

Notice of Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Councillor Pickering (Chair), McLean (Vice-Chair), Barnard, C Eberle, Egglestone, Ejaz, M Forster, Frost, Haffegée, McKenzie-Boyle, Watts and Webb, Victoria Hill, parent governor representative one vacancy, parent governor representative one vacancy, Church representative (Church of England) one vacancy, Church representative (Roman Catholic)



Also Invited:

Councillors Purnell and Jeffries

Thursday 19 September 2024, 6.30 pm

Council Chamber - Time Square, Market Street, Bracknell, RG12 1JD

Agenda

All councillors at this meeting have adopted the Mayor's Charter which fosters constructive and respectful debate.

Item	Description	Page
1.	Apologies for absence	
	To receive apologies for absence and to note the attendance of any substitute members.	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	5 - 10
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 25 September 2024.	
3.	Declarations of interest and party whip	
	<p>Members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or affected interests and the nature of that interest, including the existence and nature of the party whip, in respect of any matter to be considered at this meeting.</p> <p>Any Member with a disclosable pecuniary Interest in a matter should withdraw from the meeting when the matter is under consideration and should notify the democratic services officer in attendance that they are withdrawing as they have such an interest. If the disclosable pecuniary interest is not entered on the register of members interests the Monitoring Officer must be notified of the interest within 28 days.</p> <p>Any Member with an affected interest in a matter must disclose the interest to the meeting. There is no requirement to withdraw from the meeting when the interest is only an affected interest, but the Monitoring Officer should be notified of the interest, if not previously notified of it, within 28 days of the meeting.</p>	

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4.	Urgent items of business	
	Any other items which, pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair decides are urgent.	
5.	Public participation	
	No submissions from members of the public have been submitted in advance in accordance with the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.	
6.	South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust (SCAS)	11 - 24
	To receive a presentation, from Kristen Willis-Drewett, Assistant Director of Operations at South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust, on the service provided by South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS), performance and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) improvement programme. To enable members of the Commission to discuss and make recommendations on the work of SCAS it is recommended members also read the CQC inspection for South Central Ambulance NHS Foundation Trust 2022 which can be found at https://www.cqc.org.uk/provider/RYE	
7.	Executive Member updates - Leisure, Culture, Public Protection & Democracy/Environment, Community & Housing	25 - 42
	Two Executive Members of Bracknell Forest Council have been invited to give an account of performance within the Corporate Performance Overview Report (CPOR) related to their portfolios: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillor Purnell, Executive Member for Environment, Community & Housing (Deputy Leader and Vice Chair of the Executive) - Councillor Jefferies, Executive Member for Leisure, Culture, Public Protection & Democracy <p>Members of the Commission are asked to review the attached presentation and consider recommendations for the Executive.</p>	
8.	Work programme update	
	Overview and Scrutiny Panel Chairs to provide verbal updates on the work programme and highlight any proposed changes such as scope, scheduling or duration.	

Date of next meeting

The next Overview and Scrutiny Commission meeting is scheduled for 17 October 2024. A number of items will be discussed at the meeting including Council complaints, Ringmead Medical Practice, and the Climate Change Strategy.

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Forward plan and decisions taken

Commission members are able to view upcoming decisions by looking at [Browse forward plans | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#) and consider decisions taken since the last Commission meeting by using this link [What's newly published | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#) and altering the date range.

Sound recording, photographing, filming and use of social media is permitted. Please contact Louise Connelly, 01344 354047, louise.connelly@bracknell-forest.gov.uk, so that any special arrangements can be made.

Published: 11 September 2024

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**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION
29 AUGUST 2024
6.31 - 7.58 PM**



Present:

Councillors Pickering (Chair), Egglestone, M Forster, Frost, Haffegge, McLean (Vice-Chair), Webb and Brown (Substitute), Victoria Hill, Parent Governor Representative

Present Virtually:

Councillor Watts

Also Present:

Councillor Wright, Executive Member Adults and Public Health
Susan Halliwell, Chief Executive
Kevin Gibbs, Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Andrew Hunter, Executive Director: Place

Also Present Virtually:

Councillor Cochrane
Grainne Siggins, Executive Director: People

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Barnard, C Eberle, Ejaz and McKenzie-Boyle

1. Minutes of previous meeting

The Chair requested the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2024 be amended to reflect that Cllr McLean chaired the meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 23 May 2024 be approved as a correct record, following the amendment as set out above, and signed by the Chairman.

