

CABINET

Tuesday, 9th June, 2020

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 46

The following action taken in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 46 is reported. In consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member(s):-

1. The Executive Director (Finance & Resources) authorised

1.1 Covid-19 Rent Arrangements for Council Commercial Tenants

This letter sets out the Council's approach to rent collection and rent arrears for its business tenants in the light of the Covid-19 situation and the latest advice issued by the Government.

In addition to the Government support, the Council is keen to support its tenants to the extent that it can legally and practically do so and it is recommended that the following measures are put in place in line with the Government's guidance at the earliest opportunity:

1. The Council will continue to invoice in line with the contractual arrangements (leases and licences etc) so that businesses remain aware of their rent liability. If tenants are unable to pay their rent because of Coronavirus then the Council will pause all rent enforcement measures and will not pursue evictions for at least the next 3 months (until the end of June 2020) and then reviewed at that point.
2. For businesses required to close as a result of the Government's – Further businesses and premises to close: guidance updated on 25 March 2020, the Council will respond to any requests from businesses for rent payment to be deferred, and for payment plans to be put in place initially for 3 months' rent (until the end of June 2020) and then reviewed.

1.2 Roots Hall and Fossetts Farm

Following agreement to proceed in principle provided at 17 September 2019, Cabinet (Minute 324 refers), good progress has now been made in relation to these arrangements.

Under usual circumstances, the matter would be presented to Cabinet at this point (with recommendations that the final detailed matters are delegated). With the Coronavirus pandemic it is very difficult to make decisions in the usual way. The letter therefore enables the matter to

proceed pursuant to Standing Order 46. The matter will be presented to Cabinet for final approval and authority to complete the relevant agreements.

The proposal set out presents a new way for the Council to enable, deliver and own significant private and affordable housing stock with no up-front capital investment and offers an exciting commercial proposition. This will provide substantial private and affordable housing to rent to meet the significant current need. By the removal or retail from Fossetts Farm, potential conflicts with the town centre are removed.

1.3 Business Continuity Plans – Waste Collection & Disposal Services

In response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), the implementation the Business Continuity Plans for the delivery of waste collection and disposal services which involve the following:

- As of 24th March 2020, close the Councils Household Waste Recycling Centres at Leigh Marsh and Stock Road, (to implement Government measures on social distancing and free up resources);
- As of 24th March 2020 suspend planned gulley cleaning, (due to staff shortages);
- As of 26th March 2020 close the following public toilets; (due to staff shortages and implement Government measures on social distancing);
 - (i) Southchurch Hall Gardens, Southchurch Park, Priory Park, Belfairs Park and Shoebury Park;
 - (ii) Chalkwell Park, London Road;
 - (iii) Chalkwell Esplanade, Chalkwell;
 - (iv) Dalmatia Road, Southchurch – near junction between Dalmatia Road and Southchurch Road;
 - (v) East Beach, Shoeburyness;
 - (vi) Elm Road, Leigh-on-Sea – between Rectory Grove and Broadway West;
 - (vii) Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff – Hamlet Road Car Park near junction with London Road;
 - (viii) Ness Road, Shoeburyness – junction with Ness Road and Campfield Road;
 - (ix) Seaway, Southend-on-Sea – next to Seaway car Park and Lucy Road;
 - (x) Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh-on-Sea – at junction between Sutherland Boulevard and London Road; and
 - (xi) Thorpe Bay Corner, Thorpe Bay.
- As required, suspend services for the collection of; Bulky Waste, Garden Waste, Recycling, Food Waste in order to maintain collection of Residual Waste;
- As an option, if feasible, implement the above collections on a reduced collection frequency e.g fortnightly, to maintain levels of service and promote recycling; and

- As required reduce street cleansing in non-priority areas if staff shortages arise.

2. The Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director (Housing & Growth) authorised:

2.1 Southend Adult Community College Scheme of Delegation

The implementation of the revised Scheme of Delegation to reflect the changes to senior management structure to ensure appropriate accountability and support. Other changes in the Scheme of Delegation include:

- a minor change to the terminology relating to Learner Engagement Monitoring;
- the introduction of the ability to hold virtual approvals and delegations as is common practice elsewhere; and
- the Cabinet Member with responsibility for learning to be the Council representative on the College's Governing Body, supported by the Director of Regeneration and Growth. Hereafter, Councillor representation on the Governing Body is appointed by Council and the Terms of Reference of the Appointments Committee are updated to reflect that.

3. The Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and the Environment) authorised:

3.1 Footway Re-surfacing Policy Change

The addition to the Footway Resurfacing Policy that in the event of the resurfacing of a footway within the Borough using black asphalt instead of flagstones, the whole of the area being resurfaced is replaced by black asphalt to avoid a 'patchwork' effect.

(NOTE: A report on this proposal was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 25th February 2020 and subsequently called-in to the Place Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16th March 2020. This meeting of the Scrutiny Committee was cancelled due to Covid-19.)