

TO: COUNCIL
11 JULY 2018

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 25 April 2018, the Executive has met twice, on the 8 May 2018 and the 12 June 2018. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 Updated Forward Plans are published every Friday and can be viewed online at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk. Full details on the decisions taken by individual portfolio holders can also be accessed online through the Council's website.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Council is asked to note the Executive decisions detailed in this report taken since the last Council meeting on 25 April 2018.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The reasons for recommendations are set out in the supporting information and in the reports considered by the Executive.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Transformation and Finance

5.1 Planning & Building Control Transformation Review

- 5.1.1 The Executive agreed to implement the recommendations and associated savings emanating from the Transformation Review of the Planning & Building Control Service.
- 5.1.2 The results of the analyse phase of this review had previously been considered by members at a Gateway Review in September 2017. This considered a number of options for achieving £200k of savings and endorsed six recommendations to be taken forward for further investigation in the Plan Phase.
- 5.1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission conducted a second Gateway Review on 14 March 2018 and provided important advice on a number of recommendations proposed for implementation during the next stage of the review.

5.1.4 The recommendations agreed by the Executive reflect the gateway review and centre around a core strategic option of income generation and efficiency. The future vision of the service centres around improving and enhancing the customer journey through the service and the way in which we work with members and our staff.

5.2 Parks & Countryside Transformation Review

5.2.1 The Executive also agreed the recommendations emanating from the Transformation Review of the Parks and Countryside service including the development of a country park, subject to further feasibility work.

5.2.2 The Parks and Countryside review followed a similar path to that for building control, exploring ways in which the savings target of £400k could be achieved whilst transforming the way in which the service is delivered. The outcome suggests a saving in the region of £476k delivered over 3 years could be achieved.

5.2.3 The key changes will be:

- Income generating potential will be established through commercially viable business assets newly created or existing.
- Land management costs will be minimised by effective management planning and procurement.
- Volunteering and sponsorship will be fully enabled to encourage and reward local residents and business to support the in perpetuity costs of open space provision.
- Maintenance costs arising from the misuse of public spaces will be met by those responsible, not by the council.
- Grant funding opportunities and developer contributions will be maximised for all open spaces.
- Discretionary work is identified, reviewed and minimised

5.2 Restructure and Performance Management

5.3.1 The Executive agreed the new management structure as set out in paragraphs 6.11 to 6.19 of the Chief Executive's report. As a result, the Executive also agreed the deletion of the posts of:

- Director of Resources;
- Director of Environment, Culture & Communities;
- Chief Officer: Environment & Public Protection;
- Head of Performance & Resources (Environment, Culture & Communities);
- Chief Officer: HR;
- Chief Officer: Planning, Transport & Countryside;
- Chief Officer: Customer Services;

And from 1 April 2019:

- Director: Adult Social Care, Health & Housing;
- Director: Children, Young People & Learning.

5.3.2 It was also agreed that the pay policy for Directors and Chief Officers would be linked to the 25th – 50th percentile of the Korn Ferry public and not for profit market database, that the Council's organisational change protocol would be invoked for

those officers impacted by the proposed changes and finally agreed the outline changes to the performance management system for senior officers.

- 5.3.3 Moving forward, the Chief Executive will be supported by two Executive Directors and sixteen other staff on Korn Ferry grades. Three of these, covering Finance, Organisational Development and Place, Planning & Regeneration would form the Corporate Management Team with the Chief Executive and Executive Directors.
- 5.3.4 All of the changes, except for the creation of the single Executive Director for People would be implemented with effect from 1 September 2018. In the case of People Services, it made sense to delay full implementation until 1 April 2019 so that both transformation programmes had clear and focussed leadership at Executive Director/Director level throughout 2018/19. However, once the direction of travel was clear and agreed, integration work to prepare for the new single Directorate would need to start in parallel with this. Consequently, it is proposed that a "Director Designate" be appointed with effect from 1 June 2018.

