

To: **COUNCIL**
24 FEBRUARY 2016

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 20 January 2016, the Executive has met three times on 26 January 2016, 9 February 2016 and 23 February 2016. This report summarises decisions taken at the first two meetings by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall. The third meeting, on 23 February 2016, will focus on the Council's budget and will be subject to a full debate at Council.
- 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 Social Care Health and Housing

2.1 Bracknell Forest Sensory Needs Strategy

- 2.1.1 The Executive has approved the Bracknell Forest Sensory Needs Strategy 2016-2020. An extensive consultation took place in order to identify local needs and the outcomes of this exercise have helped inform the 8 new priority areas in the Strategy which sets out the strategic direction for the development of sensory needs support in the Borough.
- 2.1.2 The Strategy has a strong focus on encouraging self help and resilience amongst our residents and an emphasis on the need to address barriers to communication. Adoption of the Strategy will help ensure that residents with sensory needs are enabled to have choice and control and can manage their own wellbeing in order to live as independently as possible.

2.2 Outcomes of Heathlands Consultation

- 2.2.1 The Council has a constant aim to deliver the best care available to its vulnerable residents in the right settings. As a consequence, the Executive has agreed that the services currently being provided at the Heathlands Residential Care Home and Day Centre for people with dementia will be re-provided in the independent sector. This decision has been taken following an extensive consultation with residents, their families, staff and the public. In light of these discussions it has been agreed that detailed work will now take place with residents and their families to ensure that appropriate alternative residential, nursing or day care provision is secured for those currently using Heathlands' Services.
- 2.2.2 Research shows that people with dementia benefit from living in an environment that is simply laid out; Heathlands was built in the 1970s at a time when spatial standards were inferior to those today. The building, with its small rooms, corridors and layout

does not easily lend itself to this description. Furthermore, it does not meet the current standards for residential care homes contained in guidance issued by the Care Quality Commission in 2015. Bringing the facility up to these standards would be economically unviable. Importantly, it would also mean that residents would have to be temporarily moved into alternative accommodation for a significant period of time.

- 2.2.3 At least in part because of these factors, Heathlands has had high vacancy rates since mid-2014 and currently there are only 10 residents living permanently at the home. There has also been a 40% drop in attendance at the Day Centre over the past 12 months. Due to these high vacancy rates, the unit cost of a bed at Heathlands is approximately £1,116 per week (compared to the Bracknell Usual Rate of £517.99 for a person with dementia) and the unit cost of a place at the day centre is an estimated £74 a day. This too is significantly more than comparable services elsewhere in Bracknell Forest.
- 2.2.4 It is recognised that moving an elderly resident from a care home is an unsettling process and a team of experienced officers will work with residents and their families to ensure that suitable alternative accommodation is identified and that all moves are as trouble free as possible.

2.3 Agency Workers Framework Tender Outcome

- 2.3.1 The Executive has agreed a new framework contract for the employment of agency workers which will run for four years from 2016 to 2020. The majority (75%) of the Council's spend on agency workers is spent on social workers and care staff within Adult Social Care, Health and Housing and Children, Young People and Learning, although the contract is not restricted to these areas. The framework will enable the Council to ensure that it has an effective and reliable contractor offering an efficient and reliable service.

Children, Young People and Learning

2.4 School Places Plan

- 2.4.1 The Council has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child in the Borough who wants one. To help the Council fulfil this statutory duty the Executive has endorsed the School Places plan 2016-2020.
- 2.4.2 The School Places Plan has been produced following an annual review of future housing plans, numbers on roll and demographic data. There are currently 9,729 primary pupils and 6,608 secondary pupils in the Borough and it has been predicted that these figures will have risen to 11,498 primary pupils and 8,318 secondary pupils by the year 2020; increases of 18% and 26% respectively. The Borough has a robust track record of forecasting accurate figures for the number of school places required and it is expected that these forecasts will be accurate to within 1%.
- 2.4.3 The figures in the school places plan have been based on current house building programmes; deriving pupil yields from an assumed mix of dwellings at new development sites and the estimated construction programmes for each development. Forecasts have been made on a 'worst case' basis and individual school expansion schemes will be brought forward when short term forecasts demonstrate the need for expansion in a certain area.

