

COUNCIL
28 NOVEMBER 2018
7.30 - 8.17 PM



Present:

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

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Dudley, Finnie, Harrison, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Phillips, Skinner and Virgo

23. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 September 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

24. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

25. Mayor's Announcements

Social Care Digital Innovation Programme

Councillor D Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing, announced that Bracknell Forest Council had been awarded £50,000 by the Social Care Digital Innovation Programme to pilot the provision of six information kiosks in the community. The kiosks were aimed at tackling community isolation by providing easily accessible information to vulnerable people or their neighbours about what services or groups were available in the area, similar to the search function on the 'Help Yourself' website. It was also reported Bracknell Forest's achievements in this area were acclaimed at the National Children and Adult Services Conference recently. It was noted Winkfield Parish Council had registered for a pilot kiosk in their community.

Labour Force Survey

Councillor Brunel-Walker, Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, was pleased to announce Bracknell Forest Council had been rated top out of 152 local authorities in England across all economic indicators in the 2018 Labour Force Survey. 84.5% of working age people (aged 16-64) were in employment in Bracknell Forest, a rise from 82.2% last year.

Lapland UK

Councillor Mrs Hayes MBE, Executive Member for Environment, informed members that Lapland UK had proved a success since a planning application was granted temporarily in 2013. Full planning permission had been granted two years later and

just over 20,000 attended in the first year. Approximately 70,000 people are expected to visit the attraction this year, bringing benefits to the Borough.

Roundabout poppies

All of the Borough's roundabout poppies had been collected back in and none had been stolen this year. The arrangements for future years display were still under discussion.

Highway Network Grant

Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport shared news that Bracknell Forest Council had received a grant of £754,000 from the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The funding would be used to mitigate against the impact of winter weather conditions and ensure standards of the highway network were maintained.

Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport reported that the Bracknell Town Neighbourhood Plan had moved to Regulation 16 local consultation stage. Councillor Turrell recognised the large amount of work undertaken by the Steering Group as it was the largest plan in Borough.

Healthy Schools Fund

Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, announced that Bracknell Forest Council had received £143,494 from the Department of Education's Healthy Schools initiative. Successful bids included £109,577 to Kennel Lane School to refurbish the swimming pool; £18,785 to Sandhurst School to provide outdoor gym equipment; £6,783 to Winkfield St Mary's Primary School for fixed accessible games activities; £6,262 to Birch Hill Primary School for a nurture summer house and £2,087 to Holly Spring Nursery & Infant School for the installation of water fountains.

Mayor's Update

- The Mayor reported he was delighted to be involved in welcoming Her Majesty the Queen to The Lexicon last month and his highlight had been exchanging words with the Queen.
- The Mayor informed members that his Civic Service had been a great success and thanked Reverend Jim Barlow from Bracknell Team Ministry for a wonderful service.
- The Mayor thanked all those who attended the Curry Lunch hosted by Mencap. The event raised £1000 for the charity.
- The Mayor encouraged Members to sign up for his Charity Collecting Days on Tuesday 11 December in Sandhurst and Saturday 15 December in the Town Centre. Members were encouraged to contact the Mayor's Office to arrange to help.

26. **Executive Report**

Councillor Bettison OBE, Leader of the Council, presented his report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 12 September 2018. The Executive had met three times on 25 September, 16 October and 13 November.

The Leader highlighted the following matters which had been considered by the Executive:

Transformation and Finance

- The Business Rate Pilot had delivered £40m additional funding across Berkshire last year, of which Bracknell Forest had received £6m through the Thames Valley

Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership. The Berkshire authorities had bid to be a pilot for the forthcoming year. However, the government had suggested it was unlikely to award this to authorities who had been part of a previous pilot.

- The sale of Unit A Waterside Park had been agreed.
- The Executive agreed the Bracknell Forest Lottery last January. The Overview & Scrutiny Commission had requested clarification on the details and this had now concluded. Players in the lottery would be able to choose which local organisations would benefit from their ticket purchase, which was additional to normal funding for the voluntary sector. The Bracknell Forest Lottery was due to launch next year.

