

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2020/21
Decision No.
2191

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 July 2020

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Hook Lake Coastal Management Study
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Protect and enhance the environment

Purpose:

To seek approval to undertake a project to identify viable habitat creation options, to develop outline designs and produce a business case for delivering new habitat at Hook Lake, to help meet the Regional Habitat Compensation Programme (RHCP) targets in the Solent and South Downs (SSD) Area. The project will also provide opportunity to investigate additional broader outcomes important to Fareham Borough Council and the wider Fareham community, not just in relation to the environment, but also to enhance amenity, improve access and community health and wellbeing.

Hook Lake is located to the south of Warsash, on the eastern side of the River Hamble (Appendix A). The area is important environmentally, hosting national and international environmental designations including the Solent and Southampton Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, the Lee-on-the-Solent to Itchen Estuary Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Hook-with-Warsash Local Nature Reserve (LNR).

The existing site, owned and managed by Hampshire County Council, comprises approximately 39 ha of coastal grazing marsh and 4 ha of reedbed habitat and the frontage is popular with locals and tourists due to its abundance of wildlife and network of footpaths passing through the reserve, including the Solent Way.

The aim of the study is to identify options to create compensatory intertidal habitat at Hook Lake, as recommended in the River Hamble to Portchester Strategy (RHPS) (2016) and the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (2010).

This project will help to meet the targets of the Solent and South Downs (SSD) Regional Habitat Compensation Programme (RHCP) to deliver compensatory intertidal habitat which is a legal requirement of the North Solent Shoreline Management Plan (NSSMP) Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) agreement and Statement of Case.

Funding is already secured for the study from Environment Agency Grant-in-Aid.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves commencement of the Hook Lake Coastal Management Study; and
- (b) agrees that the Director of Planning and Regeneration, is given delegated authority to procure and deliver the works, subject to the award of contract being made through an Individual Decision by the Executive Member for Planning and Development.

Reason:

Across the SSD area there has been a reduction in European Designated Sites (Natura 2000), either via the direct encroachment of new coastal defences or through coastal squeeze, resulting from the combination of rising sea levels and 'Hold the Line' (HTL) SMP policies. The SSD RHCP Annual Review Report (2017), completed as part of the progress review and strategic update for the RHCP, calculated the intertidal habitat losses as, 435ha of saltmarsh and 75ha of mudflat, over the next 100 years.

The habitat compensation targets set for Epoch 1 (2005-2025) have mostly been met, primarily from Medmerry in West Sussex, but there is still 20 ha of saltmarsh habitat short. The habitat creation targets for Epoch 2 (2026-2055) are set as 149ha of saltmarsh and 70 ha of mudflat.

The creation of new compensatory intertidal habitat through the RHCP will help to offset these losses and is a legal requirement of the North Solent SMP IROPI agreement and Statement of Case. To ensure that the regional Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) programme can continue to be delivered without delay, compensatory habitat must be in place in advance for all FCERM schemes that will encroach and/or cause coastal squeeze damage to European Sites (Natura 2000 sites). Without provision of this compensatory habitat, many future FCERM schemes across the North Solent SMP area, will not have their Habitat Regulations Assessment approved, preventing planning and marine licence consents from being granted and therefore future FCERM schemes will not be able to progress.

Hook lake has been identified as a key high priority habitat compensation site to create up to 40.5 ha of saltmarsh and mudflat compensatory habitat to meet the Epoch 1 deficit and some of Epoch 2 (2026-2055).

The existing defences at Hook Lake have a residual life of 10-20 years. Given the present poor condition of the seawall, ad-hoc maintenance would be insufficient to mitigate health and safety risks associated with potential localised structure failure in the future. The Environment Agency (EA) currently maintains these however, they are not legally or contractually obliged to continue maintaining assets in the system and there is an intent to look at withdrawing maintenance in the short term.

