

**COUNCIL
26 FEBRUARY 2014
7.30 - 9.05 PM**



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Jan Angell), Councillors Kendall (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Angell, Baily, Dr Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Ms Brown, Brunel-Walker, Davison, Dudley, Finnie, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Kensall, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Phillips, Mrs Pile, Porter, Mrs Temperton, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Wade, Ward, Ms Wilson and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Mrs Barnard, Blatchford, Finch, Ms Miller and Sargeant

50. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Subject to the amendment of minute 41 to read that "Uplands Primary School had been rated among the best 250 schools nationally for their Key Stage Two results. Great Hollands Primary School had come among the first 250 primary schools for narrowing the attainment gap" it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 January 2014 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

51. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

52. Mayor's Announcements

Executive Member for the Environment

Councillor Mrs Hayes advised Members that she had attended the AGM of the Martin's Heron and The Warren Community and Residents' Associations on 25 February with Claire Pike, Waste Disposal & Recycling Manager to promote the Recycling Incentive Scheme. She asked Members to invite her and officers to any meeting that they may be attending involving Community Centres, housing and/or residents associations and volunteer organisations to make more people aware of the scheme and assist those not already on the scheme to sign up.

Councillor Mrs Hayes added that she was pleased to report that Dr. Martin Kittel (Forest End Surgery and member of Bracknell and Ascot Clinical Commissioning Group) had also attended and had spoken highly of Brants Bridge Urgent Care Centre and the work being undertaken there.

Mayor's Charity Event

The Mayor reminded Members that her charity event was being held on Saturday 22 March and encouraged them to contact her to purchase tickets.

Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning

Councillor Dr Barnard was pleased to announce that Crowthorne Church of England School had been given an Outstanding rating from Ofsted. He congratulated the school's Headteacher Ruth Jackson and the whole school community for this recognition against the challenging framework.

53. **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 22 January 2014. The Executive had met once on 11 February 2014.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

- Modernisation of Older People's Services
 - consultation on outsourcing of provision for people with dementia: November – January
 - in-house high quality service to 11 Individuals at that time
 - Over 170 people receiving care from independent providers
 - saving of £150k from standardising service approach
 - no reduction in service to any users
- Better Care Fund
 - this is a major this strand in Government Strategy for integrating health & social care
 - the initial plan was signed off by the Executive, the Health & Wellbeing Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group

Planning and Transport

- Binfield Parish & Bracknell Town designated as Neighbourhood Areas
 - neighbourhood development plan to be produced
 - must comply with Core Strategy & SALP
- Statement of Community Involvement
 - revised version agreed
 - sets out approach to community engagement in planning issues
- Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan
 - Local Enterprise Partnership plan endorsed
 - pro-growth in line with Government approach
 - Town Centre, inward investment, Reading – Waterloo and A322/M329 corridor all represented

Children, Young People and Learning

- Strategy for Young Carers
 - new strategy agreed to 2017
 - recognises need for "generic" as well as specialist support services

- NEET Provision
 - update of strategy reflects reduction in numbers
 - City Deal central to future plans
- Aiming High
 - approach to future consultation agreed
 - transparent approach: expecting to save £120K
 - looking for parents, carers and users to help remodel service

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked why Aiming High had been selected to save £120K , which equated to a third of the budget and this seemed mean.

Councillor Dr Barnard advised her in response that it was important to put a figure on the amount to be provided to the service supporting children with learning difficulties as previously the amount from Central Government had come from multiple funding streams. He replied it was in no way 'mean' to ensure that the service was sustainable. There was significant spend on this service and separate to the budget discussion the consultation was underway to be clear about the cost of the service and how it could continue to be delivered.

54. **Financial Plans and Budgets 2014/15**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2014/15 and supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2014/15 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and capital programme.

