

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Fareham Park Project - Action Plan
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure and Cultural Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	Leisure for Health and Fun

Purpose:

To update the Executive on the progress of the Fareham Park initiative and approve the draft Action Plan for the future co-ordination of activities in the area, aimed at meeting the objectives of this key corporate priority.

This report reviews the progress of the Fareham Park Project; an Officer and Member Steering Group which is tasked with identifying solutions and taking a co-ordinated approach to tackling the multiple issues associated with deprivation and poverty in the Fareham Park area of the Borough.

This report also proposes an Action Plan, which if agreed by the Executive, will guide the work of the Partnership over the next twelve months. It is hoped that the Action Plan will ensure that where possible, both resources and expertise are pooled to ensure maximum benefit is gained for local residents.

The Action Plan will encourage agencies and partners to work together and help address issues of local need. It is recognised that by improving access to a range of support services, opportunities and activities in the neighbourhood which are currently non-existent or difficult to access, will help in making a significant and lasting improvement in the area.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor P J Davies addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) to note the progress of the Fareham Park Project;
- (b) to approve the draft Action Plan;
- (c) to support the two priorities selected by the Steering Group; and
- (d) to receive an annual update on the progress of the project, as guided by the Action Plan.

Reason:

To provide elected members, partners and the wider community with information on the progress and developments within this important priority area, so that the effects of poverty and deprivation can be effectively tackled.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio

Executive Leader

Subject:

Play Area Safety Surface Replacement Programme

Report of:

Director of Streetscene

Strategy/Policy:

Corporate

Objectives:

Purpose:

To put forward proposals for a programme of works to replace safety surfacing in the Borough Council's play areas.

The Council maintains 45 play areas located throughout the Borough, mainly on leisure and housing land. Access to all of these unsupervised play areas is free and unrestricted.

As part of a management review of these facilities, Officers from the Streetscene Department recently assessed the maintenance of the Council's play areas and it was noted that although the actual play equipment should last between 20 and 25 years, the safety surface beneath the equipment (rubber crumb) has a lifespan of just 10 - 15 years. This creates a gap between the estimated replacement date of a play area and the need to replace or renovate the safety surface.

In spring 2013 a survey was completed to assess the current condition of the safety surfaces. The survey revealed that some of the play area surfacing was reaching the end of its useful life although the play equipment was still providing a good play environment for children.

The main issue arising from a worn safety surface is the increasing risk of a child slipping on

the smooth surface and colliding with the equipment causing injury.

In order to reduce this risk it will be necessary to implement a safety surface replacement programme.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) a budget of £350,000 funded from the open spaces maintenance reserve, be approved for a 10 year replacement programme for the Council's play area safety surfaces; and
- (b) that officers conduct a tender exercise or identify a suitable framework agreement to enable procurement of the necessary works.

Reason:

To ensure play facilities remain safe, attractive and accessible to all children and young adults throughout the Borough.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

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307

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Public Protection
Subject:	Traffic Regulation Order Re-consolidation - Fareham Borough
Report of:	Director of Regulatory & Democratic Services
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objectives:	A Safe and Healthy Place to Live and Work

Purpose:

To seek authority to make a new Consolidation Order for the on-street Traffic Regulation

(prohibition and restriction of waiting and parking places) Orders in Fareham Borough, to replace the existing consolidation order dated 2nd April 2007.

It is necessary to amalgamate all existing Traffic Regulation Orders covering waiting restrictions and on-street parking places made since the last consolidation order in April 2007 into a new Consolidation Order. This report seeks authority to make that new Consolidation Order.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) that a new Borough of Fareham (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Parking Places) (Consolidation) Order in Fareham Borough is introduced, so that all existing Traffic Regulation Orders covering prohibition and waiting restrictions and on-street parking places made since the last consolidation order dated 2 April 2007 are amalgamated into one new order; and
- (b) that the Executive Portfolio holder for Public Protection be given delegated authority to approve future consolidation orders.

