

TO: COUNCIL
29 APRIL 2015

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 23 February 2015, the Executive has met once on 31 March 2015. 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 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended to Council by the Executive that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2014-2017 - 2015 Refresh be adopted.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The reasons for recommendation are set out in the supporting information and in the reports considered by the Executive.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None at this time.

5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.1 Joint Commissioning Strategy for Carers

- 5.1.1 The Executive has approved the Joint Commissioning Strategy for People in an Unpaid Caring Role for the period 2015-2020.
- 5.1.2 The current Strategy expires in April 2015 and this new one will guide the development of services to support people caring for adults and young people in an unpaid caring role over the next five years. In doing that it is important that the Council's strategic direction continues to reflect the needs and wishes of the people concerned, national policies and recognised best practice.

- 5.1.3 On this basis the new strategy has been informed by:

- the views of people who are in a caring role and people who support them

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- relevant legislation such as the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Care Act 2014
- national guidance such as the National Carers Action plan 2014
- research and Best Practice
- an analysis of the needs of the local population, current service delivery and what is likely to change or needs to change in the future.

5.2 Intermediate Care Services Contract

- 5.2.1 The Executive has agreed to waive the competition requirements of Contract Standing Orders to negotiate a contract for a period of 1 year with Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust for staffing to support Intermediate Care Services.
- 5.2.2 As part of a wider review of the service a Joint Commissioning Strategy for Intermediate Care was approved by the Executive in December 2014. The negotiated extension of the current contract arrangement will allow the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to undertake a full evaluation of the impact of the strategy on the service and to determine changes required in the future. These will then be incorporated in a contract specification and subjected to competition.

5.3 Implementation of Older Persons Accommodation & Support Services Strategy

- 5.3.1 The Council has an established Older Persons Accommodation and Support Services Strategy to improve the accommodation for older people in Bracknell Forest. As part of this strategy, to enable improved services and facilities for older people, the Executive has agreed to dispose of the Council's Ladybank site and to acquire the freehold of the Dennis Pilcher House Site.
- 5.3.2 The current building at 10A Ladybank dates from the 1970's and is in need of a large amount of investment to bring it to modern standards. By contrast, the acquisition from Bracknell Forest Homes and subsequent regeneration of the Denis Pilcher House Site will provide new improved accommodation and offer further opportunities to develop services going forward.

5.4 Establishing a Local Housing Company

- 5.4.1 There has been a 68% increase in homeless households over the last twelve months. This has inevitably led to an increase in households who are housed in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation and subsequently an increase in the expenditure on bed and breakfast for the Council. In response, the Executive has agreed to establish a Local Housing Company (LHC) to help it meet the rising demand to provide homes for homeless households, households with learning disabilities and/or autism and care leavers.

The LHC will be wholly owned by the Council and the Board of the LHC will include the Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, Executive Member for Transformation and Finance, Chief Executive, Borough Treasurer and Borough Solicitor. By providing accommodation to homeless households to discharge the Council's homeless duty more RSL affordable housing will be to be allocated to first time applicants from the housing register.

Children, Young People and Learning

5.5 Redevelopment of Coopers Hill

- 5.5.1 Subject to the outcome of a financial viability study, the Executive has endorsed the principle of redeveloping the Coopers Hill site in partnership with Thames Valley

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Housing Association (TVHA) to provide a creative, performing and digital arts centre for young people in Bracknell Forest and residential housing accommodation. If the financial viability study is successful, a full development agreement would be negotiated with TVHA.

- 5.5.2 Members have long had an aspiration to develop a high quality creative youth facility and give a focus for the Council's targeted youth work on the Coopers Hill site. The site itself has a covenant that requires youth provision to be maintained on the site. However, the Executive recognise that given the financial outlook, a new facility will need to be provided at no additional cost to the Council. Given this, it is essential to look to develop a creative collaboration with potential partners who would deliver key parts of the youth facility and with a developer could create sufficient value in the site to make this overall vision possible.
- 5.5.3 A report will be brought back to the Executive by December 2015 on the outcome of the financial viability study and the potential terms of a development agreement for the Coopers Hill site.

