

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - 12 DECEMBER 2003

Present: Councillor Skeats (Mayor);

Councillors Beard, Borgars, Brown, Chaudhri, Crisp, Dymond, Ennis, Fry, Goodall, Green, Grieve, Griffin, Hanley, Hartley, Hendry, Hoskin, Janjua, P. Jones, Lloyd, Lovelock, Maskell, McKenzie, J Orton, M Orton, Page, Pugh, Ruhemann, Scaife, Silverman, Stainthorp, Sutton, Swaine, Thomas, Tickner, M.Waite, S.Waite, Weston, Willis, Wilson, Wilton and Winfield-Chislett.

Apologies: Councillor Howarth.

43. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the commencement of the meeting, the Mayor referred to the recent deaths of two former Councillors.

Sylvia Blagrove had served on the former Reading County Borough Council from 1959-62 and 1963-72, and on Reading Borough Council from 1974-76. She had been Mayor in the Municipal Year 1972-73

Charles Sage had served on the former Reading County Borough Council from 1959-66 and 1967-70, and on Reading Borough Council from 1974-90. He had been Mayor in the Municipal Year 1979-80, and an Honorary Freeman of the Borough since 1991.

The Council then stood in silence as a tribute to their memory.

44. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2003 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor, subject to Councillor Goodall's apologies being recorded.

45. QUESTION FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 9

Sue Stainthorp asked the Lead Councillor for Environment & Consumer Affairs:

Recycling Scheme

"Could the Lead Councillor for Environment and Consumer Affairs please tell me what impact the introduction of a Borough-wide recycling scheme has had?"

REPLY by Councillor J Orton (Lead Councillor for Environment and Consumer Affairs):

"Boroughwide recycling began on October 6th when, in conjunction with a number of other changes to the refuse and recycling services, the third recycling collection round began collections from the neighbourhoods in the Borough not previously offered to them.

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The impact of the third collection round is hard to isolate because of the other changes in service carried out at the same time. Since October 6th, however, our recycling collection crews have been collecting around 94% more recyclables than they were before.

Perhaps as important as the immediate improvements in the amount of recyclables collected will be the longer-term benefits. With the third collection round, we are now able to offer everyone in the Borough the same services. Residents of houses everywhere can benefit from kerbside collections of recyclables and we are introducing areas of flats on a unit by unit basis in order to tailor, as best we can, the service to local factors."

46. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO 10

(1) Councillor M Waite asked the Lead Councillor for Community Action:

Youth Shelters

"Can the Lead Councillor for Community Action update the Council on the progress regarding installation of youth shelters in Reading?"

REPLY by Councillor Lloyd (Lead Councillor for Community Action):

"I take great pleasure in reporting that we have established five youth shelters in Reading by utilising the Safer Reading Campaign's small scale capital bid budget and these are located in Central Whitley (Rabsons Recreation Ground), Dee Park Estate, Amersham Road, South Whitley Park and Coronation Square in Southcote. A key feature in the development of these shelters has been the involvement of young people in the design and specification of these initiatives.

There are three more youth shelters at the development stage, where consultation arrangements and the involvement of young people is being pieced together. These are on the Old Norcot Estate, the Orts Road Estate and at the Waterloo Meadows Children's Centre.

The shelters have proven to be popular with young people and provide an important staging post for youth workers to link up with them in order to promote positive opportunities for recreation, leisure and social education."

(2) Councillor McKenzie asked the Lead Councillor for Cultural Services:

Reading Art House Film Season

"Please would you report on the recent launch of the Reading Art House Film Season?"

REPLY by Councillor Hartley (Lead Councillor for Cultural Services):

"The Reading Town Hall film season launched on the 8th October with a season of 8 independent or "Art House" films.

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The programming of the season in the Victoria hall has been as a direct response to the concerns expressed about city centre film provision, and to the evident interest in good quality non-commercial films amongst the Reading community.

The season was planned to play before audiences of between 35 and 50, however the response from the public has been overwhelming, with audiences regularly exceeding 100. Over 176 people attended the performance of Buffalo Soldiers on 8 October 2003.

Central to the planning of the season has been to consult with filmgoers and create an atmosphere in which they feel comfortable.

