



Reading
Borough Council

Working better with you

Summons and Agenda 28 February 2023

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



Jackie Yates
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Civic Offices, Bridge Street,
Reading RG1 2LU
☎ 0118 937 3787

To: All Members of the Council

Direct: ☎ 0118 937 2153
e-mail:
michael.popham@reading.gov.uk

20 February 2023

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 in the **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading**, on **Tuesday, 28 February 2023 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**

9 - 14

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. **CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT ON THE ROBUSTNESS OF THE COUNCIL 2023/24 BUDGET** 15 - 26

Report by Director of Finance

8. **2023/24 BUDGET & MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2023/24 - 2025/26** 27 - 200

Report by Director of Finance

9. **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2023/24** 201 - 240

Report by Director of Finance

10. **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT (2023/24); MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY (2023/24); ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY (2023/24)** 241 - 280

Report by Director of Finance

11. **COUNCIL TAX SETTING 2023/24** 281 - 286

Report by Director of Finance

Motions

12. CARERS' LEAVE

Councillor Thompson to move:

This Council notes:

- 1 The growing care crisis in our country. There are over two million employees (Family Resources Survey 2019-2020) who provide unpaid care to friends and family. This care may include personal care, arranging medical and social support, or attending appointments. As the population ages and with more people staying in work longer, these numbers will only increase;
- 2 The pressure on residents as they balance their work with caring for loved ones. Carers are often required to use their own annual leave allowances to meet their caring responsibilities, risking burn out.

This Council believes that more action is needed to support people in work who have caring responsibilities.

This Council proposes to support the Carer's Leave Bill being brought through Parliament by Liberal Democrat Wendy Chamberlain MP which will, for the first time, create a statutory entitlement to unpaid leave for employees with caring responsibilities.

- 1 The objective of the Bill is to support carers in balancing work and their caring responsibilities and employers in maximising the retention and wellbeing of staff.
- 2 The Bill entitles staff to take up to one week's unpaid leave per year. They will be able to take their leave flexibly in small amounts - from half days up to one week, The entitlement applies to all employees regardless of length of service, effectively starting from day one of employment.
- 3 The Bill clearly defines eligibility for the leave, taking a broad approach to reflect the wide range of caring relationships and responsibilities.

This Council resolves to:

- 1 To ask the Chief Executive to write to our two local MPs urging them to support the Carer's Leave Bill;
- 2 To ask its officers to review its own communications and support for local advice services for carers to determine what further support can be given locally.

13. CITY OF SANCTUARY PRINCIPLES AND EQUITABLE TREATMENT OF COUNCIL TAX REDUCTIONS

Councillor Williams to move:

That this Council notes that:

- Reading is a town with a long and proud history of taking in refugees.

- The people of Reading have always been generous in their support for refugees from all parts of the world.
- The operation of the Homes for Ukraine scheme means that single-occupancy Council Tax discounts are not affected by offering accommodation to a Ukrainian guest.
- Outside of the Homes for Ukraine scheme, no national regulation protects single-occupancy discounts for eligible residents offering accommodation to a refugee.

This Council believes that Reading must always be a City of Sanctuary, in both name and action, for refugees in need, wherever they come from.

Consequently, this Council resolves to use its powers under Section 13A of the Local Government Act 1992 to therefore allow a resident who would normally qualify for the single-occupancy discount on Council Tax to maintain this reduction for three months if they take a refugee into their home, in line with the practice recently adopted in some other local authorities.

This Council provides further guidance to officers administering the Council Tax scheme to also consider any individual requests for an extension of this three-month period in a compassionate, fair and equitable manner.

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 Mayor 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.**