

Waverley Borough Council

Report to: Council (Acting as Trustee of The Joseph Ewart Bequest)

Date: 12 December 2023

Report of Director: Transformation & Governance

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Executive Portfolio Holder/ Lead Councillor responsible: Cllr Mark Merryweather, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Assets and Property

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Report Status: Open

Key Decision: No

Annual Financial Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1. Executive 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 2023.

2. Recommendation to Council

That the Council as trustees approves:

- 2.1 The Annual Trustee's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023.

3. Reason(s) for Recommendation:

- 3.1 The Annual Financial Report and accounts of the Trust are required to be submitted to the Charity Commission by the 31 January 2024.

4. Exemption from publication

Is the report or any part of it exempt from publication?

No

5. Purpose of Report

- 5.1 To seek approval for the charity accounts as per statutory requirements.

6. Strategic Priorities

- 6.1 The trust has its own strategic priorities as set out in its governance documentation.
- 6.2 The trust builds/maintains and manages small dwellings for elderly people of limited financial resources in Farnham, Surrey.

7. Background

- 7.1 The annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 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.

- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The report and accounts were subject to an independent examination carried out by Azets Audit Services Limited.
- 7.4 A copy of the Trust's report and accounts is attached.
- 7.5 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.

8. Consultations

- 8.1 n/a

9. Key Risks

- 9.1 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'.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 The Annual Report and Accounts details the expenditure, income and reserves held by the Trust.

11. Legal Implications

11.1 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.

12. Human Resource Implications

12.1 There are no direct impacts.

13. Equality and Diversity Implications

13.1 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.

14. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

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

17. Summary of Options

17.1 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.

18. Conclusion

18.1 The Annual Financial Report and accounts of the Trust are required to be submitted to the Charity Commission by the 31 January 2024.

19. Background Papers

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

20. Appendices

20.1 Annual Financial Report and Accounts for 2022-2023

Please ensure the following service areas have signed off your report.
Please complete this box, and do not delete.

Service	Sign off date
Finance / S.151 Officer	28/11/23
Committee Services	1/12/23