Responses to all of the queries and requests for information raised in the meeting had been received or formed part of the agenda.

2. Apologies for Absence

3. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no indications that members would be participating while under the party whip.

4. Urgent Items of Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Public Participation

No submissions had been made by members of the public under the Council's Public Participation Scheme for Overview and Scrutiny.

6. Relocation of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Jessamy Bridghorn, Head of Partnerships & Engagement, NHS England (East of England) provided an overview on the relocation of Mount Vernon Cancer Centre (MVCC) in Northwood in Middlesex. The Centre provided non-surgical specialist cancer care for patients across Hertfordshire, North London, Bedfordshire and parts of Buckinghamshire and East Berkshire. The main services it provided were radiotherapy, including brachytherapy and Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapies (SACT) which was mainly chemotherapy and immunotherapy.

It was explained relocation from the current site was necessary due to an ageing building and lack of critical care onsite. An independent review had been carried out and Watford was the only site which met all the criteria required. It was recognised the timelines in the presentation were ambitious and that a formal consultation on the relocation would be launched in November. It was unclear where Capital funding was being obtained for this project as yet. 24 patients were referred from Bracknell Forest GP surgeries in 2023/24 out of a total 12,972 patients that year. The Watford site would be further away from Bracknell than the current site. However, the project considered ways to mitigate issues for patients, such as use of Frimley Park Hospital which already carried out a lot of chemotherapy and improving the use of digital options. An updated presentation was provided and would be published as a supplement.

Hertfordshire County Council were leading on setting up a Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on behalf of all local authorities approached by NHS England as Hertfordshire accounted for over 5,000 patient referrals per year. Three options were being offered in terms of membership of the JHOSC:

- OPTION A: To be involved in the full joint committee and take the necessary steps to formalise this.
- OPTION B: To attend joint committee meetings as an interested party, participating in discussions affecting the Bracknell Forest population but not undertaking a formal scrutiny role on the joint committee.
- OPTION C: To not participate in the joint committee but to receive formal communication as part of the public consultation along with local authorities with small patient flows to MVCC.

During discussions a number of questions were raised including the frequency and variance over a number of years of Bracknell residents attending MVCC; modelling of future patient numbers; increased transport costs for residents, how many other authorities had been approached and consultation with staff and patients. Jessamy Bridghorn, Head of Partnerships & Engagement, NHS England confirmed there was little variance in numbers year on year and that modelling of future patient numbers was in the project plan. There had been a suggestion the JHOSC could include themed working groups looking at issues such as the affect on local authorities with smaller patient numbers. Consultations had already taken place with staff and residents but there were plans to begin additional consultations in November. All Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) with at least 100 patients referred to MVCC, covering 13 local authorities, had been offered the opportunity to be part of the JHOSC.

It was agreed an amendment be made to 2.1 of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer's report that formal communications be provided to the Chair of the Health and Care Panel, rather than the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED to agree Option C and to include the amendment as outlined above.

7. **Executive Member Update - Adults and Public Health**

The Executive Member for Adults and Public Health, Councillor Megan Wright, provided an update on current issues within the adult and public health portfolio.

Public Health

It was noted the key areas of focus were child health, promoting mental health, promoting community connections, protecting residents against infectious diseases, promoting healthy life expectancies and structures to support those key areas. Alongside these areas the priorities for the Public Health team included the relocation of Frimley Park Hospital, ensuring health in all policies, integrating a new Director of Public Health and developing relationships with residents and partner organisations.

Adult social care

Councillor Wright highlighted slide 4 which gave an overview of the directorate and slides 6 & 8 which showed strengths/weaknesses of the department and a new model of assessment. Commissioners were informed the results of the CQC inspection into Adult Social Care had been published on 16 August and the Council received a 'good' judgment. Areas of strength included the new model of working, the 'adult social care hub' as a single point of access since October last year and a decreased number of people were transferred from hospital into nursing care.

