

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	POLICY COMMITTEE		
DATE:	16 JULY 2018	AGENDA ITEM:	17
TITLE:	READING TRANSPORT LIMITED - APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	TONY PAGE	PORTFOLIO:	STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT
SERVICE:	TRANSPORTATION & STREETCARE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	CHRIS MADDOCKS	TEL:	0118 937 4950
JOB TITLE:	ACTING STRATEGIC TRANSPORT PROGRAMME MANAGER	E-MAIL:	chris.maddocks@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee, acting as shareholder of Reading Transport Ltd, for the appointment of Mr Robert Williams to the role of Chief Executive Officer of Reading Transport Ltd.
- 1.2 The Chair of the Committee was of the view that consideration of this item was a matter of urgency as defined in section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), and should be considered at this meeting because of the need for the shareholder to consider confirming the appointment to the post of Chief Executive of Reading Transport Limited as soon as possible, and should not be delayed until the next available meeting on 24 September 2018.
- 1.3 Appendix A - Letter from Martijn Gilbert to Cllr Tony Page, dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the appointment of Mr Robert Williams to the role of Chief Executive Officer of Reading Transport Ltd, commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council is the shareholder of Reading Transport Ltd. The relationship between the Council as shareholder and the Board is set out in the company's Articles of Association, which were authorised by the former Transportation Committee of the Borough Council on 21 February 1986 (Minute 190 refers).

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Following a comprehensive recruitment and selection process, Mr Robert Williams was identified as the preferred candidate for the role of Chief Executive Officer of Reading Transport Ltd.

4.2 Mr Williams is currently the Commercial Director of Stagecoach South West. It is recommended that the Committee, acting as shareholder of Reading Transport Ltd, approves the appointment of Mr Williams to the role of Chief Executive Officer of Reading Transport Ltd, commencing 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

## 5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The Board is responsible for setting the policy base for Reading Transport Ltd, including addressing considerations of equality and sustainability in the company's employment practices, and in its delivery of service.

5.2 The successful operation of Reading Transport Ltd contributes to the following Corporate Plan priorities:

- Securing the economic success of Reading and provision of job opportunities.
- Keeping Reading's environment clean, green and safe.

## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Not applicable.

## 7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Not applicable.

## 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Reading Transport Ltd was set up in 1986 as a company separate from the Council under the provisions of the Transport Act 1985. The Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association were incorporated on 27 March 1986.

## 9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council resulting from this report.

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Articles of Association of Reading Transport Ltd.

Cllr Tony Page  
Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment  
Reading Borough Council  
Bridge Street  
Reading  
RG1 2LU

**Re: Appointment of new Chief Executive Officer**

11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Dear Cllr Page,

Further to the recent recruitment exercise which you were part of along with our Chair, Mr David Sutton, and members of both the executive and non-executive Director team of this company, I am now writing to advise that we have duly effected the outcome of that process to pursue the appointment of Mr Robert Williams to the role of Chief Executive Officer.

The same comprehensive recruitment and selection process was used as per the previous CEO recruitment back in 2014 using an external recruitment specialist from Flash Forward Consulting.

Robert Williams is currently the Commercial Director of Stagecoach South West and has worked for Stagecoach, a leading UK bus and rail group, for 15 years progressing through the ranks from Commercial Officer to Commercial Manager in Oxford and, since 2012, his current Director level role in the South West where he has been part of an award winning team at this very well respected Stagecoach operating company.

He is originally from Reading and started his career as a conductor for Reading Mainline back in 1999, by then under Reading Transport ownership.

He will officially start in post on 1<sup>st</sup> October but will now commence a series of handover meetings with me, including some prior to my departure at the end of this month.

I am delighted to be handing over to Robert and am very confident that he will continue to take Reading Buses forward in line with our emerging position as both a local and regional bus company, adapting to the economic changes and challenges around us, for a successful future.

Yours sincerely,



Martijn Gilbert  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. David Sutton – Chairman, Reading Transport Limited  
Norman Fryer-Saxby – Company Secretary, Reading Transport Limited