Councillor Ward gave a comprehensive presentation in particular:

- thanking the Chief Executive and his senior team for their hard work throughout the budget process
- the Council's net spending would be £87.2m, with an overall gross expenditure of £130m
- £87m would be passported directly to schools including the pupil premium targeted towards disadvantaged pupils and sixth forms
- over £3m proposed savings had been found by increasing efficiency and reducing back office costs which was delivered by adopting a 'glide path' to balance the budget as a continuous rather than annual exercise so that services to residents are not adversely affected
- continuation of the full grant was proposed for Homestart in order to support the organisation whilst a review was undertaken of the way in which it was funded, with particular reference to its health functions. The intention was to place Homestart on a sustainable financial footing so that it can continue to provide the services that are valued by our community
- he hoped to announce soon a further round of the Members' Initiative Fund which would provide every Member with funding of £10,000 and the opportunity to support local projects and services based on their knowledge of local ward priorities and in consultation with partners and stakeholders. This could only be confirmed once the Council's under-spends in the current financial year were known
- he encouraged Members to use the funding that had been made available to them in the current year before 31 March
- £2.3m was proposed for new affordable housing including support for people to buy their own homes as well as extending the number of properties held by the Council to house homeless families

- more than £10m had been secured from central government to finance general school infrastructure and improvement works at primary schools and secondary schools to support the provision of additional school places
- £1.3m was proposed for the train/bus interchange
- £400,000 was proposed for further investment in the town centre car parks
- £1.1m was proposed towards the upgrading of the Twin Bridges roundabout, together with funding for the preparation of the upgrading of roundabouts at Coppid Beech, Peacock Farm and Coral Reef
- the works at the Council's offices at Time Square were nearing completion, on time and on budget which would enable more staff to be located there and reduce annual running costs
- Councillors had listened carefully to the feedback from the consultation process and he was grateful to all those who took part by examining the proposals and providing feedback
- the consultation responses indicated that most groups understood the current position and accepted the package of proposals
- £2.6m was proposed to be taken from balances to support the budget
- no increase in Council Tax on any of the bands was proposed for the fourth year running with the support from a government grant and
- he pledged to recommend keeping Council Tax at its existing level for the following two financial years as a demonstration of the excellent financial management by the Council

On the proposition of Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance and seconded by Councillor Bettison the recommendations as set out in the agenda report were moved.

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Temperton, Leader of the Labour Group and seconded by Councillor Ms Brown an amendment was put to the meeting that no changes to the revised budget proposals were required except for the following additional items of expenditure:

- £55,000 to increase support for the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) at Tier 2
- £25,000 for the Educational Psychology Service
- £14,000 for an Early Years Advisory Teacher post
- £40,000 for an Out-Reach Mentor to work with Childminders and Mother and Toddler groups

It was proposed that the additional expenditure would be financed by reducing the transfer to the business rate equalisation reserve by £134,000.

On being put to the meeting the amendment fell.

A recorded vote was requested on the substantive motion and the voting was as follows:

FOR (35) Councillors Allen, Angell, Mrs Angell, Baily, Dr Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Davison, Dudley, Finnie, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Kendall, Kensall, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Pile, Porter, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Wade, Ward, Miss Wilson and Worrall.

AGAINST (2) Councillors Ms Brown and Mrs Temperton.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that

1 Capital Programme 2014/15 - 2016/17

- i) General Fund capital funding of £8.428m for 2014/15 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 217 to 229 be agreed;
- ii) The inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for 'Invest to Save' schemes be agreed;
- iii) Those schemes that attract external grant funding be agreed for inclusion within the 2014/15 capital programme, at the level of funding received;
- iv) The inclusion of £1.335m of expenditure to be funded from S106 as outlined in paragraph 5.20 of the 11 February 2014 Executive report and included on pages 218 to 221;

2 Revenue Budget 2014/15

- i) 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 and 6), 3.7 (page 7) and 3.8 (pages 7 to 9) of the report, be agreed;
- ii) fees and charges as set out in Annexe G be approved (pages 75 to 160 of the summary report);
- iii) a provision for inflation of £1.875m be approved;
- iv) the commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (page 19 of the summary report);
- vi) the Schools Budget be set at the level set out in section 4.1 (page 9) of the summary report for Council, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning;
- vii) a contingency of £1.000m be included, use of which is authorised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Borough Treasurer in accordance with the delegations included in the Council's constitution;
- viii) subject to the above recommendations the revised draft budget proposals be agreed;
- ix) a contribution of £2.624m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- x) total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £87.150m, be approved;
- xi) the Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £45.944m;
- xii) 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	729.30
B	7/9	850.85
C	8/9	972.40
D	9/9	1093.95
E	11/9	1337.05
F	13/9	1580.15
G	15/9	1823.25
H	18/9	2187.90

- xiii) the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annex E (pages 47 to 67 of the summary report):
- The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2014/15 to 2016/17 contained within Annex E(i);
 - The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy contained within Annex E(ii);
 - The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, and the Treasury Prudential Indicators contained in Annex E(iii);
 - The Authorised Limit Prudential Indicator in Annex E(iii);
 - The Investment Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 and Treasury Management Limits on Activity contained in Annex E(iv);
- xiv) The formal council tax resolution contained in section 3 be approved.