After the first performance members of the audience were invited to discuss the future of the season and identify how they would like to be involved. One of the developments has been an email database, so that future programmes are circulated to previous audiences so that they can have a say in what films are shown.

The other innovation has been the introduction of Cabaret Style Tables to performances so that people can get a drink from the 3 B's and enjoy the film in a relaxed atmosphere. This has been a real success and is possibly unique amongst Art House style film screenings.

I'm pleased to announce that the second season has been programmed, and believe that there is good reason to expect that this increase in the variety and quality in Reading cinema will go from strength to strength."

(3) Councillor McKenzie asked the Lead Councillor for Community Action:

Activities for Children

"Please would you report on the success of the activities for children organised by Reading Borough Council during the summer holidays?"

REPLY by Councillor Lloyd (Lead Councillor for Community Action):

"Reading Borough Council has historically always provided well for children and their families during the school holiday periods, initially via the Play Development Service and Youth and Community, and more recently through a range of other additional streams of funding.

This summer a variety of provision was delivered by a range of services, including the Youth Service, Play Development, Schools and Connexions. Services have worked closely together, not only to provide a coherent range of provision, but also to ensure continuity of this provision wherever possible through term time.

Samples of provision include:

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Play Development Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education) Inspections

9 Childcare Clubs, mobile play and 11 Playschemes (drop in)

Most of the Play schemes and Play clubs have had their Ofsted Inspections over the summer holidays - the results could have been good/satisfactory or non-satisfactory. Of the clubs/schemes inspected all were graded Satisfactory or above.

Partnership work with Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

Youth & Community and Play Development have been working in partnership with PAYP over the summer period through the provision of specialist instructors and sports activities for 5 - 11 year olds; activities include canoeing for 100 PAYP young people at the Warren Canoe Club and up to 65 referrals from PAYP for participation in the Youth & Community West Reading Summer Programme. In addition, 300 young people also participated in the Safer Reading Football scheme in partnership with Y&C Arts & Leisure and PAYP.

Youth and Community - U Project (NOF funded /Connexions)

Youth & Community designed and delivered a 4-week programme consisting of two courses for young people aged 16 who are at risk of falling into the NEET category. Referrals came from a wide range of agencies and 23 young people successfully completed the certificated intensive course, which provided workshops in careers, independent living, interview skills etc combined with courses in DJ-ing and BAYCP Roadrunners (Road Safety/Driving Awareness). Young people are currently completing their Portfolios for the Bronze Youth Achievement Award.

West Reading Summer Programme

There were 560 registered young people within the West Reading Summer Activities Programme. North Reading also ran an active summer programme. Activities included off-site trips, outdoor pursuits, arts and music projects.”

(4) Councillor Hanley asked the Leader of the Council:

Manor Farm Sewage Works

“The smells from the Manor Farm Sewage Works were particularly unpleasant this year in the late summer and early autumn. Could the Leader of the Council update me on progress on the construction of the new sewage works, and give my constituents some

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reassurance about the end of the Whitley Whiff? ”

REPLY by Councillor Sutton (Leader of the Council):

“Thames Water’s project manager has informed the Council that the “first flow” to the new Sewage Treatment works are due to be switched in March 2004. By the end of May all the flows should have been transferred to the new works and the odour from the existing works is expected to disappear by the summer. The old works are due to be decommissioned in September 2004.

The Council imposed rigorous conditions on the design of the new treatment works to ensure that there would be no unpleasant odours. All areas that may give rise to odour will be enclosed, force-ventilated and the air chemically washed. Thames Water does not envisage any noticeable smell resulting from the treatment works when fully operational.

I have to confess that over the past three or four years I have sometimes failed to convince my colleagues and comrades when I have pressed on them my view that, in its way, the new sewage treatment works is as major and important a development for Reading as the Oracle centre. But all my colleagues share my pleasure in the success of this project: its likely completion ahead of time; the opening up of the present sewage treatment works for an exciting and large-scale new gateway development; and next year, at long long last, the end of the Whitley Whiff.”

(5) Councillor Crisp asked the Lead Councillor for Social Services & Health:

Care for Older People

“Could the Lead Councillor for Social Services and Health brief the Council on steps being taken together with Reading Primary Care Trust to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of care for older people living at home?”

