



**Reading**  
Borough Council  

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Working better with you

# **Summons and Agenda 22 January 2019**

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





**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

Peter Sloman  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Civic Offices, Bridge Street,  
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To: All Members of the Council

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14 January 2019

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 **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading**, on **Tuesday, 22 January 2019 at 6.30 pm**, when it is proposed to transact the business specified in the Agenda enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

## A G E N D A

1. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To receive Mayor's Announcements.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. **MINUTES**

7 - 14

The Mayor to sign the Minutes of the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on

4. **PETITIONS**

To receive petitions in accordance with Standing Order 8.

5. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

**REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

7. **APPROVAL OF THE LOCAL COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME AND THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR 2019/20**

15 - 20

Report by Director of Resources

**MOTIONS**

8. **UNPAID TRIAL SHIFTS FOR PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYEES**

Councillor Barnett-Ward to move:

This Council notes:

That legislation around the use of unpaid trial shifts for prospective employees is unclear and allows unscrupulous employers to exploit job seekers.

That Unite the Union has reported a six-fold increase in complaints related to unpaid trial shifts.

That an attempt to introduce national legislation to require trial shifts to be paid at least minimum wage failed the second reading because it was 'talked out' by the Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Corporate Responsibility.

This Council believes:

That workers should be paid for their work, including training time.

That making a job offer conditional on the job seeker being willing and able to work for free is a discriminatory practice, particularly disadvantaging job seekers with caring responsibilities, or who require special accommodations to work.

That responsible employers who require trial shifts before making an offer of employment should pay the applicant at least the national minimum wage for the time they work.

This Council resolves:

To ask officers to report back to an appropriate committee on the development of an accreditation scheme that encourages and celebrates ethical recruitment practices by Reading's employers, including, but not limited to, a commitment to paying people during any trial period.

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