Questions focused on relationships with GP surgeries and relationships with partner agencies. Councillor Wright, explained she had a strong relationship with Nicola Airey, Director of Commissioning and Assurance, NHS Frimley ICB, and they discussed issues relating to GP practices regularly. In relation to Ringmead Practice specifically, conversations were ongoing and that she would be visiting the practice on 6 September. Commissioners informed Cllr Wright a community engagement event was also being organised in Crowthorne with a representative from Ringmead Practice and an invitation was extended to Cllr Wright to attend. It was noted the Ringmead Practice CQC report would be presented at a future O&S Commission meeting. Cllr Wright explained she kept an overview of her portfolio by reviewing outcomes and targets with partners at meetings such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Place Committee and visited local sites, such as dementia care cafes. Regular catch ups took place between Cllr Wright and Grainne Siggins, Executive Director: People to look at budgets and talk to departmental leads, such as Forest Care, etc. It was confirmed CAMHS was not part of the Adult and Social Care portfolio.

8. **Council Plan Overview Report**

Having reviewed the report, the Commission did not make any recommendations to the Executive but did make the following observations:

- **Page 51, 1.13 KR -Percentage of children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (5-16 years) with school placement in borough**

It was queried if the percentage of children with a placement at 69%, rather than the target 75% was an improving trajectory? Commissioners were informed the number was unlikely to deteriorate as the majority of children had already been allocated a school place in September.

- **Page 52, 1.1.3 PI – Number of visits to the Lookout Discovery Centre**

Commissioners were concerned the number of visitors to the Centre appeared to be decreasing but were reassured it was an accounting issue as the figures did not include tickets bought by large groups. Reassurance was given the site was well used and the budget remained static in terms of income.

- **Page 52, 1.2.1.KR – Percentage of care leavers (19-21 years) Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**

Concerns were raised that SILVA Homes were no longer providing apprenticeship places and, if this was the case, the negative impact it would have on NEET care leavers. The Chief Executive agreed to look into this matter and would have discussions with housing provider, Abri, and the Local Enterprise Partnership, to ensure alternative opportunities were sought.

- **Page 53, 1.6.1.KR – Additional affordable homes completed (affordable rented and shared ownership)**

It was noted the Registered Provider market was not taking up some of the sites the Council had secured through planning. The impact of this was the Council had to take commuted sums which impacted on the figures. Officers were talking to existing and new providers to request they take on new builds. One issue was that flatted developments required two staircases since the Grenfell disaster, so some registered providers were not keen to take on builds without two staircases in place. It was considered an issue affecting a number of Councils and would need to be addressed by national government.

An additional question was raised in relation to the above item about the cost of keeping families in temporary accommodation because sufficient affordable housing was not available, and if that had been factored into the budget? Figures were not available about the impact on temporary accommodation if the Council was unable to find affordable housing for families although numbers on the waiting list were available. It was agreed officers would provide a written answer on that specific point.

- **Page 53 ECN 2.03 – Implementation of a meanwhile use on the previous Bentalls site**

Commissioners queried if there was a time period for how long the project would be halted and were informed there were no immediate plans but that the Council was still talking to the developers.

- **Page 55, ENV 1.08 - Review approach to climate change, social value, funding routes and holistic policy**

It was queried why the RAG status was amber? Commissioners were informed the policy had only been introduced in April so the policy had just not been used much.

- **Page 58 ORG 2.07 – Ensure spending is within approved budget, monitored through monthly reporting to DMTs/CMTs**

Commissioners asked how concerned they should be about budget pressures and the Chief Executive stated all Councils were feeling significant budget pressures currently and that pressures could not be easily mitigated. However, the Council would remain solution focused. For example, CMT had strong control over recruitment and continuously reviewed risks and challenges to make in year decisions. Commissioners also queried if national Government had approached the Council about reducing the Berkshire authorities down from six, but the Chief Executive confirmed no such approach had been made.

