

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 December 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 £61,750 at the end of October 2009. Expenditure overall is below profile by £273,550, with income £211,800 below profile. 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 £184,700 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 to the Council of £98,900. There are also staff savings of £100,800. These staff savings are, in part, offset by an adjustment of the contract sums relating to the savings accrued due to the deferment of the pay award until October 2009.

1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre

1.2.1 This contract is currently above profile by £74,150 as shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2.2 Expenditure is below profile by £160,850, in the main due to utilities and staff savings referred to in 1.1.2, but there are also savings in premises related expenditure and supplies and services. Close monitoring of expenditure in all areas is ongoing.

1.2.3 Income is £86,700 below target, with swimming falling below profile by £21,500 and coaching courses trading at 74% of target or £57,200 below profile. Fitness income and sales remain close to profile, trading 2% above target. Fitness,

swimming and coaching courses remain the main focus for ongoing marketing campaigns.

1.3 Angel Centre

- 1.3.1 This contract is currently below profile by £37,250 as shown at **[Annex 2]**.
- 1.3.2 Overall income for the contract was £90,700 below target. Fitness income is £32,450 below profile and trading at 86% of target. Meeting rooms, Sports Hall and coaching course income are also below target. Again fitness and coaching courses are the target of ongoing marketing initiatives.
- 1.3.3 Expenditure savings total £53,450 and again, mainly 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 £10,450 as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Overall income for the contract was below target by £32,500. Casual swimming is trading close to profile at 99% of target, but coaching courses and one to one swimming income have fallen below profile by £17,350 and £4,800 respectively. Catering continues to perform well and the net position on catering is £7,400 above target.
- 1.4.3 Expenditure is underspent by £42,950. Again these savings primarily relate to utilities and staffing. Close monitoring of expenditure is ongoing.

1.5 Poult Wood Golf Centre

- 1.5.1 Income overall is very slightly below profile to the end of October 2009, but nearly £50,000 up compared to the same time last year. Usage has been assisted by good weather over the summer and a mild autumn, together with a range of marketing initiatives for the Centre.

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 is expanding on the services it provides to customers as a first point of contact mainly through face-to-face operations. Total expenditure is down on last year and income is slightly up.
- 1.6.2 The joint partnership with Kent County Council continues to work well. Tonbridge & Malling, Kent County Council and partners are all working well together and cross referring where possible. Training and development is ongoing for all and is received well by those who participate. Statistics show an increase in visitors to the Gateway during September/October by over 1,000 compared to the same period last year. Tonbridge Gateway is receiving publicity through several

channels, such as websites, radio advertising, PR mobiles, leaflet distribution, presentations at local meetings, word of mouth, themed weeks and through partner referrals. The feedback from customer surveys has been positive. Tonbridge & Malling made a policy not to charge partners initially but will consider this in January 2010 with any charges to be applied from 1 April 2010.

1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery

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

1.8 Country Parks Income

1.8.1 Income from the Council's two Country Parks is £6,400 above profile for the first seven months of 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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