

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>	
MEETING:	<b>Council</b>
MEETING DATE:	<b>20 March 2025</b>
TITLE:	<b>Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board</b>
WARD:	<b>All</b>
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report: None</b>	

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the work of the Charitable Trust Board in 2023/24.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the Annual Report of the Charitable Trust Board for 2023/24.

## **3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

- 3.1 The purpose of the Charitable Trust Board is to facilitate the management of the charitable trusts for which the Council is the sole trustee; independently, in accordance with their governing documents and in the best interests of the charity. Currently the only charitable trust which the Board oversees is the Alice Park Trust. This is managed by a Sub-Committee consisting of voting members (elected members of the Council) and independent non-voting members.
- 3.2 The Charitable Trust Board is satisfied that the finances of the charity are being managed adequately with the support of the Council's finance team. The Alice Park Trust annual report and accounts for 2023/24 have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

## **4 THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The Charitable Trust Board received the Annual Report of the Alice Park Trust and is satisfied that the Alice Park Trust is:
- Being managed in pursuit of its charitable purposes.
  - Maintaining a balanced account.
  - Acting within the requirements of its governing documents.
  - Dealing with its regulatory and public accountability obligations.

- 4.2 Operating expenditure incurred for Alice Park Trust in 2023/24 was £43,304; this was offset by operating income of £25,646.
- 4.3 The operating deficit of £17,658 has been subsidised from the Bath & North East Somerset Council Park's revenue budget, to ensure the Trust operates on a going concern basis. This is the same process that has been undertaken in previous years.
- 4.4 The Trust has received a total donation for £1,077 at year-end for its Play Project. This donation is being held in a ringfenced reserve until it is required to fund the project. This is excluded from the operating income referenced in paragraph 4.2 but is visible in the Trust's Accounts.
- 4.5 Net Assets of the Trust are valued at a cost of £189,763. Net assets include investments held, land at Alice Park, car park, cottage number one, tea chalet and storage shed, public conveniences, tennis courts, garden shelter and play equipment.
- 4.6 The accounts for 2023/24 have been prepared by the Council's Finance team and have been independently examined by One West. The Independent Examination has concluded, and the Independent Examination Report has been signed off.
- 4.7 The accounts for the Trust are prepared on a cash basis, in line with reporting requirements and guidelines issued by the Charity Commission.
- 4.8 An annual report for the Trust has also been prepared for submission to the Charity Commission.
- 4.9 The park was open for public access throughout the year, including use of the tennis courts and tea chalet, and has been suitably maintained. The cottage property was let and the income used in the upkeep of the park.
- 4.10 All members of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 are listed in the Annual Return.
- 4.11 The Alice Park Trust accounts for 2023/24 were submitted to the Charity Commission by the required deadline.

## **5 RATIONALE**

- 5.1 Under its terms of reference, the Charitable Trust Board is required to submit an annual report to the Council.

## **6 EQUALITIES**

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has not been carried out as this report is for information only.

## **7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 7.1 None

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 This is an internal matter, so climate change considerations are not relevant.

## **9 CONSULTATION**

9.1 The Section 151 and Monitoring Officer have had opportunity to review and input into this report.

## **10 RISK MANAGEMENT**

10.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

<b>Contact person</b>	Chris Major, Director of Place Management
<b>Background papers</b>	None
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	