

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 January 2014

Portfolio	Health and Housing
Subject:	Use of Right to Buy Receipts
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	Housing Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	A Balanced Housing Market

Purpose:

To seek approval to use the Council's proportion of capital receipts arising from the sale of Council houses to provide replacement homes to help meet the growing need for affordable housing in the borough.

The Right to Buy scheme was introduced in 1980 and is designed to help social tenants in England buy their home at a discount. The scheme is open to people who are secure tenants of a local council and who have spent at least 5 years as a public sector tenant.

Since April 2012, major changes have been made to Right to Buy. Maximum discounts were increased from as little as £16,000 in some areas to a maximum of £75,000 across England. As a result the number of Council houses sold under the Right to Buy scheme has risen.

As part of the 2012 changes, the Council entered into an agreement with the Government which allows the Council to retain a proportion of the capital receipt to build new affordable homes or purchase existing homes. A condition of the agreement requires the Council to make use of the capital receipt within two years of its collection or pay the receipt in full (plus interest) to HM Treasury.

This report outlines a proposal for spending the proportion of the capital receipt that the Council has collected (under the terms of the agreement) for the purchase of replacement homes.

Options Considered:

as recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Director of Community, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources, be authorised to spend and continue to spend the Right to Buy receipts collected since April 2012 on the purchase of replacement homes to be let at affordable rents, subject to the cost being affordable and sustainable to the Housing Revenue Account.

Reason:

To replace social homes purchased under the Right to Buy Scheme and help to meet local housing need.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 8 January 2014

Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 January 2014

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Covenant
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objectives:	

Purpose:

To establish a Fareham community covenant to encourage local communities and public service partners to support the armed forces community within the area.

A Community Covenant is a voluntary statement of mutual support between a civilian community and its local Armed Forces Community. It is intended to complement the Armed Forces Covenant, which outlines the moral obligation between the Nation, the Government and the Armed Forces, at the local level. The aim of the Community Covenant is to encourage local communities to support the service community in their area and promote understanding and awareness among the public of issues affecting the armed forces community.

Options Considered:

as recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees to

- (a) support the Armed Forces Covenant by signing a Community Covenant for Fareham;
- (b) appoint the Deputy Leader as the Member Champion for the Community Covenant; and
- (c) sign up to the Community Covenant Grant Scheme to enable bids from local community groups to apply for grant funding.

Reason:

To seek approval to sign up to a Fareham Community Covenant, for the benefit of the armed services personnel and the wider community.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 8 January 2014

Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
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349

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 January 2014

Portfolio	Strategic Planning and Environment
Subject:	Portchester Castle Street Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy
Report of:	Director of Planning & Environment
Strategy/Policy:	Conservation Area Assessments
Corporate Objectives:	Protect and Enhance the Environment

Purpose:

This report summarises the outcome of public consultation on the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal & Management Strategy for Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area and proposes its adoption.

This report relates to the Council's programme for the review of the adopted conservation area character assessments. It recommends adoption of the revised Portchester (Castle Street) Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy which has taken into account the outcome of the draft document consultation and guidance produced by English Heritage.

Options Considered:

as recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) the Portchester Castle Street Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Strategy, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted as evidence in support of the Fareham Borough Local Plan Review (June 2000) saved policies, the policies contained within the Fareham Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy and the emerging policies of the Fareham Local Plan Part 2: Development Sites & Policies;

- (b) the preparation of an article 4 direction, as recommended in the character appraisal document, is supported. Delegated authority was granted by the Executive to the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment in July 2010 to make article 4 directions in accordance with the provisions of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (England) Order 2010 and this proposal will be the subject of a further detailed report; and
- (c) delegated authority be granted to the Director of Planning and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Strategic Planning and Environment to make minor factual and formatting alterations, including updating of photographs where appropriate, prior to publication of the adopted document.

