

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
23 NOVEMBER 2016**

Present: Councillors D Absolom (Chair), Ballsdon, Brock, Duveen, Khan, Maskell, McDonald, McGonigle, Page and Rodda.

Apologies: Councillors Ayub, Chrisp and Singh.

12. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. MINUTES OF TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee held on 14 September 2016 were received.

14. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Reading Climate Change Management Board of 8 July 2016, the Minutes of the meetings of the Joint Waste Disposal Board of 15 July and 30 September 2016, and the Minutes of the meetings of the AWE Local Liaison Committee of 22 June and 26 September 2016 were submitted.

Resolved: That the Minutes be noted.

15. REVISED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report setting out proposals to amend the Local Development Scheme (LDS), a statutory programme tool setting out the planning documents that the Council intended to produce and their purpose, timescales and geographical area.

The report explained that at its meeting on 5 April 2016 the Committee had approved a new LDS (Minute 34 refers). It was now proposed to change the LDS in two main ways. Firstly, the timescales for production of the Local Plan were amended, primarily to take account of ongoing joint work with neighbouring authorities in the Western part of Berkshire around options for growth. Secondly, the LDS now included proposals for a joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan with adjoining authorities, a Joint Agreement for which had been approved by Policy Committee on 31 October 2016 (Minute 51 refers).

An equality impact assessment had been conducted and was attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

The revised Local Development Scheme, showing the proposed changes, had been circulated as a separate attachment and formed Appendix 2 to the report.

The Committee noted that in order to facilitate the production of the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, the four participating planning authorities were to form a joint elected member 'steering panel' to act as an advisory body on the preparation of the joint minerals and waste development document. It was proposed that Councillors D

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Absolom and Page be appointed as the Council's representatives on the steering panel.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Local Development Scheme, including the Minerals and Waste Local Development Scheme set out as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and brought into effect and that it form the basis for production of planning policy, with effect from 24 November 2016;
- (2) That Councillors D Absolom and Page be appointed as the Council's representatives on the joint elected member advisory steering panel to advise on the preparation of the joint minerals and waste development document.

16. READING'S AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN - CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE VEHICLE IDLING

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on a proposal to carry out anti-idling campaigns in the Borough to raise awareness of the effect idling vehicles had on local air quality.

The report explained that the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 gave discretionary powers to officers to issue fixed penalty notices of £20 to drivers (rising to £40 if unpaid) who allowed their vehicle engines to run unnecessarily while the vehicle was stationary. Although it was not the intention to use these powers extensively, the report sought the Committee's authorisation for officers to use these regulations in order to aid them in their campaign work.

The report explained that Reading's Air Quality Action Plan, which had been adopted in 2015, made a commitment to reduce emissions from idling vehicles at hotspot locations within the Air Quality Management Area to help improve air quality. The campaigns initially would focus on hotspot locations such as outside schools, taxi ranks and building developments.

Resolved:

- (1) That the campaign to reduce vehicle idling be approved as set out in section 6 of the report;
- (2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services to exercise the powers in Regulations 6(3) and 12 of the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 on the basis set out in paragraph 6.3 of the report .

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17. ANNUAL CARBON FOOTPRINT REPORT, 2015/16

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on the Council's progress in reducing corporate emissions of greenhouse gases.

The report explained that in 2008 the Council had published its first Climate Change Strategy in which it had committed to reduce its emissions of greenhouse gases by 4% per annum and by 50% in total by 2020. This commitment had been reinforced by the Council's 'Carbon Plan 2015-2020' which had been approved in 2015. In addition a renewable energy target had been set to generate renewable energy equivalent to 15% of total energy consumed by 2020.

The report showed that the Council had continued to make reductions of carbon emissions in 2015/16, with a 10.8% reduction in corporate emissions against the previous year's levels (2014/15). The report explained that when taking into account the gross emissions of the wider influence of the Council, the footprint decreased to 9.5%. The 2015/16 carbon footprint for the Council's corporate activities was 36.9% lower than the baseline emissions in 2008/09, 5.2% ahead of target, which was significant progress towards meeting the 50% reduction target by 2020. The total renewably generated energy in 2015/16 had been equivalent to 3.7% of the total energy use of the Council, or 5.9% of energy used in buildings, which continued to make progress towards the challenging 2020 renewable energy target of 15%. In addition, Reading Transport Ltd.'s bus fleet continued to serve more passengers, with carbon emissions per passenger per kilometre reduced by a third since the introduction of Compressed Natural Gas vehicles.

