

**CABINET  
12 NOVEMBER 2024  
6.30 - 7.07 PM**



**Present:**

Councillors Temperton (Chair), Bailey, Bidwell, Gillbe, Neil and Wright

**Apologies for absence were received from:**

Councillors Purnell and Jefferies

**15. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**16. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 15 October 2024 together with the accompanying decision records be confirmed as a correct record by the Leader.

**17. Urgent Items of Business**

There were no urgent items of business.

**Cabinet Decisions and Decision Records**

The Cabinet considered the following items. The decisions are recorded in the decision sheets attached to these minutes and summarised below:

**18. Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Public Consultation**

**RESOLVED** that

- i. the draft Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is approved to proceed to a 6-week public consultation as set out in para 6.11 of this report, provided the concerns raised by officers are adequately addressed before 23 November 2024.
- ii. final authority to approve or object to the draft for public consultation is delegated to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.
- iii. following public consultation the amended document will be brought to Cabinet for final approval.

**19. Community Safety Plan 2024-27**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the Community Safety Plan 2024-27.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director: People be authorised to make any minor textual changes prior to submission to Council.

20. **Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 27**

**RECOMMENDED** that

- i. Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27.
- ii. Council note that the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is expected to be delivered by utilising external and internal funding, including £36,111 of time limited grant funding.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director: People be authorised to make any minor textual changes prior to submission to Council.

21. **Draft Local Transport Plan 4 - Public Consultation**

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Cabinet agree to undertake a public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 (Annex A) and associated supporting documents, beginning in November 2024;
- ii. a further report is presented to Cabinet detailing the outcome of the public consultation and any proposed amendments to the plan prior to adoption.

22. **School Attendance Strategy - Request for Public Consultation**

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Cabinet approve the request to undertake a public consultation on the proposed school attendance strategy.
- ii. the revised strategy to be presented to cabinet following the consultation.

23. **Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review letter 2023-24**

**RESOLVED** that the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review letter 2023 – 24 is noted.

24. **Appropriation of Land at Downshire Golf Course**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- i. accept that the area of land at Downshire Golf Course and being the P & P Land referred to in this report, is no longer required for the purpose for which it is currently held.
- ii. approve the appropriation of the P & P Land for planning purposes in order to facilitate redevelopment for use as additional space for the adjoining cemetery once planning consent is in place.
- iii. Agree to give delegated authority to the Assistant Director; Contract Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture, Public Protection and Democracy, the Borough Solicitor and the Assistant Director: Property to agree the settlement and documentation of any statutory claims, together with any associated fees; to document any associated agreements or deeds of release etc that may be required and to note that any costs will come from the previously agreed budget.

**CHAIR**

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## Bracknell Forest Council Record of Decision

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I123631</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Public Consultation

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Place

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek agreement to the content and public consultation on the Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. This is a Berkshire wide document being produced by the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead as the Responsible Authority, supported by Bracknell Forest, Reading Borough, Slough Borough, West Berkshire Council and Wokingham District with Natural England. It seeks to achieve a more coordinated, practical, and focussed approach, to help drive nature recovery.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

- i. the draft Berkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is approved to proceed to a 6-week public consultation as set out in para 6.11 of this report, provided the concerns raised by officers are adequately addressed before 23 November 2024.
- ii. final authority to approve or object to the draft for public consultation is delegated to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside.
- iii. following public consultation the amended document will be brought to Cabinet for final approval.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

1. Local nature recovery strategies are spatial strategies for nature and environmental improvement required by law under the Environment Act 2021. Each local nature recovery strategy will agree priorities for nature recovery and propose actions in locations where they would make a particular contribution to achieving those priorities.
2. Bracknell Forest falls within the Berkshire strategy area. The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has appointed the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) as the 'responsible authority' to lead the preparation of the Berkshire LNRS. The other Berkshire unitary authorities (including Bracknell Forest Council) and Natural England are 'supporting authorities'.
3. This is the first time an LNRS has been produced in Berkshire and for all other LNRS areas in England.

