

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23  
Decision No.  
2405

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 February 2023

<b>Portfolio</b>	Planning and Development
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill - Planning Policy Consultation</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Planning and Regeneration
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Maintain and extend prosperity; Protect and enhance the environment; Providing housing choices; Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

#### **Purpose:**

To provide the Executive with an overview of the proposals contained within the Government's Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill consultation, and to seek approval for the submission of the consultation response, at Appendix 1.

The Government has launched a consultation on planning policy reforms entitled 'Levelling-up and Regeneration Bill: reforms to national planning policy'. The consultation ranges from discussing proposals that will be brought in as part of the Bill, or subsequent secondary legislation, to changes that the Government hope to bring forward through amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) this spring. The Government further commits to a 'wider review' of the NPPF later this year. Therefore, the consultation contains three sets of proposals to reform the planning agenda, with the most sweeping of changes to the plan-making system being introduced in 2024 onwards. The consultation closes on 2 March 2023 and this report considers the impact of the changes from the perspective of Fareham in its South Hampshire context.

#### **Options Considered:**

As recommendation.

#### **Decision:**

RESOLVED that, having considered the content of the report, the Executive:

- (a) approves the suggested approach to the Council's response; and
- (b) delegates authority for the final consultation response to the Director of Planning and Regeneration, following consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Development.

**Reason:**

To respond to the Government's consultation on planning policy reform, expressing the views of the Council.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 February 2023

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23  
Decision No.  
2406

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 February 2023

<b>Portfolio</b>	Policy & Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Finance Strategy, Capital Programme, Revenue Budget &amp; Council Tax 2023/24</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

#### **Purpose:**

This report seeks final confirmation of the recommendations to be made to Council, on 24 February 2023, in respect of the revenue budget, capital programme and council tax for 2023/24.

On 09 January 2023, the Executive reviewed the Council's overall finance strategy and considered proposals relating to the revenue budgets and the council tax for 2023/24. This report updates the Council's budgets to reflect the decisions taken and other known changes since 09 January 2023.

The capital programme for the years 2022/23 to 2026/27 will be £37,768,800.

The revenue budget for 2023/24 will be £11,897,100. With retained business rates and grants estimated be £3,931,745 and no payment from the collection fund, the total amount due from the council taxpayers will be £7,965,355.

Taking these changes into consideration, the council tax for 2023/24 will be £180.46 per Band D property. This represents an increase of £5.24 per year from the council tax set for 2022/23 and is within the 2.99% referendum threshold set by the Government.

#### **Options Considered:**

A deputation was received from Mr Gareth Jones in respect of this item.

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

As recommendation.

**Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive approves and recommends to the meeting of the Council to be held on 24 February 2023:

- (a) the capital programme and financing of £37,768,800;
- (b) an overall revised revenue budget for 2022/23 of £10,987,300;
- (c) a revenue budget for 2023/24 of £11,897,100;
- (d) a council tax for Fareham Borough Council for 2023/24 of £180.46 per band D property, which represents a £5.24 per year increase when compared to the current year and is within referendum limits;
- (e) an unchanged Council Tax Support scheme for 2023/24; and
- (f) that the Council continues to disregard the whole of any incomes prescribed in the Housing Benefit (War Pensions Disregards) Regulations 2007 and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) (England) Regulations 2012.

**Reason:**

To allow the Council to approve the Council Tax for 2023/24.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 February 2023

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23  
Decision No.  
2407

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 February 2023

<b>Portfolio</b>	Policy & Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Housing Revenue Account 2023/24</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Providing housing choices

#### **Purpose:**

This report seeks Executive approval for the revised budget for the Housing Revenue Account for 2022/23, the base budgets and rent increases for 2023/24.

The Executive recommended, and the Council approved, in February 2022, the base budget and rent increase for 2022/23 for Housing Revenue Account (HRA) services.

