

COUNCIL
28 FEBRUARY 2018
7.30 - 9.14 PM



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Tina McKenzie-Boyle), Councillors Finch (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Mrs Angell, Angell, Dr Barnard, Bettison OBE, D Birch, Mrs Birch, G Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Ms Gaw, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Heydon, Dr Hill, Mrs Ingham, Kennedy, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, McLean, Mrs Mattick, Ms Merry, Ms Miller, Peacey, Phillips, Porter, Skinner, Mrs Temperton, Tullett, Turrell, Virgo, Wade and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Dudley, Finnie, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Hayes and Thompson

45. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meetings held on 17 January and 1 February 2018 be approved, and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

46. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Dr Barnard declared an affected interest in item 7, Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets, by virtue of being on the Keep Mobile Management Committee.

Councillor Virgo declared an affected interest in item 7, Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets, by virtue of being a Trustee at South Hill Park Trust.

Councillor Mrs McKenzie-Boyle declared an affected interest in item 7, Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets, by virtue of her spouse being a Trustee at South Hill Park Trust.

47. Mayor's Announcements

History of Chaplaincy

The Mayor welcomed her Chaplain Reverend Roy to the meeting to explain about the history of chaplaincy.

Updates from the Mayor

- The Mayor was pleased to announce that the two waste trucks had been named.
- The Mayor thanked everyone who had supported her Business Forum on Apprenticeships which was held on 23 February 2018. Over a hundred people had attended the event with businesses represented such as Fujitsu; Dell; Honda; JLP; Waitrose; Berkely Homes and Legal and General. Among the presenters had been Steve Nicholson of the National Apprenticeship Service and MP Dr Philip Lee. The event had been organised to focus on how the borough's schools and businesses work together to give students an alternative to university and

have a long and rewarding career. She also thanked Councillor Dr Barnard for his role on the Q&A Board.

- Due to the adverse weather conditions the Charity Quiz Night had been rescheduled from Friday 2 March to Friday 23 March at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre.
- The Mayor reminded colleagues of upcoming charity events e.g. Sky Dive on 22 April, Golf event on 27 April and Shoot on 29 April.
- The Mayor asked everyone to save the date for her end of year celebration which was being held on Friday 11 May at Coppid Beech.

Mayor's Business Forum

Councillor Dr Barnard reiterated that he was pleased to see school leaders and the Bracknell and Wokingham College represented at the Business Forum as he considered it was key to offer students an alternative to University.

The Mayor presented him with a certificate in recognition of his contribution to the event.

Recycling Incentive Scheme

Councillor Mrs Hayes OBE advised the members present that the Council's waste partner, Suez, gave the Council £1k per quarter to give to local organisations and initiatives. The names of 45 organisations which had received such funding over the past three years were shown on the chamber's screens. She encouraged Councillors to nominate recipients in their Wards and explained that it was donated blue bin points which allocated funds. She handed cheques to Councillor Mrs Birch on behalf of Birch Hill Pre School and Councillor Peacey on behalf of 1st Warfield Girl Guides.

Dogs for Good Charity

Councillor D Birch reported to the meeting that the first charity of its kind, which used dogs to assist vulnerable people and people with autism to lead fuller lives, would be showcased at Crufts on 9 March 2018.

48. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison OBE, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 17 January 2018. The Executive had met twice on 23 January and 13 February 2018.

The Council noted the Executive decisions detailed in the report. The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- It was noted that the Executive's recommendations relating to the Council's revenue budget and capital programme would be considered separately on the Council's agenda.
- The Council had already considered the consultation on the Draft Local Plan at its Extraordinary meeting on 1 February 2018.

