

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL (ACTING AS TRUSTEE OF THE JOSEPH EWART BEQUEST)

14 DECEMBER 2021

Title:

Annual Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Mark Merryweather, Portfolio Holder Finance, Assets and Commercial Services

Head of Service: Peter Vickers, Head of Finance

Key decision: No

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

1.1 This report seeks approval of the Annual Trustee's Report and Accounts of the Ewart Bequest for the year ended 31 March 2021.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Annual Trustee's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 are approved.

3. Reason for the recommendation

3.1 The annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020 have been prepared by the Trustee in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

3.2 The Trustee has also complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charities Commission.

3.3 The report and accounts were subject to an independent examination carried out by Azets Audit Services Limited.

3.4 A copy of the Trust's report and accounts is attached.

3.5 The transactions relating to the Joseph Ewart Bequest also have to be included in the Council's Group Accounts because the Council, as sole trustee, has a significant interest and influence over it, which, in consideration of accounting statements overrides the legal form of the relationship.

4 Reserves

- 4.1 The Reserves Reserves Policy determines the minimum level of reserves to be held is £105,000 which is considered to be the equivalent of running costs for a year.
- 4.2 Actual usable reserves are £1,451,000 as at 31 March 2021. On 1 March 2016 the Trustee of the Bequest of Joseph Ewart approved the use of the Unrestricted Funds for the purchase of land and construction of three properties in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the Trust. The land purchase and construction costs are estimated to total £870k. The proposals required approval by the Charity Commission which has been given.

5 Implications of decision

5.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

The Annual Report and Accounts details the reserves held by the Trust.

5.2 Risk management

Consideration has been given to the major risks to which the Trust is exposed. In the event that the Ewart Bequest falls into difficulty it is reasonable to assume that Waverley Borough Council would step in to resolve the situation in line with its corporate priority of 'Affordable Housing'.

5.3 Legal

There are no direct legal implications relating to this report. In December 2011 the Trust approved a delegation to the Executive, acting as Trustee, to make all decisions on behalf of the full Trustee Board. The only exception was the approval of the annual report and financial statements because it is a requirement of the Charity Commission that this is approved by Full Council, acting as sole Trustee.

5.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

5.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no direct impacts on the Council's Climate emergency declaration.

6 Other options considered

The Charity prepares an annual report and accounts in accordance with Charity Commission requirements which are then independently examined and filed with the Charity Commission.

7 Governance journey

The Annual Financial Report and accounts of the Trust are required to be submitted to the Charity Commission by the 31 January 2022.

Annexe:

Annual Financial Report and Accounts for 2020-2021

Background Papers

There are / are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

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