

To: Council
17 April 2024

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since the Council agenda for the meeting on the 19 March 2024 was published, the Executive met on the 19 March 2024. This report summarises decisions taken by reference to the relevant portfolio within which they fall.
- 1.2 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 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. 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

Planning and Transport

5.1 [Approval to consult on the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans Supplementary Planning Document](#)

- 5.1.1 The Executive agreed to a public consultation on the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans SPD Consultation Draft and supporting documents, which would begin on 8 April 2024 and end on 20 May 2024.
- 5.1.2 The Executive also agreed that the Authority would be delegated to the Executive Director Place Planning and Regeneration in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Transport to agree any necessary minor amendments to the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans SPD Consultation Draft, and supporting documents, prior publication for public consultation.
- 5.1.3 The emerging Bracknell Forest Local Plan contains site-specific strategic policies that allocate the Eastern Gateway (Policy LP 9) and Southern Gateway (Policy LP10) sites for comprehensive well-designed mixed-use development. Furthermore, the

sites are Council-owned, sustainably located and form key gateways into the town centre, and their development will make an important contribution to the town centre's continued regeneration.

- 5.1.4 The Council has committed to ensuring that development is plan-led, that achieves a high standard of design that positively contributes to placemaking.
- 5.1.5 The High Street Car Park has recently been closed and, for structural reasons, can no longer function as a car park; the site will therefore require redevelopment. This site is not specifically allocated in Local Plan policy but falls within the town centre area on the Local Plan Policies Map. It provides an opportunity for a key connection between the town centre to the east, and Market Street and Peel Centre to the west.

5.2 Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2024/25

- 5.2.1 The Executive approved the that the Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2024/25.
- 5.2.2 The overall Highways and Transport Capital Programme for 2024/25 totals £6.918m, of which over 50% of funding is derived from external sources. Alongside the annual DfT grants for Transport Infrastructure and Highway Maintenance, the programme includes developer contributions via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106 agreements which supplement the programme along with a local contribution from Borough capital. Given the ongoing highway maintenance challenges being experienced by all local authorities, the council has increased its core capital contribution to £3.2m in 2024/25

Adult Services, Health and Housing

5.3 Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Reprocurement

- 5.3.1 The Executive agreed the procurement route for of provision of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) service, and the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) Service. The Executive agreed that Bracknell Forest would continue to host the contracting of LARC and EHC for the 3 local authorities across Berkshire East (Bracknell Forest, Slough and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).
- 5.3.2 Local authorities commission LARC and EHC services as part of their responsibility for commissioning sexual health services (part of the public health grant functions). LARC includes the fitting and removal of Intra-uterine devices and systems and the EHC service is targeted to women aged 15-24 to ensure provision of a sexual health consultation alongside the provision of emergency contraception. The cost of the services are free to the patients.
- 5.3.3 These services are offered in addition to the specialist integrated sexual health service provision to increase patient choice in the settings through which patients can access contraception. GPs are the main provider outside of specialist sexual health settings to provide LARC and pharmacies are the main provider commissioned to provide an EHC service.
- 5.3.4 Bracknell Forest Council is the commissioning authority for the specialist sexual health service, and it has been agreed by the Chief Executives of Bracknell Forest Council, Slough Borough Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead that the current public health shared team functions for leadership,

commissioning and contract management of this service area remains with Bracknell Forest Council.

Council Strategy and Climate Change

5.4 [Service Plans 2024/25](#)

- 5.4.1 The Executive endorsed the content of the service plan for 2024/24 and noted the actions which each directorate had committed to in order for the Council Plan to be delivered. The Executive also approved the publication of the plans on the Council website and noted the delivery of it would be monitored through the Council Plan Overview Report.
- 5.4.2 Departmental Service Plans describe how directorates are working towards the delivery of the Council Plan and form a key part of the council's overall local performance framework. It demonstrates the work of services in delivering the objectives set out in the Council Plan and provides the basis for the quarterly service reports and the council plan overview report.
- 5.4.3 The service plans demonstrate a significant commitment, across all directorates, to the ambitions of the Council Plan. 121 actions have been identified to take place during the next financial year across all 19 goals.

5.5 [Council Plan Overview Report Q3](#)

- 5.5.1 The Executive noted the performance of the council over the period from October to December 2023 highlighted in the Overview Report.
- 5.5.2 At the end of the third quarter, 62 actions (75%) were rated as green, 14 actions (24%) as amber and 2 actions as red (1%).
- 5.5.3 Progress against key performance indicators across the Council was also very positive, with 30 indicators (63%) having been rated as green, 2 (4%), as amber, 4 (8%) as red. 12 indicators (25%) had no target set as they were only for monitoring.

Children Young People and Learning

5.6 [SEND Written Statement of Action](#)

- 5.6.1 The Executive Noted progress made to the end of November 2023 on the SEND Written Statement of Action (WSOA) implementation, following the fourth review meeting with the Department for Education and NHS England.
- 5.6.2 The fourth review meeting with the DfE and NHS England took place on 11 December 2023. Written feedback provided by the DfE after the review meeting had highlighted the following points:
- The local area has maintained its focus of the nine areas of the WSOA and acknowledges that although the Safety Valve work has absorbed capacity from the team, the WSOA and Safety Valve work do share the same ambition of improving the lived experience of children and young people with SEND.
 - There is clear evidence that actions are being taken at pace, and that evidence of impact is now being gathered.

- None of the nine areas have as yet had all planned actions complete, but this is now becoming a realistic ambition.
- DfE and NHS England were pleased to hear that SEND is part of the Corporate Business Change programme, ensuring it is high on the local area's agenda. 5
- Parents feel more included at a strategic level and are more aware of what is happening and what is being planned. However, the local area is aware that outcomes at a family level are still too slow, and this leads to some frustration for families.
- Schools report a noticeable shift in the ways of working, with better communication, more efficient responses and more willingness to listen to and engage with schools.

5.6.3 A date for the next review meeting with DfE and NHS England has been agreed for early May 2024.

5.6.4 The SEND Structure has now been formally agreed and includes significant investment to further enhance the capacity in the teams. A consultation with staff is needed as part of implementation with formal consultation planned to start week commencing 18 March and will be a four week process. Implementation of the new SEND Structure, dependent on recruitment and retention is anticipated on or around July. Recruitment to the Head of Service post and interviews had taken place.

Finance and Business Change

5.7 Joint Venture Business Plan Review

5.7.1 The Executive noted the progress made by Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership in the period December 2022 to December 2023 and agreed the proposed Joint Venture (JV) Business Plan for the Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership.

5.7.3 The recommendations supported the fulfilment of Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership's objectives and aligns with the legal agreements entered into by the partners, which require the agreed JV Business Plan to be formally reviewed each year.

5.7.4 The scope of the JV Business Plan has not changed materially since inception in 2020, although the Jubilee Gardens site is now to be considered as part of a wider master planning of secondary sites, such as the Southern Gateway and Eastern Gateway Development area. The Southern Gateway also now includes High Street car park as Phase 1 of the Southern Gateway development.

6 Advice Received from Statutory and Other Officers

6.1 Leader Appointments

The Leader of the Council has appointed herself, Councillor Temperton, as the Berkshire Prosperity Board Member and Councillor Bidwell as the Substitute Member.

Legal Advice

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

Financial Advice

- 6.3 The Executive Director: Resources' comments have been addressed in the reports to the Executive.

Equalities Impact Assessment

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

Strategic Risk Management Issues

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

Climate Change and Ecological Implications

- 6.6 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

- 6.7 There are no considerations.

Background Papers

Executive Agenda – [19 March 2024](#)

Contact for further information

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