

To: Councillor Hacker (Chair)
Councillors G Dennis, Ayub, Barnett-Ward,
Cresswell, Cross, Emberson, Kitchingham,
Kretchmer, Lanzoni, McCann, McGonigle,
O'Connell, Mpofu-Coles, Rowland, R Singh
and Woodward

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1 March 2023

Your contact is: **Julie Quarmby - Committee Services (julie.quarmby@reading.gov.uk)**

NOTICE OF MEETING - HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2023

A meeting of the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee will be held on Thursday, 9 March 2023 at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading. The Agenda for the meeting is set out below.

	<u>WARDS</u>	<u>Page No</u>
	<u>AFFECTED</u>	
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST		
Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests they may have in relation to the items for consideration.		
2. MINUTES OF THE HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS & LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2023		5 - 12
3. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES		13 - 16
Minutes of the Community Safety Partnership meetings held on 10 November 2022.		
4. PETITIONS		
Petitions submitted pursuant to Standing Order 36 in relation to matters falling within the Committee's Powers & Duties which have been received by Head of Legal & Democratic Services no later than four clear working days before the meeting.		

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5.	QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS	17 - 26
	<p>Questions submitted pursuant to Standing Order 36 in relation to matters falling within the Committee's Powers & Duties which have been submitted in writing and received by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services no later than four clear working days before the meeting.</p>	
6.	DECISION BOOK REFERENCES	
	<p>To consider any requests received by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Standing Order 42, for consideration of matters falling within the Committee's Powers & Duties which have been subject of Decision Book reports.</p>	
7.	READING'S CULTURE & HERITAGE STRATEGY STATEMENT OF INTENT 2023-26	27 - 40
	<p>A report giving an update on progress to date and seeking approval of the 3-year Culture and Heritage Action Plan that will deliver the strategic priorities set out in the Culture and Heritage Strategy that runs until 2030.</p>	
8.	READING LIBRARIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME: DISPOSAL OF LIBRARY STOCK	41 - 46
	<p>The report sets out a withdrawal policy for the disposal of library stock.</p>	
9.	READING FESTIVAL UPDATE	47 - 52
	<p>A report providing a further update on plans for Reading Festival 2023.</p>	
10.	HOUSING ANNUAL UPDATE PROGRAMME OF WORKS	53 - 74
	<p>This report highlights key achievements of the Housing Service over the past financial year and sets out the work programme for the Council's housing stock for the next financial year.</p>	
11.	ENVIRONMENT ACT 2021 - WASTE MANAGEMENT	75 - 82
	<p>A report briefing the Committee on the elements on waste management of the Environment Act 2021 and its impact on Reading Borough Council and Reading residents.</p>	
12.	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2023/2024 & 2022/2023 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE	83 - 120

A report giving an update on the progress of Year 3 (2022/23) of the 3-year £9M Highway Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23, Year1 of the Council's additional £8M 5-year (2022/23 to 2026/27) Highway Capital Investment Programme and Year 1 of the Council's additional £4M 2-year (2022/23 to 2023/24) Bridges & Structures Capital Investment Programme. The report also gives updates on Year 2 of the 3-year Department for Transport (DfT) Highway Maintenance Award 2023/24 Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement and on the completed Highway Maintenance 2022/23 DfT Local Transport Block Funding Capital Works Programme.

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Present: Councillor Hacker (Chair);
Councillors Ayub, Cresswell, Cross, G Dennis, Emberson, Kitchingham,
Lanzoni, McCann, Mpofu-Coles, O'Connell, Rowland, Singh and
Woodward.
Via Teams: Councillor McGonigle

25. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

26. HOUSEHOLD WASTE: UPDATE ON PHASE 2 FOOD WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE FOR HIGH AND LOW-RISE FLATS

Further to Minute 8 of the meeting held on 6 July 2021, the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing an update on Phase 2 of the roll out of the food waste collection service. Phase 2, which was for the roll out of the service to approximately 14,000 communal and high- and low-rise flats, started in June 2022 and continued to be implemented on a block-by-block basis to achieve greater buy-in of residents and maximise participation.

The report set out the achievements to date following the roll out of Phase 1, including carbon savings, improved efficiency, a net revenue cost saving of £500k and a reduction from 41% to 23% (2022) of food waste being deposited in the household residual waste bin. The report also contained the 2019 and 2022 Binographics with illustrations that represented the type of waste materials found during a composition analysis of a sample of Reading households, which would be used to inform the Council of where to concentrate its focus to improve future recycling of materials collected.

The report explained that Phase 2 was being delivered in a systematic manner to the larger blocks of flats and communal properties that had shared bin facilities as these required a greater level of support to adapt to the required change. The introduction of the food waste collections had already made a positive impact on our overall recycling rate, increasing from 34% to 50.5% and the effect of the introduction of food collections had surpassed expectations by an additional 7% increase in terms of recycling performance. The additional resources and time being taking in the Phase 2 introduction would potentially offer a further increase in the overall recycling rate.

The report further explained the procedure for introducing food waste collections in blocks of flats which included detailed communications with residents and, where appropriate, landlords and managing agents before, during and after the introduction of the service and planning for the capacity needed per block for food waste, recycling and residual communal bins. To date, the food waste caddies had been delivered to 34 blocks of flats, totalling 800 households, within the borough. The report added that each block of flats had been assigned a dedicated Recycling Officer to oversee and monitor the collections and food waste usage for a four-week period following the delivery of the new bins, to ensure that any issues with collections or resident participation could be addressed at an early stage. It was too early in the rollout of Phase 2 to measure any changes in the Council's overall recycling rate or food waste tonnages, however the communications and additional support being applied would

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give every opportunity to ensure a positive result. The rollout of food waste collections remained a priority for the recycling team, and where possible it would continue at a rate of one new block of flats per week to ensure resident engagement and monitoring could be maintained.

Resolved - That the update on Phase 2 of the food waste collection roll out be noted.

27. ALLOTMENTS SELF-MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Further to Minute 35 of the meeting held on 10 March 2022, the Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Committee on the progress made on the actions contained in the Allotment Action Plan and on the uptake of Self-Management practices across the Council's 20 allotment sites. The following documents were appended to the report:

- Appendix A: Allotment Action Plan 2022;
- Appendix B: Current allotment tenancy agreement;
- Appendix C: Proposed draft allotment tenancy agreement.

The report stated that all of the Council's 20 allotment sites were currently engaging with the self-management programme to a degree and that progress was very encouraging. The engagement and improved communications had led to a reduction in the number of allotment service requests. The rate of re-lettings had also significantly increased.

The report set out three proposals relating to tenancy management:

- A review of rent and discount levels to support low-income households and help meet the agreed savings targets. The proposals were for a 4% increase in line with the annual Directorate of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services fees and charges increases and consultation would take place between January and March 2023. The report also set out the factors to be considered for consideration when setting the rents for 2024-25.
- To propose, consult on and agree new conditions for tenancy agreements to clarify rights and responsibilities. This included changes to the operation of the waiting list and a one-plot only policy for new tenants.
- Address excessive waste generation on site and reduce disposal costs. The report proposed that on-plot and on-site composting be promoted, improvements to site security to reduce fly-tipping and the introduction of charges for waste collections and clearance of plots that were in poor condition.

The report also proposed that the allotment year start date be changed to April rather than January from April 2024. There were no statutory requirements to consult on this change, but tenants would need to be given 12-months written notice of the change. Officers had given tenants informal notification with the December 2022 invoices, and would also include this in the formal 12-month notice period for changes to the new conditions on tenancy agreements.

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Resolved -

- (1) That the progress of the Allotments Action Plan and Allotments Self-Management plan, and the further work needed to develop greater levels of self-management across all sites be noted;
- (2) That a Rent Review be carried out in Spring 2023 to allow time for a consultation period on the proposals prior to giving the statutory 12-months notice period to tenants of the agreed new fees and charges;
- (3) That the start date of the Allotment Year be changed from January to April;
- (4) That the revised Tenancy Agreement Conditions be approved for consultation;
- (5) That a site-by-site waste generation study be completed to inform proposals for the introduction of charges for the collection and disposal of tenant's plot waste;
- (6) That a further update report to include the rent review consultation findings, a proposed new rent structure and a proposal to consider charging for site waste collection be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

28. DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY 2023-2026

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report which introduced the Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023-2026 that had been produced in collaboration with Reading's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.