9. **Sexual Health Scrutiny Review**

Councillor Caroline Egglestone, Chair of the Health and Care Overview & Scrutiny Panel began by thanking officers, panel members and contributors for their input into the Sexual Health review.

It was explained the review was undertaken because Councillors had been made aware of an issue around access to the service. The review found the service was excellent, but a number of recommendations were being requested to help strengthen the service further including:

1. Advise schools to change website restrictions to allow young people to access

services including NHS Choices, Brook and Safe Sex Berkshire.

2. Make sure the OxWell student survey includes questions to obtain the views of young people regarding sex education they receive. This will be fed back to individual schools to be taken into consideration when reviewing policies.

3. Make sure young people's views of the services are sought by public health as part of the service development improvement plan with Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT).

4. Request Garden Clinic attendance data from BHFT that is specific to Bracknell residents for review by the Executive member.

5. Improve promotion and awareness of sexual health services for young people.

A discussion took place, and a recommendation was agreed with regards to recommendation number 3 to specifically obtain the views of vulnerable young people, not just young people.

RESOLVED: The Commission endorsed the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations to the Executive, as set out in the Panel report (attached as Appendix A) and paragraph 5.5 of this report, taking into account the comments of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer. In addition, reference would be made specifically to include 'vulnerable' young people's views.

10. **Work Programme Update**

Each Panel Chair/Vice Panel Chair in attendance provided a verbal update on work programme progress.

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- The Sexual Health review had been completed.
- A review of recommendations from previous reviews was being undertaken.
- The two representatives on the Frimley Park JHOSC were due to attend a meeting in September.
- Ringmead GP practice would be invited to an O&S Commission meeting in October.

Education, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- The scope for the review into transition was being drawn up and would begin shortly.
- The Panel would also review the recommendations from previous reviews.

Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

- The Panel would review recommendations from previous reviews to ensure they had been completed.
- The next review topic for this Panel was housing although the scope had not yet been agreed.

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NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**
NHS Foundation Trust

Bracknell HOSC Report September 2024

11 Kirsten Willis-Drewett BEM
Assistant Director of Operations



NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust

North South Overall Demand 2023-24





NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**

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North South Node





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**South Central
Ambulance Service**

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Bracknell & Ascot Demand 2023-24



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**South Central
Ambulance Service**
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Bracknell Demand 2024 - 8/9/24





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**South Central
Ambulance Service**

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RBH Handover delays 2023-24





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**South Central
Ambulance Service**

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RBH Handover delays April



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**South Central
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust

RBH Handover delays





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**South Central
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust

WPH Handover delays



NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**

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Handover delays April





NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust

Recruitment = 95% shift
cover



NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**
NHS Foundation Trust

Recruitment and Retention

Our staff requirements are based on a modelling system that accounts for our 999 response demand, the volume of the patients who require transportation, and the length of time each incident takes us (task time).

Our annual plan for the staffing requirements and the volume of operational hours required to meet demand is set at the start of the year based on previous year trends. We then adjust this weekly taking into account any changes in demand or task time.

We are able to move our ambulances around the trust to ensure we meet any increased demand on the day, however sudden increases in demand, or increases in hospital handover times, will impact on our ability to respond to patients.

We have expanded our recruitment to include qualified paramedic recruitment from overseas, including Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. This continues in 2024 and has seen some excellent engagement and support from our international recruitment team and in support of the



NHS

**South Central
Ambulance Service**

NHS Foundation Trust

Questions?

