

Policy Committee

11 March 2024



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) Business Plan
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Report author	Darren Carter – Director of Finance
Lead Councillor	Cllr Jason Brock
Corporate priority	Thriving communities
Recommendations	It is recommended that Policy Committee, in its capacity as sole member for BFfC: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Approves the contract sum for 2024/25 of £58.839m2. Approves the company's business plan as set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) is a wholly owned company of Reading Borough Council. The company's Articles of Association set out its obligations in terms of reporting to the Council as Sole Member as well as the matters which are reserved to the Sole Member.
- 1.2. The Business Plan appended at Appendix 1 has been submitted by the Company in response to its obligation to agree an annual Business Plan and contract sum, a matter reserved to the Sole Member.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The Council has 100% ownership of BFfC, which is run by a senior management team reporting to the Company Board of directors. In turn, the Board reports to the Council (Policy Committee) as its sole member.
- 2.2. The agreement of the BFfC Business Plan is a reserved matter, requiring the approval of Policy Committee in its capacity as sole member.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. The detailed business plan is set out in Appendix 1 of this report.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. On 27th March 2024 the Council refreshed its Corporate Plan, incorporating a number of major change projects under 3 themes:
 - Healthy Environment
 - Thriving Communities
 - Inclusive Growth
- 4.2. The BFfC Business Plan, aligns with and contributes to delivery of the Thriving Communities theme.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

5.1. There are no environmental and climate implications arising from this report.

6. Community Engagement

6.1. No community engagement has been carried out or is required in the creation of or as a result of this report.

7. Equality Implications

7.1. Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant to this decision.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

8.1. None

9. Legal Implications

9.1. The agreement to the Business Plan for BFfC is a reserved matter under the Articles of Association for the Company. This requires agreement to the Plan via Policy Committee acting as sole member for the Company.

10. Financial Implications

10.1. The proposed Contract Sum for BFfC for FY2024/25 as stated in this report has been provisioned for within the MTFS and agreed at Council on 27th February 2024.

11. Timetable for Implementation

11.1. These are contained in Appendix 1.

12. Background Papers

12.1. There are none.

Appendices

1. The Brighter Futures for Children Business Plan