

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Open Spaces & City Gardens	10/10/2016
<b>Subject:</b> Superintendent's update October 2016	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Superintendent of Parks & Gardens	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Louisa Allen	

### **Summary**

This report provides an update to Members of the Open Spaces & City Gardens Committee on management and operational activities across the City Gardens section since July 2016.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

### **Main Report**

#### **Budget**

1. The City Gardens budget is in line with agreed budget profiles for this time of year.

#### **Personnel**

2. A City Gardens apprentice has recently been recruited to a permanent position as an Assistant Gardener and is settling in well. The recruitment of a Support Services Officer has taken place and the new staff member will join the City Gardens team in mid October.

#### **Operational Activities**

3. Over the last three months, the City Gardens team and City Procurement have worked in partnership with the London Boroughs of Islington and Waltham Forest in preparing the specification to tender a new contract for arboricultural maintenance services. The contract, to begin in July 2017, will be a framework contract for five years with an option to extend. The specification is being developed in collaboration with a number of Open Spaces teams. By buying together and in bulk, there will be cost savings and

evidence of achieving value for money. The shared specifications will also incorporate the required sustainability standards and product quality.

4. The tender will be carried out in accordance with EU and UK procurement regulations in a fair and transparent manner and the contract will be awarded following further scrutiny by the Land Management Category Board chaired by the Director of Open Spaces.

## **Community, Volunteering, Outreach and Events**

### **5. City, London and Britain in Bloom Campaigns**

On the 21st September, officers attended the London in Bloom finalist award celebrations. The City won an overall Gold for the Town category.

The full list of accolades is set out below:

#### *Town Category*

City of London      Gold

#### *Small Park Category*

Beech Gardens, the Barbican Estate      Gold  
Christchurch Greyfriars Church Garden      Gold

#### *Churchyard Category*

St Olave, Hart Street Churchyard      Gold & Category Winner

#### *Discretionary Awards*

The London in Bloom Meadows Award - Beech Gardens, the Barbican Estate (Award criteria based on sustainability, choice of planting, quality and maintenance)

#### *It's Your Neighbourhood*

We are also delighted that Friends of City Gardens achieved Level 5 'Outstanding', the highest award available, in the community based awards, It's Your Neighbourhood.

Results for Britain in Bloom will be announced at the award ceremony taking place in Birmingham on Friday 14th October

#### *City in Bloom*

On Monday 12th September over 100 guests were welcomed to the City Centre and the Roman Amphitheatre in the Guildhall for the City in Bloom Award Ceremony, sponsored by J. B Riney & Co. Ltd. organised by Friends of City Gardens and supported by the City Gardens team. City in Bloom is an annual campaign that recognises the work of community groups, businesses

and residents in making the Square Mile a greener place to live, work and visit. Over 130 entries were received across nine different categories, from window boxes and hanging baskets to roof gardens, terraces and green roofs. Entries were judged by 20 volunteer judges using criteria including horticultural excellence, site suitability and biodiversity and sustainability, with those shortlisted invited to the award ceremony. Both entries and individuals were awarded one of a total of 26 awards recognising the outstanding contribution to areas, including food growing, community engagement and commercial planting. Best in Show was awarded to Middle Temple for their vegetable garden.

6. Festival Gardens hosted a very successful open air film screening on 18<sup>th</sup> August, organised by Nomad Cinema and sponsored by both Brookfield Property Partners and Cheapside Business District. The event sold out and we have received very positive feedback from the sponsors, organisers and members of the audience.
7. The Cheapside Business District have kindly agreed to sponsor 10,000 bulbs to be planted alongside our spring bedding for the Cheapside area.
8. *The Christmas tree lighting event*  
The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place on 6th December at 4pm, the Lord Mayor will be in attendance and the St Paul's Cathedral School Bread Street choir will be singing at the event. Following the event refreshments will be served at the St Paul's Cathedral School.

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