

To: Council
22 February 2023

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since the Council agenda for the meeting on the 11 January 2023 was published, the Executive met on the 24 January 2023 and 7 February 2023. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 The Budget proposals that were considered at the Executive on the 7 February 2023 were set out separately in the Council agenda.
- 1.3 Updated Forward Plans for the Executive and other Council meetings 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 consider the recommendation set out at paragraph 5.1.1.

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. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Alternative options are discussed in the relevant individual reports considered by the Executive. The relevant reports that the Executive considered can be found [here](#).

5 Supporting Information

Culture, Delivery and Public Protection

5.1 [Polling Districts Polling Place Review 2023 \(Ref - I110773\)](#)

5.1.1 **RECOMMENDED** that the Council approve the revised polling district and polling place scheme, as set out in Annex A of the Working Groups report.

- 5.1.2 Following on from the conclusion of the recent boundary reviews it is necessary to alter the Council's polling scheme to take account of the new borough, parish and town council ward boundaries.

5.1.3 Included within the recommendations were the appointment of designated alternative polling places where the Returning Officer could locate polling stations at short notice should the primary venue not be available due to any unforeseen circumstances. This was to ensure the efficient administration of any electoral event.

5.1.4 Several alternative locations had been evaluated by officers and the Boundary Review Working Group throughout the review process and a number of these were included in the scheme as suitable alternative polling places. Those designated as the primary polling place were considered to offer the most suitable arrangements for voters and polling station staff.

5.2 [Final Agreement for Everyone Active Covid Financial Support \(Ref - I111160\)](#)

5.2.1 The Executive approved the repayment by Everyone Active to the Council of financial support provided in recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on trading at the sites managed by them on the Council's behalf.

Transformation and Finance

5.3 [Design and Construction Support Procurement Update \(Ref - I110786\)](#)

5.3.1 The Executive agreed that a contract extension to the current Managing Partner contract be approved for a 2-year period.

5.3.2 The current 10-year contract with the Council's Managing Partner is due to end in June 2023, which would leave the Council without the technical support required to aid in the delivery of capital projects. Following a procurement process which attracted minimal market interest and only one viable submission, the current contract is to be extended for a 2-year period on the existing terms and conditions. This would allow sufficient time for the Council to explore future options.

Children, Young People & Learning

5.4 [Joint Child Care Legal Team - Heads of Terms for Updated Shared Service Agreement \(Ref - I111508\)](#)

5.4.1 The Executive agreed the Heads of Terms that form the basis of a new Shared Service Agreement between all the Berkshire local authorities and the Joint Child Care Legal Team employed by Reading Borough Council and that authority be delegated to the Borough Solicitor to negotiate the final version of the detailed agreement.

5.4.2 This follows a review in 2019 by Berkshire Chief Executives into the arrangements and costs of the shared legal service, which explored possible service improvements and effective joint working across the partner organisations to reduce overall costs.

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.5 [Housing Strategy 2023-2028 \(Ref - I108977\)](#)

5.5.1 The Executive approved the final draft of the Housing Strategy 2023-2028 for publication, including the amendments made in response to stakeholder consultation. The other supporting documents were also approved for publication including the consultation report and executive summary.

- 5.5.2 The housing strategy set out the Council's ambition to ensure that everyone has a safe, stable, and genuinely affordable home where they could be independent and financially secure. The strategy supports the Bracknell Forest Council Plan by setting out detailed plans and priorities for achieving the Council's housing objectives.
- 5.5.3 Stakeholder consultation was an important part of the development of the strategy. It enabled residents, partners, housing providers and councillors to identify key local housing issues and to shape the actions needed to deliver the objectives of the strategy.

5.6 **[0-19 Public Health Nursing Procurement Plans \(Ref - I111132\)](#)**

- 5.6.1 The Executive approved the procurement plan to retender Bracknell Forest public health nursing services for 0-19 year olds from the 1 April 2024 for a period of 5 years with up to two twelve month extensions.
- 5.6.2 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 set out the local authority's statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0-19 years. The current contract for the public health 0-19 services was due to end in March 2023 but has been extended for a year to enable a full procurement to be undertaken. Options for joint procurement with other local authorities in East Berkshire were explored but have been discounted at this time due to different needs and delivery arrangements.

6 Advice Received from Statutory and Other Officers

Legal Advice

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

Financial Advice

- 6.2 The Executive 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.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.5 The recommendations in Section 2 above are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO₂.

The reason the Council believes that this will have no impact on emissions is that the report is providing an update on decisions taken rather than proposing any action. The impact or not of each of the individual decisions was set out in the respective reports.

Health & Wellbeing Considerations

6.6 There are no considerations.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – [24 January 2023](#)
[7 February 2023](#)

Contact for further information

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