



**Council**  
**Wednesday 1 March 2000, 7.30 pm**

*NB: Any missing reports on these items may be available at the Berkshire Record Office, 9 Coley Avenue, Reading, RG1 6AF.*

**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 17 November 1999</b>	5 - 10
3. <b>Mayor's Announcements</b>	
1 Mr D A Veakins	
2 Engagements	
4. <b>Public Participation at Meetings</b>	
To receive a petition in the following terms submitted by Mr R Dumelow signed by 120 persons:	
<i>I believe that the Legal and General Scheme is too big for Bracknell and urge the Bracknell Forest Borough Council to support a Town Centre redevelopment that is more appropriate to the needs of local people.</i>	
5. <b>To receive and consider Reports, Minutes and Recommendations of Committees:</b>	
Strategy & Policy - 5 January 2000	11 - 12
Leisure Services - 11 January 2000	
Public & Environmental Services - 18 January 2000	
Education - 25 January 2000	
Planning & Transportation - 27 January 2000	

Social Services & Housing - 1 February 2000

Social Services & Housing - 16 February 2000

Strategy & Policy - 16 February 2000

**6. Financial Plans & Revenue Budget 2000-2001**

To consider the recommendations in minute 500 of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 16 February 2000 as set out in the accompanying report by the Director of Corporate Services (pages 5-11 ). 13 - 20

**7. To Receive Reports from Officers of the Council**

(i) Local Government and Housing Act 1989 21 - 24

Arising from the resignation of Mr D A Veakins, vacancies have arisen on the main Committees listed below. The seats vacated by Mr Veakins were allocated to the Labour Group at the Annual Meeting of the Council. Under the provisions of the Local Government & Housing Act 1989, the Council must now make appointments to those seats in accordance with the wishes of the Labour Group and these are as listed. The Council is therefore recommended to confirm these appointments accordingly:

Planning & Transportation Committee Cllr Good  
Public & Environmental Services Committee Cllr Grayson  
Direct Services Board Cllr Fawcett  
Health Panel Cllr McCormack

Appointments to vacancies on Sub Committees fall to be made by the appropriate main Committee.

(ii) Appointment of Independent Members of Standards Committee

To consider the attached report by the Director of Corporate Services (Pages 13-15).

**8. Motions Submitted Under Standing Order 8**

(i) 1/2000 Submitted by Councillors Barnard and Ward

That this Council ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister urging him to respond to the Royal Commission which his Government set up to examine the long term care of the elderly.

It is a year now since the Commission presented the Government with their report.

We note with dismay that the only one of the recommendations which has been acted upon so far is one related to a National Care Commission responsible for ensuring quality of care from

all providers. Although an important issue it is probably the one which concerns the elderly least from among the many recommendations.

The Commissioners recommended unanimously that "free personal care for all is paramount" and it is on this point among others that the Government has failed to act and is one of the three main recommendations which we would appeal to the Prime Minister to respond to us on behalf of our elderly residents.

The other two are firstly that the means testing thresholds be raised and secondly that there should be a longer delay before pensioners are expected to dispose of their home in order to pay for their care.

(ii) 2/2000 Submitted by Councillors Bettison and Ward

This Council congratulates the Chairman of the Health Panel for the promptness with which he dealt with the health questionnaire to residents.

We note the excellent response from the public and feel that the questions on "accident and emergency" and "cancer screening" were an essential part of this exercise.

(iii) 3/2000 Submitted by Councillors Beadsley and Jones

That the Council recognises that the number of properties available to meet the needs of people on the housing waiting list is falling and deplores the Conservative administration's failure to take adequate steps to promote the provision of additional affordable housing to rent or buy.

The Council will amend its planning policy to seek a minimum of 25% of affordable housing on future eligible developments.

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## **COUNCIL 17 NOVEMBER 1999**

Present: Councillors Adams, Bailey, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Bayle, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Blatchford, Mrs Clifford, Mrs Doyle, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Flood, Good, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Mrs Hirst, Jones, Mrs Keene, McCormack, Mills, North, Mrs Pile, Ryan, Sargeant, Simonds, Mrs Sutcliffe, Thompson, Veakins, Wade, Ward, Wheaton and Worrall.

