

## Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

**PARK ATTENDANTS – INCREASE IN BUDGET ALLOCATION  
2023/24**1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval to increase the 2023/24 budget allocation for the park attendants.

2. Recommendation

**Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the revenue budget for the provision of the park attendant service is increased by £30,000, with the additional budget allocation required for this purpose being funded from General Fund reserves in 2023/24.**

3. Detail

Throughout the year some of the parks have an attendant on site. The sites with an attendant change between the summer and winter months in line with the activities taking place on site. The duties of the attendant include facilitating the sporting activities taking place, cleaning pavilions, littering picking, lower level grounds maintenance, opening and closing of pavilions, checking fixtures with football teams and being a point of contact for the Council.

The provision of an attendant on site is a positive relationship giving members of the public access to services along with being able to report or speak with a Council representative.

The contract for the provision of park attendants expires at the end of March 2023. A procurement exercise for renewal of the contract has therefore recently been undertaken. Several suitable providers have submitted their tenders.

The revenue budget for 2023/24 was increased as part of the budget planning process. However, following a review of the tender bids it is apparent that a further increase in the budget is needed to meet the cost of delivering the service. The increase in costs above the anticipated level is most likely associated with price pressures for wages and fuel for the service providers.

It is requested that the base revenue budget for 2023/24 for the parks attendants is increased by a further £30,000 to facilitate the provision of an attendant service in 2023/24.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The agreed revenue budget for 2023/24 includes a regular allocation for the provision of the park attendant service. The proposed budget increase of £30,000 in 2023/24 and beyond to meet increasing contract costs, if approved, would have to be funded directly from General Fund Reserve balances.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications that arise from this report, however it is important to note that the new contract must be procured by the Council in strict compliance with the Public regulations 2015 and the Council's financial regulations

6. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources Manager were as follows:

N/A

7. Union Comments

The Union comments were as follows.

Providing the funds are available, UNISON have no concerns regarding this proposal.

8. Data Protection Compliance Implications

N/A

9. Equality Impact Assessment

N/A

10. Background Papers

Nil