FOR DECISIONS MADE AT THE EXECUTIVE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2023

28. Delivery of Wellington Road Affordable Housing Scheme

Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framalicco

DECISION

RESOLVED: that Executive approved:

(1) the expenditure budget of the total costs of the scheme of up to £6,600,000 be funded through a combination of borrowing, capital receipts, developer contributions and Homes England funding. To note: budget approval would be dependent on Homes England grant being awarded;

- (2) the release of up to £3m commuted sums (developer contributions for affordable housing) to be used in conjunction with borrowing via the Housing Revenue Account ("HRA") and Homes England grant as per the proposed funding model;
- (3) that the scheme goes into the Housing Revenue Account ("HRA").

Reason for Decision

By agreeing to develop out Wellington Road site for 100% affordable housing based on the funding model outlined in this paper, there is an opportunity to contribute to meeting housing needs in the Borough and address areas of high need by prioritising some of the units as move-on accommodation for care leavers and the other units for key workers who will help support the local economy.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

29. Capital Monitoring 2023/24 - Quarter 1

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

DECISION

RESOLVED: that the Executive:

1) noted the position of the capital programme at the end of Quarter 1 (to 30 June 2023) as summarised in the report and set out in detail in Appendix A to the report;

- 2) approved and noted the proposed carry forwards in the capital programme as set out in Appendix B; and
- 3) approved a supplementary estimate of £222,000 for Wokingham's share of the Berkshire Archives Extension project.

Reason for Decision

Effective use of our capital resources to meet the Council Plan investment priorities, and delivering value for money for residents.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

30. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2023-24 Quarter 1 Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

DECISION RESOLVED that the Executive:

- 1) noted the overall forecast of the current position of the General Fund revenue budget, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) illustrated in the Executive Summary and appendices attached to the report.
- 2) noted the proposed consultation and timeline on grass cutting, public bin collections and street cleaning as set out in the report.

Reason for Decision

To deliver the Council Priorities for the Community, ensuring the efficient effective and safe use of resource and seek remedial action to achieve a balanced budget where possible.

The Council agrees and sets its budget in the February preceding the current financial year and this report seeks to update Executive on the budget position throughout the year and provide an estimate of the outturn position and impact on balances at year-end (31 March 2024).

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

31. Shareholders Report

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

DECISION

RESOLVED that the Executive noted:

- 1) the Housing companies' budget and operational position for 2022/23 financial year and
- 2) the Optalis budget and operational position for 2022/23 financial year.

Reason for Decision

To provide transparency in respect of Council Owned Companies.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

The following declarations of personal interest were made by Executive Members in relation to agenda item 31: Shareholders Report. These Members did not participate or vote on this item.

- Councillor Prue Bray as a Chair and a Non-Executive Director of Berry Brook Homes, a Non-Executive Director at WBC Holdings Ltd and Chair of Wokingham Homes Limited.
- Councillor Stephen Conway as Chair and a Non-Executive Director of Loddon Homes and Chair of WBC Holdings Ltd
- Councillor David Hare as Chair and a Non-Executive Director of Optalis Ltd.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

None.

32. Bohunt Wokingham School Sixth Form: Update Director, Children's Services - and Budget Helen Watson

DECISION RESOLVED that the Executive:

- 1) noted the progress made on the Bohunt Wokingham School to date, and
- 2) requested that the options to bring 6th form education to Bohunt and a further report on the timescales and costs be reported back to the Executive in Autumn.

Reason for Decision

The report is required because of changes to the project as a result of external factors. The outcome is that students in the rural south west (Finchampstead, Arborfield, Swallowfield and Barkham) will be able to take A level courses locally.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of options available:

- To maintain WBC's current financial contribution (build a smaller building).
- To increase WBC's financial commitment recognising the decision of the Bohunt Trust to contribute £5m and subject to the affordability of the capital programme.
- To explore alternative existing accommodation to cover the period until the new accommodation is ready or to make it a permanent sixth form site.

 Strengths and weaknesses of each proposal are set out in the report.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

33. Local Development Scheme 2023

Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framalicco

DECISION

RESOLVED that the Executive adopts the Local Development Scheme 2023, attached as Enclosure 1 of the agenda papers.

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to consider the adoption of a Local Development Scheme (LDS), the document which sets out the work programme for the local plans that are intended to be prepared over the next three years and when there are opportunities for engagement.

Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision None.

Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member None.

Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest

Not applicable.

Name Priya Patel

Job Title Head of Democratic and Electoral Services

PUBLISHED ON: Friday 28 July 2023

EFFECTIVE ON: Monday 31 July 2023

CALL-IN PERIOD EXPIRES: Friday 4 August 2023

CONTACT:

Email: democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk