

TO: COUNCIL
15 JULY 2015

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 29 April 2015, the Executive has met for its Annual Meeting on 27 May 2015 and again on 23 June 2015. This report summarises decisions taken at the June 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

Planning and Transport

2.1 Local Development Scheme

- 2.1.1 The maintenance of an up to date development plan means the Council can properly plan and influence the level and location of sustainable new development in the Borough, reflecting community and business needs. The Council's work programme for preparing Local Plans is set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS). The current LDS (2014 – 2017) sets out a timetable for the preparation of three Local Plans relating to Gypsies and Travellers; Development Management, and a Comprehensive Local Plan (CLP).
- 2.1.2 Whilst work on these has begun, a recent appeal decision has indicated that the Council needs to prepare up to date robust housing policies more quickly than previously anticipated in the existing timetable for producing a Comprehensive Local Plan. As this work proceeds it will also be more appropriate and effective to incorporate the Gypsy and Traveller, and Development Management Local Plans into one Comprehensive Local Plan.
- 2.1.3 When adopting the current LDS, the Executive was advised of the significance of a number of legislative and national policy changes that had taken place since the preparation of the 2002 Local Plan and the Core Strategy. These included:
- Introduction of the Localism Act;
 - Introduction of Neighbourhood Planning;
 - Revised Local Planning Regulations;
 - Introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);
 - Introduction of the Planning Policy for Travellers Sites;
 - Replacement of national planning policy guidance with the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG);
 - Partial revocation of the South East Plan (Policy NRM6 retained); and
 - Additional changes to the change of use permitted development rights.
- 2.1.4 More recently other changes which will influence the future development of planning policies include:

Unrestricted

- Publication of the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan 2015/16 – 2020/21;
- Further extension of permitted development rights allowing changes of use without planning permission;
- Other initiatives such as the introduction of the Self Build and Customer Housebuilding Act 2015 requiring the need for self build plots to be considered through planning policies through the preparation of an on line self build register;
- Ministerial Statement dated 25 March 2015 on streamlining the planning system.

2.1.5 In preparing a Local Plan the main area of flexibility in terms of process relates to the level of stakeholder and community engagement in the plan preparation process. Regulations and guidance set out an expectation that there will be engagement in the Plan but there are no prescribed requirements (such as an Issues and Options or draft Plan/Preferred Options stage), prior to the Publication stage when the Plan has to be made available for a period of six weeks before it is then submitted, with any representations, for examination.

2.1.6 The level and timing of any engagement will, or course, have an impact on the overall length of time that it will take to prepare the Local Plan and a balance needs to be struck between the need to progress the Plan within a reasonable timeframe in order to provide up to date policies, and the need for the Plan to have input from stakeholders, including satisfying the Duty to Cooperate. In the event, the Executive decided that it should incorporate an Issues and Options stage, which should happen during summer 2016. This would lead on the draft plan consultation in mid 2017, submission in mid 2018 and plan adoption in early 2019.

Children, Young People and Learning

2.2 Changes to admission to schools as a basis for consultation

2.2.1 Over the past few years in excess of 5,000 new schools places have been created within the Borough. Although there was a major review of school provision in South Bracknell 10 years ago there has been no review of designated areas across the whole Borough for over 15 years. Projecting forward, up to 13 additional primary and up to 9 secondary forms of entry are required as a result of new housing developments in the next 10 years.

2.2.2 At the same time Charters School in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead are currently consulting on the possibility of removing feeder schools as part of their admission criteria for 2016/17. Ascot Heath Junior and Cranbourne Primary are currently feeder schools to Charters. As a result, if the unilateral change relating to Charters is successful, there would be a knock-on implication to the continued pattern of feeder schools in the rest of the Bracknell Forest as applicants from different parts of the Borough would then be treated differently. This is not allowed in the Schools Admission Code.

2.2.3 Bringing these various issues together there are, therefore, two key aspects to the proposed changes: changes to secondary school admission arrangements, and designated area changes at both primary and secondary schools.

2.2.4 To implement any change in time for the academic year starting in September 2017, it is necessary to start the formal process now. Therefore the Executive has endorsed the consultation on the removal of feeder primary links for secondary school admission purposes and revision to designated areas. The proposals include protection for families who might have children of primary age and pre-

school age and this will also form part of the consultation process which will take place between 1 September and 20 November.