4. RBWM has undertaken wide-ranging stakeholder engagement and worked collaboratively with partners over recent months to produce a draft Berkshire LNRS.
5. Under Regulation 7 of [Statutory Instruments 2023 No. 341: The Environment \(Local Nature Recovery Strategies\) \(Procedure\) Regulations 2023](#), RBWM as the responsible authority must provide all supporting authorities with a draft LNRS which it considers ready for consultation (the 'consultation draft') and request their comments.
6. Under Regulation 9, a supporting authority may raise a 'pre-consultation objection' within 28 days of receiving the consultation draft about the content of the LNRS or the way the responsible authority has prepared the draft.
7. On 14 October 2024, Bracknell Forest Council received the consultation draft. The formal 28-day pre-consultation period is 28 October to 23 November 2024. Links to the draft documents are included in Appendix 2. The draft is under review by Officers in discussion with the responsible authority and the other supporting authorities. The responsible authority has given assurances that the presentation of the written content will be improved ahead of the public consultation, including being made suitably accessible. Bracknell Forest Council officers consider that some improvements to the content is required ahead of public consultation. These are summarised in Appendix 3. The issues appear to have ready resolutions, given sufficient time to incorporate the changes. Bracknell Forest Council will continue to work with the Responsible Authority during the pre-consultation period to make essential amendments. Following these amendments, the recommendation will be that Bracknell Forest Council does not raise a pre-consultation objection and instead confirms in writing that Bracknell Forest Council is content for the public consultation to proceed. Due to the tight time constraints, it is recommended that final authority to approve the draft for public consultation is delegated to the Executive Director Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside. This will enable all the available time up to the deadline, and in the weeks following if required, to be used to work with the responsible authority to make the required changes.
8. Bracknell Forest Council and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide further detailed feedback during the public consultation which is due to take place from 2 January – 15 February 2025.

## 8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- i. The alternative options are:
  - 1) To raise an objection with the responsible authority about
    - a) the local nature recovery strategy; or
    - b) the responsible authority's preparation of the local nature recovery strategy, including the extent to which the responsible authority has involved the supporting authority in that preparation.These are the options for objection laid out in Regulation 9.
- ii. To provide no response and allow the 28 days to expire. After this point, the responsible authority will be allowed to proceed to consultation, so this has the same effect as confirming we are content for the consultation to proceed.
- iii. The draft is under review and, as discussed above, some amendments must be

agreed during the pre-consultation period before the public consultation can be recommended by officers. Overall, it is anticipated that Bracknell Forest Council will not wish to object to the draft Berkshire LNRS proceeding to public consultation, provided the current concerns have been addressed, because:

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- The draft LNRS includes drafts of all the elements required under Section 106 of the Environment Act, which are:
  - a) a statement of biodiversity priorities for the strategy area, and
  - b) a local habitat map
- The development of the draft LNRS has been undertaken collaboratively, with the involvement of Bracknell Forest Council and other stakeholders. Therefore, it is anticipated that there will not be a reason to object to the broad content or preparation of the draft LNRS.
- iv. As noted above, Bracknell Forest Council and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide further detailed feedback during the public consultation.
- v. It is not an option to have no LNRS for Berkshire or for Bracknell Forest not to be covered by an LNRS. LNRS are required by law under the Environment Act 2021. There are 48 LNRS strategy areas which cover the whole of England with no gaps or overlaps.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Place

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
12 November 2024	19 November 2024

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**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I122459</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Community Safety Plan 2024-27

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval of the Community Safety Plan 2024–27. It is a statutory requirement to compile and implement a 3-year plan for combatting crime and disorder in the area and this has been developed following the recent stakeholder consultation and a strategic needs assessment.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RECOMMENDED** that Council approve the Community Safety Plan 2024-27.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director: People be authorised to make any minor textual changes prior to submission to Council.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

i. The CSP Plan 2024-27 is based on:

- local crime and disorder evidence
- feedback from a CSP stakeholder workshop and consultation event on 23 April 2024
- a 4-week resident consultation on recommended priorities and locations of crime and disorder
- Bracknell Forest resident feedback to the Office of the Police and Crime

Commissioner's Local Crime Survey

It is noted that the recommended priorities comprise crime and disorder which are:

- most prevalent or most requested for focus by partners and residents, or
- are increasing in trend, or
- where preventing a crime of high harm to keep existing levels low, is important, or
- where we are required to do work through a government duty.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No alternative options have been considered as the plan is a statutory requirement which has been based on evidence, stakeholder feedback and resident consultation.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 November 2024	19 November 2024

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I122460</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 27

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for the Youth Justice Plan 2024 - 27. This is a statutory plan required under Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. The plan has been developed by following the prescribed content guidance from the national Youth Justice Board, and with approval from the Youth Justice Management Board and the Community Safety Partnership.

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RECOMMENDED** that

- i. Council approve the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27.
- ii. Council note that the Youth Justice Plan 2024-27 is expected to be delivered by utilising external and internal funding, including £36,111 of time limited grant funding.

