

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2133

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Community Funding Application - Portchester Bowling Club
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Leisure opportunities for health and fun

Purpose:

To provide details of the matched funding request received by the Council during the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year.

A matched funding bid has been received from Portchester Bowling Club towards the cost of extending their Clubhouse in Westlands Grove, Portchester.

It is anticipated that the proposed changes will increase capacity and improve disability access for Club Members and visitors.

The total cost of the project is £135,000, of which Portchester Bowling Club has allocated £20,000 from their reserves and an additional £50,000 from the financial contributions to the project by Club Members. The Club is in the process of applying to Bowls England for an interest-free loan and have also applied to Hampshire County Council's Community Building Fund for a contribution. Hampshire County Council has indicated that they will be prepared to award an allocation of £20,000 towards the project.

As of July 2019, the Club's accounts listed £44,930 in financial assets.

Portchester Bowling Club has requested £20,000 from Fareham Borough Council towards the project to extend their Clubhouse.

This grant award is critical to the delivery of the project and is also needed to secure the other source of grant funding.

Options Considered:

Councillor S D T Woodward declared a personal interest in respect of this item as he was involved in the decision made by Hampshire County Council to award a similar grant to Portchester Bowling Club.

The Executive Member for Leisure and Community proposed the deletion of recommendation (b) of the report as planning permission has already been granted.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) considered offering a matched funding grant of up to £20,000 to Portchester Bowling Club, to extend their Clubhouse at Westlands Grove, Portchester;
- (b) agrees the award specifically for the plans and costs provided as part of this funding application; and
- (c) agrees the award of the funding subject to Portchester Bowling Club providing written acknowledgement of both a successful application to the Hampshire County Council Community Building Fund for £20,000 to match Fareham Borough Council's contribution and Bowls England's approval of an interest-free loan to the Club.

Reason:

To act as an enabler, assisting the local community to introduce improved facilities within the community.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2134

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Annual Review of the Corporate Strategy 2017-2023 and Local Service Agreements 2018-2019
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	(All Corporate Priorities)

Purpose:

The Council's performance management framework requires the Executive to undertake an annual review of the corporate vision and priorities. The purpose is to confirm future priorities and to update the wording where necessary, and to provide an overview of the Council's performance for the 2018/19 financial year. The outcome of the Corporate Strategy review will influence budgets and local service agreements for the next financial year.

The Corporate Strategy provides a clear focus on the most important issues that need to be addressed for the 2017-2023 period. This annual review is an opportunity to consider progress made in delivering corporate priorities and to assess the impact of any other influences on the Council's services and initiatives.

The Council's strategic framework includes Local Service Agreements to provide details of actions delivered by individual services. The Local Service Agreements provide an overview of how the Council is performing alongside the Corporate Strategy. This annual review is an opportunity to consider how well the Council, as a whole, is performing, as well as in key service areas.

Options Considered:

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor R H Price, JP addressed the Executive on this item.

Amendments to Pages 53 and 55 of the agenda pack were tabled at the meeting to highlight two minor changes to the wording in the Local Service Agreements 2018-2019 document.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) recommends to the Council the amendments to the strategy document, as set out in paragraph 8 of the report along with the minor amendments to the wording in the Local Service Agreement 2018-2019 document as highlighted in the tabled items and the inclusion of the date last reviewed on the front page of the strategy; and
- (b) notes the Council's performance for the 2018/19 financial year.

Reason:

To meet the requirements of the Council's performance management framework and to provide details of Fareham Borough Council's performance for the 2018/19 financial year.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019

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Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	(All Corporate Priorities)

Purpose:

This report sets out the current mandatory and discretionary Council Tax Discounts, Exemptions, Reliefs and Premiums that apply to Council Tax Payers in Fareham at Appendix A. It also recommends the adoption of a new Council Tax Reduction for young adults leaving the care system and changes to the discounts and premiums on empty properties and properties undergoing/requiring major works.

This report gives the Executive an opportunity to view the current mandatory and discretionary Council discounts, reliefs, exemptions and premiums that apply to Council Tax payers in Fareham.

The report also gives the Executive the opportunity to make some changes to the following discretionary discounts and premiums:

Care Leavers:

To offer a reduction in Council Tax to Care Leavers by considering the Council Tax due as irrecoverable either in full or in part, as a way of providing practical help and financial assistance to care leavers whilst they are developing independent lives and their individual life skills.

This policy will provide a 100% reduction to Care Leavers aged between 18 and 25 where any English based local authority has been acting as the corporate parent. The reduction will be awarded by considering the Council Tax as irrecoverable and will be applied if the Care Leavers pays Council Tax or lives with someone who pays Council Tax in Fareham since 1 April 2019.

Unoccupied and Unfurnished Dwellings (Class C)

To remove the discount currently allowed on empty and unoccupied properties which have been vacant for less than 1 month, so that no discount is given.

Unoccupied and Unfurnished properties undergoing alterations (Class D)

To remove the discount currently allowed on empty and unoccupied properties undergoing or requiring major works to make them habitable, so that no discount is given.

Council Tax Premiums on Long term Empty Properties:

There are 46 properties in Fareham which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for longer than 2 years. 7 of these properties have been unoccupied and unfurnished for longer than 10 years.

We don't always know why a property has been left unoccupied and there may be many reasons. However, there is a shortage of residential accommodation in Fareham which is affordable for prospective tenants and currently over 1,100 people on the Housing Waiting List.

