

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Open Spaces and City Gardens Committee	27 July 2015
Subject: Revenue Outturn 2014/15- Open Spaces and City Gardens	Public
Report of: The Chamberlain and the Director of Open Spaces	For Information

Summary

This report compares the revenue outturn for the services overseen by your Committee in 2014/15 with the final agreed budget for the year. In total, there was a £121,000 better than budget position for the services overseen by your Committee compared with the final agreed budget for the year as set out below.

	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000
Local Risk			
Director of Open Spaces	1,592	1,547	(45)
Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces)	155	169	14
City Surveyor	182	74	(108)
Total Local Risk	1,929	1,790	(139)
Recharges	(100)	(82)	18
Total	1,829	1,708	(121)

The Director of Open Spaces better than budget position of £45,000 has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) across all Open Spaces. It is proposed to carry forward £437,000 of this underspend. These requests will be considered by the Chamberlain in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Resource Allocation Sub Committee.

The City Surveyors better than budget position of £108,000 is mainly due to one project being deferred at the Superintendent's request where funding was outstanding from an external source to fund an extended scheme.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this revenue outturn report for 2014/15 and the consequential implications for the 2015/16 budget be noted.

Main Report

Budget Position for 2014/15

1. The 2014/15 Latest Approved Budgets for the services overseen by your Committee were £1.818m and were received by your Committee in December 2014. This budget was endorsed by the Court of Common Council in March 2015 and subsequently updated for approved adjustments. Movement of the Original Local Risk Budget to the final agreed budget is provided in Appendix A.

Revenue Outturn 2014/15

2. Actual net expenditure for your Committee's services during 2014/15 totalled £1.708M, an underspend of £121,000 compared with the final agreed budget.
3. A summary comparison with the final agreed budget for the year is tabulated below. In the tables, figures in brackets indicate income or in hand balances, increases in income or decreases in expenditure.

Comparison of 2014/15 Revenue Outturn with Final Agreed Budget				
	Final Agreed Budget £000	Revenue Outturn £000	Increase/ (Decrease) £000	Reason*
Local Risk				
City Open Spaces	1,040	994	(46)	
Open Spaces Directorate	444	446	2	
Bunhill Fields	108	107	(1)	
Total Director of Open Spaces Local Risk	1,592	1,547	(45)	
Director of the Built Environment (City Open Spaces)	155	169	14	
City Surveyor's Local Risk	45	29	(16)	
Additional Works Programme	137	45	(92)	a
Total Local Risk	1,929	1,790	(139)	
Recharges				
Insurance	10	17	7	
I.S.Staff Recharges	364	358	(6)	
Surveyor's Recharges	61	61	0	
Central Support	221	292	71	b
Depreciation charges	29	29	0	
Admin Buildings	64	61	(3)	
Recharges Across Funds (Directorate)	(116)	(129)	(13)	
Recharges Within Fund (Directorate)	(632)	(662)	(30)	
Recharges Within Fund (Corporate & Democratic Core)	(101)	(109)	(8)	
Total Recharges	(100)	(82)	18	
NET EXPENDITURE	1,829	1,708	(121)	

* See paragraph 7

Local Risk Carry Forward to 2014/15

4. Chief Officers can 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 Resource Allocation Sub Committee.
5. Overspends are carried forward in full and are met from the agreed 2015/16 budgets.
6. The Director's better than budget position of £45,000 has been aggregated with budget variations on services overseen by other committees, which produces an overall better than budget position of £846,000 (Local Risk) of which £437,000 has been submitted for a carry forward as outlined below.
 - i) £35,000 for the Installation of heat exchange equipment to recycle waste heat at the Cemetery.
 - ii) The Directorate require £30,000 Specialist consultancy for user questionnaires and analysis which aligns with the Open Spaces Learning Programme as part of Service Based Review, £25,000 for a Business Analyst to undertake work in support of the Sports Programme (part of the SBR), £25,000 for the engagement of a specialist consultant to undertake an options appraisal to consider operating models and market potential for sports provision which is part of the Service Based Review sports programme, and a further £95,000 as a contribution to partly fill a shortfall in the budget which was previously met centrally and currently awaiting the outcome of a CBT funding application.
 - iii) £32,000 for the engagement of a temporary para-legal Wayleave Officer to update Oracle R12 and secure income as part of the Service Based Review is required by Epping Forest.
 - iv) Further to a business case £16,000 is required to replace a vehicle for the Hampstead Heath Constabulary, which was ordered during 2014/15 but not supplied before year end.
 - v) £75,000 is required by Epping Forest for a specialist Tractor/Crane designed to increase productivity of wood chipping and reduce health & safety liabilities from RSI and Hand/Arm vibration. The business case was approved in 2014/15 but the supply is still awaited. A further £40,000 is required for landlord responsibilities to improve wiring, flooring etc ahead of Additional Works Programme investment following a recommendation by Environmental Health (L.B.Waltham Forest).
 - vi) £24,000 is required by Queens Park for new play equipment partly funded by community donations.
 - vii) £40,000 is required by West Ham Park for an 'invest to save' project as part of the Service Based Review to undertake improvements to vacant lodges to bring them up to a suitable standard for letting. Combined income will off-set carry forward after 2 years and aligns with the Corporate Asset Realisation Programme.

7. Reasons for Significant Variations

a) The £92,000 underspend in the City Surveyor's Additional Works Programme is due to one project being deferred at the Superintendent's request where funding was outstanding from an external source to fund an extended scheme.

b) The £71,000 overspend in Central Support Charges is mainly due to the Town Clerks having a new method in apportioning their time which has resulted in an increased charge. The change in apportionment method has not been reflected in the allocation of their budgets in 2014/15 but will be reflected going forward in the 2015/16 revised estimates.

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Sue Ireland
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Appendix A

	£000
Original Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	1,852
Director of Open Spaces	
Employees - Increase in employees at revised estimate stage within the Directorate met from transfers from other open spaces to fund Tax & N.I. on tied accommodation	54
Supplies & Services - The majority of this increase is due to an agreed carry forward for refurbishment work at City Gardens (St Brides St, St Dunstan's in the East, and St Paul's Cathedral Gardens)	63
Director of the Built Environment	
Premises - Small increase in electricity budget due to increase usage	1
City Surveyor	
Reduction in the Additional Works Programme due to re-phasing as the 14/15 original includes the full value of the 14/15 programme which is then smoothed out for revised estimates	(41)
Final Agreed Local Risk Budget (Director of Open Spaces & City Surveyor)	1,929