Reason:

To amalgamate the Consolidation Order made on 2nd April 2007 with all on-street Traffic Regulation Orders amendments introduced since that date.

Confirmed as a true record:

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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Strategic Planning and Environment
Subject:	Environmental Sustainability Strategy - Action Plan Annual Update
Report of:	Director of Planning & Environment
Strategy/Policy:	

Corporate Objectives:

Purpose:

To note the progress made through the Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (ESAP) to date and to consider a revised ESAP including new actions and new targets for reducing carbon emissions across Council operations.

There has been significant progress made on the ESAP since its inception in 2009, notably an 11% reduction in carbon emissions across Council operations between March 2009 and March 2011 against a target of 10%. However, the ESAP has been revised in light of comments received from the March 2012 Strategic Planning & Environment Panel. The new format focuses on "priority actions" that the Council are currently working on, whilst also providing an update on "ongoing actions". There is also a new section on "actions for Welborne" to reflect the importance of the new community in relation to overall growth in the Borough. It is proposed that the ESAP also sets a new target for reducing carbon emissions across Council operations of 20% by 2020 against a baseline from 2012.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees the actions and targets in the revised Environmental Sustainability Action Plan (shown in full in Appendix A to the report) and note the achievements and completed actions since the ESAP's inception in 2010.

Reason:

To demonstrate the Council's continued commitment to sustainability, reducing carbon emissions and managing natural resources and to act as a Community Leader by promoting sustainable measures and projects to residents and local businesses.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

FAREHAM
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284**

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Executive Leader
Subject:	Annual Review of the Council's Finance Strategy
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objectives:	

Purpose:

This report reviews the Council's finance strategy in the light of the Council's current financial position, the agreed objectives and priorities and the budgetary and other pressures that the Council will face in the current and future years.

The strategy document, attached to this report as Appendix A, sets out the broad principles on which the management of the Council's finances are based and provides background information regarding the level of resources, the revenue budget and capital programme.

The document also focuses on the various issues that will impact on the Council's financial position, now and in the future.

In the light of these issues, the current financial position has been reviewed and the projected position in future years, up to 2017/18, examined.

To summarise the overall capital position, the programme for services other than housing, up to 2017/18, has been updated and now totals £19.0 million. Resources of £29.3 million are available now to finance the programme and between 2013/14 and 2017/18 resources of £7.5 million are anticipated from direct revenue funding, capital grants and capital receipts.

However, the spending reductions likely to be required in 2014/15 onwards may well mean that the revenue contributions to capital have to be significantly reduced in future years. It follows that the surplus resources available at the end of the strategy period will be similarly reduced.

At the same time, maintenance and improvement programmes for the Council's asset base indicate significant sums need to be spent over the next 10 years, which exceed the resources currently available. The Strategy therefore strengthens the need to identify new resources to provide for the works.

Based on existing spending plans and taking account of the known variations and revenue spending pressures in future years, the projected revenue budget for 2014/15 would indicate a significant increase in the amount payable by the council tax payers, if mitigating action was not taken.

The extent of the financial pressures to be faced as the Government tackles the budget deficit will inevitably mean reductions in the breadth of services that the Council is able to provide.

Much of the Strategy will be dependent outcomes of the future Resource Reviews but the Strategy explains the measures currently underway, and further steps that are planned during the strategy period, to ensure that council tax increases are maintained within acceptable limits and in accordance with the Council's corporate priorities.

Members are reminded that the inclusion of any growth items would lead to a more

significant increase with extra revenue expenditure of, say, £60,000 increasing the council tax by a further 1%. The projections of expenditure and funding for 2014/15 and later years indicate that the budgetary pressure will continue.

The Council's main priorities are to produce sustainable spending plans, maintain adequate reserves and to continue to minimise increases in the net revenue budget, such that increases in Fareham's proportion of the council tax does not exceed the prevailing inflation rate. Consequently, strict budget guidelines must be maintained.

Options Considered:

The Executive Leader introduced the item by explaining that analysis of financial projections has identified the need to make significant savings over the next five years.

