

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2546

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Housing
Subject:	Draft Tenant Engagement Strategy
Report of:	Director of Housing
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices

Purpose:

To seek approval of the Draft Tenant Engagement Strategy for a minimum six-week period of public consultation.

This is a new Strategy produced in response to the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and the new Consumer Standards set by the Regulator of Social Housing. The draft Tenant Engagement Strategy sets out our approach to improving how we listen to and work with our tenants.

Options Considered:

The comments of the Housing Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) the new draft Tenant Strategy, as provided in Appendix A to the report, to be circulated for public consultation; and
- (b) the Director of Housing be authorised, following consultation with the Executive Member for Housing, to make any necessary minor amendments to the draft Tenant Engagement Strategy, prior to publication, provided these do not change the overall direction or emphasis of the Strategy.

Reason:

The Council currently does not have a Tenant Engagement Strategy. The adoption of the new Strategy will support the Council to deliver on the new regulatory requirements.

Confirmed as a true record:
Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2547

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Health and Public Protection
Subject:	Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
Report of:	Director of Neighbourhoods
Corporate Priority:	Strong, Safe and Healthy Communities

Purpose:

To approve the new draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy which is subject to consultation.

The report introduces a new draft Anti-Social Behaviour Policy which will be subject to consultation. This policy will enable the Council to demonstrate it has written procedures and processes detailing how it will deal with complaints of anti-social behaviour and to provide an easily accessible document listing the incremental approach it will take to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve the situation.

Following a consultation period, the final Policy will be considered for adoption at a future meeting of the Executive.

Options Considered:

The comments of the Health and Public Protection Scrutiny Panel were taken into account in considering this item.

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees the proposed draft Policy for a period of consultation. Following the consultation period, the policy will be brought back to a future meeting of the Executive for adoption.

Reason:

To comply with the requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act and the new social Housing Regulation Act 2023 and to ensure that we work collaboratively, both within the Council and with our statutory and voluntary sector partners, to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Confirmed as a true record:
Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2548

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Self and Custom Build Housing Action Plan Review
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices

Purpose:

To review the Self and Custom Build Housing Action Plan and the Council's next steps in relation to the approach to planning for self and custom build housing.

The Council adopted its Self and Custom House Building Action Plan in 2018. The Action Plan set out actions to support the Council's objective to 'positively influence or help secure development opportunities where we can support individuals or organisations in our local communities to deliver high quality self-build or custom-build homes to meet demand in the Borough'. In the action plan the Council committed to review the progress of the actions to ensure that progress is being made in meeting the objective.

A review of the action plan has been undertaken to assess the progress made to date in supporting the delivery of self and custom build homes and to establish whether the original actions identified are proving successful in supporting the Council's objectives. In particular, the review considers what further steps the Council can take in supporting the delivery of self and custom build homes to facilitate delivery.

Options Considered:

As recommendations.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the progress made in supporting the delivery of self and custom build homes in the Borough; and
- (b) approves the implementation of the future actions set out in the Action Plan Review attached at Appendix A to the report, subject to inclusion of a further action to undertake further engagement to promote the opportunity for self-build and custom housebuilding within the Borough and encourage interested individuals and organisations to register their interest.

Reason:

To provide a review of the work undertaken by the Council to date and to ensure continued progress in meeting Council objectives.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2549

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Update to Regulation of Investigatory Powers Policy (RIPA)
Report of:	Assistant Director (Finance & ICT) & Section 151 Officer
Corporate Priority:	Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

To seek approval for the adoption of a revised corporate policy for the use of the powers available under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) and the Investigatory Powers Act 2016. The revisions consider the restructure of departments and senior officers at the Council and further clarification received from the National Anti-Fraud Network in relation to the processes for obtaining communications data.

Changes proposed in the revised policy include:

- a) The role of Senior Responsible Officer is assigned to the Assistant Director (Finance and ICT) and role of RIPA Co-Ordinator is assigned to the Audit Manager.
- b) The list of officers able to make applications and to be Authorising Officers has been updated. Officers from within the Enforcement, Environmental Health and Community Safety teams have now been removed from the policy to reflect current working practices.
- c) Additional guidance is provided in relation to the Use of Social Media in investigations in response to this focus by the Investigatory Practices Commissioner's Officer (IPCO).
- d) The terminology in relation to Communications Data now reflects the latest guidance received from the National Anti-Fraud Network.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees that the revised Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) – Corporate Policy and Procedures attached at Appendix A to the report be approved.

Reason:

To update the policy in accordance with the latest legislation, guidance and practice at the Council; and to reflect the current officer structure at the Council.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2550

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Capital and Treasury Management Outturn 2023/24
Report of:	Assistant Director (Finance & ICT) & Section 151 Officer
Corporate Priority:	Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

The report provides the Executive with details of the capital and treasury management outturn for 2023/24 to comply with the reporting requirements of the Code of Practice for Treasury Management. The report also seeks approval for the proposed methods of financing the General Fund capital programme.

