

Executive Report

19 March 2024

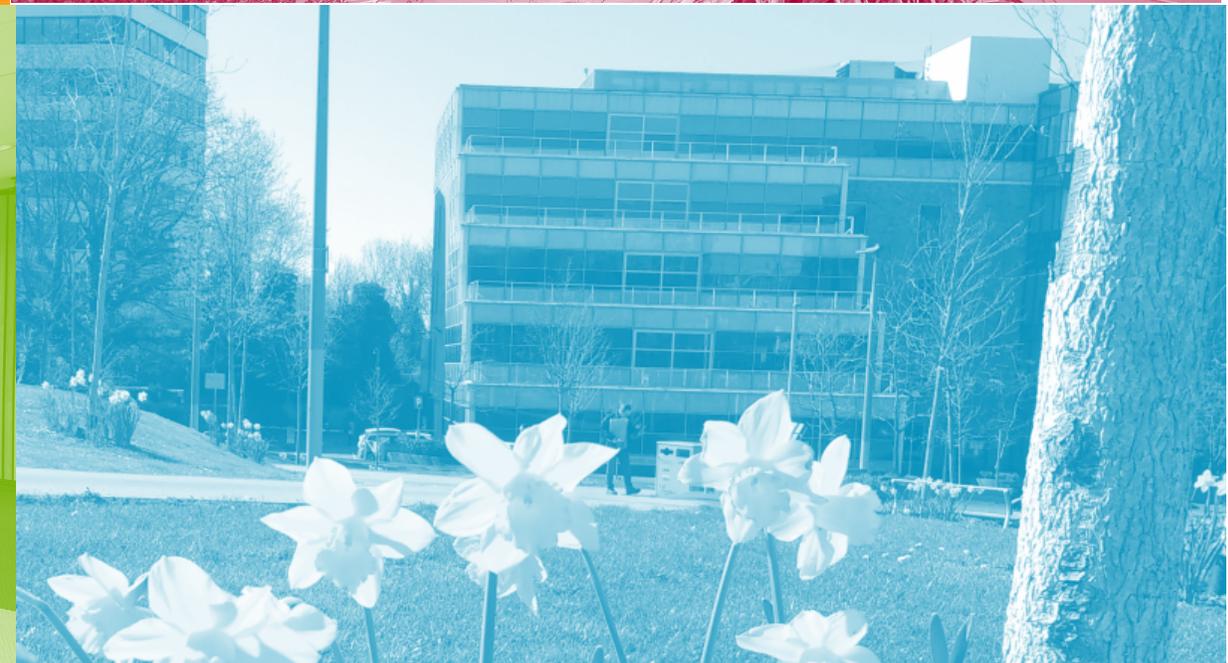
Councillor Mary Temperton

Leader of the Council

Recent meetings

Held two meetings since the January Council:

- 23 January 2024
- 6 February 2024



Council Strategy and Climate Change

Establishment of The Berkshire Prosperity Board

- A joint committee, which shares common economic goals, will enable all six Berkshire councils to collaborate on exciting economic development opportunities.
- The first official board is due to take place in May, following the decision-making process for all six councils to establish the board.
- Each council will lead on one of the six themes. Bracknell Forest Council will lead on climate change and assist on the affordable housing theme.

The Executive recommends to Council:

- That the establishment of a fully constituted Joint Committee (to be known as the Berkshire Prosperity Board) from May 2024 is approved. To deliver a Berkshire-wide vision for inclusive green and sustainable economic prosperity.

Council Strategy and Climate Change

Establishment of The Berkshire Prosperity Board – continued.

- That the proposed constitution for the Joint Committee, as set out in the executive director for place, planning and regeneration's report at appendix A (functions and procedure rules for a joint committee), appendix B (responsibilities of the accountable body), and appendix C (governance structure) is approved, subject to the monitoring officer being authorised to make minor amendments to the functions and procedure rules in conjunction with the participating authorities.
- That the chief executive be delegated to reach a legally binding agreement between the member authorities, setting out the supporting arrangements and responsibilities between the authorities, particularly between the lead authority (known as the accountable body) and the other member authorities and go through the relevant democratic process, if required.

Council Strategy and Climate Change

Council Plan Overview Report

- The Executive noted the performance of the Council from July to September 2023, which was highlighted in the Overview Report. This includes recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny.
- At the end of the quarter:
 - **15 actions** (14 per cent) were **complete**
 - **67 actions** (75 per cent) were rated as **'green'**
 - **21 actions** (26 per cent) were **'amber'**
 - **1 action** (1 per cent) was **'red'**
- For quarter two, there were **47 indicators** presented. Progress against key performance indicators across the council was positive:
 - **32 indicators** (68 per cent) were **'green'**
 - **0 indicators** (0 per cent) were **'amber'**
 - **3 indicators** (6 per cent) were **'red'**
 - **12 indicators** (26 per cent) have no target and are for monitoring only.

Economic Development and Regeneration

Bracknell Forest Economic Strategy 2024-2034

- The Bracknell Forest Economic Strategy 2024-2034 and action plan was approved following an informative consultation.
- The strategy will be delivered with residents, employers, businesses, skills, and training providers, and through working with neighbouring local authorities/government agencies.
- The Executive also endorsed the repositioning of the Bracknell Forest Economic and Skills Development Partnership to the Bracknell Forest Economic Partnership.

Children, Young People and Learning

Youth Services Strategy Public Consultation

- The proposed Youth Services Strategy 2024 to 2027 has been created following comprehensive data analysis, consultation and feedback. It supports the council's priority to ensure engaged and healthy communities.
- The Executive approved the draft strategy and that the final consultation plan would be agreed with executive member for children, young people and learning.
- The Executive noted the invitation for councillors to join a dedicated session to feedback on the draft strategy.
- The final strategy, and its action plan, would be brought back for Executive approval following the consultation.

Children, Young People and Learning

Procurement Plan for the Children's Residential Framework 2024

- The Executive agreed to the recommendations including entering into a partnership agreement with 20 local authorities. Southampton City Council would be the lead authority for the procurement of a new framework for children's residential provision (a four + two + two year contract starting in October 2024).
- The anticipated total expenditure by the council through the south central children's residential framework would be between £3.5m and £4m per year. Giving an estimated total expenditure for the initial four year term of £16m.
- This will help us meet our statutory duty to safeguard and protect the welfare of looked after children. It will enable us to commission a wide range of placements and high-quality accommodation to meet the needs of children and young people. This is critical in helping them achieve their independence and ambitions.

Children, Young People and Learning

Procurement Plan for the Children's Residential Framework 2024

- Bracknell Forest Council prefers to use its own foster carers, where possible, for our looked after children. However, where a child has particularly complex needs, which cannot be met by foster carers, a residential placement may be required.
- As a small unitary, being part of a framework with other local authorities increases the council's influence in a highly challenging residential market.

Finance and Business Change

Design and Construction Multi-Disciplinary Consultancy Services Contract

- The council requires an experienced consultancy organisation to provide a range of specialist property and construction functions. This will enable teams within the council to use the approved supplier for consultancy when in-house teams cannot provide support or do not have the necessary expertise.
- The Executive approved the strategic procurement plan to tender for a design and construction multi-disciplinary consultancy services contract.
- Approval of this strategic procurement plan authorised a proposed contract term for up to 10 years. The initial period being five years with a further three + two years based on key performance indicators. The contract value is up to £12m for the 10-year contract, to be procured from a single provider.

Thank You

19 March 2024