gresham College	(768)	(758)
Sub Total	(453)	(444)
Director of Community and Children’s Services		
- Mandatory Expenditure: Maintaining the Almshouses	(68)	(238)
Sub Total	(68)	(238)
Total	(521)	(682)

Note: figures in brackets represent expenditure, increases in expenditure, or reductions in income.

There are no changes since the 2024/25 original budget was agreed.

The 2025/26 provisional revenue budget totals £682,000 a net increase of £161,000 compared with the original budget for 2024/25. This increase comprises additional funding recommended for the Gresham Almshouses programme of works offset by a reduction in the City Grant to Gresham College which reflects the 5 Year Funding Agreement approved in November 2019.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:-

- i) Note the final 2024/25 budget;
- ii) review the proposed 2025/26 revenue budget to ensure that it reflects the Committee's objectives and, approve the budget for submission to the Finance Committee; and
- iii) agree the request to RASC to approve extra funding of £170,000 for repair works for the almshouses in 25/26.

Main Report

Latest Revenue Budget for 2024/25

1. There is no change in year between the Committee's original and final budget for 2024/25. Table 2 summarises the position.

Table 2 – Latest Revenue Budgets 2024/25 by Chief Officer			
Divisions of Service (a service overview is provided at Appendix A1 & A2)	Original Budget 2024/25 £'000	Final Budget 2024/25 £'000	Movement Better/ (Worse) £'000
Chamberlain			
- City Moiety: 50% share of Gresham Estate	315	315	-
- Discretionary Expenditure: Support to Gresham College	(768)	(768)	-
Sub Total	(453)	(453)	-
Director of Community and Children's Services			
- Mandatory Expenditure: Maintaining the Almshouses	(68)	(68)	-
Sub Total	(68)	(68)	-
Total	(521)	(521)	-

Note: figures in brackets represent expenditure, increases in expenditure, or reductions in income.

Proposed Revenue Budget for 2025/26

2. The 2025/26 draft budget overseen by the Committee has been prepared in accordance with the overall budget policy guidelines as agreed by the Policy and Resources and Finance Committees.
3. The proposed budgets for 2024/25 and 2025/26 provide for the City's grant to the College as set out in the 'Funding Arrangement' agreed between the City, The Mercer's Company and the College for the 5-year period to 31 July 2025.
4. Overall, there is a net increase of £161,000 between the 2024/25 original budget and the provisional 2025/26 original budget as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 – Provisional Revenue Budget 2024/25 by Chief Officer			
Divisions of Service (a service overview is provided at Appendix A1 & A2)	Original Budget 2024/25 £'000	Estimate Budget 2025/26 £'000	Movement Better/ (Worse) £'000
Chamberlain			
- City Moiety: 50% share of Gresham Estate	315	314	(1)
- Discretionary Expenditure: Support to Gresham College	(768)	(758)	10
Sub Total	(453)	(444)	9
Director of Community and Children's Services			
- Mandatory Expenditure: Maintaining the Almshouses	(68)	(238)	(170)
Sub Total	(68)	(238)	(170)
Total	(521)	(682)	(161)

Note: figures in brackets represent expenditure, increases in expenditure, or reductions in income.

5. The net increase of £161,000 between the 2024/25 original and the 2025/26 proposed budget shown in Table 3 comprises an additional funding request £170,000 for the Gresham Almshouses programme of works offset by a decrease in the City Grant to Gresham College £10,000 which is based on the 5-year Funding Arrangement' agreed in November 2019.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

The proposed 24/25 and 25/26 budgets support the Corporate plan target outcomes of “Flourishing public spaces”, “Leading sustainable environment”, “Providing excellent services” and Diverse engaged communities.

Appendices

- A1-2: Brief Overview of the Service
- A3: Committee Summary
- A4: Chamberlain - Divisions of Service
- A5: Community & Children’s Services - Division of Service
- B1: Support Services

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GRESHAM COMMITTEE
SERVICE OVERVIEW

Sir Thomas Gresham (1519-1579) was a leading financier in Elizabethan England who founded the Royal Exchange. In his Will he left his home in Bishopsgate, Gresham House and the Royal Exchange to the City Corporation and the Worshipful Company of Mercers as well as establishing Gresham College to deliver free public lectures in the seven liberal arts. The College was funded from the income of the Royal Exchange and housed in Sir Thomas's former home. The selection of professors in Divinity, Astronomy, Music and Geometry were the responsibility of the City Corporation whilst the professors of Law, Physic and Rhetoric were the responsibility of the Mercers' Company. (In recent years the Mercers' Company has added a fourth subject to their responsibility – Business). Each of the seven professors was to be paid an annual sum stated in the Will. The City Corporation was also obliged, under the Will, to maintain Sir Thomas' eight almshouses and pay each almsfolk a yearly allowance.

The professors took up residence in Gresham House (renamed Gresham College) in 1597 and lectures "for gratuitous instruction of all who chose to come and attend" began the same year. The College eventually created a valuable library and became "a favourite resort of learned men" housing the work of the Royal Society and the research of figures such as Robert Hooke and Christopher Wren – also Gresham Professors.

In the Great Fire of 1666 the College was undamaged, but the Royal Exchange was destroyed. As a result, the Lord Mayor, the Mercers' Company, the City Courts and officers and the merchants from the Exchange all moved into Gresham College, and its scholarly activities were disrupted. The buildings became ruinous and in 1768 an Act of Parliament was passed which required the City Corporation and the Mercers' Company to sell the ground to the Crown for an annuity in perpetuity leaving the College homeless. The Act also provided for the lecturers' fees to be increased. The almshouses were subsequently relocated and are now at a site in Brixton.

Gresham lectures were subsequently delivered at the rebuilt Second Royal Exchange until that burnt down in 1838; as that was rebuilt, a purpose built home for the College was also created and opened at 89/91 Gresham Street in 1842. That property was substantially refurbished in 1984 and let for commercial purposes with the College eventually moving to Frobisher Crescent in the Barbican. In 1991 the Mercers' made available the former premises of the Mercers' School at Barnard's Inn to the College and this remains its home with lectures delivered mainly there or at the Museum of London.

Appendix A2

The Budgets are divided into three divisions of service. The first two shown are the responsibility of the Chamberlain and the third is the responsibility of the Director of Community and Children's Services:

1. City Moiety - This division shows the City Corporation's 50% share of the income from the Royal Exchange, 89/91 Gresham Street and the Gresham House annuity. The division also shows the City Corporation's share of the expenses of running the Estate.
2. Discretionary Expenditure - This division includes all other expenditure that does not form part of the City Moiety (item 1 above) or Mandatory expenses (item 3 below). It consists principally of the Grant to Gresham College, the non-mandatory element of the lecturers' fees and administrative costs.
3. Mandatory Expenses - This division shows the mandatory element of the City Corporation's four lecturers' fees (£400) and the cost of maintaining the almshouses and paying the almsfolk allowances.