

To: **COUNCIL**
22 July 2020

EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL
The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 26 February 2020, the Executive has met on the 10 March 2020, 28 April 2020, 15 June 2020 and 30 June 2020. 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. 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 consider the recommendations set out at paragraphs 5.2.1**

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

Planning and Transport

5.1 Capital Programme for 2020/21- Highways and Transport

- 5.1.1 The Executive approved the overall Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2020/21 and that highway maintenance funding for 2020/21 would be targeted towards the Highway Maintenance Forward Programme whilst having due regard to priority, availability of road space and available budget. The Executive also noted the implications for resourcing the delivery of the work programmes.
- 5.1.2 Following the merge of the Highway Asset Management and Transport Development Divisions in April 2019, a review of the newly combined Highways and Transport Division has identified opportunities to make service efficiencies and financial savings.
- 5.1.3 Core funding for the 2020/21 programme is made up of an Integrated Transport Grant from Central Government (£720k) alongside developer contributions for

transport mitigation measures via S106 agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts – totalling £3.4m. In addition, the Council has been successful in securing additional funds from Central Government through the Local Growth Fund (LGF) which is aimed towards implementing transport measures linked to economic growth and carbon reduction with a focus on removing pinch points. LGF funding (£5.519m) has been awarded for A3095 (south) corridor improvements and further enhancements to the A322/A329 corridor.

- 5.1.4 The overall Transport Capital Programme for 2020/21 totals £9.939m and significantly exceeds the 2019/20 programme value of £5.4m.
- 5.1.5 The Highway Maintenance Capital Programme seeks to ensure that the Council maintains the highway network in as good a condition as resources allow, giving due regard to public safety. Funding for the 2020/21 programme is made up of a Highway Maintenance Grant from Central Government (£1.369m) alongside a further Government allocation based on an 'efficiency' assessment of the Council's approach to highway maintenance – BFC currently receives the maximum enhancement of £285k.
- 5.1.6 The overall Highway Maintenance Capital Programme for 2020/21 totals £2.254m, however even with this level of funding, the level of demand for planned maintenance far exceeds the available budget. Funding must be targeted according to an assessment of need based upon the condition. Additional provision is made in the revenue budget for reactive highway maintenance work. This is used for routine and urgent maintenance purposes and the sum allocated within 2020/21 is circa £2.4m.

Culture, Resources and Public Protection

5.2 Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Plan 2020-23

5.2.1 The Executive recommend that full Council approve and adopt the new CSP Plan 2020-23

- 5.2.2 The CSP Plan 2020-23 is based on a comprehensive 2019 strategic assessment of crime and disorder in Bracknell Forest which includes volumes, trends, hotspot analysis, projections, legislation changes, and emerging issues identified nationally.
- 5.2.3 The CSP were widely consulted on the findings and took part in a workshop to agree the priorities. In addition, and as required by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and the Crime and Disorder (Formulation and Implementation Strategy) Regulations 2007). Public views were sought in a consultation which yielded 497 responses, 463 (93%) of which agreed that the priorities were correct and appropriate.

5.3 Support for Everyone Active during Covid-19

- 5.3.1 The Executive approved the measures set out in in annex 1 of the Executive Director: Delivery's report. Agreement would be by signature of acceptance of annex 1 delegated by the Executive to the Chief Executive.

Council Strategy & Community Cohesion

5.3 Service Plans 2020/21

- 5.3.1 The Executive endorsed the Directorate Service Plans for the period 2020/21.

5.3.2 The Council Plan 2019/23 was developed following the May 2019 borough election and was approved by the Executive on 27 November 2019. The Council Plan is centred upon six strategic themes or priority areas;

- Value for money
- Economic resilience
- Education and skills
- Caring for you and your family
- Protecting and enhancing our environment
- Communities

5.3.3 The Directorate Service Plans support the Council Plan and form a key part of the Council's overall local performance framework. It is necessary to maintain a framework that provides transparency, accountability and oversight of the performance of the organisation.

5.4 Council Plan Overview Report

5.4.1 The Executive noted the performance of the council over the period from October – December 2019 highlighted in the Overview Report.

5.4.2 The Executive noted the performance of the Council over the third quarter of the 2019/20 financial year (October-December 2019). At the end of the quarter, 77 actions (79%) were rated as "green" (16 complete, 61 in progress) and 21 actions (19%) were "amber" (2 complete, 19 in progress). No actions were red.

5.4.3 Progress against key performance indicators across the Council was also very positive, with 29 (81%) "green" – i.e. on, above or within 5% of target; 3 (8%) were "amber" – i.e. between 5% and 10% of target; and 4 (11%) were "red" – i.e. more than 10% from target. 35 further indicators had no set target.

