

**COUNCIL**  
**24 FEBRUARY 2016**  
**7.30 - 8.55 PM**



**Present:**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Dee Hamilton), Councillors Virgo (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Mrs Angell, Angell, Dr Barnard, Bettison, D Birch, Mrs Birch, G Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Finch, Finnie, Ms Gaw, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Hill, Mrs Ingham, King OBE, Leake, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Mrs Mattick, Ms Merry, Peacey, Phillips, Porter, Skinner, Mrs Temperton, Thompson, Tullett, Turrell and Wade

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Ms Miller and Worrall

**42. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**43. Declarations of Interest**

*Councillor D Birch and Heydon declared, for transparency, in respect of Item 6 (Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2016-17) that they were Directors of Downshire Homes Board.*

*The Chief Executive, Timothy Wheadon declared, for transparency, in respect of Item 6 (Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2016-17) that he was the Chairman of Downshire Homes Board.*

*The Borough Solicitor, Sanjay Prashar declared, for transparency, in respect of Item 6 (Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2016-17) that he was the Director of Downshire Homes Board.*

**44. Mayor's Announcements**

Donation to the Mayor's Charity

Rosemary Gurney, Chairman of itSMF UK, attended the meeting to present the Mayor with a donation to the Mayor's charity, Make a Wish UK. At a recent event for itSMF, a charity raffle had been held and Ms Gurney was pleased to present £2,500 to the Mayor's charity.

Executive Member for Adult Social Services, Health and Housing

Councillor D Birch reported the Intermediate Care Service at The Bridgewell Centre had been inspected by the CQC on the 6 and 7 January 2016. Councillor Birch was pleased to report that the centre had received a green rating in all areas. The Director

of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing was encouraged to feed back thanks and congratulations to staff and colleagues.

#### Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

Councillor McCracken reported that Great Hollands Library had held a smoking cessation group through 2015, and that 55 attendees had stopped smoking thanks to this initiative.

Councillor McCracken congratulated Sarah Kingston, Revenue Services Manager on achieving the Institute of Revenues, Rating and Valuation Honours qualification. This made the Revenue Services Manager one of the most qualified Revenue Services professionals in the country.

Councillor McCracken was pleased to report that the council website had recently been awarded 4 stars in the SOCITM review. In addition, it was noted that there were 10,000 accounts open on the Customer Relationship Management system.

Councillor McCracken reported on the recent Workplace Challenge, in which Bracknell Forest had come first with 1.9m points recorded and 212 participants. Bracknell Forest Council also had three individuals ranked in the top 100 point scorers.

#### Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

Councillor Brunel-Walker was glad to report on the progress of the town centre redevelopment, including the ongoing works on the new park at Station Green. It was reported that on 25 February 2016, there would be a topping out ceremony of the new Marks and Spencer building to recognise the first roof to be put on a Lexicon building.

#### 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 20 January 2016. The Executive had met three times on 26 January 2016, 9 February 2016 and 23 February 2016.

The Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

- The outcome of the Heathlands consultation on reprovision and closure was considered and changes to service model were agreed. Heathlands was a 1970s building with inferior standards, high vacancy rates and reducing attendance at the day centre. A team of experienced officers were working with residents and families to find alternative provision using the successful 'Ladybank model'.
- The School Places Plan had been agreed. By 2020, pupil numbers were expected to rise by 18% for Primary and 26% for Secondary. The Plan was based upon current house building programmes and had been proven historically to be accurate within 1%.
- Review of School Admission Arrangements had been needed due to the housing development plans and Charters School's decision to remove the feeder schools criteria. The Primary school feeder criteria has now been removed from the admission arrangements across the rest of the Borough. The arrangements

introduced more shared designated areas to accommodate phasing of housing growth. Protection had been given to siblings for six years.

