

## **POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 25 September 2023

**Title:** Spending Committee Financial Regulations

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk/R.F.O

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### **Background**

It is the Council's usual practice that all matters discussed, and recommendations made by spending Committees which have financial implications, are reported to this committee. This Committee is responsible for the overall fiscal management of the Council.

### **Current Situation**

#### **Parks & Recreation – 4 September 2023**

**Play Area Renewals** – The Committee recommended that replacement play equipment at Burwell and King George's play areas be purchased up to the value of £38,651. This is to be funded from the Council's Play Area earmarked reserve, £34,000 (earmarked reserve 365). The remaining amount is to be funded as a supplementary estimate from the Council's general fund (code 310).

**Recreation Ground Signage** – The Committee recommended that 5 x A2 signs and posts should be purchased to provide welcome and rules signs at the Council's recreation grounds up to the value of £2,775. It is recommended that these signs could be funded through utilising existing property maintenance budgets at the sites (codes 4036/202-205) and the infrastructure earmarked reserve (code 369) , the balance of which on 1 April 2023 was £59,944.

#### **Halls, Cemeteries & Allotments – 11 September 2023**

**Property & Legal Matters** – The Committee recommended that a storage shed, and lawn mower be funded by the Town Council for use by Witney Allotment Association at Lakeside Allotments. The cost of £2,900 for the shed and £300 for the mower being funded from the town council's allotments earmarked reserve.

#### **Stronger Communities – 18 September 2023**

**Youth Services** – The Committee recommended that a grant of £10,000 should be awarded to Home-Start Oxford, in accordance with their application. This to be funded £8,400 from the Youth Grant (remaining balance code 4169/408), and £1,600 from the General Grants budget (code 4100/407).

**Community Engagement report** - Car Free Day, 22 September 2023: the Committee recommended that that with regard to the Heritage Walk the Council should fund Witney Museum £5 per walker up to a maximum of 20 walkers, funded from the Car Free Day budget.

D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2024. The Committee recommended that a provisional budget of £1,000 should be set in the 2024-25 estimates (cost centre 408), subject to a task & finish group being established and providing further details of a suitable event.

**Events report** – The Committee recommended that a grant of £10,000 should be awarded to Witney Music Festival (WMF) for 2024-25 noting that this is subject to the budget-setting cycle and this amount being considered affordable at that stage (cost centre 408). With regard to the additional £5,000 which WMF had requested regarding the provision and management of a disabled area and toilets, they were signposted to WODC West Hive crowdfunding, which was being launched in October 2023.

Play Day. It was reported that this was a free event for residents organised in the town annually by Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA). The Committee recommended that the Council continue to give a grant of £1,000 for this event in 2024 (2024-25 budget 4106/408).

**Bus Shelters West Witney.** The Committee agreed to adopt the proposed four bus shelters for Windrush Place and consequently increase the annual bus shelter maintenance budget from £2,000 to £3,000 in 2024-25 (budget line 4035/402).

**Winter preparations** - Salt bins. The Committee agreed to pay and install two new salt/grit bins at Kingfisher Meadow from the existing budget.

## **Environmental impact**

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

## **Risk**

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

All the Council's Committees receive financial reports to conduct its checks and balances and consideration is given to budgets and funding availability when agreeing expenditure.

## **Financial implication**

The report forms part of the Council's mechanisms for budgetary control. Specific financial implications are detailed.

## **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

- Agreeing the recommendations of the spending committees as detailed above.