- The creation of the proposed Bracknell Forest lottery had been supported in principle and a Working Group would be established to consider the detail with supplier, Gatherwell and local voluntary sector. A further viability report would be considered in the summer.
- The Executive had agreed to the creation of a new post, Director of Public Health to increase local focus. Bracknell Forest would continue to participate in pan Berkshire arrangements for health protection and some cross boundary contracts. Interviews for the post would be in late March.
- School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy: There had been a significant increase in pupil numbers since 2009. This was being addressed by £125m of investment of additional capacity across borough. Further growth was expected until 2023 when they are expected to be 1,441 Primary pupils (14% increase) and 1,523 Secondary pupils (22%). However it was noted that the timing of the arrival of children was largely dictated by developers and the plan set out the Council's planned response to these changes.
- The Procurement plan for Internal Audit had been agreed.

In relation to the Bracknell Forest Lottery Councillor Mrs Temperton queried whether the raised funds by the lottery would be used as a supplement for the voluntary sector organisations or replace the current revenue stream. Councillor Bettison OBE confirmed that funds available would be in addition to existing funding provided.

49. **Independent Remuneration Panel Report**

The Independent Remuneration Panel appointed by the Council met in February and September 2017 at the Council's invitation. The Council considered what action it wished to take in response to their recommendations which included advice on its Members' Allowances scheme and the amounts to be paid.

On the proposition of Councillor Bettison OBE, Leader of the Council, and seconded by Councillor D Birch it was:

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the IRP's recommendations as set out in the agenda report with the exception of recommendation 5.1 (iii) which was amended so that the proposed indexing did not apply to Basic Allowances or Special Responsibility Allowances;
- (ii) the list of approved conferences, set out in Annex A of the agenda report, be approved for insertion in the Scheme; and
- (iii) the Council note that Neil McGregor had resigned from the Panel and thanked him for the contribution he had made.

50. **Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2018/19 and the supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2018/19 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and Capital Programme.

Councillors Dr Barnard, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle and Virgo had declared an affected interest in this item but this did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion or the vote.

Councillor Heydon gave a comprehensive presentation placing a particular focus on:

- He thanked the Chief Executive, the Treasurer, the Director of Resources and their senior teams for all their efforts and support.
- 2018/19 would be the third year of the Government's four year settlement with no further funding changes in the Provisional Finance Settlement issued on 19 December 2017.
- Bracknell Forest had experienced £4m of increasing cost pressures from adult and children's social care areas over the previous 12 months. Councils with social care responsibilities had been given additional flexibility to raise council tax by an additional 1% to help fund these additional costs.
- The Council had received confirmation that the joint bid to form a business rates pool as a pilot area had been approved and as a result at least £35m of additional funding would come into Berkshire next year, of which £25m was for major transport infrastructure investment, to be managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership. The remainder would be retained by the individual local authorities in proportion to the increase they had achieved in business rates income since the current 50% rates retention system was introduced in 2013. Although Bracknell Forest would be the biggest beneficiary in Berkshire he reported that it was not proposed to use the additional money to help balance the 2018/19 budget as this was a one-off benefit but would be helpful to manage the budget position in future years.
- The initial budget plans for 2018/19 were approved by the Executive for consultation on 19 December 2017 but unfortunately there had not been many responses. He thanked those who have taken the time to do so including Councillor Mrs Temperton on behalf of Labour.
- In developing the final budget proposals the Council considered:
 - there were increased cost pressures in children's social care, balanced by reductions in the cost of adult social care;
 - inflationary pressures were much higher than originally planned for, a result of unexpectedly high cost indices; and
 - a request from the Trustees of South Hill Park to delay the reduction of its grant by a further £100k in order to allow more time for their income generating proposals to be implemented. South Hill Park was recognised as a highly valued facility but the Council looked forward it becoming more self sufficient.
- The capital budget proposals for 2018/19 were relatively modest. The Council would continue to maintain its existing facilities to ensure that they remain fit for purpose and make enhancements to College Town and Wooden Hill schools, as well as the complete projects such as Binfield Learning Village and the demolition of Easthampstead House.
- Two key new schemes which were commencing in 2018/19 were the upgrade to the A322 on Downshire Way removing the only remaining single carriageway part of the M3 / M4 link and the Heathlands development which would provide much needed care home beds to meet local needs and help manage market prices.
- The Council's final budget plans include unavoidable £6m cost pressures mainly in children's and adult services plus previous commitments of over £1m. Together with grant reductions of £3.5m and the impact of inflation, mean that the Council has had to find £15m of savings or additional income to achieve a balanced position.