Apologies for absence had been received from:  
Councillors Piasecki, Mrs Shillcock and Taylor

### **THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR JAMES G FINNIE, IN THE CHAIR**

The Mayor's Chaplain, Revd D Osborn, opened the proceedings with prayers.

#### **364. Sir William van Straubenzee**

The Mayor announced that it was his sad duty formally to report the recent death of Sir William van Straubenzee, one of the Honorary Freemen of the Borough. Having first been elected in 1959, he had served as the Member of Parliament for the Wokingham Constituency, which at that time had included most of the area of the present Borough.

All those present observed a few moments of silence in memory of Sir William van Straubenzee and his dedicated service to the community.

#### **365. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 July 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

#### **366. Matters Arising**

##### Minute 224(i) [Motion 1/99]

Councillor Mills, Chairman of the Health Panel, circulated a report and made a statement on the progress of the Health Panel. He referred in particular to the responses of other agencies and the Government in relation to requests for the establishment of a general hospital in Bracknell Forest.

##### Minute 218 [Planning & Transportation Committee]

The Chairman of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Councillor Mrs Ballin stated that at the Council meeting on 21 July in answering a series of questions she had given some information which contained certain inaccuracies. She corrected that information and apologised for misleading the Council on these matters and asked the Council to accept that this had not been intentional.

Minute 223 (i) Question Submitted under Standing Order 11 to Councillor North, the Nominated Representative of the Thames Valley Police Authority

In response to a question from Councillor Mills, Councillor North gave information on the latest position in relation to the funding of the Police service, which arose from the anticipated £1.5 billion budget shortfall nationally because of the implementation of the Public Safety Radio Communications Project. He undertook to report further information to the Council in due course.

**367. Mayor's Announcements**

Engagements

The Mayor's list of engagements for the period 21 July to 17 November 1999 was circulated to Members of the Council for information.

Mayor's Charity 1999/2000

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's Charity Committee had been meeting monthly and so far over £8,500 had been raised for the Mayor's Charity, the Lewis Marsh Fund. The Mayor expressed the wish that forthcoming fundraising events would be supported, including the Mayor's Charity Gala Concert to be held on Sunday 12 March 2000.

**368. Direct Services Board**

The report of the meeting of the Direct Services Board held on 15 September 1999 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Sargeant, seconded by Councillor Miss Haydon, that the report be received.

**369. Leisure Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on 21 September 1999 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor North, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be received and the recommendation contained therein be adopted.

**370. Public & Environmental Services Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Public & Environmental Services Committee held on 12 October 1999 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Egan, that the report be received.

**371. Social Services & Housing Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Social Services & Housing Committee held on 13 October 1999 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Barnard, seconded by Councillor Mrs Pile, that the report be received.

**372. Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 14 October 1999 was submitted.

In relation to Minute 297 (The Edge Programme – Preferred Supplier) the following appointments to the Edge Card Sub Committee were reported and confirmed: Councillors Bayle, Beadsley, Bettison, Good, Mrs Keene, North, Mrs Pile, Thompson and Ward (Substitute Members: Councillors Barnard, Finnie, McCormack and Wheaton).

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report be received.

**373. Planning & Transportation Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Planning & Transportation Committee held on 14 October 1999 was submitted.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Mrs Ballin, seconded by Councillor Worrall, that the report be received.

**374. Education Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Education Committee held on 19 October 1999 was submitted. The Chairman responded to questions thereon.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hayes, that the report be received.

**375. Strategy & Policy Committee**

The report of the meeting of the Strategy & Policy Committee held on 3 November 1999 was submitted.

In relation to Minute 350 (Voluntary Sector Development) the following appointments to the Voluntary Sector Compact Steering Group were reported and confirmed: Councillors Bayle, Finnie and Thompson.

