



**Council**  
**Wednesday 27 March 2002, 7.30 pm**

**AGENDA**

- |   | Page No |
|---|---------|
| 1. <b>Apologies for Absence</b>   |         |
| 2. <b>To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2002</b>   | 3 - 12  |
| 3. <b>Declarations of Interest</b><br>To receive any declarations of interest in any matters on the agenda for the meeting.   |         |
| 4. <b>Mayor's Announcements</b>   |         |
| 5. <b>Scheme for Public Participation - Procedure Rule 9</b><br>To receive petitions, statements, deputations and questions from the public   |         |
| (i) Petition submitted by Mrs L Tooze on behalf of the Liberal Democrats<br><br>"In the interests of local democracy, we the undersigned urge this council to reinstate in Bracknell Forest the right of local residents to ask questions, make statements and present petitions to the relevant decision making bodies, in this case the Executive, and not just to the Full Council." |         |
| 6. <b>Executive Report</b><br>To receive the Leader's report on the work of the Executive since the Council meeting on 27 February 2002.  | 13 - 16 |

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**COUNCIL  
27 FEBRUARY 2002**

**(7.30 pm to 9.20 pm)**

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Edger, Egan, Fawcett, Flood, Glasson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, Kendall, McCormack, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Councillors Finnie, Grayson, Jones and Ward

**THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MRS HAYES, IN THE CHAIR**

**328. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 30 January 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

**329. Mayors Announcements**

(i) Charity Pancake Race

The Mayor was pleased to announce that the first annual charity pancake race had been held on 12 February 2002 and had raised £300 for the Mayors charity, Marie Curie Cancer Care.

(ii) Mayor's Charity Golf Day

The Mayor reminded members and officers of the charity golf day which was to be held on Thursday 25 April. Application forms were available from the Mayor's office.

(iii) Chartermark Award

The Mayor joined Councillor McCracken in congratulating the staff of The Lookout on being awarded the Chartermark at a recent awards ceremony.

(iv) Mayor's Engagements

A list of engagements completed by the Mayor since the last meeting of the Council had been circulated to members.

**330. Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990**

The Council was advised that notice had been served, in accordance with Regulation 9 (b) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, that Councillor Grayson wished to be treated as a member of the

Conservative Group. As there had been no accompanying notice under Regulation 17 (c) requesting a review of the representation of Groups on committees, committee membership would remain unchanged until the review at the annual meeting of the Council on 1 May 2002.

**331. Question under Procedure Rule 10.2**

The Council had received notice of the following question by Councillor McCormack, submitted in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.2:-

*As the Executive Member for Social Services and Housing, could Councillor Barnard please confirm the total number of unfilled vacancies in the Social Services and Housing Department, and the consequential impact of such vacancies on the quality of services to residents?*

Councillor Barnard responded to the question, advising that in January 2002 there had been 752 f.t.e. posts within the Social Services and Housing Department and that currently 111 f.t.e. posts were classified as being vacant. However, 97% of the vacant posts were covered by temporary arrangements or the use of agency staff across the department ensuring compliance with all statutory requirements. The Council had previously noted the difficulties in recruitment of social care staff. This was a situation which was both regional and national. However, there was still a stable core of committed and highly professional staff within Social Services and Housing. The Department remained committed in its determination to maintain good quality services. Following the joint review of Social Services and Housing, the Department had embarked on a comprehensive review of its recruitment and retention strategies in order to build on the pool of good quality staff.

In responding to a supplementary question regarding concerns over the number of disabled people awaiting assessment by occupational therapists, Councillor Barnard advised that any urgent referrals for assessment were dealt with as such. Where there were staff shortages a backlog of cases could mount up but strenuous efforts were being made to recruit key staff.

**332. Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council reported to the Council on the main activities of the Executive since 30 January 2002. Preparation of the budget had dominated the month, with extensive consultation leading to the Executive proposals which appeared on the Council's agenda. The Council had also held a successful community planning conference with key stakeholders and partner organisations.

The strategy for regenerating Bracknell Town Centre and the Town Centre Masterplan had been agreed by the Executive for widespread consultation.

The Local Government Improvement Programme had conducted a second on-site peer review between 18 and 22 February 2002. The provisional findings of the review team had been very positive and their report was expected in March 2002.

In response to a question the Leader of the Council appointed Councillors Flood (Chairman), Miss Haydon, North and Piasecki to act as an advisory group to ensure that the interests of young people were represented in the consultation processes relating to the development of the proposals for regenerating Bracknell Town

Centre.

