

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Executive

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

Date: Monday, 1 July 2019

Venue: Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

Present:

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)
T M Cartwright, MBE, Health and Public Protection (Deputy
Executive Leader)
Miss S M Bell, Leisure and Community
K D Evans, Planning and Development
S D Martin, Streetscene

Also in attendance:



1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor F Birkett, Executive Member for Housing.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on 03 June 2019 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Executive Leader provided an update on the concerns raised by Natural England (the Government's adviser on nature conservation and part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, DEFRA) that increased levels of housing in South Hampshire could harm the marine environment.

This is because new housing could lead to an increased level of nitrates entering the Solent and that is because of increased amounts of wastewater. In addition, exhaust emissions from traffic passing close to The Solent or watercourses leading to it; in our case specifically the River Hamble, may also result in increased levels of nitrates.

The Executive Leader stressed that this is a serious issue, noting that on one hand the Government in the form of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) encourage new build and are instructing the Council's Planning Authority how many houses should be permitted; whilst on the other hand, DEFRA, containing Natural England, say don't build one house or even one bedroom because it will result in additional nitrates going into the watercourses. This is despite the fact that 85% of nitrates which end up in the Solent and the Special Protection areas actually come from farming and depend on what is being farmed.

A solution is needed as clearly we cannot have a situation where not another house is to be built again in South Hampshire, which is the current situation. Fareham Borough Council is working closely with the other 11 councils of the Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) to explore what can be done to mitigate this issue alongside Natural England and Southern Water.

Separately, Fareham Borough Council has commissioned work across the borough to assess the effects of emissions from increases in traffic and what effect that could have on the Solent and other watercourses. Whilst there is a lot of work going into this; we don't currently have an answer. Each council is producing a position statement with Fareham's being published this week and a solution will need to be found. It will possibly be similar to the South Hampshire Mitigation Partnership (known as Bird Aware) where the effects being caused by new developments and new residents on the coastal sites in terms of disturbance to birds is mitigated by a payment made by the developer for every new property. This is then used to provide rangers or to purchase land which can be used for overwintering birds etc. The solution will be a mitigation scheme but it will need to be acceptable to Natural England whilst meeting the Government's requirements to accommodate new housing.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this meeting.

5. PETITIONS

There were no petitions submitted at this meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS

The Executive received a deputation from Mr Matthew Hall in relation to item 8(1) – Warsash Neighbourhood Plan: Applications for Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and Warsash Neighbourhood Area.

7. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Policy & Resources Scrutiny Panel – 24 June 2019

Minute 7 – General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2018/19

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the General Fund and HRA outturn for 2018/19.

The Panel discussed two main areas where they felt there that further work could be undertaken, one was in regard to Council Trees and the other concerning Planning Appeals.

Members discussed at length the issue of Council trees which are affecting residents' properties and felt that it was reasonable to request the resident to pay for 50% of the costs for works to trees that they would like done to benefit their property.

The Panel also discussed at length the increasing costs in Planning Appeals and how the current system is unfair to the Local Authority who takes the majority of the costs whilst the applicant has very little costs to have to pay. Members expressed a desire for spurious appeal cases to have more of a charge levied on the applicant.

RESOLVED that the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Panel recommends to the Executive:

- (i). the Council charge 50% of the costs of works to Council trees when requested by residents for benefits to their property; and
- (ii). to task Officers with looking into the issue of Planning Appeal fees and look to lobby the Government to make a change to the current system whereby bigger charges are levied on developers who put forward spurious appeals.

This item is listed at Agenda item 9(1) for consideration by the Executive.

In considering the item referred at point (i) the Executive RESOLVED to ask Officers to review the proposed charge increase and to put forward any

subsequent recommended charge increases as part of the budget preparations for the financial year 2020/21.

In considering the item referred at point (ii) the Executive took the view that developers have the right to put forward appeals in accordance with Planning rules and that the review of Planning Appeal fees would be undertaken as part of the forthcoming Vanguard method review of Planning.

Minute 8 – Capital Programme Outturn 2018/19

The Panel considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer on the Capital Programme Outturn for 2018/19.

RESOLVED that the Panel had no comments to make to the Executive when it considers this item at its meeting on 1 July 2019.

This item is listed at Agenda item 9(2) for consideration by the Executive

8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- (1) Warsash Neighbourhood Plan: Applications for Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and Warsash Neighbourhood Area

The Executive received a deputation in respect of this item from Mr Matthew Hall.

RESOLVED that the Executive approves the application to designate the Warsash Neighbourhood Forum and the application to designate the Warsash Neighbourhood Area, as they meet the requirements of the relevant legislation and regulations.

9. POLICY AND RESOURCES

- (1) General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2018-19

In considering this item, the Executive took into account the comments of the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Panel, see minute 7 above.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the carry forward of £171,700 to fund the completion of the General Fund expenditure programmes in 2019/20, as contained in the report;
- (b) approves the carry forward of £799,000 for the HRA Capital Programme to re-align budget and expenditure phasing and to support the forthcoming programme for 2019/20; and
- (c) notes the contents of the report.

(2) Capital and Treasury Management Outturn 2018-19

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves that the General Fund capital programme for 2018/19 be approved and financed as set out in this report;
- (b) agrees that the additional expenditure incurred, amounting to £342,178 be financed retrospectively from unallocated capital resources; and
- (c) notes the treasury management activity for 2018/19.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm
and ended at 6.37 pm).