

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Date: Monday 3 July 2023

Title: Finance Report

Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) – Nigel Warner

Should Members have any queries about this report advance notice would be appreciated, in writing, by 5pm on the Friday before the meeting to allow for a full response at the meeting.

BACKGROUND

Detailed income and expenditure statements for budgets which are the responsibility of this committee are enclosed; these are the management accounts for this committee. The period to which this report relates is 1 April 2023 to 31 May 2023.

For the Parks and Recreation Committee the following cost centres are in place. Cost centres, comprising three digits, typically representing a discrete service entity, to which income and expenditure is allocated against previously agreed revenue budgets.

Cost centre	Service
201	Splash Park at the Leys Recreation Ground
202	The Leys Recreation Ground
203	West Witney Sports Ground
204	Burwell (Queen Elizabeth 2) Sports Ground
205	King George V/ Newland Recreation Ground
207	Moorland Road Play Area
208	Woodgreen/ Play Area
209	Eton Close Play Area
210	Oxlease Play Area
211	Fieldmere Play Area
212	Quarry Road Play Area
213	Raleigh Crescent Play Area
214	Park Road Play Area

Within each cost centre income and expenditure is then allocated to a four-digit nominal ledger code; these codes are common across the cost centres. Nominal ledger codes further define the costs associated with the cost centre and correspond to a specific type of account, such as materials or staffing costs. Codes commencing with “1” are income codes; codes commencing with “4” are expenditure codes.

A report is submitted to every ordinary meeting of the standing committees and previous reports are available on the relevant committee section of the website.

CURRENT SITUATION

Council financial years run from 1 April to 31 March following. Consequently, the management accounts to 31 May represent only the first two months of the 2023/24 year. Being so early in the new financial year means that the reports do not as yet yield much meaningful information but if there were significant variances against the agreed budgets these would be reported even at this early stage as yet there are no such variances for this committee for 2023/24.

Note also:

1. There will always be an inevitable “lag” between expenditure being incurred and being shown in the accounts. However, with the introduction of the computerised purchase order system later in the summer this will mean that committed expenditure will be shown on future reports, improving the timeliness of financial information.
2. Expenditure is not necessarily incurred evenly over the course of the year. For example, most expenditure in relation to nominal ledger code 4025 (Insurance) is incurred when the annual premium is paid. There will also be similar patterns on the income side such as football and cricket fees paid, which are seasonal.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at its meeting on 26 June 2019; with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make regarding the facilities and services it operates.

Officers are continually assessing the environmental impact of services and assets to ensure that where possible measures are taken to support the Council’s climate declaration of carbon neutrality by 2028. This extends to the procurement of goods and services.

RISK

In decision making Councillors should consider any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Members are reminded that collectively they are custodians of the public purse with most of the funding coming from the taxpayers of Witney. Therefore, Officers ensure they get best value, value for money, and comply with the Council’s Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, and Procurement Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This report forms part of the Council’s due diligence and a process in line with its Financial Regulations. The financial implications are detailed above and in the attached appendices.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are invited to note the report.