In relation to Minute 351 (Best Value), the following appointments to the Best Value Focus Group were reported and confirmed: Councillors Barnard, Beadsley, Mrs Keene, Mills and North

In relation to Minute 354 (Bank Tendering), the following appointments to the Banking Services Tender Assessment Sub Committee were reported and confirmed: Councillors Egan, Fawcett, Ryan, Wade and Ward (Substitute Members: Councillors Beadsley, Blatchford, North and Wheaton)

In relation to Minute 357 (Establishment of a Standards Committee), the following nominations were made: Councillors Bailey, Finnie, Thompson and Wheaton (Substitute Members: Councillors Flood and Mrs Shillcock)

In relation to Minute 358 (Regional Cultural Consortium – Member Nomination), the following nomination to the Regional Cultural Consortium was made: Councillor Ward

The Chairman responded to questions on the report.

**RESOLVED** on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the report be received and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

**376. Calculation of Council Tax Base – 2000/2001 (Item 6.1)**

The Council received a report pursuant to Section 35 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, which required the Council to approve the calculation of the Council Tax Base in accordance with the Local Authorities Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations and subsequent amendments.

**RESOLVED** that:

- (i) the report of the Borough Finance Officer for the calculation of the Council's Tax Base for the year 2000/2001 be approved; and
- (ii) pursuant to the Borough Finance Officer's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992, the amount calculated by Bracknell Forest Council as its Council Tax Base and for each Parish for the year 2000/2001 be as follows:

Binfield	3,200
Bracknell	17,230
Crowthorne	2,390
Sandhurst	7,780
Warfield	4,120
Winkfield	6,310
	<hr/>
Bracknell Forest	41,030

**377. Local Government Housing Act 1989: Allocation of Seats and Appointments to Committees (Item 6.2)**

Prior to the consideration of a report by the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services on the allocation of seats on Committees and main Sub Committees arising from the resignation of Councillor Mrs Doyle from the Conservative Group on 19 July 1999, Councillor Bettison made a statement to the Council. Following this statement Councillor Mrs Doyle stated that she would be rescinding her resignation from the Conservative Group.



**RESOLVED** that no action be taken in relation to the report and the status quo be maintained in relation to the number of Councillors on each service committee and the allocations to the Groups.

378. **Motions Submitted Under Standing Order 8**

Motion 4/99

Motion 4/99 as set out in the agenda for the meeting was moved by Councillor McCormack and seconded by Councillor Ryan. An amendment was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Mills, the effect of which was to insert “:(a)” after “Government to” and delete “.” after “index” and add “, and in addition to give greater publicity to benefits and allowances available to pensioners with revised application forms that are easier to understand and complete; and (b) restore to full value the pensions that our elderly have earned and so richly deserve”.

With the consent of the Council, pursuant to Standing Order 15 (viii), the amendment was accepted as an alteration to the motion.

On being put to the meeting Motion 4/99, incorporating the alterations set out above, was put to the meeting and declared carried. It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that the less disadvantaged pensioners of Bracknell Forest are not fully sharing in the opportunities arising from this country's successful and buoyant economy. The Council therefore urges the Government to:

- (a) respond to the needs of pensioners and implement an increase in the state pension to a level that responds to the need as opposed to a limiting index, and in addition to give greater publicity to benefits and allowances available to pensioners with revised application forms that are easier to understand and complete; and
- (b) restore to full value the pensions that our elderly have earned and so richly deserve.

Motion 5/99

Motion 5/99 was moved by Councillor Good and seconded by Councillor Taylor. In accordance with Standing Order 8 (iv) the Mayor indicated that the motion would stand referred to the Strategy & Policy Committee for consideration.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 9.07pm.

