



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2012/13
Date:	14 February 2013
Reporting officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
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1.	Relevant background information
	<p>The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed on 18 June 2010 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the council would produce financial reporting packs for the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and each Standing Committee on a quarterly basis• the Budget and Transformation Panel would also receive monthly financial updates if there were any significant issues to report. <p>The reporting pack (Appendix 1) contains a summary dashboard of the financial indicators and an executive summary explaining the financial performance of Parks and Leisure Committee. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators covering the year to date and the year end forecast position.</p> <p>The style and layout reflect much of the discussion and feedback arising from the members' financial training at the end of September 2010. As we previously advised the committee, we will continue to develop the style and contents of the reports in liaison with members.</p> <p>Central finance and our departmental management team have worked together to develop the information within this financial reporting pack.</p>

2.	Key issues
	<p>The current performance in quarter three of the Parks and Leisure department shows a (2.9%) variance against the year to date budget; i.e.; an under spend of £496K.</p>

The main issues are:

Income

Income for the department is down 4% or £341k on budget. Leisure Centres are down by 7% or £175k on the budget for fees and charges. Promotional activity especially around the new membership scheme is ongoing and campaigns have been underway from June.

Income from fees and charges at the Zoo is down 10% or £127k against budget and the income at the shop is also down £88k but this is offset by a reduction on expenditure on supplies by £78k. The poor weather and the opening of other prestigious visitor centres have impacted on the Zoo however promotional activities are taking place to address this.

Income from fees and charges in Parks and Open Spaces are up by 8.5% largely in relation to events and pitch hire and the Crematorium which is up on budget by £116k due to additional slots and increase in price.

Utility Costs

Utility costs are currently £131k over spent: 11% in Leisure and 2% in Parks and Cemeteries. The ongoing issues with the borehole at the Zoo are being resolved however the Zoo is currently connected to the mains which incur costs of £17k approx per month. The over spends in leisure relate to water and electricity costs being higher than budget and consumption increasing with the ongoing issues with the CHP units.

Grounds Maintenance

Grounds Maintenance expenditure is under spent against budget by £321k. £250k of this relates to the maintenance of playgrounds and £25k in relation to paths but both projects are on schedule to be completed by the end of the year. It is expected that £130k of expenditure for CCG will be used on preparation work for the overall scheme leaving £120k under spent in this financial year.

Supplies and Services

Supplies and Services within the department are under spent by 8% or £364k. This expenditure relates to a number of programmes of work that are being developed and also programmes of work with external partners that are underway and are being monitored on a monthly basis. The corresponding under claimed grant income off sets some of this under expenditure in relation to a number of key programmes. This also refers to the issue of the Zoo shop referred to above which has reduced its supplies for resale by £78k in response to poor sales.

General

Directorate support is largely on target however the ASB budget is likely to be under spent by £50k due to planning permission being required for a project and therefore the project has been delayed.

	<p>The department will continue to monitor the variance between actual and budgeted expenditure/income during the final quarter of the year.</p> <p>The financial reporting pack contains more detail on both the overall council position and the financial performance in each of the Services within the Department.</p>
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3.	Resource Implications
	There is a year to date under-spend of £496k and a forecast over-spend of some £160k or 0.7% by year end.

4.	Equality and Good Relations Implications
	None.

5.	Recommendations
	Members are recommended to note the above report and associated financial reporting pack.

6.	Decision Tracking
	N/A

7.	Key to abbreviations
	None.

8.	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Financial reporting pack