### 333. **Financial Plans and Revenue Budget 2002/2003**

Following a presentation by the Director of Corporate Services, the Leader of the Council submitted a detailed report setting out the recommendations of the Executive for the Housing Revenue Account 2002/03, the Capital Programme 2002/03 – 2004/05 and the Revenue Budget 2002/03 including the level of Council Tax to be charged in the coming year.

The Leader of the Council moved adoption of the recommendations set out in the Executive report. An amendment was then moved by Councillor McCormack, seconded by Councillor Beadsley, which had the effect of instructing the Executive to reconsider recommendation 3 and amend it as follows:

- 3(ii) *Fees and Charges as set out in Annexe D to the report and in a separate report for Social Services be approved except:*
- *Home Care charges increase to £8.45 per hour*
  - *Meals charges increase to £2.05*
  - *Day Care charges for Older People increase to £3.90 per day*
- 3(vi) *Total of expenditure of £90.254m be approved by adding £0.021m to the Social Services and Housing expenditure shown in Table 12 of the report*
- 3(vii) *A contribution of £2.68m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure*

*and that the Council defer consideration of the Council Tax resolution until Wednesday 6 March 2002 to allow the Executive to consider the above instructions.*

On a request for a recorded vote to be taken the voting on the amendment was as follows:-

For (8) Councillors Adams, Beadsley, Ms Brown, Fawcett, Glasson, McCormack, Piasecki and Mrs Shillcock

Against (28) Councillors Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Browne, Edger, Egan, Flood, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, Kendall, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wade, Wallace and Worrall.

The amendment was declared lost. The Executive proposal was put to the vote and carried. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that

#### **1. Housing Revenue Account 2002/03**

- (i) changes to the 2002/03 base budget as outlined in paragraph 5.5 of the report be approved;

- (ii) changes to the 2002/03 net budget position as outlines in table 3 and annexes A, B, C and D to the report be approved;
- (iii) garage rents, carports and parking spaces be increased by 5.2% (being 32 pence per week for garages and 16 pence per week for car ports and parking spaces);
- (iv) rents on dwellings increase by 5.2%, requiring an average rent increase of £3.03 per week by increasing the current points multiplying factor from 1058 to 1113.

## **2. Capital Programme 2002/03 – 2004/05**

- (i) the early repayment of the Local Government Reorganisation Supplementary Credit Approval at an estimated cost of £835,000, to be met from accumulated capital receipts be approved;
- (ii) capital funding of £12.035m for 2002/03, in respect of new schemes listed in Annexes B-F of the report, be recommended to the Council;
- (iii) those schemes that attract external grant funding be recommended to the Council for inclusion within the 2002/03 capital programme, at the level of funding received;
- (iv) the release of £280,948 from S106 monies be recommended to the Council to fund capital schemes outlined in section 5.16 of the report;
- (v) the indicative programme for 2003/04 and 2004/05 be reviewed in the light of resources available and spending priorities in December 2002.

## **3. Revenue Budget 2002/03**

- (i) the draft budget proposals set out in Annexe C to the report be agreed;
- (ii) fees and charges as set out in Annexe D to the report and in a separate report for Social Services be approved;
- (iii) the new budget proposals identified in section 7.3 for services other than Education, plus a further £0.050m pressure for Social Services income as supported by a separate report be agreed;
- (iv) the non service specific budget issues highlighted in section 8, including a contingency of £0.4m to be controlled by the Leader and Chief Executive be incorporated;
- (v) the Education budget proposals set out in section 9 and summarised in Table 11 of the report be agreed;
- (vi) total expenditure of £90.233m as shown in Table 12 of the report be approved;
- (vii) a contribution of £2.659m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;

- (viii) the Council that the Council's total requirement for the Collection Fund, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set as £30.936m;
- (ix) 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	500.46
B	7/9	583.87
C	8/9	667.28
D	9/9	750.69
E	11/9	917.51
F	13/9	1,084.33
G	15/9	1,251.15
H	18/9	1,501.38

#### 4. Council Tax Resolution

- (i) the recommendations of the Executive outlined in section 2 of the report be agreed.
- (ii) it be noted that at its meeting on 21 November 2001 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2002/03 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

(a) **41,210 TAX BASE FOR WHOLE BOROUGH 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 its council tax base for the year*

(b) **TAX BASE FOR PART OF THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

***EACH PARISH AREA***

Binfield	3,210
Bracknell	17,230
Crowthorne	2,390
Sandhurst	7,810
Warfield	4,250
Winkfield	6,320

