

To: **COUNCIL**
13 JULY 2016

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 27 April 2016, the Executive has met twice on 10 May and 14 June 2016. This report summarises decisions taken at these meetings 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 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Council is asked to consider the recommendation set out at paragraph 5.1.4.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

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

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Transformation and Finance

5.1 General Revenue Budget 2016/17 – Further Savings Proposals

- 5.1.1 In February 2016 the Council set its budget and council tax for 2016/17. As a consequence of previously unannounced changes introduced by the Local Government Finance Settlement, Members were faced with the challenge of setting a legal and balanced budget within a very short time scale with very few options available

In practice, this meant that the Executive recommended to Council a significant use of balances (£5.161m). In doing so, it was recognised that using such an amount was not sustainable over the medium term and a range of further savings proposals have therefore been agreed for consultation. These will allow the Council to put money back into balances during 2016/17 and to deliver its Medium Term Financial Strategy.

5.1.2 At its meeting on 10 May, the Executive agreed a number of savings proposals that had been subject to the standard six week budget consultation period and which had staffing implications. **[These proposals which are summarised in the following table and set out in more detail in Annex A are recommended to Council].**

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000
Transport capital works	-200	0
Highway Drainage	-50	-40
Road Safety Education	-25	-35
Highways Adoption	-12	-12
Concessionary Fares	-8	-8
Early Help Offer	-78	0
Property Services	-45	0
TOTAL	-418	-95

5.1.3 When the Executive subsequently met on 14 June it also considered the outcome of consultation on a number of additional savings proposals required to achieve a balanced budget in 2016/17. A number of these had been subject to full equality impact statements which are included with the Executive Report (appended at Annex E). The additional savings proposals are set out in Annexes B to D and summarised in the table below:

	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000
Adult social care commissioning	-500	0	0
Childrens centre	-75	-15	0
Early help offer	-119	-63	0
Grants to voluntary sector organisations	-28	-10	0
Corporate Services/Chief Executive's Office	-67	0	0
Economic development	-100	0	0
Community safety	-50	0	0
Highway maintenance	-200	+110	+90
Book fund	-100	0	0

South Hill Park grant	-44	0	0
Parish council tax reduction support	-175	0	0
Total	-1,478	+32	+90

- 5.1.4 The Executive recommends to Council that the savings proposals set out in Annexes A to D be approved and that the Councils Commitment Budget be amended to reflect the savings proposals contained in this report.**

The Chief Executive's Office

5.2 Corporate Performance Overview Report

- 5.2.1 The Executive noted the performance of the Council over the period from January to March 2016, highlighted in the Corporate Performance Overview Report.

Culture, Corporate Services & Public Protection

5.3 Complaint Against Bracknell Forest Council – Ombudsman Decision

- 5.3.1 The Executive noted the findings of the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to a complaint relating to the accuracy of measurements included in a planning report. The Local Government Ombudsman was clear that the errors had no material impact on the decision made but still concluded the errors represented maladministration but with no injustice. The Executive noted that a copy of the report had been circulated to all Members of the Council and agreed that no further action needed to be taken in relation to the matter detailed in the report.

Environment

Planning & Transport

5.4 Integrated Transport Capital Programme

- 5.4.1 The Executive has approved the 2016/17 Integrated Transport Capital Programme to facilitate transport services in line with the Council's Local Transport Plan 3.
- 5.4.2 The Integrated Transport Capital Programme supports the adopted Local Transport Plan which itself sets out the key transport challenges facing Bracknell Forest through the period 2011-2026. Schemes are developed taking account of the wider policy goals and issues such as deliverability and public impact/acceptability.
- 5.4.3 Historically, funding for the programme has been made up of an Integrated Transport Grant from central Government alongside developer contributions (S106) for transport mitigation measures. However, in 2013, additional Borough capital funding was allocated to the period 2013-17 for various town centre highway works, including junction capacity improvements.
- 5.4.4 In addition to grant allocation (£720k) and S106 funds (£865k), the Council has been successful in securing additional funds from the Local Enterprise Partnership through

the Local Growth Fund towards implementing transport measures linked to economic growth and carbon reduction. The focus has been on unlocking Bracknell Town Centre regeneration and borough-wide housing development. This work began with the Warfield Link Road and Coral Reef Junction Improvement in 2015/16 along with enhanced Town Centre accessibility improvements which continue into 2016/17. Further Local Growth Funds are sought for the A329 London Road corridor improvements planned for 2017/18.