5.4.4 Q3 of 2019/20 was the last before the massive disruption caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. The focus of the whole organisation switched to maintaining essential services whilst limiting opportunities for social contact in line with government guidance.

5.5 Residents' COVID-19 Impact Survey 2020

5.5.1 The Executive agreed the survey questions as set out in Appendix A of the Chief Executives report alongside the proposed timescale for delivery of the survey. They also agreed that the methodology and sample size applied to the Residents' Survey 2017 would be used to ensure a representative sample of people participate in the survey by ward and demographics, and the communication plan for the survey.

5.5.2 The Council is undertaking a Community Impact Assessment to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the borough's communities and residents' behaviours. The survey would inform the ongoing recovery and renewal strategy and decision making through understanding what may need to be sustained or done differently.

5.5.3 The aims of the survey are:

- To obtain the views of residents on the impact of COVID -19 to them, their family and the community including the social, economic and environmental impact;

- To provide insight into the support the borough will need to recover from the community impact of COVID -19; and
- To identify opportunities and behaviour change to sustain through recovery as well as how to respond to adverse impacts.

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.6 Emergency Duty Service Contract

- 5.6.1 The Executive agreed to authorise the Borough Solicitor to enter into an Agreement for Emergency Duty Service provision on behalf of Bracknell Forest Council with current partners of the service to take effect immediately upon the expiry of the current arrangement on 5 June and to cover a term of seven years. The Agreement being based on Bracknell Forest standard terms with the Borough Solicitor being authorised in conjunction with the Executive Director: People to make any necessary drafting amendments which were necessary to conclude the Agreement without materially effecting its intent and substance
- 5.6.2 An Emergency Duty Service is a statutory requirement demanded of all local authorities across the UK and assumes responsibilities for Emergency Out of Hours Social Care to safeguard vulnerable children and adults. Bracknell's Emergency Duty Team is contracted to supply out of hours emergency social care to itself and 5 other partner authorities: Reading, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Slough, West Berkshire.

5.7 Bracknell Forest Outbreak Management Plan

- 5.7.1 The Executive endorsed the Bracknell Forest Local Outbreak Control Plan.
- 5.7.2 In June 2020 national government announced the requirement for local government to build on existing health protection plans to put in place measures to identify and contain outbreaks and protect the public's health, through the development of Local Outbreak Plans.
- 5.7.3 Local Outbreak Plans for COVID-19 are a combination of health protection expertise and capabilities (the public health sub-disciplines of epidemiology and surveillance, infection suppression and control techniques, contact tracing and evaluation) and the multi-agency capabilities of bodies in supporting these efforts through the deployment of the necessary resources to deliver these health protection functions at scale, where needed.
- 5.7.4 Local Directors of Public Health are responsible for defining the measures and producing the plans, working through Covid-19 Health Protection Boards. They will be supported by and work in collaboration with Gold command emergency planning forums and a public facing Outbreak Engagement Board led by council members to communicate openly with the public.

Transformation and Finance

5.8 Utilities – Supply of Water and Return to Sewer

- 5.8.1 The Executive approved the Procurement Plan for the appointment Water and Wastewater supplier to the Council.

5.9 Relocation Options for EDS/Forestcare

- 5.9.1 The Executive agreed to the relocation of Forestcare and EDS to Waterside Unit B and that the funding of the scheme be from a combination of deferred planned maintenance works and the current underspend in the Time to Change budget.

Children, Young People and Learning

5.10 School Meals Service – Award of Contract

- 5.10.1 Subject to consultation with participating schools, the Executive approved the contract for the framework for provision of the school meals service from August 2020 be awarded to Contractor A.
- 5.10.2 The current contract for the provision of school meals expires at the end of July 2020. Following consultation with schools, the re-procurement of this service was delayed by the Covid-19 outbreak and is currently running approximately six weeks behind schedule. Whilst the tender evaluation has been completed, time is required to consult schools on the tender outcome, therefore the award decision is subject to consultation with participating schools.

6 NOTIFICATION OF APPOINTMENTS MADE BY THE LEADER

The Leader appointed Councillor Mark Brunel-Walker (Chairman-Elect), Councillor Dr. Barnard and Councillor Birch to the Local Outbreak Engagement Board.

7 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

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

Director: Resources

- 7.2 The Director: Resources comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 10 March 2020
28 April 2020
15 June 2020

30 June 2020.

Community Safety Plan 2020-23

Contact for further information

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