

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

Downs Committee

23 April 2012

Report of: Director of Corporate Services

Title: Finance Report 2011/12 and Draft Budget 2012/13

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 and approve the draft budget for 2012/13

Summary

Appendix A presents the estimated financial outturn position. Overall there is likely to be a net overspend at the end of the year, prior to any transfers to reserves, of £1,100. This effectively represents the total transfer from reserves required to balance the budget.

Appendix B presents the draft budget for 2012/13.

The significant issues in the report are:

There is a projected net overspend of £1,100 which will need funding from reserves.

Total reserves as at 31 March 2011 stand at £156,908

Policy

1. The Downs budget for 2012/13 was prepared in line with Council guidelines and approved by Council on 28 February 2012.

Consultation

2. Internal

Robert Westlake – Downs Ranger

3. External

Not applicable

Context

Outturn 2011/12

Appendix A details the budget for the year, actual expenditure to the end of February 2012 and an estimated outturn position for 2011/12. An overspend of £1,100 is estimated for the end of the year.

A number of projected variations from the original budget have been reported to the committee during the year. However there are a number of revised projections to bring to the committees attention,

£26,140 unbudgeted costs associated with Bridge Valley Road works. £8,640 in respect of scrub clearance has been previously reported. However there is an additional £17,500 recently identified as a charge to the Committee in respect of remedial works to repair significant cracks in the rock face due damage caused by a tree and an outcrop. This work was carried out during the road closure. The charge was agreed in March 2011 by the (then) Estates Manager.

£6,680 increased leasing charges, including the purchase of previously leased plant and equipment. In March 2012 a number of leases came to an end. Where the plant was in good condition a decision was taken to purchase these items outright. The following assets were acquired, Case IHCA JX1 100U Tractor, purchase price £11,279, Kubota F2680 Mower, Major 2000 Flail Collector, Trident 5000 Triple Flail Mower & Greenmech Combi Chipper, total purchase price £11,7500. Currently only a Landrover Defender remains on lease. There is one further rental of £6,102 due in 2012/13.

£19,450 additional events income including around £10,000 from minor events and filming income

£21,000 additional rent from Bristol Zoo for the use of the overflow car park including backdated rent of £14,000

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 (final)
Downs 150 Celebration	5 July 2010	20,142 (balance)	10,670 (final)
Seasonal Education Officer	31 March 2011	9,874	9,874 (final)
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	1,260 (final)
Additional Trail Guide	21 November 2011	£1,500	0
TOTAL TO DATE		£55,516	£22,014

However to balance the budget a total projected contribution of £1,100 is required from reserves.

Budget 2012/13

Appendix B sets out the draft budget for 2012/13. There are no inflationary allowances so the net budget remains at £262,090. There are however a number of adjustments to the base budget, these include the following,

Expenditure

- £14,250 reduced salary costs mainly due to not appointing an additional member of staff to manage the goats
- £5,630 reduced NNDR as discretionary rate relief granted for 2012/13
- +£5,670 increased budget for general premises costs
- +£10,000 approved budget for Seasonal Education Officer
- +£4,360 increased budget for general supplies and equipment
- +£13,700 increased budget for transport costs including maintenance and fuel. (In 2011/12 £15,000 was spent on fuel and £15,260 on workshop costs.)
- £6,600 reduced legal team recharge

Income

- +£7,000 Annual rent from Bristol Zoo for the overflow car park
- +£5,000 increased events income – including minor events and filming
- £4,300 reduced income from football club bookings

No change has been made to the leasing budget as the Downs Ranger is currently looking at a replacement programme for the next couple of years. This is likely to include a replacement for the Trident Mower and the provision of a custom made trailer to transport football kit around the Downs. A full report will be brought to the July committee, which will include details of potential acquisitions along with options for funding the replacement

programme.

Proposal

4. That the outturn report for 2011/12 is noted and the draft budget for 2012/13 is approved.

Other Options Considered

5. Not applicable

Risk Assessment

6. Not applicable

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 7a) 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.

