

To: **COUNCIL**
15 January 2020

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 27 November 2019, the Executive met on the 17 December 2019. 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 report.**

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 Capital Programme 2020/21 - 2022/23 and Revenue Budget 2020/21

- 5.1.1 The Executive approved for consultation a draft capital programme based on total spending of £19.7m of which:
- £13.91m of expenditure to be externally funded.
 - £3.97m of expenditure to be funded from S106.
 - £1m would be reserved for Invest-to-Save schemes.
- 5.1.2 The Executive also agreed its draft revenue budget proposals for 2020/21 as the basis for consultation. These proposals included the Treasury Management Strategy and associated documents which the Executive requested that the Governance and Audit Committee review.
- 5.1.3 Both the draft revenue and capital programmes will now be considered by Overview & Scrutiny and their views along with any submitted by residents and local groups will

be reported to the Executive and Full Council in February when the final budget proposals for 2020/21 will be agreed.

Council Strategy & Community Cohesion

5.2 Council Plan Overview Report

- 5.2.1 The Executive noted the performance of the Council over the second quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (July - September 2019). This was the last before the Executive agreed to recommend a new Council Plan to Council on 23 November. As a result, some priorities would inevitably change over the coming year. Good progress had been made against the actions in the departmental service plans to the end of October 87 actions (86%) were green (9 complete, 69 in progress), 14 actions (14%) were amber (1 complete, 23 in progress), none were red.
- 5.2.2 Positive progress had also been made against the key performance indicators across the council for each of the strategic themes; 38 (82.6%) were green, 1 (2.2%) was amber and 7 (15.2%) were red. A 30 further indicators had no set target.
- 5.2.3 Highlights of the second quarter included the essential maintenance works undertaken in High Street car park, which were completed successfully during August within the planned 2-week closure needed to enable the work. Although this had involved the displacement of up to 700 users to Braccan Walk car park the project had been very carefully planned to take place during the quieter summer holiday period.
- 5.2.4 Following the re-award of the waste and recycling contracts, several service changes and enhancements were implemented during this quarter. This included a difficult transition of collection rounds, with new vehicles and in-cab technology was achieved. Changes impacted around 7000 households created a significant increase in calls to Customer Services.

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.3 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review letter 2019

- 5.3.1 The Executive noted that, although marginally higher than in previous years, the number remained well below Berkshire and national averages and that, once again, only one complaint had been upheld by the LGO. Considering the millions of interactions with residents each year that was seen to represent good performance.

5.4 Blue Mountain Community and Health Care Hub - Procurement Plan

- 5.4.1 The Executive noted the progress to date on the community centre and health & wellbeing hub in partnership with the Care Commissioning Group (CCG) and agreed the timetable. They also approved the community centre budget of up to £2.4m. The development cost of the health centre was to be met by the CCG/NHS as detailed within the report.
- 5.4.2 The Executive also agreed to forward fund up to £4.6m (including ancillary costs) for the capital costs of the Health part of the building, on the basis that the consequent capital financing costs would be matched by long term rental income from Health. The Procurement Plan for the community centre and health care hub was also approved.

- 5.4.3 The project was being delivered in partnership with the East Berkshire CCG. As a result of the decisions taken the project would be able to proceed to the next stage, which would include completion of the heads of terms, appointment of a design team for completion of RIBA Stage 3 design and applying for planning permission.

Culture, Delivery and Public Protection

5.5 Direct Cremations

- 5.5.1 The Executive agreed that direct cremations be offered as an additional service at Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium at an individual price of £285.00, they also agreed that the Council Constitution be amended to allow the Director to fix charges for any new service, providing that such charges are reported to the next meeting of the Council's Executive Committee. It was recommended that the service be introduced within the current financial year.
- 5.5.2 The Executive also agreed that the service be included in the 2020/21 fees and charges for approval at full Council in February 2020.
- 5.5.3 The number of additional funeral services that had been expected to take place following the opening of the second chapel at Easthampstead Park Cemetery and Crematorium in 2018/19 had not been realised. As a result, the service was not meeting its 2019/20 income target. Direct cremations would offer an opportunity to supplement existing services and generate additional income that may help to bridge some of this gap, whilst not impacting upon the high-quality day to day services provided to local residents.

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.

Director: Finance

- 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 –17 December 2019

Contact for further information

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