The report explained that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new statutory requirements on local authorities to assess the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims who resided in relevant safe accommodation, including those from outside their area and to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment. The comprehensive strategy assessment had been carried out and would be used to inform the commissioning of new safe accommodation provisions and support services as a result of current contracts coming to an end. The following documents were appended to the report:

- Appendix A: Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023-2026;
- Appendix B: Priorities Consultation - Response Summary
- Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessment.

The report explained that a comprehensive Needs Assessment had been undertaken in the spring of 2022 to understand the needs of victim survivors in relation to safe accommodation and support and shape the following priorities:

- Effectively commission refuge and other Safe Accommodation spaces;
- Raise awareness about Domestic Abuse;

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- Engage with those in diverse communities experiencing abuse with a view to encourage trust to remove barriers to access support services and supporting victim survivors to view seeking help early;
- Develop and support a multi-agency approach to working with an array of groups, inclusive of perpetrators and victim survivors (irrespective of gender/sexuality identity);
- Continue to safeguard and advocate for all children who have witnessed or experienced domestic abuse.

A public consultation had been undertaken between July and September 2022 to seek views about the proposed strategy priorities, and an overview of the responses was set out in Appendix B to the report. The Domestic Abuse Strategy would ensure that the needs of all victim-survivors of domestic abuse and their families, both within safe accommodation and the community, would be considered and this was reflected in the strategy's priorities. The Domestic Abuse Strategy would be launched on 5 January 2023 and the Partnership Board would complete the accompanying action plan.

The report also explained that the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and wider Community Safety Partnership were committed to developing a realistic and achievable delivery plan, given the current economic situation, and to ensuring the effective, efficient and collaborative use of the resources each agency had to reduce harm caused by domestic abuse. An interim contract had been put in place with the current provider, Berkshire Women's Aid, which would run until 30 June 2023, to allow for the commissioning process to be carried out.

Resolved: That the Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023-2026 be endorsed and adopted.

29. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2023-2026

The Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report which introduced Reading's Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) new Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy, which had been co-produced with key stakeholders following a comprehensive strategic assessment and consultation exercise. The Strategy had been approved by the CSP Executive Group, which was in the process of finalising a three-year plan which would be launched following the adoption of the new Strategy. A Community Safety Survey would start at the end of February 2023 to provide a baseline to measure the impact of the strategy on public perception. The following documents were appended to the report:

Appendix A: Reading's Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2023 - 2026

Appendix B: Reading's Community Safety Partnership Priorities Consultation - Response summary

Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessment

Superintendent Steve Raffield, Thames Valley Police, attended the meeting, addressed the Committee and answered questions.

The report explained that a public consultation had been undertaken between July and September 2022 and the responses were attached at Appendix B. The Strategy had been developed in response to the consultation feedback and discussions with key

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partners and had been approved by the CSP at its Executive Group meeting in November 2022. The Strategy would be formally launched at the CSP Executive Group on 2 February 2023, along with the launch of a new annual Community Safety Survey to support the monitoring of the new plan. In addition to this, the CSP would hold annual Community Safety Conferences to promote the work of the partnership and provide feedback to residents about what action was being taken to tackle crime and disorder in the town. Key CSP partners were completing a Community Safety and Serious Violence action plan which would be overseen by the CSP Executive Group, with the proposal to set up a number of delivery groups to take responsibility for the delivery of the actions.

Resolved

- (1) That the Community Safety & Serious Violence Strategy be adopted;**
- (2) That a Community Safety Survey be undertaken in February/March 2023 to provide a baseline for the Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety & Serious Violence Strategy 2023-26.**

30. HOUSING OMBUDSMAN'S REVISED COMPLAINTS HANDLING CODE

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report informing the Committee of changes to legislation and Government Guidance that impacted on a Social Landlord's response to a complaint, Reading Borough Council (RBC) Housing Services' compliance with the new Complaints Handling Code published by the Housing Ombudsman, and any changes in process required. The following documents were appended to the report:

- Appendix 1: RBC Housing Service's Complaints Handling Code Self-Assessment;
- Appendix 2: RBC Corporate Complaints Policy;
- Appendix 3: Housing Complaints Leaflet.

The report explained that the Government's The Charter for Social Housing Residents - Social Housing White Paper in 2020 had outlined seven principles that every social housing tenant should expect from their landlord, one of which was "To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly, with access to a strong Ombudsman who will give you swift and fair redress when needed." In March 2022, as part of the enactment of the Social Housing white paper, the Housing Ombudsman published an updated Complaints Handling Code (CHC) for all Social Landlords, which came into effect on 1 October 2022. A replacement Housing Ombudsman Scheme was also implemented on the same day, and compliance with the CHC was a mandatory requirement for membership to the scheme.

Under the Building Safety Act 2022 tenants were no longer required to go to a designated person or wait eight weeks after receiving a response from the landlord before approaching the Ombudsman. Tenants were now able to make a referral at any time and it would be investigated by the Ombudsman as soon as the Landlord's internal processes had been resolved.

The report also explained that a key requirement for all Social Landlords was the annual completion and publication of a self-assessment against the CHC and RBC's Housing Services' self-assessment was attached at Appendix A. The self-assessment had

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prompted a few minor updates to the RBC Complaints Policy, information leaflet and template letters used for complaints regarding the Housing Service, including:

- Updating the complaint leaflet and webpage to provide information on the Housing Ombudsman Scheme;
- Updating template letters for complaints to include details on how to contact the Housing Ombudsman, including when there were disputes regarding timelines for extensions;
- Including details of the Housing Ombudsman in tenant newsletters;
- Regular monitoring programme introduced by HCMT to ensure quality of response, follow-through on remedies proposed and learning from complaints/themes.

The assessment indicated that the Council was compliant with the Code in all but two areas, however, non-compliance was permissible for Local Authority Landlords in these two areas as long as they were working in line with a Corporate Complaints Procedure:

- The timeframes in which complaints are expected to be responded to - The Code requires that complaints are responded to in 10 working days, the Council's Policy is 20 working days.
- The inclusion of Stage 0 - The Code states that there should not be a stage 0, but it is included as an internal complaint management step to encourage early resolution of complaints for the tenant. At Stage 0 the tenant is contacted by telephone and a follow up written response is provided. This does not replace the stage 1 if the tenant still requires a Stage 1 response.

The report added that complaints performance would now be included in the Annual Housing Update and Works Programme report to the Committee by the Assistant Director for Housing and Communities each March and the Self-Assessment would be published on the Council's Website.

Resolved - That the requirements of the revised Complaints Handling Code from the Housing Ombudsman and Reading Borough Council Housing Service's associated Self-Assessment be noted.

31. HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT

Further to Minute 6 of the meeting held on 15 December 2020, the Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report which summarised the key achievements and the next steps of the High Street Heritage Action Zones (HSHAZ) scheme that would end on 31 March 2024. The report reminded the Committee that HSHAZ was a regeneration initiative led by Historic England, working with local councils and the community to create economic growth and improve the appearance and quality of life in historic high streets. Reading had secured HSHAZ status for three conservation areas in the centre of the town and would receive up to £806,500 from Historic England (HE), with match funding of £808,500. The Council had entered into a contract with Historic England to run the programme from 1 April 2020.

The report added that the HSHAZ programme was focused on three Conservation Areas (Castle Hill/Russell Street/Oxford Road, St Mary's Butts/Castle Street, Market Place/London Street) and had the following objectives:

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- To enhance the understanding of Reading's heritage by revealing its hidden histories and to give the community a sense of pride and ownership in their town.
- To improve the physical condition and viability of the high streets within the three conservation areas by identifying those properties most at risk and engaging with property owners to help them to restore the buildings, to show them how to maintain the buildings and to share best practice.
- To develop a comprehensive strategy to improve the public realm across the HSHAZ to provide a better experience and sense of place for those living, working in or visiting the town centre.
- To support local businesses, the economy and local community and cultural initiatives by creating a positive sense of place through contributing to the heritage of their high street.