REPLY by Councillor Ruhemann (Lead Councillor for Social Services & Health):

“Reading PCT and Reading Social Services have successfully been working together to provide services that are efficient and effective in supporting older people to live in the community. These include:

Intensive Community Support Service (ICSS)

This service provides intensive rehabilitation to individuals in their own home for six weeks. It aims to prevent admission to hospital following a crisis at home, eg fracture, and to assist with timely discharge from hospital, eg hip replacement, stroke.

Occupational therapists, physiotherapists and community care assistants work on an outcome-focussed care plan enabling the service user to regain their maximum potential in a time-limited period.

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Reading 24

A twenty-four hour, seven days a week rapid response service for older people living in their own homes to prevent unnecessary admission to hospital following a crisis. Community care assistants visit within an hour of a referral (mainly from general practitioners, community nurses and the accident and emergency department). Care and support is provided in their home following an illness which does not need hospital admission or when a carer is unwell or taken into hospital and is unable to look after the person.

The GP remains responsible for medical investigations and clinical support.

Tanfield Intermediate Care

This service supports older people who have completed their medical treatment in acute hospital wards but require further rehabilitation to enable them to return to their own home successfully. It offers the opportunity to practice activities of daily living within a safe environment that is staffed twenty-four hours a day, and people can stay up to six weeks.

A dedicated general practitioner is attached.

There are further developments underway to expand this service, to include people with dementia and other mental health conditions.

Enhanced care assistant project

There are plans to train a number of community care assistants to undertake additional tasks that are currently being carried out by auxiliary nurses, health care assistants and independent agency staff. This work is being funded by the continuing care budget. Reading PCT will be seconding a community nurse to work within the home care service to train these staff and ensure they meet the agreed competency schedule.

Falls protocol

Health and social services have jointly produced a falls protocol as a guide to staff in falls prevention and in what to do in the event of a service user falling.

Single Assessment Process

Both Reading PCT and Reading Social Services have been working jointly on implementing the single assessment process across the West of Berkshire in accordance with DoH guidelines.

Progress has been made on joint training with the aim of implementation by April 2004.

A key aim is to reduce duplication, and reduce waiting times.

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User and Carer Consultation

Improvements have been made in User and Carer consultation through partnership working between Reading PCT and Reading Social Services. This has led to the introduction of regular user and carer forums and conferences.

Joint Strategy meetings

Joint strategy team meetings between Reading PCT and Reading Social Services have been introduced, in order to support greater joint working, reduce duplication, and promote joint strategic objectives.

Joint Care Team Meetings

Joint team meetings are held between social care staff and community health care staff, in order to support joint working, reduce duplication and reduce waiting times.”

(6) Councillor McKenzie asked the Leader of the Council:

Boundary Expansion

“Is the Leader of the Council worried about the recent concerted opposition to Reading’s boundary expansion plans by the councils of Wokingham, West Berkshire, South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire?”

REPLY by Councillor Sutton (Leader of the Council):

“I was not at all surprised to learn of the recent initiative by West Berkshire, Wokingham, South Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire councils in mounting a joint campaign against Reading’s boundary aspirations. Our neighbours naturally do not want to see the boundary question opened, because they know that if it is opened there will be only one possible outcome - an expansion of the Reading Borough.

On all matters except for the boundaries, our relations with our neighbours are remarkably good, with many fruitful and innovative partnerships in areas as varied as waste disposal, park and ride and key-worker housing. I think I might also risk suggesting that the fear of an over-dominant Reading after the abolition of Berkshire County Council has diminished. I have been elected unopposed as chair and spokesperson of the Berkshire Leaders Group every year since 1995, and it functions as a cordial and constructive group.

I will admit to a certain amount of weary irritation when neighbouring leaders suggest for the umpteenth time that Reading’s boundary bid is driven by a desire to obtain city status, and for the umpteenth time I have to say that that is nonsense and I wish that they would - just once - use a different argument. But I do understand their concern. Of course I do. In the history of local government there have been many hundreds of

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boundary changes, but I am not aware of any cases where a council losing land and residents welcomed such a loss.