The Hook Lake coastal management study and associated scheme are included in the EA's Capital Grant Programme. Funding for the study was approved by the EA in December 2019.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 July 2020

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2020/21
Decision No.
2192

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 July 2020

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2019/20
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

Purpose:

This report provides the Executive with details of the actual revenue expenditure for 2019/20 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue and Repairs Account and seeks approval for the completion, in 2020/21, of the 2019/20 expenditure programmes set out in the briefing paper contained in the report.

The General Fund actual revenue expenditure for 2019/20 totals £9,938,410 which represents an overall overspend of £619,210 when compared to the revised budget.

However, additional funding income from business rates and grants linked to business rates of £441,365 reduced the overspend to £177,845. This overspend will need to be financed from reserves.

Also, it has not been possible to complete a number of expenditure programmes in 2019/20 and approval is sought to complete two programmes where expenditure had already been committed during 2020/21, at a cost of £100,600. When the use of the reserves in 2019/20 to complete these programmes is taken into account the final contribution from reserves for the year is £278,445.

The final figures for the Housing Revenue and Repairs Account (HRA) in 2019/20 show that the HRA revenue reserve has reduced by £429,000 against a revised breakeven budget. Overall, total HRA Reserves have increased by £759,000.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the carry forward of £100,600 to fund the completion of the committed General Fund expenditure programmes in 2020/21, as contained in this report;

- (b) approves the carry forward of £1,663,000 for the HRA Capital Programme to re-align budget and expenditure phasing and to support the forthcoming programme for 2020/21; and
- (c) notes the contents of the report.

Reason:

To enable the completion of the General Fund expenditure programme for 2019/20 and to ensure that the balances on the Housing Revenue and Repairs Accounts at 31 March 2020 will be available in future years and that 2020/21 budgets are sufficient to meet the level of work programmed.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 July 2020

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2020/21
Decision No.
2193

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 July 2020

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Local Authority Discretionary Grant Awards
Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Corporate Priority:	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council; Maintain and extend prosperity

Purpose:

To note the award of grants made under the Local Authority Discretionary Grant Fund Scheme for Fareham Borough Council.

On 2nd June 2020, the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approved a local scheme for the award of grants to businesses, as part of a wider support package announced by Government for businesses struggling with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The local scheme allows for grants of up to £5,000 to be awarded under delegated authority by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, and grants above this amount and up to £10,000 to be awarded by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.

The applications for grants under the scheme have been assessed, and are summarised below:-

	No.	Value
Grant paid, value up to £5,000	41	£137,500
Grants proposed, value between £7,500 - £10,000	60	£572,500
Grants proposed, subject to satisfactory evidence being received	12	£77,500
Grants proposed to market traders	22	£55,000
TOTAL GRANTS PAID	135	£842,500
FUNDING ALLOCATED		£1,019,000
Balance available		£176,500

Options Considered:

In considering this item the Executive noted the contents of the tabled item presented at the Policy and Resources Individual Executive Member decision meeting held on 06 July 2020.

The tabled item outlined some minor changes to the confidential Appendices A to D of the report which the Executive Member had taken into account when approving the recommendations.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes:-

- (a) the grants of up to £5,000, paid under delegated authority to 43 businesses, totalling £145,000 as set out in Appendices A;
- (b) the schedule of grants exceeding £5,000, totalling £552,500, that has been considered by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, as set out in Appendix B;
- (c) the schedule of grants which are subject to satisfactory evidence or explanations being received, totalling £70,000, that has been considered by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, as set out in Appendix C;
- (d) the proposal considered by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources that the regular traders at the Portchester and/or Fareham markets, as listed in Appendix D, are paid a total grant of £2,500 each in instalments; and.
- (e) the proposal considered by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources that the balance of funding to be used to award grants of up to £5,000, using the existing scheme details, until the funds are fully utilised.

Reason:

To enable the Council to pay discretionary grants to businesses, in accordance with Government guidance.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 July 2020