The report set out the achievements to date in terms of building rescue and storefront improvements, public realm improvements, the Town Centre historic areas assessments, community engagement and the cultural programme. The report then detailed the further work to be carried by 31 March 2023 and 31 March 2024.

The report also noted that the effects of the covid pandemic and the current economic situation had already impacted on the delivery of the project plan. However, due to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's funding policy, HE was unable to move unspent funding to following financial years or to extend the life of the programme beyond 31 March 2024. This had resulted in significant pressure on the team to deliver the projects within the agreed timescale, as the projects were competing for supplies and contractors across the wider construction sector which was already stretched before the pandemic. These external barriers could impact on the Year 3 delivery plan and lead to the reduction of the scope of the programme. Officers were working to avoid any significant underspend by engaging with property owners/tenants and other partners to achieve as much as possible within the financial year and make use of the HE budget before the RBC match funding.

Resolved:

- (1) That the achievements of the programme so far detailed in section 4 of the report be noted;**
- (2) That the remaining elements and workplan for the programme detailed in section 5 of the report be agreed;**
- (3) That the risks identified that might hinder achievement detailed in section 6 be noted.**

32. STREET ART ADVISORY PANEL UPDATE

Further to minute 24 of the meeting held on 10 November 2021, the Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report updating the Committee on the progress of the Street Art Advisory Panel and its next steps.

The report explained that the Street Art Advisory Panel had been set up in response to the growing interest in Street Art and an increase in its appearance after Banksy had visited the town in 2021. The panel aimed to consider how street art and graffiti could

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be incorporated into the Reading's public art offering and agree a process for defining street art as opposed to graffiti and had met three times to date.

The Panel had agreed the definition of street art as a non-permanent artform, generally created on surfaces in public places like exterior building walls, overpasses, bridges and junction boxes and had drawn up a process for identifying a piece as either street art or graffiti. Street art did not have to involve painting: it could be done with stickers spread over surfaces or by methods such as yarn bombing, a process where artists covered things like trees and telephone poles with colourful fibres and crochet/knitting. As a non-permanent artform it was not expected that it would be maintained except for under exceptional circumstance, for example, if a piece of street art had been commissioned as part of a project where it was intended that the piece was permanent, or if a piece was deemed a part of Reading's social history or commentary and was therefore important to the town. The panel had also defined graffiti based on the RBC Street Cleansing Policy where graffiti was defined as 'any picture, letter, sign or mark which has been painted, inscribed or affixed on a surface'. The Street Art Advisory Panel had set out examples of content or context that would prevent any item from being considered as street art. Where a piece was considered graffiti, the work would be addressed under the Council's established graffiti policy.

The report explained that the initial membership of the advisory panel had been recruited and that it would continue to adapt as new key stakeholders were identified both within the community organisations (such as amenity societies and cultural groups) and the Council. All ward councillors would be consulted on street art within their wards.

The report added that a trial of the process had been carried out in August 2022 using two existing pieces. Officers would create a report based on the outcomes from the trial for distribution to the Street Art Advisory Panel, to ensure that it was an accurate summary of their recommendations. The report would then be passed on to key decision makers, in this case the Lead Councillors for Leisure and Culture, and Environmental Services and Community Safety, to inform their final decision. Officers would also continue to work with Lead Councillors and the Street Art Advisory Panel on developing this process.

Resolved:

- (1) That the progress and next steps of the Street Art Advisory Panel be noted;**
- (2) That the process for identifying when a piece was street art as opposed to graffiti be approved.**

(The meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 8.14pm).

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP - 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Observer, RBC
Zelda Wolfle	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Martin White	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Zoe Hanim	Reading Channel Panel, RBC
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Vicky Rhodes	Director of Early Help, Brighter Futures for Children
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Jacob Nurdan	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Praveen Liyanage	Thames Valley Police
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
John Ennis	Probation
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Simon Hill	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Seona Douglas	Executive Director of Social Care and Health, RBC
Frances Martin	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Beckie Pollard	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Lynne Mason	Locality Team, RBC
Jackie Markie	Probation
Gail Muirhead	RBFRS
Alex Jansz	RBFRS
Brian Grady	Brighter Futures for Children
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

2. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY - FINAL DRAFT

Further to Minute 3 of the previous meeting Jo Middlemass and Steve Raffield presented the final draft of the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2022-25. The content of the Strategy included a summary of action across the partnership in the last three years to tackle issues of crime and disorder, and the priorities for the three years which were: to reduce crime in the top crime-generating neighbourhoods, to improve the way the CSP works with communities to tackle anti-social behaviour and hate crime, to reduce community-based drug

related activity, to reduce knife violence, including the carrying of blades and their use in crime, to tackle organised crime gangs transporting illegal drugs across Reading's borders, also known as 'county lines' offending, to improve safety for women in public places and reduce sexually focused crimes and anti-social behaviour, and to develop a strategy and plan to reduce persistent offending. The Strategy also included a summary of the CSP's approach and underpinning principles and an explanation of the governance arrangements and how success would be measured. The final Strategy would be submitted to the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure (HNL) Committee on 4 January 2023.

The Group discussed the Strategy and welcomed the move towards a clearer and more public-facing approach. It was noted that the measures of success and the delivery mechanisms for different priorities within the Strategy would be discussed at a CSP workshop to begin development of the Community Safety and Serious Violence action plan, which was scheduled to be held on 8 December 2022.

AGREED:

- (1) That detail on the measures of success and the delivery mechanisms for the Strategy be considered at the CSP workshop on 8 December 2022;
- (2) That the final Strategy be circulated to the Group prior to submission to the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure (HNL) Committee on 4 January 2023.

3. COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY - DELIVERY MODEL

Jo Middlemass gave a presentation on progress with developing a delivery model for the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy. She explained that it was planned to bring in a performance group to have oversight of plan and monitor crime and perception data, and that proposals for additional delivery groups or task and finish groups could be developed at the CSP workshop on 8 December 2022. Potential options for consideration included delivery groups for Violence Against Women and Girls and Reducing Re-Offending, and a task and finish group on County Drug Lines.

Jo also explained that the CSP would report to the Council's Housing, Neighbourhood and Leisure Committee on an annual basis to provide an update on its activity and performance, that an annual Strategic Assessment would be carried out to refresh data and plans and that it was proposed to run an annual Community Safety Survey to monitor how perception levels. The Communications Group would also develop a CSP Communications Plan for consideration at the next Executive Group meeting. The Chair noted that with the addition of the suggested groups there would be a delivery mechanism for each of the priorities included in the Strategy, and that it was important for partner agencies outside of the Council and TVP to contribute where they could and ideally lead one or more of the groups.

The Group discussed the delivery arrangements and the points made included:

- The PCC's office could offer support across the groups, for example the forthcoming Thames Valley strategy for reducing re-offending could inform the work on that priority in Reading. A reducing reoffending delivery group would need to establish how to work across related issues such as drug misuse, for which there was a new 10 year government strategy;
- A West Berkshire combatting drugs partnership had been set up and the CSP would have to consider how to link in to this;

- The majority of direct action addressing serious violence was carried out by the police, and often had to be confidential, but other partners could take a lead on preventative work.

AGREED:

- (1) That partners consider where they could contribute to and lead on the delivery of the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy;
- (2) That proposals for additional delivery groups or task and finish groups could be developed at the CSP workshop on 8 December 2022;
- (3) That the Communications Group develop a CSP Communications Plan for consideration at the next Executive Group meeting.