The Executive Leader confirmed that estimates of income and expenditure over the five year period highlight a budget shortfall of £800,000 which has been caused by factors such as the ongoing reduction in Government funding, inflation and low interest rates on investments.

In anticipation of this substantial shortfall, the Executive Leader advised that he has asked the Chief Executive Officer to prepare and bring forward a range of options for the budget gap to be closed by using the four elements of the Council's Efficiency plan (Priorities, Proceeds, People/Process and Procurement) as a basis, with a view to finding £800,000 of savings by 2015.

The comments of the Scrutiny Board were taken into account for this item:
Minute 6 – Medium Term Financial Strategy 2013/14

It was AGREED that:-

- (a) the Executive be advised that the Board had requested that the table in paragraph 40 on page 7 of the Draft Strategy be amended to clarify references to member approval by indicating whether the decisions would be made by Council, the Executive or non-executive committees;
- (b) the Executive be advised that the Board had requested that paragraph 70 on page 11 of the Draft Strategy be deleted;
- (c) it be recommended to the Executive that it looks at ways of identifying possible funding from the European Union and other organisations, in partnership with other local authorities in the area;
- (d) the Executive be advised that the Board has requested that paragraph 99 on page 15 of the Draft Strategy be amended to clarify that the reference to costs associated with "Welborne planning and supporting delivery" refer to potential expenditure in addition to those incurred in the preparation of the Welborne Local Plan and supporting strategic masterplan;
- (e) the Executive be advised that the Board noted the significance and uncertainties surrounding the areas identified, and suggested that further work should be undertaken to broadly quantify the financial risk to support the Finance Strategy; and
- (f) the Executive be advised that the Board suggested that the following wording in paragraph 99 on page 15 of the Draft Strategy, "but have yet to be costed", be

replaced with “but because of the high level of uncertainty, these costs have yet to be included in the financial projections” to more accurately reflect the position.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) the Council’s finance strategy and the budget guidelines for 2014/15, as set out in the finance strategy document attached to this report;
- (b) to note that the Chief Executive Officer must carry out a review of the Council’s budgets with the aim of reducing costs by £800,000 before April 2015; and
- (c) to submit the updated Pay Policy, annexed to the Medium Term Finance Strategy, to the Council for approval.

Reason:

It is appropriate that strict budget guidelines remain in force, spending levels are tightly controlled and no new spending plans – capital or revenue – are implemented until the necessary finance has been identified and secured.

Confirmed as a true record:

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Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Award of Tender: Resurfacing Contract - Approach to Fareham Shopping Centre
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objectives:	Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

Purpose:

This report considers tenders received for resurfacing the area to the north of Fareham Shopping Centre and recommends an award of contract for the works. It also considers the request for an additional £35,000 budget provision from reserves to cover the shortfall between the budgeted amount and the tender price.

Regular safety inspections of the area to the north of the shopping centre are currently carried out by Hampshire County Council's highway inspectors on behalf of FBC and resulting from this, a significant number of defects have been logged and repaired. A decision has therefore been taken to resurface the area to ensure public safety and reduce on-going maintenance costs.

Following a tender exercise, a shortfall between the budgeted amount and the tender price was identified. This report seeks approval for an additional £35,000 budget provision from reserves to cover the shortfall between the budgeted amount and the tender price.

It also provides the Executive with information regarding the tenders received for these works and seeks an award of contract.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) to approve an additional £35,000 budget provision from reserves; and
- (b) that the tender submitted by the contractor ranked 1 (as set out in the confidential appendix A), being the most advantageous tender received, be accepted and the contract awarded to the company.

Reason:

To achieve a safe and well maintained pedestrian footway for public use.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Decision No.
309

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio

Policy & Resources

Subject:

Daedalus Investment Opportunity - Update

Report of:

Director of Finance & Resources

Strategy/Policy:

Corporate Objectives:

Purpose:

To update members on progress made in securing the funding for the Daedalus Investment Opportunity project.

