

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

22 September 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, which was above profile by £113,700 at the end of July 2009. Expenditure overall is below profile by £217,900 and income overall is £104,200 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 expenditure includes savings of £150,000 relating to utilities, following a reduction in gas tariffs effective from April 2009 and a positive reconciliation for gas and electricity for the period October 2008 to March 2009, which resulted in a rebate of £98,900. There are also staff savings of £45,000 however these savings are, in part, offset by an adjustment of the contract sums relating to the savings accrued due to no award being agreed to date.

1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre

1.2.1 This contract is currently above profile by £57,300 as shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2.2 Expenditure is below profile by £113,300, in the main due to utilities and staff savings referred to in 1.1.2. Close monitoring of expenditure in all areas is ongoing.

1.2.3 Income is £56,000 below target, with swimming falling below profile by £13,700 and coaching courses trading at 72% of target or £36,000 below profile. Fitness income and sales remain close to profile, trading at 99% of target.

1.3 Angel Centre

- 1.3.1 This contract is currently below profile by £12,900 as shown at **[Annex 2]**.
- 1.3.2 Overall income for the contract was £52,400 below target. Fitness income is £13,500 below profile and trading at 89% of target. Meeting rooms, Medway Hall and coaching course income are also below target.
- 1.3.3 Expenditure savings total £39,500 and again, relate to utilities and staffing. Good expenditure control in all other areas is ongoing.

1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool

- 1.4.1 This contract is currently above profile by £58,100 as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Overall income for the contract was above target by £5,400 with casual swimming and catering above profile by £7,100 and £2,500 respectively. One to One swimming income is also performing well and is above profile by £3,800 but coaching course income is £1,500 below profile at 98% of target.
- 1.4.3 Expenditure is underspent by £52,700. Again, these savings primarily relate to utilities and staffing. Close monitoring of expenditure is ongoing.

1.5 Poult Wood Golf Centre

- 1.5.1 Members will be pleased to note that despite current economic conditions overall income for the first four months of the financial year is marginally above profile. This is due to good weather during the summer, and a number of golfers switching from private clubs to pay and play facilities. Provisional income figures for August show a surplus.

1.6 Tonbridge Castle/Customer Services

- 1.6.1 The Customer Services team at Tonbridge Castle continue to deliver a wide range of services on behalf of the Council. In addition to the operation of the Gatehouse attraction, wedding bookings and tourist information, the team continue to expand on the services they provide to customers as a first point of contact mainly through face-to-face operations.
- 1.6.2 The building works at Tonbridge Gateway are now finished without any major snags. Customer Service staff experienced a smooth return to the main building on the 3 July 2009. Kent County Council staff and some partners joined them on the 16 July 2009. All staff and partners were invited to attend partnership training, which was held on the 17 June 2009. Inductions have been carried out with partners, which have been well received. Kent Registrars have fully settled into their desk space working environment, working on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week, their diaries are maintained by Kent County Council staff and they have been fully booked since they started. Kent County Council staff have been trained

to meet and greet and they work over a six day week. Tonbridge Volunteers have started working at the Gateway on Friday mornings, Royal British Legion Industries, Citizens Advice Bureau, Kent Adult and Children's Services will be joining us within the next few months. Kent Police are already holding monthly surgeries in the flexible space. T&M District Partnership, Headway on Tuesday afternoons who are holding fortnightly surgeries and 'drop-ins' from September. The joint partnership with Kent County Council is working well and all the staff working well together.

1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery

1.7.1 Income at the Cemetery is £3,700 below profile for the first four months of the financial year **[Annex 6]**.

1.8 Country Parks Income

1.8.1 Total income from the Council's two Country Park car parks is marginally above profile (£1,900) for the financial year **[Annex 7]**.

1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance

1.9.1 This contract is currently £10,500 above profile as shown at **[Annex 8]**.

1.9.2 Expenditure savings relate mainly to staffing. Close monitoring in all areas of the contract is ongoing. The contract performance and standards of ground maintenance remain very high.

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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