

APPENDIX H

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 20TH MAY 2008

Title:

FARNHAM TOWN COUNCIL - OFFICE ACCOMMODATION

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

To seek approval from the Executive to enter into negotiations with the Farnham Town Council into the management of the Farnham Council Offices building in South Street, Farnham.

Environmental implications:

There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Social / community implications:

There are no direct social/community implications arising from this report.

E-Government implications:

There are no direct e-government implications arising from this report.

Resource and legal implications:

There will be financial implications in transferring management responsibility for the Farnham Council Offices to Farnham Town Council, but these will emerge from negotiations with the Town Council. The Town Council has indicated that they would wish additional costs resulting from the transfer of management responsibility to be tapered over a number of years.

Background

1. Over recent years the Council has received requests from Farnham Town Council for additional office space within the Farnham Council Offices building to meet the growing needs and responsibilities of the Town Council.
2. The Farnham Council Offices building is owned by Waverley, the Town Council having a 115 year lease for the space it occupies which followed the building of an extension to the building in 1998. Waverley's Farnham Locality Office occupies approximately two thirds of the ground floor of the building. Floor plans of the Council Offices building are attached to this report.

3. The Council is committed to working with Town and Parish Councils and, where it is appropriate, to devolving services and responsibilities to this tier of local government.
4. A joint officer and member meeting was held with Farnham Town Council representatives on 19th March 2008 to discuss accommodation issues and, following this, the Town Council, at its meeting on 20th March, formally agreed in principle to consider the proposal that the Town Council take over the management of the whole of the Council Offices building in South Street. Under this proposed arrangement the Locality Office would reduce the amount of accommodation it occupies in the building and lease back space from the Town Council.
5. To progress this initiative, officers have arranged for a building condition survey to be undertaken and requested the Legal and Estates Services Section to provide a valuation of the property based on a 115 year lease.
6. The Executive is asked to endorse and note the negotiations with Farnham Town Council for the transfer of management responsibility for the Farnham Council Offices. A further report on the proposed transfer will be made once the financial implications are known.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the proposal to negotiate the transfer of management responsibility for the Farnham Council Offices be endorsed and that a further report on the negotiations, including the financial implications, be submitted in due course.

Background Papers (DoE)

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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