I should say to Council that although our boundary aspirations have drawn this hostile response from our unitary, district and county neighbours, the response from neighbouring parish councils has been much more measured. In addition to useful private meetings with individual representatives of some of the parishes, I have had very constructive and amicable hearings from the fully-assembled councils of Woodley and Holybrook - and more such meetings are planned. In these meetings, I hope I have dispelled some of the myths about our attitude to parish councils. It is true that we believe that, on Reading's present restricted boundaries, parish councils in Reading would serve no useful purpose at all. But when Reading's boundaries move outwards we shall have to come to terms with working with parish councils. In recent meetings I have soft-soaped the parish councillors (but truthfully) by saying "We in Reading have very little experience of working with parish councils; when you come into Reading, part of your job will be to educate us in how that relationship best works."

So I am relaxed about managing our boundary bid as far as our neighbours are concerned. To be completely candid with Council, my biggest concern relates to the approach of civil servants.

We know that the government has a big (and, in my view, excellent) regional agenda. For the civil servants and the boundary commissioners, this is going to mean a lot of extra work. Their response is likely to be a message that if the regional agenda is the top priority, other boundary revision work may have to go to the back of the queue. We may see letters in the name of inexperienced ministers, actually written by experienced and world-weary civil servants, which express this view.

This scenario means that the timing of any formal boundary bid, and the gathering of support amongst experienced ministers, will be critical. Now that Reading's boundary aspirations are Council policy, with all-party support, they are never going to go away. But an ill-timed submission could lead to a temporary setback. We will continue to play a long game on this issue and eventually we (or our successors) will win it."

As there was insufficient time, pursuant to Standing Order 10 (4), for the following questions to be put, written answers as set out below would be provided in accordance with Standing Order 11(3):

(7) Councillor Stainthorp asked the Lead Councillor for Environment & Consumer Affairs:

"One Bin" Policy

"Could the Lead Councillor for Environment and Consumer Affairs please tell me what the response has been to the "one bin" policy?"

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REPLY by Councillor J Orton (Lead Councillor for Environment & Consumer Affairs):

“The response to the new “one bin” policy has been excellent.

We have always known that many people in Reading are concerned about the environment and would be willing to make some changes to their normal domestic routines in order to ‘do their bit’. The response of Reading residents to the recent changes has certainly confirmed that, and if anything, gone beyond our wildest expectations.

To illustrate, here are some ‘vital statistics’...

- In a normal week the Call Centre answer around 1100 calls. In the first week of deliveries of leaflets however, they answered 2381 calls and three weeks later ‘calls answered’ peaked at 2864. The success of the changes hinged on our ability to engage residents and we have managed that successfully.
- The Waste Management team have (at the time of writing) issued 2500 sets of orange stickers - each one turning a bin previously used for refuse collection into a recycling bin. Many more orange stickers have been issued by the refuse crews.
- Prior to the changes we had two Kerbside Recycling Crews and between them, they collected 60 tonnes of recyclable material each week (30 tonnes each). The introduction of the third collection round might reasonably have been expected to follow suit and increase the total tonnage by a similar amount - to 90 tonnes in total. The increase in recycling capacity available to residents via the introduction of the One Bin Policy and the burgundy bins, however, meant that the new total is somewhere in the region of 115 to 120 tonnes per week. In percentage terms we are collecting around 94% more recyclables each week than we were before October 6th (the day the changes were introduced). Needless to say this sort of performance is very encouraging.

It’s important to mention the hard work undertaken by our refuse and recycling crews over the last three months in gearing-up for the changes and then delivering them with a minimum of disruption.

It is also important to re-iterate our thanks to Reading residents for their patience and willingness to participate. Without either of these things, these essential changes would not have been possible.”

(8) Councillor Janjua asked the Leader of the Council:

Alfred Sutton School Site

“Could the Leader of the Council update me on progress on the Alfred Sutton land deal, and in particular about the proposed new mosque at the corner of Green Road and Wokingham Road?”