Actual capital expenditure on General Fund schemes in 2023/24 was £31,202,178 (£6.2 million in 2022/23) compared with the revised capital programme of £36,996,700. The overall variance was £5,794,522. A detailed analysis of the variations is given in Appendix A to the report.

Total savings from individual projects of £281,780 were achieved, additional expenditure of £58,989 on others was incurred and a total of £5,571,731 will be carried forward into 2024/25. Details of the various methods used to finance this expenditure are set out in this report.

In addition, a new capital scheme budget of £281,000 is requested for a new filtration system at Holly Hill Leisure Centre.

Full details of Treasury Management investment and borrowing activity in 2023/24 are also set out in this report and is summarised below:

	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	2023/24 Movement £'000	31 March 2024 Actual £'000
Total borrowing	61,336	3,253	64,589
Total investments	(24,832)	11,244	(13,588)
Net borrowing	36,504	14,497	51,001

Net interest received from investments in 2023/24 was £701,320 (£879,854 in 2022/23) and net interest paid on borrowing for the HRA was £1,906,955 (£1,670,992 in 2022/23).

The overall investment property portfolio decreased in value by £3.55 million and contracted income was approximately £4,500,000.

During 2023/24, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements of the Prudential Code.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves that the General Fund capital programme for 2023/24 be financed as set out in the report;
- (b) agrees that the additional expenditure incurred, amounting to £58,989 be financed retrospectively from unallocated capital resources;
- (c) agrees to add £281,000 to the capital programme for a new filtration system at Holly Hill Leisure Centre with the unfunded element of £64,325 to be funded from capital reserves; and
- (d) notes the treasury management activity for 2023/24.

Reason:

To provide the Executive with details of the capital and treasury management outturn in 2023/24 and to comply with the reporting requirements of the Code of Practice for Treasury Management.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2551

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2023/24
Report of:	Assistant Director (Finance & ICT) & Section 151 Officer
Corporate Priority:	Responsive, Inclusive and Innovative Council

Purpose:

The report provides the Executive with details of the actual revenue expenditure for 2023/24 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue and Repairs Account.

The revised budget set by the Executive for the **General Fund** in February was predicting a small underspend of £58,800. Although budget monitoring had been indicating some pressure points during the year the outturn position is still an underspend, of £35,841, which will be added to the Council's reserves.

The main reasons for this was some unexpected income in some areas, such as leisure centre grant income, recycling credits and the garden waste service where the take up of the services continues to remain high. However, there have still been pressures on the budgets in the year, in particular for bed and breakfast expenses for the homelessness service and also vehicle costs for the waste collection and street cleansing services.

This small contribution to reserves will help protect the council's financial position going forward. Some trends in increased expenditure such as fuel prices and materials costs have continued during 2023/24 and the levels of Government's financial support remain uncertain with a further delay to the Fair Funding Review. There also remains uncertainty to income generated by council services as in 2023/24 we have seen reductions in planning income and the town centre parking income is still well below the pre-covid levels. The Council's underlying financial position remains a concern as was highlighted in the Medium-Term Finance Strategy, albeit actions taken in the year have delayed the problem by a year. The new Opportunities Plan will continue to attempt to identify areas where spending can be reduced or where additional income can be generated to help bridge the forecasted funding gap in 2026/27.

There are a number of pressures on the **Housing Revenue and Repairs Account (HRA)**. This is due to the responsive repairs costs remaining high as well as the

planned maintenance and other capital costs. The account has also been impacted by the government cap on rents. The Council has therefore made use of favourable loan rates to increase the borrowing for the HRA by £3.254 million and protect the HRA reserves position which have now increased by £0.096 million. Work is also underway to implement an Opportunities Plan specifically for the HRA.

Options Considered:

As recommendation.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the Executive notes the content of the report.

Reason:

To understand the impact that the 2023/4 year has had on the Councils finances, to ensure that the balances on the Housing Revenue and Repairs Accounts as at 31 March 2024 will be available in future years and that 2024/25 budgets are sufficient to meet the level of work programmed.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2552

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Planning and Development
Subject:	Welborne Garden Village - Housing Infrastructure Grant Funding
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices; Strong, Safe and Healthy Communities

Purpose:
As detailed in the confidential report.

Options Considered:
As recommendation.

Decision:
RESOLVED that the Executive agrees the recommendations (a) and (b) as detailed in the confidential report.

Reason:
As detailed in the confidential report.

Confirmed as a true record:
Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

2024/25
Decision No.
2553

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2024

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	Local Nutrient Mitigation Fund - Land Acquisition
Report of:	Director of Planning and Regeneration
Corporate Priority:	Provides Housing Choices; Respond to Climate Change and Protect the Environment

Purpose:
As detailed in the confidential report.

Options Considered:
As recommendation.

Decision:
RESOLVED that the Executive agrees the recommendations (a) to (g) as detailed in the confidential report.

Reason:
As detailed in the confidential report.

Confirmed as a true record:
Councillor SD Martin (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2024