5.6 Troubled Families (Family Focus) Phase Two

- 5.6.1 Phase 1 of the National Troubled Families Programme is due to conclude in May 2015. The Council has been extremely successful in meeting the target set by Government of turning around the lives of 115 families at an early stage. Systemic changes to practice have been made and new ways of working holistically with families have produced significant and sustainable outcomes. This achievement resulted in our performance being in the top quartile of local authorities nationally.
- 5.6.2 The achievement has been formally acknowledged by the Department of Communities and Local Government who have invited the Council to engage with the second phase of the programme at an earlier stage. As an 'early starter' the Council will work with partners to develop Phase 2 that will run for 5 years. The expansion of the programme will continue to focus on the existing areas of concern e.g. school attendance, youth crime and anti-social behaviour and adults out of work. It will also incorporate learning from the first phase and reach out to families with a broader range of problems such as domestic abuse, physical and mental health and younger children that need help.
- 5.6.3 The new programme will be a key element of the early help strategy and represents a challenge that will require a consistent approach across partners and multidisciplinary teams.

5.7 Staying Put Policy

- 5.7.1 The Executive has endorsed the Staying Put Policy for Looked After Children. Latest Government guidance is clear that young people should be able to remain in their foster care home until the age of 21 through a 'Staying Put' arrangement. The proposed policy formalises existing practice whereby, if both the young person and the carer are in agreement, the Council does everything possible to establish a 'Staying Put' agreement. The Executive also agreed the funding model for the policy.
- 5.7.3 Once fully established there are expected to be around 12 young people eligible in the Borough for a 'Staying Put' arrangement.

5.8 Cranbourne Award of Contract – Special Urgency Procedures

- 5.8.1 The Executive has noted the use of the Special Urgency Procedures by the Leader to revise the award of contract for the construction works to create new classrooms at Cranbourne Primary School.
- 5.8.2 Urgency arose when the tenderer who had originally been awarded the contract by the Executive in September 2014 subsequently withdrew. The Special Urgency Procedures were carried out to avoid any delays in retendering and to enable the works to the school to be completed before the school term begins in September 2015. Contract Standing Orders stipulate that the use of the Special Urgency Procedures by the Leader must be reported to the next meeting of the Executive for information.

Culture, Corporate Services & Public Protection

5.9 Overview & Scrutiny Commission Review of Business Rates

- 5.9.1 The Executive has determined its response to the recommendations made by a working group of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission which reviewed the Council's Business Rates and Discretionary Relief.
- 5.9.2 The Working Group spent considerable time on the review. The most significant recommendations seek to encourage small businesses to take on premises within the Borough and this is endorsed by the Executive. A future report will be presented to the Executive so that the precise details of the scheme can be agreed.
- 5.9.3 Meanwhile, the Executive thanked the Working Group and commended the thoroughness of its review.

5.10 Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2014-17 – 2015 Refresh

- 5.10.1 The Crime and disorder Act 1998 places a duty on Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to produce a three year partnership plan to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse underpinned by an annual strategic assessment to fine tune priorities.

- 5.10.2 In developing the plan Bracknell Forest's CSP has focussed on two key themes:

- reducing crime
- reducing anti-social behaviour

The detailed priorities that sit beneath these overarching objectives are set out in the Community Safety Partnership Plan.

- 5.10.3 The results of the first full year of the 2014/17 CSP Plan are not yet available. However notable successes in reducing crime for the first half of 2014/15 compared to the first half of 2013/14 included;

- 10% reduction in Overall Crime
- 29.9% reduction in Vehicle Crime (against a target of 5%)
- 40.4% reduction in Public Order Offences
- 22.2% reduction in Robbery of Personal Property (against a target of 5%)
- 6.7% reduction in Total Violence Against the Person
- 9.8% reduction in Burglary Non Dwelling
- 46.6% reduction in Bicycle Theft

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- 5.10.4 Three of the initial priorities from the 2014/17 CSP Plan; Vehicle Offences, Public Order Offences, Robbery of Personal Property, do not feature in the 2015 Refresh. This reflects the excellent progress that has been made in the last year.
- 5.10.5 The associated Executive report which includes the Community Safety Partnership Plan are attached for information.
- 5.10.6 Accordingly, the Executive has RECOMMENDED that the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2014-2017 - 2015 Refresh be adopted.**