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REPLY by Councillor Sutton (Leader of the Council):

“I’m pleased to report very good progress towards the conclusion of the land deal on the Alfred Sutton site and towards the creation of a new mosque at the corner of Green Road and Wokingham Road. I am advised that there are now no issues outstanding between the Council and Reading College in respect of the legal agreement, and the College is confident about getting all of the necessary permissions from the Learning and Skills Council very soon.

This is a very long-running saga and at the Pakistan Day celebrations earlier this year I gave my thanks to the Moslem community in Reading for their patience. It does seem, however, as though the signing of the land deal is now imminent. As a result, I have written to the trustees of the Alexandra Road Mosque suggesting that they immediately begin pre-application discussions with our Planning Department before submitting a full and detailed application for the new mosque.

In a way, I’m pleased that this issue is coming to a conclusion at the present time. It gives us an opportunity as a council to make it clear that, in difficult international times, there is no place for islamophobia in Reading. There are still some parts of the deal to be concluded, including the wider trustee body and the wider community management body for the new mosque and including the claim of the South Street Mosque community on some of the value of the Alexandra Road site. But these matters can, I believe, be sorted out quite quickly now, and we can look to the future.

I look forward to a fine new mosque building in east Reading, a partnership between the Council and the local Moslem community, sending positive messages of unity and cooperation both towards the Moslem community and within the Moslem community.

In addition, to complete the good news, the finalising of the Green Road site as the location for the east Reading mosque will at last release the Mockbeggar Paddock site for a different form of community use. My own view is that the idea of a therapeutic garden, devised by the local residents, is absolutely wonderful - and I hope to work with local councillors in Park Ward to bring it into existence.”

(9) Councillor Wilson asked the Lead Councillor for Housing:

Secure Entry Systems for Council Flats

“Could the Lead Councillor for Housing update the Council on the progress being made towards secure entry systems for all Council flats?”

REPLY by Councillor M Orton (Lead Councillor for Housing):

“All flats which are in blocks over five stories high have door entry systems. Of the remaining 3,031 low rise flats, 2,135 either have a door entry system or will have one by April 2004.

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The Budget and the programme for 2004/2005 is currently being discussed and will be agreed as part of the Council's annual Budget setting."

(10) Councillor Wilson asked the Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning & Transport:

Car Parking Fees

"Could the Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning & Transport explain why he is "baffled" by the £500,000 shortfall in car parking fees?"

REPLY by Councillor Sutton, on behalf of Councillor Howarth (Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning & Transport):

"The Council has three areas of work within its Parking Services section, Public Car Parks, Residents Parking Permits and The Special Parking Area (Traffic Wardens). It is the combination of problems within all three of these areas that has led to the current situation. After considerable work I can offer an explanation as to the current parking services budget problems.

Public Car Parks

Over the past two years Reading has been experiencing a very changeable situation with its public car parking. The town does not have a large amount of public short stay parking in the main shopping area and parking, especially around Christmas, is at a premium. To try and maintain the supply of public parking the Council has been trying to keep as much of Chatham Street Car Park open to the public as possible. This has involved considerable expense and has made both budgeting for the maintenance of the car parks and forecasting income from the car parks very difficult. Costs have been incurred for keeping the car park open for the first 7 months of this year. During that time income from the car park was minimal. The Council has now closed the Chatham Street car park.

A car park price increase was also introduced in April and it was expected that this would bring in additional income. However ticket sales in the car parks have fallen by 12% and income forecasts have not been achieved.

Residents Parking Permits

A new Residents Parking Permits system was introduced in March this year. The new system experienced considerable problems when first introduced. It has cost significantly more than expected to introduce new computer management systems and in staff resources to run this new system which was expected to earn a modest income above costs but has not done so.

Special Parking Area

Problems with staff and difficult issues of enforcement related to Residents Parking Zones have meant that ticket issue and debt collection is below forecasts for this year.

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Solutions

In order to both minimize losses within the Parking Services budget and address some of the loss in revenue the council has already instigated a series of actions, which are: -

- 1) Close Chatham Street Car Park and stop maintenance costs
- 2) Review Residents Parking Permit Schemes - Work completed October 2003 for introduction early 2004
- 3) Redirect staff resources to manage and maintain debt collection in the Special Parking Area section.

