

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

### Executive Summary

The Council is invited to consider the recommendations from the meeting of the Executive held on 21 November 2019. The recommendations as set out in the draft minutes of the Executive are outlined below.

### EXECUTIVE – 21 NOVEMBER 2019

#### 8a. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2020-21 EXE19-021

The Executive received a report detailing the proposed discretionary fees and charges for 2020-21. Councillor Azad, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Financial Planning and Policy, reported that the proposed charges amounted to an overall increase of 0.8%. Members welcomed that there would be no increase in the cost of community meals for a third year in a row. The Executive noted that the Borough's community meals service was one of the lowest priced services in Surrey and that it would be necessary to look at the charges for 2021-22.

Following a question regarding paragraph 2.9 concerning the charge for the Brockhill guest room, the Executive was advised that there had been no increase for several years and that the proposed increase was modest. The unique character of the services offered by Brockhill was highlighted.

Discussion ensued on parking charges and the Leader of the Council explained that it was Council policy to increase car park charges by 10p every other year. Therefore, there were no increases proposed during 2020-21. Following a question regarding parking availability over the Christmas period, the Executive was advised that over 200 spaces had been achieved in Town Centre car parks through the relocation of staff parking. The Leader thanked staff colleagues who had moved to alternative parking provision.

Regarding the proposed leisure charges, it was explained that Freedom Leisure were experts in the leisure field and proposed charges which were competitive in the market. The Executive noted that leisure charges were reviewed and discussed at the Leisure Partnership Board. It was highlighted that the Council reserved the right to determine core charges due to their community importance.

#### **RECOMMENDED to Council**

**That the discretionary fees and charges, as set out in Appendices 1 – 4 of the report, be approved.**

Reason: The regular review of discretionary charges ensures that the Council maintains its income base and generates additional resources for the provision of services.

#### 8b. HOUSING ALLOCATIONS POLICY EXE19-114

Councillor Harlow, Portfolio Holder for Housing Needs, Strategy and Enabling, introduced the report which recommended to Council the adoption of the Housing Allocations Policy which

## Recommendations of the Executive

had been updated following the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. It was noted that the updated Policy had been discussed and supported by the Housing Task Group. Discussion ensued on paragraph 2.1.4 of the report which concerned the removal of the cap for home owners for eligibility onto the Register for access to supported accommodation. Attention was drawn to Section 29 of the Policy which set out that home owners would not be included on the Housing Register unless there were exceptional circumstances.

### **RECOMMENDED to Council**

- That (i) the Housing Allocations Policy, as updated, be adopted, with changes taking effect from 1 January 2020; and**
- (ii) the Director of Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, be delegated authority to make minor amendments to the Policy as part of an annual review.**

Reason: The Council has a legal duty to have an Allocations Policy, which states how priority will be awarded to applicants on the Housing Register and how the Choice Based Lettings Scheme operates. It is good practice to review the Housing Allocations Policy from time to time to ensure it reflects local housing priorities and changes in legislation. The revised Policy reflects this and will become subject to annual review.

### **8c. SCHOOL PLACE PROVISION EXE19-122**

The Executive received a report which sought approval of the Executive to recommend to Council the provision of a loan facility to be made available to Greenfield School to cover the acquisition and development of its School at the site of the former International School of London (ISL). It was noted that the required loan facility of £21m had been provided in the Council's approved Investment Programme. The Executive was advised that the commercially sensitive Business Plan and Cost Plan for the school were set out in the Part II confidential report later on the Agenda. A private view of the new school site had been arranged for Members of the Council prior to the Executive. Councillor Azad reported that Greenfield School would be required, as a condition of the loan facility, to enter into a Community Use Agreement in order to ensure the long term benefit to the wider community from use of the school premises.

The Executive welcomed the report which would support the Council's objective of securing additional school places in the Borough so as to underpin the economic vitality of the Borough. The wider financial benefit to the community was highlighted, as the School would pay a 1% margin on its loan facility which was assumed to be £136,000 per annum. In addition, the proposed Community Use Agreement would provide a long term benefit to the wider community and provide opportunities for community groups. The challenges faced by schools in securing funding through other lenders, such as banks, was raised. Regarding security on the loan, it was noted that the Council would take a charge over the School's property assets.

The Leader highlighted an amendment to recommendation (v). It was noted that the Chief Executive would be the named Officer referred to in recommendation (v) and that consultation would take place with both the Portfolio Holder for Financial Planning and Policy, and the Portfolio Holder for Cultural and Community Development.

**RECOMMENDED to Council**

- That (i) the £21m loan facility, included in the Investment Programme for the provision of school places, be made available to Greenfield School to cover the acquisition and development of its new site to enable it to accommodate the projected increase in pupil numbers;
- (ii) the loan facility be subject to a 1% margin over the Council's cost of borrowing and that the borrowing period does not exceed 50 years;
- (iii) the detailed terms of the loan be determined by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with Portfolio Holder;
- (iv) Greenfield School undertakes to seek to dispose of the assets it proposes in a timely manner; and
- (v) Greenfield School enter into a Community Use Agreement with the Council to ensure long term wider community benefit from the provision of the loan facility with terms of the Community Use Agreement being approved by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Financial Planning and Policy and the Portfolio Holder for Cultural and Community Development.

Reason: To secure the provision of additional school places to support the economic vitality of the Borough.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendations set out above.

**Background Papers:** None.

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**Date Published:** 27 November 2019

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