

To: Council
19 March 2024

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since the Council agenda for the meeting on the 10 January 2024 was published, the Executive met on the 23 January and 6 February 2024. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 Updated Forward Plans for the Executive and other Council meetings are published every Friday and can be viewed 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 recommendations set out at paragraph 5.1.1.

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. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

5 Supporting Information

Council Strategy and Climate Change

5.1 [Establishment of a Joint Committee – The Berkshire Prosperity Board](#)

5.1.1 The Executive RECOMMENDED to Council:

- That the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 to deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive green and sustainable economic prosperity is approved.
- That the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee as set out in Appendix A of the Executive Director: Place, Planning and Regenerations report - Functions and Procedure Rules for a Joint Committee, Appendix B of the Executive Director: Place, Planning and Regenerations report - Responsibilities of the accountable body and Appendix C - Governance structure is approved subject to the Monitoring Officer being authorised to make minor amendments to the Functions & Procedure Rules in conjunction with the participating authorities.

- **That the Chief Executive be delegated to reach a legally binding agreement between the member Authorities setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the Authorities, particularly that between the Lead Authority, known as the Accountable Body and the other member Authorities and go through the relevant democratic process if required.**

5.1.2 Developing a Joint Committee and sharing common goals across a functional economic area will provide Berkshire Authorities with exciting new opportunities for collaboration on economic development. Providing more flexibility and influence than a single council would have on its own. Helping local authorities speak with one voice to secure more funding from Government and other agencies and sources to help get key projects and initiatives off the ground.

5.1.3 The first official board will take place in May following the decision making for each of the six Unitary Council's to establish the Board. The Board will meet four times a year. Each Council will lead on one of the six themes, with Bracknell Forest Council leading on Climate Change, and assisting on the Affordable Housing theme.

5.2 [Council Plan Overview Report](#)

5.2.1 The Executive noted the performance of the Council over the period from July-September 2023 highlighted in the Overview Report. This includes recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny.

5.2.2 At the end of the quarter, 15 actions were completed (14%), 67 actions (75%) were rated as "green", 21 actions (26%) were "amber" and 1 action (1%) was "red".

5.2.3 For Q2, there were 47 indicators presented. Progress against key performance indicators across the Council was positive with 32 (68%) "green", 0 (0%) were "amber" and 3 (6%) were "red". 12 indicators (26%) have no target set as they are for monitoring only.

Economic Development and Regeneration

5.3 [Bracknell Forest Economic Strategy 2024-2034](#)

5.3.1 The Executive noted the consultation responses and the suggested amendments to the strategy and approved the Bracknell Forest Economic Strategy 2024-2034 and action plan. The Executive also endorsed the repositioning of the Bracknell Forest Economic & Skills Development Partnership to the Bracknell Forest Economic Partnership.

5.3.2 The Council is committed to achieving growth and prosperity through a thriving and connected economy. The role the Council plays is both as an enabler and through direct delivery, working collaboratively with employers, business representatives, regional and national government, and residents.

5.3.3 The strategy will be delivered in partnership with residents, employers, businesses, skills, and training providers, and through working with neighbouring local authorities/government agencies.

Children, Young People & Learning

5.4 [Procurement Plan for the Children's Residential Framework 2024](#)

- 5.4.1 The Executive agreed to the recommendations contained in the Strategic Procurement Plan which included that the Council enter into a partnership agreement (the Partnership) with 20 local authorities', and Southampton City Council would be the lead procuring authority for the procurement of a new framework for children's residential provision (4 + 2 + 2 year contract commencing in October 2024).
- 5.4.2 It was anticipated that the total expenditure by the Council through the South Central Children's Residential framework would be between £3.5m and £4m per annum, giving an estimated total expenditure for the initial four year term of £16m. Approval of this Strategic Procurement Plan therefore authorised all future call offs from this Framework up to £16m for the initial 4 year term of the framework, and up to a maximum of £40m for the total 4 + 2 + 2 year term of the framework.
- 5.4.3 At the Framework Board Meeting on the 12 December 2024, Bracknell Forest Council voted for the following uplift approach for the new Framework recognising that a quorate (50%) decision needs to be reached which may be slightly different from Bracknell Forest Council's preferred position:
- Placements on the current residential framework would be uplifted in line with new framework placements.
 - Uplifts would be given annually at the start of the financial year from the second year of the framework onwards. This means providers would be eligible for their first uplift in April 2026 and every April thereafter Uplifts should be determined by Consumer Price Index including owner occupiers housing costs (CPIH) average for the year with a cap applied.
 - The cap should be set at a maximum of 7-8%.
 - Uplifts would apply to both existing and new placements.

5.5 [Youth Services Strategy Public Consultation](#)

- 5.5.1 The Executive approved the draft strategy and agreed that the final consultation plan would be agreed with Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning. The Executive also noted the invitation to councillors to join a dedicated session to provide feedback on the draft strategy and that the final strategy would be brought back for Executive approval following the consultation which would also include a detailed action plan.
- 5.5.2 The proposed Youth Services Strategy 2024 – 2027 policy has been created following a comprehensive data analysis, consultation and feedback on the proposed draft. The proposed strategy supports the Council's plan to ensure engaged and healthy communities.
- 5.5.3 Stakeholder consultation is an important part of the development of the youth strategy, enabling young people, families, members, key stakeholders, and wider residents to understand and comment on the proposed strategy.

Finance and Business Change

5.6 [Design and Construction Multi Disciplinary Consultancy Services Contract](#)

- 5.6.1 The Executive approved the Strategic Procurement Plan to tender appointment of a Design & Construction Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Services Contract. Approval of

this Strategic Procurement Plan authorised a proposed contractual term for a duration of up to ten years with an initial period of five years and further 3 + 2 years based on key performance indicators of optional extensions with a contract value of £12m for 10-year contract and for the Design & Construction Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Services Contract to be procured from a single provider.

- 5.6.2 The Executive also agreed to delegate authority to the Executive Director, Delivery and the Executive Member for Finance and Business Change to award the contract to the provider meeting the requirements of this contract.
- 5.6.3 The current Managing Partner framework expires on the 30 June 2025, therefore there is a requirement to commission an external organisation to provide Design & Construction Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Services Contract to implement and manage the delivery of construction projects. This will enable the Property, Education and other areas within the Council to use this approved supplier to assist when consultancy is required, at times when the in-house teams cannot provide support or does not have the expertise in house.

6 Advice Received from Statutory and Other Officers

Legal Advice

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

Financial Advice

- 6.2 The Executive Director: Resources' 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.

Climate Change and Ecological Implications

- 6.5 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reason the Council believes that this will have no impact on emissions is that the report is providing an update on decisions taken rather than proposing any action. The impact or not of each of the individual decisions was set out in the respective reports.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

- 6.6 There are no considerations.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – [23 January 2024](#)
[6 February 2024](#)

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