

**COUNCIL
27 APRIL 2005**

**EXECUTIVE REPORT
(SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT)**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report supplements the information contained in Item XX by providing a commentary on the items dealt with at the meeting of the Executive on 19 April 2005.

2. COUNCIL STRATEGY

2.1 Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA): Final Draft Improvement Plan 2005/6-2006/7

- 2.1.1 The Council's draft CPA Improvement Plan was considered by the Executive on 15 February 2005 and approved as a basis for consultation. This has now been amended to focus exclusively on the key improvement priorities identified in last year's CPA. The Audit Commission supports this approach, believing that it mirrors the clear focus critical to the successful implementation of the Council's previous CPA Improvement Plan.

- 2.1.2 As the key CPA improvement priorities are also reflected in the Service Plans, the CPA Improvement Plan acts as a supplement to these by providing a focus through which progress against the CPA priorities can be readily identified by a range of audiences.

- 2.1.3 In summary, the changes made to the draft Improvement Plan and approved by the Executive on 19 April are as follows:

- removal of the six local priorities on the basis that officers are now satisfied that these are fully covered in the appropriate Service Plans for 2005/6; and
- the deletion of two of the original CPA areas for improvement, namely the funding provision of Garth Hill and the development of the Community Plan, as these had previously been identified as key local priorities in the Council's Medium Term Objectives.

2.2 Establishment of a Children's Services Department

- 2.2.1 At its meeting on 15 February the Executive received a report on the CPA Improvement process which recommended the establishment of a single new department to include all aspects of children's services and the appointment of a Director of Children's Services with effect from 1 May 2005. Since then further work, including a number of staff briefing workshops, has been undertaken to develop the proposals.

- 2.2.2 The reasons for bringing forward the creation of a Children's Services Department were threefold. Government guidance following the passage of the Children Act is

encouraging authorities to move quickly. The requirement to have a new style Children and Young People's Plan in being by 1 April 2006 adds emphasis and will be easier to achieve with early organisational change. At the same time there are local issues of capacity. Bringing forward the creation of the new children's department will give greater focus to the integration work and, importantly, enable the other new department, covering housing, adult social services and community services to concentrate on the major tasks that it faces over the coming two years. The main criteria for success of the change programme will be the creation of two new viable departments with effective support structures leading to measurable improvements in outcomes for children and other clients.

2.2.3 The Executive on 19 April agreed the name for the new department, Department of Education, Children's Services and Libraries, its structure and the arrangements for the appointment of the new director.

2.2.4 From 1 May the new department will bring together three branches of the Education and Libraries Department with one from Social Services and Housing, with the existing four Assistant Directors reporting to the new Director of Education, Children's Services and Libraries. No other structural changes within the various branches are proposed before 1 May. Subsequent changes, in phases 2 and 3, including the reconfiguration of support services are likely to be accommodated within these four branches. The proposed new structure is as follows:

Old name	New name
Children and Families (SSH)	Children and Families: Social Care
Children, Young People and Families (Ed&L)	Children and Families: Access and Inclusion
Learning, Achievement and Libraries (Ed&L)	unchanged
Strategy, Planning and Resources (Ed&L)	Strategy, Support and Resources

2.2.6 The Appointment Committee will meet on 25 April to complete the interview and selection process for the new Director.

3 PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION/PUBLIC & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

3.1 Local Transport Plan Capital Works Programmes 2005-2006

3.1.1 The Executive has approved the main Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital works programmes for the financial year 2005–2006, in line with the budget approved by the Council and the LTP objectives.

3.1.2 The Local Transport Settlement for 2005/06 is £2.479 million and comprises:

Maintenance	£0.709 million
Integrated Transport	£1.000 million
Supplementary Maintenance	£0.770 million

3.1.3 In addition to the LTP allocation the Council has chosen to top up the LTP funding with a further £750,000 and £130,000 for refurbishment of roads, footways and in terms of dealing with our new town inheritance, the replacement and or

refurbishment in a holistic approach the street lights, signs and landscaping i.e. a fence to fence refurbishment approach to maintenance.

3.1.4 A further 750,000 of LTP related Section 106 funding is also proposed.

3.1.5 Having considered the current priorities the following schemes are the Council's priorities in 2005/06.

<u>Supplementary Maintenance</u>	£770,000
The A321 High Street, Sandhurst was put forward and has been accepted for funding in the LTP allocation.	
<u>Maintenance</u>	£709,000
A programme of thin surfacing/surface treatment is now being finalised at £330,000.	
Mill Lane footbridge is a priority for strengthening works £150,000	
Other rolling programmes as a result of inspections and refurbishments £229,000.	