Reason:

To continue the Council's programme for re-appraisal of the adopted Conservation Area Character Assessments and the addition of a management strategy. These documents play a key role in helping to identify the heritage significance of conservation areas and in preserving and enhancing their character and appearance through the development management process and in liaison with statutory undertakers.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 8 January 2014

Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 January 2014

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget and Council Tax 2014/15
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Finance Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

Purpose:

This report reviews the Council's finance strategy and makes recommendations regarding the capital programme, the revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and the revenue budget for 2014/15.

On 2 December 2013, the Executive considered the Council's capital programme, revised service budget for 2013/14 and proposed service budgets for 2014/15.

Capital Programme and Resources 2013/14 to 2017/18

The capital programme amounts to £34,601,000, and there are capital resources totalling £34,814,000 over the programme period. Whilst a surplus of capital resources exists, there are significant spending requirements emerging that require new resources to be accumulated now so that the Council can meet its future commitments.

Revised General Fund Revenue Budget 2013/14

The revised general fund revenue budget for 2013/14 amounts to £13,867,000 for service budgets with other budgets totalling £-4,043,700 giving an overall position of £9,823,300.

General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/15

The proposed general fund budget for 2014/15 totals £13,027,400 for service budgets along with £-3,640,100 for other budgets giving an overall position of £9,387,300 which is a reduction of £436,000 against the original budget for 2013/14.

Options Considered:

as recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) the capital programme for the period 2013/14 - 2017/18, amounting to £34,601,000 be approved;
- (b) the revised 2013/14 general fund budget, amounting to £9,823,300 be approved;
- (c) the base 2014/15 general fund revenue budget amounting to £9,387,300 be approved; and
- (d) the use of the surplus on the spending reserve, as set out in paragraphs 28-30 of the report, be approved.

Reason:

To allow the Council to approve the capital programme, general fund revised revenue budget for 2013/14 and draft revenue budget for 2014/15.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 8 January 2014

Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 January 2014

Portfolio	Policy and Resources
Subject:	2013 Residents' Survey Feedback
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	
Corporate Objectives:	

Purpose:

This report sets out the results of the 2013 Residents' Satisfaction Survey.

In the Autumn of 2013, the Council carried out a Residents' Satisfaction Survey by sending a self-completion questionnaire through the post to 4020 households selected at random from the Electoral Register. The questionnaire was based around the Council's Corporate Priorities, used plain English and was graphically designed to ensure the maximum number of responses. The Council received 1291 responses in total, which represents a 32% return, which is good for this type of survey.

Some questions were repeated from previous Resident's Surveys, the last one taking place in 2011, allowing the comparison of satisfaction over time. Most of the results showed an upward trend in satisfaction since 2011. The majority, 97% of respondents were happy with their local area as a place to live, 89% thought the Council provided value for money and 91% were happy with the way the Council runs things. Collecting household waste, working with the police to reduce crime and keeping the streets clean were the most important services to respondents.

74% of people thought that planning for a new community at Welborne was the right approach to take to help meet Fareham's future housing needs and help stop piecemeal development in the countryside that separates the different communities in the Borough.

The results of the survey indicate that a review of Community Action Team (CAT) meetings may be needed.

The full report containing the results of the survey is attached at Appendix A.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor A Mandry addressed the Executive on this item.

Following a debate on the item, an additional recommendation was agreed for a review of Community Action Teams and CAT officers were asked to consult all Councillors on behalf of the CAT Chairmen following which, after consideration by the CAT Chairmen, a report would be presented to the Executive.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the results of the 2013 Residents' Satisfaction Survey and agrees that the information be used to inform future planning; and
- (b) requests a review of Community Action Teams and that CAT officers be asked to consult all Councillors on behalf of the CAT Chairmen, after which a report will be presented to a future meeting of the Executive.

Reason:

To ensure that the results of public consultation exercises are used to plan future services and measure improvement.

Confirmed as a true record:

Date: 8 January 2014

Councillor S D T Woodward
(Executive Leader)