

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 25 March 2024

Title: Financial Matters referred from Spending Committees

Contact Officer: Deputy Town Clerk

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 – 4 March 2024

There were no financial implications from decisions made at this meeting.

Halls Cemeteries & Allotments Committee – 11 March 2024

Public Halls Report – Gallery Room Conferencing Equipment. The Committee recommended the purchase of specialist equipment up to the value of £7,500 to provide additional opportunities to increase hire and hold hybrid meetings. This being funded as a supplementary estimate from the general reserve.

Reduced Hall Hire Request. The Committee recommended agreement to a request from a regular hirer to hire the hall for a 3-hour slot which falls outside the agreed pricing structure (with conditions), thus reducing the income from £69.00 to £53.40 per session from 1 April 2024.

Corn Exchange Business Report – Over The Hill Event. The Committee recommended agreement to a special ticket sales split arrangement for the facilitation of this event, subject to clarification on the net/gross figures. A verbal update will be provided by officers at the meeting.

Stronger Communities Committee – 18 March 2024

Community Engagement Report – Councillors @ The Café Signage. The Committee recommended the purchase of 2x A1 boards to advertise the event and for a new events gazebo; the approximate cost being £210, funded from the events budget (4141/408).

Community Engagement Report – In Bloom Vouchers. The Committee recommended the vouchers for community gardening groups should be increased from £30 to £40 and for schools partaking in Schools In Bloom, from £30 to £50. This being within the In Bloom Budget (4215/402)

Third Party Events – Subsidised Hire. The Committee recommended subsidised hire of the Leys for the following community events during the summer of 2024 from budget (4110/402). Witney Pride - £715.00, Witney Carnival - £1,775.00 and Witney Music Festival - £2,365.00.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind 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.