

COUNCIL
27 FEBRUARY 2019
7.30 - 9.30 PM



Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Angell, Angell, G Birch, Finnie, McLean, Phillips and Virgo

38. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 January 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

39. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mrs McKenzie-Boyle declared an affected interest in item 6, Financial Budgets and Revenue Plans 2019/20, by virtue of her spouse being a Trustee at South Hill Park Trust.

40. Mayor's Announcements

Presentation from This is Projekt

The Mayor welcomed Nick Hartwright, CEO of This is Projekt, who had been invited to the meeting to talk about the development of Easthampstead House for its meanwhile use as Easthampstead Works.

This is Projekt had been founded 10 years ago when Nick needed a space from which to run his small business. Nick explained that he had rented a Victorian warehouse in Bethnal Green, London and sublet shared workspaces to other small business owners. Following the sale of this unit, This is Projekt had started working with Hackney Council to develop old Local Authority buildings.

Nick explained that Projekt are a not for profit social enterprise, and were keen to facilitate community work in their buildings.

Easthampstead Works would be Projekt's first building developed outside of London. Nick explained that the building would consist of a mixture of shared workspace and separated offices. The building would include a café and community space for classes, exhibitions and events. Projekt had been pleased with progress in Bracknell so far, and felt that the development in Easthampstead Works would complement the Lexicon.

It was hoped that Easthampstead Works would open its doors to tenants in April 2019.

In response to Members' queries, the following points were noted:

- An Instagram account had been set up for Easthampstead Works ([EasthampsteadWorks](#)) and the website would be launched when the building opened for use ([easthampsteadworks.co.uk](#)).
- The building would be open during daytime hours for public access, and there would be flexibility for tenants to access the building at any time.
- Tenants would be encouraged to make use of apprenticeships, work experience and other learning opportunities for young people.

Mayor's Spring Soiree

The Mayor reminded Members of his Spring Soiree on 22 March 2019 at Bracknell Rugby Club, which would involve entertainment from the Acoustic Couch and morris dancers.

Mayor's upcoming events

The Mayor informed Members of his upcoming events. The Mayor's Charity Quiz would be held on the evening of 5 April 2019 at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre, and the Mayor's Charity Golf Day would be held from 9:30am on 26 April 2019 at Downshire Golf Complex.

Staff Awards

The Mayor had been pleased to attend the Bracknell Forest Council Staff Awards on 23 January 2019, which had recognised the achievements and contributions of officers to support the Council's values.

New Play facilities at Harvest Hill

Councillor McCracken reported that the new play area at Harvest Hill had been installed and would accommodate children from toddlers to 12 year olds. Councillor McCracken congratulated the Rangers on this piece of work.

Staff Award for the Rangers

Councillor McCracken congratulated Stephen Chown, Head of Parks & Countryside and the Rangers team who had been celebrated at the Staff Awards.

Cemetery and Crematorium donation to Thames Hospice

Councillor McCracken reported that the Cemetery and Crematorium had made a donation of £7,000 to Thames Valley Hospice. The money had been raised through metal recycling using any metals recovered after cremation.

Heat Hero Hazel Hill

Councillor Mrs Hayes and Councillor D Birch jointly recognised Hazel Hill, Sustainable Energy Officer, who had been presented with a Heat Heroes award at the House of Commons for her work to tackle heat poverty at Warfield Park. Councillor Dale Birch stressed the importance of warm homes for maintaining health of older residents, and asked the Mayor to present Hazel with her award.

Dogs for Good

Councillor Dale Birch reported that the Council's Dogs for Good programme had been shortlisted for the iESE Social Care Innovation Award.

Re3 compost

Councillor Mrs Hayes informed members that re3 had produced 6000 bags of compost made from garden waste collection, which would be on sale at Smallmead and Longshot Lane.

Maestros Royal Albert Hall concert

Councillor Dr Barnard informed members that young people from Bracknell Forest would be joining 1800 young musicians from across Berkshire to perform at the Royal Albert Hall on 11 March 2019. Councillor Dr Barnard thanked teachers for their support in planning the event.

41. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bettison, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 16 January 2019. The Executive had met once on 12 February 2019.

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

- The business case for the creation of a country park at Horseshoe Lake had been discussed. The Executive had agreed that the business case indicated that the site would be made attractive to a wider range of visitors, and would help the site to be sustainable in the long term. Concerns around traffic at the site would be addressed through the planning application process.
- The Asset Management Plan had been agreed, with a detailed action plan to underpin a five point strategy to maximise the potential use of land and buildings. A mixed commercial portfolio would be maintained.
- Following the opening of the Lexicon, the procurement process for joint ventures for other Council owned sites had begun. The redevelopment of Princess Square and development of The Deck would be particularly key in creating the walking route around the town centre.
- A local list of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest had been agreed, and this would be a live document maintained locally.
- The Local Development Scheme (LDS) had been agreed, and would be effective from 20 February 2019.

