

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held at **6.30pm on Tuesday 25th March 2025** in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Hussain (Chair).
Councillors: Biegel, Mears and Vaitkus.

Alternate Members: Councillor Richards (For Cllr Eaton)

Officers: Mark Hassall (Town Clerk & RFO)
Paul Almond (Director of Environment)
Helen Durkin (Executive Officer)
Mark Perrett (Event Manager)

R.14/25 Apologies for Absence
Councillor Eaton

R.15/25 Declarations of Interest
None.

R.16/25 Minutes of the last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 04 February 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

R.17/25 Income & Expenditure Report
The Committee considered a report prepared by the Town Clerk & RFO comparing year-to-date income and expenditure with the projected annual budget for the financial year. The report showed all expenditure incurred up to 10 March 2025.

Officers responded to a range of questions from Members relating to various budget codes and financial procedures. Members' attention was drawn to the fact that overall the Committees' expenditure was within forecast versus the projected budget.

General Services variances and points to note were principally:

- ◆ Cleansing charges to Cherwell District Council (CDC) are paid annually in full in March.
- ◆ Staffing costs remain within budget, in line with annual salary increases agreed with trade unions.
- ◆ Purchase of two new mowers (used within cemeteries & open spaces) has been undertaken and now operational, retaining two spares to support operational resilience.
- ◆ Replacement light columns have been installed in People Park, the beginning of a wider replacement programme across the estate, with trenchwork for electrical connections completed at PDP.
- ◆ All MUGAs and sports hardstanding have been assessed across the estate, with appraisal of refurbishment options to be funded from earmarked reserves to be subject of a separate report to elected members. Underspends in Playground Equipment is available to earmark to fund this work to sports and play hardstanding improvements.
- ◆ Building M&R underspends provide an earmarked fund to enable seasonal infrastructure opportunities in People's Park/St Marys.

- ◆ Eight new green roofed bus shelters are currently being installed by Clear Channel across a number of arterial entry roads into Banbury, with the project finalising in April.
- ◆ Capital expenditure on preplanning works to facilitate PlayZones at PDP and Chandos (which have now received planning permission) will be met by funding partners (Football Foundation 75% and CDC 25%). Meanwhile funding towards lighting at PDP and Banbury Cross has been received via CDC from UKSPF capital fund.

Points of interest on Resources Committee related principally to:

- ◆ Corporate, Central Administration and Civic continue to be well controlled, with vacancies in central administration contributing £15k underspend, alongside timing of NALC subscription costs, offset by elevated legal costs.
- ◆ Town Council Events are likely to end the year marginally over budget parameters, however offset by savings within the Resources budget.
- ◆ Underspends on Christmas Lights may be earmarked for future seasonal lighting events.
- ◆ Other Costs & Income are in line with treasury management of reserve funds are projected to slightly exceed budget guidance.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the Income and Expenditure report.
IT WAS RESOLVED to authorise the earmarked reserves.

R.18/25 Members Allowance

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the members allowance report.

R.19/25 Parish Remuneration

The Committee considered the report of the Parish Remuneration Panel.

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the parish remuneration report.

The meeting ended at 7.02pm