

**DECISION RECORD SHEETS**

**FOR**

**DECISIONS MADE AT THE**

**EXECUTIVE MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**THURSDAY, 14 MARCH 2024**

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 109. Affordable Housing Strategy 2024 - 2028

Director, Place and Growth -  
Giorgio Framaliccio

#### DECISION:

**RESOLVED** that the Executive approved;

- (i) support of the Affordable Housing Strategy 2024-2028 and a recommendation to Full Council for approval and implementation of the strategy;
- (ii) supported removal of the requirement for key workers to have lived within the Borough for the previous 5 years within the Council's allocations policy;
- (iii) supported consultation on proposals to place care leavers into band 1 of the Council's allocation policy.

#### Reason for Decision

To obtain the Executive's approval to progress this strategy to Full Council for consideration of the adoption of Wokingham Borough Council's Affordable Housing Strategy 2024-2028. As per Chapter 4.1.1 of the Constitution, the Council's Housing Strategy must be considered at Full Council.

The Affordable Housing strategy outlines four strategic priorities and will be accompanied by a more detailed action plan which will be refreshed on an annual basis. The strategy sets out the Council's strategic direction to build the right homes in the right places and support our residents by developing socially inclusive communities. The strategy is underlined by a strong commitment to partnership working with the aim of increasing the quality and quantity of affordable housing in the Borough by:

1. Addressing and understanding our housing needs
2. Providing suitable accommodation options to our most vulnerable residents
3. Ensuring homes are healthy, safe, efficient, environmentally sustainable and well designed
4. Creating positive social impact to promote inclusive growth and develop thriving communities

#### Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

None.

#### Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:

None.

#### Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

Not applicable.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

**110. Young People's Housing Strategy 2024-2028:  
To provide safe, secure, and affordable  
accommodation for our Care Leavers, 16/17-year-  
olds at Risk of Homelessness and Unaccompanied  
Asylum-Seeking Children**

Director, Place and Growth -  
Giorgio Framalitto

### DECISION:

**RESOLVED** to recommend that Full Council approve the adoption of Wokingham Borough Council's Young People's Housing Strategy.

### Reason for Decision

To obtain the Executive's approval to progress this strategy to Full Council for consideration of the adoption of Wokingham Borough Council's Young People's Housing Strategy 2024-2028. As per Chapter 4.1.1 of the Constitution, the Council's Housing Strategies must be considered at Full Council.

This strategy outlines four strategic priorities and introduces an action plan to provide the Council's direction to assist our Corporate Parenting responsibility and provide safe, secure, and affordable accommodation for young people priority groups. These have been identified as Care Leavers, Former Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children Care Leavers and 16-17 year olds at risk of homelessness. By providing a clear strategic direction, underlined by a commitment to partnership working, we aim to improve outcomes for our young people and enhance efficiency of Council services and budgets by:

1. Increasing the Council's housing options
2. Developing clear housing pathways
3. Supporting tenancy sustainment
4. Reducing homelessness and rough sleeping

### Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:

None.

### Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:

None.

### Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

Not applicable.

**DECISION SHEET****ACTION BY****111. Building Control Partnership**

Director, Place and Growth -  
Giorgio Framalitto

**DECISION:****RESOLVED** that;

- i) That the Executive approves the Council entering into new shared service agreement for a five year period (with an option to extend) for building control services under Sections 9EA and 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 with West Berkshire Council to come into effect from 1st April 2024.
  
- ii) delegated authority to the Director of Place & Growth to finalise and sign the new agreement in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan.

**Reason for Decision**

To agree the principle of entering a new shared service agreement and continuation of the existing partnership with West Berkshire Council to deliver the building control functions, ensuring that the service is delivered on a cost recovery basis to meet the statutory obligations of the Council.

**Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:**

None.

**Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:**

None.

**Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

Not applicable.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

### **112. Strategic Asset Review**

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

#### **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the Executive;

- i) noted the extent of the Council's property portfolio;
- ii) noted the ongoing work under the Borough Assets Programme, considering and identifying opportunities for the rationalisation and consolidation of the property portfolio,
- iii) noted that the outputs of the Borough Assets Programme will be reported back to Executive in due course,
- iv) considered the recommendations from Community & Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 28 February 2024.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The intention of the report is to transparently list the Council's assets to enable strategic and considered discussions around making best possible use of its assets in a responsible way, including the contribution that the property portfolio could make in generating financial savings. In doing this, numerous Council priorities should be considered, including the valuable services being provided by existing occupiers.

