

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL  
DOWNS COMMITTEE  
8th September 2014**

**REPORT TITLE:** Finance Report

**Ward(s) affected by this report:** N/A

**Report of:** Peter Gillett (Service Director – Finance)

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**Purpose of the report:**

To provide a progress report on the financial performance and position of the Downs Committee for the period ending July 2014/15.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Note that for 2014/15 there are no forecast material variations against budget to end July 2014.
2. That the Committee note the on-going financial pressures on reserves

**Background**

The Downs budget for 2014/15 was prepared in line with Council guidelines and approved by Council on 18 February 2014.

**Financial Summary – Revenue**

There are no material forecast variations against budget reported as at end July 2014. There are forecast savings against the salaries budget due to vacancies. This is offsetting a forecast additional spend on staff overtime, which is being incurred to cover the vacant positions.

Appendix A shows the approved budget for 2014/15 along with the actual spend to date and forecast spend for the year.

Total reserves as at 31 March 2014 stood at £226,600 net of contracted, required and estimated expenditure (including rock stabilisation, Bridge Road and play area,) If all of this expenditure is incurred, this would have a serious impact upon reserves.

As indicated in the last report, the current budget for the Downs Committee will come under increasing pressure as the Council approved budget made allowance solely for a 1% increase in wage costs but no allowance for the cost of services and equipment, which will continue to rise due to inflation.

**Consultation and scrutiny input:**

**a. Internal consultation:**

Andrew Gordon

**b. External consultation:**

Not applicable

**Other options considered:**

No other options are considered prudent at the present time.

**Public sector equality duties:**

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.

The Downs budget is part of the total precept forming part of the Council's overall budget for 2014/14. The Council's budget underwent a full equalities impact assessment.

## **Environmental checklist / eco impact assessment**

Not applicable.

### **Resource and legal implications:**

**a. Financial (revenue) implications:**

As set out in the report

**b. Financial (capital) implications:**

None

**c. Legal implications:**

Not applicable for this report

**d. Land / property implications:**

Not required for this report

**e. Human resources implications:**

Not applicable for this report

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