

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

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| Work Programme Reference | I093236 |
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1. **TITLE:** Bracknell Forest Local Plan – publication and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State for the purposes of independent examination (Regulations 19 and 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Place, Planning & Regeneration

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek the Executive's approval to publish the Pre Submission Bracknell Forest Local Plan (including Policies Map and supporting documents) for publication for a statutory period of six weeks, and, its recommendation to Council that the Pre Submission Bracknell Forest Local Plan, Policies Map and all supporting documents be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination by an appointed Inspector who be requested to recommend any main modifications to the submitted Plan, in the event that they are considered necessary to make the Plan sound.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED that

- i. the Pre-Submission Bracknell Forest Local Plan and Policies Map at Appendix A (along with the supporting documents) are approved for publication for a statutory period of consultation commencing on Tuesday 23rd March and closing on Tuesday 11th May 2021.
- ii. Under the provisions of Section 22 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), recommends to Council that the Pre-Submission Bracknell Forest Local Plan, the Policies Map and all supporting documents be formally submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
- iii. Under the provisions of Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), the Executive **RECOMMENDS** to Council that the appointed Inspector be requested to recommend main modifications to the submitted Plan, in the event that the Inspector considers that such modifications are necessary to make the Plan sound.
- iv. any minor changes to the Pre-Submission Bracknell Forest Local Plan and supporting documents (including the final versions of the Air Quality Report, Sustainability Appraisal, Habitats Regulations Assessment and Viability Assessment), following Council, are agreed by the Director of Place Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

It is important that the Council has an up to date and robust planning framework to guide development which reflects current national policy

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The options of delaying or abandoning the BFLP in order to await greater certainty over the Government’s intentions to reform the planning system, as set out in the White Paper ‘Planning for the Future’ have been considered and rejected for the following reasons:

- Uncertainty over the timescales involved in implementing any changes to the planning system suggested in the White Paper as they require primary legislation to be passed.
- Transitional arrangements are likely to be put in place that would cover the BFLP.
- The strong encouragement set out in the latest letter from the Chief Planner dated 18th December 2020, to continue to prepare and adopt local plans. The letter also refers to the need for a period of policy development after the receipt of the responses to the White Paper. This will in turn be followed by the preparation and progress of any legislation required to implement the planning reforms. This will take some time and it’s therefore important that local areas have a plan in place.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director: Place, Planning & Regeneration

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Councillor Dr Barnard expressed a disclosable pecuniary interest and would leave the meeting for the duration of the item.

Councillor Harrison expressed an affected interest in agenda item 6 but would remain in the meeting and be able to participate and vote on the item.

| Date Decision Made | Final Day of Call-in Period |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 16 March 2021 | 24 March 2021 |