In July 2013, the Executive supported a proposal to provide improvements to the airfield, provision of new hangar space and an Innovation Centre for small businesses, at the Solent Enterprise Zone, Daedalus.

Good progress has been made in the preliminary stages of preparing the project, but the main focus over the preceding months has been to establish the funding mechanisms for the project. Funding for the proposal has now been secured but with certain preconditions which must be satisfied. The conditions are such that there will be a need to refinance part of the project cost during the business plan 25-year life and as such, reduce the availability of resources available for future reinvestment.

The implications have been incorporated into the 25-year business plan and still demonstrate that a positive return can be achieved, either by accepting the loan offer from the Growing Places Fund, or alternatively using prudential borrowing from the outset to meet the balance of funding.

Options Considered:

The comments of the depute, Caroline Dinenage MP, were taken into account during consideration of this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive agrees:

- (a) the revised funding arrangements for the project as set out in the report;
- (b) in the event that the Growing Places loan conditions cannot be satisfied within the project timescales, the Executive supports an alternative approach backed by prudential borrowing; and
- (c) the Executive includes the project in the Council's capital programme at its next review.

Reason:

To enable the project to proceed in line with the proposed timescales.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Fareham Leisure Centre Contract
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	Leisure and Cultural Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	Leisure for Health and Fun

Purpose:

To consider proposals for an extension to the current contract for the management of Fareham Leisure Centre including a £1.5m investment in the refurbishment of the wet side facilities.

The contract for the management of Fareham Leisure Centre was awarded to Sport & Leisure Management Ltd (SLM) in May 2005. Under the terms of the contract SLM manage and operate the Leisure Centre in return for a fixed income revenue stream paid to the Council.

The contract has been very successful and SLM have made significant improvements to the building and equipment. The exceptional standard of service provided by SLM at Fareham Leisure Centre has been recognised with a number of national industry awards.

Due to the success of the contract, the swimming pool and wet side facilities have been operating at near capacity. This has put pressure on these facilities and they now look tired and the 30 year old pool filtration plant urgently needs replacing.

With the contract due to expire in April 2015, SLM have put forward a proposal to address the refurbishment of the wet side facilities and the urgent need to replace the pool water filtration plant.

In exchange for capital investment by the Council and a five year contract extension, SLM will undertake the works on behalf of the Council and provide the Council with an improved fixed income revenue stream.

The proposed programme of works will prolong the life of Fareham Leisure Centre well beyond the proposed contract extension period and will provide a long term revenue benefit for the Council.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to provide £1.5m from the Council's capital reserves in 2014 to address the refurbishment of the Fareham Leisure Centre wet side facilities and pool water filtration plant; and
- (b) a five year extension to the current management contract with Sport & Leisure Management Ltd until May 2020 (as per the conditions set out in paragraph 35 of the report).

Reason:

To address the need for the refurbishment of the wet side facilities and pool water filtration plant at the Fareham Leisure Centre.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013

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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 7 October 2013

Portfolio

Subject: Welborne Plan Evidence Studies

Report of:

Strategy/Policy:

Corporate
Objectives:

Purpose:

To advise the Executive on variations to two contracts associated with the production of the Welborne Plan.

Additional consultancy costs for Welborne relating to masterplanning (and associated supporting studies) and infrastructure and viability have arisen in the last financial quarter. These relate to extensions in the scope of the work originally envisaged due to on-going discussions on the development particularly with key parties including the major landowners and statutory agencies. The additional work is considered to be a variation to the original contracts under Financial Regulations 15.6.5 for Parsons Brinkerhoff and LDA Design (concept masterplanning and transport) and GVA (infrastructure and viability). The additional work is required by a broadening of the scope of the work originally envisaged in the original contracts.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

That the Executive notes the variation of contracts for work being undertaken by Parsons Brinkerhoff/LDA Design and GVA.

Reason:

To set out the extension in consultancy work being undertaken in the preparation of the Welborne Plan.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 7 October 2013