- The Council had previously achieved over £80m of savings and a further £3m of small scale efficiency savings had been proposed for 2018/19 by reviewing every cost line in the budget.
- The Transformation Programme introduced 18 months ago was contributing £6.5m of savings in 2018-19.
- The Council was going to use £2.5m of balances to fund services and maintain reserves slightly above the minimum prudent level.
- It was proposed to increase council tax by 3% specifically to fund adult social care costs and by a further 2.99% for rising costs in general and in support for vulnerable children in particular. Overall the increase equated to £1.38 extra per week for a Band D council tax payer and would raise £3.2m.
- He stated that none of the Council's facilities would close and no vulnerable person would be unsupported as a result of the budget.
- Bracknell Forest would continue to be amongst the lowest of any unitary area in England.
- Members had been provided with updated detailed papers showing the individual council tax figures including other preceptors had been revised to include a minor amendment to roundings (by 1 pence) for the Berkshire Fire Authority's element of the council tax for some bands however this had no impact on the recommendations.

On the proposition of Councillor Heydon, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, seconded by Councillor Bettison OBE the recommendations as set out on the tabled papers were moved.

As required by legislation a recorded vote was taken on the substantive motion and the voting was as follows:

FOR (36) Councillors Allen, Mrs Angell, Angell, Dr Barnard, Bettison OBE, D Birch, Mrs Birch, G Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Finch, Ms Gaw, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Heydon, Dr Hill, Mrs Ingham, Kennedy, Leake, Mrs Mattick, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Ms Merry, Ms Miller, Peacey, Phillips, Porter, Skinner, Tullett, Turrell, Virgo, Wade and Worrall

AGAINST (1) Councillor Mrs Temperton

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

1 Capital Programme 2018/19 - 2020/21

- i) General Fund capital funding of £58.221m for 2018/19 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 181 to 185 of the summary report for Council, including £30m previously approved by Council on 29 November 2017 for commercial property investments to be made available in the current financial year, be approved;
- ii) The inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for 'Invest to Save' schemes be approved;
- iii) The inclusion of £3.480m of expenditure to be funded from S106 be approved, as outlined in the summary report for Council (page 179) and included on pages 181 to 185 of the summary report for Council;
- iv) those schemes that attract external grant funding be approved for inclusion within the 2018/19 capital programme at the level of funding received;

2 Revenue Budget 2018/19

- i) The budget proposals set out in Table 1 (page 4) of the summary report for Council, subject to the changes identified in sections 3.2 (page 5), 3.3 (pages 6 and 7), 3.5 (pages 8 and 9), 3.6 (page 9), 3.9 (pages 10 to 11), 7.2 (page 20) and 7.4 (page 20) of the report, be agreed;
- ii) Fees and charges as set out in Annexe G of the summary report for Council (pages 83 to 165) be approved;
- iii) A provision for inflation of £2.422m be approved;
- iv) The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A of the summary report for Council be approved (pages 23 to 24);
- v) The Schools Budget be funded at the level set out in section 4.1 (page 12) of the summary report for Council, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning;
- vi) A contingency of £2.500m be approved to be included, use of which is authorised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Treasurer in accordance with the delegations included in the Council's constitution;
- vii) Subject to the above recommendations the revised draft budget proposals be agreed;
- viii) A contribution of £2.515m (after allowing for additional interest from the use of balances of £0.031m) be approved from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- ix) Total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £81.140m, be approved;
- x) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £57.345m;
- xi) The Council Tax for the Council's services for each Valuation Band be set as follows:

Band	Tax Level Relative to Band D	£
A	6/9	843.96
B	7/9	984.62
C	8/9	1,125.28
D	9/9	1,265.94
E	11/9	1,547.26
F	13/9	1,828.58
G	15/9	2,109.90
H	18/9	2,531.88

- xii) The Council approved the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annexe E of the summary report for Council (pages 55 to 74):
 - The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2018/19 to 2020/21 contained within Annexe E(i);
 - The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy contained within Annexe E(ii);
 - The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained in Annexe E(iii);
 - The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator in Annexe E(iii);
 - The Investment Strategy 2018/19 to 2020/21 and Treasury Management Limits on Activity contained in Annexe E(iv);
- xiii) The formal Council Tax Resolution contained in section 3 be approved.

