

Summons and Agenda 18 October 2016

Managing Director
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU



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10 October 2016

To: All Members of the Council

Your contact is:

Michael Popham - Democratic Services Manager

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Reading Borough Council to be held at the Civic Offices, Reading, on **Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 6.30pm**, when it is proposed to transact the business specified in the Agenda enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully

Simon Warren

MANAGING DIRECTOR

A G E N D A

Mayor's Announcements

1. To receive Mayor's Announcements.

Declarations of Interest

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Minutes

3. The Mayor to sign the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on 28 June 2016 (Pages A1-A3)

Petitions

4. To receive petitions in accordance with Standing Order 8.

Questions from Members of the Public

5. Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

Questions from Councillors

6. Questions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

Reports and Recommendations from Committees

7. Children's Services Learning and Improvement Plan

Report by Director of Children, Education and Early Help Services
(Pages B1-B36)

8. Finance Sustainability Plan Submission to the Department of Communities and Local Government

Report by Managing Director (Pages C1-C11)

9. Budget Savings Proposal: Arthur Hill Pool

Report by Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services and a debate in accordance with Standing Order 8(5)(e) (Pages D1-D16)

10. Standards Committee

Report by Monitoring Officer (Pages E1-E6)

Motions

11. City of Sanctuary

Councillor Lovelock to move:

Reading has a proud history of welcoming diversity, challenging discrimination and supporting refugees, asylum seekers and other newcomers. We value the contribution that those seeking sanctuary can make to Reading and we are committed to taking practical steps to welcome and integrate all people into Reading's community.

In January the Council expressed its commitment, in real terms, to being a place of sanctuary by committing to take three families per year for five years through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement programme.

This Council notes that the first three families are now settled in Reading, supported by a range of organisations to help them adjust to their new lives.

This Council wishes to continue to promote the inclusion and welfare of those coming to Reading to seek sanctuary and resolves to support the Reading City of Sanctuary movement and to spread the sanctuary message of welcome across all sections of the local community.

12. Sustainability and Transformation Plans

Councillor Hoskin to move:

This Council notes that:

- On almost all performance measures the NHS in England is getting worse with waiting times for cancer care, accident and emergency, ambulances and routine operations all rising
- Spending on the NHS as a proportion of our national income in GDP was 8.8% in 2009, fell to 7.3% by 2015 and is projected (on current plans) to fall to 6.6% in by 2021 (source: The King's Fund)
- The NHS in England is currently developing local Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs) in order to deliver the NHS Five Year Forward View with the aim of delivering financial sustainability, improved outcomes and better integration with local authority services
- On 22 March 2016 this council passed a motion condemning the creation, without consultation, of the STP area of Berkshire West, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) planning NHS cuts without public or democratic scrutiny and resolved to write to the Chief Executive of NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health outlining our objections
- No response was received from either the Chief Executive of NHS England or the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt

- That, following orders from Whitehall, STPs have been developed, will be finalised and submitted to NHS England, in secret and with the general public banned from having any sight of the plans
- That the BOB STP area is on course for a £587 million shortfall in funding by 2021 and that the primary aim of the secret STP is to cut spending to stay in budget

Council believes that:

- It is a disgrace that the government is directing the planning of massive cuts to the NHS across England behind closed doors, shutting out public or democratic involvement
- That cuts of £587 million to NHS spending across Bucks, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West are unacceptable and are likely to damage essential health services in Reading
- These drastic NHS cuts are a direct result of underfunding of health services by the UK government and that our country should return to the last Labour government's policy seeking to fund health services at a similar level to the EU average which stood at 10.1% of GDP in 2013 (source: the King's Fund)

This Council agrees to:

- request that the Managing Director write to the chief executive of NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health requesting that draft STPs are published and that full public involvement and consultation takes place before they are finalised
- request that the leader of the council writes to the MPs for Reading East and Reading West expressing this council's objection to both the secretive nature of the STP planning process and the scale of NHS cuts being considered and to ask for their support in opposing cuts to NHS services in Reading.

13. No Confidence in Councillor Jan Gavin

Councillor Duveen to move:

This Council accepts the recent OFSTED report on Children's Services in Reading and undertakes to follow its recommendations fully.

This Council recognises that prior to this report Children's Services in Reading have been in disarray and children being cared for by the Council have been let down.

This Council also notes that the recovery from the dire state that the service was in has been led by new officers and is currently tackling the shortcomings and improving the service to supported children to good effect.

The OFSTED report criticised, in particular, the Managing Director of RBC, the senior officers who worked in Children's Services and the 'Political Leadership'.

The Council notes that:

- the Managing Director has resigned.
- that the officers who were directly involved in the governance of Children's Services over the last few years have all resigned and have been replaced.
- that the third party involved in the governance of Children's Services and specifically criticised in the report, the Political Leadership, has yet to accept its responsibilities in running a failed service.

This Council believes that it is not right that senior officers accepted their responsibilities for past failures but Lead Councillors carry on as though nothing has happened. The Lead Councillor for Children's Services should also shoulder the blame for several years of neglect that has provided poor quality care for some of the young people that this Council was looking after.

Given the findings of the OFSTED report this Council calls on Cllr Jan Gavin to accept responsibility for past failures and to resign her post as Lead Councillor.

14. Schools That Work For Everyone

Councillor Jones to move:

This council notes the launch of the government consultation "Schools that work for everyone" on 12 September 2016, which invites responses to the Department for Education by 12 December 2016.

This council also notes that the ambition of the green paper is to promote a discussion on how to ensure that "every child should have access to a good school place."

The council resolves:

1. to make a submission to the DfE as part of the consultation exercise within the specified deadline.
2. that in response to the four key areas of the consultation, this council disagrees that the way forward is to:
 - Use public money to induce Independent fee-paying schools to create more school places, or else lose their charitable status;
 - Bully Universities in to opening schools, or else risk capping their tuition fees;

- Use public money to assist in the expansion of selective schools;
 - Allow faith schools to become mono-cultural institutions.
3. that the best way to ensure that every child in Reading can have access to a good school place is for there to be:
- A fairer funding arrangement for all schools in Reading;
 - Public money to be made available for the recruitment and retention of school staff in Reading;
 - An end to the needless distraction of the forced academisation of schools in Reading;
 - Public money to be made available to support the council's raising attainment strategy (known as the Reading First Partnership).

15. Power to the People, Collective Energy Switching

Councillor White to move:

This Council notes:

- the number of households in fuel poverty in Reading has increased from 5,600 to 7,264 - worse than the national and south east average
- millions of people in the UK have never switched energy provider and could save around £200 per year by switching
- the good work already being done by The Big London Energy Switch, West Berkshire Council, Cornwall Together and many more which are encouraging their residents to sign up to collective energy switching
- the Cornwall Together collective energy switching campaign managed to engage the disengaged (17% of members had never switched before) and reach the hard to reach (28% of switchers were in fuel poverty)

This Council believes:

- no one should be living in fuel poverty and have to choose between heating and eating
- if we are to be a truly caring town we need to do more on tackling fuel poverty

This Council resolves:

- to investigate the feasibility of a collective switching initiative and to bring a report on this back to the relevant committee before the end of this year.

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