**RESOLVED** that the Executive Director: People be authorised to make any minor textual changes prior to submission to Council.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

- i. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 mandates that local authorities have a legal obligation to submit an annual youth justice plan detailing the provision of youth justice services in their area. Guidance is produced each year by the Youth Justice Board which sets out how youth justice services will prevent offending behaviour and reduce re-offending. While the act refers to an annual plan, it is recognised that planning over a longer period may be more effective, and thus, local partnerships may produce a multi-year plan with an annual update required.
- ii. The youth justice plan is a crucial document that reflects the local area's commitment to addressing youth crime and supporting young people at risk of offending. It ensures that youth justice services are aligned with national standards and priorities, and it provides a framework for local authorities to work collaboratively with partner agencies to deliver effective interventions.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No alternative options have been considered as the plan is a statutory requirement.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 November 2024	18 November 2024

**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I124183</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Draft Local Transport Plan 4 - Public Consultation

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Place

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval to publicly consult on the Council's fourth Local Transport Plan (LTP4) covering the period 2025-2037.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Cabinet agree to undertake a public consultation on the draft Local Transport Plan 4 (Annex A) and associated supporting documents, beginning in November 2024;
- ii. a further report is presented to Cabinet detailing the outcome of the public consultation and any proposed amendments to the plan prior to adoption.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Continuing this Council's reputation for dynamic and modern development, the draft Local Transport Plan (LTP4) is a revolution in how Local Transport Plans are approached – no longer reactive to current trends, but bold in outlining a just vision for how transport will operate in Bracknell Forest from 2025 to 2037.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The Council could continue to rely on the existing LTP3. This is not recommended as the plan is now considered out of date as national policy on climate change and transport has progressed since the current plan was adopted in 2011.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Place

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
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**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I124547</b>
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1. **TITLE:** School Attendance Strategy - Request for Public Consultation

2. **SERVICE AREA:** People

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

Bracknell Forest Council and its partners recognise the need for a clear strategic vision to improve school attendance. This will ensure we are aligned with the Department of Education Guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' which was developed to help schools, trusts, governing bodies, and local authorities maintain high levels of school attendance and improve consistency of support and became statutory from August 2024.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that

- i. Cabinet approve the request to undertake a public consultation on the proposed school attendance strategy.
- ii. the revised strategy to be presented to cabinet following the consultation.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Stakeholder consultation is an important part of the development of the school attendance strategy, enabling schools, parent/carers, children & young people, members, key stakeholders, and wider residents to understand and comment on the proposed strategy.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

There is no current strategy for school attendance within Bracknell Forest and with the introduction of the statutory guidance '[working together to improve school attendance](#)' the option of not doing anything has not been considered.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: People

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 November 2024	19 November 2024

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**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I123716</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review letter 2023-24

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Communities

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To provide an overview and commentary of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman (LGSCO)'s annual review letter detailing the council's LGSCO complaints performance in the financial year 2023/24

4 **IS KEY DECISION** No

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman annual review letter 2023 – 24 is noted.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The annual review letter provides the council with information to help assess the council's performance in handling complaints.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

None considered.

9. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Communities

10. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 November 2024	18 November 2024

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**Bracknell Forest Council  
Record of Decision**

<b>Work Programme Reference</b>	<b>I123635</b>
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1. **TITLE:** Appropriation of Land at Downshire Golf Course

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Communities

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for the appropriation of land at Downshire Golf Course for planning purposes in line with an associated planning application

4 **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Cabinet

6. **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that Cabinet:

- i. accept that the area of land at Downshire Golf Course and being the P & P Land referred to in this report, is no longer required for the purpose for which it is currently held.
- ii. approve the appropriation of the P & P Land for planning purposes in order to facilitate redevelopment for use as additional space for the adjoining cemetery once planning consent is in place.
- iii. Agree to give delegated authority to the Assistant Director; Contract Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Culture, Public Protection and Democracy, the Borough Solicitor and the Assistant Director: Property to agree the settlement and documentation of any statutory claims, together with any associated fees; to document any associated agreements or deeds of release etc that may be required and to note that any costs will come from the previously agreed budget.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

The key reasons for the decision are:

- i. Securing social, economic and well-being benefits to the residents of the borough by ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to be buried in the borough and are not disadvantaged by having to choose more expensive out of borough burials
- ii. Reducing the economic impact that will fall on the Council to maintain the current cemetery without the revenue stream generated by new burials
- iii. In order to ensure that the redevelopment can come forward and its benefits be realised it is proposed that Bracknell Forest Council appropriates the P & P Land for planning purposes. This would be done under S122 Local Government Act 1972 and engages the provisions of S203 Housing & Planning Act 2016 so as to override third

party rights, the existence of which would otherwise prevent the implementation of the proposed development, and to facilitate the works without risk of injunction once planning permission has been obtained.

**8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- i. The Council looked to purchase land situated away from Easthampstead Park Cemetery & Crematorium. No suitable land was identified. Other sites within the Council's ownership were also considered but found not to be viable.
- ii. Not to approve that the P & P Land be appropriated for planning purposes. However, the consequence would be that the P & P Land would continue to be used as a pitch and putt course and the development to expand the crematorium does not take place which would mean that burials within the Borough would cease in 2025

**9. DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Executive Director: Communities

**10. DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Final Day of Call-in Period</b>
12 November 2024	19 November 2024