7b) The Downs budget is part of the total precept forming part of the Council's overall budget for 2012/13. 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

Appendix B – Draft budget for 2012/13

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Final accounts and budget working papers held in Corporate Finance.

DOWNS - OUTTURN 2011/12**APPENDIX A**

	Original 2011/12 Budget £	Actual to end of Feb £	Projection £	Variation from Budget £
EMPLOYEES				
Basic	172,180	141,108	154,000	-18,180
Overtime	40,000	41,994	45,560	5,560
Superannuation	28,380	23,457	28,290	-90
National Insurance	14,290	13,716	14,920	630
Other Salary Costs	2,700	488	530	-2,170
	257,550	220,763	243,300	-14,250
PREMISES				
General Grounds Maintenance & Premises Costs	52,110	39,433	48,000	-4,110
NNDR	8,230	2,490	2,490	-5,740
Utility Costs	9,770	10,407	11,920	2,150
	70,110	52,330	62,410	-7,700
SUPPLIES & SERVICES				
- Downs 150 Celebrations	0	10,672	10,670	10,670
- Bridge Valley Road	0	8,640	26,140	26,140
Contribution to Avon Gorge & Downs Bio Ed Officer	15,000	15,000	15,000	0
Seasonal Education Officer	0	9,874	9,880	9,880
Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project	5,000	5,340	5,340	340
Management Plan Production	0	2,142	2,140	2,140
General Supplies	4,340	2,170	3,600	-740
Security Costs	25,160	22,306	24,200	-960
Protective Clothing & Uniforms	1,720	603	650	-1,070
Equipment, Light Plant & Tools	6,020	12,585	13,000	6,980
Leasing Charges	22,450	11,750	29,130	6,680
	79,690	101,082	139,750	60,060
TRANSPORT				
Insurance	2,320	3,000	3,000	680
Direct Transport Costs	29,180	31,690	32,000	2,820
	31,500	34,690	35,000	3,500
CENTRAL CHARGES				
Legal Services	9,660	5,954	5,960	-3,700
Finance	2,090	1,650	1,650	-440
District Auditor	530	0	0	-530
Parks Recharge	0	0	0	0
	12,280	7,604	7,610	-4,670
GROSS EXPENDITURE	451,130	416,469	488,070	36,940
INCOME				
Fees & Charges :-				
Zoo- Car Park	27,660	49,488	49,490	21,830
Catering Concession - Durdham Rd / Stoke Rd	18,000	18,000	18,000	0
Events	41,650	61,125	61,130	19,480
Club Bookings	43,300	38,894	38,900	-4,400
Other Concessions	58,430	57,360	57,360	-1,070
TOTAL INCOME	189,040	224,867	224,880	35,840
NET EXPENDITURE	262,090	191,602	263,190	1,100

DOWNS - DRAFT BUDGET 2012/13**APPENDIX B**

	Original 2012/13 Budget £
EMPLOYEES	
Basic	154,000
Overtime	45,560
Superannuation	28,290
National Insurance	14,920
Other Salary Costs	530
	243,300
PREMISES	
General Grounds Maintenance & Premises Costs	54,550
NNDR	2600
Utility Costs	13000
	70,150
SUPPLIES & SERVICES	
Contribution to Avon Gorge & Downs Bio Ed Officer	15000
Seasonal Education Officer	10000
Avon Gorge and Downs Wildlife Project	5400
General Supplies	6000
Security Costs	25500
Protective Clothing & Uniforms	1700
Equipment, Light Plant & Tools	8000
Leasing Charges	22450
	94,050
TRANSPORT	
Insurance	3200
Direct Transport Costs	42000
	45,200
CENTRAL CHARGES	
Legal Services	4000
Finance	1700
District Auditor	
Parks Recharge	
	5,700
GROSS EXPENDITURE	458,400
INCOME	
Fees & Charges :-	
Zoo- Car Park	34660
Catering Concession - Durdham Rd / Stoke Rd	18000
Events	46650
Club Bookings	39000
Other Concessions	58000
TOTAL INCOME	196,310
NET EXPENDITURE	262,090