

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Health and Housing
Subject:	Award of Contract for the Construction of 16 Flats at Palmerston Avenue
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	Housing Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	A Balanced Housing Market

Purpose:

This report seeks approval to enter into contract with a selected developer for the construction of a new affordable housing scheme in Fareham Town Centre.

The Council has a corporate objective to enable the delivery of 500 new affordable homes by 2017.

The Council owns a car park at the bottom of Palmerston Avenue for which planning permission has been secured to construct 16 new 1 bedroom flats for rent. The Council applied for and has secured a grant of £320,000 towards the build cost from the Homes and Communities Agency.

A building contractor has been selected on a competitive basis via the 'Hampshire IESE' framework to construct the flats.

Approval is sought to enter into contract with the selected building contractor and to accept the grant from the Homes and Communities Agency

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor PW Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- a) approves a revised budget of £1,950,000;
- b) notes the level of grant funding secured from the Homes & Communities

Agency (HCA) to support delivery of the project;

- c) delegates authority to the Director of Community, in consultation with the Executive Member for Health and Housing, to accept the grant conditions and enter into contract with HCA; and
- d) delegates authority to the Director of Community, in consultation with the Executive Member for Health and Housing, to enter into contract with Brymor Contractors Ltd to construct the proposed development.

Reason:

To enable new affordable homes to be built at a highly sustainable location, which will meet local housing needs and contribute to the corporate objective of enabling 500 new affordable homes by 2017.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
538

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Welborne Financial Update
Report of:	Director of Planning & Development
Strategy/Policy:	Fareham Local Plan
Corporate Objectives:	To protect and enhance the environment Maintain and extend prosperity Leisure for health and fun A balanced housing market Strong and Inclusive Communities Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

To advise the Executive on the updated costs for the preparation of the Welborne Plan.

This report sets out the latest projected and incurred expenditure relating to the development of the Welborne Plan.

The Council has received significant Large Sites Capacity Funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to assist with the planning and delivery of Welborne. The Council is in continued dialogue with DCLG in relation to opportunities for further capacity funding for 2014/15.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor PW Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the update on the financial costs of producing the Welborne Plan.

Reason:

To set out the updated expenditure and funding involved in the preparation of the Welborne Plan.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
539

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Annual Review of the Council's Finance Strategy
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Finance Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	A dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

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 2018/19, examined.

To summarise the overall capital position, the programme for services other than housing, up to 2018/19, has been updated and now totals £36.308 million. Resources of £36.328 million are available now to finance the programme and between 2014/15 and 2018/19 resources of £9.4 million are anticipated from direct revenue funding, capital grants and capital receipts.

However, the spending reductions likely to be required in 2015/16 onwards may well mean that the revenue contributions to capital have to be significantly reduced in future years.

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 2015/16 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 2015/16 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.

The Scrutiny Board will consider the various issues at its meeting on 25 September 2014 and the Board's views will be reported to the meeting.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor PW Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED That the Executive agrees:

- (a) the Council's finance strategy and the budget guidelines for 2015/16, as set out in the finance strategy document attached to the report; and
- (b) to submit the updated Pay Policy, annexed to the Medium Term Finance Strategy, to 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:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

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540

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Policy and Resources
Subject:	Future Arrangements for Land Ownership at Daedalus
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Corporate Strategy
Corporate Objectives:	To Maintain and Extend Prosperity Dynamic, Prudent and Progressive Council

Purpose:

To set out one potential option for the future of land at Daedalus, and seek approval of the Executive to proceed with this option.

It is a Council priority to maintain and extend prosperity by working with others to continue to support and promote the economic vitality of the Borough. And in support of this priority, the Council has committed to work with partners to deliver a thriving aviation-led employment area at the Solent Enterprise Zone at Daedalus, which is supported by a viable airfield.

A significant amount of investment has been made with the aim of regenerating Daedalus East, and unlocking the Waterfront parts of the site. The development area at Daedalus West is the remaining aspect of the site which has received limited investment. While Government support has been sought, funding has not been available nor does it appear likely in the foreseeable future. Consequently, the prospects for Daedalus West are poor in the absence of a further significant tranche of investment at risk.

