

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**14 May 2012**

**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 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. The figures represent the provisional year end performance for 2011/12. There is an overall overspend of £8,377 and above target income of £91,114 resulting in an above profile position of £82,737 at the year end. The financial performance has been closely monitored in liaison with the Director of Finance and Management Team throughout the year.

1.1.2 It is encouraging to note that in overall terms the surplus to profile is due to over achievement in income rather than savings. The second half of the financial year saw an upswing in income against the revised estimate. Generally strong performance was seen in fitness sales, courses and casual swimming, the three key areas of business across the sites.

**1.2 Larkfield Leisure Centre**

1.2.1 The facility was £40,709 above profile at year end as shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2.2 Expenditure savings at Larkfield Leisure Centre amounted to £2,596 with a small overspend in staffing offset by savings in utilities and supplies and services.

1.2.3 Income was £38,113 above target. The key area of performance above profile was Lifestyles Health & Fitness which was £32,000 or 5.4% above profile. It was also pleasing to note that the revised target for the Swim School was exceeded.

### **1.3 Angel Centre**

- 1.3.1 The facility was £39,291 above profile at year end as shown at **[Annex 2]**.
- 1.3.2 Expenditure savings at Angel Centre amounted to £17,378 and were mainly savings in staffing, premises related expenses and supplies and services.
- 1.3.3 Overall income was £21,913 above target. Income in the Medway Hall and Meeting Rooms was below profile by around £10,500 or 9.4%. This was offset by above profile performance of £33,000 or 11% in Lifestyles Health & Fitness and a further £6,500 in coaching courses and exercise classes.

### **1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool**

- 1.4.1 The facility was below profile by £6,534 at year end as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Expenditure was overspent by £37,621, due in the main to higher than anticipated electricity, water and sewerage charges relating to the refilling and heating of the outdoor pool.
- 1.4.3 Overall income was above target by £31,088. Swimming income was £10,000 or 2.7% above profile and the Swim School was £12,000 above profile. Net profit from catering was marginally below profile.

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

- 1.5.1 Income for the Centre ended over £24,000 higher than profile as shown at **[Annex 4]**. Both the 18-hole and 9-hole courses achieved income levels higher than the previous five years.
- 1.5.2 There were more than 7,000 additional rounds of golf played compared to the previous financial year across the two golf courses.
- 1.5.3 The income and usage of the Golf Centre reflects the mild and dry year and also the marketing initiatives undertaken to attract new golfers to the courses.

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

- 1.6.1 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have been in partnership with Kent County Council at Tonbridge Gateway for almost three years now and the Gateway facility is offering a wide range of services to the general public. There are currently 15 physical partner organisations working from Gateway, a mix of public and voluntary sector organisations. Charging for partners to occupy a space at Gateway came into effect on 1 April 2011 and although not all partners are charged as they may be funded by Kent County Council or Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, the income from the paying organisations is rising and we are expecting an income in excess of £13,000 during 2012/13. The Gateway team carry out a variety of services for customers, in addition to the operation of the Gatehouse attraction, wedding bookings and tourist information. These are

carried out in a variety of different ways to meet demand including online, telephony and face-to-face.

- 1.6.2 At the close of business on the 31 March 2012, expenditure was below and income was above profile **[Annex 5]**.

## **1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery**

- 1.7.1 Overall, income at the Cemetery was £11,584 above profile for the financial year **[Annex 6]**. Whilst the lease of Columbaria vaults/plaques, use of the chapel and the purchase of memorial permits were below profile, an increase has been seen in the purchase of the graves and interments.

## **1.8 Country Parks Income**

- 1.8.1 Overall income at the two Country Parks is £3,968 above profile for the financial year **[Annex 7]**.

## **1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance**

- 1.9.1 This maintenance contract was above profile by £9,271 at year end as shown at **[Annex 8]**.
- 1.9.2 Overall expenditure was well controlled and produced a saving despite the rising costs of materials. Savings were also achieved in repair and maintenance costs due to the expertise of the Head Greenkeeper and his staff. 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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