

To: Council
11 September 2024

Executive Report to Council The Leader

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 Since the Council agenda for the meeting on the 10 July 2024 was published, the Executive met on the 16 July 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 consider the recommendations set out at paragraph 5.5.2 and paragraph 5.6.2.

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, Transport and Countryside

5.1 [Overview and Scrutiny Review of Thames Water](#)

- 5.1.1 The Executive agreed the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel's recommendations as set out in the Panel report taking into account the comments of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer.
- 5.1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Commission requested the Environment and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel to carry out a review into Thames Water following a recommendation at a Council meeting on 12 July 2023.
- 5.1.3 The review had highlighted the responsibilities of the Water Companies and the Environment Agency and also helped outline the limitations of the current sewerage system and the improvements to capacity which are planned across the Borough over the next few years.

- 5.1.4 The reasons for the Panel's recommendations are set out in the Panel report and take into account previous concerns regarding the scope of the Council's responsibilities with regard to water quality and the costs associated with undertaking some of these actions.

Environment, Community and Housing

5.2 [Approval to Consult on the Community Safety Plan 2024 - 2027](#)

- 5.2.1 The Executive approved the public consultation on the recommended strategic priorities for the Community Safety Plan 2024-27 which started on Monday 22 July for a period of 4 weeks.
- 5.2.2 Community Safety Partnerships have statutory duties to prepare strategic assessments of crime and disorder in their local area and use those to prepare and implement a partnership plan.
- 5.2.3 As part of that process, there is a legal requirement to obtain the views of all who live and work in the area regarding crime and disorder and substance misuse in the area as well as the matters which the responsible authorities should prioritise when each are exercising their functions to reduce crime and disorder and to combat substance misuse in the area.

5.3 [Trial of Hydro treated Vegetable Oil](#)

- 5.3.1 The Executive endorsed a trial of HVO in one waste collection vehicle for a minimum period of 12 months from September 2024 and noted the purchase of a 5,000 litre fuel tank for the HVO to be stored and dispensed from the Commercial Centre from an existing capital waste collection budget.
- 5.3.2 The existing waste fleet is all diesel powered. HVO is a 'drop in' fuel, which means it can simply be used in a diesel vehicle with no alterations required, and then also switched back to using diesel should the need arise.
- 5.3.3 HVO delivers a 90% reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions when compared to diesel and can be added as a straight replacement for diesel or as a blend. Compared to diesel HVO has a lower calorific value so it is expected that there will be a circa 10% drop in fuel efficiency.
- 5.3.4 The main risks to HVO are around security of supply due to demand and making sure the source of the fuel is known. The supply risk however can be mitigated by the ability to switch back to diesel should the need arise.

Council Strategy and Climate Change

5.4 [Annual Report on Climate Change](#)

- 5.4.1 The Executive agreed the report and noted the progress made by the Council in relation to its climate change strategy.
- 5.4.2 The council has set the objective of achieving Net Zero by 2030, in line with its declaration of a climate and biodiversity emergency. Tracking progress of this objective was agreed as part of the council's climate change strategy. The council's current climate change strategy and accompanying action plan covered the period 2020 – 2024 is due review by the end of 2024.

- 5.4.3 The need to work more closely and collaboratively with local communities on climate change became a focal point for 2023/24 activities. This started with The Leader convening an inaugural climate change summit in July 2023. The summit was attended by over 130 delegates from schools, businesses, community groups, councillors and council officers. This led to the creation of the Joint Climate Action Board (JCAB) which was supported by 10 sector-specific working groups.

Economy and Regeneration

5.5 [Capital Expenditure Outturn 2023/24](#)

- 5.5.1 The capital programme budget for 2023/24 totalled £86.168m. The Executive noted the outturn capital expenditure as outlined in Table 1 of the Capital Expenditure Outturn 2023/24 report and approved the carry forward of £47.334m from the 2023/24 capital programme to 2024/25. The Executive also noted the financing of capital expenditure and approved the capital virements.

