

COUNCIL – 25 JULY 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE (20 JUNE 2019)

Minute / Page No.	SUPPORTING OUR VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTORS (VCS)
<p>Executive 20 June 2019 Minute 15.</p>	<p>Councillor R.H. Ashford, Executive Member for Community Partnerships, introduced a report setting out the findings of a review on how the Council supported the Voluntary and Community Sector. It was noted that the intention was not to reduce funding but to increase the impact and value of the support provided.</p> <p>As set out in the report, the Executive Member for Community Partnerships highlighted that the review had identified a number of opportunities to strengthen the Voluntary and Community Sector and its impact. It was noted that these included updating the financial support that was available, alongside a host of opportunities to regularise and enhance the non-financial support to the sector, with closer alignment to the Council's corporate priorities.</p> <p>Councillor Ashford explained that the financial proposals, set out in the report before the Executive, would enable key partners to be supported through a new commissioning fund. In response to questions, it was noted that partners would be invited to enter into service level agreements with the Council, for up to 3 years. This would provide greater certainty for partners, which would enable them to focus on maximising and demonstrating the impact of funding provided by the Council.</p> <p>In terms of proposals for a medium grants fund the Executive was informed that this would be the key source of financial support for most previously core funded organisations who were not moving to the commissioning fund.</p> <p>In response to questions about the small grants fund, the Executive Member for Community Partnerships explained that this would place the onus on potential grant recipients to identify any unmet needs for residents and to demonstrate how small amounts of Council funding could help address these needs. It was noted that this fund, and the application process, would be piloted during 2019/20 and evaluated towards the end of the financial year to help inform arrangements for 2020/21 and beyond.</p> <p>The Executive Member highlighted a number of opportunities in relation to non-financial support, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing greater in kind support such as access to staff

