

**COUNCIL
12 SEPTEMBER 2018
7.30 - 9.00 PM**



Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Angell, Ashman, Ms Hayes, Skinner, Thompson, Tullett, Virgo and Wade

17. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11 July 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

18. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

19. Chief Constable's Presentation

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Matt Barber gave a presentation on the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) responsibilities and explained that in addition the PCC had a role in setting the local precept. It was expected that there would be a 7% increase on the current low base which was expected to equate to £1 per month for a Band D property. He explained that the Thames Valley policing area had a challenging mix of urban area and diverse sparsely populated rural area.

He highlighted the following activities:

- the PCC's office had created the Victims First Hub which provided a single point of contact for victims, witnesses and family members of victims to access emotional support. Victims First Hub was successful and looking to further improve the referrals for scheme.
- grant funding of £94k was awarded to eight organisations to deliver cyber-crime prevention activities, in particular to young people and the elderly
- the Force has undertaken a range of multi- agency problem solving initiatives to both disrupt and prevent organised crime across the Thames Valley, including exploitation and county lines
- HMICFRS PEEL 'Effectiveness' inspection had graded Thames Valley Police as "Good" for the way it deals with crime
- £2.7m funding from government of which £136K is for Bracknell Forest area.
- recorded crime has increased but was still lower than elsewhere and less than ten years ago
- there was a staggered correlation between spending decreasing and crime increasing

- 8.8% rise in burglary (6% rise nationally) and work was being done locally to reduce
- the force were working hard to increase use of stop and search powers and the trend was increasing.

In particular he looked at the highlights in activity during the first quarter:

- Victims Contract to follow up on crime but it had been difficult to get people to sign up to this but a fantastic scheme as it set their expectations and take up was up to 78% in April
- A new post has been funded to focus on coordinating taxi and licensing premises which prevents people moving around the policing area
- Work was ongoing with partners on rehabilitation work
- a multi-agency database was being developed which would enable better information sharing, risk assessment and data analysis
- 101 calls continued to be an issue as they could be responded to slowly but work was ongoing to improve alternative online recording to channel shift residents from call centre but not replace either 101 or 999.

Chief Constable, Francis Habgood, gave a presentation on significant policing issues across the borough. In particular he highlighted that:

- the force had seen an increased demand on services due to mental health issues.
- there had been some significant public events which had placed additional demands on the service as they carefully balanced potential threat with engagement with public.
- they had been struggling with resourcing as other forces were recruiting Thames Valley's trained staff.
- PCSOs were being recruited as police officers which whilst a fantastic outcome did leave the force short of PCSOs.
- It continued to be a challenge to recruit and retain staff in this geographic area due to factors such as cost of living.
- the recent response times for 999 calls were an average 12 seconds and 101 calls had increased from an average 2 minutes to 7 minutes response time.
- his key message was that Bracknell Forest continued to be a safe place to live and work, increase in violence not connected to opening of Lexicon instead related to more stringent recording and reporting. Violence figures now included incidents at care home, playground incidents and prisons.
- an increase in vehicle crime was a result of vans being broken into and therefore work was ongoing to encourage owners to mark their tools as an act of prevention.
- the increase in sexual offenses figures related to increased reporting rather than a volume of victims as it included historical offences.
- there had been a small increase in burglary and the figures included break-ins to garages. This equated to one break-in per day across the whole area.
- decrease in crime had been seen in arson and criminal damage (down by 12%), bike thefts (decreased by 21%) and shoplifting (decreased by 16%). There was a note of caution as not all retailers were reporting shoplifting.
- TVP had been graded as 'Inadequate' in relation to crime data integrity but that this was not regarding the integrity or ethics of how crime was recorded but that four key issues were evidenced such as failure to record crime on basis of initial call and use of 'non-crime' occurrence types.
- a problem solving group involving the Police, Community Safety Partnership, Health and Education teams had undertaken a partnership approach to tackle community issues on Mount Pleasant estate.

- work was ongoing to tackle County Lines Drugs by setting up joint risk assessment matrix to improve understanding of vulnerabilities and undertaking joint interventions.
- there had been success to reduce demand using schemes such as Stronghold which tackled serious and organised crime.
- the Hidden Crime campaign had tackled a series of hidden crimes that are happening in the heart of communities that often went undetected or unreported and local councillors had a role in highlighting them.