- Great Hollands Primary School expansion had been agreed.
- The Community Safety Partnership Strategic Assessment was agreed with priorities largely unchanged from 2015.
- The Council had acquired the Magistrates Court plus in-borough commercial property as part of its emerging Property Investment Strategy.
- The Agency Workers Framework contract had been agreed.

#### 46. **Appointment of Monitoring Officer**

The Council was asked to formally appoint the Council's Monitoring Officer to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended).

On the proposition of Councillor McCracken, Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection, seconded by Councillor Allen it was

**RESOLVED** that the Borough Solicitor, Sanjay Prashar, be formally designated as Monitoring Officer and that such designation be retrospectively implemented from 29 June 2015 to coincide with his appointment.

#### 47. **Financial Plans and Revenue Budgets 2016-17**

The Council considered the report by the Borough Treasurer which set out the financial plans and revenue budgets for the financial year 2016/17 and supporting information which presented the Council's spending plans for 2016/17 and detailed budgets for the General Fund and Capital Programme. It was noted that a replacement to page 25 of the agenda papers had been circulated as it contained updated information which was not available at the time of the agenda publication.

Councillor Heydon gave a comprehensive presentation placing a particular focus on:

- Council's initial budget plans were published for consultation on 15 December. The Council had set its financial plans and published its budget based on advice that Revenue Support Grant would be reduced by 40% over the Spending Review period.
- The provisional financial settlement was announced two days later and the actual grant cut was 80% which was £4.3m more than expected and was based on previously unannounced changes to the distribution of resources amongst authorities. The new approach, known as 'resource equalisation' is based on the presumption that where possible income should be raised locally.
- Following a delegation of Berkshire Leaders, headed by Bracknell Forest Council's Leader, meeting with the Minister for Local Government a new transitional grant was announced to assist those authorities that had been affected most severely by the cuts and the Council will receive additional funding of £0.9m in both 2016/17 and 2017/18. This was acknowledged as a short term solution but provided additional time to plan and implement a whole range of economies and savings that will place the Council's finances on sound foundations for the future.

- He thanked the Chief Executive and his senior team for the hard work that they have put into the process.
- Following five years of Council Tax freezes the key feature was the proposed Council Tax increase of 3.99%. Just under half of this would be used to support the continued delivery of vital front line services, with the remaining 2% being spent entirely on adult social care functions.
- To the average Band D Council Tax payer this would be an increase of just over £40 for the year, less than £1 per week, and as such still represented good value for our residents.
- The net spending next year, before the use of reserves and balances would be £70.3m, but overall gross expenditure would exceed £100m. This would include:
  - Support for those with a learning disability (£13.7m)
  - Support for those with physical disabilities (£9.5m)
  - Waste disposal (£6.7m)
  - Looked after children (£6.3m)
  - Recreation, sport and leisure (£3.2m), and
  - Open spaces (£2.2m).
- In addition to this the Council is passporting from the government to our schools over £83m. Schools are under additional cost pressures but schools will receive the same amount of funding in cash terms as last year. Some schools will see an increase in their budgets, if for example, their pupil numbers have increased.
- The budget for schools is challenging and action will need to be taken to manage costs to ensure school budgets remain on a sustainable footing, especially when more new schools come on stream in support of the housing development that is taking place across the Borough.
- Council has found initial savings of almost £4.5m across other Council services with an overriding approach to increase efficiency and reduce back office costs.
- By managing demand for services and taking the opportunity to increase income this means that impact on services to residents has been minimised.
- The scale of the financial challenge the Council are facing means that not all services can be maintained at their present level, but will follow the principles set out in the recently agreed Council Plan
- £79.8m of proposed Capital Programme spending next year to continue the Council's programme of investment in the Borough.
- Redevelopment of the town centre is now a reality with a total of £12.4m already spent or committed to fund the purchase of the bus station, invest in a new park and deliver further public realm and highways works. This was being supplemented with a further £2m per annum to facilitate transport movements around the Borough to ensure the regenerated town centre functions as a 'whole centre' and not just an isolated shopping outlet.
- The second area of significant capital spend will be the Binfield Learning Village which will deliver much needed schools places in the north of the Borough as well as delivering new housing and associated community facilities. The overall project was expected to cost over £39m over a four year period.
- Feedback from the consultation process was taken into account and he thanked everyone who had taken part by examining the proposals and providing feedback.
- He concluded that he was presenting a balanced budget supported by £5.1m from reserves but included a 3.99% increase in the rate of Council Tax.
- He stated that transferring from balances was unsustainable and the Transformation Programme was key in replacing balances.

