

RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Resources Committee held at **6.30pm on Tuesday 02nd September 2025** in the Town Hall, Banbury.

Present: Councillor Hussain (Chair)
Councillors: Creed, Eaton, Stansfield and Vaitkus.

Alternate Members: Councillor Strangwood for Cllr Mallon

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

R.28/25 Apologies for Absence
None

R.29/25 Declarations of Interest
None.

R.30/25 Minutes of the last Meeting

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 June 2025 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, these were proposed by Councillor Eaton and seconded by Councillor Vaitkus.

R.31/25 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 22 August 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:

- ◆ Staffing costs remain within budget, and have now incorporated central government annual salary increases agreed with trade unions of 3.2% effective from 1st April 2025.
- ◆ Timing of invoicing for grounds maintenance works impacted by timing of August invoice across Parks.
- ◆ Tree works orders have largely been completed and with the final few days currently being undertaken, balancing available resources with recommendations from scheduled independent arboriculture inspections over an ongoing three-year timeframe.
- ◆ Sports facilities works to get facilities reviewed ahead of the football season, whilst the dry and hard ground conditions have hampered goal mouth restoration, other remedial works have been completed. NNDR council tax adjustment backdated to reflect increased income at Hanwell Fields relating to increased sports use.

- ◆ With the current licence for cricket use at Hanwell expiring in August 2025, officers are exploring the current clubs requirements for a longer term licence to support the ongoing development aspirations of the club. The recommendations of General Services G.S.25/25 to Resources Committee - 13.3 is the preparation of a licence for a cricket academy to operate at Hanwell Fields sports ground.
- ◆ Additional expenditure is being incurred to secure and upgrade the lighting of the Banbury Cross and Fine Lady statues, which is within budget parameters following successful grant applications via CDC from central government UK SPF fund (Capital – Park Refurb), this project is 70% complete ahead of the darker evenings.
- ◆ Completion of Chandos PlayZone is followed by the installation of a PlayZone at Princess Diana park, with grant funding for the full costs incurred due to be received from CDC (25%) and Football Foundation (75%).
- ◆ Improvements to bus shelters providing Green Roofs (in partnership with Bauer Media Outdoor (nee Clear Channel), and Real Time Info (in partnership with OCC).

Underspends on Resources Committee, principally:

- ◆ Corporate, Central Administration and Civic continue to be well controlled. Additional legal costs are being incurred to settle and resolve an outstanding past employee complaint, following receipt of Chairmans concurrence for expenditure to be committed. Elevated expenditure will be captured within the 6+6 budget review.
- ◆ Town Council Events are currently within acceptable budget parameters, with a confirmed grant of £3k remaining outstanding to be received.
- ◆ Town Hall – includes utility costs to be recharged to OCC under the lease of first floor, alongside additional ongoing hire of the interview room by CDC on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week for the next three months.
- ◆ Other services to the Public include timing of small grants (including Warm Welcome grant scheme).
- ◆ Other Costs & Income are in line with projected budget, with reserves being invested to achieve interest income target which is anticipated to exceed income budget.

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

IT WAS RESOLVED to receive and note the annual salaries increases agreed between the trade unions and central government.

IT WAS RESOLVED to **APPROVE** the Chairman of Resources entering a licence with representatives of Banbury Lions Cricket Club to operate at Hanwell Fields Sports Ground, and to request officers to draw up an up to 10 year licence with appropriate no fault break clauses, in order to enable the Council to secure alternative strategic sports provision at the same site should the opportunity arise.

R.32/25 Pay Award 25/26

IT WAS RESOLVED To receive and note the local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26

Banbury Town Council

R.33/25 Health & Safety

IT WAS RESOLVED To receive and note the Health & Safety Policy Statement.

R.34/25 Twinning Agreement

IT WAS RESOLVED To receive and **RECOMMEND** reaffirming to full council the Twinning Agreement between Banbury & Hennef.

Background Papers: Nil

The meeting ended at 7.25pm