

**COUNCIL**  
**19 MARCH 2024**  
**7.30 - 9.04 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Penfold (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Bailey, Barnard, Bidwell, Brown, Collings, C Eberle, T Eberle, Egglestone, M Forster, S Forster, Frewer, Frost, Gaw, Gillbe, Haffegge, Harrison, Hayes MBE, Jefferies, Karim, McLean, Mossom, Neil, O'Regan, Pickering, Purnell, Smith, Temperton, C Thompson, P Thompson, Virgo, Watts, Webb, Welch, Wright and Zahuruddin

**Present Virtually:**

Councillors Karim and Mossom

**Apologies:**

Councillors Ejaz, Cochrane, McKenzie-Boyle and Robertson

**Point of Order**

Councillor Harrison raised a point of order regarding the timing and rearrangement of this Council meeting and the previous Council budget meeting.

The Deputy Mayor noted the Point of Order which would be addressed by Officers outside of the meeting.

**50. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

It was raised that there was a typo of £0.020 in the sum given by Blackwater Valley Countryside Trust in the minutes from the Special Council on 21 February 2024, this would be amended accordingly to £0.020m.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 January 2024 and, subject to the amendment, the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 21 February 2024 be approved and signed by the Deputy Mayor as a correct record.

**51. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**52. Mayor's Announcements**

The Deputy Mayor reported on her activities since the last Council meeting, which included updates on the following:

- Citizenship Ceremonies
- The fundraising quiz for the Mayor's Charity
- The Lord Lieutenants presentation of awards

**53. Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Temperton, presented the report on the work of the Executive since the Council meeting on 10 January 2024. The Executive had met twice since the last Council meeting, on 23 January 2024 and 6 February 2024.

The Leader highlighted the matters that had been considered within her presentation – [PowerPoint Presentation \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

In answering a Councillor question regarding the Written Statement of Action update which had been on the agenda of the 19 March Executive, the Leader, Councillor Temperton, responded saying there was still ongoing recruitment in these areas however there were still some gaps with hope that vacancies would be filled by July. This was a continued ongoing programme, especially with Safety Valve and there was a need to keep on talking to schools and reassuring them that the capacity will be there.

The report contained recommendations that the Council was asked to resolve in respect of the following matter:

- Establishment of The Berkshire Prosperity Board

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Council Strategy and Climate Change, seconded by Councillor Bidwell it was

**RESOLVED** that:

- i. That the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 is approved. To deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive green and sustainable economic prosperity.
- ii. That the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee, as set out in the Executive Director for Place, Planning and Regeneration's report at appendix A (functions and procedure rules for a joint committee), appendix B (responsibilities of the accountable body), and appendix C (governance structure) is approved, subject to the monitoring officer being authorised to make minor amendments to the functions and procedure rules in conjunction with the participating authorities.
- iii. That the Chief Executive be delegated to reach a legally binding agreement between the member authorities, setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the authorities, particularly between the lead authority (known as the accountable body) and the other member authorities and go through the relevant democratic process, if required.

#### 54. **Adoption of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan**

The Council considered the report setting out the Adoption of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan (2022-2037).

When responding to questions asked by Councillors, the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, Councillor Gillbe, confirmed that the requirement by developers for 10% biodiversity gain on developed land was part of a national regulation and gave the requested assurance that this would be monitored by officers.

The Executive Member for Planning and Transport also confirmed that enforcement provision fell outside the direct provision of the Local Plan but gave assurance that Officers would be enforcing planning conditions. He confirmed that he would respond to Councillor Gaw directly on the matter.

A point of order was raised by Councillor Barnard regarding comments made during debate by Councillor Smith in relation to a specific planning application that was yet to be determined. The Borough Solicitor advised that the comments were not bias or pre determination.

On the proposition of Councillor Gillbe, Executive Member for Planning and Transport seconded by Councillor Barnard it was

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with the recommendation of the Executive, Council:

- i. Adopts the Bracknell Forest Local Plan incorporating the Main Modifications recommended by the Inspectors and non-material additional modifications (see Appendix A).
- ii. Agrees to make the alterations to the Policies Map (see Appendix B) that are necessary to give effect to the policies of the Bracknell Forest Local Plan, as modified.
- iii. Agrees that on adoption, the Bracknell Forest Local Plan will become part of the Development Plan for the Borough and that its policies will supersede all saved policies in the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan (adopted 2002), the Core Strategy (adopted 2008) and Policies CP1, SA11, SA12 and SA13 of the Site Allocations Local Plan (adopted 2013) for the purposes of decision making in Bracknell Forest.
- iv. Agrees that any other non-material additional modifications to the Bracknell Forest Local Plan, can be agreed by the Executive Director: Place Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, prior to final publication.
- v. Carries forward adopted Supplementary Planning Documents, as related to relevant policies in the Bracknell Forest Local Plan (see Appendix C).

