

COUNCIL
25 FEBRUARY 2015
7.30 - 9.25 PM



Present:

The Mayor (Councillor Andy Blatchford), Councillors Mrs Angell, Allen, Angell, Mrs Barnard, Dr Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Ms Brown, Davison, Dudley, Finch, Finnie, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Ms Miller, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Pile, Porter, Sargeant, Mrs Temperton, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Wade, Ward, Ms Wilson and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Baily, Brunel-Walker and Kensall

42. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 January 2015 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

43. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

44. Mayor's Announcements

Leader of Bracknell Forest Council

Councillor Bettison was pleased to announce that the Council had been recognised for being positive about disability and had retained its 'Two Ticks' status. Councillor Bettison thanked all the staff working hard to demonstrate the Council's commitment to encouraging job applications from disabled people.

Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

Councillor Birch was pleased to advise Members that the completion ceremony for Clement House was taking place next week. The 64 unit Extra Care facility would provide additional assisted accommodation for older people and he looked forward to the formal opening.

The Health and Wellbeing Board was working with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to improve provision for younger people with mental health issues. The Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health prevention programme have both committed £60k for a scheme to reduce waiting times. In addition the Clinical Commissioning Group and Public Health have both committed £40k to go towards additional support for young people to improve initial contact by using technology to access services.

Executive Member for the Environment

Councillor Mrs Hayes was pleased to announce that 41 defibrillators were in storage ready for installation around the borough. Once they were installed a list would be made available so that residents were aware of where they are located.

Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

Councillor McCracken was proud to report that Adam Eastwood, Revenue Service apprentice had been awarded the Investment in Training Award from West Berkshire Training College. The award recognised that Adam has developed the most at the college, with the council's support. It also recognised the professionalism that Adam's colleagues, managers and HR advisers have shown in supporting him through his apprenticeship. The Members present joined Councillor McCracken in congratulating Adam on his hard work and dedication.

Mayor's Charity

The Mayor advised the Members present that tickets for all 23 team tables at his Charity Quiz night being held at Easthampstead Park Conference Centre on Friday 27 February had been sold. 18 teams have also signed up to the Charity Golf Day on 24 April.

The Mayor asked Members to join him at his Charity Curry Night on 18 May at the Tamarind Tree Restaurant, Wokingham. 60 spaces were available and 30 spaces had already been reserved.

Service of Thanksgiving

The Mayor asked Members to make a note of the date of his Service of Thanksgiving which was being held on Sunday 3 May at St. Michael and St. Mary Magdalene Church.

VE Day Celebrations

The Mayor advised Members that VE Day was on 8 May 2015.

45. **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 21 January 2015. The Executive had met twice, on 27 January 2015 and 10 February 2015.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- The Residents' Survey had been undertaken by QA Research and 1800 residents had been sampled with an accuracy of $\pm 2.3\%$. 87% were satisfied with local area as place to live, 65% were satisfied with the way Council runs things and 59% considered that the Council offered value for money. All of these areas were improvements from the previous surveys in 2012 and 2008.
- The allocation of pre-construction services and main works for Binfield Learning Village had been delegated to the Executive Committee and the IESE framework would be used.

- The construction tender had been awarded for the Eastern Road SEN facility and the facility was due to be opened in September 2015.
- The Executive had approved the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulation 123 list which set out the infrastructure to be funded, the instalment policy and the planning obligations SPD. The Council were asked to consider approval of the charging schedule and commencement of Community Infrastructure Levy charging on 6 April 2015.
- It had been agreed that Surrey Heath Borough Council could use the Shepard Meadow as SANGS space for 500 dwellings with the contribution set at £1,963 per person and would contribute to the cost of maintaining the site. It was noted that would have no impact on the Council's ability to designate SANGS for in borough developments.
- Nine Call Off Contracts had been agreed for supported bus services which would protect and reinforce the existing bus network.
- The Joint Commissioning Strategy for adults with autism had drawn on detailed consultation undertaken in July-September 2014 and had been endorsed .
- The Council was asked to consider the proposal to purchase a specific town centre site to provide affordable housing with Thames Valley Housing Association.
- The Leader highlighted the key dates in progress towards the redevelopment of Bracknell Town Centre, he congratulated the whole team involved in this progress and noted it was due to open in the Spring of 2017.

Community Infrastructure Levy Charging

On the proposition of Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport, seconded by Councillor Brossard, it was

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Charging Schedule set out at Appendix A to the report be published; and
- ii) Community Infrastructure Levy charging in Bracknell Forest would commence on 6 April 2015.