*being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with regulation 6 of the Regulations, 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*

(iii) that the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2002/03 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

(a) £167,245,546 **TOTAL EXPENDITURE INCLUDING GENERAL FUND, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT AND PARISH PRECEPTS**

*being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(2)(a) to (e) of the Act*

(b) £74,491,000 **TOTAL INCOME INCLUDING GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

*being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(a) to (b) of the Act*

(c) £3,295,951 **REDUCTION IN GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BALANCES**

*being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 32(3)(c) of the Act*

(d) £89,458,595 **BOROUGH AND PARISH EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND COUNCIL TAX**

*being the amount by which the aggregate at (iii)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (iii)(b) and (iii)(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year*

(e) £56,964,114 **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SERVICES**

*being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its general fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant and additional grant or SSA reduction grant or relevant special grants*

(f) £326,000 **COUNCIL TAX / RESIDUAL COMMUNITY CHARGE**

*being the amount of the sums which the Council estimates will be transferred in the year to its collection fund from its general fund in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (Council Tax Deficit) and increased by the amount of any sum which the Council estimates will be transferred to its collection fund from its general fund pursuant to the Collection Fund (Community Charges) directions under section 98(4) of the Local*



*Government Finance Act 1988 made on 7th February 1994) and increased by the amount representing the authority's contribution to council tax benefit resulting from an increase in its council tax calculated in accordance with the Collection Fund (General) (England) Directions 1999, the Collection Fund (Council Tax Benefit) (England) Direction 1999 and the Local Authorities (Alteration of Requisite Calculations) (England) Regulations 1999*

- (g) £796.42                    **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

*being the amount at (iii)(d) above less the amount at (iii)(e) plus the amount at (iii)(f) above, all divided by the amount at (ii)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year*

- (h) £1,884,546                **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

- (i) £750.69                    **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

*being the amount at (iii)(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (iii)(h) above by the amount at (ii)(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*

- (j) Part of the Council's area                **BOROUGH AND PARISH COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH PARISH FOR BAND "D"**

Binfield	784.19
Bracknell	800.72
Crowthorne	798.81
Sandhurst	804.34
Warfield	780.10
Winkfield	791.19

*being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (iii)(i) 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 (ii)(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*

(k) 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	522.79	609.93	697.06	784.19	958.45	1,132.72	1,306.98	1,568.38
Bracknell	533.81	622.78	711.75	800.72	978.66	1,156.60	1,334.53	1,601.44
Crowthorne	532.54	621.30	710.05	798.81	976.32	1,153.84	1,331.35	1,597.62
Sandhurst	536.23	625.60	714.97	804.34	983.08	1,161.82	1,340.57	1,608.68
Warfield	520.07	606.74	693.42	780.10	953.46	1,126.81	1,300.17	1,560.20
Winkfield	527.46	615.37	703.28	791.19	967.01	1,142.83	1,318.65	1,582.38

*being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (iii)(j) 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*

- (iv) That it be noted that for the year 2002/03 the Thames Valley Police Authority have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Thames Valley Police Authority	48.99	57.16	65.32	73.49	89.82	106.15	122.48	146.98

- (v) That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (iii)(k) and (iv) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for the year 2002/03 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

(a) Part of the Council's area **TOTAL COUNCIL TAX FOR EACH VALUATION BAND**

Parish	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Binfield	571.78	667.09	762.38	857.68	1,048.27	1,238.87	1,429.46	1,715.36
Bracknell	582.80	679.94	777.07	874.21	1,068.48	1,262.75	1,457.01	1,748.42
Crowthorne	581.53	678.46	775.37	872.30	1,066.14	1,259.99	1,453.83	1,744.60

Sandhurst	585.22	682.76	780.29	877.83	1,072.90	1,267.97	1,463.05	1,755.66
Warfield	569.06	663.90	758.74	853.59	1,043.28	1,232.96	1,422.65	1,707.18
Winkfield	576.45	672.53	768.60	864.68	1,056.83	1,248.98	1,441.13	1,729.36

- (vi) (a) The amount of money which is for the time being the maximum amount which the authority may have outstanding by way of borrowing shall be the sum of the current external borrowing at 31st March 2002 plus the value of the Government's Basic Credit Approval plus such short term borrowing that is needed for temporary capital or revenue purposes or £10 million, whichever is the lower ("the overall borrowing limit");
- (b) The amount of money, being part of the overall borrowing limit, which may be held by way of short term borrowing is limited to £1 million
- (c) The proportion of the total amount of interest payable by the Council which is at a rate or rates which can be varied by the person to whom it is payable or which vary by reference to any external factors shall be limited to 10%.

