

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Downs Committee

12 September 2011

Report of: Director of Corporate Services

Title: Finance Report 2011/12

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Tony Whitlock

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RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note the estimated outturn and potential use of reserves for 2011/12

Summary

Appendix A presents the estimated financial outturn position. Currently there is a small projected underspend of £8,140. This is before any potential transfer of expenditure to reserves.

Also excluded from this is the balance of the writeback of an outstanding debt due from Tony Hopkins Entertainment in respect of the site fee for use of the Downs in 2009. Events officers have worked with Tony Hopkins to accelerate repayments to ensure the debt is cleared by the end of August. The current balance outstanding is £4,000

The significant issues in the report are:

There is a small projected underspend, prior to use of reserves of £8,140
Current expenditure that could be charged to reserves is £20,260
Tony Hopkins Entertainment has an outstanding debt of £4,000.
Total reserves as at 31 March 2011 stand at £156,908

Policy

1. The Downs budget was prepared in line with Council guidelines and approved by Council on 22 February 2011.

Consultation

2. **Internal**
Robert Westlake – Downs Ranger
3. **External**
Not applicable

Context

Appendix A details the budget for the year, actual expenditure to the end of July and an estimated outturn position for 2011/12. An underspend of £8,140 is estimated for the end of the year.

There are a number of projected variations from the original budget, these include salary savings of £11,000 due in the main to the fact that existing staff are looking after the goat herd. There are also savings in NNDR and Legal Services charges. Unbudgeted costs include the contribution to the Seasonal Education Officer which could be met from reserves if there are other budget pressures during the year.

There is an outstanding debt of £4,000 due from Tony Hopkins Entertainment in respect of the site fee for use of the Downs in 2009. Because of the age of the debt (originally £16,500) this has been written back to the Downs revenue account. The debt was previously held within the City Council's central debtors system. Tony Hopkins has been making modest repayments, however the events team have been working to significantly improve the situation.

Currently charged to revenue are a number of items for which funding from the Downs reserve has been agreed (see table below.) The total costs to date included in revenue are £20,260.

Project	Approval Date	Budget (£)	Exp to Date (£)
Install power supply to two ice cream locations	5 July 2010	6,000	Pending Charge – work 50% complete
Downs 150 Celebration	5 July 2010	20,142 (balance)	10,386
Seasonal Education Officer	31 March 2011	9,874	9,874
Talking Telescopes [Pending]	5 July 2010	9,000	Pending

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Proposal

4. That the report is noted

Other Options Considered

5. Not applicable

Risk Assessment

6. Not applicable

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and

- promote understanding.

- 8b) The Downs budget is part of the total precept forming part of the Council's overall budget for 2011/12. The Council's budget underwent a full equalities impact assessment.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

The Clifton and Durdham Downs (Bristol) Act 1861 provides that the Downs should remain as a place for the public resort and recreation of the citizens and inhabitants of Bristol, and that a committee should be appointed to manage them. The recommendation contained in this report is within the powers conferred by this statute.

Financial

(a) Revenue

As set out in the report

(b) Capital

None

(Financial advice provided by Tony Whitlock, Principal Accountant)

Land

Not applicable

Personnel

Not applicable

Appendices:

Appendix A – Estimated outturn position as at 31 March 2012

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Final accounts and budget working papers held in Corporate Finance.

DOWNS - BUDGET 2011/12

	Original 2011/12 Budget £	Actual to end of July £	Projection £	Variation from Budget £
EMPLOYEES				
Basic	172,180	53,552	157,000	-15,180
Overtime	40,000	15,942	45,000	5,000
Superannuation	28,380	8,784	26,350	-2,030
National Insurance	14,290	5,147	15,440	1,150
Other Salary Costs	2,700	177	2,700	0
	257,550	83,602	246,490	-11,060
PREMISES				
General Maintenance & Premises Costs	52,110	15,954	52,110	0
NNDR	8,230	4,980	4,980	-3,250
Utility Costs	9,770	4,794	9,770	0
	70,110	25,728	66,860	-3,250
SUPPLIES & SERVICES				
Consultants Fees	3,030	552	3,030	0
Contribution to Avon Gorge & Downs Bio Ed Officer	15,000	25,214	25,220	10,220
Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project	5,000		5,000	0
General Supplies	1,310	3,200	3,200	1,890
Security Costs	25,160	7,984	24,000	-1,160
Protective Clothing & Uniforms	1,720	391	1,720	0
Equipment, Light Plant & Tools	6,020	5,436	7,500	1,480
Leasing Charges	22,450	11,750	22,450	0
	79,690	54,526	92,120	12,430
TRANSPORT				
Insurance	2,320	3,000	3,000	680
Direct Transport Costs	29,180	7,170	29,180	0
	31,500	10,170		
CENTRAL CHARGES				
Legal Services	9,660	0	3,400	-6,260
Finance	2,090	0	2,090	0
District Auditor	530	0	530	0
Parks Recharge	0	0	0	0
	12,280	0	6,020	-6,260
GROSS EXPENDITURE	451,130	174,025	411,490	-8,140
INCOME				
Fees & Charges :-				
Zoo- Car Park	27,660	27,654	27,660	0
Catering Concession - Durdham Rd / Stoke Rd	18,000	6,000	18,000	0
Events	41,650	26,617	41,650	0
Club Bookings	43,300	902	43,300	0
Other Concessions	58,430		58,430	0
TOTAL INCOME	189,040	61,172	189,040	0
NET EXPENDITURE	262,090	112,853	222,450	-8,140