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**Agenda Item:** Financial Matters referred from Spending Committees

**Meeting Date:** Monday, 31 March 2025

**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 – 10 March 2025**

There were no financial implications from decisions made at this meeting for the current fiscal year.

#### **Halls Cemeteries & Allotments Committee – 17 March 2025**

**H29** Public Halls Report – The Committee recommended the Council should offer free Essential Companion Tickets for town-council run events in the Corn Exchange. The value of the policy could not be quantified but it would offer social value and brought the venue in line with others.

#### **Stronger Communities Committee – 24 March 2025**

Community Engagement Report – The Committee recommended the Council should fund APCAM We Game Sessions for the sum of £1,000. This would be funded from an underspend for the £50 for fifty grants scheme.

Community Engagement Report – The Committee recommended supporting the use of budgets towards the civic Witney Twinning event on 2 May 2025.

Community Engagement Report – The Committee recommended entry to the Thames & Chiltern In Bloom competition (Witney Lake & Country Park) for 2025 for the sum of £50.

Youth Services Report – The Committee recommended that the Council should fund APCAM mental health sessions during the school holidays and year for the sum of £2,600. This could be funded from an underspend in the discretionary grants fund.

Amenity Land Area Mis-use – Installation of Bollards. The Committee recommended installation of preventative measures at the location for the most cost-effective solution from the existing property maintenance budget.

Queen Emma’s Dyke Community Garden – The Committee recommended the creation of this garden from the existing property maintenance budget.

Any implications from the **Climate, Biodiversity & Planning Committee** on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 will need to be ratified at a later meeting due to the schedule of meetings.

### **Impact Assessments**

The Town Council has a duty to consider the effects of its decisions, functions and activities on equality, biodiversity, and crime & disorder. Consideration should also be given to effects on the environment, given the Council’s Climate Emergency declaration in 2019.

- a) Equality – Covered in specific project reports.
- b) Biodiversity – Covered in specific project reports.
- c) Crime & Disorder – Covered in specific project reports.
- d) Environment & Climate Emergency - Covered in specific project reports.

### **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 agreeing the recommendations of the spending committees as detailed above.