

COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION BULLETIN

Tuesday, 11 September 2018

Bulletin No; IB/941

INFORMATION ITEM	Pages
1 Delegated Planning Decisions	3 - 6
Delegated planning decisions for the week beginning 3 September 2018 are attached. Contact for enquiries: Jean McPherson, Group Manager: Development Management on 01293 438577.	
2 Response to the Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation	7 - 8
Information relating to the consultation and the Council's response are attached.	
3 Quarter 1 Financial Outturn 2018/19	9 - 10
The Financial Outturn for Quarter 1 in 2018/19 is attached.	
4 Press Releases	
Press releases are available at www.crawley.gov.uk/news	



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CRAWLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

DELEGATED PLANNING DECISIONS

The following decisions were issued, subject to conditions, under delegated powers for the period 03/09/2018 and 07/09/2018

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Date of Decision	Decision
CR/2018/0234/FUL	7 LAUD DRIVE, MAIDENBOWER, CRAWLEY	Alterations to the existing front porch and insertion of front windows	7 September 2018	PERMIT
CR/2018/0291/TPO	128 TINSLEY LANE, THREE BRIDGES, CRAWLEY	Oak tree (T1): reduce height by 2m; reduce lateral spreads by 1.5m; crown lift to give 3m clearance over ground. All pruning shall be to appropriate growth points (amended description)	7 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0333/FUL	6 STRAND CLOSE, MAIDENBOWER, CRAWLEY	Erection of first floor side and single storey rear extensions	3 September 2018	PERMIT
CR/2018/0360/FUL	IFIELD BARN THEATRE CLUB, IFIELD STREET, IFIELD, CRAWLEY	Erection of a shed to the rear of Ifield Barn Theatre and pathway (amended plans received and amended description)	7 September 2018	PERMIT
CR/2018/0447/TPO	SILCHESTER, HORSHAM ROAD, GOSSOPS GREEN, CRAWLEY	Ash - reduce branches overhanging the driveway by 2m to appropriate growth points (amended description)	6 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0461/TPO	44 LYNDHURST CLOSE, SOUTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Sycamore - prune branches overhanging into no 45 by 1.5m (amended description)	6 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0492/FUL	7 TICEHURST CLOSE, POUND HILL, CRAWLEY	Erection of first floor side extension and 1no. rooflight on the rear roofslope	4 September 2018	REFUSE

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Date of Decision	Decision
CR/2018/0505/TPO	CARMAN HOUSE, 12 PERRYFIELD ROAD, SOUTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Horse Chestnut T1 - reduce height and crown radius by 2m to appropriate growth points (amended description)	6 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0520/FUL	HILTON, HILTON (SOUTH TERMINAL), LONDON GATWICK AIRPORT, WESTWAY, POUND HILL, CRAWLEY	Alterations to the existing elevated walkway between south terminal concourse and Gatwick Hilton Hotel	3 September 2018	PERMIT
CR/2018/0526/ADV	BUS SHELTER O/S PLATINUM HOUSE, FLEMING WAY, NORTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Upgrade of existing double sided paper advertising panels to double sided digital panels forming integral part of the bus shelter	5 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0528/ADV	BUS SHELTER O/S TRADE SKILLS4U LTD FLEMING WAY, NORTHGATE, CRAWLEY	Upgrade of existing double sided paper advertising panels to double sided digital panels forming integral part of the bus shelter	5 September 2018	CONSENT
CR/2018/0530/TCA	IN ALLEY TO REAR OF 1 BATEMAN COURT, FORESTFIELD, FURNACE GREEN, CRAWLEY	Sumac – remove	6 September 2018	NO OBJECTION
CR/2018/0531/TCA	LAND ADJACENT TO 17 HIGHDOWN COURT, FORESTFIELD, FURNACE GREEN, CRAWLEY	Ash - remove three branches up to where other branches have fallen/broken	6 September 2018	NO OBJECTION
CR/2018/0535/ADV	J SAINSBURY SUPERSTORE, CRAWLEY AVENUE, WEST GREEN, CRAWLEY	Advertisement consent for 2 x amended totem panels (illuminated), 3 x amended pedestrian totem signs (non-illuminated), 2 x amended welcome wall panel signs (non-illuminated) and 1 x new fascia box sign (illuminated)	5 September 2018	CONSENT

Application Number	Location	Proposal	Date of Decision	Decision
CR/2018/0542/192	41 SEYMOUR ROAD, BROADFIELD, CRAWLEY	Certificate of lawfulness for the insertion of a new window in the east elevation	5 September 2018	PERMIT

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Agenda Item 2

Response to the Local Government Finance Settlement 2019 to 2020: Technical Consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) issued a technical consultation paper on the 2019-20 settlement on 24 July 2018.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2019-to-2020-technical-consultation>

Responses to the consultation are required by 18 September 2018.

