

TO: COUNCIL
26 FEBRUARY 2014

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 22 January 2014, the Executive has met once, on 11 February 2014. This report summarises decisions taken at that meeting by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 Updated Forward Plans are published every Friday and are available for public inspection at Easthampstead House in the usual way and 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 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Adult Services, Health & Housing

2.1 Modernisation and Transforming Older People's Services

- 2.1.1 In line with the overarching modernisation strategy for Older People's Services a range of services have been remodelled to take a more focused approach to respond to a period of intense change in social care. As part of these changes the Executive has agreed that the support for people with Dementia will be commissioned from the independent sector and the Council would no longer provide the service.
- 2.1.2 On the 25 November 2013, the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health & Housing approved a consultation process on the future of the Community Support and Wellbeing Dementia Home Care Service. This took place from 25 November 2013 to 15 January 2014 and involved the relatives of the people who use the service, staff and Trade Unions. The feedback was that the families valued the service and staff, and did not want the Council to stop providing it. However, the reality is that the service has only been able to provide support to between 15 and 20 people at one time, whilst it is estimated that at least 170 people with dementia are being supported by the independent sector. Ceasing to provide support through the in-house Home Care Service would enable the Council to significantly reduce costs and support a sustainable, diverse social care market.
- 2.1.3 The proposals inevitably cause concern for the families and staff involved in the process. To help with the transition, the Executive has requested that detailed work with the families of the people supported by the service commence, with a view to securing alternative support at the same level. Staff working in the dementia home care service will be subject to the Organisation Change protocol and a separate report will be presented to the Employment Committee to consider the staffing implications that flow as a consequence of commissioning the service.
- 2.1.4 Overall, however, the Executive were confident that this change will not cut the level of support to people with dementia. Rather, it will provide it in a different way which will, in turn, ensure an efficient and effective way of supporting people with dementia now and in the future.

2.2 Better Care Fund

- 2.2.1 The Executive approved the submission of the Better Care Fund Plan to the NHS England Areas Team and the establishment of a Better Care Board. The Plan, must be signed off by the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Health and Well Being Board and submitted to NHS England Area Team by 15 February 2014.
- 2.2.2 The Better Care Fund is a significant development and will comprise Local Authority Funding, Section 256 Funding from the NHS, and CCG Core Funding. Detailed plans will now be developed to ensure that the fund is used to support the transformation, modernisation and integration of health and social services within the Borough.

Transformation and Finance

3.1 General Revenue Budget 2014/15 and Capital Budget 2014/15

- 3.1.1 The Executive has approved final recommendations on the Council's budget and capital programme proposals for the coming year. The recommendations and background to them are detailed separately on this agenda.

3.2 Disposal of Adastron House

- 3.2.1 The Executive has approved the terms of disposal of the Adastron House site to Thames Valley Housing Association to enable affordable housing development. The Chief Officer: Property in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Member for Transformation and Finance will agree any final variations to the terms.

3.3 Disposal of the Ocean House Lease

- 3.3.1 The Executive has endorsed the termination of the lease on the office accommodation in Ocean House to comply with the Council's Office Accommodation Strategy. One of the key principles of the Strategy was to rationalise the amount of accommodation that the Council occupies. To facilitate this, refurbishment works on Time Square are being carried out and, once completed, staff currently located in Ocean House, will be relocated to Time Square.

Culture, Corporate Services & Public Protection

4.1 South Hill Park Annual Revenue Grant 2014-2015

- 4.1.1 South Hill Park Arts Centre is the Council's main partner in providing an arts venue for the local community. To support the continued development of a successful and effective programme of arts, the Council has agreed that its budget proposals for 2014/15 include a grant of £432,640 to South Hill Park Trust; subject to both parties entering into a Partnership Agreement for 2014/15.

Planning and Transport

5.1 Proposed Neighbourhood Areas, Binfield Parish Council and Bracknell Town Council

- 5.1.1 The Executive has agreed that the administrative areas of Binfield Parish and Bracknell Town be designated Neighbourhood Areas.

5.1.2 Part of the process for the production of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is the designation of a neighbourhood area. Binfield Parish and Bracknell Town Councils both submitted requests for their entire administrative areas to be designated as neighbourhood areas. These are the first made to the Council.

5.1.3 The applications were publicised on the Council's website informing the public on how to make representations. The Consultation ran for a six week period from 31 October to 13 December 2013 and two representations were received, both supported the designation of the areas.

5.1.4 In order to produce a sound NDP, policies must not conflict with the strategic elements of the development plans for the area including the Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan.

