

Summons and Agenda 4 November 2019

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



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Peter Sloman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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To: All Members of the Council

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25 October 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 **Monday, 4 November 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

11 - 18

The Mayor to sign the Minutes of the proceedings of the previous Council Meeting.

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. ARTHUR HILL POOL

19 - 30

Report by Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhoods and a debate in accordance with Standing Order 8(6)(e)

8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES 2019-20

31 - 50

Report by Returning Officer

9. LOCAL PLAN ADOPTION

51 - 60

Report by Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhoods

(Please also see the Appendices' pack, which has been collated separately)

10. CONSTRUCTION CHARTER

61 - 66

Report by Executive Director of Resources

11. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

67 - 74

Report by Monitoring Officer

Motions

12. HIGH STAKES TESTING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Councillor Pearce to move:

Reading Borough Council welcomes the commitment of the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Green Party to abolish SATs and other high-stakes testing in primary schools.

This Council notes:

- 1 Statutory testing in primary schools has increased since 2010 and is increasing further: by 2020, children will be tested in Reception (the Baseline Assessment), Year 1 (the Phonics Screening Check), Year 2 (SATs), Year 4 (the Multiplication Tables Check) and Year 6 (SATs).
- 2 The pressures of statutory assessment contribute to the crisis of teacher morale, workload, recruitment and retention.
- 3 Tests are focussed on the requirements of school accountability and league tables rather than on support for children's learning.
- 4 The pressures of testing in primary schools have a detrimental effect on children's mental health.
- 5 Educational research has demonstrated repeatedly that teaching to the test narrows the curriculum and the educational experience of children, focussing on labelling, learning how to pass a test but not learning.

This Council believes that campaigning, by those who work in primary schools, parents and academics, to end the current high-stakes system of primary assessment should be welcomed, in particular the More Than A Score campaign.

This Council resolves:

- 1 To express its support for campaigns against the current system of primary assessment from parents, Governors, Schools and teaching unions.
- 2 To call a meeting of all interested parties to discuss the council's position on these matters and to coordinate a response.
- 3 To lobby the Secretary of State for Education to listen to the growing number of voices who are calling for the abolition of high-stakes testing in primary schools.
- 4 To offer support and guidance to schools within the area which adopt an alternative approach to assessment.

13. A FULLY FUNDED, PROPER PAY RISE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WORKERS

Councillor Emberson to move:

This Council notes:

- Local Government has endured central government funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010.
- Between 2010 and 2020, Councils will have lost 60p out of every £1 they have received from central government.
- The 2019 LGA survey of Council finances found that 1 in 3 Councils fear they will run out of funding to provide even their statutory, legal duties by 2022/23. This number rises to almost two thirds of Councils by 2024/2025 or later.
- The LGA estimates Councils will face a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025.
- Faced with these cuts from central government, the local government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10.
- At the same time as seeing their pay go down in real terms, workers experience ever increasing workloads and persistent job insecurity. Across the UK, an estimated 876,000 jobs have been lost in local government since June 2010 - a reduction of 30 per cent. Local government has arguably been hit by more severe job losses than any other part of the public sector.
- There has been a disproportionate impact on women, with women making up more than two thirds of the local government workforce.

This Council believes:

- Our workers are public service super heroes. They keep our communities clean, look after those in need and keep our towns and cities running.
- Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the Council services our residents rely on would not be deliverable.
- Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services.
- The government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This Council resolves to:

- Back the pay claim submitted by the NJC local government unions.
- Write to the Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.
- Continue to be an accredited Living Wage Foundation Employer.

14. **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENTS**

Councillor Brock to move:

- (1) That Councillor Barnett-Ward be appointed as Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport (SEPT) Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20;
- (2) That Councillor Eden be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20;
- (3) That, in view of (1) above, Councillor Barnett-Ward be appointed as Chair of the Cycle Forum, in place of Councillor Debs Absalom, for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20;
- (4) That, in view of (1) above, Councillor Barnett-Ward be appointed to the Berkshire Strategic Flood Risk Partnership for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2019/20 and that the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport (SEPT) Committee continue to be appointed as the Council's representative on the Partnership in subsequent years on the basis that the SEPT Committee was responsible for reviewing and scrutinising the exercise of flood risk management functions.

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