The full greenhouse gas report was attached to the report as Appendix 1.

Resolved:

- (1) That the continued reduction of carbon emission for 2015/16 of over 10.8% for the corporate emissions and 9.5% for the emissions from the wider influence of the Council, against the previous year (2014/15) be noted;
- (2) That the 2015/16 carbon footprint for the Council's corporate activities is 36.9% lower than the baseline emissions in 2008/09, 5.2% ahead of target, with the Council's wider activities (including schools and managed services) being 19.5% lower than the baseline emissions in 2008/09 be noted;
- (3) That the Committee notes that total renewably generated energy in 2015/16 was equivalent to 3.7% of the total energy use of the Council, or 5.9% of energy used in buildings. In addition the Committee recognised that the 2020 renewable energy target has become more challenging in the wake of significant changes to the 'Feed in Tariff' incentive schemes made by government in 2015/16;
- (4) That the Committee continues to support the ongoing investment in low carbon technologies and initiatives to reduce energy costs and the carbon footprint of Council operations.

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18. READING'S CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR 2013-2020: PERFORMANCE REPORT TO MARCH 2016

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on Reading's Climate Change Strategy 2013-2020 and progress towards the targets set out in the strategy during 2015/16.

The report explained that the Climate Change Strategy sought to develop activities that would lead to reductions in the carbon footprint of the Council of 34% from 2015 levels by 2020. The latest local area carbon footprint data (2014) showed Reading's emissions had already reduced by 32% since 2005 (38% per capita). This was ahead of target, the best in Berkshire and amongst the best performing in the UK.

The report explained that in Paris in 2015, the majority of nations on Earth had signed a global agreement to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in order to limit global climate change to two degrees of warming. In line with this historic agreement, Reading was a signatory to the UK100 pledge, alongside over sixty five other authorities including Manchester, London and Glasgow to commit to a shift to 100% clean energy by 2050.

The report stated that there had been a number of key successes in the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy to date. These included, completion of a large solar panel project on Reading's Council housing, the start of the roll out of LED streetlights across the Borough, a significant increase in the number of low carbon CNG buses added to the reading Buses' fleet and the formation of Reading's first Community Energy Society. The delivery of the Climate Change Strategy action plan was largely on track with 75% of all actions and 80% of Council actions rated as green or amber (on-track, complete or progressing but with minor delays/issues).

The full performance report against all of the actions and targets was set out at Appendix A to the report.

The Committee noted that overall there had been significant progress but there were some areas where national policy changes had impacted delivery and/or timescales had slipped due to resource constraints.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Committee notes the progress that has been made in the delivery of the reading Climate Change Strategy 'Reading means Business on Climate Change', for the period April 2015 - March 2016;
- (2) That the Committee continues to support the partnership in the delivery of the reading Climate Change Strategy actions insofar as they are attributed to the Council.

19. SOUTH READING MRT PHASE 1B & 2 - DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Committee of the ongoing procurement process for the implementation

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of Phases 1B & 2 of the South Reading Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) scheme and seeking delegated authority to enter into a contract with the most economically advantageous tenderer in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The Committee noted that the plans for the scheme were available on the Council's website.

Resolved:

- (1) That scheme and spend approval be given for Phases 1B & 2 of the South Reading MRT scheme, as set out in the report;
- (2) That delegated authority be given to the Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to enter into contract for the implementation of South Reading MRT Phases 1B & 2.

20. ROAD MARKING TERM CONTRACT 2017-2022: DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Committee of the ongoing procurement process for the Road Marking Term Contract 2017-2022 and seeking delegated authority to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer after the tendering process in accordance with the public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Resolved:

That delegated authority be given to the Head of Transportation & Streetcare in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to enter into contract with the successful tenderer for the Road Marking term Contract 2017-22.

21. BRIDGE MAINTENANCE (WORKS) TERM CONTRACT 2017-2021: DELEGATED AUTHORITY FOR CONTRACT AWARD.

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Committee of the ongoing procurement process for the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract 2017-2021 and seeking delegated authority to enter into a contract with the successful tenderer after the tendering process in accordance with the public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Resolved:

That delegated authority be given to the Head of Transportation & Streetcare in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, the Head of Legal & Democratic Services and the Head of Finance to enter into contract with the successful tenderer for the Bridge Maintenance (Works) Term Contract 2017-2021.

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(The meeting started at 6.30pm and closed at 7.30pm).