This report sets out some revisions to the Housing Revenue Account revised budget for 2022/23 and base budgets for 2023/24 along with the capital programme and financing for the years 2022/23 to 2026/27. The report examines the issues affecting the Housing Revenue Account including rent changes with effect from 01 April 2023.

Council budgets are susceptible to change in the level of expenditure and income caused by factors inside and outside the Council's control. A risk assessment has been carried out to indicate the effect on housing balances of changes in the level of expenditure and income. This can be used to estimate the account balances needed to provide a prudent level of reserves and a working balance.

#### **Options Considered:**

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

As recommendation.

#### **Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive approves and recommends to the meeting of the Council to be held on 24 February 2023 that:

- (a) rents be approved for Council Dwellings as set out in paragraph 21 with effect from 01 April 2023;

- (b) rents for Council garages be increased by 7% with effect from 01 April 2023;
- (c) the revised budget for 2022/23 be approved; and
- (d) the base budget for 2023/24 be approved.

**Reason:**

To allow the Council to approve the Housing Revenue Account budgets for 2023/24.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 February 2023

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23  
Decision No.  
2408

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 February 2023

<b>Portfolio</b>	Policy & Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Capital Programme &amp; Capital Strategy 2023/24</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

#### **Purpose:**

This report considers the Capital Strategy for 2023/24, prior to its submission to the Council for approval.

Regulations require the Council to prepare and formally approve a Capital Strategy. The document for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix A to this report for consideration by the Executive before being submitted to Council for approval.

The Capital Strategy gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing, asset management and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

The main highlights in the Capital Strategy are:

- i) The level of capital expenditure estimated for 2023/23 is £24.5 million. The current estimate is that £3.1 million of this will be met by new borrowing.
- ii) A new prudential indicator for net income from commercial investments to net revenue stream has been added.
- iii) A new section about the Daedalus Finance Strategy has been added
- iv) A high-level review of future funding requirements has identified a capital funding requirement of £229 million.
- v) The Council's investment property portfolio has an estimated value of £68.3 million

A separate report proposing the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2023/24 will be presented at the February meeting of the Executive.

**Options Considered:**

The comments of the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

As recommendation.

**Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) endorses the draft Capital Strategy for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A to the report;
- (b) approves the capital programme for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27, amounting to £62.9million as set out in Annex 1 of the Capital Strategy; and
- (c) agrees to submit the Capital Strategy for 2023/24 to Council for approval.

**Reason:**

To allow the Council to approve the Capital Strategy in accordance with the Prudential Code.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 February 2023



# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

2022/23  
Decision No.  
2409

### Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 6 February 2023

<b>Portfolio</b>	Policy & Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Treasury Management Strategy 2023/24</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Dynamic, prudent and progressive Council

#### **Purpose:**

This report considers the draft treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy for 2023/24, prior to its submission to the Council for approval.

Regulations require the Council to prepare and formally approve both an annual Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy. The document for 2023/24 is attached as Appendix A to this report for consideration by the Executive before being submitted to Council for approval.

A new prudential indicator, the liability benchmark, has been added to reflect the requirements of the revised Treasury Management Code of Practice and the Prudential Code issued in 2021. This new prudential indicator in paragraph 48, shows the lowest risk level of borrowing for the Council.

In the past 12 months, the Council's investment balance has ranged between £21 million and £38 million, lower levels are expected in the forthcoming year due to capital programme expenditure. The Council expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments will therefore be made primarily to manage day to day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.

Borrowing levels are expected to be £52.2million at the end of 2023/24 to fund the capital programme. The Council has previously raised all of its long-term borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) but will consider long-term loans from other sources. PWLB loans are no longer available to local authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield.

#### **Options Considered:**

As recommendation.

**Decision:**

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) endorses the draft Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2023/24, attached as Appendix A to this report; and
- (b) agrees to submit the report to Council for approval.

**Reason:**

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Treasury Management in the Public Services and guidance from the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy have to be approved by full Council.

**Confirmed as a true record:**

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 6 February 2023