4. COMMUNITY SAFETY FUND - MID-YEAR REVIEWS & NEXT STEPS

a) Mid-Year Review

i. Criminal Justice Treatment Pathway - Drug and Alcohol Treatment

Sally Andersen gave an update on use of the funding to deliver services to individuals across the whole criminal justice pathway, from arrest referral, pre-sentence, courts, custody and Prison, including the assessment, care coordination and recovery support functions for those sentenced to community sentences or post-custody supervision via National Probation Services. The update included details of funding allocation and set out data for: Criminal Justice caseload; the commencement, attendance at and completion of Drug Rehabilitation requirements (DTR) and Alcohol Treatment requirements (ATR); Prison releases; high risk offenders; inpatient detox/rehab and reduced substance misuse. The Group noted that the use of DTR and ATRs had been successful, and suggested ways of measuring reductions in repeat offenders.

ii. Source and Rise Up

Vicky Rhodes gave an update on Source (drug and alcohol support for young people) and Rise Up (reducing school exclusions at Prospect School) which outlined the activities, targets and Q1/Q2 performance for each of the projects. Vicky also outlined wider work going on to address the rate of school exclusions and Cath Marriott suggested opportunities to widen out the successful work of Rise Up.

iii. Community Safety and ASB

Jo Middlemass gave an update of the use of funding for Community Safety and ASB, which had a focus on reviewing and developing the way the CSP tackled area-based issues. Recent work also included setting up a Monitoring system on Sharepoint to track the progress of actions under the CSF Plan.

b) Next Steps

Jo Middlemass noted that funding for each workstream had been agreed until 31 March 2023 and would be reviewed once the Community Safety priorities and action plan had been drafted. With the draft Strategy now agreed it was proposed to use the workshop on 8 December 2022 to look at what was needed to enable the partnership to achieve its outcomes and where there

were gaps. Bid proposals could then be put forward to the CSP at the Executive Group Meeting in February 2023, with bids being submitted to the OPCC covering the remaining two years of the PCC's funding allocation. It was noted that there was an overall reduction in funding available.

AGREED: That the workshop on 8 December 2022 look at what resources were needed to enable the partnership to achieve its outcomes and where there were gaps, in order to develop bid for consideration at the Executive Group Meeting in February 2023.

5. FUTURE MEETINGS - PROGRAMME OF REPORTS AND BROUGHT FORWARD PLAN

Jo Middlemass reported that she was developing a reporting schedule for the various groups and boards that were a part of the wider CSP and this would be shared via a new Team on Microsoft Teams. She asked partners to consider what other business they would like to bring to Executive Group meetings. Cath Marriott noted that the role of CSPs needed to balance decision making, scrutiny/holding to account and information sharing. Jacob Nurdan outlined a successful approach that other CSPs had taken. The Chair and lead officer would consider holding a workshop to review the Executive Group role and meetings.

AGREED:

- (1) That the any other feedback be given to Jo Middlemass;
- (2) That Jo Middlemass and Steve Raffield consider holding breakout groups at a future meeting for a workshop to review the Executive Group role and meetings.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Raffield, TVP, updated the Group on work in response to recent attacks on young women in the town centre. Cath Marriott suggested potential links with the forthcoming Police & Crime Plan and OPCC masculinity programme.

The Group thanked Vicky Rhodes who was attending her last meeting.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings for 2022/23 would take place on:

2 February 2023

20 April 2023

It was agreed that if possible the next meeting be held as a hybrid meeting at the Civic Offices.

All meetings start at 9.30am, venue to be confirmed.

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.47am)

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2023

QUESTION NO. 1

Jennifer Leach to ask the Chair of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee:

Reading Festival

This year's Reading Festival attracted very bad publicity nationally and internationally, on account both of its ecocidal aftermath, and too the lawless behaviour in the campsites, leading to injuries amongst innocent young people caught in their tents. What is the line that RBC will finally draw in the sand, the line that says to Festival Republic, 'no, this is not acceptable and you take responsibility and you take remedial action, or you take your festival elsewhere'?

REPLY by Councillor Hacker:

I invite Councillor Rowland, the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety:

I'd like to thank Ms Leach for her question and for her never-ending support for the environment and ensuring that we all are taking proper heed of the Climate Emergency. It is a passion I can assure her that we all share.

I would like to draw Ms. Leach's attention to the report on item 9 of this evening's agenda which outlines positive forward initiatives for the 2023 event in more detail. I have ensured that Ms Leach has a copy of this and would refer her to that and to invite her to stay if possible for the democratic discussion later this evening. It is only right and proper that that is the forum to go into any specifics.

Whilst it is agreed that there were concerns following the 2022 event, this was an over-riding factor in why Cllr Hacker and I, along with our Labour colleagues, pressed for an early public discussion with Festival Republic at this Committee this past November. That meeting was very fruitful to have so early on and tonight's report bears the fruit of that useful discussion.

No one will disagree that the reports seen in the press were concerning and sad to read and our sympathy very much goes out to those that were affected. However, what was seen presented in the press was not typical of the event as a whole.

As ever, a full debrief has been held with Festival Republic, RBC and other stakeholders including Thames Valley Police, and plans have been reviewed ahead of this year's event taking these concerns into account looking to areas where significant strides forward could be made.

A good deal of work goes into the Festival across many teams at the Council and with external stakeholders. Both the Council and Festival Republic accept there are always improvements that can be made, and this is taken on board and implemented to ensure the event continues to improve and be a success. Given the significant positive strides that have been made towards the shaping of this year's Festival, I am positive that the relationship we have with the Festival is bearing results for the future.

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2023

QUESTION NO. 2

Rona Robinson to ask the Chair of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee:

Allotments

When I started working on my allotment in the 1970s, a plot measured 10 Rods, that in today's measures is 50 metres according to the internet. Today it seems that a plot is only half of those 25 metres, now you want to split it again, is that the same throughout the borough? At least that gives you twice and now 4 times as many plots.

25 sqm is too small for a proper size plot, let alone 12.5 sqm, when do you say enough. Instead of doubling then quadrupling your number of plots by splitting them again, don't you think it time that the Reading borough used some of their waste land to invest in more 25 sqm plots or are you frightened of using some of those £million Reading borough have in saving accounts around the world?

Request for information?

How much area in Reading borough is devote to allotments in, 2023 - 2000 - 1970 - 1950

What is/was the population in the same years, 2023- 2000 - 1970 - 1950

How many people were on the waiting list in the same years, 2023 - 2000 - 1970 - 1950

How many people were on the bread line in those same years, 2023 - 2000 - 1970 - 1950

I think if you look at the statistics for those years, you'll find that the borough of Reading is seriously lacking in its Statutory Duty to Provide enough Allotments and to let them to residents who want them. And has done for many years.

In my opinion. The borough of Reading or the committees that run it, is far more interested in charging more money for services and selling land for building than they are in helping both the environment or the poor that want to live and eat healthily.

When I see individuals that have 3 or more allotments to themselves, and others that have nice Summerhouse on pretty grass lawns with overgrown fruit trees and no edible food on, or enclosed allotments where some of the people that have adjoining property have gates into the allotments. I think the idea of having self-management is really good.

REPLY by Councillor Hacker:

I invite Councillor Rowland the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety:

I would like to thank Rona Robinson for this question, which provides an opportunity to highlight the important work of our StreetScene Team and the Allotment Project Officer.

The Council owns and manages 20 sites, currently with 1,415 worked plots across 41.5 hectares of land. There are currently roughly another 70 or so plots that we are still in the process of returning back to lettable condition. Half are Statutory sites and thus have some protection under the Allotments Act 1925. In 2000, there were 42 hectares of allotment land and in 2022 there were 41.5 hectares of allotment land.

There are currently approximately 900 individuals on the waiting list for Reading Borough plots. The reduction of that waiting list number from around 1500 in 2021 has been arrived by counting individual applicants rather than adding the total applicants for each of the 20 sites together. In the latter, one applicant who selected all 20 sites would have counted as 20 applicants. Demand has increased because of Covid and that interest has not reduced. However, we have taken better charge of our list and refining it by contacting individuals to ask if they still want a plot, and we are removing those with no further interest off the waiting lists. This Committee approved changes to the waiting list policy in January this year that “bands” applicants according to the proximity of their home to a specific site. We will be contacting those in Bands B and C (out of catchment area, and out of Borough respectively) as to whether they still wish to stay on the waiting lists. In a small footprint borough like Reading with no excess of unused open space, we need to prioritise Reading residents.

As we have been able to employ the services of an Allotment Project Officer over the last two and a half years, we have seen a remarkable improvement in maximising the usage of our 20 sites in bringing derelict or squatted-on plots back into the system and quickly moving them forward to those next on the waiting list. The work towards the creation of self-management societies, has also helped us to clear and rent sites more quickly.

For the sake of clarity, the question quoted size of plots of 25 and 12.5 square metre plots which is inaccurate, as the Council only have a very limited numbers of very small or “starter” plots, the very smallest being 33 square metres.

