

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

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**Date:** Monday, 5 February 2024

**Title:** Financial Matters from Spending Committees

**Contact Officer:** Deputy Town Clerk

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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 Committee – 15 January 2024**

Leys Parking Restrictions – The Committee recommended that parking restrictions at The Leys be procured under Option A of the report, totalling £3,740.00, once the quote had been ratified and all necessary compliance satisfied. This will need to be funded as a supplementary estimate from the general reserve.

Splash Park Renovation Works – The Committee recommended closing the Splash Park for the 2024 season and committed to major renovation works. The costings were not provided at the meeting, but this would be funded from the Splash Park earmarked reserve (361).

#### **Halls Cemeteries & Allotments Committee – 22 January 2024**

Corn Exchange Storage – The Committee recommended that Option/Supplier 1 be awarded the contract for the works for the sum of £4,690.00. Storage was agreed by the Council previously and this would be funded from the Public Halls earmarked reserve (328).

Windrush Cemetery Marking – The Committee recommended that the burial sections at Windrush Cemetery be marked out with steel posts for the sum of £2,500, this being funded from the Windrush Cemetery earmarked reserve (327).

#### **Stronger Communities Committee – 29 January 2024**

Annual Newsletter – The Committee recommended that the newsletter be printed and distributed by the fourth contractor for the sum of £2,231.00. The amount is within the agreed budget of £3,000.

D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/ Town Council 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The Committee agreed to the recommendations of the task and finish groups for these projects which would be funded from the approved budgets for 2024/25.

Youth Services – The Committee were advised Bright Futures were hoping to be setup and running a detached youth service by February half-term, subject to the necessary paperwork being provided by the town council along with the first payment [£10,000 of the previously agreed £28,000].

Christmas Lights – The Committee agreed to the recommendations of the Working Party which would now be incorporated into the specification to be paid for from the approved budget in 2024/25 and beyond.

In Bloom – The Committee recommended that £1,250 be vired from the underspent budget for this project to pay for planting to complete the Children’s Memorial Garden at Windrush Cemetery.

Woodstock Road Bus Stop – The Committee agreed that a timetable case for this stop should be erected at the location. No cost was provided at the meeting and opportunities to fund this infrastructure would be investigated by officers before the town council commits to the cost.

### **Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee – 30 January 2024**

Due to the timing of the meeting, a verbal update on any spending recommendations will be provided by way of verbal update from officers at the meeting.

### **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.

### **Social Value**

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates.

The benefits of these items should be considered at the time of recommendation.

### **Financial implications**

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:

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