

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

21 May 2013

Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure (Designate)

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 2012/13. There is an overall overspend of £17,021 and above target income of £115,460 resulting in an above profile position against the revised estimate of £98,442 at the year end. The financial performance has been closely monitored in liaison with the Director of Finance and Transformation and Management Team throughout the year.

1.1.2 It is encouraging to note that in overall terms the surplus to profile is due primarily to over achievement in income rather than expenditure savings. The second half of the financial year saw a positive performance 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 £18,215 above profile to the year end as shown at [Annex 1].

1.2.2 Expenditure was overspent by £23,704. This included increased staffing costs related to the success of the Swim School and an overspend on gas and water charges. Increased general purchases and marketing costs associated with the refurbishment of Lifestyles were offset by other supplies and services savings. Income was £41,919 above profile. The key areas of performance above profile were Lifestyles Health & Fitness which was £21,000 or 3.3% above profile and the Swim School which was £17,028 or 7.5% above profile. Casual swimming was below profile by £9,878 or 1.4%.

1.3 Angel Centre

- 1.3.1 The facility was £64,122 above profile to the year end as shown at **[Annex 2]**.
- 1.3.2 Expenditure savings amounted to £2,829 with savings in utilities offset by overspend on general purchases and marketing associated with the refurbishment of Lifestyles. Overall income was £61,293 above target. Most areas of income were above profile with Lifestyles Health and Fitness at £22,983 or 6.4% and the Sports Hall at £19,277 or 27.9% the key areas of performance.

1.4 Tonbridge Swimming Pool

- 1.4.1 The facility was above profile by £13,902 to the year end as shown at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.2 Expenditure savings amounted to £1,652 with utilities savings offset by an increase in marketing costs. Overall income was above target by £12,250. Swimming income was £3,736 or 0.8% below profile and net profit on catering was £4,452 below profile. The Swim School was £14,632 or 6.1% above profile.

1.5 Poult Wood Golf Centre

- 1.5.1 Income at the Golf Centre was £80,000 down on revised profile for the financial year with extremely poor weather for the majority of the year resulting in 20 days of complete closure. The difficult playing conditions and trolley bans to protect the courses from damage also affected usage across the year. There were over 11,000 fewer rounds of golf played on the 18 and 9 hole courses than the previous year as shown at **[Annex 4]**.
- 1.5.2 The decrease in usage is also the result of the impact of major events in the summer including the Queen's Jubilee and the Olympics.

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 was just shy of £13,000 for the 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 March 2013 expenditure was on target and income was above target. **[Annex 5]**.

1.7 Tonbridge Cemetery

1.7.1 Overall, income at the Cemetery was £5,118 above profile for the full financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 6]**. The increase in income has come primarily through the sale of graves and the lease of columbaria vaults/plaques.

1.8 Country Parks Income

1.9 Overall, income at the two Country Parks was £1,150 above profile for the full financial year 2012/13 **[Annex 7]**. Over the past year car parking income has been affected by the poor weather, however, this has been offset by an increase in rent receipts.

1.10 Poult Wood Grounds Maintenance

1.10.1 This maintenance contract was above profile by £2,203 to the year end as shown at **[Annex 8]**.

1.10.2 Overall expenditure was well controlled and produced a saving despite the rising costs of materials. The contract performance and standards of ground maintenance remain very high.

1.11 Legal Implications

1.11.1 None.

1.12 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.12.1 Collectively, the facilities covered by this report generate income and expenditure in excess of £4.5m per annum.

1.13 Risk Assessment

1.13.1 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.

1.14 Policy Considerations

1.14.1 Community, Customer Contact.

Background papers:

Nil

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