

COUNCIL
19 APRIL 2023
7.32 - 8.24 PM



Present:

Councillors Bhandari (Mayor), Mrs L Gibson (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Angell, Atkinson, Dr Barnard, D Birch, Mrs Birch, Brossard, Brown, Dudley, Finch, Ms Gaw, MJ Gibson, Green, Harrison, Mrs Hayes MBE, Ms Hayes, Heydon, Mrs Ingham, Leake, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs McKenzie-Boyle, Mossom, Parker, Temperton, Turrell and Virgo

Present Virtually:

Councillors Bettison OBE, Gbadebo, Mrs Hamilton, Ms Merry, Porter and Skinner

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Bidwell, Brunel-Walker, Kirke, Mrs Mattick, McLean, Parker and Wade

49. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

50. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Heydon declared an disclosable pecuniary interest in agenda item 5, and would leave the Council Chamber for the duration of the item.

51. Mayor's Announcements

Mayor's Opportunity Champion Awards Winners

The Mayor gave out his final Opportunity Champion Awards. The awards were presented to Keith Bunyan who runs Martins Heron Train station, Anna Kennedy the Headmistress of Warfield CofE Primary School and Georgina Morris, who was unable to attend in person, who had recently launched the monthly Repair Café in Crowthorne.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst 200th Sovereign's Parade

The Mayor reported he attended the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst 200th Sovereign's Parade, which had been a huge honour to attend and a brilliant day for those passing out.

Coronation Celebration Plans

The Mayor provided an update on the Coronation events that would be happening on the 6 May. A live screening of the service at Westminster Abby would take place at Bond Square from 11am, which would be followed by a tea hosted by the Mayor in the Waitrose Café. A coronation crown made up of resident's photos from across the borough was being displayed in Princess Square.

Libraries would be hosting a range of royal events to mark the coronation and the Mayor would be visiting as many street parties as possible on Sunday 7 May.

52. **Executive Report**

The Deputy Leader of the Council, Councillor Birch, presented the report on the work of the Executive since that reported at the Council meeting on 22 February 2023. The Executive had met once on the 21 March 2023.

The Deputy Leader highlighted the following matters that had been considered:

Planning and Transport | Proposed Main Modifications to the Bracknell Forest Local Plan

- The making of Proposed Main Modifications to the Bracknell Forest Local Plan (Pre Submission version), and associated changes to the Policies Map had been agreed.
- The Executive Director: Place, Planning and Regeneration, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport, was authorised to agree the draft wording.
- The Proposed Main Modifications to the Bracknell Forest Local Plan would be consulted on for a period of at least six weeks over the Summer of 2023.

Planning and Transport | Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2023/24

- The overall Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2023/24 had been approved.
- The Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2023/24 totalled £4.55m.
- Over 75% of funding was derived from external sources.
- The programme included further DfT funding for electric vehicle charging provision following a successful bid.
- An increase in core capital contribution to £1.2m in 2023/24 had been included for road maintenance.
- Developer contributions via S106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) supplemented the programme along with a local contribution from Borough Capital.

Planning and Transport | SANG capacity agreements between Bracknell Forest Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council

- An agreement with Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) had been agreed for land at Shepherd Meadows to serve as further Sustainable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG).
- The Council would receive financial contributions at rates in line with the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document.
- This would support the continued maintenance and enhancement of the SANG.

Children, Young People & Learning | School Places Plan & Capital Strategy 2023-2028

- The School Places Plan and Capacity Strategy 2023-2028 had been approved.

- This would be published in April 2023.
- The Council had a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and an agreed vision.
- Headteachers and Further Education providers had been consulted on what planning for school places should look like.

Children, Young People & Learning | Household Support Fund (Phase four)

- The Household Support Fund (phase four) would be distributed through:
- Purchasing supermarket vouchers, or for opted schools to make equivalent arrangements. Households would receive a £15 voucher per child per week of the holidays.
- Purchasing pre-paid cards or supermarket vouchers to distribute to low income households.
- Enhancing the Local Welfare Scheme provision.
- Providing application-based grants to the voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to provide direct support to residents.