The Government has given Billing Authorities the power to increase premiums on long term empty properties which will encourage these very long-term empty properties to be brought back into use, as follows:

1. From 1 April 2019 to 31st March 2020 where the property has been empty over two years, a 100% premium.
2. From 1 April 2020 to 31st March 2021 where the property has been empty between two to five years a 100% premium and where the property has been empty over five years, a 200% premium.
3. From 1 April 2021 where the property has been empty between two to five years a 100% premium, where the property has been empty between five and ten years a 200% premium and for property that has been empty over ten years, a 300% premium.

The Executive has agreed to increase this premium to 100% from 1 April 2019. However, it is now proposed that additional premiums proposed by the Government are introduced from 1 April 2020 and 1 April 2021 for properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for 2 to 5 years, 5 to 10 years and over 10 years, to continue to support the Council in encouraging empty properties to be brought back into use and releasing much need housing.

Owners of these empty properties will be notified in advance of the proposed changes.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees the approach for the proposed policy for up to 100% of the Council Tax for properties occupied by Care Leavers under 25 years of age, to be considered as irrecoverable; and
- (b) approves the latest discretionary reductions and premiums set out in Appendix A for:
 - (i) 0% discount for properties which are unoccupied and unfurnished for less than 2 years (Class C)
 - (ii) 0% discount for properties requiring major works to render them habitable (Class D)
 - (iii) 100% to 300% Long Term Empty property premiums for properties which have been unoccupied and unfurnished for more than 24 months

Reason:

Fareham has a shortage of affordable residential accommodation and there are currently over 1,132 people on the housing waiting list. The proposed changes to the discounts on empty and unoccupied properties and the increase in the premiums payable on Long Term Empty properties (those empty for more than 24 months) should encourage owners of empty dwellings to bring those properties back into use, supporting the Government's strategy on empty homes.

The new care leavers policy will provide practical help and financial assistance to care leavers whilst they are developing independent lives and their individual life skills in Fareham.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2136

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Finance Monitoring Report 2019-20
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

This report provides comparative information on the Council's revenue expenditure for the period ended 30 September 2019. 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 2019/20	Budget to 30 Sep 19	Actual to 30 Sep 19	Variation
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Service Budgets	11,302	3,108	3,049	-59
Non-Service Budgets	-2,636	-460	-489	-29
Net Budgets	8,666	2,648	2,560	-88

Housing Revenue Account	Budget 2019/20	Budget to 30 Sep 19	Actual to 30 Sep 19	Variation
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Income Budgets	-12,321	-6,363	-6,353	10
Expenditure Budgets	8,406	3,071	2,726	-345
Other Budgets	3,915	0	0	0
Net Budgets	0	-3,292	-3,627	-335

Revenue spending plans are showing an under spend for the period up to 30 September 2019.

However, there are a number of areas where spend is in excess of the budget so it remains appropriate to continue to monitor financial performance closely over the second half 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:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the Finance Monitoring Report 2019-20.

Reason:

To provide members of the Executive with a summary of the Council's budgetary performance to 30 September 2019.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2137

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Treasury Management and Capital Monitoring Report 2019-20
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

This report summarises the Council's investment activity and capital expenditure up to 30 September 2019 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 investment position is set out in the following table:-

	31 March 2019 Actual £'000	Movement £'000	31 Sept 2019 Actual £'000
Total borrowing	45,510	2,000	47,510
Total investments	(13,100)	(6,100)	(19,200)
Net borrowing	32,410	(4,100)	28,310

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

Capital Programme	Budget 2019/20 £'000	Budget to 30 Sep 19 £'000	Actual to 30 Sep 19 £'000	Variation £'000
General Fund	27,015	6,076	6,114	38
HRA	9,374	4,307	1,366	-2,941
Total	36,389	10,383	7,480	-2,903

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the Treasury Management and Capital Monitoring Report for 2019/20.

Reason:

To inform the Executive of the Council's investment, borrowing and capital programme activity up to 30 September 2019.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2138

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 4 November 2019

Portfolio	Leisure and Community
Subject:	Award of Contract - Leisure Centre Operator
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Leisure opportunities for health and fun

Purpose:

To award the contract for the management of Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres.

The current contract for the management of Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres expires on 30 September 2020.

In 2018 the Council commenced a procurement process to appoint an operator for the new leisure centre contract to commence 01 October 2020.

The Council's key requirements for the new leisure centre management contract include:

- i. Capital investment in both Centres, but particularly Fareham Leisure Centre to deliver improved revenue;
- ii. Operation of both Centres in accordance with the Council's specification which seeks to deliver an improved quality of service;
- iii. Financial proposals which deliver enhanced revenue positions in comparison to the current contract fee.

The preferred bid has been evaluated against the specified evaluation criteria that was established at the start of the process. This bid scores well in both the services (or quality of submission) and their technical proposals which demonstrate good proposals in terms of the capital investment.

The report summarises the bid including the financial submission and recommends the award of contract to the preferred bidder.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the contract for the management of Fareham and Holly Hill Leisure Centres be awarded to the tender submitted by the contractor ranked 1st (as set out in the confidential Appendix A to this report) being the most advantageous tender received.

Reason:

The current contract expires on 30 September 2020.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 4 November 2019