**MAYOR**

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**BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING  
1 MARCH 2000**

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**COUNCIL MEETING  
1 MARCH 2000**

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**FINANCIAL PLANS AND REVENUE BUDGET 2000/01  
(Director of Corporate Services)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 16 February 2000, the Strategy and Policy Committee considered proposals from each Service Committee and recommended a budget for 2000/01 to the Council. The recommendation submitted to the Council by the Strategy and Policy Committee is included in paragraph 2.
- 1.2 A separate document presents the Council's draft budget for 2000/01. This has been prepared to reflect the Strategy and Policy Committee's recommendations and includes updated recharge information.
- 1.3 In order to set a legal budget the full Council must make a formal Council Tax resolution. The appropriate resolution to give effect to the proposals contained in the draft budget book is included in paragraph 3. This resolution includes reference to the Housing Revenue Account, which was agreed under delegated powers by the Social Services and Housing Committee on 16 February 2000. A summary of the Housing Revenue Account is included in the separate document (maize pages).
- 1.4 The Council Tax resolution reflects the Council's capital programme which was agreed by Strategy and Policy Committee on 16 February. The revenue budget proposals allow for new schemes and programmes totalling £7.877m to commence during the year and for funding of £5.250m to be carried forward from 1999/2000. Again, this represents the amount recommended by the Strategy and Policy Committee. A summary of the capital programme is included in the separate document (lilac pages).
- 1.5 Section 45 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 also requires the Council to determine its own borrowing limits each year. This is covered by resolution 3.6. The limit may be varied at any time by a further determination.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE STRATEGY AND POLICY COMMITTEE**

**2.1 Revenue Budget 2000/01 (Item 4)**

The Director of Corporate Services presented a report on the preparation of the Council's revenue budget for 2000/2001. The report set out the expenditure proposals put forward by each service committee together with a number of corporate financial issues which needed to be considered in order to recommend a budget and Council Tax for 2000/2001. The final Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 27 January provided a Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) for the Council of £82.335m. This was a slight reduction on the provisional figure and represented an increase of 3.25% over 1999/2000.

Following the meeting of the Committee on 5 January 2000, service committees had considered their draft base budgets within the framework approved by this Committee. The Council's total draft base budget for its service committees in

2000/01 was £79.655m. Service committees had put forward proposals for unavoidable service developments and pressures totalling £2.319m in 2000/01 and a further £0.023m in a full year. A provision for pay and price inflation totalled £2.114m. This included meeting the teacher's pay award in full and a provision of 2.5% for non-teaching pay budgets for all committees, pending the conclusion of national pay negotiations which were unlikely to be concluded before the budget was agreed by the Council on 1 March. Taken together with corporate pressures, economies identified by service committees and the requirements of levying bodies, these provided a total revenue budget requirement of £85.179m for the year. The Committee noted that individual service committee totals would be revised before the Council meeting to reflect the latest recharge data. This would not affect the total expenditure which exceeded the Council's SSA by £2.844m. The Committee considered the funding arrangements to meet this level of expenditure, including the level of contribution from revenue balances and the implications for Council Tax in 2000/01.

Having done this the Committee judged that the Council Tax should increase by 2.9% and that expenditure should be supported by drawing £3.415m from revenue balances.

**RECOMMENDED** to the Council that:

- (i) virements identified by Service Committees, as summarised in Annexe A and set out in paragraph 5.1, be approved;
- (ii) the draft base budgets for 2000/01 submitted by Committees and summarised in Table 3 be agreed;
- (iii) each Committee's proposed service developments included in Annexe B be agreed except the Education Committee's proposal for £0.080m to fund a recruitment and retention initiative for teachers which will instead be funded by a specific grant;
- (iv) the proposals to fund corporate initiatives and pressures totalling £0.504m included in Annexe C be agreed and allocated to service committees as outlined in Table 6;
- (v) an additional £30,000 be allocated to the Finance and Property Sub-Committee to cover an anticipated increase in the Council's external audit fee;
- (vi) each Committee's proposed economies included within Annexe D be agreed plus an additional £0.060m in respect of pupil numbers within the Education Committee;
- (vii) the teachers' pay award of 3.3% in 2000/01 be funded in full by additional resources;
- (viii) the inflation allowances of £2.114m (including the effect of the teachers' and other pay awards) be added to Committee budgets as outlined in Table 5;
- (ix) a sum of £0.5m be set aside in an earmarked reserve to cover the initial revenue costs associated with the provision of the Edge initiative;
- (x) a contingency of £0.2m be agreed to be controlled by the Strategy and Policy Committee;