<p>Executive</p> <p>20 June 2019</p> <p>Minute 15.</p> <p>Cont.</p>	<p>expertise or the use of Council meeting rooms;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Improving understanding of the Voluntary and Community Sector's support needs; and- Increasing skills based volunteering. <p>During the discussion a number of issues were considered in relation to working with Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead and opportunities for increasing work experience placements for all ages.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that the Officer Scheme of Delegation in the Council's Constitution be amended to reflect the changes at Resolution 1 below by, replacing paragraph 2.8 (<i>"Determine applications for capital grants, including Local Area Capital Grants, and allocate core grant funding"</i>) and paragraph 2.9 (<i>"Approve Councillor Community Awards in accordance with the agreed criteria"</i>) with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) <i>"Determine applications for the small and medium sized grants fund on the basis of the financial limits and criteria determined by the Executive"</i>, with authority delegated to the Head of Service with responsibility for Voluntary Sector funding, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for the Voluntary Sector funding.(ii) <i>And "Enter into and manage service level agreements for commissioned VCS services on the basis of the financial limits and criteria determined by the Executive"</i>, with authority delegated to the Head of Service with responsibility for Voluntary Sector funding, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Voluntary Sector funding.(iii) Removing the Councillor Community Awards Scheme from the Constitution with effect from the 2019/20 Municipal year. <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The Council's financial support arrangements for the Voluntary and Community Sectors (VCS) be replaced, on a cost neutral basis, with: (a) A Small Grants Fund of £45,000 from 2020/21 (£30,000 for 2019/20), offering grants of up to £2,000, based on the criteria for award set out at Appendix 2 to the Executive's report; (b) A Medium Grants Fund of £50,000 offering grants for expenditure from 2020/21 of £2,000 - £20,000, based on the criteria for award set out at Appendix 3 to the Executive's report; and (c) A Commissioning Fund of £285,000 for expenditure from 2020/21, targeted at
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<p>Executive 20 June 2019 Minute 15. Cont.</p>		<p>some of our currently core funded VCS partners whose services are central to our corporate priorities, as set out in paragraphs 11 and 12 of the Executive's report and Table 11 of Appendix 1.</p> <p>(ii) The Head of Community Partnerships, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Community Partnerships and other Executive Members and Heads of Service as appropriate, be authorised to strengthen the Council's offer of 'in kind support' to the VCS by: (a) Developing and introducing a policy for free / discounted use of Council meeting rooms; (b) Developing and introducing an employee volunteering policy, with an emphasis on skills based volunteering; and (c) Responding to specific in kind support requests from VCS partners.</p> <p>(iii) The Head of Community Partnership's proposals to improve dialogue with the Council's VCS partners, set out in paragraph 16 of the Executive's report and paragraph 8.4 of Appendix 1, be endorsed.</p> <p>(iv) The Head of Community Partnerships be authorised to implement proposals to increase skills based volunteering, amongst the business community, local residents and the Council's own workforce.</p> <p>(v) The Head of Community Partnerships be authorised to raise public awareness of the activities of the Borough's VCS in order to give greater recognition of the value of volunteering to local residents.</p> <p>(vi) The Head of Community Partnerships be authorised to undertake a programme of activities to assist with the development of the skills and performance of the Council's VCS partners.</p> <p>Reason for decisions: To strengthen the Borough's VCS through partnership working with individual organisations and Voluntary Action Reigate and Banstead (VARB). To also encourage business and resident communities to strength the VCS through greater skills based volunteering.</p> <p>Alternative options: To reject the findings from the VCS review and continue the previous approach to supporting the VCS, or to support implementation of only some of the reviews findings.</p>
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Minute / Page No.	PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT 2018/19
Executive 20 June 2019 Minute 19.	<p>Councillor T. Schofield, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance, introduced the report and advised the Executive of the provisional revenue and capital expenditure for 2018/19.</p> <p>The Executive was informed that the capital programme had progressed well in 2018/19 with a lower underspend than recent years of £3.29 million or 8% compared to original forecasts. In response to questions, Councillor Schofield highlighted that significant progress had been delivered across a number of major projects which had supported strategic objectives, including Marketfield Way. It was also noted that the Council had invested in additional commercial properties in order to achieve sustainable new income sources as well as maintaining operational assets, including play areas and car parks.</p> <p>In terms of the revenue budget, Councillor Schofield explained that the outcome for 2018/19 was a favourable variance of £1.6 million or 9% compared to original forecasts. It was noted that income receipts had been particularly buoyant. For example, recycle prices had been higher than expected, membership of the Garden Waste scheme had continued to increase, investment in the Council's property portfolio had resulted in new income streams, while planning fee income was higher than originally forecast. Councillor Schofield also explained that borrowing costs had been lower compared to the forecasts and that there were budget savings due to staff vacancies as new management structures were implemented. In response to questions, the Executive was informed that the main cost pressures during the year related to the continued requirement to buy in external legal services and a slightly lower than expected benefit subsidy from Government.</p> <p>The report also confirmed the outturn position for the Headroom Contingency Budget. It was highlighted that this had taken into account the one-off charge to the accounts that had been necessary to resolve long-standing bank reconciliation balances. In response to questions, it was explained that details relating to this transaction would be reported to the Executive in July 2019 when the statement of accounts for the year were presented, following completion of the audit.</p> <p>Councillor Schofield explained that the proposed use of the revenue underspend, to establish two new earmarked reserves, had been set out in paragraph 11 of the report. The Executive was informed that the first would help fund new posts which were being established across the Council during 2019/20 to support the delivery of corporate priorities. The</p>

<p>Executive 20 June 2019 Minute 19. Cont.</p>	<p>second, to be overseen by the new Commercial Ventures Sub Committee, would be used to fund feasibility studies for new commercial initiatives to help ensure businesses cases were robust.</p> <p>In terms of Treasury Management, it was noted that the report presented the outturn position for treasury activities and confirmed that the Council had complied with treasury policies previously approved. It was noted that this formed part of the formal reporting requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the report on 6 June 2019. The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Finance thanked the Committee for its questions, observations and comments. The suggestions put forward by the Committee were welcomed by the Executive and it was noted that these had been fully captured in the minutes from the meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Schofield concluded by stating that despite the challenges, at a time when many local authorities were making cuts and selling off assets, that the Council would continue to be ambitious and would continue to deliver excellent services to residents.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that the 2018/19 prudential and treasury indicators, set out in the Annual Treasury Management report at Annex 3 of the report to the Executive from the Head of Finance and Assets, be approved.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(i) The provisional revenue and capital outturn position for 2018/19 be noted; and(ii) The use of reserves proposed in paragraph 11 of the report to the Executive be endorsed and the Head of Finance and Assets be authorised to make the necessary arrangements. <p>Reason for decisions: To advise Members of the revenue and capital expenditure for 2018/19, to seek authorisation for the proposed changes to reserves and to comply with the Council's reporting requirements in relation to Treasury Management activity.</p> <p>Alternative options: To amend, or reject, the proposals to adjust reserves as set out in the report.</p>
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