

Appendix 24

Ashdown Forest Finances to 31 March 2024

Income and Expenditure Forecast and Budget Summary

Core Budget and Countryside Stewardship Budget Combined

	2023/24 Original Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast
CORE INCOME	£	£	£
Licences & Forest Rate	188,670	188,670	201,561
Unrestricted funding (WDC, AFT, T/PCs)	324,348	324,348	464,527
Income generation and Donations	23,280	23,280	18,912
Forest Products incl. Meat and Deer Carcasses	20,881	20,881	23,750
Visitors	38,745	38,745	17,321
Financial	240	240	4,792
Recharges from Countryside Stewardship programme	177,243	177,243	185,574
Unrestricted Core Income	773,407	773,407	916,437
Other Restricted Core Funding/Grants (specific purpose)	31,419	31,419	33,500
TOTAL CORE INCOME	804,826	804,826	949,937
COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP INCOME			
Grant funding for CS work programme	605,168	605,168	654,589
TOTAL CS INCOME	605,168	605,168	654,589
TOTAL CORE AND COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP INCOME	1,409,994	1,409,994	1,604,526

	2023/24 Original Budget	2023/24 Current Budget	2023/24 Forecast
CORE EXPENDITURE	£	£	£
Core Forest Staff Costs	370,726	370,726	346,791
Operational expenses	230,738	230,738	317,626
Administration Overheads	115,642	115,643	164,806
Financial	22,988	22,988	32,445
Visitors	23,032	23,032	5,174
Expenditure from Ringfenced Funding (primarily education prog)	16,603	16,603	42,646
Core capital expenditure	-	-	28,035
TOTAL CORE EXPENDITURE	779,729	779,729	937,523

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP EXPENDITURE			
Countryside Stewardship Work Programme Project Expenditure	412,510	352,510	323,586
Staff Costs	332,261	392,261	386,613
TOTAL COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP EXPENDITURE	744,771	744,771	710,199
TOTAL CORE AND COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP EXPENDITURE	1,524,500	1,524,500	1,647,722

SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(114,506)	(114,506)	(43,197)
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Core Budget surplus/(deficit)	25,097	25,097	12,413
CS Budget surplus/(deficit)	(139,603)	(139,603)	(55,610)
Total Budget surplus/(deficit)	(114,506)	(114,506)	(43,197)

Ashdown Forest Medium Term Financial Plan

	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
INCOME SUMMARY	£	£	£	£
Licences & Forest Rate	204,484	208,574	212,745	217,000
Unrestricted funding (WDC,T/PCs)	187,777	189,579	191,417	193,292
Car Parking	283,213	283,213	283,213	283,213
Income generation and Donations	18,912	20,643	21,056	21,477
Forest Products incl. Meat and Deer Carcasses	27,250	27,795	28,351	28,918
Visitors	16,792	17,128	17,470	17,820
Financial	4,792	4,792	4,792	4,792
CS Recharges	185,574	244,046	246,551	249,089
Other Restricted Funding	63,500	63,500	70,750	70,750
Total Core Income	992,294	1,059,270	1,076,345	1,086,351

Countryside Stewardship Funding from Natural England	654,589	654,589	654,589	654,589
Total Countryside Stewardship Income	654,589	654,589	654,589	654,589

TOTAL INCOME	1,646,883	1,713,859	1,730,934	1,740,940
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	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY	£	£	£	£
Core Forest Staff Costs	430,231	438,836	447,612	456,565
Operational expenses	216,467	220,796	225,212	229,717
Administration Overheads	104,084	106,166	108,289	110,455
Financial	32,445	33,094	33,756	34,431
Visitors	22,650	23,103	36,767	37,668
Capital purchases -Core	40,805	70,805	70,805	70,805
Governance/charity set up	100	102	104	106
Car Parking	119,303	121,689	124,123	126,605
Expenditure from Ringfenced Funding	24,810	27,639	7,250	7,250
Total Core Expenditure	990,895	1,042,230	1,053,918	1,073,602

Staff Costs (Countryside Stewardship)	398,517	403,825	409,204	414,655
CS Work Programme Project Expenditure	387,602	224,980	225,736	226,502
Total CS Expenditure for Funded Projects	786,119	628,805	634,940	641,157
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,777,014	1,671,035	1,688,858	1,714,758

Core Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	1,399	17,040	22,427	12,749
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CS Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(131,530)	25,784	19,649	13,432
Total Budget Surplus/(Deficit)	(130,131)	42,824	42,076	26,182

Movement in Reserve Balances	Core £	HLS* £	CS £
Reserves at 01/04/2023	263,580	223,304	426,581
Forecast movement 2023/24	12,413	-	(55,610)
Forecast balance 31/3/2024	275,993	223,304	370,971
Forecast movement 2024/25	1,399	-	(131,530)
Forecast balance 31/3/2025	277,392	223,304	239,441

*The Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) programme ceased in 2016 the balance of funds will be spent in the spirit of the original agreement under the guidance of Natural England.