Blue Mountain

- The Executive had agreed to support the provision of enhanced community facilities at Blue Mountain and had committed to fund £2.6m to meet the Council's planning obligation.
- The Council would continue to work with Binfield Surgery, Berkshire East Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Binfield Parish Council to provide enhanced health facilities in the area. The programme assisted with evidencing use of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and delivering on the five priorities contained in the Children and Young People Plan 2018-21.
- Warfield Parish Council were also exploring plans to provide enhanced health facilities in Warfield by partnering with the CCG.

Children and Young People Plan 2018-21

- The Executive had considered the Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21 which had been developed with the Children and Young People's Partnership Board. The Plan included five priority areas which had been developed to fit with Council strategic priorities. The Plan was recommended to Council for adoption under the Policy Framework.

Other important issues

- The Executive noted the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Annual Report 2018.
- The Borough's refuse contract had been extended to 2027.
- The Local Government Ombudsman report had been noted by the Executive and was commended to Members.
- The Council Performance Overview Report had been noted by the Executive and showed extremely good progress through Quarter 2.

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked why the Executive had agreed the sale of Bigwood Lodge and 4 Peacock Cottages and queried whether these properties could have been repurposed for key worker housing and what, if any, housing for key workers in Bracknell was planned. Councillor D Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing, responded that the Council was fully committed to providing key worker housing and work was ongoing with NHS colleagues to look at possibilities on a number of sites. They had also been discussing opportunities with Downshire Homes Limited about providing key worker housing.

Councillor Mrs Temperton stated that she supported the Children, Young People and Learning Plan but queried why there were no measurements listed against the stated Outcomes. Councillor Dr Barnard responded by informing Cllr Mrs Temperton that the Council placed a lot of emphasis on partnership and these measures would be discussed and agreed at future Children, Young People and Partnership Board meetings.

Councillor Mrs Temperton also asked why the extension of the contract for refuse collection had not included a contract to provide services to schools, libraries and other community premises. Councillor Mrs Hayes MBE, Executive Member for the Environment, responded that with an annual cost of over £6m for disposal of the borough's waste the Council could not continue to subsidise non-domestic premises. Cllr Mrs Hayes MBE reiterated that all properties should take responsibility for the waste they produce.

On the proposition of Councillor Dr Barnard, Executive Member Children, Young People and Learning, seconded by Councillor D Birch it was

RESOLVED that the Children and Young People's Plan 2018-21 attached at Annex A of the Executive report be approved and adopted.

27. **Governance: Bracknell Forest Council and the Voluntary Sector**

The Council considered the report and the tabled revised recommendation which sought to review the Council's future role in the governance of voluntary sector organisations that may or may not be in receipt of revenue grant aid from the authority. The revised recommendation included the amendments made by the Governance and Audit Committee at their meeting on 31 October 2018.

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

RESOLVED that:

- 1 The Council continues to support the voluntary sector and recognises the important role Members play in its continued success;
- 2 With immediate effect the Council no longer agrees nominations to any voluntary sector organisation where that role is as a Trustee, Director or voting member of the management of the management board/committee.
- 3 The Council may continue to nominate Members to voluntary sector organisations as representatives in a non-management capacity with no role in the governance of the organisation. Such roles will be limited to Members being nominated to act as conduits for communication between the Council and the organisation or as observers at its meetings;
- 4 Where a Member is a nominated representative pursuant to 2.3 above, they may not hold or subsequently accept a role on the organisation's board as a Trustee/Director or in any other management capacity such as Treasurer.

It was noted that the term 'Voluntary Sector Organisations' for the purposes of the report expressly excluded Council owned companies, all maintained VA and VC schools, academies and local authority consortiums. For the avoidance of doubt, representation by Members on school governing bodies was therefore not affected by this recommendation.

28. **Review of Constitution**

The Council considered the Review of the Constitution Report which set out amendments to the Constitution, including amending the scheme of delegation as set out in the Council's Constitution to reflect the new Council Structure.