Purchase of Development Site in Bracknell Town Centre

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, seconded by Councillor Ward, it was

RESOLVED that the 10% deposit to be paid at exchange of contracts for the development site be funded from virement of under spend in the current year's housing capital programme.

46. **Recommendations from the Governance and Audit Committee**

The Council was asked to agree the recommendations of the Governance and Audit Committee with regards to amendments to the Council's Constitution relating to the affixing of the Common Seal of the Council and updating the role of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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

RESOLVED that:

- i) the Council's Constitution be amended to provide that that affixing of the Common Seal of the Council should be attested by the Borough Solicitor or (in his/her absence) another Solicitor authorised by the Borough Solicitor;
- ii) the Council's Constitution be amended as shown in Appendix 1 to the report.

47. **Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

Councillor Mrs Temperton asked Councillor Turrell, Executive Member for Planning and Transport, the following published question:

Last summer residents of Jennetts Park celebrated the news that Morrisons had conditionally signed to run their shop. Since then Morrisons have had their delivery times agreed and obtained the license to sell alcohol, but no building has started.

When will the shop be built and opened?

Councillor Turrell replied that he had advised the September Council meeting that the developers had stated they were nearing the end of negotiations with a retailer. The agreement with the retailer was fully entered into in October 2014 following lengthy discussions during the summer. He added construction working drawings were currently being produced for approval by the developer. Following an application for the discharge of the pre-commencement planning conditions construction was anticipated to begin in late spring/early summer 2015. The estimated build time would mean that the retail unit would be operational in late Spring / early Summer 2016.

Councillor Turrell stated that he fully understood the frustration of local residents at the slow progress of this matter but local councillors had worked hard on this. The Council had applied pressure on the developers and he would continue with this approach.

In reply to Councillor Mrs Temperton's supplementary question he stated that the question of enforcement had been considered but that working with the Consortium had produced results but firmer action had not been ruled out if progress was not maintained.

48. **Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2015-16**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2015/16 and supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2015/16 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and Capital Programme.

Councillor Ward gave a comprehensive presentation, in particular:

- He reflected on his pride for the Members' Initiative Fund. The scheme had been put in place several years ago to give Members the opportunity to support local projects and services based on their knowledge of local ward priorities
- He reflected on the delivery of the most significant capital project during his time as portfolio holder being the development of Garth Hill College which cost in excess of £40m. He asked Members to recall that through diligent planning and continual challenge the new school was delivered on time and within budget
- He thanked the Chief Executive and his senior team for their hard work throughout the budget process and in particular highlighted the work of the Borough Treasurer
- He reported that there would be a reduction of more than 4m in central government funding, an inflationary rise on the Council's cost base and rising demand for Council services particularly amongst older people and those with long term conditions
- The Council's net spending would be £83.2m, with an overall gross expenditure of £130m
- £82m would be passported directly to schools
- £13.4m was proposed for supporting those with a learning disability
- £10.0m was proposed for support for older people, including those with physical disabilities and dementia
- £6.3m was proposed for Looked After Children which was the same amount to be spent on waste disposal
- £3.0m was proposed for Recreation, sport and leisure together with £2.5m proposed for Open spaces
- Almost £3m proposed savings had been found by increasing efficiency, reducing back office costs together with managing demand for services as well as taking opportunities to increase income
- The proposed capital budget was £31.1m which was the start of the investment in the Borough and in particular:
 - Supporting infrastructure for the redevelopment of Bracknell Town Centre
 - Development of the Binfield Learning Village at Blue Mountain delivering school places as well as new housing and associated community facilities
 - Transformation of Coral Reef through provision of new roof and two new flumes
- Councillors had listened carefully to the feedback to 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 are supportive of the proposed approach
- £4.9m was proposed to be taken from balances to support the budget and
- No increase in Council Tax on any of the bands was proposed for the fifth year running.

On the proposition of Councillor Ward, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, 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. The amendment proposed that no changes to the budget proposals were required except £1million increase to the amount provided to support Bracknell Forest schools during 2015/16. It was proposed that the additional expenditure would be financed by transferring £600,000 from revenue balances and increasing the contingency by £400,000 but that this would be earmarked to support the Schools Budget.

On being put to the meeting the amendment fell.