Allotments are traditionally measured in either “Rods” or “Poles.” A “Rod” is the linear measurement equivalent to 5 metres and a “Pole” is an area measurement equivalent to 5m x 5m or 25 square metres.

Although there are no official guidelines dictating the size an allotment should be, the accepted measure of a “Full” plot is 10 poles, approximately 250 square metres or about the size of a “doubles” tennis court. This size however was based on

guidance set out in 1949 by the Allotments Advisory Body, as a sufficient size needed to feed a family of four all year round, if maximised and worked properly.

For clarity these are the Sizes and numbers of plots offered by Reading Borough Council:

Full plot <i>255 Plots</i>	250+ square metres	Full plots are for experienced plot holders, it's a big commitment because they take a lot of time to cultivate.
$\frac{3}{4}$ plot <i>156 Plots</i>	150 to 200 square metres	Larger sized plots that still require a lot of time to cultivate.
$\frac{1}{2}$ plot <i>816 plots</i>	100 to 125 square metres	Most plots in the borough are half plots. They're more manageable and suit people with limited time to supplement fresh vegetables consumed by the family.
$\frac{1}{4}$ plot <i>111 Plots</i>	60 to 70 square metres	Aimed at new plot holders that might want to up-size in the future, or existing plot holders that want to downsize. There is no restriction on the length of time to stay on these plots. However, they must reach a suitable level of cultivation after a year to move to a larger plot.
Micro plot <i>15 Plots</i>	50 to 25 square metres	Aimed at new plot holders that might want to up-size in the future, or existing plot holders that want to downsize. These sizes of plots are manageable for older tenants or people with limited mobility who want to grow their own crops.

To the statistics you have asked for, unfortunately, the Council haven't retained historical data relating to the some of the requested information in the question. Information retrieved from the Census relates to Reading's household growth.

- 1961 38,061 Households
- 1981 48,063 Households (NB 1974 boundary changes)
- 2001 57,877 Households
- 2021 67,700 Households

The National Allotment Society in 1995 estimated that the average national number of plots per thousand households was 15 plots per thousand. Although that number is likely only to have decreased, in Reading we are currently above that nationally quoted average at 20.9 plots per 1,000 households. Once the remaining 70 are

returned to lettable condition, we will have 21.9 plots per 1,000 households. Those plots primarily are found in the Oak Tree Road and Bulmershe allotments and we are also creating new plots at Henley Road. We are returning these remaining plots back into lettable condition as soon as we are possibly able and there is no intention from this Labour-led Council to reduce site quantities.

I assume your other query was asking about those on receipt of financial support (Benefits) or 'low-income households' that participate in allotments. We do not have access to historical data that can be compared due to changes in the welfare threshold, nor do we record 'low income' status on the Tenant Register. The sole indicator of financial hardship that we have is the number of plot holders receiving the 84% Rent Discount by virtue of being a Concessionary Your Reading Passport holder. However, it must be noted that the Concessionary YRP can be claimed by anyone in receipt of benefits, with a disability, or aged 60+, noting that some of these applicants are not in financial hardship. With that in mind, we do know that 21% of plot holders currently claim Concessionary YRP.

Following the peak of 1,400,000 allotment plots across the UK during the 2nd World War, there has been a sharp decline in allotment provision nationally to around 500,00 plots in the 1970s. The decline continued during subsequent decades but at a much slower rate. In today's post WWII world, the need for allotments to provide all grown food for the family has changed dramatically, with readily available vegetables in markets far more accessible than they were at that time. However, we will never discourage those that wish to or feel the need to make a go of being fully reliant on their allotments as a significant food source and we do have plot sizes to accommodate that need. For many, especially with the current Cost- of- Living crisis, this can also be a practical cost- saving option to the family budget and we certainly aim to accommodate that desire. However, allotments are also a critical component to provide other health benefits for our residents that being outdoors brings, such as leisure exercise and a sense of community. For those whose chief use of an allotment is for that purpose, we offer smaller plots.

As such, Reading Council's experience is that most people anymore, are daunted by the idea of tending to a "Full" plot of 250 square meters and it's far more common for people to request half or sometimes even quarter-sized plots. As such, our allotment plot sizes reflect that change of request and lifestyle from allotment growers.

When RBC gain possession of a "Full" vacant plot (250sqm), and subject to the Allotment Societies view and accessibility, it is now the general practice to split the plot into 2 x 125m² plots. Some allotment societies have been requesting 'starter' plots (60 m²) or to divide a full plot into 'starter' beds for rent by 'the bed'.

Regarding multiple plots: The situation of multiple plots is a legacy from the early noughties period of low demand. This Committee in Jan 2023 agreed that second plots would no longer be let in order to maximise use for others.

Regarding recreation plots: The new Tenancy Agreements are more detailed than the current TA. Plots will be required to be "in proper cultivation". Children's play equipment will not be allowed nor is using a plot to run a business from.

Whilst your point is more than likely asking Reading to increase the amount of its allotments, a desire that I know we all have much sympathy for and agreement with, one must take into consideration the high density and small footprint of Reading and the very clear priority put forward by this current government to increase housing - and regrettably, not allotments. This is the harsh reality of a growing population on a relatively small island, and our need to prioritise brownfield sites in high density urban areas for that requisite-built environment, so that our greenfield areas can continue to be protected. However, let me reassure you that this Labour-led Council remains committed to the retention of our open space and to the future of our allotments for all the benefits that it can bring as we are able to in this town. Interestingly, we are aware that a private allotment company called Roots Allotments that are actively seeking sites in and around Reading to develop new private allotments, which can produce more sites.

I am encouraged that you write you are in favour of the idea of allotment self-management. This is exactly what the Council is working towards to ensure we maximise our allotments across the town for the use of as many as possible and I would refer you back to the Allotment Update Report to this Committee in January for an excellent example of the Oak Tree Road allotment site's application of self-management.

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 9 MARCH 2023

QUESTION NO. 3

Marg Cobb to ask the Chair of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee:

Flytipping at public bins

“Residents in Katesgrove ward have concerns about the issue of fly tipping and rubbish being disposed of at public bins. What environmental and enforcement action has the council taken to prevent and deter this scourge?”

REPLY by Councillor Hacker:

I invite Councillor Rowland the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety to make the response on my behalf.

REPLY by the Lead Councillor for Environmental Services and Community Safety:

I would like to thank Marg Cobb for this question, which provides an opportunity to highlight the breadth of work of our Environmental Enforcement Team.

Fly-tipping of waste around public bins is an offence that is enforceable under S.33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Any party that can be evidenced to have committed such an offence may be subject to a £400 fixed penalty notice (FPN).

In respect of Katesgrove ward, the team have issued 15 fixed penalty notices for waste deposit offences (litter & fly-tipping) within the past year. The majority of these fixed penalty notices have been linked to residential addresses, rather than commercial. I will come back to these residential infractions in a minute.

Concurrently, over the last 12 months the Enforcement team in Katesgrove have completed trade waste duty of care inspections under S34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 at businesses along Whitley Street, Pell Street, Basingstoke Road and London Street which is part of our wider-range work to ensure that retail areas around the town are properly disposing of and have proper regimes in place to handle their rubbish.

The Environmental Enforcement Team regularly conduct inspections of waste found to have been deposited around public bins. Where evidence attributing the waste to a named individual or business premise can be found, the team may take enforcement action in the form of a fixed penalty notice and/or prosecution all of which will take place alongside education about proper recycling and waste management.

Where there is a pattern of behaviour or recurrence of issues in a specific location, the team are able to erect signage to act as a deterrent to the behaviour. This signage advises of the offence and the penalties that those that engage in the activity of fly-tipping may face. New stickers have recently been designed to be

placed on litter bins as an advisory deterrent for leaving rubbish next to public litter bins and those are being applied around the borough.

Alongside enforcement being applied where justified, education is a very integral part of the work we do with our Enforcement Team.