- He added that the Executive had agreed a range of further savings proposals of almost £4m that would be consulted upon and were included for information on the blue pages within the financial plans and budgets supporting information. These would be considered by Full Council on 13 July.

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

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

FOR (39) Councillors Allen, Angell, Mrs Angell, Dr Barnard, Bettison, D Birch, Mrs Birch, G Birch, Brossard, Brunel-Walker, Dudley, Finch, Finnie, Ms Gaw, Mrs Hamilton, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Hill, Mrs Ingham, King OBE, Leake, Mrs Mattick, McCracken, Mrs McCracken, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs McKenzie-Boye, McLean, Ms Merry, Peacey, Phillips, Porter, Skinner, Thompson, Tullett, Turrell, Virgo and Wade.

ABSTAIN (1) Councillor Mrs Temperton.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that:

## **1 Capital Programme 2016/17 - 2018/19**

- i) General Fund capital funding of £59.983m for 2016/17 in respect of those schemes listed on pages 229 to 233 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 £2.440m of expenditure to be funded from S106 as outlined in paragraph 5.33 on pages 225 and 226 and included on pages 229 to 233 of the Supporting Information be agreed;
- iv) That those schemes that attract external grant funding be agreed for inclusion within the 2016/17 capital programme at the level of funding received;

## **2 Revenue Budget 2016/17**

- i) The budget proposals set out in Table 1 (page 5) of the Summary report for Council, subject to the changes identified in sections 6.2 (page 6 and 7), 6.3 (pages 7 and 8), 7 (page 9) and 8.3 (pages 10 and 11) of the Supporting Information be agreed;
- ii) Fees and charges as set out on pages 97 to 186 of the Supporting Information be approved;
- iii) A provision for inflation of £0.765m be approved;
- iv) The commitment budget as set out in Annexe A be approved (page 25 of the Supporting Information);
- vi) The Schools Budget be funded at the level set out in section 9.1 (pages 11 to 12) of the Supporting Information 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 £5.174m (after allowing for the loss of interest on the use of balances of £0.013m) be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- x) Total net expenditure (after use of balances) of £65.104m, be approved;
- xi) The Council's Council Tax requirement, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set at £49.795m;
- 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	758.40
B	7/9	884.80
C	8/9	1011.20
D	9/9	1137.60
E	11/9	1390.40
F	13/9	1643.20
G	15/9	1896.00
H	18/9	2275.20

- xiii) the following indicators, limits, strategies and policies included in Annex E (pages 53 to 74 of the Supporting Information):
  - The Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2016/17 to 2018/19 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 2016/17 to 2018/19 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 2016/17 in accordance with Section 67 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 are :-

**(a) £43,772 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	3,697
Bracknell	18,601
Crowthorne	2,618
Sandhurst	7,720
Warfield	4,533
Winkfield	6,603

*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 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 as amended (the Act):

**(a) £286,745,061 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) £233,993,587 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) £52,751,474 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) £1,205.14 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) £2,956,447 PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

**(f) £1,137.60 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	£1,181.69
Bracknell	£1,216.26
Crowthorne	£1,208.99
Sandhurst	£1,210.89
Warfield	£1,171.59
Winkfield	£1,201.74

