

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

20 May 2008

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 LEISURE FACILITIES – FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Summary

Management information summaries for Larkfield Leisure Centre, Angel Centre, Tonbridge Swimming Pool, Poulton Wood Golf Centre, Tonbridge Castle/Customer Services, Tonbridge Cemetery and Poulton Wood Grounds Maintenance are shown at [Annexes 1 – 7].

1.1 Larkfield Leisure Centre

- 1.1.1 The Board will note at [Annex 1] that the provisional year end position for this contract shows a deficit to profile of £36,300. This deficit is as a result of a £47,000 expenditure overspend, offset by above profile income of £10,700. The expenditure overspend is primarily as a result of increased costs associated with utilities and an overspend in staffing related to superannuation and national insurance contributions. Income has been supported by a loss of income claim associated with the extensive capital development work at the facility. It has been difficult to assess the true levels of business due to these works however fitness and sports hall income appears to have remained buoyant whilst casual swimming is almost 10% below profile. Course income and the Larkabout soft play area are also above profile and show significant growth from the previous year.

1.2 Angel Centre

- 1.2.1 The Board will note at [Annex 2] that the provisional year end position for this contract shows deficit to profile of £12,600. Expenditure is underspent by £32,100 with savings in staffing and a number of other areas. It also includes unbudgeted expenditure relating to the provision of security personnel. Income, which includes a loss of income related to the flooding of the All Weather Area at Tonbridge Farm Sportsground, is below target by £44,700. Coaching courses, dance studio and the sports hall performed well throughout the year but Lifestyles health and fitness, exercise classes and meeting room income are below profile.

1.3 Tonbridge Swimming Pool

- 1.3.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 3]** that the provisional year end position for this contract is £22,700 below profile. Expenditure is above profile by nearly £13,600, with overspends on staffing and utilities offset in part by savings in supplies and services. Although income was badly affected by the poor summer, casual swimming and the net profit on catering have improved through the winter months, resulting in a small deficit to profile of £9,000.

1.4 Poult Wood Golf Centre

- 1.4.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 4]** that the conclusion to the financial year saw income slightly above the revised profile, which was due to excellent weather in February.
- 1.4.2 The new season started in April with a Taster weekend including free golf, squash tuition and a special trick shot show. The attendance over the weekend was encouraging despite the April showers. Information packs including special offers were handed out. The Poult Wood Golf Centre vouchers containing various offers for the golf courses and the Clubhouse have been distributed across the Borough.

1.5 Tonbridge Castle/Customer Services

- 1.5.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 5]** that the Tonbridge Office services have continued to be well used by residents and visitors alike. The Customer Services staff at Tonbridge Castle continue to be busy delivering a wide range of Council services including Gatehouse tours and ticket sales for various events. The housing service has commenced at the Castle and is being well used (details will be reported to Members of the relevant Advisory Board).

1.6 Tonbridge Cemetery

- 1.6.1 Members will note from **[Annex 6]** that the 2007/08 annual income from Tonbridge Cemetery was above profile. Although there was a reduction in the estimated leases for Columbaria Vaults/Plaques and a fall in the predicted Interments and their associated Chapel use, purchases of graves exceeded previous estimations.

1.7 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance

- 1.7.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 7]** that the provisional year end position for this contract shows a surplus to profile of £21,800. This was due, primarily, to staff savings brought about by recruitment difficulties. The Leisure Contracts Manager is happy to report this problem now appears resolved.

1.8 Legal Implications

- 1.8.1 None.

1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.9.1 Collectively, the facilities covered by this report generate income and expenditure in excess of £4.5m per annum.

1.10 Risk Assessment

1.10.1 Taking into account the levels of income and expenditure involved, it is essential that the financial performance of the facilities are closely monitored, and any issues are identified and addressed at an early stage. Any significant variations in financial performance could have a major impact on the Council's revenue budget.

1.11 Policy Considerations

1.11.1 Community, Customer Contact.

Background papers:

Nil

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Julie Beilby
Darren Lanes
Stephen Gregg

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