- (xi) an additional service development of £0.010m be approved for the Education Committee to take expenditure on Education to the SSA level of £43.139m as outlined in paragraph 9.3;
- (xii) the total expenditure of £85.179m as shown in Table 9 be agreed;
- (xiii) a contribution of £3.415m be made from revenue balances to support revenue expenditure;
- (xiv) the Council's total requirement for the Collection Fund, excluding Parish Council precepts, be set as £26.069m;
- (xv) 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	423.58
B	7/9	494.18
C	8/9	564.77
D	9/9	635.37
E	11/9	776.56
F	13/9	917.76
G	15/9	1,058.95
H	18/9	1,270.74

### 3 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

- 3.1 That the recommendations of the Strategy and Policy Committee outlined in paragraph 2 be agreed.
- 3.2 That it be noted that at its meeting on 17 November 1999 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2000/01 in accordance with regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) 41,030 **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	3,200
Bracknell	17,230
Crowthorne	2,390
Sandhurst	7,780
Warfield	4,120
Winkfield	6,310

*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*

3.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 1998/99 in accordance with Sections 32 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992:-

- (a) £157,253,208 **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) £69,248,000 **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) £4,567,515 **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) £83,437,693 **BOROUGH AND PARISH EXPENDITURE TO BE FINANCED FROM GOVERNMENT GRANTS AND COUNCIL TAX**

*being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) and 3(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year*

- (e) £55,837,375 **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) £142,220 **COUNCIL TAX AND RESIDUAL COMMUNITY CHARGE**

**NIL CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT**

*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) £676.15 **AVERAGE BAND "D" COUNCIL TAX FOR WHOLE BOROUGH**

*being the amount at 3(d) above less the amount at 3(e) plus the amount at 3(f) above, all divided by the amount at 2(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) £1,673,208 **PARISH PRECEPTS**

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

- (i) £635.37 **BOROUGH COUNCIL TAX FOR BAND "D" PROPERTIES**

*being the amount at 3(g) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(h) above by the amount at 2(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	668.11
Bracknell	683.34
Crowthorne	668.84
Sandhurst	684.51
Warfield	651.15
Winkfield	669.37

*being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(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 2(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	445.41	519.64	593.87	668.11	816.58	965.05	1,113.52	1,336.22
Bracknell	455.56	531.49	607.41	683.34	835.19	987.05	1,138.90	1,366.68
Crowthorne	445.89	520.21	594.52	668.84	817.47	966.11	1,114.73	1,337.68
Sandhurst	456.34	532.40	608.45	684.51	836.62	988.74	1,140.85	1,369.02
Warfield	434.10	506.45	578.80	651.15	795.85	940.55	1,085.25	1,302.30
Winkfield	446.25	520.62	594.99	669.37	818.12	966.87	1,115.62	1,338.74

*being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(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*

- 3.4 That it be noted that for the year 1999/2000 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	40.23	46.93	53.64	60.34	73.75	87.16	100.57	120.68

- 3.5 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 3(k) and 4 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 1998/99 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	485.64	566.57	647.51	728.45	890.33	1,052.21	1,214.09	1,456.90
Bracknell	495.79	578.42	661.05	743.68	908.94	1,074.21	1,239.47	1,487.36
Crowthorne	486.12	567.14	648.16	729.18	891.22	1,053.27	1,215.30	1,458.36
Sandhurst	496.57	579.33	662.09	744.85	910.37	1,075.90	1,241.42	1,489.70
Warfield	474.33	553.38	632.44	711.49	869.60	1,027.71	1,185.82	1,422.98

Winkfield	486.48	567.55	648.63	729.71	891.87	1,054.03	1,216.19	1,459.42
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- 3.6 (i) 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 2000 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");
- (ii) 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;
- (iii) 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%.