The paper sets out a proposal which enables the investment at Daedalus to take place, and at the same time provides the greatest prospects for securing the long term viability of the airfield.

Options Considered:

The Executive Leader, Councillor S D T Woodward declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest for this item as he is a Director of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership. He remained present throughout the meeting and took part in the discussion and decision.

The Executive Member for Public Protection, Councillor T M Cartwright declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest for this item as he is the Council's appointed representative to the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership Employment and Skills Board. He remained present throughout the meeting and took part in the discussion and decision.

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillors T G Knight, A Mandry and P W Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

Councillor T G Knight declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest for this item as he is the Council's appointed representative to the Daedalus Strategy Group.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Executive agrees in principle to pursuing the option outlined in the paper for the long term ownership and development of land at Daedalus.
- b) To agree the draft heads of terms, in Appendix A, as the basis of negotiation with the Homes and communities Agency;
- c) To delegate authority to the Director of Finance and Resources, in consultation with the Executive Leader, to
 - i. finalise Heads of Terms and proceed to contract;
 - ii. agree terms for the transfer of ownership and any associated grant funding;
 - iii. agree terms with other parties for other funding sources associated with the proposal;
- d) To extend the terms of reference for the Daedalus Investment Member Working Group, to incorporate the potential land transfer project.

Reason:

To unlock the potential benefits at Daedalus West and secure the long terms prospects for the airfield, in support of the Council's corporate objectives.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
541

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Vanguard Update
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources
Strategy/Policy:	Efficiency Plan
Corporate Objectives:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

To provide an update on the progress of the work being undertaken by officers, under the guidance of the Vanguard Consultancy, to review systems and to improve the experience of customers when they make contact with the Council.

The second phase of implementing the Vanguard method is nearing completion. This has focused on detailed interventions into housing repairs, car parking, benefits, planning applications and recruitment.

Significant lessons have been learnt from each intervention and new ways of working are being implemented, resulting in a more responsive, customer focused approach. Solutions are being tailored to meet the needs of individual customers and meaningful measures are being put in place to enable the effective management of each service.

As a result of new ways of working, the average time to process a benefit application has fallen from 20 days to 6 days. The number of "challenges" to parking penalty charge notices has fallen by 50% and the average time to process a planning application has fallen from 56 to 36 days. The average time to fix a repair to a Council property has dramatically fallen from 89 days to 6 days. The new approach to recruitment is resulting in an improved range of candidates.

These figures are being achieved because officers are seeking to reduce "preventable" demand by solving problems quickly at the first point of contact. Customers are indicating high levels of satisfaction with the new ways of working and officers feel more empowered to solve problems.

Work has now commenced on the next phase, with interventions commencing in tenancy services, environmental health and strategic housing.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor PW Whittle, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- a) that progress on the implementation of the Vanguard method be noted; and
- b) that £30,000 of the savings already achieved through this initiative be recirculated (through the Housing Revenue Account) to fund a further intervention into Tenancy Services.

Reason:

To keep members informed of progress on this important process of transformational change, and to commence interventions into new areas with a high number of customer transactions.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2013/14
Decision No.
542

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 October 2014

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Matched Funding - Quarterly Report
Report of:	Director of Community
Strategy/Policy:	Grants Policy
Corporate Objectives:	All corporate objectives apply

Purpose:

To provide details of matched funding requests received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2014/15 financial year.

During this quarter, the Council has received two matched funding requests as follows:

Catisfield Memorial Hall has requested £7,560 towards extending and upgrading its kitchen, security and notice boards. Full details are set out in Appendix A.

The Fareham School of Gymnastics has requested an in principle agreement of £30,000 towards a project to construct a dedicated school of gymnastics at the site of the Fareham Academy.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) that matched funding of up to £7,560 be awarded for Catisfield Memorial Hall; and
- (b) that matched funding of £30,000 be awarded (in principle) for the Fareham School of Gymnastics subject to the club securing the remaining £970,000 required for the project within 3 years from the date of this decision.

Reason:

To act as an enabler, assisting the local community in making improvements to local community facilities, and introducing new facilities for the benefit of all age groups within the community.

Confirmed as a true record:

Monday, 6 October 2014

Councillor SDT Woodward
Executive Leader