In response to a question regarding whether the police took the theft of tools seriously and an online petition to make it a specific offence the Chief Constable clarified that it could not be made a specific offence as it was covered by theft. He reiterated that preventative work was being undertaken with both van owners and local hotels to raise awareness of this issue and promote tool marking. He recognised that it had a serious impact on someone's livelihood when it occurred.

In response to a question regarding drug dealing which was reported at a public meeting as occurring every night for four years the Chief Constable agreed to follow up with Councillor Angell after the meeting regarding progress of prevention activities in that particular area. He explained that the operation at Mount Pleasant was a positive example of joint working to take action against crime but he appreciated it took time and it was not always possible to keep neighbourhoods briefed on detection activity.

In response to a question regarding the use of Malicious Communications Act the Chief Constable advised that whilst sending improper messages and sexting was an issue the police were clear that they did not want to criminalise young people who had made mistakes. He agreed to provide further information outside of the meeting but stated that in the previous year of 100 reported incidents 64 acts had been prosecuted or resulted in a caution.

In response to a question regarding residents frustration with the response time to 101 calls the Chief Constable explained that although it had been particularly bad during July the average response time was two minutes except in extreme cases. This was a priority for the force and they were looking at adjusting staffing but this was a budget challenge so were continuing to promote online options as well. There was a key issue about educating the public as to whether it was a policing issue at all and building community resilience. However he concluded that satisfaction figures with the 101 service remained high at 90%.

In response to a question about whether resources would be available to enforce a proposed reduction in speed limit on the A3095 leading up to the new Broadmoor hospital development the Chief Constable explained the actions which would be taken initially. He considered that the road should be designed / engineered so that enforcement was not required, if concern was raised then work would be undertaken to check whether speeding was perception rather than reality so volunteers would be deployed to undertake speed checks and then if required this would be escalated to use a speed van or speed enforcement team to prevent an accident hotspot.

The Chief Constable was asked a question regarding how Thames Valley Police's demand issues relating to mental health compared with other areas such as Aldershot with its Crisis Café. In response he stated that 40% of calls related to mental health and that these figures could be circulated. The mental health triage team had a significant impact on effectively dealing with situations and mental health practitioners were available at the call centre. There had been a positive reduction in the use of mental health powers.

When asked why there was not a special unit to respond to the demand in policing when there were special occasions in Windsor the Chief Constable confirmed that such a team was being considered. For significant events such as the Royal Wedding all teams would be required to pull together but it agreed that it may be possible to reduce the impact of regular events such as the guard change.

In response to a query regarding an incident on the M4 when a 101 call was not answered within 12 minutes the Chief Constable reiterated that 101 calls should only be for non-emergency but the incident described should have been called through to 999 instead.

When challenged as to whether neighbourhood policing was still a priority for Thames Valley Police the Chief Constable explained that it was at the centre of ongoing work to support communities to be more resilient and an operational change made in the previous year had protected the neighbourhood teams. At the first level he considered that there should still be a presence locally and secondly that the teams would have a role in local problem solving. There were 400 PCSOs across Thames Valley and the figure only dropped when funding was reduced.

The Chief Constable was asked to respond to recent reports that the College of Police did not think it was worthwhile investigating crimes below a certain value. He replied that Thames Valley Police did not set a value threshold for investigating instead concentrated on the potential to solve a crime. He confirmed that some crimes were closed quickly if there were no lines of enquiry to investigate but they would support victims to understand this action.

The Mayor thanked the Chief Constable and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for their attendance and informative presentations.

20. **Mayor's Announcements**

National Energy Awards

Councillors Mrs Hayes MBE, Executive Member for Environment and Councillor D Birch, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing joined together to congratulate Hazel Hill, Sustainable Energy Officer. Hazel had been nominated by Warfield Park for vulnerable customer support campaigner for the National Energy Awards in recognition of the work to install mains gas onto the site. The project was due to finish in February 2019 and was estimated to give an average saving on fuel costs of £400 per household per year, and in addition some residents may qualify for Warm Homes Discount giving them another £140 per year.