5.5 The “Issues and Options” Comprehensive Local Plan Consultation

- 5.5.1 The Executive agreed the “Issues and Options” document and the Consultation Strategy for the Comprehensive Local Plan. Supporting consultation material has been published for a period of public consultation between 13 June 2016 and 25 July 2016.
- 5.5.2 The Comprehensive Local Plan (CLP) will set out a planning framework for the whole Borough, including the allocation of sites for the period to 2036. It is important that the Council has an up to date and robust planning framework which reflects current national policy and guidance to guide development. The preparation of the CLP will ensure that this is in place.
- 5.5.3 The CLP must be prepared in consultation with the local community and other stakeholders. The planned consultation will allow early engagement to help inform the next stage of the Plan. Preparation of the CLP will support the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2015 – 2019, in particular; ‘A strong and resilient economy’ and ‘a clean, green, growing and sustainable place’.
- 5.5.4 This initial consultation on the CLP will be strategic and will not at this stage identify sites. The consultation will be well publicised to ensure that residents are able to contribute and have their say in a meaningful way. This includes a leaflet to ensure that residents can make informed choices when responding to the consultation. The results of the consultation will form the basis and foundations of the CLP and shape future housing development in the Borough.

5.6 Overview & Scrutiny Review of Procedure for Planning Applications and Enforcement

- 5.6.1 A Overview and Scrutiny Working Group undertook a review of the planning application process and of enforcement. The working group was encouraged to undertake a thorough and in depth review, exploring any anecdotal problems and issues which have been raised by members. It undertook a number of exploratory meetings with officers and also undertook a visit to Elmbridge Council which had been a runner up in a recent national planning award.
- 5.6.2 The Executive commended the working group for the review it conducted and the helpful report it produced and endorsed the proposed response to the working group report as set out in Section 5 of the report.
- 5.6.3 Overall the review is a very positive one which did not find any fundamental issues with the current service. However, a number of suggested changes in process and procedure were identified which the working group recommended to the Executive. The majority of these were accepted.

Children, Young People and Learning

5.7 Ratification of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19

- 5.7.1 The Executive ratified the strategy and agreed that the action plan that underpins it should be implemented.
- 5.7.2 The final version of the strategy had been amended to reflect feedback from consultation with all key stakeholders. The Executive recognised the Strategy as an important piece of work that would in particular build resilience in young people in the Borough and bring together a range of best practice.

5.8 Report on the Outcome of the Bracknell Forest Community Learning Inspection

- 5.8.1 The Executive noted the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection and agreed the action plan produced in response to it.
- 5.8.2 Adult learning provision is grant funded by the Skills Funding Agency and is subject to inspection by Ofsted using the September 2015 Common Inspection Framework. The inspection was carried out 9 to 12 February 2016, which was 9 days after the restructure agreed by the Employment Committee on 28 October 2015 was implemented. In effect, therefore, the inspection covered standards achieved with the previous structure in place which was changed to bring a shift in focus. In the event the overall provision was judged to be “requires improvement”. However, verbal feedback from the Ofsted Lead Inspector was supportive of the changes implemented as a result of the restructure.

5.9 Family Focus Phase 2

- 5.9.1 The Executive were delighted that as a result of the first phase of the Family Focus programme being successful, the Council had been invited to participate as an early starter for phase 2 and approved the planned programme for it.
- 5.9.2 The expansion of the programme will focus on existing areas of concern e.g. school attendance, youth crime and anti-social behaviour and adults out of work. However, it will also incorporate the learning from the first phase and reach out to families with a broader range of problems such as domestic abuse, physical and mental health, substance abuse and younger children that need help.
- 5.9.3 To date 84 families have been engaged and have a key worker and 24 families have been turned around and now require no further support from public services. By September a further 90 families will have been identified and receiving interventions.
- 5.9.4 The Executive were pleased to see the positive impact that this programme was having on families within the Borough to date. It was clear that the programme had wide and far reaching benefits, including contributing to an overall reduction in anti-social behaviour as well as resulting in fewer children being subject to child protection orders, both of which outcomes are central to the approach encapsulated in the Council Plan.

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

- 5.10.1 The Executive endorsed the current strategies in place to support vulnerable young people into a sustainable form of education, employment or training.

5.10.2 The report outlined the range of interventions that have either been introduced or further developed to support young people that are not in a form of education, employment or training. This remains a key area of focus for the Council and a number of positive outcomes have been noted as a result. If young people are NEET at the age of 18, they are more likely to be unemployed throughout adulthood or find themselves in low paid employment. They are also more likely to suffer frequent periods of unemployment. The Executive recognised that this was an important piece of this work and would clearly contribute towards the economic future of the Borough.

5.11 Third Annual Report on the Statutory Roles and Responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services 2015/16.

5.11.1 The Executive endorsed the report and noted the range of activity undertaken by the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

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

Borough Treasurer

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

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 10 May and 14 June 2016

Contact for further information

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