

**COUNCIL
27 FEBRUARY 2003**

EXECUTIVE REPORT

Since the last Executive report to the Council meeting held on 5 February 2003, the Executive's attention has been focused on financial planning for the coming municipal year and this is dealt with in a separate report to the Council. However two other important matters were dealt with at the Executive meeting on 18 February 2003.

1 COMPLIANCE WITH FAIR ACCESS TO CARE GUIDANCE

- 1.1 Guidance issued by the Department of Health under the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 requires Local Authorities to review policies for charging adult service users for non-residential social services provided to them (and adult carers of other adults where services are provided for carers) The objective is to ensure that these policies are fair and seen to be fair; that they are consistent and reasonable; and that they work towards achieving overall objectives for social care such as promotion of the independence and social inclusion of service users. The guidance includes a number of mandatory changes and policy options.
- 1.2 A review has been undertaken in accordance with the guidance which involved extensive consultation with service users. The Executive has now approved a set of principles which will be followed in developing wider charging policies. Those policies will be the subject of a further report to the Executive in the Autumn.

2 DEPOSIT DRAFT BERKSHIRE STRUCTURE PLAN

- 2.1 The Deposit Draft Berkshire Structure Plan 2001-2016 was subject to public consultation during March/April 2002 and the Joint Strategic Planning Committee has now reviewed responses received and brought forward recommended changes to the Plan. These changes have been referred to each of the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities. The proposed amendments have now been considered by the Executive and endorsed with the exception of Policy E5 which requires Local Plans to set maximum car parking standards for major B1 Class development within the range of one space per 35 m² to 100 m². The Executive has endorsed the submission of a minority report on behalf of the Council objecting to this policy.
- 2.2 The proposed changes will now be published for consultation and this marks a further stage of a process leading through an Examination In Public and concluding with final adoption of the Structure Plan which is provisionally anticipated in December 2004.

3 EXECUTIVE WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 The next Executive four month Forward Plan will be published on 1 March 2003 and will be made available for public inspection at Easthampstead House and on BF Online.