

Summons and Agenda 23 January 2018

Chief Executive
Reading Borough Council
Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU

Peter Sloman
Chief Executive

Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading, RG1 2LU

☎ 0118 937 3787

Our Ref: mp
Your Ref:

Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2153

e-mail:

michael.popham@reading.gov.uk

15 January 2018

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 23 January 2018 at 6.30pm**, when it is proposed to transact the business specified in the Agenda enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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 17 October 2017 (Pages A1-A6)

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. Budget 2018-19: Approval of Council Tax Base, NNDR1 Estimate & Estimated Collection Fund Surplus; and Approval of the Local Council Tax Support Scheme 2018/19

Report by Strategic Finance Director (Pages B1-B30)

Motions

8. Housing Investment

Councillor Pearce to move:

This Council notes:

- The average monthly rent in Reading is now over £1000 a month (valuation office agency)
- The average house price in Reading is over £300,000 (according to the Land Registry)
- The earnings to house price ratio in Reading is now 10:1.
- The average house deposit in the UK is £33,960 and in Reading this is much higher (Halifax)
- Reading Council is doing all it can to ease the housing crisis with the Homes for Reading company and the building of new Council houses including at Conwy Close.

This Council resolves to write to Housing Minister Sajid Javid to ask if he will support the Local Government association campaign that asks to enable Councils to:

- Allow Councils to borrow to invest.
- To keep all of the money received from the sale of homes on right to buy.
- To use this and other funding to reinvest in building new homes that are good quality and affordable.

9. Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service

Councillor Gittings to move:

That the Council:

- Recognises the new and emerging pressures placed on Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service by the Grenfell Tower fire;
- Supports the call for flexibility along the lines of that offered to police and crime commissioners for Royal Berkshire Fire Authority in the setting of Council Tax locally for 2018/19;
- Recognises that this flexibility is critical in ensuring the continuation of critical and life-saving prevention, protection and response services for the people of Berkshire;
- Reading Borough Council writes to Central Government to express our support for this position and request that this be taken into consideration in the setting of the Council Tax Referendum Principles and Local Government Finance Settlement.

WEBCASTING NOTICE

Please note that this meeting may be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast via the Council's website. At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being filmed. You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during a webcast will be retained in accordance with the Council's published policy.

Members of the public seated in the public gallery will not ordinarily be filmed by the automated camera system. However, please be aware that by moving forward of the pillar, or in the unlikely event of a technical malfunction or other unforeseen circumstances, your image may be captured. **Therefore, by entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.**

Members of the public who participate in the meeting will be able to speak at an on-camera or off-camera microphone, according to their preference.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any queries or concerns.