
Agenda Item: Financial Matters referred from Spending Committees

Meeting Date: Monday, 22 June 2026

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.

Following a resolution of Full Council on 6 October (Minute No. 581 refers), this report provides a summary of all spending committee decisions, both approved and declined, to ensure comprehensive and transparent scrutiny by this Committee which holds overall responsibility for the Council's financial management and oversight of budgetary decisions.

Current Situation

Climate & Biodiversity Committee – 19 May 2026

CB253 – Biodiversity Update. The Committee noted an update regarding the Green Flag Award application for the Lake & Country Park, including the associated resubmission fee of £500 which had previously been agreed.

Parks & Recreation Committee – 1 June 2026

PR270 – Leys Splash Park – Summer Opening. The Committee recommended:

- That, the splash park operating hours be amended to 10:00am to 5:00pm with immediate effect and;
- That an update on water usage and associated costs against budget be presented to the Full Council meeting on 13 July. In order that the Council can review the position and make any necessary adjustments.
- That, given the quorum of the Policy, Governance and Finance Committee Members present, the revised operating hours be implemented with immediate effect rather than awaiting formal ratification.

As this item was time sensitive, it was agreed that the change in timings should be implemented immediately and that this decision should be reported to this Committee.

PR271 - Sports Pitches – The Committee recommended that potential budget implications for re-seeding the pitches at Windrush Place sports pitches be prepared for this meeting, if appropriate. Following a recent site visit, officers do not consider this is a task which is required at this time.

PR273 - Leys Redevelopment – The Committee recommended that £5,600 should be allocated for cycle storage, bins, and seating at The Leys from the Council's Infrastructure earmarked reserve.

It was further agreed that quotes for improved robust fencing between the Courtside Hub and the Council' Skate Park would be brought to this meeting. Details on this are covered in a separate report from the Head of Estates & Operations appended to this report.

Halls Cemeteries & Allotments Committee – 8 June 2026

Public Halls Report -

- The Committee recommended approval for **wedding packages** at the Corn Exchange. The proposed packages are attached as Appendix A.
- The Committee recommended approval for the installation of **hearing loops** at the Corn Exchange as presented in the report for the sum of up to £20,000 (figures in the report were inclusive of VAT).

The Council has £6,000 funded towards this project in the current year, and the Venue & Events Officer has applied for grant funding towards the remainder of the costs.

On the outcome of the grant applications, and due to the accessibility needs at the venues, the Committee may like to consider a supplementary maximum budget of £6,000 from the general reserve to install the hearing loops in the three principal areas of Corn Exchange Main Hall & Gallery Room and Burwell Hall.

In addition, it was agreed portable hearing loops (£250 each) should be available at the Council's other enclosed public areas; 1863 café and the Reception/Administration Office. These can be funded from budget lines 4042/602 (Reception) and 4042/103 (Café).

- While not, financial related, this Committee should also note the recommendation of the Committee to approve amendments to the **Public Halls terms and conditions** suggested during a recent routine Fire Assessment of the Corn Exchange. These may be seen here: [260608 Public Halls Report.pdf](#)

Commemorative Plaque Request - The Committee recommended purchase and erection of a plaque to commemorate Cpl John S Christiansen at the Tower Hill Memorial Wall for the sum of up to £120 from budget line 4036/301.

Climate Action Working Party – 11 June 2026

Wildflower Planting — The Committee recommended that the Council goes ahead with removing the current planting scheme at Curbridge Road Roundabout and replacing it with lower height wildflowers. The costs of this project are indicated below:

- Contractor cost to remove the existing roots and clear ready for planting is £400
- The cost of the seed mix is £250
- The works team cost will be recharged for this work but will come from existing staffing budgets

Carbon Reduction Plan – It was recommended that the allocated budget of £50,000, priority should be in line with previous decisions, and concentrated on Corn Exchange and Windrush Cemetery, with Burwell Hall being added. In particular, the simplest options in the reports should be completed operationally.

Eco Fair 2026 – Both the C&B Committee and the WP agreed the Council should hold a further Eco Fair at the Corn Exchange in September. This would require subsidised use of the Main Hall for the day.

Stronger Communities Committee – 15 June 2026

Finance Report – The Committee recommended that the budget line for Experience Oxfordshire should be re-allocated as this was something the Council was not pursuing. It was subsequently confirmed this has been removed from the 2026/27 year.

Community Engagement Report -

- Heritage Open Day. The Committee recommended allocating an underspend on the St George's Day event of £200 towards a Heritage Open Day led event in September.
- Big Lunch. The Committee recommended providing a budget to an external community group to facilitate a Big Lunch in June 2027.
- Love Parks Week. The Committee recommended that a volunteer picnic be held in Love Parks week to thank them for their help in the year (from existing budgets)
- WTC Bunting. The Committee recommended purchasing bunting in the town council's colours to decorate Market Square (near the Corn Exchange) annually. (funded from existing budgets).

Youth Council – It was confirmed that the Youth Council had joined the National Youth Council UK. This incurred a cost of £100 from the existing Youth Council budget.

Youth Services Grants – The Committee received the applications and provided direction on their allocation to the Evaluation Panel. Its recommendations are a separate item on the agenda for this Committee.

Litter picking Cabinets – The Committee recommended the purchase of three cabinets (option 2) for the most appropriate locations on town council land for the sum of £1,800 to be funded from the Infrastructure earmarked reserve.

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,

1. Consider agreeing the recommendations of the spending committees as detailed above and the consider or note the additional deferred items:
 - a) Improved fencing at The Leys Skate Park as set out in the accompanying report;
 - b) Additional funding for hearing loops in the Council's public facing facilities;
 - c) The costs for remedial work to improve Curbridge Road Roundabout;
 - d) Subsidised letting for the second annual Eco Fair.