42. **Financial Budgets and Revenue Plans 2019/20**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2019/20 and the supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2019/20 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and Capital Programme.

Councillor Heydon gave a comprehensive presentation placing particular focus on the following matters:

- Councillor Heydon recognised the significance of setting the budget for the first time in the new Council Chamber, which reflected the Council's ability to adapt to change.

- It was recognised that the national economic context was uncertain, preceding any outcome of Brexit negotiations, but that budget proposals had been developed with this uncertainty in mind.
- The proposals for a country park at Horseshoe Lake had been developed on an 'invest to save' approach, and would be an enhancement to the Borough's parks and green spaces.
- The Lexicon had seen 16 million visitors during the first 12 months since its opening in September 2017. Further work was planned with the Bracknell Regeneration Partnership to refurbish Princess Square and constructing The Deck.
- The improvements on the A322 at Downshire Way had recently begun, and this would remove the final bottleneck between the M3 / M4 corridor. This project would significantly improve travel times across the Borough.
- There was uncertainty around Government funding for Local Authorities in 2020/21, following the end of the four year settlement. Bracknell Forest had responded to two Government consultation papers on fair funding review, and business rates retention agreements.
- The Berkshire authorities and Fire Service had agreed to form a business rates pool for the pilot business rates retention scheme for the second year running. This would result in £22m additional funding within Berkshire, of which £11m would be used for major transport infrastructure investment and managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Councillor Heydon thanked officers for their support for the pilot scheme, of which Bracknell Forest was set to be the biggest beneficiary in Berkshire.
- The budget consultation had received 8 responses, including one from Councillor Mrs Temperton on behalf of Labour. Councillor Heydon expressed his disappointment that so few responses had been received on such a significant issue.
- Demand for social care placements for children and adults continued to increase, adding £1.9m to the budget requirement.
- Waste PFI was increasing by £0.149m to reflect current tonnage and Energy from Waste. While this was an unwelcome increase, Members were reminded that the Council had seen quite significant reductions in the Waste PFI costs in recent years.
- The reduction in the Council's annual grant to South Hill Park had been deferred to reflect the position around the Trust's future finances. The Council would work to secure a long-term sustainable financial position for South Hill Park and would engage with Trustees to achieve this.
- The Council had delivered more than its £11m anticipated transformation savings by Autumn 2018, and had budgeted for a further £3m in 2019/20. A further £2m in efficiency savings had been identified.

- The corporate contingency fund had been maintained at £2.5m owing to the level of uncertainty around Brexit and the continuing increase in demand for services.
- Council Tax increase of 2.99% was proposed, at the maximum permitted level. This would equate to an additional 73 pence per week for a Band D council tax payer, and would raise an additional £1.6m to ensure a balanced budget.

On the proposition of Councillor Heydon, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, seconded by Councillor Bettison OBE the recommendation as set out in the agenda was moved.

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

FOR (34): Councillors Allen, Ashman, Dr Barnard, Bettison OBE, Birch DP, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Finch, Ms Gaw, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Dr Hill, Mrs Ingham, Kennedy, Leake, Mrs Mattick, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, Ms Merry, Peacey, Porter, Skinner, Thompson, Tullett, Turrell, Wade, Worrall

ABSTAIN (1): Councillor Mrs Temperton

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

2.1 Capital Programme 2019/20 – 2021/22

- General Fund capital funding of £33.437m for 2019/20 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 180 to 183 be agreed;
- The inclusion of an additional budget of £1m be agreed for 'Invest to Save' schemes;
- The inclusion of £1.145m of expenditure be agreed to be funded from S106 and SANG as outlined in the summary report for Council (page 177) and included on pages 180 to 183;
- That those schemes that attract external grant funding be agreed for inclusion within the 2019/20 capital programme at the level of funding received

2.2 Revenue Budget 2019/20

- 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 5 to 7), 3.5 (pages 7 and 8), 3.6 (page 8 and 9), 3.9 (pages 9 to 10), 7.2 (page 20) and 7.3 (page 20) of the report, be agreed;
- Fees and charges as set out in Annexe G (pages 95 to 165) be approved;
- A provision for inflation of £2.396m be approved;
- The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (pages 23 to 24);
- That the Council should make additional funding available for distribution to schools through the local funding formula at the level set out in section 4.1 (page 11) of the summary report for Council subject to any minor amendments made by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning following the receipt of definitive funding allocations for Early Years and High Needs;

- vi) A contingency of £2.500m be included, use of which is authorised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director: Finance in accordance with the delegations included in the Council's constitution;
- vii) Subject to the above, the revised draft budget proposals be agreed;
- viii) A contribution of £2.614m (after allowing for additional interest from the use of balances of £0.032m) be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- ix) Total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £72.355m, be approved;
- x) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £59.419m;
- 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	869.22
B	7/9	1,014.09
C	8/9	1,158.96
D	9/9	1,303.83
E	11/9	1,593.57
F	13/9	1,883.31
G	15/9	2,173.05
H	18/9	2,607.66

At the meeting on 12 February 2019 the Executive recommended the 2019/20 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and noted that strategy together with the Prudential Indicators and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement were matters which the Council approved.