Council Strategy & Community Cohesion | Council Plan Overview Report

- The Executive noted the performance of the council over the period from October to December 2022 highlighted in the Overview Report.

Council Strategy & Community Cohesion | Service Plans 2023

- The Executive endorsed the new service plans and agreed that they be published on the website in April 2023.
- All directorates have reviewed the content of their individual service plans in preparation for the 2023/24 financial year.
- The work had been a light touch review, to refresh the plans until September 2023.

Adult Services, Health and Housing | Local Authority Housing Fund

- The Executive approved the proposals for the Council to acquire 7 x three bedroom homes and to refurbish 2 x three bedroom properties in existing stock under the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) scheme.
- Any units acquired would be owned and managed by the Council and would be available for use by the housing service as required.
- The four bedroom unit which would need to be provided to a household in bridging accommodation.

Adult Services, Health and Housing | Section 75 Agreement (NHS Act 2006) 2023 and Onwards

- Approval was given to the Executive Director: People to agree and enter into a S75 agreement from 1 April 2023 effective for a period of 3 years.
- The recommended model of future S75 agreements was agreed.
- The proposed improvements in development with Frimley Integrated Care Board (ICB) to the current S75 Agreement were noted.

Adult Services, Health and Housing | Strategic Procurement Plan – Sexual & Reproductive Health

- The Executive agreed that the Strategic Procurement Plan for the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health be approved.
- Bracknell Forest Council would take the lead on the re-procurement on behalf of all three councils in East Berkshire Public Health service.
- The proposed contractual term would be 5 years (3 +2) with a review of the provision in year 3.
- Procurement will ensure that the contract could start in July 2024.

Culture, Delivery and Public Protection | Procurement of Microsoft M365 Licences

- The Executive agreed that the approved framework be accessed for Microsoft M365 licences via a direct award.
- This would retain the Council's current professional partnership with its current Microsoft Gold Partner, Phoenix Software Ltd.

Transformation and Finance | Joint Venture Business Plan Review

- The Executive noted the progress made by Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership for the period December 2021 to December 2022.
- The Executive agreed that the Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership enters into the Bond and Co-indemnities required to undertake the enabling works.
- It was noted that there was no flow of liability from this arrangement to the Council.
- The Joint Venture Business Plan had not changed materially.

The report contained recommendations that the Council was asked to resolve in respect of the following matters:

- Local Authority Housing Fund
- Joint Venture Business Plan Review

Councillor Temperton asked whether there would be a four bedroom property delivered as part of the Local Authority Housing Fund. Councillor Birch, Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing responded that it was within the plan to deliver a four bedroom property.

Local Authority Housing Fund

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, Adult Services, Health and Housing, seconded by Councillor Allen it was

RESOLVED that Council approve capital spend up to a maximum of £3.4m to meet the total cost of acquiring the additional homes, to be funded from a combination of the (Local Authority Housing Fund) LAHF grant and long-term borrowing

Joint Venture Business Plan Review

On the proposition of Councillor Birch, Adult Services, Health and Housing, seconded by Councillor Dr Barnard it was

RESOLVED that Council approve the annual refresh of the Joint Venture Business Plan 2020-2023 for the Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership, alongside the financial budget and forecast.

Councillor Birch thanked those Councillors who would be stepping down at the Election in May. The combined service of the eleven Councillors who were stepping down was 124 years.

53. **Report of Overview and Scrutiny**

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny report 2022-23 which informed councillors of progress made in respect of the operation and development of overview and scrutiny in Bracknell Forest over the four-year period of the administration –2019-2023.

Councillor Angell, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission reported that the Commission and its Panels had received support from Executive members, officers and external witnesses in terms of information provided and participation in activities. The report included statistics on activities including increased frequency of Commission meetings, review activities, officer and witness attendance. He thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Panels and officers for their hard work to deliver the work programme.

On the proposition of Councillor Angell, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Commission, seconded by Councillor Virgo it was

RESOLVED that the 2019-2023 four-year report of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission be approved.

CHAIRMAN