

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**10 December 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 30 September 2012. There is an overall underspend of £84,038 and above target income of £57,374 resulting in an above profile position of £141,412 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 £101,376 above profile to the end of September as shown at **[Annex 1]**.

1.2.2 Expenditure savings at Larkfield Leisure Centre amount to £70,436 with significant savings in staffing and utilities. Other expenditure is generally controlled to profile.

1.2.3 Income was £30,940 above target. The key areas of performance above profile are Lifestyles Health & Fitness and casual swimming which are £19,172 (6.3%) and £24,672 (6.2%) above profile respectively. It is also pleasing to note that the revised target for the Swim School has been exceeded by around £13,000 although dry side courses are below profile by around £16,000.

### **1.3 Angel Centre**

- 1.3.1 The facility was £7,940 above profile to the end of September as shown at **[Annex 2]**.
- 1.3.2 Expenditure savings at the Angel Centre amount to £9,845 and are mainly savings in staffing and utilities. .
- 1.3.3 Overall income was £1,905 below target. Income in a number of areas, including the sports hall, meeting rooms and dance studios is below profile. This is largely offset by strong performance in Lifestyles Health & Fitness which is £25,469 (16.7%) above profile.

### **1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool**

- 1.4.1 The facility was above profile by £30,172 to the end of September as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Expenditure savings amount to £1,834. Staffing expenditure is on profile with underspend in utilities offset by additional expenditure in supplies and services.
- 1.4.3 Overall income is above target by £28,338. Swimming income, despite poor weather, is on target and the Swim School is above target. This is offset by below profile net profit from catering which is about £9,800 below expectation.

### **1.5 Poul Wood Golf Centre**

- 1.5.1 Usage of the golf courses is significantly lower than profile with 36,744 rounds played over the first seven months of the financial year. As a result income is now just over £100k below profile as shown at **[Annex 4]**.
- 1.5.2 The decrease in usage is the result of continued poor weather and the impact of major sporting events including the Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- 1.5.3 A national report from Sports Marketing Surveys shows a 13% decrease in the number of rounds played over the last quarter both nationally and across the south, with July showing a 19.7% decline against 2011 usage.

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

- 1.6.1 Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has been in partnership with Kent County Council at Tonbridge Gateway for more than three years now. Tonbridge Gateway offers a wide range of services to the general public through its 13 physical partner organisations working from Gateway, a mix of public and voluntary sector organisations. Charging partners to occupy a space at Gateway came into force on 1 April 2011; the income from the paying organisations will be in excess of just over £13,000 during the current financial year. 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 duties are carried out through a variety of access channels to meet customer demand including electronic, telephony and face-to-face.

- 1.6.2 At the close of business on the 31 October 2012 expenditure was on target and income was above target. **[Annex 5]**.

## **1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery**

- 1.7.1 Overall, income at the Cemetery was £3,749 above profile for the first seven months of the financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 6]**. Whilst the purchase of memorial permits have been lower than anticipated, the lease of Columbaria vaults/plaques, use of the chapel, interments and the purchase of graves were all above profile.

## **1.8 Country Parks Income**

- 1.8.1 Overall, income at the two Country Parks is marginally below profile for the first seven months of the financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 7]**.

## **1.9 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance**

- 1.9.1 This maintenance contract was above profile by £1,923 at the end of September as shown at **[Annex 8]**.
- 1.9.2 The contract is underspent on staffing but this is offset to a degree by additional costs related to materials. The inclement weather early in the year 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

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