- 5.5.2 The Executive RECOMMENDS that Council approves carry forwards for the specific schemes listed in paragraph 5.5 of the Capital Expenditure Outturn 2023/24 report, being.**

- **Management of Open Spaces Software**
- **Library Printers**

5.6 [Revenue Expenditure Outturn 2023/24](#)

- 5.6.1 The Executive noted the outturn expenditure for 2023/24, subject to audit, of £90.512m, which represented an overspend of £1.225m compared with the approved budget. In addition the Executive also approved the earmarked reserves set out in Annexe C and the virements relating to the 2023/24 budget set out in Annexe D.

- 5.6.2 The Executive RECOMMENDS that Council note the Treasury Management performance in 2023/24 as set out in Annexe B of the Revenue Expenditure Outturn 2023/24 report.**

5.7 [Bracknell Forest Council Productivity Plan](#)

- 5.7.1 The Executive endorsed the Productivity Plan for Bracknell Forest Council and authorised the Executive Director: Resources to submit it to the Department for Housing, Local Government and Communities by 19 July 2024.
- 5.7.2 As part of the 2024/25 Local Government Finance Settlement the Government introduced a requirement for all local authorities to prepare, publish and submit a Productivity Plan to the Department for Local Government, Housing and Communities by 19 July 2024. The requirements of such plans were confirmed in a letter to Chief Executives sent on 16 April 2024 by the Minister for Local Government.

5.8 [Procurement of Neutral Vendor Model to Supply Agency Staff](#)

- 5.8.1 The Executive approved the procurement of a neutral agency vendor to provide the Council with agency staff in accordance with the strategic procurement plan.

- 5.8.2 The Council's contract to engage agency staff through its current neutral agency vendor contract with Matrix expires on 31 March 2025.
- 5.8.3 A report was previously brought to the Executive on 12 December 2023 recommending that the Council undertake a standalone restricted approach based on 3 Lots; temporary workers (non-social care), social care roles and permanent recruitment. restricted procurement approach. Since then, the Council has engaged with the market and reassessed the purchasing options available within the market and are now recommending procurement via the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) MSTAR 4 Framework.
- 5.8.4 The ESPO MSTAR 4 Framework, in its present form, will be in place until April 2025, with an option to extend for a further two years and is therefore available for the duration of the procurement process.

Children and Young People

5.9 Procurement of an Academy Trust for SEMH school provision

- 5.9.1 The Executive approved the Strategic Procurement Plan to review and recommend an academy trust, with the Department of Education (DFE), to run the planned SEMH (Social Emotional Mental Health) school on the All-Saints Warfield site. The recommendation will then be considered by the Secretary of State for them to enter into a funding agreement with the recommended trust. The Executive also delegated authority to the Executive Director: People and the Executive Member for Children and Young People for the contract award decision.
- 5.9.2 Academies are state-funded schools that are independent of local authority control and receive their funding directly from the government. Schools established through the presumption process are not required to use the term 'free school' in their name: this follows practice within the DFE's free school programme.
- 5.9.3 The proposed SEMH School will provide 50 places of which 41 are expected to be used by pupils who reside in Bracknell Forest and for which the council will be financially responsible. The cost to the council is therefore estimated at £10k for the core cost of each place commissioned, plus another circa £34k "top up" payment for each Bracknell Forest pupil on roll, at an estimated annual cost of £1.8m and circa £7.2m over 4 years if at full capacity.

6 Advice Received from Statutory and Other Officers

6.1 Leader Appointments

The Leader of the council, under her executive powers, is changing the name of her executive members to cabinet members and the name of the executive to the cabinet. This change will take effect after the 17 September executive meeting as the agenda for that meeting has already been published. All necessary changes to the online constitution as a result of these changes will be made by democratic services.

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: [16 July 2024](#)

Contact for further information

Hannah Harding, Communities - 01344 352308
Hannah.harding@bracknell-forest.gov.uk