Glass recycling trucks

Cllr Mrs Hayes, Executive Member for Environment was pleased to report the successful launch of two new glass recycling vehicles which would be used to collect bottles and jars from bottle banks located throughout Reading, Berkshire, Bracknell Forest, and Wokingham Borough. The Council's recycling partnership RE3 had run a competition to name the trucks and they were now known as Jar Jar Clinks and Kate Binslet.

Mayoral Update

The Mayor encouraged Members to keep up to date with his activities through the Mayoral Facebook and Twitter pages. He highlighted the celebrations which had occurred to mark the one year anniversary of the opening of the Lexicon.

The Mayor advised Members that his Civic Service had been arranged for Sunday 21 October at the Holy Trinity Church with refreshments afterwards at the Green's Steakhouse.

He announced to Members that his first Charity event was being arranged for Sunday 28 October and was a Curry buffet and entertainment at Koi-I-Nor, a local restaurant at £18 per person.

21. **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 11 July 2018. The Executive had met once on 17 July 2018.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- The Capital Programme 2017/18 had seen outturn expenditure of £103.8m with £36.1m carry forward. The Revenue Budget 2017/18 had Outturn expenditure at £ 87.8m with an “underspend” of £0.54m. This was the 20th successive year of spending within budget.
- The disposal of Easthampstead Park Conference Centre as a going concern had been confirmed.
- Service Plans for 2018/19 were agreed which substantially completes the delivery of 4 year Council Plan which was agreed in 2015. The Corporate Performance Overview Report (Q4 2018) reported that 88.1% key actions were complete or on schedule and 84% of performance targets had been met or were within 10%.
- Downshire Homes Ltd (DHL) delivered its first progress report to the Executive and its activities were reducing Council costs by £0.56m. DHL had more flexibility in its letting policy which gave more scope for cost avoidance.
- The review of polling districts and polling places had been considered and there were very limited changes proposed. These were only where polling stations were no longer available or problematic, or housing developments required new solutions.
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2018 – 2023 had been agreed.
- Town Centre Youth Centre feasibility had been commissioned for Braccan Walk.
- Additional consultation on Cain Road sites for the Local Plan had been agreed for September.

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

- Revenue Expenditure Outturn 2017/18
- Polling Districts and Polling Places Review

In relation to the update on Easthampstead Park Conference Centre Councillor Mrs Temperton asked whether the new contract with Bidder C offered the same conditions as before e.g. requirement to refurbish, restrictions to prevent the site being sold on as well as use of the grounds for local people. Councillor Bettison replied that he considered that the new contract was even more favourable and would be a great thing for residents in the area as they will be able to enjoy the facilities in a way that they have not been able to before. Councillor Heydon, Executive member for Transformation and Finance added that the site would be open to the public in the future.

On the proposition of Councillor Heydon, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, seconded by Councillor Allen it was

RESOLVED that:

- i) the virements relating to the 2017/18 budget over £0.100m be approved as detailed in Annexe E, within the attached Appendix A to the agenda report; and
- ii) the Treasury Management performance in 2017/18 be noted as set out in Annexe B, within the attached Appendix A to the agenda report.

Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Transport and Planning advised the meeting that the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review recommendation in the report relating to arrangements in the College Town ward should read College Town Primary School not Junior School.

On the proposition of Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Transport and Planning, seconded by Councillor D Birch it was

RESOLVED that:

- i) no changes be made to the existing polling arrangements for the following wards:

Ward	Polling Districts
Ascot	WX; WY
Central Sandhurst	SP
Crown Wood	BF; WW
Crowthorne	CN
Great Hollands North	BH; BQ
Great Hollands South	BJ
Hanworth	BD; BK
Harmans Water	BL; BLP; WV
Little Sandhurst and Wellington	CS; SQ
Old Bracknell	BM; BN
Owlsmoor	SJ
Priestwood and Garth	BG; BP
Winkfield and Cranbourne	WN; WP; WS; WZ

- ii) the following changes be made to the Binfield with Warfield Ward:

