

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

17 September 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 performance to 31 July 2012. There is an overall underspend of £71,527 and above target income of £26,916 resulting in an above profile position of £98,443 to the period end. The financial performance is closely monitored in liaison with the Director of Finance and Management Team. It is encouraging to note that in overall terms the positive performance enjoyed in the second half of the last financial year has continued. 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 £74,012 above profile to the end of July as shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2.2 Expenditure savings at Larkfield Leisure Centre amount to £53,212 with significant savings in staffing and utilities. Other expenditure is generally controlled to profile.

1.2.3 Income was £20,799 above target. The key areas of performance above profile are Lifestyles Health & Fitness and casual swimming which are £20,150 (10.0%) and £14,800 (5.9%) above profile respectively. It is also pleasing to note that the revised target for the Swim School continues to be met although dry side courses are below profile by around £10,000.

1.3 Angel Centre

1.3.1 The facility was £8,630 above profile to the end of July as shown at **[Annex 2]**.

- 1.3.2 Expenditure savings at the Angel Centre amount to £8,003 and are mainly savings in utilities and premises related expenses.
- 1.3.3 Overall income was £627 above target. Income in a number of areas is below profile, albeit not significantly. This is offset by strong performance in Lifestyles Health & Fitness which is £12,700 (11.8%) above profile.

1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool

- 1.4.1 The facility was above profile by £20,960 to the end of July as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Expenditure savings amount to £15,471 and are mainly savings in utilities and premises related expenses.
- 1.4.3 Overall income is above target by £5,490. Swimming income, despite poor weather, is on target and the Swim School is above target by £15,000. This is offset by below profile net profit from catering which is about £9,000 below expectation.

1.5 Poult Wood Golf Centre

- 1.5.1 Income from the golf courses was £63,000 below profile to the end of July as shown at **[Annex 4]**.
- 1.5.2 Whilst last year the performance was positive with a mild and dry year contributing to very good usage and income, the opposite is the case for this year. According to the BBC "April to June this year has been the wettest second quarter in the UK since records began in 1910."
- 1.5.3 Sports Marketing Surveys report of golf course usage also reported an 18% decrease in the number of rounds played over the quarter with April showing a 30% decline against 2011 in the South.
- 1.5.4 In addition to the weather other contributory factors include the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, with a series of national events and local street parties over the four day weekend limiting golf played. Sporting events including the UEFA European Championships, Wimbledon and the start of the Olympics would also have had an impact.

1.6 Tonbridge Gateway/Castle

- 1.6.1 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council have been in partnership with Kent County Council at Tonbridge Gateway for three years now and the Gateway facility is offering a wide range of services to the general public. There are currently 13 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 force 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 local authority 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 July 2012 both expenditure and income were on target for the time of year **[Annex 5]**.

1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery

- 1.7.1 Overall, income at the Cemetery was £710 below profile for the first four months of the financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 6]**. Whilst the lease of Columbaria vaults/plaques, use of the chapel, purchase of memorial permits and interments were below profile, an increase has been seen in the purchase of the graves.

1.8 Country Parks Income

- 1.8.1 Overall income at the two Country Parks is £5,040 below profile for the first four months of the financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 7]**. This reflects the poor summer weather and the timing of payments from on site concessions.

1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance

- 1.9.1 This maintenance contract was below profile by £5,160 at year end as shown at **[Annex 8]**.
- 1.9.2 The contract is overspent on materials, fuel and repair and maintenance. The inclement weather early in the year and some unusual one-off repair issues has led to this position. 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

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