5.2 Revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

5.2.1 The Council must prepare a SCI relating to its Local Development Framework. This sets out who the Council will engage with on the preparation of planning policies and on planning applications. It is an important document in helping and encouraging communities and stakeholders to be involved in the planning process.

5.2.2 The Executive has endorsed the revised Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and have noted the Consultation Statement which sets out the consultation process of the SCI.

5.2.3 The six week consultation process of the SCI took place between 9 September and 21 October 2013 and 16 representations were received from a range of consultees. No fundamental issues were raised and a few minor changes were made to the SCI in terms of clarification.

5.3 Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan

5.3.1 The Executive has agreed the overall thrust of the Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, but have also endorsed a number of suggested amendments to the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP.

5.3.2 Government requires the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to produce a Strategic Economic Plan. Responses to the plan will be considered by the LEP in February 2014 which will then be submitted to the Government in March 2014 for endorsement. Once approved, the plan will form the basis for each LEP to agree with Government a 'Local Growth Deal'. This, in turn, will be part of its bid to the Government's Single Local Growth Fund. The Local Growth Deals will be used to spend on the delivery of Local Strategic Economic Plans.

5.3.3 The Government is expecting local authorities to support the LEP Strategic Economic Plan in a variety of way which include:

- Use of local authority assets to unlock resources to be reinvested in growth
- A commitment to pro-growth reforms. For example, the Government sees these as a co-ordinated approach to the development of local plans within local enterprise partnership areas
- A commitment to collective decision-making across all local authorities in the local enterprise partnership area.

5.3.4 The Plan shows distinctive and inter-related features of the Berkshire economy that stand out:

- The importance of technology-based activity,
- The significance of internationalisation, and
- The role of the corporates.

These features set Berkshire apart in relation to future economic growth. Our economy is already strongly internationally-oriented, and competitive, and this brings substantial further potential for the future.

Children, Young People and Learning

6.1 Consultation on the Budget Savings from Aiming High for Disabled Children

6.1.1 The Executive has noted the proposed timescale for consulting on plans to remodel the Aiming High service with a view to reducing overall costs.

6.1.2 Aiming High is part of a range of services provided for disabled children within Bracknell Forest. It supports a range of activities including targeted holiday schemes and weekend clubs, specialist and crisis support to families, grant to carers and a range of universal services. The current budget totals £375,000. As a result of changes in the funding framework, the Executive are looking to make savings of £120,000.

6.1.3 When reviewing options, consideration will be given to the high levels of need of some of the most vulnerable children and their families who are affected. It is anticipated that involving the families in the consultation will give an opportunity to maximise efficiencies, deliver value for money and improve outcomes for children with disabilities and their families.

6.2 Update on Provision for Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

6.2.1 The Executive has updated its strategy for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

6.2.2 The reduction in the number of young people who are NEET is a priority for the Council. Since 2011, numbers have fallen to 248 in 2012 to 154 in 2013. This has, at least in part, been the result of the early interventions which have been put in place.

6.2.3 Work continues to support Bracknell Forest NEETs despite a changing economic landscape. The focus of the work is based around two strands of activity; prevention and targeted support and the effectiveness of this work can be seen through the reduction in the number of young people who are NEET.

6.2.4 The proposed City Deal initiative forms part of the overall strategy. This will also bring together resources from external stakeholders into a town centre location offering information advice and guidance and support to individuals aged 16-24 as they prepare for education, training or employment. A strategic approach to employer engagement

6.3 Strategy for Young Carers 2013-17

- 6.3.1 The Executive has approved the Strategy for Young Carers 2013-2017. The Strategy will bring clarity to the work of all partners and agencies in supporting young carers.
- 6.3.2 The Council aims to promote the health and well being of young carers and their families by preventing and protecting children and young people from undertaking excessive and inappropriate caring roles and responsibilities. Young carers also need to access support services, some specific to their needs, others the same as support needed by all young people. By working in a more integrated way multiple agencies would be able to identify, assess and enable young carers to access this support. With this in mind the Strategy has been developed with stakeholders including Bracknell Forest Young Service, KIDS SE, Bracknell Forest Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, Bracknell and Ascot CCG, Bracknell Forest schools, young carers and their parents.

7 Appointments and Delegations by the Leader of the Council

- 7.1 The Leader has delegated to the Chief Officer: Property, authority to enter into Exclusivity Agreements in relation to sites within Bracknell town centre in order to secure the comprehensive regeneration of the town centre.

8 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 8.1 The Borough Solicitor's comments on each item referred to in the annex can be found in the reports presented to the Executive.

Borough Treasurer

- 8.2 The Borough Treasurer's comments on each item referred to in the annex can be found in the reports presented to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 11 February 2014

Contact for further information

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