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

RESOLVED that

- 1 The changes to Part 1/Section 8.1(Officer roles and Statutory Officer Functions) set out in the Appendix A to the Review of Constitution report as recommended by Governance and Audit Committee be adopted;
- 2 The changes to Part 2/Section 4 (Employment Committee Terms of Reference) set out in Appendix B to the Review of Constitution report as recommended by Governance and Audit Committee be adopted;
- 3 The changes to Part 2/Section 6 (Powers exercisable by Officers) set out in Appendix C to the Review of Constitution report as recommended by Governance and Audit Committee be adopted;
- 4 The Borough Solicitor be authorised to make such other consequential changes as are necessary to ensure that the Constitution properly reflects the reshaped senior management structure.

29. **Pay Policy Statement**

The Council were asked to agree the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 which sought to clarify the current position. Since 2012, and in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act, the Council has been required to publish a Pay Policy Statement. The Statement is also aligned with the requirements of the Transparency Regulations.

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

RESOLVED that the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20 be agreed by Council.

30. **Establishment of Appointment Committees**

The Council considered the 'Establishment of Appointment Committees' report and the tabled amendments which included a table detailing the membership on each appointment committee.

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

RESOLVED that:

- 1 That Committees of the Council of five members (4:1), including at least one Member of the Executive (plus up to five substitute members to cover all three committees) be appointed as below, with the following terms of reference:

To interview and appoint on behalf of the Council to the posts of:

- i) Assistant Director: Children's Social Care Operations
- ii) Assistant Director: Adult Social Care Operations
- iii) Assistant Director: Early Help and Communities

- 2 That nominated Members are appointed in accordance with political group wishes as follows:

i) Assistant Director: Children's Social Care Operations: Councillors Dr Barnard, McLean, Mrs Birch, Mrs Ingham and Mrs Temperton

ii) Assistant Director: Adult Social Care Operations: Councillors D Birch, McLean, Harrison, Thompson and Mrs Temperton

iii) Assistant Director: Early Help and Communities: Councillors Dr Barnard, D Birch, McLean, Leake and Mrs Temperton

- 3 That five substitute Members are appointed in accordance with political group wishes, as follows:
Councillors Tullett, Mrs McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Brossard and Kennedy

31. **Committee Timetable 2019/20**

The Council considered the Committee Timetable 2019/20 which set out the proposed Schedule of Meetings 2019/20. The timetable would enable arrangements for the next municipal year's meetings to be put in place and assist members plan their diaries for the year ahead.

On the proposition of Councillor Bettison OBE, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Brossard, it was

RESOLVED that the schedule of meetings 2019/20 as set out in the annex to the Schedule of Meeting 2019/20 report be approved.

32. **Questions 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:

The Zone is a purpose built Youth Centre based on Great Hollands, serving the needs of the young people of South Bracknell.

What is happening to the Zone and what are the plans for its use as a result of the transformation programme?

Councillor Dr Barnard responded that Berkshire Youth Service 'The Wayz', had previously been commissioned by Bracknell Forest Council to deliver universal youth sessions at The Zone, Great Hollands. In 2010 young residents had been making good use of the facility but this had decreased by 30% over a number of years and the need for youth services elsewhere increased.

A feasibility study for a youth facility based at Braccan Walk had been carried out and youth services were monitoring the needs of young people going forward. In October a number of maintenance issues had been identified at the centre which meant The Wayz had to close temporarily. However, during this time Berkshire Youth started delivering youth services from a bus in the car park and street based youth services in Great Hollands, both of which had worked well. The Council recognised the migration of young people to the town centre and Berkshire Youth were keen to ensure youth people most in need were receiving an offering at the most relevant time and place for them.

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked a supplementary question regarding whether enough early intervention work was being done with a small group of young people involved with anti-social behaviour in the Great Hollands area. She challenged how

often the youth centre was open and whether an alternative provision should be sought.

Councillor Dr Barnard responded by reiterating that Berkshire Youth were carrying out targeted outreach work and that outreach work was tackling social issues, even when the building was closed due to unavoidable reasons. He urged her to raise issues of this nature with members and officers as soon as they presented themselves.

MAYOR