It was noted that Councillor Tina Eberle abstained from the vote in accordance with Council procedure rule 15.5.

## 55. **Pay Policy Statement**

The Council received the Annual Update of The Council's Pay Statement. Since 2012, and in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act, the Council was required to publish an annual Pay Statement. The Statement was aligned with the requirements of the Transparency Regulations and was applicable for the financial year 2024/25.

On the proposition of Councillor Pickering, Chair of the Employment Committee and seconded by Councillor Watts, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Council review and agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2024/25.

**56. Establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)**

The Council received a report seeking agreement to establish a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC).

In response to questions from Councillors, Councillor Pickering, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission confirmation that membership of the committee had been put together in terms of political proportionality and in line with the constitution.

It was also confirmed by the Borough Solicitor that if the membership representation were to be varied, there would be no implications or political proportionality issues on other committees.

An amendment to the recommendation was proposed and seconded by Councillors Christoph Eberle and Smith respectively as follows:

- 2.4 That Council requests and supports the Bracknell Forest appointees to the JHOSC in undertaking a programme of public engagement activities to communicate the JHOSC's work and decisions to residents, and to enable residents the opportunity to feedback into the process so that their needs and views are properly represented. So far as practicable, these activities should seek to redress the demographic imbalances in the Frimley Heath NHS Foundation Trust's public consultations to date, including active promotion and encouragement of participation by under-represented minority groups.

Councillors Pickering and Egglestone accepted the proposed recommendation, and this was added to the substantive motion as a fourth recommendation.

On the proposition of Councillor Pickering, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and seconded by Councillor Egglestone, it was

**RESOLVED** that:

- i. That the Council approves the establishment of a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, jointly with Hampshire County Council and Surrey County Council, to scrutinise the relocation of Frimley Park Hospital.
- ii. That the Council approves the Overview and Scrutiny Commission's (O&S) recommendation to agree the Draft Terms of Reference for the JHOSC which are attached as Appendix A.
- iii. That the Council approves the O&S Commission's recommendation to appoint Councillors Egglestone and Virgo to sit on the JHOSC in accordance with political balance requirements and the wishes of the political groups.
- iv. That Council requests and supports the Bracknell Forest appointees to the JHOSC in undertaking a programme of public engagement activities to communicate the JHOSC's work and decisions to residents, and to enable residents the opportunity to feedback into the process so that their needs and views are properly represented. So far as practicable, these activities should seek to redress the demographic imbalances in the Frimley Heath NHS Foundation Trust's public consultations to date, including active promotion and encouragement of participation by under-represented minority groups.

**57. Submissions under the Scheme of Public Participation**

A statement was received by a Bracknell Forest resident who wished to remain anonymous. The Deputy Mayor read out the statement on their behalf which was also included in the agenda - [Agenda for Council on Tuesday, 19 March 2024, 7.30 pm | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#).

The Constitution allowed for Councillors to ask factual questions of the person making each submission. As the person was not in attendance this was unable to happen. The Constitution states that the meeting would decide on the most appropriate course of action, which was either to note the submission or to request an Officer report to a subsequent meeting of the Executive or appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee on the issue raised.

On the proposition of Councillor Bailey, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, and seconded by Councillor Barnard, it was:

**RESOLVED** that an officer report on progress against the SEND improvement journey be provided to Executive alongside the regular quarterly Written Statement of Action update report.

58. **Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

The question and response submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10 was published in advance of the meeting - [Council Question Response - 19 March 2024.pdf \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)

As a supplementary question, Councillor Smith stated that he was aware of residents facing struggles in accessing NHS Dental Services particularly for children and very specifically children with SEND and similar needs who required very specialist Dental Services and asked the Executive Member to expand on her answer specifically in relation to that that demographic.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Housing, Councillor Wright, confirmed that access to NHS dentists for all residents would be discussed at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting where an update would also be requested in the area of children with Special Educational Needs. It was confirmed that the Board was already aware that there was a service need for an increase in capacity.

The Executive Member also informed Council that she had created a resource for Councillors to refer to if they had residents who are struggling to find an NHS dentist and would be happy to share that with any Councillor who would find it useful.

59. **Motion (or Motions) Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 11**

Councillors Christoph Eberle and Smith withdrew motion 02/2024 in accordance with Council procedure rule 13.8.

**CHAIRMAN**