

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2540

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 June 2024

Portfolio	Streetscene
Subject:	Holly Hill Woodland Park Restoration
Report of:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Corporate Priority:	Leisure Opportunities for Wellbeing and Fun; Respond to Climate Change and Protect the Environment

Purpose:

The report seeks approval for a capital programme allocation towards a programme of improvements to Holly Hill Woodland Park to preserve and enhance this important heritage, ecological and recreational site.

Holly Hill Woodland Park is a 19th century water garden designed by Henry Milner in the 1880s, superseding an earlier design by Joseph Paxton. The park consists of a number of terraced lakes and ponds. The waterfalls, cascades and grotto are made in Pulhamite – a patented anthropic rock material invented by James Pulham that was widely used for rock gardens and grottos in the last quarter of the 19th century.

This 36-hectare woodland park is Fareham's largest public open space and, as such, is an important site for the Council's carbon mitigation, in addition to the many recreational and health benefits that the site provides.

In 2021, the Executive approved an interim mitigation scheme focusing on green space provision and enhancements in the Borough to relieve recreational disturbance in the New Forest and, as part of this scheme, a landscape architect was appointed to oversee a design masterplan for the management, restoration, conservation and enhancement of the pond, sunken garden and lake system of Holly Hill Woodland Park.

Findings from the initial survey work showed that much more work than was originally considered necessary would be required to stabilise the banks, rebuild important historical landscape features, and slow down the silting of the lakes. This work would also help to reduce any future safety risks on site that are likely to develop without this intervention.

An Expression of Interest was submitted to the National Heritage Lottery Fund in February 2024 and the Council has now been invited to submit a full application for the project.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) supports initial public consultation and the submission of an application to the National Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the important heritage and infrastructure features at Holly Hill Woodland Park;
- (b) approves a new capital allocation of £2,046,000 for the restoration works at Holly Hill Woodland Park;
- (c) approves the use of £425,000 of unallocated S106 contributions that have already been received and are relevant for this project and £436,000 in future CIL receipts, in addition to the £195,000 New Forest mitigation funding already allocated, to match fund the Major Works Scheme if the lottery application is successful; and
- (d) approves the use of up to £425,000 of unallocated S106 contributions, in addition to the £195,000 New Forest funding already allocated, for silt removal works on the site and the sunken garden refurbishment, should the lottery application be unsuccessful.

Reason:

To undertake a programme of improvements at Holly Hill Woodland Park that will enhance the visitor experience, preserve one of the largest and most visited open spaces in Fareham and deliver the objectives of the Council's interim New Forest mitigation scheme, adopted in 2021.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 June 2024

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2541

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 June 2024

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document - Adoption
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices; Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

To approve the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document for adoption.

The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is proposed to replace the current Affordable Housing SPD which was adopted in December 2005. The new SPD seeks to support the implementation of the Fareham Local Plan 2037 affordable housing policies HP5 and HP6 by providing information, guidance and advice on meeting policy requirements for affordable housing.

The SPD highlights the importance of early engagement with the Council's Planning and Housing teams, whilst drawing attention to the importance of design and placemaking, to ensure that development achieves consistent design quality and social inclusion.

To accompany the SPD, a commuted sums calculator has been commissioned by the Council. This calculator will inform the level of financial contributions which will be payable by developers in the event that affordable housing provision cannot be provided on-site and a financial contribution towards off-site provision is agreed.

The draft SPD was presented to the Executive on 5th February 2024 and approved for public consultation. A six-week period of consultation was undertaken between 16th February and 29th March 2024. Following the consultation, the responses have been considered, summarised and responded to in the Council's Statement of Consultation and the final version of the SPD is now presented to the Executive for consideration.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the consultation comments received on the Draft Supplementary Planning Document together with the Council's responses to the representations as set out in the Statement of Consultation at Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) agrees to adopt the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document as set out in Appendix B to the report with effect from the 1 July 2024.

Reason:

To enable the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document to be adopted and afforded due weight as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 June 2024

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2542

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 June 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff for Osborn Road Car Park
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Promote Economic Development; Respond to Climate Change and Protect the Environment; Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

The report briefs the Executive on the Electric Vehicle Charge Points (EVCP) being installed at the new Fareham Live car park and to adopt a pricing strategy to be used to set the charging tariff offered to customers.

As part of the £20m investment by the Council into the regeneration of the town centre, Osborn Road multi-storey car park is currently being demolished and will be replaced by a new surface car park on the existing site. The new car park will be called Fareham Live car park. Four of the parking bays at the Fareham Live car park will be for electric vehicles only and will have Electric Vehicle Charge points (EVCP) installed. In early 2024 the Council appointed Joju Charging to supply, install and operate the EVCPs.

The EVCPs use a back office system called Hubeleon. The Hubeleon system has an app which visitors can download to their device. Visitors can use the app to pay for using the chargers. Other payment methods will be available and can be used instead of the app, such as contactless payment, fuel cards, zap maps etc.

As the Council owns the EVCPs being installed it can choose the charging tariff consumers receive. Therefore, two pricing strategies have been put forward for consideration. These are:

- Cover direct costs only (consists of installation and future renewal capital costs, Operation and Maintenance contract costs, bank charges, electricity bill costs, and contribution to FBC overheads to manage the EV spaces;
- Price at a 10% mark-up above direct costs.

Each strategy yields varying levels of revenue and can be found in Table 1 in the Executive Briefing Paper.

The Council has the opportunity to price at the bottom of the market average price whilst still covering its direct costs. This strategy would help make the EVCPs at Fareham Live car park attractive to visitors and encourage significant use, supporting both the Fareham Live venue and the wider town centre.

The current Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment 8) Order ensures that only electric vehicles connected to a charge point can use the electric vehicle bays provided.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the introduction of an electric vehicle charging tariff for Fareham Live car park, which will be added to the Council's Fees and Charges listings;
- (b) agrees pricing strategy A) (as set out in the Executive Briefing Paper) to be used to set the charging tariff;
- (c) due to price volatility, agrees that delegated authority be given to the Director of Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, to adjust the charging tariff in line with the agreed pricing strategy, if and when necessary; and
- (d) receives a further report which reviews the first 12 months of usage to inform whether further EV chargers are to be fully installed.

Reason:

To introduce an electric vehicle charging tariff for customers of the electric vehicle charge points at the new Fareham Live car park.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 June 2024

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2539

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 3 June 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Irrecoverable Debts
Report of:	Assistant Director (Finance & ICT) & Section 151 Officer
Corporate Priority:	Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

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

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

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 SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 3 June 2024