As required by legislation a recorded vote was required on the substantive motion and the voting was as follows:

FOR (36) Councillors Allen, Angell, Mrs Angell, Dr Barnard, Mrs Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Brossard, Davison, Dudley, Finch, Finnie, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, McLean, Ms Miller, Mrs Pile, Mrs Phillips, Porter, Sargeant, Thompson, Turrell, Virgo, Wade. Ward, Miss Wilson and Worrall.

ABSTAIN (2) Councillors Ms Brown and Mrs Temperton.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that

1 Capital Programme 2015/16 - 2017/18

- i) General Fund capital funding of £16.798m for 2015/16 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 176 to 180 of the Supporting Information be agreed;
- ii) The inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for 'Invest to Save' schemes be agreed;
- iii) The inclusion of £2.219m of expenditure to be funded from S106 as outlined in paragraph 5.25 of the 10 February 2015 Executive report and included on pages 176 to 180 of the Supporting Information be agreed;
- iv) That those schemes that attract external grant funding be agreed for inclusion within the 2015/16 capital programme at the level of funding received;
- v) Funding of £20k be brought forward from 2015/16 into 2014/15 for Superfast Broadband;
- vi) A supplementary capital approval funding in 2014/15 of £0.447m for Binfield Learning Village at Blue Mountain, as outlined in the Funding Model agreed by the Executive in October 2014 be agreed.

2 Revenue Budget 2015/16

- 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 4), 3.3 (pages 5 and 6), 3.7 (page 7), 3.8 (pages 7 to 8) and 7.2 (page 17) of the Supporting Information report, be agreed;
- ii) Fees and charges as set out in Annexe G be approved (pages 75 to 159 of the Supporting Information report);

- iii) A provision for inflation of £1.511m be approved;
- iv) The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (page 19 of the Supporting Information report);
- vi) The Schools Budget be funded at the level set out in section 4.1 (pages 8 to 10) of the Supporting Information report, subject to any amendments agreed by the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning;
- vii) A contingency of £2.000m 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 £0.932m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- x) Total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £78.247m, be approved;
- xi) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £46.706m;
- 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 45 to 65 of the Supporting Information report):
 - The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2015/16 to 2017/18 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 2015/16 to 2017/18 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 2015/16 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

(a) **42,695 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	3,570
Bracknell	17,906
Crowthorne	2,581
Sandhurst	7,666
Warfield	4,436
Winkfield	6,536

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 2015/16 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 Bracknell Town Council on 24 February:-

(a) **£274,998,180 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) **£225,510,497 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) £49,487,684 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) £1,159.10 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) £2,781,489 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	£1,134.70
Bracknell	£1,169.59
Crowthorne	£1,164.62
Sandhurst	£1,164.42
Warfield	£1,125.42
Winkfield	£1,158.12

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							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Parish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	756.47	882.54	1,008.62	1,134.70	1,386.86	1,639.01	1,891.17	2,269.40
Bracknell	779.73	909.68	1,039.64	1,169.59	1,429.50	1,689.41	1,949.32	2,339.18
Crowthorne	776.41	905.82	1,035.22	1,164.62	1,423.42	1,682.23	1,941.03	2,329.24
Sandhurst	776.28	905.66	1,035.04	1,164.42	1,423.18	1,681.94	1,940.70	2,328.84
Warfield	750.28	875.33	1,000.37	1,125.42	1,375.51	1,625.61	1,875.70	2,250.84
Winkfield	772.08	900.76	1,029.44	1,158.12	1,415.48	1,672.84	1,930.20	2,316.24

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 2015/16 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	109.13	127.32	145.51	163.70	200.08	236.46	272.83	327.40

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2015/16 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 23 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 2015/16 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	906.04	1,057.04	1,208.05	1,359.06	1,661.08	1,963.09	2,265.10	2,718.12
Bracknell	929.30	1,084.18	1,239.07	1,393.95	1,703.72	2,013.49	2,323.25	2,787.90
Crowthorne	925.98	1,080.32	1,234.65	1,388.98	1,697.64	2,006.31	2,314.96	2,777.96
Sandhurst	925.85	1,080.16	1,234.47	1,388.78	1,697.40	2,006.02	2,314.63	2,777.56
Warfield	899.85	1,049.83	1,199.80	1,349.78	1,649.73	1,949.69	2,249.63	2,699.56
Winkfield	921.65	1,075.26	1,228.87	1,382.48	1,689.70	1,996.92	2,304.13	2,764.96

MAYOR