



High Wycombe Town Committee Special Expenses Outturn 2023/24

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Table of Contents

High Wycombe Town Committee Special Expenses Outturn 2023/24	1
Introduction	3
Special Expenses Outturn 2023/24.....	3
Commentary on significant variances	4
Impact on Working Balances	5
Appendix A.....	6

Introduction

Committee are asked to consider and acknowledge the outturn position for 2023/24. This report sets out the 2023/24 revenue outturn position and the impact on working balances at year end for High Wycombe Town Committee.

Special Expenses Outturn 2023/24

The net outturn position for 2023/24 is £317k, an underspend of £188k against a total budget of £505k. The table below provides the detail at activity level:

Activity Area	Analysis	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Actuals	Variance
		£	£	£
Footway Lighting	Exp	1,800	626	-1,174
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	1,800	626	-1,174
Cemeteries	Exp	501,110	421,880	-79,230
	Inc	-253,340	-306,053	-52,713
	Net Exp	247,770	115,827	-131,943
Town Twinning	Exp	3,000	3,000	0
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	3,000	3,000	0
Community Grants	Exp	22,733	8,799	-13,934
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	22,733	8,799	-13,934
Recreation Grounds (Local)	Exp	164,811	136,938	-27,873
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	164,811	136,938	-27,873
Allotments	Exp	49,934	40,020	-9,914
	Inc	-60	-50	10
	Net Exp	49,874	39,970	-9,904
War Memorial	Exp	3,000	0	-3,000
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	3,000	0	-3,000
Wycombe Events	Exp	12,000	12,000	0
	Inc	0	0	0
	Net Exp	12,000	12,000	0
TOTAL	Exp	758,388	623,263	-135,125
	Inc	-253,400	-306,103	-52,703
	Net Exp	504,988	317,160	-187,828

Commentary on significant variances

Footway Lighting

In 2023/24 some works were undertaken on Rupert Avenue leaving a remaining underspend of £1k.

Cemeteries

The underspend on expenditure in the cemeteries is primarily due to underspends in Grounds Maintenance due to low spend in reactive maintenance. There has also been a small saving in Business Rates that has helped with the overall position.

The overachievement in income is a result of an increase in income from Muslim burial chambers. Although this income is showing above budget, these chambers are sold at cost and so have been used to help cover the cost of 100 additional chambers which were ordered in 2024-25.

Recreation Grounds

Reduced spend on Grounds Maintenance is being forecast due to lower activity for reactive maintenance.

Allotments

There is a slight underachievement of income on Allotments due to VAT. The entire bill for maintenance of the easement is £60 and £10 of that is VAT, therefore only £50 is attributable to income.

Community Grants

The following tables summarise the grants that have been approved and declined or are currently in the pipeline for this year.

The following grant applications have been approved this year:

Name	Quarter	Date	Amount
Wycombe Mind – The Festival of Wellbeing 2023 (partially awarded)	Q1	11/04/2023	£ 430.00
Micklefield Community Association – Coronation Rock, Family Fun Day	Q1	14/04/2023	£ 966.00
Lighthouse Cressex – Summer Holiday Programme	Q1	06/06/2023	£ 1,500.00
Wycombe Women’s Aid – Summer Playscheme	Q2	14/07/2023	£ 800.00
Wycombe Swan Theatre - Trafalgar Entertainment Trust – Wycombe Swan Youth Projects	Q3	12/12/2023	£ 1,493.00
St Andrews Church – St Andrews Community Lunch Club	Q4	08/01/2024	£ 876.97
		Total	£ 6,065.97

* Table in report showing Special Expenses Outturn 23/24 includes £2,733 management fees

Details of all grants (including those that have been declined) can be found in Appendix A.

Impact on Working Balances

The impact of 2023/24 activities are given in the table below:

	£	£
Balance at 1st April 2023		-717,888
Revenue Expenditure Forecast	317,160	
Precept	-424,456	
Interest	-36,081	
Movement in reserves		-143,377
Balance c/f 31st March 2024		-861,265

The working balance as at March 2024 is £861k which is higher than the recommended minimum level of £150k (the minimum level is due for a review). Note that the year-end accounting for the council is not yet finalised, which includes these provisional figures. This amount is set aside as an earmarked reserve and therefore ring-fenced for HWTC.

Appendix A

2023/24 Community Support Grants

Organisations	Project/Event/Activity	Outcome	Requested	Awarded/Status	Date Awarded
Wycombe Mind	The Festival of Wellbeing 2023	Partially Awarded	£860.00	£430.00	11/04/2023
Micklefield Community Association	Coronation Rock - Family Fun Day	Awarded	£966.00	£966.00	14/04/2023
Wycombe Food Hub	Coronation Tea Party	Partially Awarded £269.90 - Withdrawn by applicant	£1,500.00	£0.00	05/05/2023
Lighthouse Cressex	Summer Holiday Programme	Awarded	£1,500.00	£1,500.00	06/06/2023
Wycombe Women's Aid	Summer Playscheme	Awarded	£800.00	£800.00	14/07/2023
Chiltern Hills Brass	Concert	Declined (did not apply in time for processing)	£1,000.00	£0.00	14/07/2023
Bucks Historic Building Trust	Feel Good Well-being and Art Sessions	Declined (did not meet criteria)	£1,500.00	£0.00	04/09/2023
St Andrews Church	St Andrews Comm. Lunch Club	Awarded	£876.97	£876.97	08/01/2024
Wycombe Swan Theatre - Trafalgar Ent. Trust	Wycombe Swan Youth Projects	Awarded	£1,493.00	£1,493.00	12/12/2023
Citizens Advice Bureau	Volunteer Recruitment Programme	Declined (funded same project last year)	£1,498.00	£0.00	12/21/2023
			Total Requested	Total Approved	
			£11,993.97	£6,065.97	

2023/24 Facilities Grants

Organisations	Project/Event/Activity	Outcome	Requested	Awarded/Status	Date Awarded
Hills Cafe	Community Toilet Refurbishment	Declined (did not meet criteria)	£2,400.00	£0.00	14/07/2023
			Total Requested	Total Approved	
			£2,400.00	£0.00	

**Not included in above figures is the Management Fee of £2,733. This amount plus the amount of grants approved of £6,065.97 equals the amount shown in the Outturn table within this report, £8,799.