

COUNCIL
26 JUNE 2002
(7.30 pm – 9.05 pm)

Present: Councillors Adams, Mrs Ballin, Barnard, Beadsley, Bettison, Birch, Mrs Birch, Blatchford, Browne, Edger, Flood, Glasson, Grayson, Harrison, Miss Haydon, Mrs Hayes, Henfrey, Jones, Kendall, McCormack, McCracken, Mrs Mattick, Mrs Pile, Sargeant, Mrs Shillcock, Simonds, Thompson, Turrell, Wallace, Ward and Worrall

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Ms Brown, Egan, Fawcett, Finnie, Mills, North, Piasecki, Ryder and Wade

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Richard Neill opened the meeting with prayers.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR MRS HAYES, IN THE CHAIR

24. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 29 May 2002 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

25. Declarations of Interest

No member of the Council declared any personal or prejudicial interest in any item of business on the agenda for the meeting.

26. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor had great pleasure in presenting to Mrs Val Pearce of Marie Curie Cancer Care a cheque in the sum of £15,231.79, which was the sum collected for the Mayor's charity in 2001/02. Mrs Pearce made a short speech thanking the Council and others that had contributed to the Mayor's charity. The funds raised would be used to pay for additional nursing care over the coming year.

27. Executive Report

The Leader of the Council reported on the main activities of the Executive since the meeting of 29 May 2002 and attention was drawn to the following topics:

The final draft Policy & Performance Plan had been considered by the Executive on 18 June and was presented to the Council as a separate item on the Agenda.

The provisional revenue budget outturn for 2001/02 was £88.172m, which was 0.3% below the approved budget. The Executive had given consideration to the commitment budget showing the impact of current decisions and policies although the national standard spending assessment review made resource prediction

difficult, it was anticipated that on current trends there would be a funding gap of £7.3m by 2005/06. This gap would be addressed through the Council's medium term financial strategy. Further consideration would be given to the budget position in July.

The Executive had considered the report of the Best Value Review of the finance function. The associated action plan proposed measures to reduce the annual costs of the Finance Section by 11%.

The Executive had approved a package of enhanced support for Brakenhale School in partnership with the Department for Education and Skills.

Key activities over the coming month would include the Best Value Inspection of the Building Maintenance function, submission of the Council's proposals for a local Public Service Agreement and the arrival of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment Inspection Team, who would be on-site for two weeks from 15 July. The consultation period on the Community Plan had been extended to provide all select committees with an opportunity to comment on the current draft. Work was ongoing on the Town Centre Masterplan and the Housing Strategy and these would be submitted to the Council in July.

The Leader informed the Council that Mr John Tomkins, a former leader of the Labour Group on the Council, was recovering from major surgery after suffering a stroke.

The Leader responded to questions on the Executive Report. He then moved a recommendation from the Executive regarding authorisations to approve capital expenditure.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that individual Executive Members be authorised to approve capital expenditure of up to £25,000 for individual schemes financed by Section 106 monies. Subject to an overall limit specified in the capital programme each year.

28. **Budget and Policy Framework**

(i) Adult Learning Plan, 2002/2003

The Executive Member for Education presented the draft Adult Learning Plan, 2002/2003 for consideration and answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Ward, seconded by Councillor Barnard, that the Adult Learning Plan, 2002/2003 be adopted.

(ii) Policy & Performance Plan, 2002/2003

The Leader of the Council presented the draft Policy & Performance Plan, 2002/2003 for consideration and answered questions thereon.

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the Policy & Performance Plan, 2002/2003 be adopted.

29. **Release of Section 106 Funds**

A report of the Director of Corporate Services and Director of Leisure Services was submitted regarding the proposed release of Section 106 Funds.

RESOLVED that

- (i) approval be given to the release of a total of £25,000 of money held under Section 106 for the provision of an open access unit facility at Westmorland Park, North Bracknell; and
- (ii) approval be given to the release of an amount of £40,000 of money held under Section 106 to Bracknell Town Council as a grant for improving drainage at Calfridus Way playing fields.

30. **Question Submitted under Council Procedure Rule 10.2**

Notice had been given of the following question by Councillor Jones to the Executive Member for planning and Transportation:-

“With reference to the distributed housing provision in Policy H2 of the Structure Plan, is Councillor Mrs Ballin able to give a categorical assurance that there are no plans to significantly change the figures for the relative allocation of housing between the Berkshire authorities from the figures listed?”

Councillor Mrs Ballin advised the Council that there had been some 1,250 responses to the Draft Structure Plan. These were being examined by officers and it would be premature to comment until the responses had been considered by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee. However, Councillor Mrs Ballin was able categorically to assure Councillor Jones that she knew of no plans to alter the relative allocation of housing between the Berkshire authorities. Councillor Mrs Ballin then responded to a supplementary question.

31. **Appointments to External Organisations**

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Birch, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ballin, that Councillor Bettison be appointed as the Council’s representative on the Local Government Association Rural Commission, to replace Councillor Mills.

32. **Date of Next Meeting**

RESOLVED on the proposition of Councillor Bettison, seconded by Councillor Birch, that the date of the next Council meeting be altered to Tuesday 30 July 2002.

MAYOR