

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

16 March 2009

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, Country Parks Car Park Income and Poulton Wood Grounds Maintenance are shown at [Annexes 1—8].

1.1 Leisure Services Business Unit – Overall Financial Performance

1.1.1 The Board's attention is drawn to the Leisure Services Business Unit's overall financial position following the revised estimates process, which was below profile by £33,050 at the end of January 2009. Expenditure overall is below profile by £650. Income overall is £33,700 below target. The financial performance continues to be closely monitored in liaison with the Director of Finance and Management Team.

1.1.2 The Board will note that many positive measures designed to mitigate the deficit, which reduced in January by comparison with December figures, are in place. The LSBU continue to apply a range of proactive marketing initiatives, with the most recent campaign offering a discounted two month family swim membership. Courses income, which was well below profile prior to Christmas has been bolstered by an active web-based promotion.

1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre

1.2.1 The Board will note at [Annex 1] that the contract is currently below profile by £15,500. Expenditure is above profile by £1,800 however the overspend in utilities incorporates a risk premium payment of £3,000 which may be refunded at year end. Income is £13,700 below target, with swimming slipping to £13,800 or 2.6% below profile and courses showing a deficit to profile of £12,000. This is countered by above profile performance of almost 3% or £11,900 in fitness income.

1.3 Angel Centre

- 1.3.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 2]** that this contract is currently below profile by £28,200. Expenditure is above profile by £12,750. Utilities charges including gas and high water and sewerage charges account for overspend of £14,900 with savings being made against other revenue budgets. Income is £15,450 below target with the sports hall recovering to profile but fitness, Medway Hall and meeting rooms all below profile.

1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool

- 1.4.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 3]** that this contract is currently above profile by £12,900. Expenditure is £17,500 below profile with most revenue budgets underspent. Income is below profile by £4,600 with swimming trading around 1% or £3,000 below profile and courses £5,500 below profile. Net performance in catering is encouraging at nearly £7,000 above target.

1.5 Poulton Wood Golf Centre

- 1.5.1 Periods of extremely poor weather including snowfall and heavy rain, together with the continued work on the irrigation system has resulted in a reduction in income compared to profile for both courses. In the current financial year the 18 hole course has been closed for 11 days, and the 9 hole for 29 days, which is significantly higher than previous years.

1.6 Tonbridge Castle/Customer Services

- 1.6.1 Face-to-face visits by customers to Tonbridge Castle for Tourist information enquiries so far this financial year April 2008 – January 2009 amount to 18,351 compared to 20,582 for the same period in 2007/8. However, the fall in numbers of visitors could be due for various reasons, such as, customers self serving on the internet rather than physically visiting the Castle, as this can be a cheaper option. The income for the Tonbridge Castle Attraction, (Tours of Castle) are up slightly to £22,848. The profiled budget expected was £22,500 to this period. The income for Weddings Hire of Gatehouse is down by just over £1,500. This was to be expected, as potential customers may have been put off by the buildings works that were due to start end of last year. The income from Solemnization of Marriages, was slightly up by £150 to date which was more than expected for the period.
- 1.6.2 The buildings works at Tonbridge Gateway are now under way and are on schedule for the grand opening in July 2009. A joint presentation by Kent County Council and this Council was carried out at the Tonbridge Forum on the 9 March 2009 which was well received by those that attended. In mid March an invitation to our potential partners inviting them to attend an open day to register their interest will be held on the afternoon of Friday 3 April 2009.

1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery

1.7.1 Income at the Cemetery is £4,000 below profile for the first ten months of the financial year **[Annex 6]**. Whilst the use of the Chapel and Memorial Permits remain on profile, there has been a slight reduction in the lease of columbaria vaults/plaques, interments and purchase of graves.

1.8 Country Parks Car Park Income

1.8.1 Members will be pleased to note that total income from the Council's two Country Park car parks remains above profile for the first ten months of the financial year **[Annex 7]**. Whilst income from Leybourne Lakes is slightly lower than anticipated income from Haysden is currently £1,700 above profile.

1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance

1.9.1 The Board will note at **[Annex 8]** that this contract is currently above profile by £2,850.

1.10 Legal Implications

1.10.1 None.

1.11 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

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

1.12 Risk Assessment

1.12.1 Taking into account the levels of income and expenditure involved, it is essential that the financial performance of the facilities is 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.

1.13 Policy Considerations

1.13.1 Community, Customer Contact.

Background papers:

Nil

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