2.3 Binfield Learning Village: Appointment of school sponsor

2.3.1 The provision of a new primary, secondary and special all-through school at Binfield Learning Village is an important part of the future planned school provision in the Borough. Under the Education Act 2011, where a local authority thinks there is a need for a new school in its area it must seek to establish an Academy school. Given the pressures on school places and the design and construction period, the timely appointment of a provider is necessary to start the process at the current time.

2.3.2 In June 2013, the Executive agreed:

- (a) the methodology to be used to endorse potential providers, thereby ensuring that any providers will be equipped to deliver good and outstanding provision.
- (b) that a standing Education Review Group be established with an independent Chair, the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning, the Chair of the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel, one other Councillor representative from the opposition party, the Director Children, Young People and Learning or their representative, two school representatives (a headteacher and Chair of Governors) and a parent governor.
- (c) the criteria which potential providers should meet if they wish to be commissioned to run a school in the borough.

2.3.3 The Executive has now agreed a School Sponsor Appointment Plan for the Binfield Learning Village School, including the evaluation criteria which will now be followed. The DfE will be informed of the intention to seek an Academy sponsor.

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

2.4.1 The Executive has endorsed the updated Bracknell Forest NEET Strategy and action plan, and noted the progress made in reducing the number of young people not in education, employment or training.

2.4.2 On-going work continues in the Borough to support young people who are not in education, employment or training. The focus of the work is based around two strands of activity; prevention and targeted support. The low NEET levels in the Borough show the effectiveness of this work with a range of options available to young people to meet their needs and the take up of these services.

2.4.3 As part of these services the Council led project, Elevate Bracknell Forest, part of the Thames Valley Berkshire City Deal, works towards an overall reduction of the number of NEET's and unemployed young people with a focus on those most at risk.

2.5 Response to Children, Young People & Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel Working Group review on Substance Abuse

2.5.1 The Executive noted the joint response from the Executive Members for Children, Young People and Learning and for Adult Services, Health and Housing to the recommendations that arose from a report on substance misuse by a working group of the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2.5.2 The Working Group spent considerable time on the review and a number of recommendations have been made. Of the ten recommendations, six were accepted

in full and four in part. Those that were only partially accepted were due to the cost implications of full acceptance. The Executive thanked the Working Group for their helpful and well informed report which would enable services to be improved and developed.

Adult Services, Health and Housing

2.6 Local Account 2014/15

- 2.6.1 Overall reaction to previous Annual Reports has been very positive, with good feedback received on both the format and content of the report. The format has been retained for 2014-15. To add to the report, a further two short videos have also been produced highlighting two particular priorities of the department, as it is felt this makes the report even more accessible to people, and is a more powerful medium for getting key messages across.

Council Strategy and Community Cohesion

2.7 Corporate Performance Overview Report

- 2.7.1 The Executive has received the Corporate Performance Overview Report for the fourth quarter of 2014/15 (January – March 2015).
- 2.7.2 Overall good progress has been made over the quarter with 145 of the 163 actions completed. There are 14 actions where they have not yet started or behind schedule and 4 actions that are no longer applicable. Of the Council's 128 key performance indicators, 69 (71.9 %) were classified as being green (on target), 8 (8.3%) were amber, with 19 (19.8%) being red. There are 18 indicators where it is not appropriate to set a target and 14 indicators where data is not available partly due to third party information not yet being released.

Transformation and Finance

2.8 Binfield Nursery Capital Receipt – Call-in Urgent Procedure

- 2.8.1 Members are requested to note the use of the call-in urgency procedure with regards to the Binfield Nursery Capital Receipt. The Mayor agreed that the decision should not be subject to call-in procedures to enable the sale of the land, formerly known as Binfield Nursery, to be completed on the 18 June 2015. The Council's constitution stipulates that this must be reported to the next meeting of the Council for information.

2.9 Appointments and Delegations by the Leader of the Council

- 2.9.1 The Leader has agreed to delegate the authority to surrender the lease for the pram ramp, lift and stairs in Charles Square to the Chief Officer: Property.

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 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

- 3.2 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

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda –23 June 2015

Contact for further information

Jemma Durkan, Corporate Services - 01344 352209

Jemma.durkan@bracknell-forest.gov.uk