- a) Separate the southern area of the existing 'BA' polling district into a new polling district to be called 'BI'. Shown in Annexe A of the Director of Resources report– Fig 1.
 - b) Separate the Amen Corner development from the 'BA' polling district and creating a new polling district to be called 'BAC'. Shown in Annexe A Director of Resources report – Fig 1.
 - c) Designate Newbold College as the polling station for the 'BI' new polling district.
 - d) Designate Farley Wood Community Centre be designated as the polling station for polling district 'BAC' with the electors for that polling district using the main hall at the Community Centre.
 - e) That Binfield Memorial Hall remains the polling station for the revised 'BA' polling district.
 - f) That Farley Wood Community centre remains the polling station for the unchanged 'BB' polling district with the electors concerned continuing to vote in the "Meeting Room" at the Community Centre
 - g) That no changes be made to either polling districts 'BB' or 'WM', retaining existing polling arrangements.
- iii) the following change be made to the Bullbrook Ward:
- a) That one additional polling station be created at Bullbrook Community Centre to increase capacity at this polling place and reduce pressure on the two existing polling stations.
- iv) the following change be made to the College Town Ward:
- a) Designate the main sports hall at Sandhurst Secondary School as the default polling station for electors in polling district 'SO'. Should a scheduled exam clash with a polling day the existing arrangements at College Town Primary School would be reinstated.
- v) the following changes be made to the Warfield Harvest Ride Ward:
- a) Create a new polling district named 'WE' by splitting the existing 'WG' polling district into two areas. Fig. 2 in Annexe A of the Director of Resources report shows this.
 - b) Designate Westmoreland Pavilion as the polling station for the proposed 'WE' polling district.
 - c) That voters in the revised 'WG' polling district continue to vote at Whitegrove Community Centre, (incorrectly labelled as Warfield

Community Centre in the original Director of Resources' report) which would be a single polling station.

- d) That voters in the unchanged 'WQ' polling district continue to vote at Whitegrove Community Centre, (incorrectly labelled as Warfield Community Centre in the original Director of Resources' report).
- vi) the following change be made to the Wildridings and Central Ward:
 - a) Designate the former Magistrates Court as the polling station for 'BT' electors for the 2019 elections.
 - b) That subject to a re-evaluation by the Steering Group after planned renovation work, for all subsequent polls, Bracknell Central Library be designated as the polling station.

22. Question Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning the following published question:

I am delighted that at last there are real proposals to create a Town Centre Youth Facility. Eight years ago, over 400 young people responding to a consultation about Youth Provision in Bracknell Forest, requested such a facility and this has been reaffirmed by the July 2017 consultation.

The proposals include a café/social space, small meeting rooms and list the targeted work to be delivered from the building with our most vulnerable young people. This work is currently the focus of the Bracknell Forest Youth Service.

As no new money is to be provided for the revenue running costs but all will come from the Youth Service budget, what effect will this have on the essential services now provided in our schools and communities?

In response Councillor Dr Barnard stated that a detailed paper on the feasibility study had been circulated and was responding to the views of young people. There was no plan to reduce spend therefore the Council was using the assets that it had. He stated that until the study had been conducted and the options available had been assessed it would not be possible to calculate the revenue running costs. The intention was far from reducing provision but to enhance what was currently available. The Council had been contacted by potential partners to get involved in the new provision and therefore it was intended to provide an enhanced and refreshed provision.

He added that once the feasibility study had been conducted it would be made available to young people for their comments before it was possible to consider what should be provided. He asked that it be noted that the current trend was for lower take up for youth services in the parish areas in comparison to the town centre.

As her supplementary question Councillor Mrs Temperton asked whether vital youth services within schools would continue as the work to raise children's aspirations and prevent harm was so valid.

Councillor Dr Barnard agreed and stated that maintaining youth provision in schools would continue as well as putting officers out into the community and training further people to support pupils in schools. He reiterated that the Council does not have a fit for purpose facility where sensitive work could be carried out but that potential parties were coming forward and he was very optimistic about what could be achieved. He concluded that meeting the emotional wellbeing and needs of the borough's pupils was a priority and that recent exam success reflected the activities by school, teachers and pupils.

MAYOR