

┌ Councillors Eden (Chair), Gavin,  
└ Khan, Vickers and R Williams

To all Members of the Access &  
Disabilities Working Group

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## NOTICE OF MEETING - ACCESS AND DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP - FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

A meeting of the Access and Disabilities Working Group will be held on **FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 12.00pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading.**

Tea and Coffee will be served from 11.30am.

The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

### AGENDA

	<u>PAGE NO</u>
1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	-
2. SHORT ADDRESS FROM ROB WILSON MP ON GOVERNMENT POLICY ON DISABILITIES	-
3. QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION	-
4. FINAL REMARKS	-

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|------------|---|-----|
| <b>5.</b>  | <b>COUNCILLORS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</b>   | -   |
|            | Councillors to declare any personal and prejudicial interests they may have in relation to the items on the agenda.                     |     |
| <b>6.</b>  | <b>MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2014</b>  | 1-4 |
| <b>7.</b>  | <b>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</b>   | -   |
| <b>8.</b>  | <b>ISSUES LIST - a look at the progress with the ongoing 'Issues List' (please see form printed at the back of the agenda papers)</b>   | 5   |
| <b>9.</b>  | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>   | -   |
| <b>10.</b> | <b>DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS</b>   | -   |
|            | Dates for the remaining meetings in the 2014-15 Municipal Year are:<br>Thursday 4 December 2014 at 2pm<br>Thursday 19 March 2015 at 2pm |     |

## ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 26 JUNE 2014

### Present:

Councillors Eden (Chair), Gavin and R Williams.

### Also in attendance:

Bob Bristow	Reading Association for the Blind & Reading Talking Newspaper
Carol Marenghi	Chain Action & Stroke Association
Derek Woad	Member of the Public
Diane Goodlock	MS Society
Keith Hester	Berkshire County Blind Society
Keith Seville	Member of the Public (Carer)
Lisa Bamsey	Readibus & Service User
M Jeffrey	ENRYCH Berkshire
Mignon Michael	OSCA Reading
Sandy Jeffrey	ENRYCH Berkshire
Helen Bryant	RBC - Access Officer
Amy Bryan	RBC - Committee Services
Emily Hodges	RBC - Project Officer, Business Improvement
Jo Purser	RBC - Service Manager, Adult Social Care
Karla Vickers	RBC - Team Manager, Intermediate Care

### Apologies:

Councillors Khan and Vickers

Sian Hooley	Berkshire PHAB
Jenny Turner	Service User, Crossroads, Arthritis Matters & Readibus
Alan Fleming	Enrych Berkshire
Carol Froud	Member of the Public
Liz Cheyney	Member of the Public
Nina Crispin	Reading Borough Council

Councillor R Williams referred the recent sad death of Councillor Pete Ruhemann who had been the Chair of the Working Group. The Working Group stood in silence in his memory and as a sign of respect.

### 1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 2. MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Eden reported that she would invite the the two local MPs, Rob Wilson and Alok Sharma to a future meeting of the Group.

Diane Goodlock reported that the parking meters by the wheelchair clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital were being checked.

Lisa Bamsey reported that the pavement along Broad Street was still uneven and causing accidents.

## ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 26 JUNE 2014

It was reported that the working group to organise the disabilities pride day was still to be set up.

### AGREED:

- (1) That Councillor Eden invite Rob Wilson MP and Alok Sharma MP to a future meeting of the Working Group;
- (2) That the working group to organise the disabilities pride day be set up.

### 3. ADULT SENSORY NEEDS SERVICE CONSULTATION

Jo Purser and Karla Vickers, Reading Borough Council, talked to the Group about the changes to the way adult sensory needs services were managed in Reading.

Jo explained that Optalis currently managed the adult sensory needs service on the Council's behalf but following a recent review, the decision had been made for Reading Borough Council to manage the service for Reading residents, along with other social care services. Jo said that by joining services together they would be able to provide services that were better coordinated, more focussed on the local population and be more cost efficient. This change would not affect the level of support provided, which included assessment, equipment, advice and sign-posting.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

### 4. ADULT SOCIAL CARE USER PANEL

Emily Hodges, Reading Borough Council, attended the Group to talk about the new Adult Social Care User Panel which had recently been set up.

Emily explained that the Panel was for people who had used care services, or had come into contact with these services as family carers. The Council was keen to work with people who understood the importance of good care and the difference it could make. The idea of the Panel was to involve people who had had their support arranged with the Council as well as people who had made their own arrangements. No one on the Panel had to take part in anything and joining the Panel just meant you were happy to be invited to talk to the Council about your experience of services.

Emily said that a mix of meetings and email, telephone or other types of contact were planned for working with people on the Panel and this would hopefully mean that anyone who wanted to could take part. For anyone who was interested in joining the Adult Social Care User Panel an application form would be available shortly on the Council's website.

AGREED: That position be noted.

## ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 26 JUNE 2014

### 5. SUPPORTED LIVING PROVIDER LIST (SLASL) CONSULTATION

Councillor Eden talked to the Working Group about the Supported Living Provider List (SLASL) consultation. The consultation had ended on 14 March 2014 and the easy-read summary and consultation report had been circulated with the agenda.

The report stated that after considering the consultation feedback, the Council had decided that it would be appropriate to make some changes to how the framework should operate. Creating a provider list would make it easier for people to choose the right provider for them and only the 12 best providers would go on the list. All providers on the list would be checked regularly by the Council. If somebody needed a specialist service the Council would help them choose a provider in another way.

**AGREED:** That the position be noted.

### 6. ISSUES LIST

The following issues were reported at the meeting:

- The underpass ramp at Reading Station was still too steep and the station had stopped issuing platform tickets, which had been a way to avoid using the ramp;
- The footpath on Kings Road, outside Buzz gym and Kennet House, had been closed and there was nowhere to pass;
- There had been issues with narrow footpaths around some of the Thames Water works recently;
- The pavement along Broad Street was still uneven in many places.

**AGREED:** That the issues reported be noted.

### 7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### Bruce Foundation

Helen Bryant informed the Group about the services offered by the Bruce Foundation. The Foundation had a specially designed wheelchair accessible motorhome which could be hired for use by disabled, disadvantaged or elderly people. Further information could be found at [www.brucefoundation.org.uk](http://www.brucefoundation.org.uk).

#### Forbury Gardens Statue

Helen Bryant reported that to accompany a statue that was being positioned in Forbury Gardens an information board was being put up and would include braille, and asked for suggestions as to where the board should be positioned.

## ACCESS & DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MINUTES - 26 JUNE 2014

### Town Centre Access Restrictions

Helen Bryant reported that a petition had been submitted to the Traffic Management Sub-Committee requesting the Council to reduce the operational times of the Town Centre access restrictions (which currently applied between 7am-11am and 4pm-7pm).

### **8. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Access & Disabilities Working Group would meet on the following dates in 2014/15:

- Thursday 18 September 2014 at 2pm
- Thursday 4 December 2014 at 2pm
- Thursday 19 March 2015 at 2pm

(The meeting opened at 2.00pm and closed at 3.27pm)

PLEASE USE THIS FORM TO RECORD ANY ACCESS OR  
DISABILITIES ISSUES THAT YOU WISH THE COUNCIL  
TO INVESTIGATE

FILL IN AND HAND IN AT THE ACCESS AND  
DISABILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING

Name:

Contact Details (if you wish the Council to let you know the  
progress with your enquiry - a telephone number or email address  
would be useful):

Issues: