

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

2019/20
Decision No.
2117

Record of Decision by Executive

Monday, 1 July 2019

Portfolio	Policy & Resources
Subject:	General Fund & Housing Revenue Account Outturn 2018-19
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 2018/19 for the General Fund and Housing Revenue and Repairs Account and seeks approval for the completion, in 2019/20 of the 2018/19 expenditure programmes set out in the briefing paper contained in the report.

The General Fund actual revenue expenditure for 2018/19 totals £8,961,887 which represents an overall overspend of £521,387 when compared to the revised budget.

However, additional funding income from business rates and grants linked to business rates of £870,501 leaves a position of making a contribution to reserves of £349,114.

Also, it has not been possible to complete a number of expenditure programmes in 2018/19 and approval is sought to complete these programmes totalling £171,700 during 2019/20. When the use of the contribution to reserves in 2018/19 to complete these programmes is taken into account the final contribution to reserves for the year is £177, 414.

The final figures for the Housing Revenue and Repairs Account (HRA) in 2018/19 show that, overall, HRA Reserves have increased by £1.84 million. The HRA revenue reserve has reduced by £293,000 against a revised budget surplus of £17,000.

Options Considered:

In considering this item, the Executive took into account the comments of the Policy & Resources Scrutiny Panel: 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.

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.

As recommendation.

Decision:

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.

Reason:

To enable the completion of the General Fund expenditure programme for 2018/19 and to ensure that the balances on the Housing Revenue and Repairs Accounts at 31 March 2019 will be available in future years and that 2019/20 budgets are sufficient to meet the level of work programmed.

Confirmed as a true record:

Councillor SDT Woodward (Executive Leader)

Monday, 1 July 2019