Highlights

- The **four-year settlement** offer is confirmed for 2019-20.
- A further round of retained business rates **pilots** has been announced for 2019-20. The terms offered for 2019-20 are not as good as those available in 2018-19: pilots will only retain 75% of any gain in business rates and there will be no “no detriment” support (so if the rates income go down then the bidding authorities have to cover this). A joint West Sussex bid will be submitted.
- MHCLG reminds us that the national baseline for **New Home Bonus** might be increased from 0.4% in 2019-20. Where the baseline is set in 2019-20 will depend entirely on actual housing growth. However, if growth remains the same as it was last year, then the national baseline ought to remain at 0.4%.
However this may give the Government the opportunity to top slice New Homes Bonus.

The consultation does say - **New Homes Bonus 2020 Onward**

2019-20 represents the final year of funding agreed through the Spending Review 2015. In light of this, it is the Government's intention to explore how to incentivise housing growth most effectively, for example by using the Housing Delivery Test results to reward delivery or incentivising plans that meet or exceed local housing need. Government will consult widely on any changes prior to implementation.

- There are no changes to the **limits on council tax increases** in 2019-20, although they are still subject to confirmation in the provisional settlement. For Districts and Boroughs this is a maximum increase of £5 on a Band D.
- Options for dealing with **Negative RSG** are set out in the paper. The preferred option is simply not to make the tariff adjustments that are required for Negative RSG to take effect. Alternative options for eliminating Negative RSG would be too expensive and/ or not effective. We are not affected by this because we receive the £59,017.

Agenda Item 2

The consultation

Question 1: Do you agree that the Government should confirm the final year of the 4-year offer as set out in 2016-17?

Answer : YES

Overall the concept of a 4-year settlement has actually been very beneficial. It has provided certainty about some of the key funding streams that authorities receive. Clearly there are other parts of the funding system that have been anything but stable over the past four years (e.g. New Homes Bonus, Section 31 grants for retained rates, Benefits Admin funding), but at least the 4-year settlement has provided stability and certainty in part of the system. Authorities will be supportive of a new 4-year settlement for the next spending review period (2020-21 to 2023-24).

Question 2: Do you agree with the council tax referendum principles proposed by the Government for 2019-20?

Answer : YES

The £5 maximum is likely to help very few district and Borough councils in 2019-20, the Budget Strategy states –

'The aim is to work to keep council tax low without compromising local services'.

It would be very helpful if the Government could provide absolute certainty about the maximum council tax increases: only getting final confirmation in the provisional settlement is very late in the budget setting process.

The £5 maximum is likely to help very few district councils in 2019-20, a £5 increase brings in just £175,000 additional income for the Council and the pay award in 2019/20 will cost £497,000 due to the 2% increase and the lower scales receiving a higher percentage.

Question 3: Do you agree with the Government's preferred approach that Negative RSG is eliminated in full via forgone business rates receipts in 2019-20?

Answer: N/A (we are not a negative RSG council in 2019/20)

Question 4: If you disagree with the Government's preferred approach to Negative RSG please express your preference for an alternative option. If you believe there is an alternative mechanism for dealing with Negative RSG not explored here please provide further detail.

Answer N/A

Question 5

Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2019-20 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.

Answer N/A

Agenda Item 3

Quarter 1: Financial Outturn 2018/19

General Fund

At Quarter 1 there is a projected transfer to reserves of £309,000.

The main areas of savings, increased income and efficiencies in Quarter 1 are as follows:

Legal and Democratic Services are going through a restructure and currently have vacancies of £44,000. Temporary cover arrangements are in place pending the restructure.

There is a vacancy for a Principle Environmental Health Officer. Savings of £69,000 are expected pending a service review.

As per the Five Year Plan for Tilgate Park and Nature Centre, additional income in excess of costs of £79,000 is projected. Any surplus funds are transferred to reserves for reinvestment in the park.

Virements

Virements of £85,000 were agreed by the Heads of Service: £40,000 capital for Worth Park Discovery Trail to the Water Source Heat Pump at Tilgate; £40,000 was agreed to be used from the Hawth external decoration works to the K2 passenger lift; and £5,000 capital assigned to West Green Park Play Refurbishment for a Pétanque Pitch in West Green Park.

Housing Revenue Account

For the Housing Revenue Account the projected surplus of £53,000 at Quarter 1.

Capital

In terms of Capital spending, £9.451m has been spent in the first quarter: this is 16% of the full year budget.

Major variations to the programme were as follows:

Supplementary Capital Budgets were approved by the Cabinet for nine Play refurbishment schemes (£347,000) and for the Borough's playing fields (£60,514): both to be funded from S106 contributions.

Wakehams Green's play area improvements will now be looked at in the future, as health and safety priorities for other play areas take precedent. £65,000 is being slipped into 2020/21.

The combining of 3 smaller HRA developments (151 London Rd, Woolborough Rd & 257/259 Ifield Rd) to achieve Value for Money will also result in delays resulting in £786,427 being slipped to 2019/20.

Forge Wood slippage to the value of £1,938,340 following updated information provided by the developers.

The Full report can be found in [2018/2019 Budget Monitoring - Quarter 1](#)

For further information, please contact Karen Hayes, Head of Corporate Finance, 01293 438263

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