Wherein fly-tipped waste has been determined to have come from residential properties, it has been noted that such bags frequently contain items that could easily have been recycled. This is indicative of a household that is likely not managing their recycling correctly, which if applied properly, should create ample room in their grey bin, or it can be from a large single-family household or an HMO or multi-tenanted situation, where there may be issues that justify the need for a larger capacity bin. Officers, when alerted, will provide a bin audit to a residence exhibiting capacity issues to determine whether the householders are maximising all recycling possibilities.

Issues such as you are describing are often, but not exclusively, found in highly transient areas of the town. Additionally, English-language-only communications may not be sufficient to educate all residents about proper recycling and rubbish collection. Landlords and agents are expected to play a role in that, but frustratingly with some, that has proven to be an unreliable source of information sharing.

The team have printed educational material that can be shared with residents to encourage responsible waste disposal behaviours such as the proper use of household waste bins or taking their rubbish to the tip. Recycling guides have been translated into multiple languages including Romanian, Polish and Nepalese and we are looking at increasing our reach of information in other languages, as being able to reach all residents is an on-going challenge in a town like Reading which openly welcomes diversity into our town.

In respect of enforcement, in extreme cases, the team has mobile CCTV cameras that can be deployed to monitor a hot-spot area and attempt to capture footage that would support a successful prosecution. CCTV cameras however, are most effective when they can be used in fly-tipping hotspot areas where waste is deposited from vehicles as registration plates are the most-clear-cut way to identify individuals. It is obviously harder to capture random more widely spread random fly-tipping by residents often under cover of night, and on foot by this method.

The work is ongoing in a town that sees new residents everyday, and the team is here to educate as well as to prosecute those offenders who know better but continue to disrespect the structure in which we recycle and collect rubbish. We will continue to investigate waste deposit offences and duty of care breaches. The team will always seek to engage with residents, businesses, and private landowners regarding their waste management responsibilities, doing what we can to ensure public awareness and by application of fines, where warranted, promote a change in the behaviours in those that may consider committing such an offence.

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 MARCH 2023		
TITLE:	READING'S CULTURE AND HERITAGE STRATEGY STATEMENT OF INTENT 2023-26		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR ADELE BARNETT-WARD	PORTFOLIO:	LEISURE AND CULTURE
SERVICE:	CULTURE	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	ZSUZSI LINDSAY	TEL:	07773 193 215
JOB TITLE:	CULTURAL PLACEMAKING OFFICER	E-MAIL:	ZSUZSI.LINDSAY@READING.GOV.UK

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the HNL Committee on progress to date and seek approval of the 3-year Culture and Heritage Action Plan that will deliver the strategic priorities set out in the Culture and Heritage Strategy that runs until 2030.
- 1.2 Through the evaluation of partnership projects run over the last 5 years, the Cultural Sector have expressed a desire for a set of shared cultural aspirations and objectives for Reading. It was originally thought that an action plan would be an appropriate outcome for this work, however, through consultation with the sector, a Statement of Intent was found to be more appropriate at this stage. This statement will be a 'living' document, that will evolve with Reading Borough Council's relationship with the sector.
- 1.3 The statement is a shared document and will not be the sole responsibility of any one organisation. However, Reading Borough Council is leading the development of the document and is facilitating, but not solely responsible for its delivery. **It is not committing the council or any partner into spending money to deliver these intentions, it's intended as a direction of travel and set of aims for the sector to coalesce around.**

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To note progress to date and the achievements of Reading Borough Council's partnership projects over the last 2 years.
- 2.2 To approve the shared Statement of Intent in Appendix 1 and proposed next steps.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The intention to create a Culture and Heritage Strategy for 2015 to 2030 was brought to committee on the 19th of November 2014. It is now in its seventh year of delivery.

Produced by the now dormant Cultural Partnership it is focused around three strategic objectives of Enhance Identity; Increase Opportunity; Celebrate.

- 3.2 10th of March 2021 HNL Committee Report recognised that at the end of the Reading Place of Culture funding period, the intention had been to bring forward a three-year delivery plan. However, given the ongoing uncertainties relating to covid19 and the recovery of the sector this was felt to not be prudent. Instead, a one-year delivery plan, was agreed which set out tangible yet aspirational goals to provide focus on the response and recovery of the sector post covid19.
- 3.3 This delivery plan was drawn out of the achievements from the previous year and embodied in key strategic priorities for 2021-2022.
- 3.4 At the 10th of March 2022 HNL Committee meeting, a summary of outcomes from the Reading Place of Culture, Great Places Scheme Project was shared alongside this proposed one-year delivery plan. This plan was based on learnings and evaluation from the project. It was agreed to delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Culture in consultation with the Lead Member for Culture, Heritage and Recreation (now Leisure and Culture) to incorporate the actions within existing or emerging delivery plans that the action plan set out in section 4.9 of the report.
- 3.4 One of the key actions from this plan was to:

Collaborate with a range of strategically aligned sectors and organisations to shape the future 3-year delivery plan 2022-25 for Reading's Culture and Heritage Strategy. As part of this development, we will restructure the Culture and Heritage networks, partnerships and panels, and listen to the local voices that they represent.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position:

- 4.1.1 In January 2022, officers commenced the collaborative development of a Culture and Heritage Action Plan to deliver against the strategic priorities of the Culture and Heritage Strategy 2015 to 2030.
- 4.1.2 In July 2022, with the support of Arts Reach, a series of workshops and focus groups were held. Through the engagement and collaboration process 42 organisations and individual creative practitioners fed back on the following questions:
 - Looking back
 - Where have the Culture and Heritage Strategy Themes worked well?
 - What still needs addressing?
 - Strategic Cultural and Heritage Group: how do we develop this? What is its remit?
 - How do we define Culture and Heritage for Reading? What does it include/not include?
 - How can the Strategy support development journeys of individuals and organisations?
 - Looking forward
 - How can Culture and Heritage respond to the Climate Emergency?
 - How can Culture and Heritage respond to the Young Person's Mental Health Crisis?
 - How can Culture and Heritage contribute towards Placemaking? (thinking about the regeneration initiatives to take place)

- How can Culture and Heritage celebrate Diversity and address Social Inclusion?
- What are our Post-pandemic reflections for Culture and Heritage?

4.1.3 Notes from the engagement were circulated to attendees, further follow up with the Arts and Heritage Forum was also completed in December 2022.

4.1.4 However, through the engagement process it became clear that an Action Plan was not the most useful form of development for the sector at this time.

4.1.5 The Culture Sector are still recovering post pandemic, and an Action Plan, it was felt, may add additional work on top of the tight capacity and resource that the sector is experiencing. The Action Plan would therefore potentially act as an inhibitor rather than enabler, which is not the intention. As a result, the decision was taken to create a 'living' statement of intent, that outlined a shared set of objectives and aspirations for the sector, that may turn into an action plan at a later stage, that celebrates the power of cross sector and cross service collaboration and partnership, is inspired by the 3 strategic priorities of the Culture and Heritage Strategy 2015-2030, recognises the opportunities that the Levelling Up Funding now present and the importance of Culture, Creativity and Heritage in the following areas of work.

- Placemaking
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- Celebrating the diversity of Reading's communities
- Economic Development
- Sustainability

4.1.6 Through successful partnership projects and shared aspirations Culture, Creativity and Heritage have had the most profound social impact, it is recognised that this joint working towards the shared objectives, we are greater than the sum of our parts. Example case studies include:

1. The High Street Heritage Action Zone Cultural Consortium: Through HSHAZ community engagement project and model the grant application process was simplified and updated to make it more accessible and relevant to organisations at the beginning of their cultural journey. Further catalysing engagement from organisation who had traditionally not engaged.
2. Anniversaries Celebrations: Catalysing the community around a shared objective, further developing a sense of place and identity. Celebrating Reading's biscuit heritage and the 900th anniversary of the Abbey Ruins.
3. Gaia for Reading Climate Festival: Partners working together to bring an internationally renowned art installation that speaks to the values of Reading, further enhancing the town's story and identity.
4. Reading Abbey Revealed: Developing and sharing the Abbey's history and story with partners.
5. Children and Young People Mental Wellbeing through Culture: Engaging cross sector organisations in Cultural delivery to help improve young people's mental wellbeing.
6. Reading Libraries and Reading Rep have had a longstanding partnership, through several successful Arts Council England funding bids, they have delivered shows together and engaged audiences via libraries in the leadup, by incorporating library Rhyme time audience into creative processes.