3 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

- 3.1 that the recommendations of the Executive outlined in sections 2.1 and 2.2 be agreed.

3.2 that it be noted that the amounts calculated for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) 45,298 TAX BASE FOR THE WHOLE COUNCIL AREA

being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992, as amended, as its council tax base for the year

(b) TAX BASE FOR PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA

EACH PARISH AREA

Binfield	3,855
Bracknell	19,209
Crowthorne	2,764
Sandhurst	7,854
Warfield	4,801
Winkfield	6,815

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, as amended, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

3.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2018/19 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act), noting that Bracknell Town Council's (BTC) precept is subject to confirmation by BTC on 27 February:

(a) £294,955,070 **TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING GENERAL FUND, PARISH PRECEPTS AND THE COUNCIL'S SHARE OF ANY DEFICIT ON THE COLLECTION FUND**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act

(b) £234,355,267 **TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING GOVERNMENT SUPPORT AND THE COUNCIL'S SHARE OF ANY SURPLUS ON THE COLLECTION FUND**

being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act

(c) £60,599,803 **BOROUGH AND PARISH PRECEPTS NET EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM COUNCIL TAX**

being the amount by which the aggregate at 3.3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3.3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year

- (d) £1,337.80 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

being the amount at 3.3(c) above, divided by the amount at 3.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year (including Parish precepts)

- (e) £3,255,253 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act

- (f) £1,265.94 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

being the amount at 3.3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3.3(e) above by the amount at 3.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year if there were an area of the Borough to which no special item relates

- (g) Part of the Council's area **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"**

Binfield	£1,314.67
Bracknell	£1,349.60
Crowthorne	£1,341.01
Sandhurst	£1,339.23
Warfield	£1,303.34
Winkfield	£1,338.97

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 3.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate

(h)	Part of the Council's area			BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND				
Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	876.45	1,022.52	1,168.60	1,314.67	1,606.82	1,898.97	2,191.12	2,629.34
Bracknell	899.73	1,049.69	1,199.64	1,349.60	1,649.51	1,949.42	2,249.33	2,699.20
Crowthorne	894.01	1,043.01	1,192.01	1,341.01	1,639.01	1,937.01	2,235.02	2,682.02
Sandhurst	892.82	1,041.62	1,190.43	1,339.23	1,636.84	1,934.44	2,232.05	2,678.46
Warfield	868.89	1,013.71	1,158.52	1,303.34	1,592.97	1,882.60	2,172.23	2,606.68
Winkfield	892.65	1,041.42	1,190.20	1,338.97	1,636.52	1,934.07	2,231.62	2,677.94

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands

- 3.4 That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 the Police and Crime Panel have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council regarding the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley	121.52	141.77	162.03	182.28	222.79	263.29	303.80	364.56

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2018/19 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 27 February, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	42.90	50.05	57.21	64.36	78.66	92.96	107.26	128.72

3.6 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3.3(h), 3.4 and 3.5 above, the council, in accordance with section 30(2) of the act, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2018/19 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Parish	(a) Part of the Council's area			TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND				
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	1,040.87	1,214.34	1,387.84	1,561.31	1,908.27	2,255.22	2,602.18	3,122.62
Bracknell	1,064.15	1,241.51	1,418.88	1,596.24	1,950.96	2,305.67	2,660.39	3,192.48
Crowthorne	1,058.43	1,234.83	1,411.25	1,587.65	1,940.46	2,293.26	2,646.08	3,175.30
Sandhurst	1,057.24	1,233.44	1,409.67	1,585.87	1,938.29	2,290.69	2,643.11	3,171.74
Warfield	1,033.31	1,205.53	1,377.76	1,549.98	1,894.42	2,238.85	2,583.29	3,099.96
Winkfield	1,057.07	1,233.24	1,409.44	1,585.61	1,937.97	2,290.32	2,642.68	3,171.22

51. Contract Standing Orders

The Council considered a report regarding the Governance & Audit Committee's recommendation to amend the Contract Standing Orders to transform procurement processes in line with the approach taken to the Council Wide Support Services review. The intention was to make procurement practices and processes more streamlined and more commercial as well as make other minor changes.

