



Brackley Town Council

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24





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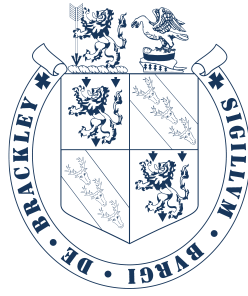
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Brackley Town Council Annual Report 2023-2024

Welcome to our latest annual report. We have a good mixture of experience and enthusiasm in both our staff and councillors with a shared commitment to improve the physical and social environment of Brackley. We aim to keep Brackley a space where people are proud to live, work and enjoy visiting.

Our estates team extended “No Mow May” to include an areas in St James Lake, Mill Lane, Rose Open Space, the front section of Swift Way, Halse Road and the open space near the Rugby Club. They also planted more wild flower areas at several locations throughout the town as well as further trees. Hanging baskets and planters continue to be an attractive feature of the town. Our parks and open spaces are loved and enjoyed on a daily basis by lots of residents and visitors.

The excellent and well-maintained community venues saw an increase in bookings taken from residents. Our rates for venue hire are kept very competitive for the benefit of residents that wish to use them. Further details can be found on our website.

Our planning committee ensures that their expertise in planning issues means that our views are respected and considered by the decision makers at West Northamptonshire Council. In the year 2023-24, we commented on 81 planning applications.

At the annual meeting in May 2022, Cllr Sue Sharps was elected Mayor of Brackley with Cllr Elaine Wiltshire as Deputy Mayor. At the end of Cllr Sharps’s term as Mayor, she had raised £11,300 which was split between her chosen charities – South Northamptonshire Youth Engagement and Brackley Foodbank.

Bleed kits were installed at 3 locations – The Old Fire Station, Egerton Hall and Town Centre toilets.

Community Grants

A total of £12,400 Community grants were given to the following:



Brackley Youth Theatre

Toward the staging of 2 musicals in the summer holiday for 2 age groups working with professional theatre practitioners



Brackley Jubilee Choir

Public performance with musicians and soloists



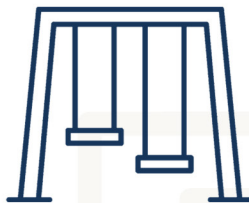
South Northants Volunteer Bureau

Volunteer car scheme



South Northants Youth Engagement

Skateboarding sessions (Skate Sunday sessions) and an accredited training course for an assistant



South Northants Youth Engagement

Brackley Play and Activity Day, Further qualification of coaches, teachers and poolside staff



Brackley European Association

Entertaining councillors and Mayor from our twin town, Montabaur



St Peter's Church

Putting on various project events throughout the year to celebrate 800 years



Catty Café Scheme

Advertising and 'Pay What you Can' Scheme.



Do it for Defib

Replacement of batteries and pads for 7 defibrillators

Council Meetings

Brackley Town Council has 16 elected members and 5 main committees – Full Council, Staffing, Planning & General Works, Direct Responsibilities & General Purposes and Finance & Policy. All Councillors sit on Full Council. All Councillors sit on 2 other committees.

All meetings take place in the Civic Hall of the Town Hall and include a public participation item where members of the public can address the council on matters relevant to the business of the council or its committees.

Councillor Attendance 2023-2024			
Councillors	Present	Expected	% Attendance
Anthony Bagot-Webb	37	52	71%
Fiona Baker	35	47	75.5%
Chris Cartmell	30	39	77%
Graham Judd	34	39	87%
Jason Kew	45	47	96%
*William King (joined July 23)	26	43	61%
Scott Langford	26	47	55%
Stewart Manley (joined Jan 24)	18	18	100%
Kate Nash	40	47	85%
Sue Sharps	60	64	94%
Bernie Tiller	33	43	77%
*Adrian Watt	41	47	87%
Simon Weaver	47	52	90%
Elaine Wiltshire	64	64	100%
Paul Wiltshire	41	48	85%
Luke Young	36	39	92%

Key:

Present The number of meetings a Councillor attended that they were summonsed to

Expected The number of meetings a Councillor was summonsed to

% Attendance The percentage of meetings a Councillor attended of which they were summonsed to

Events & Council Tax

Over the last mayoral year, we delivered a series of events and activities which we hope were enjoyed by the entire community;

- .Annual Town Meeting
- .Community Showcase
- .King Charles III Coronation
- .Muddy Feet Workshop
- .Happy Circus
- .Fireworks
- .Remembrance Service and Parade
- .Christmas Lantern Workshop
- .Christmas Market
- .Lantern Parade & Light Switch On
- .Christmas Tractor Run
- .Christmas Carol Service



Council Tax Band D Split - 2023 24

In 2023-24 Brackley Town Council cost a Band D council taxpayer



£3.36 per week

Up **30p** from
the previous year

For every **£1**
of Council Tax,
Brackley Town
Council received
7.5p

What You Get for your Money

What you get for your £3.26/week Council Tax



Open Spaces

74 open spaces, 15 playgrounds, over 290,000 square meters of grass, over 8800 trees, over 15,000 bedding plants, wildflower areas, community orchard.



Litter & Dog Waste bins

Over 70 litter bins
94 dog waste bins



Halse Road Cemetery

Maintenance and development of Halse Road Cemetery.



Community Venues

Town Hall
Egeton Hall
Old Fire Station
The Loft



Events

Multiple events hosted throughout the year.



Office

open 9am-4pm
Monday - Friday

How your money was spent in 2023/24

£1,576,608
Total Income

£1,576,608
Total Expenditure

£226,310
Placed in reserves*

* Reserves go towards maintaining our services and a number of future projects which are currently under discussion but include improving our play spaces, youth provision, biodiversity, hosting more community events, improvements to our community buildings and improving communication with our residents – for further information, please see our website.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2023/24 for

ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2023 £	31 March 2024 £	
1. Balances brought forward	1,601,308	1,713,231	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	896,765	1,009,630	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	343,683	484,135	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	527,713	561,911	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	600,812	538,968	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	1,713,231	2,106,117	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	1,743,266	2,110,298	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	495,825	502,466	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)		✓		<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)			✓	<i>The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2024 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

CONFIDENTIAL

Date 13/05/2024

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

13/05/2024

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE 26/24 REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

CONFIDENTIAL

Expenditure Breakdown

£399,417 on Finance and Support Services

£443,118 on Grounds and Environmental Services

£507,863 on Community Services



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