3 Council Tax Resolution

3.1 the recommendations of the Executive outlined in sections 2.1 and 2.2 be agreed.

3.2 the amounts calculated for the year 2014/15 in accordance with section 67 of the local government finance act 1992 be noted as :-

(a) **41,998 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	3,514
Bracknell	17,414
Crowthorne	2,577
Sandhurst	7,633
Warfield	4,407
Winkfield	6,453

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 the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2014/15 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 18 February:-

(a) £277,777,880 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) £229,115,824 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) £48,662,056 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) £1,158.68 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) £2,718,344 PARISH PRECEPTS

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

(f) £1,093.95 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	£1,133.74
Bracknell	£1,169.59
Crowthorne	£1,163.95
Sandhurst	£1,164.42
Warfield	£1,124.04
Winkfield	£1,157.55

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

(h) Part of the Council's area	BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX IN EACH PARISH FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
--------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	755.83	881.80	1,007.77	1,133.74	1,385.68	1,637.62	1,889.57	2,267.48
Bracknell	779.73	909.68	1,039.64	1,169.59	1,429.50	1,689.41	1,949.32	2,339.18
Crowthorne	775.97	905.29	1,034.62	1,163.95	1,422.61	1,681.26	1,939.92	2,327.90
Sandhurst	776.28	905.66	1,035.04	1,164.42	1,423.18	1,681.94	1,940.70	2,328.84
Warfield	749.36	874.25	999.15	1,124.04	1,373.83	1,623.61	1,873.40	2,248.08
Winkfield	771.70	900.32	1,028.93	1,157.55	1,414.78	1,672.02	1,929.25	2,315.10

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 2014/15 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	107.01	124.84	142.68	160.51	196.18	231.85	267.52	321.02

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2014/15 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 19 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	40.44	47.18	53.92	60.66	74.14	87.62	101.10	121.32

- 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 2014/15 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(a) Part of the Council's area	TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND							
Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	903.28	1,053.82	1,204.37	1,354.91	1,656.00	1,957.09	2,258.19	2,709.82
Bracknell	927.18	1,081.70	1,236.24	1,390.76	1,699.82	2,008.88	2,317.94	2,781.52
Crowthorne	923.42	1,077.31	1,231.22	1,385.12	1,692.93	2,000.73	2,308.54	2,770.24
Sandhurst	923.73	1,077.68	1,231.64	1,385.59	1,693.50	2,001.41	2,309.32	2,771.18
Warfield	896.81	1,046.27	1,195.75	1,345.21	1,644.15	1,943.08	2,242.02	2,690.42
Winkfield	919.15	1,072.34	1,225.53	1,378.72	1,685.10	1,991.49	2,297.87	2,757.44

55. **Amendments to the Code of Conduct for Members**

The Council considered the report seeking endorsement of the Governance and Audit Committee recommendations relating to the list of “Affected Persons” in the Code of Conduct for Members and Co-Opted members.

On the proposition of Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance seconded by Councillor McCracken it was

RESOLVED that

- i) the list of “Affected Persons” in the Code of Conduct for Members be extended to include:-
 - (a) a company which a Member, his/her spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child or grandchild is a Director of
 - (b) a company which a sibling of a Member or of his/her spouse or partner is a Director of
 - (c) a Limited Liability Partnership in which a Member his/her spouse, partner, parent, grandparent, child or grandchild is a Partner, and
 - (d) a Limited Liability Partnership in which a sibling of a Member or his/her spouse or partner is a Partner
 - (e) a sibling of a Member or his/her spouse or partner
- ii) the Code of Conduct for Members be amended to require registration (in the register of Member’s interests) of any directorship held by a Member, his/her spouse or partner and any membership of a Limited Liability Partnership by a Member, his/her spouse or partner.

56. **Membership of Committees and External Body Representation**

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the Annual Council meeting in May.

MAYOR