

To: Council
13 January 2021

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Since the Council meeting on 25 November 2020, the Executive has met on the 15 December 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 note the report.

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

Council Strategy & Community Cohesion

5.1 Council Plan Overview Report

- 5.1.1 The Executive noted the performance of the council over the period from July – September 2020 highlighted in the Overview Report.
- 5.1.2 The Executive noted the performance of the Council over the second quarter of the 2020/21 financial year (July - September 2020). At the end of the quarter, 98 actions (84%) were rated as “green” (16 complete, 77 in progress, 5 not started or deferred) and 17 actions (15%) were “amber” (14 in progress 3 not started or deferred). 1 action was red.
- 5.1.3 Progress against key performance indicators across the Council was also positive, with 25 (71%) “green”, 0 were “amber” and 10 (29%) were “red”.

- 5.1.4 The national lockdown in March fundamentally changed the delivery of services within Bracknell Forest. Service areas implemented business continuity plans with the vast majority operating as closely as possible to business as usual. Quarter two has allowed services to normalise and in most cases establish a “new normal”.
- 5.1.4 The whole organisation has responded magnificently. There has inevitably been challenges and some hiccoughs and some service levels may not have met some resident’s expectations. However, many of these cases have been a direct result of policy changes by national government or national delays in providing guidance for the implementation of initiatives that had been announced as ready to go.
- 5.1.5 Whilst there has been an inevitable focus on Covid-19, progress has continued to be made on matters of strategic importance to the council, notably the Property Joint Venture and the Heathlands Care Home. Following the appointment of Countryside as preferred partner in July, work has continued throughout Q2 to complete the legal agreements and the initial JV Business Plan for consideration by Members in the Autumn. Construction has started at Heathlands and the ground-breaking ceremony took place on 8 September. An approach to provider arrangements has been agreed and procurement activity will commence in Q3.

Transformation and Finance

5.2 Capital Programme 2021/22 - 2023/24 and Revenue Budget 2021/22

5.2.1 The Executive approved for consultation a draft capital programme based on total spending of £12.032m of which:

- £5.174m of expenditure to be externally funded.
- £1.335m of expenditure to be funded from S106.
- £1m would be reserved for Invest-to-Save schemes.

5.1.2 The Executive also agreed its draft revenue budget proposals for 2021/22 as the basis for consultation. These proposals included the Treasury Management Strategy and associated documents which the Executive requested that the Governance and Audit Committee review.

5.1.3 Both the draft revenue and capital programmes will now be considered by Overview & Scrutiny and their views along with any submitted by residents and local groups will be reported to the Executive and Full Council in February when the final budget proposals for 2021/22 will be agreed.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The Borough Solicitor’s comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Director: Resources

6.2 The Director: Resources’ comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – 15 December 2020

Contact for further information

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