The Council is urgently considering other possible solutions to the remaining Parking Services Budget shortfall. However it should be remembered that in spite of all these problems Parking Services would still contribute £1.9m to the council's budget in 2003/4."

(11) Councillor Wilson asked the Lead Councillor for Community Action:

Reclassification of Cannabis

"Does the Lead Councillor for Community Action agree with Martin Salter MP that cannabis should be reclassified because it is not "as evil" as cocaine?"

REPLY by Councillor Lloyd (Lead Councillor for Community Action):

"Yes, I do agree that cannabis should be reclassified."

(12) Councillor Weston asked the Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning & Transport:

Car Parks - Financial Figures

"Can I have up to date financial figures (Budget v Actual) for Reading Borough Council's car parks please?"

REPLY by Councillor Sutton on behalf of Councillor Howarth (Lead Councillor for Strategic Planning & Transport):

"The approved budget for Car Parks in 2003/04 indicates a surplus of income over expenditure of £1.418m. The projected surplus is £1.166m - an adverse variance from the approved budget of £252,000. However the projections may be subject to change as the bulk of car park income is achieved over the Christmas period.

The reasons for the adverse variance are twofold. Firstly, additional costs have been incurred for keeping the Chatham Street car park open for the first 7 months of this year.

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During that time income from the car park was minimal. The Council has now closed the Chatham Street car park.

Secondly, a car park price increase was introduced in April and it was expected that this would bring in additional income. However ticket sales in the car parks have fallen by 12% and income forecasts have not been achieved.”

47. IMPLEMENTING ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT 3 STATEMENT

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking retrospective approval and endorsement of the Council's 2003-4 "Implementing Electronic Government (3) Statement" (I.E.G.3), which all Councils were required to seek as part of the submission process to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister by 10 November 2003. The Statement had been made available in the Councillors' Group Rooms.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Page and seconded by Councillor Sutton and CARRIED:

Resolved:

- (1) That the Council's I.E.G. 3 Statement for 2003-4 be approved and endorsed;
- (2) That the Council to note that beyond December 2005 it was expected that the Corporate Performance Assessment (C.P.A.) process would be changed to include uptake monitoring of services enabled by technology as a performance measure to be provided by all Local Authorities.

48. COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES AND PENSION SCHEME

Further to Minute 36 of the meeting of 30 September 2003, the Chief Executive submitted a report to receive and consider the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel; to adopt a scheme of Councillors' Allowances for the remainder of the financial year 2003/04; and to consider the Panel's recommendations on pensions for councillors.

The Remuneration Panel had met on 10 November 2003 and the minutes of this meeting were appended.

The following motion was moved by Councillor Page and seconded by Councillor Stainthorp and CARRIED:

Resolved:

- (1) That a scheme of Councillors' Allowances be adopted with immediate effect to run for the remainder of the current Municipal Year, as recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel at its meeting on 10 November 2003 as follows:

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(a) Basic Allowances

That the level of the Basic Allowance paid to each Councillor remain unchanged for the remainder of the financial year 2003-04, at £7,348 a year;

(b) Special Responsibility Allowance

That the level of the Special Responsibility Allowance remain unchanged for the remainder of the financial year 2003-04, and as set out below, subject to the definition of Tier 3 being amended to reflect that in Paragraph 5(1)(i) of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, ie:

Leader	- £6,956 pa
Deputy Leader	- £5,683 pa
Tier One SRA	- £3,789 pa
Tier Two SRA	- £2,132 pa
Tier Three SRA	- £1,066 pa

No councillor to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance.

With regard to Special Responsibility Allowance:

- ◆ Tier One to be paid to the Lead Members serving on the Cabinet and to the Leader of the main opposition group.
- ◆ Tier Two to be paid to Chairs of Scrutiny Panels, Committees, Leader of the other political group and the Chair of Reading Transport.
- ◆ Tier Three to be paid to other members carrying out other activities in relation to the discharge of the authority's functions as require the commitment of equivalent time and effort as for other categories of activity which would qualify for Special Responsibility Allowance under the Regulations.