4.1.7 Next Steps

An initial Statement of Intent has been drafted and circulated to all those who took part in the July workshops and focus groups, it can be found in Appendix 1 of this report. Officers will set up small strategic group to manage and develop the statement of intent. This group will start delivery against year one aspirations and objectives and report back in March 2024 on progress.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The purpose of this section is to ensure that proposals contained in reports support the Council's vision and Corporate Plan priorities:

Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

5.2 *Explain how your recommendations contribute to the Corporate Plan Themes:*

Healthy environment

- Statement of intent supports Reading's sustainability ambitions and actively delivers against the climate action plan.

Thriving Communities

- Looks to create and deliver against the Arts Council's EDI targets. Also ensures the creation of a platform for Reading's diverse and underrepresented communities.
- Aims to create partnerships that strengthen the resilience of the voluntary and community sector, through partnership projects and joint funding bids.
- Aspires to embed youth voice and create opportunities young people in the borough.
- Highlights the importance of culture in tackling the effects of the pandemic, including increased unemployment, long term health problems, mental health issues and social isolation.

Inclusive economy

- Aims to create education, skills and training opportunities in partnership with cultural sector organisations.
- Builds on Reading's cultural heritage to enhance the tourist industry, creating an amazing place for people to enjoy.

5.3 Full details of the Council's [Corporate Plan](#) are available on the website and include information on the projects which will deliver these priorities.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 *This report outlines the ambitions for culture, heritage and creativity to support and inform climate action, alleviate climate anxiety and help Reading achieve its objective of being a net zero carbon town by 2030. In addition, the statement of intent has incorporated the RCAN Action Plan points that directly relate to Culture and Heritage.*

- 6.2 *Specific projects include bring Luke Jerram's Gaia to Reading Town Hall for the Reading Climate Festival. To help broaden the audiences engaged in the climate conversation and inspire climate action.*
- 6.3 *It is recognised that cultural activity can and does generate additional travel and waste. This statement of intent recognises that Reading's desire to become more of a tourist hub must be balanced with the town's sustainability ambitions.*

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 The Statement of Intent was created through engagement with the community in July 2022. There was one workshop held at the Whitley Community Centre, followed by 4 focus groups. These were all facilitated by Arts Reach.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 *This decision will not have a negative differential impact on: racial groups; gender; people with disabilities; people of a particular sexual orientation; people due to their age; people due to their religious belief; and the Armed Forces community.*

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 *No legal implications*

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 *It should be noted that the proposals in this statement of intent do not commit the Council or its partners to funding, provision or delivery. The recommended intentions will be used as a guide, to set a direction of travel and provide shared aims for the sector to coalesce around. Any actions that require funding will be dependent on budget being secured via external funding partners and approved as part of the annual budget-setting process.*

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 *N/A*

APPENDIX 1

Culture and Heritage Statement of Intent 2023-2026

Reading's Culture and Heritage Statement of Intent has been created in collaboration with the Culture, Heritage and Creative sectors as well as key stakeholders. We recognise that Culture and Heritage has always been a conduit for delivering positive social benefit but that it has become even more important since covid19. This Statement of Intent recognises the importance of Culture, Creativity and Heritage in the following areas of work.

- Placemaking
- Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Celebrating the diversity of Reading's communities
- Economic Development
- Sustainability

Culture, Creativity and Heritage both drives and contributes to the above areas through innovative partnerships and co-produced projects but also recognises the importance of creating cultural events, activities and experiences where the main driver is not social benefit, but enjoyment, shared experiences, experimentation and celebration of practice.

The shape of the Statement is derived from the Culture and Heritage Strategy's 3 Strategic Priorities; these have formed the main headlines of the document.

The objectives have been developed from the Place Branding project completed in partnership by REDA, University of Reading and Reading Borough Council in consultation with key stakeholders and 1600 members of the community. The outcome of the work can be seen [here](#).

The place branding project recognises the importance of culture in creating a sense of place, as such it is placed front and centre in the [toolkit](#) under the theme 'Cultivating Tomorrow's Culture'.

This is a living document and will be updated on a yearly basis to ensure that it remains relevant to the partners who work together to deliver each intent. It should be noted that the proposals in this statement of intent do not commit the Council or its partners to funding, provision or delivery. The recommended intentions will be used as a guide, to set a direction of travel and provide shared aims for the sector to coalesce around. Any actions that require funding will be dependent on budget being secured via external funding partners and approved as part of the annual budget-setting process.

What we mean when we say Culture, Heritage and Creativity:

We use 'culture' in this Culture and Heritage Statement of Intent as an umbrella term. *It includes the creative industries, arts and cultural organisations, and sectors from visual and digital art, to theatre, film, music, dance, literature and fashion.*

Cultural organisations play a key role in defining the character and identity of the places we live, work and visit. They bring us together, help us to enjoy our cities and flourish personally. They also foster creativity and innovation, provide jobs and celebrate heritage. ¹

We use 'creativity' to describe 'the process by which, either individually or with others, we make something new: a work of art, or a reimagining of an existing work.'²

We use 'heritage' to describe 'all that has been passed to us by previous generations. It is all around us. It is in the houses we live in, our places of work, the transport we use, our places of worship, our parks and gardens, the places we go to for our sport and social life, in the ground beneath our feet, in the shape of our landscape and in the placing and arrangement of our fields, villages, towns and cities.

Heritage is also found in our moveable possessions, from our national treasures in our museums, to our own family heirlooms, and in the intangible such as our history, traditions, legends and language.

Whilst everything we inherit is strictly our heritage, the term has become synonymous with the places, objects, knowledge and skills we inherit that are valued for reasons beyond their mere utility. In other words, they have a value to us that is over and above their functional use.'³

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Strategic Priority One: Enhance Identity – Being Reading/Made in Reading									
Objective	Intent	Partners	Cross reference with other strategic plans	RBC Corporate Plan			Arts Council Let's Create Strategy		
				Thriving Communities	Healthy environment	Inclusive Economy	Creative People	Cultural Community	Cultural Country
Community of	Year 1								

¹ [improving places - culture and business improvement districts.pdf \(london.gov.uk\)](#)

² [Our vision | Arts Council England](#)

³ [Introduction to the Heritage Protection Guide: Heritage Conservation Defined | Historic England](#)

<p>Communities</p> <p>A place powered by its people, built of vast, diverse communities, rich with culture and stories.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase participation and engagement in culture and heritage by celebrating Reading’s diverse arts, culture and heritage. • Recognise the demand for cultural hubs and cultural spaces and advocate for Cultural Organisation occupation of empty or new spaces as opportunities arise. • Develop the HexBox in partnership with the cultural sector. 		<p>Reading 2050 Vision</p> <p>Tackling Inequalities Strategy</p>						
	Year 2								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of capacity within our diverse cultural sector through Shared Prosperity Funding. • Consult on the creation of a sector wide EDI intention inspired by the Arts Council Creative Case for Diversity. • Develop advocacy work and endeavor to place arts, culture and heritage within key strategic discussions and strategies, including but limited to; devolution, health and wellbeing, employment skills, education, sustainability and other key placemaking strategic developments. 		<p>Social Inclusion</p> <p>Reading 2050 Vision</p>						
Year 3									

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an action plan based on HSHAZ legacy, learnings and evaluation to be incorporated into existing practices and shared strategies. • Consult on barriers within Reading to the Creative and Cultural Life (e.g. music venues struggle because of proximity to London) to help inform future project developments. 								
Strategic Priority Two: Increase Opportunities Through Working Together									
Objective	Intent	Partners	Cross reference with other strategic plans	RBC Corporate Plan			Arts Council Let's Create Strategy		
				Thriving Communities	Healthy environment	Inclusive Economy	Creative People	Cultural Community	Cultural Country
Forward Focused	Year 1								
A place always looking ahead, positively seeking to build a better future for all that call it home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with creative sector and regional partners to identify local skills gaps linked with the development of the screen industries in Berkshire. • Create opportunities to share best practice and learning locally and nationally – 1 workshop • Develop an external funding bid to create an ongoing programme of co-commissioning of cultural projects to deliver social impact. Partner with funders and strategic delivery partners 		Brighter Futures for Children Cultural Education Partnership Strategy						