Planning and Transport

5.11 Capital Programme 2015/16 Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance

- 5.11.1 To help meet the objectives set out in the Council's Local Transport Plan and to improve the condition of the Borough's highway network the Executive has approved the 2015/16 Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance Capital Programmes.
- 5.11.2 In line with the national position, the level of maintenance required on the Borough's highways network far exceeds the budget available and spending plans on the road network have been prioritised according to an assessment of need. Nonetheless, 2015/16 Highway Maintenance budget includes £1.701million for non-routine highway maintenance schemes provided via the Department for Transport's Highway Maintenance Capital Funding, along with a further £228k from the Council's Capital Programme.
- 5.11.3 The 2015/16 Integrated Transport budget includes £750k of Integrated Transport Grant from central Government and £600k Section 106 contributions. The Council has also been successful in its bid for £9million from the government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) towards implementing transport measures linked to economic growth, with a focus on unlocking the town centre regeneration and housing development. As a result, key schemes, including the Warfield relief road, are included in the programme. A range of other local improvements will also be undertaken to improve the travel choice and the quality of life for residents.

Council Strategy and Community Cohesion

5.12 Corporate Performance Overview Report

- 5.12.1 The Executive has received the Corporate Performance Overview Report for the third quarter of 2014/15 (October - December 2014).
- 5.12.2 Overall good progress has been made over the quarter with 45 of the 263 actions completed and another 195 actions on target. Of the Council's 72 key performance indicators, 53 (60.2%) were classified as being green (on target), 7 (7.9%) were amber, with only 12 (13.5%) being red.

6. Appointments and Delegations by the Leader of the Council

- 6.1 The Leader has approved a number of delegations for the discharge of functions in relation to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). The arrangements reserve for Members policy and strategic decisions whilst giving officers sufficient powers to administer and implement the CIL regime.
- 6.2 The CIL Regulations set out a complex process for the calculation of CIL and its collection and enforcement. The Council is required to issue a "Liability Notice" when

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planning permission is issued. The developer is required to serve a "Commencement Notice" on the Council which should then issue and serve a "Demand Notice". The initial administrative stages of CIL, including the issue of the Liability Notice, are to be dealt with by the Planning Section. Following the issue of the Liability Notice the exercise of CIL powers will fall to be dealt with by the Borough Treasurer's team. The following delegations have therefore been agreed:

- 1 All CIL functions up to and including the issue of the Liability Notice and receipt of any Commencement Notice should be discharged by the Chief Officer: Planning and Transportation and the officers within his section (such that all officers within the Planning Section be authorised to discharge such functions),
- 2 All CIL functions following the issue of a CIL Liability Notice should be discharged by the Borough Treasurer and Finance Officers (such that all officers within the Borough Treasurer's Section be authorised to discharge such functions).
- 3 The Chief Officer: Planning and Transportation and the officers within his section (such that all officers within the Planning Section are authorised to discharge such functions) should exercise the following specific functions:-
 - the conduct of any appeal against a Liability Notice
 - the managing of Assumption of Liability and Transfer of Liability Notices
 - determining any exemptions and reliefs from CIL Liability (other than functions reserved for Members in accordance with 3.1 above)
 - the apportionment of CIL Liability
 - determining validity of a Commencement Notice
 - the issue of Deemed Commencement Notices
 - determining whether to accept a land payment of up to £100,000 (restricted to the Chief Officer and Head of Planning following consultation with the Chief Officer: Property)
 - determining whether or not to accept an infrastructure payment of up to £500,000 (restricted to Chief Officer: Planning and Transportation and the Head of Planning)
- 4 The following specific functions should be exercised by the Borough Treasurer and officers within his section (such that all Finance officers be authorised to discharge such functions):-
 - the issue of Demand Notices
 - the determination of financial penalties, surcharges and interest
 - determining and correcting any overpayment of CIL

Binfield Learning Village

- 6.3 The Leader has made two delegations in relation to actions to be taken in connection with the development of the Binfield Learning Village.
- 6.4 Following initial discussion at the Executive on 21 October, the Leader delegated responsibility to the Executive Member for Transformation and Finance to determine whether to enter into an agreement for the surrender of the Council's leasehold interest in Blue Mountain Golf Course and to acquire part of the site for planning purposes under section 227 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Councillor Ward duly made the decision to do both on 8 April 2015.

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- 6.5 In the last report to Council, it was also reported that the Leader had appointed a Committee to award the contract for pre-construction works on the site. Councillor Barnard was to have been a member of the Committee but was unavailable and accordingly the Leader appointed himself to join Councillors Mrs Hayes and Ward on the Binfield Learning Village (Award of Contracts) Committee. The Committee duly met on 13 April and awarded the contract.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 7.1 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

- 7.2 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

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 31 March 2015

Contact for further information

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