

COUNCIL
27 MARCH 2002
(7.30 pm – 8.25 pm)

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Blatchford, Ms Brown, Browne, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Flood, Glasson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, McCormack, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Mills, North, Piasecki, Mrs Pile, Mrs Ryder, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Turrell, Wallace, Ward and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:
Councillors Birch, Mrs Birch, Edger, Grayson, Kendall, Thompson and Wade

The Mayors Chaplain, Reverend Richard Neill, opened the meeting with prayers.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MRS HAYES, IN THE CHAIR

334. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

335. Declarations of Interest

Members declared a personal interest in the Executive Report (Education Asset Management Plan) due to their membership of school governing bodies, as set out in Annexe A.

Councillor McCracken declared a personal interest in the Executive Report (Financial Information Management System) due to his employer having tendered for the contract.

Councillor Barnard declared an interest in the Executive Report (Post 16 Strategy) as a governor of Garth Hill School.

336. Mayor's Announcements

1. Mayor's Charity Golf Day – 25 April 2002

The Mayor reminded members that entry forms for the Charity Golf Day were available from her secretary.

2. Mayor's Engagements

A list of engagements completed by the Mayor since the last meeting of the Council had been circulated to members.

3. Queen's Golden Jubilee Service

The Bracknell Forest and Bracknell Team Ministry Queen's Golden Jubilee Service would be held at the Holy Trinity Church Bracknell on Sunday 2 June at 10.30 am, followed by a reception at the Grange Hotel, Bracknell.

337. **Scheme for Public Participation**

The Council received a petition submitted by Mrs L Tooze on behalf of the Liberal Democrats in the following terms:-

"In the interests of local democracy, we the undersigned urge this Council to reinstate in Bracknell Forest the right of local residents to ask questions, make statements and present petitions to the relevant decision making bodies, in this case the Executive, and not just to the full Council."

In presenting the petition, Mrs Tooze also drew attention to the fact that the closing date for public submissions to Council meetings normally preceded the meeting of the Executive prior to each Council meeting.

Members of the Council questioned Mrs Tooze on her petition and the Mayor advised that it would be taken into account by the Constitution Review Group when it reviewed the effectiveness of the new arrangements in the near future.

338. **Executive Report**

The Leader of the Council reported on the main activities of the Executive since the meeting of the Council on 27 February 2002 and attention was drawn to the decisions taken on the following topics:.

- Modernising Health and Social Care
- Adult Eligibility Criteria
- Integrated Older People's Services
- Community Transport
- Post-16 Education Strategy
- Education Asset Management Plan
- Replacement Financial Information System

Public consultation was being conducted in respect of the Master Plan for Bracknell Town Centre and the Planning Brief for the Staff College Site. Future consultation was planned on the Community Strategy and the Policy and Performance Plan.

The Council had been highly commended for its work on ICT developments at the recent Local Government Chronicle Awards. In a recent national survey of public satisfaction with council services Bracknell Forest had shown the highest level of public satisfaction of all unitary authorities.

Major issues for the Council in the coming months would include:

- negotiations for the Public Service Agreement in May/June, where 12 targets would be set for the Council focussing on developing excellence, addressing weaknesses and increasing opportunity
- preparation for the Comprehensive Performance Assessment to be conducted by an inspection team visit in July. The Council was in the third tranche of assessments in this national initiative. The inspection would judge the Council against criteria to determine whether it would be described as 'high performing', 'striving', 'coasting' or 'poor performing'. The outcome would be critical to the future inspection regime for the Council's services.

The Leader responded to Members' questions on his report.

MAYOR

MINUTE 335
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OF COUNCILLORS ON SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES
– 27 MARCH 2002

Councillor	School
Councillor Mrs Ballin	Cranbourne Primary
Councillor Barnard	Garth Hill/Holly Spring Junior
Councillor Beadsley	Birch Hill Primary/Brakenhale
Councillor Bettison	New Scotland Hill Primary/Uplands Primary
Councillor Browne	Birch Hill Primary
Councillor Edger	College Town Junior
Councillor Fawcett	Binfield CE Primary
Councillor Finnie	Crowthorne CE Primary
Councillor Glasson	Meadow Vale Primary
Councillor Miss Haydon	Ascot Heath CE Junior
Councillor Kendall	Cranbourne Primary/Easthampstead Park
Councillor McCormack	Brakenhale
Councillor Mrs Mattick	Whitegrove Primary
Councillor Mills	Ranelagh CE Aided/Harmans Water Primary
Councillor Mrs Pile	Crown Wood Primary
Councillor Mrs Ryder	Sandy Lane Infant/new temporary body for Sandy Lane Primary
Councillor Mrs Shillcock	Easthampstead Park/Kennel Lane Special
Councillor Simonds	St Joseph's RC Primary
Councillor Thompson	Broadmoor Primary/Edgbarrow
Councillor Turrell	Holly Spring Junior
Councillor Wallace	Easthampstead Park
Councillor Ward	The Pines Junior
Councillor Worrall	Owlsmoor Primary