Background Papers

Strategy & Policy Committee 16.02.00

Contact for further information

Timothy Wheadon – 01344 355621

Chris Herbert – 01344 355694

Doc. Ref

C/01.03.00/TW/CH/23.02.00

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**COUNCIL MEETING  
1 MARCH 2000**

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**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE  
(Director of Corporate Services)**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 November 1999, the Council established a Standards Committee comprising of four Councillors and two independent members. Officers were instructed to approach individuals who might be appropriate independent members of the Committee. This report proposes the appointment of three independent members to the Standards Committee, to provide adequate coverage in case of the unavoidable absence of one of the individuals.

**2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**2.1 That:**

- i) the Rev David Osborn and Mr David Briggs be appointed to serve on the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2002; and
- ii) Mr Jonty Driver be appointed to service on the Standards Committee until the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2001.

**3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The Council's decision to establish a Standards Committee was taken in advance of the legal requirement to do so that is included in the Local Government (Organisation and Standards) Bill. The proposed arrangements are in line with the Government's current proposals, although the Bill will, when enacted, empower the Secretary of State to make regulations as to the appointment of independent persons to Standards Committees and, therefore, a review of the appointments proposed in this report may be required as a consequence of any such regulations. Until the Bill is enacted, the independent members will have no voting rights. However, the proposals agreed by the Council on 17 November 1999 take account of this.

Borough Finance Officer

- 3.2 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Access Implications

- 3.3 None.

**4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Process

- 4.1 Following the Council's decision at its last meeting to establish a Standards Committee, the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services drew up a list of six possible independent members as the basis for informal discussions with the two Group Leaders. Following these discussions, it was agreed that the Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services should meet with five of the individuals to outline the Council's plans and discuss whether they may wish to sit on the Standards Committee.
- 4.2 These meetings took place in December. Each of the five individuals was of a high calibre and could have contributed positively to the workings of the Standards Committee. However, following further discussions, officers recommended to the Group Leaders that three individuals should be approached and formally requested to serve on the Committee. This was agreed by both Leaders.
- 4.3 The individuals selected are:
- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| The Rev David Osborn | Rector - Bracknell Team Ministry                           |
| Mr David Briggs JP   | Manager Invention Facilities Development, Zeneca Group plc |
| Mr Jonty Driver      | Master of Wellington College                               |
- 4.4 Each of these individuals has a particular interest and/or experience of ethical issues gained in a wide range of work and other contexts. The Rev Osborn's existing link with the Council, through his position of Mayor's Chaplain, will cease on 3 May 2000. This means he fulfils the criteria set by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 3 November 1999.
- 4.5 The appointment of three independent members rather than two, will help ensure that the Committee has the benefit of two independent members participating in each meeting. Rather than introduce substitute arrangements, officers will approach two for each meeting of the Standards Committee in rotation. However, in the immediate future, because the independent members will have no voting rights, it is suggested that all three individuals should be involved in the initial meetings which plan the Committee's work programme and establish its working procedures.

#### Term of Appointment

- 4.6 The Standards Committee is an important means of securing public confidence in the Council's processes and procedures. Given the nature of its remit, it is appropriate that the independent members should be appointed for a fixed term. In this respect, it is suggested that two years would normally be appropriate. However, Mr Driver is retiring away from the area in the near future. In this respect, it would be appropriate to make his appointment for a single year. This would give the added benefit of allowing the Council a rolling programme of replacing independent members each year.

#### Next Steps

- 4.7 It is suggested that all seven members of the Standards Committee meet in March to discuss informally the way in which the Committee's work plan will be compiled and to explore issues surrounding the working arrangements. Following this, officers can produce detailed reports for more formal consideration by the Committee. This will

include the procedures for undertaking any detailed investigations. Until this work is finished, it would not be appropriate to refer any detailed complaints or issues to the Committee and existing procedures will continue to apply.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for further information

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