On the proposition of Councillor Allen, Chairman of Governance and Audit Committee and seconded by Councillor Heydon it was:

RESOLVED that the changes to the Constitution Part 4 Section 11 – Contract Standing Orders as set out in Appendices A and B to the agenda report be adopted.

52. Establishment of Appointment Committee: Director of Public Health

The Council considered the report which informed Members of plans agreed by the Executive to create a Director of Public Health post and sought to establish a Committee to undertake an appointment to the post in conjunction with Public Health England and the Faculty of Public Health.

On the proposition of Councillor McLean, Chairman of Employment Committee and seconded by Councillor Mrs Hayes MBE it was:

RESOLVED that

- (i) a Committee of the Council of four members (3:1), (plus up to four substitute members) be appointed, augmented by representatives of Public Health England and the Faculty of Public Health with the following terms of reference:

“To interview and appoint on behalf of the Council and Public Health England to the Director of Public Health post”.

(ii) That Councillors D Birch, Mrs McCracken, McLean and Mrs Temperton be confirmed as the nominated members; and

(iii) That Councillors Dr Barnard, Thompson, Peacey and Virgo be confirmed as the substitute members.

53. Question Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10

Councillor Harrison asked Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport the following question:

This Council is consulting on a Local Plan Draft which contains significant housing allocations in the Parish of Winkfield whose nearest railway station is Martins Heron. In light of this, will the Executive Member ensure that South Western Rail is fully engaged in the Local Plan consultation process to ensure that their passenger number projections and service plans for Martins Heron and Bracknell stations take full account of the new evidence in the form of the emerging Local Plan.

Additionally will the Executive Member stress to the Department of Transport that Bracknell Forest's growth plans, including the already delivered £250m regeneration of Bracknell Town Centre and commitment to clean air goals justify further investment in public transport links to Heathrow, the Elizabeth Line and Sandhurst and Crowthorne to Gatwick via Wokingham and Guildford?

In response Councillor Turrell stated that residents need to be able to get to and from the borough for a variety of reasons by various modes of transport. He stated that for some years, the Council had had regular communication with transport providers and would continue to engage with the current train operating companies on both the Windsor Lines and North Downs Lines.

He added that it was important that the borough's Local Transport Plan objectives for Rail were progressed and the current operators on both lines had consulted on plans for creating greater capacity and improved frequency. He stated that as a result the Council had highlighted the need for a high level of service across all Bracknell stations including the importance of Martins Heron which had seen a 15% increase in patronage over the last 5 years. He reported that Network Rail had formed an alliance with South Western Rail which would include any rail infrastructure issues.

Councillor Turrell stated that the Council had also developed positive and productive relations with bus operators with new and augmented commercial services beginning before the opening of the Lexicon.

He agreed with Councillor Harrison that it was very important to give out timely information and the Council would continue communication on likely future movements as the Local Plan progressed towards submission, examination and adoption.

He added that the Council continued to push for Southern Rail Access to Heathrow which was likely to be delivered as part of any expansion plans at Heathrow, that they were monitoring the remaining stages of the Elizabeth Line project which was due to reach Maidenhead in the next year, and Reading in 2020. The Council was also watching announcements on Crossrail 2 which could benefit users of the Windsor Lines.

Councillor Turrell concluded his response by stating that air quality was monitored regularly, especially in the Council's two Air Quality Management Areas. He reported that the situation had remained stable since 2012, despite increases in traffic on roads.

No supplementary question was asked.

MAYOR