CLIMATE & BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Agenda Item: Finance Report

Meeting Date: Tuesday 8 September 2026

Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer

Should Members have any queries about this report advance notice would be appreciated, in writing to nigel.warner@witney-tc.gov.uk by 12 noon on the day of the meeting to allow for a full response at the meeting.

Background

Detailed income and expenditure statements for budgets which are the responsibility of this committee are enclosed. The period to which this report relates is 1 April to 31 July 2026.

Current Situation

The Committee is responsible for cost centres 206 - Witney Lake and Country Park; 250 – Amenity Areas and 403 – Planning.

The summary for these cost centres from 1 April to 31 July 2026 is:

	Months 1 to 4 actual	Budget	Percentage of budget spent/received in Months 1 to 4 (33% of the year)
Income	(£27,879)	£1,038	2685.8% - see note 1 below
Expenditure	£122,915	£420,738	29.3%
Net expenditure	£95,037	£419,700	22.6%

A full commentary on budget lines will be undertaken as part of the budget process. Although early in the financial year Members may wish to note the following in relation to the management accounts for this first quarter:

1. Net expenditure of 22.6% is artificially low due to the impact of the grants received in the year to date. All these grants are restricted and will eventually be matched by expenditure and therefore a more accurate indicator is the line above, expenditure, which is running at 29.3%. The grants received are:
    - Code 1170/206 – Mill Meadow – West Oxfordshire DC – £2,458.

- Code 1170/250 – Flood resilience store, Millers Mews – Oxfordshire CC - £21,621.
- Code 1170/250 – Witney Public footpath 13, Information Boards and benches - £4,800.

2. With regard to income, the invoice in relation to fishing rights is due to be invoiced shortly.
3. With regard to expenditure in cost centre 206, Witney Lake and Country Park the amount allowed for budget lines from 4007 to 4222 inclusive amounts to £26,875. In any given year the expenditure allocated to individual nominal codes in this range will vary but the practice is that expenditure may vired between lines in this cost centre provided that expenditure remains within the overall total. The spend to 31 July 2026 amounts to £5,110, representing 19.0% of budget.

Members should note that the management accounts and the Council's accounting system more generally is driven by the requirements in place for town and parish councils, including the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Practitioners' Guide issued by the Smaller Authorities' Proper Practices Panel (SAPPP) to support the preparation by smaller authorities in England of statutory annual accounting and governance statements found in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return. This means that the accounts can only include actual income and expenditure in terms of money (income and expenditure) and sums held with financial institutions and cannot include anything else.

Corporate Strategy

The Council's Strategic Plan 2025–29 sets out the Council's long-term priorities and direction, supporting its mission to 'make Witney a great place to live, work and visit.' This report contributes to the delivery of the following strategic pillar of the plan:

1. A Forward Looking Town Council

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 – no implications directly resulting from this report.
b) Biodiversity - no implications directly resulting from this report.
c) Crime & Disorder - no implications directly resulting from this report.
d) Environment & Climate Emergency - no implications directly resulting from this report.

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.

The provision of regular financial reports is part of the Council's risk management system.

Social Value

Social value is the positive change the Council creates in the local community within which it operates. Social value is no quantified in the financial reports but clearly the creation of social value is dependent on setting adequate budgets to meet the Council's objectives.

Financial implications

This report forms part of the Council's due diligence and a process in line with its Financial Regulations. The financial implications are detailed above and also in the attached income and expenditure statements.

This report forms part of the Council's mechanisms for budgetary control, as it enables income and expenditure incurred to be reviewed and to be compared with the Council's budgets.

Recommendations

Member are invited to note the report and

1. Approve the report and the management accounts of the Committee's services to for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 July 2026.