*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	787.79	919.09	1,050.39	1,181.69	1,444.29	1,706.89	1,969.48	2,363.38
Bracknell	810.84	945.98	1,081.12	1,216.26	1,486.54	1,756.82	2,027.10	2,432.52
Crowthorne	805.99	940.33	1,074.66	1,208.99	1,477.65	1,746.32	2,014.98	2,417.98
Sandhurst	807.26	941.80	1,076.35	1,210.89	1,479.98	1,749.06	2,018.15	2,421.78
Warfield	781.06	911.24	1,041.41	1,171.59	1,431.94	1,692.30	1,952.65	2,343.18
Winkfield	801.16	934.69	1,068.21	1,201.74	1,468.79	1,735.85	2,002.90	2,403.48

*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 2016/17 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:-

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley	111.31	129.86	148.41	166.96	204.06	241.16	278.27	333.92

- 3.5 That it be noted that for the year 2016/17 the Royal Berkshire Fire Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, subject to confirmation by the Fire Authority on 17 February, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	40.84	47.65	54.46	61.27	74.88	88.50	102.11	122.54

- 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 2016/17 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(a) Part of the Council's area	<b>TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND</b>							
<b>Parish</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Binfield	939.94	1,096.60	1,253.26	1,409.92	1,723.23	2,036.55	2,349.86	2,819.84
Bracknell	962.99	1,123.49	1,283.99	1,444.49	1,765.48	2,086.48	2,407.48	2,888.98
Crowthorne	958.14	1,117.84	1,277.53	1,437.22	1,756.59	2,075.98	2,395.36	2,874.44
Sandhurst	959.41	1,119.31	1,279.22	1,439.12	1,758.92	2,078.72	2,398.53	2,878.24
Warfield	933.21	1,088.75	1,244.28	1,399.82	1,710.88	2,021.96	2,333.03	2,799.64
Winkfield	953.31	1,112.20	1,271.08	1,429.97	1,747.73	2,065.51	2,383.28	2,859.94

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

(i) Councillor Mrs Temperton asked Councillor D Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing the following published question:

*It has been said that the decision to close Heathlands marks the end of Bracknell Forest Council being a Provider of Care; all care now being commissioned out. But what about the Intermediate Care service?*

*What has happened to the land swap plans between Bracknell Forest Homes and Bracknell Forest Council involving Dennis Pilcher House and Bridgewell? Residents were moved out of Dennis Pilcher House on the basis that there would be a new Intermediate Care Service provided there and much needed affordable homes built at Bridgewell.*

*When will the Intermediate Care Service be moving or is this too to be commissioned out?*

In response Councillor Birch stated that the closure of Heathlands marked the end of Bracknell Forest Council being a provider of long term residential care but Community Intermediate Care would continue to be provided on a short term basis which was normally for up to 6 weeks. Provision of care would not be moving from Bridgewell unless it no longer provided good value for money and would therefore be commissioned elsewhere.

He reported that since the original asset swap was agreed with Bracknell Forest Homes, opportunities for offering intermediate care in people's own homes have changed and this was no longer taking place. He added that the demand for the residential bed-based service continued to reduce so therefore the model needed to support a more flexible commissioning approach. This would be a more cost-effective and suitable option.

He stated that the consultation with residents of Dennis Pilcher House was carried out at a point in time, and clearly whilst residential Intermediate Care was seen as the way forward. This was undertaken by Bracknell Forest Homes and not the Council. Many residents were developing increasing needs for personal care, and a significant part of the consultation was exploring alternatives for their future care, support and wellbeing. The residents were not moved out of Dennis Pilcher House on the basis that there would be new service developed there.

He reported that 10 of the residents chose to move to the new Extra Care development at Clement House, and have settled well into extremely high quality homes for life, where changing needs can be supported on the premises.

He concluded that the futures of the Bridgewell and Dennis Pilcher sites will be the subject of further discussions, but for the time being, Bridgewell will continue to offer its Intermediate Care services as at present.

**MAYOR**