

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24
Decision No.
2490

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 11 December 2023

Portfolio	Housing
Subject:	Housing Allocations Policy
Report of:	Director of Housing
Corporate Priority:	Providing housing choices

Purpose:

To approve the draft Housing Allocations Policy for a six-week period of public consultation.

The Housing Act requires that all local authorities have a scheme for determining priorities and procedures in allocating social housing, both owned by themselves and for which they have nomination rights. This covers the allocation of general needs and sheltered accommodation at both social and affordable rents.

The allocation scheme and the associated housing register, often referred to as the housing waiting list, is operated by the Council on behalf of the Registered Providers that own social/affordable rented homes in the Borough. They are used when nominating applicants to available social and affordable rented homes owned by Registered Providers, and those owned by the Council.

The current allocations policy (Optimising Social Housing: Applications and Allocations Policy) was adopted in 2020. The policy must be reviewed regularly in order to ensure it meets all legislative requirements. In addition, it is recognised that there is a need for more transparency and better information for customers, and also to better reflect the needs of the community and meet local priorities.

A review of the current adopted allocations policy has now been undertaken by Officers and a revised draft Allocations Policy is included at Appendix A to the report. Subject to consultation and agreement by the Executive, it is anticipated that this would supersede the Optimising Social Housing: Applications and Allocations Policy (2020).

If approved, the draft policy will be published for a six-week period of consultation. Following this period, and once any necessary amendments are incorporated, it is intended that the Housing Allocations Policy will be presented to the Executive for adoption (replacing the current Housing Allocations Policy).

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) of the policy has been undertaken and is included at Appendix C to the report. No detrimental impacts have been identified as a result of the proposed changes.

The draft Allocations Policy was discussed at the Housing Scrutiny Panel on 30 November 2023. Due to the short amount of time between the two meetings, verbal updates on the Panel feedback will be provided to the Executive meeting as required.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to public consultation for a period of six weeks on the draft Housing Allocations Policy, as provided in Appendix A to the report.

Reason:

To provide a review of the existing allocations policy to ensure it meets with legislative requirements, to improve transparency/information for customers, and contribute to the Corporate Priority to Provide Housing Choices.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 11 December 2023

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24
Decision No.
2491

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 11 December 2023

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Finance Monitoring 2023/24
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

The report provides comparative information on the Council's revenue expenditure for the period for the first half of the financial year. Members are invited to consider the financial performance and any corrective action that may be deemed appropriate.

The report provides summary information on the overall spending position against the revenue budgets in the current year, as set out in the following tables:

General Fund	Budget 2023/24	Budget to 30 Sept 23	Actual to 30 Sept 23	Variation
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Service Budgets	15,715	495	320	-175
Non-Service Budgets	-3,818	-9	-9	0
Net Budgets	11,897	486	311	-175

Housing Revenue Account	Budget 2023/24	Budget to 30 Sept 23	Actual to 30 Sept 23	Variation
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Income Budgets	-14,228	-7,256	-7,383	-127
Management Costs	4,730	1,882	1,649	-233
Finance Costs	2,819	700	700	0
Property Costs	6,815	1,444	1,796	352
Net Budgets	0	-3,230	-3,238	-8

Revenue spending plans are currently showing a new underspend for the first half of the financial year. Any underspending achieved by the end of the year will reduce the need to call on the Council's reserves for 2023/24 which was originally expected to be in the region of £400,000.

However, there are a number of areas where spend is in excess of the budget and some areas are likely to continue to be overspent through to the end of the financial

year. Current forecasts against the base budget are predicting a worse position than indicated at the half-way point. However, work being carried out on the revised budgets may give an improved position once the opportunities plan and shopping centre savings are built in.

It therefore remains appropriate to continue to monitor financial performance closely over the remainder of the financial year to ensure that any slippage does not adversely affect the services provided to residents and customers. Commentary on the most significant variations is set out in the briefing paper accompanying the report.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillors Mrs C Bainbridge and Mrs K K Trott addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommended.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the Finance Monitoring Report.

Reason:

To provide members of the Executive with a summary of the Council's budgetary performance for the first half of the financial year.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 11 December 2023

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24
Decision No.
2492

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 11 December 2023

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Treasury Monitoring and Capital Monitoring 2023/24
Report of:	Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

This report summarises the Council's borrowing and investment activity and capital expenditure up to 30 September 2023 and provides details of the Council's money market transactions. It also provides information on the performance against the Treasury and Prudential indicators.

During the first half of the year the Council operated within the Treasury and Prudential Indicators. The overall treasury position is set out in the following table:-

	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	30 Sept 2023 Actual £'000s
Total borrowing	61,336	61,256
Total investments	(24,832)	(18,192)
Net borrowing	36,504	43,064

The Council's net interest budget for 2023/24 is £612,000 with an actual of £239,671 at the end of September (£879,854 actual in 2022/23). With the Bank Rate at its likely peak of 5.25%, the budget will be reviewed during the budget setting period to reflect the latest capital programme spending plans.

A summary of the capital programme expenditure against budgets in the current year, is set out in the following table:-

Capital Programme	Revised Budget 2023/24 £	Budget to 30 Sept 23 £	Actual to 30 Sept 23 £	Variation £
General Fund	39,713,200	24,797,100	21,508,704	-3,288,396
HRA	3,518,000	2,253,500	2,148,281	-105,219
Total	43,231,200	27,050,600	23,656,985	-3,393,615

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the Treasury Management and Capital Monitoring report for 2023/24.

Reason:

To inform the Executive of the Council's borrowing, investment and capital programme activity up to 30 September 2023.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 11 December 2023

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2023/24
Decision No.
2493

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 11 December 2023

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Irrecoverable Debts - Quarter 2
Report of:	Assistant Director (Finance & ICT) & Section 151 Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

The report proposes the approval of the write-off of certain debts over £5,000 which are considered irrecoverable.

Appendix A to the report lists the debts that are considered irrecoverable. Every effort has been made to recover the debts and there is no further legal action that can be taken, where it is applicable.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that the debts listed in the confidential Appendix A to the report be written off as irrecoverable.

Reason:

There is no further legal action that can be taken to collect the debt or officers have deemed that the circumstances of the debtor warrant write-off at this point.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 11 December 2023