23

kirsten.willis-drewett@scas.nhs.uk

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Cllr Helen Purnell
**Executive Member for the Environment,
Community and Housing**

Overview and Scrutiny Commission
19th September 2024

Update:

Communities' strategy

Developing community cohesion

Thriving communities

Environmental services

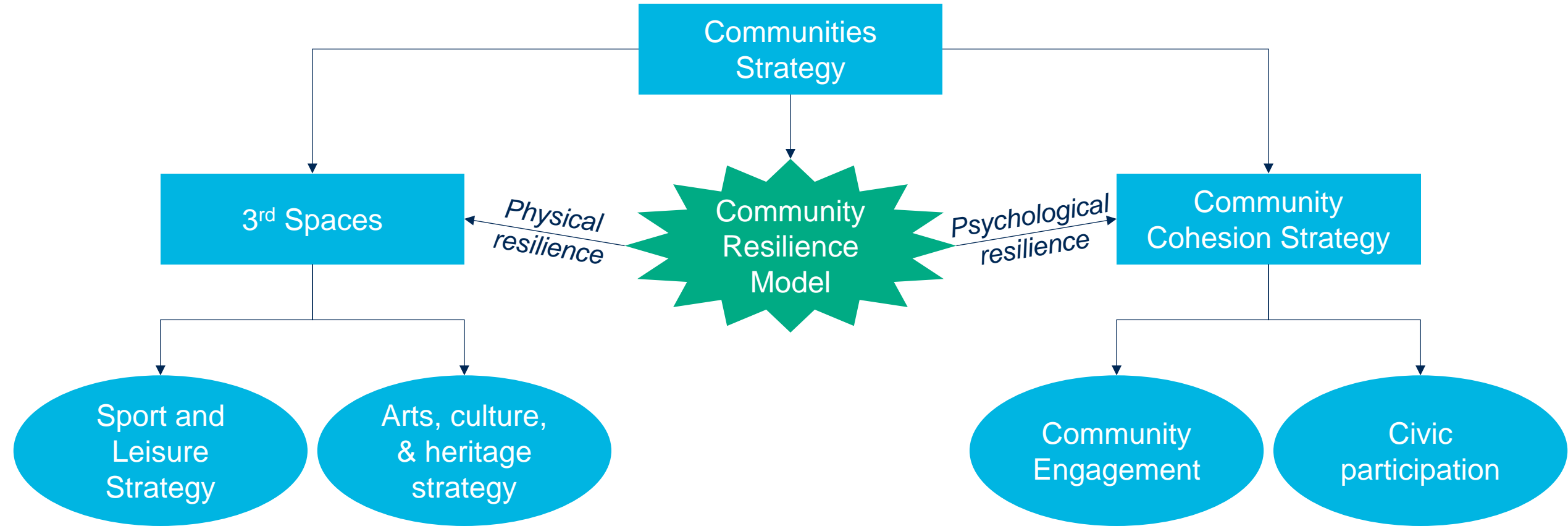
Developing a communities strategy

It is proposed to develop a communities strategy to deliver on our council plan objectives.

Why?	What?	How?
<p>Improve organisational sustainability through developing community resilience, early intervention and prevention.</p> <p>working differently with residents</p> <p>Greater national focus on community resilience, empowerment and cohesion.</p>	<p>Identify best use of resources, building on the skills and expertise of residents who know communities best.</p> <p>Define how and when we will work with residents and the role of the council & partners.</p> <p>Facilitate greater community resilience and strengthen relationships.</p>	<p>In full partnership with communities and Place partners. Owned by the community.</p> <p>Agree a long term (10 year) approach.</p> <p>Engagement will take time and</p> <p>Joint working group for governance, beyond the council.</p>

Focus to recognise and facilitate the strength of communities.

Communities strategy model



Developing community cohesion

community cohesion in the borough.

Ongoing priorities include:

- Reviewing and tracking hate crime and community tensions with the Police
- Monitoring social media for mis or disinformation and countering this

engaging with community groups listening to their concerns, ensuring their views shape our plans and to provide reassurance.

We will review and re-launch the Community Cohesion and Engagement Partnership, which already has the remit for developing community cohesion with partners, to take the learning from the civil unrest to further strengthen work with communities to advance cohesion and challenge Islamophobia and racism.

