

COUNCIL
10 JULY 2024
7.31 - 9.01 PM



Present:

Councillors Penfold (Mayor), Cochrane (Deputy Mayor), Allen, Bailey, Barnard, Bidwell, Brown, Collings, C Eberle, T Eberle, Egglestone, Ejaz, M Forster, S Forster, Frost, Gaw, Haffeggee, Hayes MBE, Jefferies, Karim, McLean, O'Regan, Pickering, Purnell, Robertson, Smith, Temperton, C Thompson, P Thompson, Virgo, Watts, Wright and Zahuruddin

Present Virtually:

Councillors Penfold (Mayor), Bidwell, Egglestone, Hayes MBE, Jefferies and O'Regan

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Frewer, Gillbe, Harrison, McKenzie-Boyle, Neil, Webb and Welch

8. Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 April 2024 and the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 15 May 2024 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

9. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Phillip Thompson declared an affected interest in agenda item 8 as he was a carer supported by Bracknell Forest Council.

10. Mayor's Announcements

The Mayor reported on her activities and events attended since the last Council meeting.

The Mayor also announced that her charity for the 2024/25 municipal would be The Ark.

11. Executive Report

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Temperton, presented the report on the work of the Executive since the Council meeting on 17 April 2024.

The Executive had met three times since the last Council meeting, on 23 April 2024, 21 May 2024 and 18 June 2024.

The Leader highlighted the matters that had been considered within her presentation:

[Leaders Presentation to Council - 10 July 2024](#)

A question was asked regarding SEND with concerns that the day to day progress on operational matters was not progressing as fast as was hoped. It was asked when the Executive would next be considering the operational matters within the SEND

department in particular relating to a complaint from a Headteacher within the Borough.

The Executive Member for Children and Young People responded that he was aware of the situation, and the number of complaints received by the SEND department and was keeping a close eye on the situation. The Leader confirmed that the operational matters would be scrutinised carefully.

There being no recommendations to Council, the report of the Executive was noted.

12. **Question Submitted Under the Public Participation Scheme**

The question and response submitted under the Public Participation Scheme was published in advance of the meeting - [Public Participation - Question and Answer - 10 July 2024](#)

As a supplementary question Bracknell resident, Diana Henfrey asked for the list of the bottle bank sites and the ownership within the Borough and why the Council hadn't found it necessary to negotiate with Sainsburys regarding the bottle bank provision.

The Executive Member for Environment & Community Cohesion, Councillor Purnell, confirmed that a map of the bottle banks within the Borough was available on the Bracknell Forest Council website. The Executive Member also reiterated that the Council had no input on removing the bottle banks at Sainsburys and that this had been done at their own accord and was not a decision made by the Council. It was also confirmed that there had been an increase in collecting facilities at the two nearest sites to Sainsburys to make up for the removal of the bottle banks.

13. **Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10**

The five question and response submitted under the Council Procedure Rule 10 published in advance of the meeting - [Questions Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 10 - Questions and Answers - 10 July 2024](#)

As a supplementary to his joint question with Councillor Virgo, Councillor Haffegge asked for detail of the anticipated PV array on the site including plans, dates and timelines to understand what had currently been undertaken on the project and when the site would start to provide clean, green energy.

The Leader, Councillor Temperton, confirmed that a feasibility study had been undertaken on the area but not on the PV site. The Leader stated that the site was a priority for the administration as it had been started in 2014 and that the biodiversity of the site was a new element of the project to be considered. The Leader would be instructing officers to increase the momentum on the delivery of the site, and that a report would be presented to the Executive in October.

As a supplementary to his question to the Executive Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Smith conveyed his concerns about the policy failing to support some of the boroughs most vulnerable young people and their families, and asked for a concrete commitment and personal responsibility for ensuring that this would not be overlooked again when officers begin working on the 2025/26 policy.

The Executive Member for Children and Young People, Councillor Bailey, made a firm commitment within the meeting that there would be a policy in place for 2025/26 which would include a full review and that if the new policy required additional

financial contributions, then this would need to be funded as a priority as part of the budget setting process for 2025/26.

As a supplementary to her question to the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside, Councillor Gaw noted it was disappointing that the rationale for safer parking was down to cost, and asked the Executive Member whether they could consider implementing a forum to explore other solutions including speed management and other inventive measures to combat the road safety issues surrounding primary schools.

As the Executive Member for Planning, Transport and Countryside, Councillor Gillbe had given his apologies for the meeting, a written response would be provided in response to the supplementary question outside of the meeting.

14. **Motion (or Motions) Submitted Under Council Procedure Rule 11**

Motion 03/2024 was moved and seconded by Councillor Zahuruddin and seconded by Councillor Smith respectively as follows:

Council expresses concern in relation to the ongoing crisis in Gaza and condemns the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians by all sides. Council supports the Government in calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the safe return of all hostages, and the implementation of safe pathways for the delivery of humanitarian aid.

Council notes:

- Following the attack by Hamas in October 2023 there have been estimated death tolls (at the time of drafting this motion) of more than 37,000 Palestinians and over 1,000 Israelis due to the conflict.
- That an estimated 1.7m Palestinians (approximately 3/4 of the population) are currently internally displaced within Gaza.
- That over 100 Israeli hostages are still believed to be being held by Hamas, with significant concerns around their ongoing treatment and safety.
- That prosecutors at the International Criminal Court are currently investigating a range of allegations of war crimes made against both Hamas and Israel and have applied for arrest warrants naming military and political leaders on both sides of the conflict.
- Worsening humanitarian conditions within Gaza, including limited access to food, clean drinking water and medical care for hundreds of thousands of innocent civilians.
- Reports of significant difficulties in the delivery and distribution of overseas aid to Gaza at this time.
- That the majority of Palestinian civilians have no means to leave Gaza or relocate to safe areas.
- Calls by numerous aid organisations and advocacy groups (such as the Refugee Council) for the UK Government to open limited and proportionate pathways for Palestinian refugees to be brought to the UK, including facilitating medical evacuations for those in need of specialist care, and a VISA scheme for those with families already in the UK (on a similar basis to schemes offered by the UK in response to other recent conflicts such as in Ukraine and Afghanistan).

Council:

- Re-asserts our commitment to opposing antisemitism, islamophobia and all other forms of hatred and prejudicial behaviour.
- Calls upon the Government to continue to work to seek that international law is upheld so that non-combatants on all sides are protected, and that anyone found to be breaking those laws is held to account.
- Calls upon the Government to urgently consider the recommendations of the Refugee Council in relation to the conflict and offers the support of Bracknell Forest in welcoming refugees from Gaza and other conflict zones via any schemes the Government should put in place.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Motion 04/2024 moved by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor M Forster:

This Council gratefully acknowledges the immensely valuable role carried out by the many voluntary carers in Bracknell Forest. It is believed that there are around 8,770 carers in Bracknell Forest, but around 87% of these have no contact with the Council. Without their committed care, there would be a huge additional demand on the Council's Adult Services, that could not be met. Consequently, the Council commits to take this and every opportunity to value and support carers in looking after their relatives, partners and friends. In addition, Council welcomes the approval of the new All Age Integrated Carers Strategy 2024-2029 and encourages the Executive to seek that associated action plans explore measures to reach more of the estimated 7,600 carers who are not currently in contact with or receiving support from the Council.

On being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Point of Order

Councillor McLean raised a point of order regarding the constitution and asked that officers review elements relating to the proposing and seconding of motions.

The Mayor noted the Point of Order and it was confirmed by the Assistant Borough Solicitor: Place, Helen Brewster, that there was an ongoing review of the constitution and that it would be added to the review considerations.

CHAIRMAN