

**COUNCIL**  
**24 MAY 2023**  
**7.30 - 8.32 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Allen, Bailey, Barnard, Bidwell, Brown, Cochrane, Collings, C Eberle, T Eberle, Ejaz, M Forster, S Forster, Frewer, Frost, Gaw, Gillbe, Haffegge, Harrison, Hayes MBE, Jefferies, Karim, McKenzie-Boyle, McLean, Mossom, Neil, O'Regan, Penfold, Pickering, Purnell, Robertson, Smith, Temperton, C Thompson, P Thompson, Watts, Webb, Welch, Wright and Zahuruddin

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Egglestone and Virgo

**THE MAYOR, ANKUR SHIV BHANDARI, IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor was pleased to announce that he had awarded five awards of £2,500 to successful organisations through the Mayor's Opportunity Fund, which he presented at the Coronation celebrations. The Mayor thanked his chaplain, Reverend Carol Dunk, and councillors for their support during his mayoral year.

**1. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**2. Election of the Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest for the 2023/24 Municipal Year**

It was proposed by Councillor Temperton, and seconded by Councillor Neil, that Councillor Ejaz be elected Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest for the Municipal Year 2023 – 2024.

There being no further nominations it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Naheed Ejaz be elected Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest for the 2023 - 2024 Municipal Year.

Councillor Ejaz was invested with the Mayoral Chain of Office and then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Mayor and thanked Members of the Council for her election.

**THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR EJAZ, IN THE CHAIR**

In her acceptance speech, Councillor Ejaz thanked councillors for appointing her as the Mayor and celebrated a new chapter for Bracknell Forest Council.

**3. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Mayor**

Councillor Temperton delivered a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Ankur Shiv Bhandari, reflecting on the unique elements of the mayoral year including the

Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the arrangements for the memorial service for Queen Elizabeth II, and for the Coronation of King Charles II.

Councillor Temperton also celebrated the Mayor's Opportunity Fund which had benefited several organisations in the borough and remarked that last year's dual faith Civic Service had been a first for the borough.

**4. Response by the Immediate Past Mayor**

The retiring Mayor, Ankur Shiv Bhandari, in his response thanked officers and Members of the Council for their support during the last year. He thanked his family for their support during his Mayoral year, and former Leader, Paul Bettison for his leadership of the Council for the past two decades.

Ankur Shiv Bhandari was presented with the badge of Immediate Past Mayor by the Chief Executive.

**5. Appointment of the Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest**

It was proposed by the Mayor and seconded by Councillor Temperton that Councillor Penfold be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest for the Municipal Year 2023– 2024.

There being no further nominations, it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Penfold be appointed Deputy Mayor of the Borough of Bracknell Forest for the Municipal Year 2023 - 2024.

Councillor Penfold was invested with the Deputy Mayoral Chain of Office and then made and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor.

**6. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 April 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Council meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.

**7. Mayor's Announcements**

There were no Mayor's Announcements.

**8. Election of the Leader of the Council**

It was proposed by Councillor Neil, and seconded by Councillor Bailey, that Councillor Temperton be elected Leader of the Council for 2023 to 2024.

There being no further nominations it was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Temperton be elected Leader of the Council for 2023 to 2024.

9. **Political Group Leaders' Introduction**

The Mayor invited all the Political Group Leaders to introduce themselves and their groups to Council.

Councillors Temperton (Labour group leader), Barnard (Conservative group leader), Mike Forster (Liberal Democrat group leader) and Haffegge (Green group co-leader) introduced their groups and highlighted some key areas of interest for their respective groups. All group leaders were looking forward to working with colleagues to provide the best service for residents.

10. **Appointments and Delegations by the Leader of the Council for the 2023/24 Municipal Year**

The Leader of the Council presented her report detailing the Members of the Executive and changes to Executive portfolios as below:

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>
Councillor Bailey	Children, Young People and Learning
Councillor Bidwell	Economic Development and Regeneration
Councillor Gillbe	Planning and Transport
Councillor Jefferies	Culture, Delivery and Public Protection
Councillor Neil	Finance and Business Change (Deputy Leader of the Council and Vice-chair of the Executive)
Councillor Purnell	Environment and Community Cohesion
Councillor Temperton	Council Strategy and Climate Change (Leader of the Council and Chair of the Executive)
Councillor Wright	Adult Services, Health and Housing

The Leader also presented the appointments to the Executive Committees and its Advisory Panels and to external organisations, as detailed in the agenda supplement.

11. **Establishment of Committees and Associated Matters**

On the proposition of Councillor Temperton, Leader of the Council, seconded by Councillor Neil, it was **RESOLVED** that Council agrees the following:

- (a) The establishment of ordinary committees, their size and allocation of seats, as set out in paragraph 5 of the report
- (b) The establishment of the Licensing and Safety Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, their size and allocation of seats as set out in paragraph 5 of the report

- (c) The membership of each committee, in accordance with political groups' wishes as set out in the revised Appendix A of Agenda Item 11
- (d) Appointments to external organisations as set out in the revised Appendix B of Agenda Item 11
- (e) To waive the application of s85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 so that attendance at Council, the Executive and any of the meetings listed in Appendix A of agenda item 11 either remotely or in person, satisfies the requirements of the six-month rule for councillor attendance at meetings.

**CHAIRMAN**