- xii) The following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annexe E (pages 61 to 86) be approved:
 - The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2019/20 to 2021/22 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 2019/20 to 2021/22 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 2019/20 in accordance with section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) **45,573 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	3,957
Bracknell	19,371
Crowthorne	2,736
Sandhurst	7,883
Warfield	4,838
Winkfield	6,788

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 2019/20 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 26 February:-

(a) £296,693,577 **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) £233,939,416 **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) £62,754,161 **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) £1,377.00 **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) £3,334,716 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

- (f) £1,303.83 **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	£1,355.39
Bracknell	£1,387.49
Crowthorne	£1,381.19
Sandhurst	£1,377.12
Warfield	£1,344.14
Winkfield	£1,381.28

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

Parish	(h) Part of the Council's area BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	903.59	1,054.19	1,204.79	1,355.39	1,656.59	1,957.79	2,258.98	2,710.78
Bracknell	924.99	1,079.16	1,233.32	1,387.49	1,695.82	2,004.15	2,312.48	2,774.98
Crowthorne	920.79	1,074.26	1,227.72	1,381.19	1,688.12	1,995.05	2,301.98	2,762.38
Sandhurst	918.08	1,071.09	1,224.11	1,377.12	1,683.15	1,989.17	2,295.20	2,754.24
Warfield	896.09	1,045.44	1,194.79	1,344.14	1,642.84	1,941.54	2,240.23	2,688.28
Winkfield	920.85	1,074.33	1,227.80	1,381.28	1,688.23	1,995.18	2,302.13	2,762.56

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 2019/20 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	137.52	160.44	183.36	206.28	252.12	297.96	343.80	412.56

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2019/20 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 25 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	44.19	51.55	58.92	66.28	81.01	95.74	110.47	132.56

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 2019/20 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	1,085.30	1,266.18	1,447.07	1,627.95	1,989.72	2,351.49	2,713.25	3,255.90
Bracknell	1,106.70	1,291.15	1,475.60	1,660.05	2,028.95	2,397.85	2,766.75	3,320.10
Crowthorne	1,102.50	1,286.25	1,470.00	1,653.75	2,021.25	2,388.75	2,756.25	3,307.50
Sandhurst	1,099.79	1,283.08	1,466.39	1,649.68	2,016.28	2,382.87	2,749.47	3,299.36
Warfield	1,077.80	1,257.43	1,437.07	1,616.70	1,975.97	2,335.24	2,694.50	3,233.40
Winkfield	1,102.56	1,286.32	1,470.08	1,653.84	2,021.36	2,388.88	2,756.40	3,307.68

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

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked Councillor Bettison, Executive Member for Council Strategy and Community Cohesion the following published question:

What has the Council done to prepare for Brexit?

Councillor Bettison responded by expressing that he would have hoped for some certainty with regards to the Brexit agreement, however this was regrettably not the case.

The Government had allocated £210k to Bracknell Forest Council to cover a 'no deal' Brexit. However, the Council had taken specific actions to prepare itself for all eventualities, and Councillor Bettison outlined the following.

The Chief Executive was feeding back to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government on a weekly basis through regional networks. The Chief Executive was also liaising with his counterpart at West Berkshire Council, who represented the two Councils on the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum.

Workforce issues were being addressed in collaboration with key service providers including social care providers, however it was not anticipated that Brexit would cause significant implications beyond the existing pressures.

A number of the Council's IT applications were hosted within the European Union, however it was understood that due to data protection alignment between the UK and European Union this was unlikely to have immediate impact.

Skills loss across the Borough could not be influenced by the Council. Councillor Bettison explained that EU, European Economic Area, European Free Trade Area and Swiss qualified teachers would not be recognised as fully qualified teachers in

the UK. It was noted that this does not apply to European Union teachers who were already recognised as qualified teachers in the UK.

The Council was not currently involved in any funding bids which would be affected by Brexit.

Additional costs or tariffs on specialist items such as health and social care equipment could not be fully known until the date of formal Brexit had been agreed.

Supplies such as food, fuel and medical supplies were being addressed through the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum. Bracknell Forest had made arrangements with ISS, who were the main provider of school meals, to source meals which used ingredients which were readily available locally.

Councillor Bettison explained that it was likely that the Government would extend the term of existing Members of European Parliament if Brexit had not been delivered by European Union elections. If this was not the case, an election may need to be arranged.

In summary, Councillor Bettison explained that the Council had done much to prepare for Brexit, and the Corporate Management Team and Senior Leadership Group were undertaking work to look at the implications of a 'no deal' Brexit.

MAYOR