

**EXECUTIVE
12 DECEMBER 2023
5.30 - 6.32 PM**



Present:

Councillors Temperton (Chair), Neil (Vice-Chair), Bailey, Bidwell, Gillbe, Jefferies and Wright

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Purnell

46. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

47. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Executive on 14 November 2023 together with the accompanying decision records be confirmed as a correct record.

48. Urgent Items of Business

There were no Urgent Items of Business.

Executive Decisions and Decision Records

The Executive considered the following items. The decisions are recorded in the decision sheets attached to these minutes and summarised below:

49. Capital Programme 2024/25

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. Approves, for consultation, a Council funded capital programme of £8.328m for 2024/25 as set out in paragraph 5.17 and summarised in Annex A, including the new schemes listed in Annexes B – D of the report.
- ii. Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of £4.554m of expenditure to be externally funded (including £0.380m of S106 funding) as outlined in paragraph 5.18 of the report.
- iii. Approves, for consultation, the inclusion of an additional budget of £1m for Invest-to-Save schemes.

50. Revenue Budget 2024/25

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. Agrees the draft budget proposals for 2024/25 as the basis for consultation with the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and other interested parties or individuals.

- ii. Agrees the Treasury Management Strategy and associated documents at Annexe E of the report and request that the Governance and Audit Committee review each of the key elements.
- iii. Agrees that the 2024/25 Schools Budget be set at the eventual level of the Dedicated School Grant income plus any accumulated DSG balances.
- iv. Authorises the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning to agree the allocation of the sums available for schools and Early Years funding as set out in recommendation 2.3 of the report, having regard to the decisions and recommendations of the Schools Forum and to agree detailed budgets for services centrally managed by the Council.
- v. Notes that a separate report is included on the agenda for this Executive meeting regarding the Council's participation in the Department for Education's Safety Valve programme, that is likely to significantly affect the Council's medium to long-term financial prospects and may impact on the draft budget proposals for 2024/25 included in this report.
- vi. Agrees that the Council Tax Base be set at 49,694 (Band D equivalents) for 2024/25 as outlined in Annexe H of the report.
- vii. Approves the virements relating to the 2023/24 budget as set out in Annexes F and G of the report and recommends those that are over £0.100m for approval by Council.
- viii. Approves the write-off of £54,150 for a commercial property debt that is no longer recoverable (see paragraph 12.1) of the report.

51. Making (adoption) of the Winkfield Neighbourhood Plan 2022-2037

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. Agrees the formal "making" (keeping in legal force) of the Winkfield Neighbourhood Development Plan to continue to form part of the statutory Bracknell Forest Development Plan pursuant to Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended); and
- ii. Agrees the form, content and publication of the Decision Statement (set out in Appendix A of the report) pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

52. Personal Budgets Policy

RESOLVED that:

- i. The Executive Approve the revised Personal Budgets Policy including the revisions outlined in section 1.2 of the report.
- ii. The Revised Personal Budgets Policy be published and implemented December 2023.

53. Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027

RESOLVED that:

- i. The Bracknell Forest Serious Violence Strategy 2024-2027 be endorsed.
- ii. A more detailed Action Plan be compiled which will be subject to review and approval by the Executive Director together with the portfolio holder Cllr Iskandar Jefferies.

54. **Community Support: Winter Update**

RESOLVED that:

- i. The updated financial hardship action plan is endorsed (appendix A of the report).
- ii. The COMF spending plan is agreed (appendix B of the report).

55. **Safety Valve Programme Plan**

RESOLVED that the Executive:

- i. Approves the Council's initial Safety Valve proposal detailed in confidential Annex B of the report for submission to the Department for Education by 15 December 2023.
- ii. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to amend the initial proposal if necessary in response to feedback from the Department for Education prior to a final Safety Valve proposal being presented to the Council meeting on 10 January 2024.

56. **Building Maintenance and Repairs Services Contract**

RESOLVED that the Executive approves the Strategic Procurement Plan set out in Appendix A of the report to tender the services for a single organisation to provide 24 hour Building Maintenance and Reactive Repairs Services for the Councils corporate stock and buy back schools.

57. **Neutral Agency Vendor and Specialist Recruitment Provider Procurement**

RESOLVED that the Executive approve the re-procurement of a neutral vendor contract to provide the Council with agency staff in accordance with the strategic procurement plan attached as Appendix A to the report.