Thriving communities programme

Organisational input

ICB/BFC

Approach and ethos

Goals

3-year programme
 Care Fund)
 Governance structure
 and facilitation

Prevention
 Community development
 and co-production
 Organisational development

Maximise wellbeing
 Increase self-care
 Reduce health inequalities
 Improve relationship
 between system and
 residents / community

Year one focus

<p>Community co-production</p>	<p>Pilot area from health and deprivation data: Town Centre and the Parks ward (north of Broad Lane) Current partner and resident engagement Scoping opportunities and priorities for health and wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Organisational development</p>	<p>Culture (Build understanding) Tools and processes (Foundations)</p>	<p>Skills and confidence (Growth) Behavioural Change (Embed)</p>

Environmental Services

Refuse and recycling collection and disposal

Street cleansing and grounds maintenance

Recycling rate in the Borough 23/24 was 55.7% up 1.2% on 22/23

Contamination of recycling was 15% in 23/24 - lowest in re3 area

5,169 tonnes of food waste collected for recycling

Soft plastic recycling trial for 10,250 households

Approval for trial of Hydrotreated vegetable oil

Reduction in Town Centre cleaning as part of budget

New management team in Continental Landscapes

to drive improvements in contract



Affordable Housing in Bracknell Forest - actions and achievements the past 12 months.

Agreed a new, fairer and easier to understand housing policy.

Delivered over 270 new build affordable homes for residents of Bracknell Forest.

Affordable housing delivered in partnership with planning, housing, joint venture, developers and registered providers.

We have helped over 1,700 households with housing and homelessness advice.

Over 90 Disabled Facilities Grants have been provided helping residents to remain living at home.

Acquired additional temporary accommodation units.



Affordable Housing in Bracknell Forest - actions and achievements in the past 12 months.

Let more affordable and social rented homes including family sized homes with 3 and 4 bedrooms.

*Figures up to August 2024

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
General needs homes let	227	170	398	122
3 bedroom homes	30	31	50	19
4 bedroom homes	3	3	5	4

Community Safety - response to community cohesion

In response to the civil unrest throughout the country following the events of August this year, monitoring of community tensions and reported hate crime within Bracknell Forest were prioritised by Community Safety. Creating

Enhanced response included:

Daily analyses and review of police data on reported hate crimes, public order incidents, criminal damage, and hate crime, Incidents of Note and Community Tensions, continued to be reviewed each morning at

and victims.

More substantial reporting links made with specific departments within Bracknell forest to further support the reporting process, particularly in relation to the reporting of offensive graffiti.

hate crime or incident that needs an escalated response.

Community Safety - response to community cohesion

Enhanced response continued:

national updates were and are passed on to Local authorities.

potentially at risk.

Key officers across the council in Community Safety and Communities

Cllr Iskandar Jefferies
Executive Member for Leisure, Culture, Public Protection
and Democracy

Overview and Scrutiny Commission
19th September 2024

Warfield community hub

The Site Allocations Local Plan (SALP) allocated land for 2,200 new homes in Warfield.

As part of this, there is a planning requirement to deliver a multi-functional community hub.

Warfield has been underserved in terms of community centre facilities compared to other parts of the borough.

The hub will enable community engagement, cohesion and wellbeing. It is proposed to be developed in partnership with Warfield Parish Council.

The feasibility and concept design phase is complete; the project is going to the Cabinet for approval to proceed and commit funding in October.

Leisure

Refurbishment of Bracknell Leisure Centre

Dedicated SEN sessions at Playworld every week

SEN sessions after each deep clean for children with low immunity

New wellness studio and spin room

Refurbished spa

BLC will be hosting the national Lymphaletics, a fun day for children and young people with Lymphoedema.

The Paralympian 2024 Bronze medal winner Okoh Ndidikama will be presenting the prizes on the day

Public Protection Partnership

Recent Member workshop to discuss priorities and resources

Fly tipping continues to be a focus

All fly tips are investigated for evidence

Just in May

- 6 Fixed Penalty Notices
- 5 Written warnings
- 1 Community Protection Notice warning

Cemetery Extension

Planning application has been submitted

Appropriation of the land letters have been sent to relevant parties

Executive decision on appropriation in November

Committee December

Executive go / no go decision in January 2025

Emergency Planning

Crowdstrike IT issues

Potential for impacts of adverse weather over winter period due to high water table

Revised Guide to Emergency Planning for Elected Councillors at Bracknell Forest Council to be approved at Executive