#### **Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:**

None.

#### **Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:**

None.

#### **Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

Not applicable.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

### **113. Statement of Community Involvement (adoption)**

Director, Place and Growth -  
Giorgio Framalitto

#### **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the Executive:

- i) noted the outcome of the consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement as set out in the Consultation Statement,
- ii) adopted the Statement of Community Involvement (March 2024),
- iii) published the Consultation and Adoption Statement in order to give effect to the above recommendation.
- iv) delegated to the Director of Place & Growth, in consultation with the Executive Member for Planning and Local Plan, to make any spelling or grammatical, typological or factual correction to the SCI and supporting documents.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The purpose of this report is to consider the adoption of a new Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). A review of the SCI is required by planning law every five years, which is now due.

The review ensures that residents, businesses and other interested parties will understand how the council will ensure effective community involvement at all stages in the land use planning process. Effective engagement ensures that decisions are made with reference to local opinion.

#### **Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:**

None.

#### **Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:**

None.

#### **Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

Not applicable.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

**114. Responsible body status (Biodiversity Net Gain)**

Director, Place and Growth -  
Giorgio Framalitto

### **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the Executive:

- i) authorised the Director of Place and Growth to apply to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) for Wokingham Borough Council to become a Responsible Body,
- ii) authorised the Director of Place and Growth to enact being a Responsible Body should the application be successful.

### **Reason for Decision**

The purpose of the report is to seek Executive approval to apply to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) to become a Responsible Body (RB) and to enact the Council to be an RB should the application be successful.

Becoming an RB will allow Wokingham Borough Council to agree conservation covenants with landowners who wish to sell biodiversity units to developers. This approach will support the Council in ensuring a local market for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) units and BNG opportunities are maximised within the borough as opposed to developers needing to purchase units outside of the borough or from Natural England through the statutory biodiversity credit scheme.

### **Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:**

None.

### **Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:**

None.

### **Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

Not applicable.

## **DECISION SHEET**

## **ACTION BY**

### **115. Barkham Solar Farm Update**

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

#### **DECISION:**

**RESOLVED** that the Executive;

- i) noted the update to the Barkham Solar Farm business case and progress report as detailed herein,
- ii) considered the recommendations from the Climate Emergency Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 29 February 2024.

#### **Reason for Decision**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Barkham Solar Farm Business Case and progress report following the conclusion of the procurement process. The delivery of the Barkham Solar Farm is identified as a key priority of the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

The project will also generate a considerable net income for the Council over 25 years which will be introduced into the Council's annual budget using an equalisation reserve.

#### **Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision:**

None.

#### **Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member:**

None.

#### **Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:**

Not applicable.

## DECISION SHEET

## ACTION BY

### 116. Shareholders Committee

Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

### DECISION:

**RESOLVED** that the Executive:

- i) approved the creation of Shareholder Committee as detailed in this report to ensure that its housing companies act in the interests of the Council as shareholder and /or lender and contribute to the Council's objectives.
- ii) noted the draft Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 1 and delegated approval of final terms to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Resources & Assets in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
- iii) delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Resources & Assets to agree final terms and enter into each Memorandum of Agreement with each relevant company.
- iv) noted the feedback from the 4 March 2024 meeting of the Community and Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Committee which have been incorporated into this report.

### Reason for Decision

Authorisation to form a Committee of Executive to act as Shareholder representative to enhance governance for housing companies owned by Wokingham Borough Council.

### Alternative options considered and rejected at time of the decision

None.

### Any Conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member

The following declarations of personal interest were made by Executive Members in relation to this agenda item. These Members did not participate or vote on this item.

- Councillor Prue Bray as a Chair and a Non-Executive Director of Berry Brook Homes, a Non-Executive Director at WBC Holdings Ltd and Chair of Wokingham Homes Limited.
- Councillor David Cornish as a Non-Executive Director of Loddon Homes and WBC Holdings Ltd.

### Any dispensation granted by the Head of Paid Service in respect of any declared conflict of interest:

Not applicable.

**Priya Patel**  
**Head of Democratic and Electoral Services**

**PUBLISHED ON:** Friday 15 March 2024

**EFFECTIVE ON:** Monday 18 March 2024

**CALL-IN PERIOD EXPIRES:** Friday 22 March 2024

**CONTACT OFFICERS**

**Email:** [democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)