Integrated Transport

£1,000,000

3.1.6 In line with the policies and priorities set out in the Local Transport Plan the planned areas for investment are:

	LTP	Section 106
Highway Capacity and Road space allocation	40	115
Demand Management and Travel Choice	25	20
Parking	10	100
Traffic Management	150	70
Walking and Cycling	200	285
Bus and rail travel	150	160
Access issues	30	0
Travel to School	170	0
Freight	25	0
Safety	200	0
	1000	750

3.1.7 Additional investment to address the new town inheritance in a coordinated and prioritised manner suggest that the focus should be on the Harmans Water Road and adjoining Bullbrook Estate. It is suggested that the available resource of £880,000 be allocated to this area wide initiative.

4 CORPORATE SERVICES & RESOURCES

4.1 Revised Procurement Strategy and Implementation Plan

4.1.1 The Executive has approved an updated Procurement Strategy and Implementation Plan

4.1.2 Since the strategy was approved on 11 March 2003, a number of changes have taken place:

- several aspects of the Implementation Plan have been achieved, including the letting of the corporate contract for ICT equipment;
- the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has published a National Strategy for Local Government Procurement (October 2003) and announced the establishment of regional centres of procurement excellence.
- The corporate procurement team has been strengthened and have been set a revenue cashable savings target of £342,000 by 2007-8.
- The team have also been set the target that the two new procurement officers taken on earlier this year will be self-funding and in addition deliver revenue savings of £342,000 by 2007/08.

4.1.3 The main changes are that:

- The Leader of the Council has been designated Procurement Champion.
- The Strategy has been updated to reflect statutory responsibilities set out in the Race Relations Act and Disabilities Discrimination Act.

4.1.4 Other key changes may be summarised as follows:

- Reference to the role and membership of the Strategic Procurement Group
- New commitments in Implementation Plan to:
 - Prepare annual corporate contract development programme;
 - Strengthen the corporate procurement team to produce more cashable savings;
 - Report annually on achievements against the National Procurement Strategy timetables
 - Report annually on achievements against established KPIs.
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5 SOCIAL SERVICES & HOUSING

5.1 Safer Communities Strategy 2005-08

5.1.1 The Executive has approved the Safer Communities Strategy 2005–08. The document has been developed in consultation with the Bracknell Forest Safer Communities Strategic Partnership.

5.1.2 Section 5 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002 places a joint duty on both local authorities and police to work together to formulate a 3-year Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy. Other statutory agencies are Primary Care Trusts, Police Authorities and Fire Authorities.

5.1.3 The Act requires a crime and drug audit to inform the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy which must be consulted upon with the community. The strategy must be made available to the public and be reviewed tri-annually. It also allows for the Home Secretary to call for a report on the work being undertaken locally. In addition, it requires all local authorities, police and other responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder while exercising all their duties.

5.1.4 The Strategy identifies the following priorities:

- 1 Reducing Crime
- 2 Drugs and Alcohol
- 3 Perceptions and Anti-Social Behaviour
- 4 Young People

5.1.5 The Partnership has agreed the following rights and responsibilities as those which the community should be able to enjoy.

Rights:

- 1 The right to feel safe from crime in the home or when moving about day or night.
- 2 The right to feel that children will be safe from harm.
- 3 The right to choose lifestyle.
- 4 The right to keep personal property free from theft or damage.
- 5 The right to feel safe from traffic in streets and public places.
- 6 The right to live and work free from the anti-social behaviour of others.
- 7 The right to feel a valued member of the community.

Responsibilities:

- 1 Not to engage in any activity which puts others at risk.
- 2 Parents and carers to take responsibility for the care and responsibility of children.
- 3 Respect for difference in others.
- 4 Be responsible for taking reasonable steps to prevent crime and keep safe.
- 5 Use motor vehicles, cycles and wheelchairs responsibly.
- 6 Not to cause any undue harassment, alarm or distress to others.
- 7 Participate in the life of the community with respect for and in support of others.

5.1.6 The Partnership will work to support and protect people's rights while every member of the community should seek to exercise their responsibilities.