

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: Tuesday 31st May 2022
Title: **Finance Report**
Contact Officer: Town Clerk/RFO – Sharon Groth

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 Period 12, 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

CURRENT SITUATION

Most, if not all, the year-end adjustments have now been completed, along with the recharges from Central Support for the administration, Works Department for all the maintenance tasks and service delivery, and Grounds Maintenance costs, applied.

This Committee oversees some of the budget lines relating to Cost Centre 206 – Witney Country Park; 403 – Planning (although this is just a recharge for time spent administering the Committee) and some budget lines within Cost Centre 403 – Community Infrastructure relating to Trees and the Climate Emergency.

Where possible some of the budget underspends have been rolled over into earmarked reserves some for committed expenditure, such as Arboriculture/Tree replacements or to provide for a contingency towards bringing the grounds maintenance service in house.

It should be noted that budget line 4205 – Climate Emergency – the combined underspend from 2020-21 and 2021-22 (£35,000) is now in an Earmarked Reserve a/c 366 which amounts to £48,050. The difference relates to funds set aside for a management plan for the Lake & Country Park and bank erosion works.

If Members have any specific questions please email the Town Clerk before the meeting so that she will be able to respond and provide an answer at the meeting.

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.

Proper and sound financial management is necessary as all Councillors are collectively responsible for the budget, particularly expenditure and ensuring it is expended lawfully and in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

As Town Clerk, the Council's Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer it is her job to advise accordingly, in line with Financial Regulations and Statute.

When revising the budgets given the uncertainty around the pandemic at the time, prudence was applied to income generated as part of the Council's risk management.

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 appendices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are invited to note the report.