2.5 School Admission Arrangements and Designated Areas for 2017/18

2.5.1 In 2015, in light of the new, large housing developments planned at Amen Corner, Warfield, Blue Mountain and the Transport Research Laboratory site in Crowthorne, school admissions criteria and designated areas were reviewed. Proposals for educational provision across the Borough were developed and, following a substantial public consultation, the Executive has now agreed the School Admission Arrangements for entry to the Borough's community schools for the 2016/17 academic year. Arrangements which will include the following key changes:

- i. The feeder primary school admission criterion will be removed from community secondary school admission arrangements
- ii. The existing shared designated areas for Binfield and Warfield and Whitegrove, College Town and Owlsmoor and New Scotland Hill and St. Michael's Sandhurst will be retained
- iii. New additional shared designation areas will be created for:
 - Quelm Park/Lawrence Hill between Sandy Lane and Warfield Primary Schools
 - Temple Park between Meadow Vale and Binfield Learning Village primary schools
 - The western half of the current Garth Hill College area between Binfield Learning Village (secondary) and Garth Hill College
 - The Amen Corner North development area between Binfield C of E and the new Amen Corner North Primary SchoolsThe TRL development between Crowthorne C of E, Hatch Ride and Oaklands Primary Schools
- iv. The roads that make up Chavey Down will be transferred from the designated area for Holly Spring Schools to the Winkfield St Mary's Primary School designated area
- v. The proposed secondary aged boundary between garth Hill College and Binfield Learning Village will be moved westwards to encompass roads up to and including the eastern side of Stoney Road.

2.5.2 The changes to designated areas have been made based on longer term development plans for the Borough and will ensure that designated areas will be in line with the number of houses and families within a schools area at any given time. In recognition of the fact that the changes could be disruptive to a small number of families who find their children attending a school that is no longer their designated area school it has been agreed that where a designated area has changed applications for younger siblings will, for the next six years, be processed as if they were living in the designated area of the same school as their older siblings.

2.6 Education Capital Programme – Great Hollands Primary School Expansion

2.6.1 The Executive has approved the contract award for the construction work to expand Great Hollands Primary School by one form entry to become a three form entry school. The project forms part of the previously approved Education Capital Programme and will help address the forecast shortfall of primary school places in south Bracknell by enabling the school to expand from 420 places to 630 places. The work is scheduled to start on site in February 2016 and will be completed by April 2018.

Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

2.7 Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment

- 2.7.1 The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires all community safety partnerships to carry out an annual audit of crime, disorder and drug misuse within their areas and use the outcomes of the audit to inform their Community Safety Plans which must be refreshed annually. As part of this process the Executive has endorsed the findings and priorities identified within the Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment.
- 2.7.2 The priorities are broadly the same as those identified in previous years and the Community Safety Partnership will continue to focus its priorities on reducing: violent offences, sexual offences, drug offences, domestic abuse, burglary, internet related crime and anti-social behaviour. There will also be a focus on preventative work aimed at reducing levels of youth crime.

Transformation & Finance

2.8 Commercial Investment Property Acquisition

- 2.8.1 Local authorities are facing unprecedented reductions in the funding received to support the delivery of services and the Council's Transformation Board has tasked its finance sub-group with the development of a Property Investment Strategy for the Borough which will help the Council develop sustainable income sources that will support the funding of direct services. In line with this ambition, the Executive has authorised the acquisition of a commercial site in the Borough. Agreement of the final price for the purchase will be made in conjunction with the Executive Member for Transformation and Finance and the Chief Executive.

2.9 Potential Acquisition of Former Magistrates' Court

- 2.9.1 The Ministry of Justice are seeking to dispose of the vacated Magistrates' Court in Bracknell town centre. Acquisition of the site would potentially give the Council control of the area surrounding Easthampstead House during any future comprehensive redevelopment scheme. Consequently the Executive has, again, authorised the acquisition of the site for the Council. Purchase of the Magistrates' Court will form part of the Capital Programme for 2016/17 which is scheduled for approval by full Council on 24 February 2016.

3 NOTIFICATION OF DELEGATED AND URGENT EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- 3.1 On the 1 December 2015 the Leader permanently delegated to the Director of Corporate Services and Director of Environment, Culture & Communities either individually or collectively the authority to issue Community Protection Notices pursuant to Section 43 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 where the criteria for the issuing of such notices is satisfied.
- 3.2 On 8 January 2016, the Mayor agreed to waive the call-in process for the following Executive Member Decision: I056766 Binfield Neighbourhood Plan: Examiner's report and hold a referendum. It was agreed that call-in would be waived because the call-in period would unnecessarily delay the commencement of the process of 'making' the Binfield Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. bringing it into legal force), meaning

the weight that could be attached to the Neighbourhood Plan policies was less for a longer time. In addition, the statutory timeframes attached to the notification of referenda would result in the referendum scheduled for 3 March 2016 having to be rearranged if the call-in process had been implemented.

- 3.3 On 3 February 2016, notification was given of a decision to be made under the Council's General Exception rules for the following Executive decision I059292 General Fund Revenue Budget 2016/17 - Further Savings Proposals. The General Exception procedure was used because there had been insufficient time to give 28 clear days notice of the decision between the drawing up of the proposed savings and the Executive meeting on 23 February 2016 when the decision was to be made.

4 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 4.1 The Borough Solicitor's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Borough Treasurer

- 4.2 The Borough Treasurer's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 26 January 2016 and 9 February 2016

Contact for further information

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