

Executive Report 24 November 2021

Councillor Paul Bettison
Leader of the Council



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Recent Advisory Meetings

21 September

19 October

16 November (supplementary report)



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Residents Survey: Covid-19 Impact

Many important insights including.....

67% of residents satisfied with way Council supporting community during pandemic (up from 56% in July 2020)

Compares with national average of 53%

86% of residents who volunteered intend to keep volunteering in community

83% residents believe pandemic had positive impact on appreciation of local wildlife and environment but.....

54% believed negative impact on children's education

Top priorities for Council felt to be:

- Helping local business and economy rescue 20%
- Supporting vulnerable and affected people to recover (16%)
- Reopening facilities and services (15%)

17% intend to work from home more in future



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Finance/Transformation/Council Strategy

Land Transactions

Depot Site

- Surplus land offered to Cambian Partnership
- Site development plan required by October 2022

Market Street – Block D

- Agreed to defer development decision until 2024 due to market conditions



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Planning & Transport

Revised Local Development Scheme 2021 – 2024 agreed

- Reflects latest timing for Local Plan submission (pre-xmas) and Joint Minerals & Waste Disposal Plan

Bracknell Neighbourhood Development Plan 2016 – 2036 “made”

- Reflects positive vote in favour on 9 September



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Culture, Delivery & Public Protection

Public Protection Partnership Business Plan 2022/23

- Local priorities agreed including:
 - Animal Welfare
 - Fly tipping
 - Licencing
 - Air Quality linked to climate change
- Approach to Wokingham departure agreed

Community Hubs & Facilities

- Bucklers Park and Binfield Hubs nearing completion
 - Preferred approach is for Parish Councils to operate
 - Recognition of cost pressures so possible support package agreed
 - Alternative procurement approaches also agreed



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Equality Scheme 2022-25

- Legal requirement to publish equalities objectives every 4 years
- “All Of Us” approach initially developed over 15 years ago
- New plan extends this approach based on 5 Objectives:
 - Inclusive in all we do
 - Accessible for all
 - Accountable and Fair
 - Diverse and inclusive workforce
 - Recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Actions from plan to be reflected in 2022/23 Service Plans



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Children, Young People & Learning

Education Capital Strategy 2022-26

- Need to address surplus capacity at primary stage
- Strategy sets up discussions with Headteachers and Governors on future use of school estate
- Offers potential to enhance local special needs offer?

All Age Advocacy Tender

- Strategic procurement plan agreed

Household Support Grant

- Distribution and procurement approach agreed for supermarket vouchers to meet March 2022 distribution deadline



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Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

- Shortage of one bedroom accommodation for temporary placements of homeless households
- Proposal to acquire six properties via S106 and borrowing
- **[funding recommended to Council (to recommend to CEO)]**



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Overview & Scrutiny Reviews

Food Waste in Flats and HMO's

- Panel examined options for extending successful food waste collection scheme
- Interviews and visits to expert witnesses
- Recommendations agreed include:
 - Progressive roll out to up to 1800 properties in Spring 2022
 - All new HMO licences and renewals to contain condition regarding waste storage and disposal
- Blue Badges
 - Review prompted by BBC research covering approx. 30% of local authorities
 - Panel recommended:
 - Review of refusal letters to ensure sufficient clarity
 - Development of local guidelines on approach to assessing applications



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THANK YOU

Paul

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