(c) Dependent Carers' Allowance

That the level of the Dependent Carers' Allowance remain unchanged, ie:

- £5.00 per hour for childcare for up to 10 hours a week
- £5.50 per hour for the carer of an elderly or disabled relative for up to 10 hours a week
- The person providing the care may not be a close relative

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(d) Travel and Subsistence Allowances

That the level of travel and subsistence allowances remain unchanged, ie:

- Travel by Councillor's own motor vehicle - 34.6p a mile
- Travel by Councillor's own bicycle - 29p a mile
- Travel by Councillor's own motorcycle -
 - Up to 150cc or less 8.5p a mile
 - Over 150cc but less than 500cc 12.3p a mile
 - Over 500cc 16.5p a mile
- Subsistence
 - Breakfast allowance £4.92
 - Lunch allowance £6.77
 - Tea allowance £2.67
 - Evening meal allowance £8.38
 - Overnight subsistence £79.82 a day outside London
£91.04 a day in London or at LGA Annual Conference

(e) Co-optees' Allowances

That provision for Co-optees' Allowances be introduced, to apply solely in respect of non-Councillor members of the Standards Committee attending meetings on those occasions when the Committee meets exceptionally to hear complaints- e.g. hearings to consider possible non-compliance with the Members' Code of Conduct; and that the Monitoring Officer be authorised to settle the rate to be paid on each occasion;

(f) Provision for Suspension of Allowances under certain Circumstances

That the Standards Committee be authorised, pursuant to Regulations issued under Part III of the Local Government Act 2000:

- to suspend the payment of all allowances to a Member where the Committee has determined to suspend that member from

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being a member of the authority, for the duration of that suspension;

- to suspend the payment of Special Responsibility Allowance to a Member where that Committee has determined to partially suspend that Member from particular functions or responsibilities which carry entitlement to Special Responsibility Allowance, for the duration of that partial suspension;

(g) Index for Allowances

That no provision be made for an annual adjustment of allowances by reference to an index, and the Panel should continue to review the scheme of Councillors' Allowances on an annual basis;

- (2) That the work undertaken to date by the Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of pensions for Councillors be noted and this matter be finalised following the receipt of a further report.

49. ZERO WASTE

Pursuant to Notice, the following motion was moved by Councillor Brown and seconded by Councillor Weston:

“This Council notes the growing cost of sending waste to landfill sites and the growing concern of the public for more of their waste to be re-used or re-cycled. It also notes the increasingly stringent targets being set nationally for recycling and waste reduction.

This Council also recognises that moves towards zero waste will require a national effort going well beyond its own activities.

In responding to these pressures, this Council believes that:

- It should set an example to businesses, organisations and the community in its environmental performance
- The adoption of a Zero Waste Strategy would provide a focus for the Council's efforts to increase more rapidly the levels of recycling in the Borough, and to reduce the overall quantity of waste produced
- It should sign up to the Zero Waste Charter, a ten-point plan to reduce waste drastically over the next 20 years, which would send a message to the Government and the community that it is serious about its commitment to the environment. The Zero Waste Charter has been developed by environmental campaigners

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including Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace, and is based on similar charters in Australia and New Zealand

- By joining the many other councils that have signed up to the Zero Waste Charter, this Council would add weight to the growing calls for the Government to set the legislative framework, and put in place the appropriate incentives and financial support for local authorities to enable them to increase recycling and composting, and to drive down waste levels
- As part of the Central Berkshire Waste Partnership “re3”, this Council should encourage our partners in Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Wokingham District Council to also adopt the Zero Waste Charter.”

The following amendment to the motion was moved by Councillor J Orton and seconded by Councillor Stainthorp and CARRIED:

“In the motion, delete all words after the first sentence and insert the following words:

‘It recognises that zero waste is not possible using technologies currently available, but applauds the stringent targets set by the Government for the Central Berkshire Waste Management Project Public Finance Initiative Scheme.’ ”

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and CARRIED as follows.

Resolved:

This Council notes the growing cost of sending waste to landfill sites and the growing concern of the public for more of their waste to be re-used or re-cycled. It recognises that zero waste is not possible using technologies currently available, but applauds the stringent targets set by the Government for the Central Berkshire Waste Management Project Public Finance Initiative Scheme.

(The meeting closed at 7.55pm)