



High Wycombe Town Committee Special Expenses Outturn 2019/20

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Introduction

Committee are asked to consider and acknowledge the outturn position for 2019/20. This report sets out the 2019/20 revenue outturn position and the impact on working balances at year end for High Wycombe Town Committee.

Special Expenses Outturn 2019/20

The net outturn position for 2019/20 is £401k, a forecast over spend of £16k against a total budget of £385k. The table below provides the detail at activity level.

Activity Area	Analysis	2019-20 Budget	2019-20 Outturn	2019-20 Variance
		£	£	£
Footway Lighting	Expenditure	2,700	156	-2,544
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	2,700	156	-2,544
Cemetery	Expenditure	292,300	395,016	102,716
	Income	-153,600	-180,276	-26,676
	Net Expenditure	138,700	214,740	76,040
Town Twinning	Expenditure	3,000	3,000	0
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	3,000	3,000	0
Financial Assistance to Voluntary Groups	Expenditure	26,800	9,990	-16,810
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	26,800	9,990	-16,810
Recreation Grounds (Local)	Expenditure	163,810	143,973	-19,837
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	163,810	143,973	-19,837
Allotments	Expenditure	19,100	16,194	-2,906
	Income	-60	-64	-4
	Net Expenditure	19,040	16,130	-2,910
War Memorial	Expenditure	3,000	0	-3,000
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	3,000	0	-3,000
Community Centres	Expenditure	28,000	13,000	-15,000
	Income	0	0	0
	Net Expenditure	28,000	13,000	-15,000
TOTAL	Expenditure	538,710	581,329	42,619
	Income	-153,660	-180,340	-26,680
	Net Expenditure	385,050	400,989	15,939

Commentary on significant variances

Cemetery

Expenditure budget overspends of £103k are reported. The main variations relate to costs of 66 additional burial vaults £45k and the installation of an additional terrace £76k. The additional income for these burial vaults is expected in future years which will need to be transferred to the High Wycombe Town Committee reserve.

This over spend is offset by one off savings on rates of £13k and a reduction in the WDC management charges of £5k. Cemetery income is overachieved by £27k in 2019/20, relating to increased demand for burial rites £19k, concrete chambers £6k and internment fees of £6k, and other income of £7k was received. This was offset in part by reduced rental income of £11k resulting from rental income in advance from Quadrant not accounted for in prior years.

Financial Assistance to Voluntary Groups

Underspend of £15k on grants to voluntary groups and £2k savings on WDC Management Charges. Reduction in grant payments compared to 2018/19 of £11k compounded by an increase in budget of £6k. In 2019/20, only 4 grants were paid averaging £1.2k each. In 2018/19, 6 grants were paid but averaged £2.6k, including £6k grant to Baptist Church for a new disabled toilet and £5k grant to Beechview Academy for a new community hub. Local voluntary groups were able to draw on other WDC voluntary funding in 2019/20 including the distribution of lottery funds reserves of £22k.

Recreation Grounds

There is an underspend of £20k on the recreation grounds expenditure budget as result of savings on maintenance costs of £14k and a saving on the WDC Management Charges of £6k.

Community Centres

An under spend of £15k is reported in relation to payment to Castlefield Community centre which has been transferred to Karima Foundation in March 2020

Impact on Working Balances

The impact of 2019/20 activities are given in the table below;

	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2019		-1,095,791
Revenue Expenditure	400,989	
Precept	-274,320	
Reversal of capital charges	-12,008	
Interest	-7,575	
Movement in reserves		107,086
Balance c/f 31st March 2020		-988,705

New Cemetery

In March 2017, HWTC and Cabinet approved the build of a new Cemetery at Penn Road and a total project cost of £1,679,790. A contribution of £404k from the Special Expense Reserve was approved by the March 2017 Cabinet to partially fund phase 1 of the new Cemetery. £800k of CIL funding was agreed by Cabinet in February 2017 and a further £86k agreed in February 2019. The cost of the project increased from £1,679,790 to £1,933,000 and was approved by the February 2020 Cabinet. Funding of £143k from the Special Expense Reserve and £500k of CIL funding were approved by February 2020 HWTC and Cabinet.

The project commenced in February 2020. Spend in 2019/20 is £99k and is funded from CIL allocation. Total funding for the new cemetery agreed from Special Expenses earmarked reserve totals £547k and is forecast to be spent in full in 2020/21.