

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**18 May 2010**

**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 revised estimate for 2009/10 was a deficit of £571,350. The 2009/10 provisional year end position was a deficit of £478,150, which produced a surplus to revised estimate of £93,200.

1.1.2 In overall terms income was above profile and expenditure control was good. More detailed information related to each facility is shown below.

**1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre**

1.2.1 This contract produced a provisional outturn of £48,700 above profile, as shown at [Annex 1].

1.2.2 The outturn position reflects the overall improvement in income during the second half of the year, with income in casual swimming and coaching courses performing well against revised targets. Lifestyles Health and Fitness also continued to trade well, at £27,400 above target by the end of the year.

1.2.3 Expenditure savings totalled £4,100. There was a small overspend in staffing and small savings in all other areas.

**1.3 Angel Centre**

1.3.1 This contract exceeded its revised estimate and produced a provisional year end surplus of £24,100, as shown at [Annex 2].

1.3.2 Again, the provisional outturn position reflects an overall improvement in income, particularly in the final quarter of the year. Overall income was £11,750 above the revised target, with Sports Hall and community income both performing above profile. Lifestyles Fitness and coaching course income finished the year slightly below profile, trading at 98% and 97% of target respectively.

1.3.3 Expenditure savings totalled £12,350, with small savings in most areas.

#### **1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool**

1.4.1 This contract exceeded its revised estimate and produced a provisional surplus of £17,650 as shown at **[Annex 3]**.

1.4.2 Overall income for the contract fell just below target by £1,450. Despite the bad weather during the winter months and the extended period of closure in December, casual swimming recovered well and finished the year trading at 99% of target or £3,800 below profile. Income for coaching courses and one to one swimming also improved in the second half of the year, but remained below profile by £3,450 and £1,800 respectively. The net profit on catering exceeded profile by £18,000 or 38% above target.

1.4.3 Expenditure savings totalled £19,100 with savings in most areas, but primarily related to utilities and casual staffing.

#### **1.5 Poult Wood Golf Centre**

1.5.1 Income for the Golf Centre ended £40,714 below profile for the year mainly due to extremely poor weather conditions disrupting usage of the courses especially over the winter period with snow **[Annex 4]**. Both courses were closed for significant periods, the 18-hole course for a total of 23 days and the 9-hole course for 32 days. The weather conditions also affected the catering operation with a number of the lucrative Christmas functions cancelled due to difficulties in travel.

#### **1.6 Tonbridge Gateway / Castle**

1.6.1 On 3 July 2010 Tonbridge & Malling will have been in Partnership with Kent County Council at Tonbridge Gateway for a whole year. The joint working has proved to be very successful with an increase of customer visits averaging around 750 per month, taking the total customer visits to roughly 4,500 per month. The Customer Services team, together with 13 partner organisations, carry out a variety of services for customers from, for example, housing issues and advice regarding domestic violence to practical help with battery replacement and cleaning of hearing loops. In addition to the operation of the Gatehouse attraction, the wedding bookings and tourist information the team continue to expand on the services they provide to customers as a first point of contact through both the telephony and face-to-face operations.

1.6.2 At year end on the 31 March 2010 income for the Castle attraction was better than expected and was up by 20% **[Annex 5]**. Income from weddings at the Gatehouse was down. Income from Solemnisation of Marriages and Castle Chamber were both up. When the budget review took place in 2008/09 for expected income in 2009/10 we tried to take into account the effect of disruption to buildings whilst works were being carried out. These budgets have now been realistically set to reflect the market.

## **1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery**

1.7.1 Overall, income at the Cemetery is £4,846 below profile for the full financial year 2009/10 **[Annex 6]**. Whilst the lease of Columbaria Vaults/Plaques was above profile, the year saw a reduction in the purchase of graves, memorial permits and interments.

## **1.8 Country Parks Income**

1.8.1 Members will be pleased to note that total income from the Council's two Country Parks is £1,766 above profile for the full financial year 2009/10 **[Annex 7]**.

## **1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance**

1.9.1 This contract exceeded revised profile by £2,750 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

Robert Styles, Chief Leisure Officer

contacts: Martin Guyton, Charlie Steel  
Darren Lanes, Stephen Gregg