5.4 Procurement of Advisors to Support Exploration of Property Joint Venture

- 5.4.1 The Executive agreed to explore a possible Joint Venture (JV) approach to develop Council owned sites in the Borough, noting the key workstreams and timelines set out in Annexe A of the Borough Treasurer's report and agreed to proceed to procure legal and property advice based on the draft scope attached as Annexe B of the Borough Treasurer's report to help develop, in the first instance, a business case that will determine whether a JV approach is the best option to secure the Council's objectives.
- 5.4.2 The Council owns a number of sites in Bracknell town centre and in the wider Borough that may be suitable for development/redevelopment in the near future or potentially at some point in the longer-term. To date, the Council's approach had been to sell any surplus land and buildings to developers, thereby benefiting financially from a one-off capital receipt that reflects the land value. This approach is helpful in reducing the need to borrow to fund capital expenditure. However, it inevitably means that the Council is less able to influence the nature and scale of development.
- 5.4.3 As part of considering possible future options for the Market Street former depot site, officers had identified the potential of establishing a Joint Venture vehicle for that site and others with potential synergies.
- 5.4.4 An outline project plan has been developed that sets out the key work to be undertaken and significant milestones in the possible establishment of a Joint Venture partnership. Starting with the procurement of advisors to help test the feasibilities in mid-June 2018 it is likely to take until November 2019 to complete the process and agree final Joint Venture agreements. Based on examples from elsewhere, it was envisaged that the Stage 1 advice may cost in the region of £30k - £50k. The total cost of establishing a Joint Venture with the associated agreements in place is likely to be around £200k - £300k.
- 5.4.5 Appropriate governance arrangements would be needed if a JV is set up to provide a balance between influence for the Council and freedom to operate for the Company. Documents such as shareholder agreements and memoranda of understanding which set out expectations and responsibilities of both parties to JV would help to achieve this.

Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

5.5 Invest to Save Opportunity at Bracknell Leisure Centre

- 5.5.1 The Executive recommended to Council that invest to save capital funding of £2,488,082 is released in order to make significant improvements at Bracknell Leisure Centre. They also recommended that release section 106 funding of £291,000 allocated to the provision of built sports and recreation to contribute to improvements at Bracknell Leisure Centre. The recommendations were subsequently agreed at the Special Council meeting on 23 May 2018.

Environment

5.6 re3 Waste Strategy 2018-2020

- 5.6.1 The Executive endorsed the draft re3 Waste Strategy 2018-2020.
- 5.6.2 This Council along with Wokingham and Reading Councils have a long established partnership (re3) for the purposes of waste disposal needs. The Partnership's Joint Waste Disposal Board (JWDB) had previously agreed to recommend the draft Strategy to each of the partner Councils.
- 5.6.3 Whilst the ownership of the Strategy rests with the JWDB, each of the partner councils has a responsibility to deliver. The Strategy incorporates local collection recycling targets as incorporated in the Council Plan 2015-2019. These local targets can only be achieved with the cooperation with re3 as well as the support of the community.
- 5.6.4 All partner councils were taking the draft through their respective process. Any comments made would be fed back to a future meeting of the JWDB where the draft strategy will be finalised.

Planning & Transport

5.7 Central and Eastern Berkshire Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan

- 5.7.1 The Executive agreed the Draft Joint Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and associated documents for consultation.
- 5.7.2 Bracknell Forest are developing the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan with Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Council to guide minerals and waste decision-making up to 2036. The Plan is being prepared by Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council. A Joint Board with representation from each of the authorities made up of an Executive member and one additional representative for each authority oversees the process.
- 5.7.3 The Draft Plan had been split into three parts:
1. Minerals
 2. Waste
 3. Development Management Policies

It identifies the importance to the economy of maintaining an appropriate supply of minerals and sets out the identified needs of the area for waste management for all waste streams. Within Bracknell Forest the only site that had been put forward in the Call for Sites was Planners Farm.

- 5.7.4 Each Council will need to agree to consult upon the draft plan. Consultation is expected to take place in the summer over an eight week period, factoring in summer holiday period.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Equalities issues, where appropriate, have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 Any strategic risks have been identified in the reports to the Executive.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 8 May 2018 and 12 June 2018

Contact for further information

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