

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>1082501</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Public Health Arrangements

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for Bracknell Forest Council to re-join the pan-Berkshire shared arrangements for Public Health.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** No

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

- i. from 1 April 2019 to enter into an agreement with the Public Health Shared Team to share the services of the Strategic Director of Public Health (SDPH) and receive support from the Public Health Shared Team for health intelligence, health protection and strategic leadership for health and wellbeing.
- ii. a Consultant be recruited in the Public Health post to lead the Bracknell Local Public Health Team reporting to the Executive Director: People.
- iii. Bracknell Forest Council will continue to act as host for the Berkshire Shared Public Health Team and host the SDPH with all costs shared with the other five Berkshire Councils.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

1. There are a number of statutory duties and mandated functions that Local Authorities are required to deliver to achieve the aim of improving the healthy life expectancy of their residents and reducing inequalities in health between different groups in our community. In 2013, Berkshire developed a unique hub and spoke type model across the six unitary authorities locally.
2. All upper tier local authorities have a duty to appoint a Director of Public Health. There is some local flexibility in the way in which the post can be designed although in all cases the agreement of Public Health England (PHE) is required. Appointments of DPH's are joint appointments between the host Council and PHE. The proposals in this report have been discussed by the Chief Executive and the Regional Director of PHE and PHE support them and the appointment of the existing Berkshire DPH as the DPH for Bracknell Forest.
3. In 2013, the Berkshire Shared Public Health Agreement created a SDPH post covering all six unitary authorities supported by a Shared Public Health

Team. Each Authority employed a Consultant in Public Health to lead their Authorities work to improve the health of their residents. The Shared Public Health Team staff, including the Director, were hosted by Bracknell Forest Council.

4. In 2018, the decision was taken for Bracknell Forest to withdraw from the arrangements. The scope of Bracknell Forest's agreement with the Shared Public Health Team was reduced to continuing to use the Shared Team only for access to data and for health protection support<sup>1</sup>. A Bracknell Forest Director of Public Health was appointed with plans to support the post with a part time local Consultant in Public Health.
5. The Director of Public Health post holder has recently resigned and the post is currently vacant. The context for delivering improved health has also shifted with a supportive policy context and a new local set up. Interim arrangements have been made by the Chief Executive and Executive Director: People for the existing DPH for the other five Berkshire authorities to cover the Bracknell Forest role and this is working well. This presents an opportunity to forge a new partnership for public health across Berkshire with benefits to be gained for Bracknell Forest residents from a more networked approach.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

1. For Bracknell to retain its own Director of Public Health.
2. For the Shared Public Health Team to be hosted by a different authority.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** N/A

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director:People

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 March 2019	19 March 2019