**MAYOR**

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**COUNCIL  
27 MARCH 2002**

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**EXECUTIVE REPORT**

Since the last Executive report to the Council on 27 February a number of important items have been discussed collectively by the Executive and the most significant of these are brought to the attention of the Council in this report.

**MODERNISING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN BRACKNELL FOREST**

Joint work has been going on for many months to develop a strategic approach to commissioning social care services and health improvement through joint arrangements involving the Council, the new Primary Care Trust and other local organisations. This work acknowledges that the demands of modern health policy require an integrated approach across the Council and other agencies including the health services and the independent sector. This work has now come to a head and the Executive has approved proposals for establishing a formal partnership structure in a Health and Social Care Partnership Board bringing together representatives of the Council, NHS organisations and voluntary and community organisations. The new board will replace the current Local Joint Planning Group and will absorb the existing Health Improvement Project Group. A Joint Senior Managers Group has been established to bring forward implementation proposals.

In addition the Executive has agreed that the existing Health Panel should be reconvened as a Health Forum to provide the Council with an open opportunity for debate on health issues. The new forum will be chaired by Councillor Terry Mills and active participation by external organisations will be continued.

**ADULTS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

On 31 October 2001 the former Social Services and Housing Committee approved a draft of an eligibility policy for adult services provided by the Social Services and Housing Department. Since that time extensive consultation with stakeholders has been undertaken and a revised draft has now been adopted by the Executive for implementation from 1 April 2002. The vast majority of the criteria are based very closely on Department of Health Fair Access Guidance issued in July 2001 which introduced the key concept of eligibility for services based on the risks that would arise from failure to provide.

**A MODEL FOR INTEGRATED OLD PEOPLES SERVICES IN BRACKNELL FOREST**

As another significant step in improving services in both the local primary care system and in Social Services and Housing, officers from the Social Services and Housing Department and the Primary Care Trust have developed an outline model for integrated services for older people. The model involves the creation of two teams each under the overall management of a Joint Older Peoples Locality Manager. The first team will cover intermediate care and access and will be the single point of access for adult services. The second team will manage the longer term provision of care. These outline proposals have been approved by the Executive on the basis that both organisations will consult widely on the model and draw up a project plan for implementation. The proposed implementation date is April 2003. However the outcome of consultation and the project plan will be brought to the Executive and to the Primary Care Trust Board in June 2002.

## **THE STAFF COLLEGE, BRACKNELL – PLANNING AND DESIGN BRIEF**

The Executive has now approved a draft planning and design brief for the ex Staff College site in Bracknell for the purposes of public consultation. The brief accords with the Bracknell Forest Borough Local Plan adopted on 30 January 2002 and contains housing development proposals of at least 680 (gross) new dwellings with the retention of about 18-19 hectares of open space of public value. The brief aims to create a flagship development of distinct identifiable design that fits within the neighbourhood of Harmanswater. The brief has therefore been based on the very latest best practice guidance examples and aims to promote environmentally friendly techniques to create a truly sustainable development. The Executive has approved specific arrangements for public consultation which will include a public exhibition at a central location within the immediate area.

## **COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICE DELIVERY**

Following a review of the funding of community transport services, the Executive has approved proposals to introduce a service specification and contract for community transport in the Borough to replace the current arrangements for funding these services through the voluntary sector grant process. It is envisaged that this will provide a more cost effective method of service delivery. Tenders will be assessed against budget provision for grants and payments in next year's budget.

## **A POST-16 STRATEGY FOR BRACKNELL FOREST**

Post-16 provision in the Borough has been under review to further improve standards and opportunities for students. The review was prompted in part by the change in the source of funding from DFES to the Learning and Skills Council reflecting the shared responsibilities for post-16 provision between the Council and Berkshire Learning and Skills Council. An opportunity had also arisen to consider the establishment of a joint post-16 centre on the Wick Hill site involving collaboration between Garth Hill School and Bracknell and Wokingham College.

