

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Executive

**(to be confirmed at the next meeting)**

**Date:** Monday, 8 January 2024

**Venue:** Collingwood Room - Civic Offices

**Present:**

S D T Woodward, Policy and Resources (Executive Leader)  
I Bastable, Streetscene  
Miss J Burton, Health & Public Protection  
D G Foot, Housing  
S D Martin, Planning and Development  
Mrs S M Walker, Leisure and Community

**Also in attendance:**

Ms C Bainbridge, for item 8(1)



## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies given for this meeting.

## 2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive held on Monday 11 December 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 3. EXECUTIVE LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Director of Neighbourhoods

The Executive Leader welcomed the new Director of Neighbourhoods, Sarah Ward, to her first meeting of the Executive and stated that he was pleased to see promotion from within the Council.

### Nutrient Mitigation

The Executive Leader announced that he had received a letter from central government awarding us £9.6m for use in bringing forward, with our partners in the Partnership for South Hampshire, further land for nutrient mitigation to allow housebuilding to continue in the medium term.

### Westbury Manor Museum

The Executive Leader announced that Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) has given Fareham Borough Council 12 months' notice that it will be closing Westbury Manor Museum at the end of this year. The decision was taken following a strategic review which will see the HCT withdraw from six of the 24 facilities it currently manages. Ashcroft Arts Centre in Fareham is also set to close.

Hampshire Cultural Trust has been managing Westbury Manor Museum for the Council since 2014. Initially the cost of funding the Museum was shared with the Council providing an annual subsidy of £64,500.

In 2016 it was agreed that the Council would invest £448,000 towards the refurbishment of the Museum instead of an annual subsidy and the HCT shared its plans with the Council to ensure the Museum would be a vibrant and viable addition to the town centre. As a result, a new 10-year management agreement was put in place.

Six years later the HCT advised the Council that actually, this was not now the case, and they required further funding from the Council after all.

This is extremely disappointing news for Fareham as the 10-year agreement was signed in good faith and backed up with significant investment by the Council. HCT was confident it would deliver a thriving museum for our town centre. The Council is not in a position to further subsidise the HCT and, in any event, based on this turn of events, and indeed the similar fate of the Ashcroft Arts Centre, it feels to me that this would be throwing good money away.

Westbury Manor Museum and gardens are a beautiful asset in the heart of Fareham town centre and Fareham Borough Council has held many successful events there in recent years. At the end of last year, we started work on our exciting plans to regenerate the town centre and the future of the building will now be considered as part of that wider work.

The Executive Leader stated that he is thankful that the closure of Ashcroft Arts Centre will coincide with the opening of Fareham Live so we will not lose cultural excellence in the centre of our town.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Miss J Burton, Executive Member for Health and Public Protection, declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest for item 10(1) – Fees and Charges 2024/25 as she is a community user of the facility at Daedalus. As this interest relates specifically to fees and charges for Daedalus and recommendation (c) asks the Executive only to note the charges, Councillor Burton remained present for the rest of the item but left the room when recommendation (c) was considered. She took no part in the discussion or decision for recommendation 10(1)(c).

#### **5. PETITIONS**

There were no petitions received at this meeting.

#### **6. DEPUTATIONS**

There were no deputations made at this meeting.

#### **7. REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

There were no references from other Committees.

#### **8. HOUSING**

##### **(1) Emergency and Temporary Accommodation Pressure**

At the invitation of the Executive Leader, Councillor Mrs C Bainbridge addressed the Executive on this item.

During the discussion on this item, Councillor Mrs S Walker asked that thanks be placed on record to the Director of Housing and the teams involved.

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) agrees an increase in capital budget, to purchase or directly provide further emergency accommodation, to a level of expenditure as set out in Confidential Appendix A to the report; and
- (b) delegates authority to the Director of Housing, following consultation with the Executive Member for Housing, to agree the final acquisition cost, terms of purchase and/or long lease arrangements (subject to the

purchase being within affordable levels), of any suitable property or properties identified.

## 9. LEISURE AND COMMUNITY

### (1) D-Day 80 Event

RESOLVED that the Executive agrees:

- (a) to appoint Montserrat Events Community Interest Company to organise an event, under licence, to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day in June 2024 non-airside at Daedalus, subject to financial approvals and subject to agreement of detailed terms and conditions;
- (b) subject to approval of (a), to delegate authority to the Assistant Director (Democracy), following consultation with the Executive Member for Leisure and Community to agree Heads of Terms and conditions for the Licence agreement; and
- (c) to request a simultaneous fly-in event at Solent Airport, organised by the Council's Airport Operator.

## 10. POLICY AND RESOURCES

### (1) Fees and Charges 2024/25

Councillor Miss J Burton declared a disclosable Pecuniary Interest for this item as she is a community user of the facility at Daedalus. Councillor Burton remained present for the rest of this item but left the room when recommendation (c) was considered. She took no part in the discussion or decision for recommendation 10(1)(c).

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the fees and charges for 2024/25 as set out at Appendix A to the report;
- (b) notes the fees and charges that will be reviewed by the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee and the Planning Committee;
- (c) notes the Solent Airport Daedalus charges at Appendix B to the report;
- (d) approves the increase for the Trade Waste fees and charges as set out at the confidential Appendix C to the report;
- (e) gives delegated authority to the Head of Streetscene to agree concessions to the Trade Waste charges at Appendix C to win business that will be of benefit to the Council; and
- (f) notes the other fees and charges at Appendix C.

### (2) Finance Strategy, Revenue Budget & Council Tax 2024/25

RESOLVED that the Executive:

**Financial Forecasts (MTFS)**

- (a) approves the Medium-Term Finance Strategy for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 as set out at Appendix C to the report;
- (b) agrees to submit the updated Pay Policy, annexed to the Medium-Term Finance Strategy in Appendix C at Annex 2, to Full council for approval;

**Revenue Budgets**

- (c) approves the revised 2023/24 general fund revenue budget, amounting to £12,376,100 as set out in Appendices A and B to the report; and
  - (d) approves the base 2024/25 general fund revenue budget amounting to £13,065,600, as set out in Appendices A and B to the report.
- (3) Capital Programme and Capital Strategy 2024/25

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) endorses the draft Capital Strategy for 2024/25, attached as Appendix A to the report;
  - (b) approves the capital programme for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28, amounting to £82.3 million as set out in Annex 1 of the Capital Strategy; and
  - (c) agrees to submit the Capital Strategy for 2024/25 to Council for approval.
- (4) Fareham Town Centre Draft Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) notes the outcome of the Council's engagement with residents, businesses and visitors on the future of Fareham Town Centre; and
- (b) endorses the "Four Pillars" and Strategic Objectives that have been established to inform and guide the Fareham Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan as it is developed through the first half of 2024.

**11. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that it is in the public interest to exclude the public and representatives of the press from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the matters to be dealt with involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**12. POLICY AND RESOURCES**

- (1) Purchase of Strategic Land at Faraday Business Park (South)

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- (a) approves the purchase of the land; and
- (b) delegates the agreement of final financial terms, up to the sum detailed in the recommendation to the report (plus overage provisions), to the Director of Planning and Regeneration following consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources.

(2) Sale of Development Land at Faraday Business Park (South)

RESOLVED that the Executive gives delegated authority to the Director of Planning and Regeneration, following consultation with the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, to award a contract as detailed in the report and up to a value as detailed in the recommendation once the final terms are understood.

(The meeting started at 6.00 pm  
and ended at 6.42 pm).

..... Chairman

..... Date