

To: **COUNCIL**  
**11 July 2018**

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**EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL**  
**The Leader**

**1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 25 April 2018, the Executive has met twice, on the 8 May 2018 and the 12 June 2018. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 Updated Forward Plans are published every Friday and can be viewed online at [www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk](http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk). Full details on the decisions taken by individual portfolio holders can also be accessed online through the Council's website.

**2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **Council is asked to note the Executive decisions detailed in this report taken since the last Council meeting on 25 April 2018.**

**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The reasons for recommendations are set out in the supporting information and in the reports considered by the Executive.

**4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive.

**5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

**Transformation and Finance**

**5.1 Planning & Building Control Transformation Review**

- 5.1.1 The Executive agreed to implement the recommendations and associated savings emanating from the Transformation Review of the Planning & Building Control Service.
- 5.1.2 The results of the analyse phase of this review had previously been considered by members at a Gateway Review in September 2017. This examined a number of options for achieving £200k of savings and endorsed six recommendations to be taken forward for further investigation in the Plan Phase.
- 5.1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission conducted a second Gateway Review on 14 March 2018 and provided important advice on a number of the recommendations proposed for implementation during the next stage of the review.

5.1.4 The recommendations agreed by the Executive reflect the gateway review and centre around a core strategic option of income generation and efficiency. The future vision for the service centres around improving and enhancing the customer journey through the service and the way in which we work with members and our staff.

## **5.2 Parks & Countryside Transformation Review**

5.2.1 The Executive also agreed the recommendations emanating from the Transformation Review of the Parks and Countryside service, including the development of a country park centred on Horseshoe Lake, subject to further feasibility work.

5.2.2 The Parks and Countryside review followed a similar path to that for building control, exploring ways in which the savings target of £400k could be achieved whilst transforming the way in which the service is delivered. The outcome suggests a saving in the region of £475k could be achieved over a three year period.

5.2.3 In addition to additional work to assess the feasibility of developing a new countryside park at Horseshoe Lake, the next phases will include examining the potential for developing a biomass burner and green waste storage/drying area, a highway tree pruning scheme and increasing charges for SPA mitigation.

## **5.3 Restructure and Performance Management**

5.3.1 The Executive agreed the new management structure as set out in the Chief Executive's report. As a result, the Executive also agreed the deletion of the posts of:

- Director of Resources;
- Director of Environment, Culture & Communities;
- Chief Officer: Environment & Public Protection;
- Head of Performance & Resources (Environment, Culture & Communities);
- Chief Officer: HR;
- Chief Officer: Planning, Transport & Countryside;
- Chief Officer: Customer Services;

And from 1 April 2019:

- Director: Adult Social Care, Health & Housing;
- Director: Children, Young People & Learning.

5.3.2 This was subsequently endorsed by the Employment Committee on 2 July. It was also agreed that the pay policy for Directors and Chief Officers would be linked to the fixed points of the Korn Ferry public and not for profit market database. Changes to the performance management system for senior officers should be developed.

5.3.3 Moving forward, the Council's senior leadership team will include the Chief Executive supported by two Executive Directors and sixteen other staff on Korn Ferry grades. Three of these roles covering Finance, Organisational Development and Place, Planning & Regeneration would form the Corporate Management Team with the Chief Executive and Executive Directors.

5.3.4 The vast majority of the changes will be implemented with effect from 1 September 2018.

#### **5.4 Procurement of Advisors to Support Exploration of Property Joint Venture**

5.4.1 The Executive agreed to explore a possible Joint Venture (JV) approach to develop some Council owned sites in the Borough and agreed to procure legal and property advice to help develop a business case.

5.4.2 The Council owns a number of sites in Bracknell town centre and in the Borough that may be suitable for development/redevelopment in the future. To date, the Council's approach had been to sell surplus land and buildings to developers, thereby benefiting financially from a one-off capital receipt. This approach is helpful in reducing the need to borrow to fund capital expenditure. However, it inevitably means that the Council is less able to influence the nature and scale of development.

5.4.3 As part of considering possible future options for the Market Street former depot site, officers had identified the potential of establishing a JV for the site and others with potential synergies. An outline project plan sets out the work to be undertaken and significant milestones in the possible establishment of a JV partnership. Starting with the procurement of advisors to help test the feasibility in mid-June 2018, it is likely to take until November 2019 to complete the process and agree any final Joint Venture agreements. Based on examples from elsewhere, the Stage 1 advice will cost in the region of £30k - £50k with the total cost of establishing a Joint Venture likely to be around £200k - £300k.

### **Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection**

#### **5.5 Invest to Save Opportunity at Bracknell Leisure Centre**

5.5.1 The Executive recommended to Council that invest to save capital funding of £2,488,082 is released in order to make significant improvements at Bracknell Leisure Centre. They also recommended releasing section 106 funding of £291,000 allocated to the provision of built sports and recreation to contribute to improvements at Bracknell Leisure Centre. The recommendations were subsequently agreed at the Special Council meeting on 23 May 2018.

### **Environment**

#### **5.6 re3 Waste Strategy 2018-2020**

5.6.1 The Executive endorsed the draft re3 Waste Strategy 2018-2020.

5.6.2 This Council along with Wokingham and Reading Councils have a long established partnership (re3) for its waste disposal needs. The Partnership has a PFI contract with FCC. Oversight of that re3 partnership is through the Joint Waste Disposal Board (JWDB) which contains two Members from each Council. The JWDB had previously agreed to recommend the draft Strategy to each of the partner Councils.

5.6.3 Whilst the ownership of the Strategy rests with the JWDB, each of the partner councils has a responsibility to deliver their element of it. The Strategy incorporates local collection recycling targets as incorporated in the Council Plan 2015-2019. These local targets can only be achieved with the cooperation with re3 as well as the support of the community.

- 5.6.4 All partner councils are taking the draft through their respective process. Any comments made would be fed back to a future meeting of the JWDB where the draft strategy will be finalised.

## **Planning & Transport**

### **5.7 Central and Eastern Berkshire Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan**

- 5.7.1 The Executive agreed the Draft Joint Central and Eastern Berkshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and associated documents for consultation.

- 5.7.2 The Council is developing the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan with Reading Borough Council, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham Borough Council to guide minerals and waste decision-making up to 2036. The Plan is being prepared by Hampshire Services of Hampshire County Council under contract to the four Councils. A Joint Board with representation from each of the authorities made up of an Executive member and one additional representative for each authority oversees the process.

- 5.7.3 The Draft Plan had been split into three parts:

1. Minerals
2. Waste
3. Development Management Policies

It identifies the importance to the economy of maintaining an appropriate supply of minerals and sets out the identified needs of the area for waste management for all waste streams. Within Bracknell Forest the only site that had been put forward in the Call for Sites was Planners Farm.

- 5.7.4 Each Council will need to agree to consult upon the draft plan. Consultation is expected to take place in the summer over an eight week period, factoring in summer holiday period.

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

### Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The Borough Solicitor's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

### Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer's comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

### Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Equalities issues, where appropriate, have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

### Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 Any strategic risks have been identified in the reports to the Executive.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 8 May 2018 and 12 June 2018

Contact for further information

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