

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Downs Committee

30 January 2012

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 £1,820. This is after transfers to reserves for the costs of the Downs 150 celebrations and the Seasonal Education Officer.

The significant issues in the report are:

There is a small projected underspend of £1,820 following approved transfers to reserves.

Costs to date of £20,402 are eligible to be charged to reserves.

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 November and an estimated outturn position for 2011/12. An underspend of £1,820 is estimated for the end of the year.

There are a number of projected variations from the original budget including;

£7,060 saving in salary costs, due in part to existing staff looking after the goats

£5,740 saving in NNDR, including discretionary rate relief of fifty percent

£8,640 unbudgeted costs associated with Bridge Valley Road inspections and tree and scrub removal.

£11,980 increased cost of purchases of general equipment and materials, including pitch renovations

£5,820 increased transport costs – primarily fuel and maintenance costs

£5,630 reduced support charges – primarily Legal Services

£11,350 increased events income

Heritage Lottery funding has been secured for the Downs 150 Project costs. Costs and matched grant income are not included in this report.

Approved projects to be funded from reserves are as follows

Project	Approval Date	Budget (£)	Exp to Date (£)
Install power supply to Sea Walls ice cream location	5 July 2010	6,000	210
Downs 150 Celebration	5 July 2010	20,142 (balance)	10,318
Seasonal Education Officer	31 March 2011	9,874	9,874
Engagement of a designer re Children's Playground	4 July 2011	£6,000	0
Downs Day 2012	21 November 2011	£10,000	0
Design, manufacture & installation of information panels	21 November 2011	£2,000	0
Additional Trail Guide	21 November 2011	£1,500	0
TOTAL TO DATE		£55,516	£20,402

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**APPENDIX A**

	Original 2011/12 Budget	Actual to end of November	Projection	Variation from Budget
	£	£	£	£
EMPLOYEES				
Basic	172,180	102,199	161,000	-11,180
Overtime	40,000	31,624	45,000	5,000
Superannuation	28,380	17,568	26,350	-2,030
National Insurance	14,290	10,267	15,440	1,150
Other Salary Costs	2,700	355	2,700	0
	257,550	162,013	250,490	-7,060
PREMISES				
General Maintenance & Premises Costs	52,110	19,673	52,110	0
NNDR	8,230	2,490	2,490	-5,740
Utility Costs	9,770	6,222	9,770	0
	70,110	28,385	64,370	-5,740
SUPPLIES & SERVICES				
- Downs 150 Celebrations	0	10,318		0
- Bridge Valley Road	0	8,640	8,640	8,640
Contribution to Avon Gorge & Downs Bio Ed Officer	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
Seasonal Education Officer	0	9,874	9,874	0
Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project	5,000	5,340	5,340	340
General Supplies	4,340	4,319	6,000	1,660
Security Costs	25,160	15,967	24,000	-1,160
Protective Clothing & Uniforms	1,720	477	1,720	0
Equipment, Light Plant & Tools	6,020	14,812	18,000	11,980
Leasing Charges	22,450	11,750	22,450	0
	79,690	96,497	111,024	21,460
TRANSPORT				
Insurance	2,320	3,000	3,000	680
Direct Transport Costs	29,180	22,752	35,000	5,820
	31,500	25,752	38,000	6,500
CENTRAL CHARGES				
Legal Services	9,660	3,708	5,000	-4,660
Finance	2,090	1,650	1,650	-440
District Auditor	530	0	0	-530
Parks Recharge	0	0	0	0
	12,280	5,358	6,650	-5,630
GROSS EXPENDITURE	451,130	318,004	470,534	9,530
INCOME				
Fees & Charges :-				
Zoo- Car Park	27,660	27,654	27,660	0
Catering Concession - Durdham Rd / Stoke Rd	18,000	12,000	18,000	0
Events	41,650	51,675	53,000	11,350
Club Bookings	43,300	32,365	43,300	0
Other Concessions	58,430	0	58,430	0
TOTAL INCOME	189,040	123,694	200,390	11,350
NET EXPENDITURE	262,090	194,310	270,144	-1,820