

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Hampstead Heath, Highgate Wood & Queen's Park Committee	Dated: 16/07/2025
Subject: Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Revenue Outturn 2024/25	Public report: For Information
This proposal: delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes provides statutory duties	Providing Excellent Services Flourishing Public Spaces
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	£0
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Executive Director Environment Chamberlain
Report author:	Niranjan Shanmuganathan, Chamberlain's Department

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2024/25 with the budget for the year. In total, there was an unfavourable budget position of (£181,000) for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the budget for the year as set out below.

Summary Comparison of 2024/25 Revenue Outturn with Budget			
	Budget £'000	Revenue Outturn £'000	Variance Better/ (Worse) £'000
Direct Net Expenditure			
Executive Director Environment	(1,427)	(1,452)	(25)
The City Surveyor (including Cyclical Works Programme)	(498)	(672)	(174)
Total Direct Net Expenditure	(1,925)	(2,124)	(199)
Support Service Recharges	(482)	(464)	18
Overall Total	(2,407)	(2,588)	(181)

The Executive Director Environment has submitted a request to carry forward local risk underspendings within the Department, none of which relates to your Committee, and this will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

Main Report

Revenue Outturn for 2024/25

1. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2024/25 totalled (£2.588m), with an unfavourable budget variance of (£181,000) compared with the budget of (£2.407m).
2. A summary comparison with the 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. Only significant variances (generally those greater than £50,000) are commented on.

Table 1 - Summary Comparison of 2024/25 Revenue Outturn with Budget			
	Budget £'000	Revenue Outturn £'000	Variance Better/ (Worse) £'000
Local Risk			
Executive Director Environment	(1,429)	(1,429)	0
The City Surveyor	(107)	(155)	(48)
Total Local Risk	(1,536)	(1,584)	(48)
Central Risk	2	(23)	(25)
Cyclical Works Programme	(391)	(517)	(126)
Support Service Recharges	(482)	(464)	18
Overall Total	(2,407)	(2,588)	(181)

Reasons for Significant Variations

3. The overspend on budgets managed by the City Surveyor is mainly related to Cyclical Works Programme (CWP) expenditure being (£126,000) higher than expected due to the rephasing of projects, such as works at the Queens Park Bothy to carry out repairs and replacement to the fencing and boilers. The CWP does not form part of the City Surveyor's local risk budget, and any variances will be carried over to 2025/26. Under the governance of the programme, variances on budgets are adjusted for the life of the programme to allow for the completion of works which can span multiple financial years.
4. The City Surveyor's local risk budget variance of (£48,000) is due to increase in Breakdown, Repair & Maintenance spend of the Queens Park Paddling Pool Pump Room, Playground Public Toilet Block, Staff Yard and Tennis Hut.
5. Appendix A shows the movement from the 2024/25 opening budget to the closing budget against which the outturn has been compared.

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2025/26

6. The Executive Director Environment has a local risk underspend of Nil on the activities overseen by your Committee. Across the wider Environment Department the Executive Director Environment had net local risk underspendings totalling £239,000 on activities overseen by other Committees, after adjusting for unspent carry-forwards from 2023/24. The Executive Director Environment has requested that £200,000 out of their maximum eligible underspend of £239,000 be carried forward, none of which relates to activities overseen by your Committee.
7. Carry-forward requests will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – none.

Financial implications – none.

Resource implications – none.

Legal implications – none.

Risk implications – none.

Equalities implications – none.

Climate implications – none.

Security implications – none.

Appendices

- **Appendix A** – Highgate Wood and Queen's Park Analysis of Movement in 2024/25 Opening Budget to Closing Budget

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