The proposed strategy results from consultation on the paper on post-16 provision approved by the former Education Committee in January 2001. The draft strategy has been adopted by the Executive as a basis for further consultation with school and other partners including Bracknell and Wokingham College, the Berkshire Learning and Skills Council and Lifelong Learning Partnership. The proposal to establish a joint post-16 centre arose during the preparation of the strategy and was initiated in the first instance by Garth Hill School and Bracknell and Wokingham College. A consultancy report has identified that the proposed development will be more cost effective, offer a broader curriculum and opportunities to raise standards, and enable the school and college to develop joint approaches to the 14-19 curriculum. A detailed feasibility study will now be undertaken and a further report brought back to the Executive.

## **EDUCATION ASSET MANGEMENT PLAN LOCAL POLICY STATEMENT 2002**

The Council is required to regularly review and update its Education Asset Management Plan Local Policy Statement in accordance with the guidance issued by DFES. This has now been concluded and a revised policy statement adopted. The revised statement includes amendments as a result of a consultation exercise with schools and the dioceses.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Following on from the decision of the former Strategy and Policy Committee in December 2000 when a strategy for replacing the Council's mainframe computer and operational systems was agreed, a major tendering exercise has taken place to select a replacement financial information and management system with effect from 1 April 2003. As a result of this exercise the Executive has now selected the most appropriate supplier and has authorised the Director of Corporate Services to finalise the contract. The anticipated costings represent a potential reduction in the Capital Programme provision for the replacement of the Council's mainframe and the Executive have agreed that this saving should be added to the Innovation fund to help fund the subsequent development and purchase of a Customer Resource Management and Personnel Information System. The new Financial Information and Management System will be implemented with effect from 1 April 2003.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

There are a number of very significant issues to be addressed by the Executive in the coming weeks, some of which are described below.

### Public Service Agreement

Work is progressing on the development of a Local Public Service Agreement which is an agreement between the Borough Council and the Government, intended to improve key outcomes more quickly and / or to a higher level than would otherwise be the case. There are two major benefits of putting a local Public Service Agreement in place:

- Additional Finance: This is in two forms, the first is 'pump-priming' money to establish the schemes identified within the Local Public Service Agreement; and a 'Performance Reward Grant' equivalent to 2.5% of the authority's net budget requirement if the authority meets or exceeds all the performance targets within the Local Public Service Agreement.
- Additional Freedoms and Flexibilities open to negotiation between the local authority and the relevant Government departments to assist in meeting the targets set in the Public Service Agreement.

An initial meeting has taken place with DTLR, and the main negotiations will take place in May 2002. The Executive will consider the proposed target areas in April.

### Comprehensive Performance Assessment

The recent White Paper – Strong Local Government, Quality Public Services introduced 'Comprehensive Performance Assessment' (CPA) for local authorities. These annual assessments will build on existing audit, inspections and assessments as part of a performance framework for local government and will bring together performance indicator data, inspection data and a corporate governance assessment. From this a 'balanced scorecard' developed by the Audit Commission, will classify individual authorities as falling into one of four categories:

- High performing
- Striving
- Coasting
- Poor performing

High performing councils will receive freedoms and flexibilities over and above the deregulatory measures available to all councils. A diminishing level of similar freedoms and flexibilities will be available to other classifications.

The Audit Commission is aiming to complete the first comprehensive performance assessments for all upper tier authorities by late 2002. This Council has been placed in the first 'tranche' of assessments, i.e. during May 2002. However this may represent resourcing issues for the Council, as it is the same time-scale as the negotiation period for the Local Public Service Agreement and the timing issues have been raised with the Audit Commission.

#### Community Plan for Bracknell Forest 2002/05

A first draft of the Community Plan for Bracknell Forest entitled "Shaping Tomorrow Together" will be considered during April. The draft will set the scene for further consultation with key partners, the public and our own Select Committees. More detail will be reported to the next meeting of Council.

#### Policy and Performance Plan 2002/03

Another key strategic plan for the Council is the Policy and Performance Plan 2002/03 which is our Best Value Performance Plan. Again, this plan will be considered as a first draft shortly by the Executive and is a comprehensive assessment of performance of all the Council's services. This time we have worked hard to measure our performance in the context of the key policies of the Council, not simply the Government's performance indicator tables so that we hope it will be more meaningful for the Council and the public.

#### Cultural Strategy

At the April meeting, the Executive will be considering the first Cultural Strategy for the Borough. Although the Leisure Services Department has led the process, it is not a leisure services strategy or even a borough council strategy but rather one for the borough as a whole. It's development has been ongoing for about a year and it has been produced through a great deal of consultation with Members, the public, parish and town councils, other stakeholders and consistent representation by all departments reflecting the breadth of the subject matter. We look forward to seeing the collective work of all these partners in due course.