

Executive Report

17 April 2024

Councillor Mary Temperton
Leader of the Council

Recent meetings

Held one meeting since the
March Council:

- 19 March 2024



Planning and Transport

Approval to consult on the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans Supplementary Planning Document

- The Bracknell Forest Local Plan allocates the Eastern Gateway and Southern Gateway in Bracknell town centre for comprehensive development. The sites are council-owned, sustainably located and form key gateways into the town centre. Their development will make an important contribution to the town centre's continued regeneration.
- Due to structural reasons, High Street Car Park has recently been closed and the site requires redevelopment. While it is not specifically allocated in Local Plan, it falls within the town centre area on the Local Plan Policies Map. It provides an opportunity to connect the town centre to the east, and Market Street and Peel Centre to the west.

Planning and Transport

Approval to consult on the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans Supplementary Planning Document (continued)

- The Executive agreed to a public consultation on the Bracknell Town Centre Masterplans and supporting documents. This would start on 8 April 2024 and end on 20 May 2024.
- The Executive also agreed that the executive director for place, in consultation with the executive member for planning and transport, would have authority to agree any necessary minor amendments to the masterplans and supporting documents, prior to publication for public consultation.

Planning and Transport

Highways and Transport Capital Programme 2024/25

- The Executive approved the highways and transport capital programme for 2024/25.
- The overall programme for 2024/25 totals £6.918m. More than 50 per cent of funding is from external sources.
- 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

Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Reprourement

- Local authorities commission Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) services as part of their responsibility for commissioning sexual health services.
- LARC includes the fitting and removal of intra-uterine devices and systems. The EHC service is targeted at women aged 15-24 to ensure sexual health consultation is available alongside emergency contraception. The services are free to patients.
- The Executive agreed the procurement route for both services. They agreed that Bracknell Forest would continue to contract both services for the three local authorities across east Berkshire (Bracknell Forest, Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead).

Council Strategy and Climate Change

Service Plans 2024/25

- Departmental Service Plans describe how council directorates are working towards the delivery of the Council Plan. They form a key part of the council's overall local performance framework.
- The Executive endorsed the content of the service plan for 2024/25. They noted the actions that each directorate had committed to.
- 121 actions have been identified to take place during the next financial year across all 19 goals.
- The Executive approved the publication of the plans on the council's website. They noted the delivery of it would be monitored through the Council Plan Overview Report.

Council Strategy and Climate Change

Council Plan Overview Report Q3

- The Executive noted the performance of the council between October 2023 and December 2023 highlighted in the Overview Report.
- At the end of the third quarter:
 - **62 actions** (75 per cent) were rated as **'green'**
 - **14 actions** (24 per cent) were **'amber'**
 - **2 actions** (1 per cent) were **'red'**
- Progress against key performance indicators across the council is also very positive:
 - **30 indicators** (63 per cent) were rated as **'green'**
 - **2 indicators** (4 per cent) were **'amber'**
 - **4 actions** (8 per cent) were **'red'**
 - **12 indicators** (25 per cent) had no target set as they were only for monitoring.

Children, Young People and Learning

SEND Written Statement of Action

- 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.
- The fourth review meeting with the DfE and NHS England took place on 11 December 2023. Written feedback had been provided by the DfE after the review meeting.
- A date for the next review meeting with DfE and NHS England has been agreed for early May 2024.
- The SEND structure has now been formally agreed and includes significant investment to further enhance capacity in the teams. A consultation with staff is needed as part of the implementation. The formal consultation started week commencing 18 March 2024 and will be a four-week process.
- Implementation of the new SEND structure, dependent on recruitment and retention, is anticipated around July.

Finance and Business Change

Joint Venture Business Plan Review

- The Executive noted the progress made by Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership between December 2022 to December 2023. They also agreed the proposed Joint Venture (JV) Business Plan for the Bracknell Forest Cambium Partnership.
- There is a requirement that the JV Business Plan is formally reviewed each year.
- The scope of the JV Business Plan has not changed materially since inception in 2020. However, 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 one of the Southern Gateway development.

Thank You

17 April 2024