<p>from non-ACH sectors to deliver on multiple priorities. Move beyond current partners into new communities and groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed genuine youth voice into organisations and projects. • Deliver the Children and Young People’s Mental Wellbeing Through Culture Project. As part of the legacy of the project, document the existing offerings in this area of the sector. 								
Year 2								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support creative skills development in our town from pipeline in schools through to apprenticeships and work in partnership to create schemes bridging skills gaps in the Creative Sector. • Share best practice and learning locally and nationally – 2 workshops. • Complete delivery of the CEP 2020-2023 Action Plan and consult on the next 3 year action plan. 								
Year 3								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an external funding bid commission further research on the value of the sector in the town – for example an economic impact or a social return on investment study –to 								

	<p>broaden potential interest and the range of funders for ACH. Ideally working with the Whitley Researchers to develop this research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence delivery of the CEP 2024-2027 Action Plan. 		CEP						
Custodians:	Year 1								
<p>A place proud to look after its people, its heritage and its landscape. Carefully protecting today, so we all have a tomorrow.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete a sustainability audit of local Reading Festivals funded through the Shared Prosperity Funding to support RCAN’s target of zero waste and circular festivals (please see R13 of RCAN strategy for more detail). • Work in partnership with key partners to bring Luke Jerram’s Gaia to the Town Hall for the Reading Climate Festival, to help inspire Climate Action and demonstrate the power of Culture to support positive change. • Deliver Climate Anxiety training to embed learnings and understanding into our cultural programming. • Develop an action plan to meet the expectations of Let's Create in relation to climate action and sustainability. 		Reading Climate Change Partnership Strategy (R13)						

		Year 2							
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a statement of intent in partnership from sustainability audit. 							
		Year 3							
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Sustainability is a fast paced, fast moving topic. With new learnings and best practice making it a constant changing landscape. Bearing this in mind year 2 and 3's intentions will be set in partnership in line with relevant learnings and new research.</i> 							
Strategic Priority Three: Celebrate Reading									
Objective	Intent	Partners	Cross reference with other strategic plans	RBC Corporate Plan			Arts Council Let's Create Strategy		
				Thriving Communities	Healthy environment	Inclusive Economy	Creative People	Cultural Community	Cultural Country
Connected		Year 1							
A place connected in every sense of the word – physically, emotionally,		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect people with each other and Reading through anniversaries and local history to help create a sense of identity and celebrate what makes Reading Reading. Create a shared story of Reading's cultural, heritage and 							

<p>culturally. Rooted in its heritage, its history, its people</p>	<p>creative landscape and the organisations and individuals that contribute to its vibrancy, but also that celebrates the power of culture to deliver social impact outcomes. Share data that enhances and evidences this power and story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and action the Abbey Quarter Business Plan. • Create a Strategic Cultural Network that manages the statement of intent, supports delivery of the statement and compliments the Arts and Heritage Forum by providing a platform for organisations that are planning three to four years into the future. 								
	Year 2								
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop What's On Reading in line with feedback from the community, to improve joint marketing opportunities, transparency within the sector and further develop online resources including guidance on EMP/RAMS creation. • Complete audit of current networks and forums to ensure that they meet the needs of the creative sector. 								

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create mentoring opportunities and support networks for new and emerging organisations. 								
Year 3									
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an external funding bid to improve signage of culture and heritage assets to raise awareness. Including wayfinding. 								

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9 MARCH 2023	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	READING LIBRARIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME: DISPOSAL OF LIBRARY STOCK		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR BARNETT-WARD	PORTFOLIO:	CULTURE, LEISURE AND RECREATION
SERVICE:	CULTURE	WARDS:	BOROUGHWIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	DONNA PENTELOW SIMON SMITH	TEL:	0118 937 3422 0118 937 5970
JOB TITLE:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CULTURE; READING LIBRARIES & MUSEUM MANAGER	E-MAIL:	donna.pentelow@reading.gov.uk simon.smith@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The report sets out a withdrawal policy for library stock. The approach to stock and asset withdrawal should be formally agreed as it involves disposal of Council assets.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To agree the approach for the disposal of library stock and assets as set out in appendix 1.

3. POLICY CONTEXT AND CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Reading Libraries has a bookfund of £110,000 per year. The majority of spend is on printed books. The bookfund covers new books and replacements, where books are withdrawn.
- 3.2 Books are withdrawn based on use, need, quality and condition. This means that where an item is in poor condition, or is falling apart through overuse, or not being used, or is superseded/superfluous, we withdraw the item. The new books that arrive each year need space, and library stock is withdrawn in order to provide this.
- 3.3 If we did not withdraw books, we would run out of space for new ones. However, books are not withdrawn for the sake of withdrawing. Reports are run to check on use, and if a book has stopped being used, we can remove

from shelves and assess what happens next. In addition, most books will automatically be moved to another library after a certain period of time, so that customers see stock being refreshed and stock circulates round the network.

- 3.4 What happens after a book is withdrawn from the open shelf depends on the item.
 - 3.4.1 If an item is either falling apart due to overuse or general condition is poor but there is still a need for the item, we would replace where we can - an example would be a classic novel - we'll always need a copy and they can be heavily used.
 - 3.4.2 If an item has stopped issuing, we would assess whether it meets a particular need, whether it is the only one in the Borough, whether it is a subject we feel we ought to have and maybe look to replace with a similar title, or withdraw completely.
 - 3.4.3 If an item is still needed or not replaceable, but is in poor condition, or has stopped issuing but is of some significance, we would often place in reserve, so that we retain a copy but not on open shelves. It is still loanable and visible on the catalogue. This means, for example, that we still have many earlier works by well known novelists which may now be out of print.
 - 3.4.4 However, the majority of items are withdrawn as they are in poor condition, no longer required or not issuing. These items total around 8-10,000 per year. They are often of limited value, and are either offered to the public in periodic or permanent booksale, where people will purchase for a token amount of 50p-£1, or they are boxed up and collected by a book recycler. Where items have been offered for sale to the public and not sold, they will end up with the same boxed up books for recycling.
 - 3.4.5 There are two main companies operating in this field, and the return is very low to the service, on average less than 1p per book. The value is in:
 - not having to spend staff time and take up space in dealing with booksales
 - not having to send books direct to either recycling or landfill locally - the companies take away, pay a low price per book, and then books are reviewed and sold on, recycled or pulped. One company does then give a small amount back to the service from any sales - however the rate of return from withdrawn books is very low.
- 3.5 There is a large collection of older books, which are largely on the catalogue but mainly only for use within the library, and are also held on rolling stack shelves behind the scenes at central library. Some of these items have a value. Some are very old, and generally many are in poor condition. These items are with the library service as they have never been withdrawn - often simply due to age. However, they have no local connection, may have been with the service for over 100 years, are often in poor condition and currently do take up a lot of space, without being items that anyone wants to use. The current shelving run of these items totals around 120m of shelving. These items have in the past been visited and assessed by specialist antiquarian

book dealers who did purchase some items. We do receive occasional approaches to view these items with a view to sale.

- 3.6 The proposed withdrawal policy below seeks to balance the need to withdraw, the capacity of the service and reasonable return.
- 3.7 With the successful Levelling Up Fund bid to build a new Central Library at the Civic Centre, there is a need to formalise the withdrawal approach as the service prepares to relocate.
- 3.8 If we were to set up an 'ebay shop' type method of disposal, this would require staff time and would also need to align with Council finance processes - the advantage would be a potentially large audience and a higher return. However, there may be concern that the Council is 'selling off the family silver' - but there is genuinely no need for us to retain these items. A dedicated staffing post would not cover costs. We could offer small collections at a time and publish lists on the website, however dealers would then wish to see the items, which would require admin time.
- 3.9 Reading Museum do, if all avenues are exhausted, dispose at open auction and reinvest any money into collection development. However, this approach would need to be balanced against the lower value and poorer condition of library items.
- 3.10 The process set out in appendix 1 will
 - *enable the service to efficiently and effectively assess its withdrawn stock and appropriately dispose of it.
 - *give the library service the freedom to look at different ways of maximising return and efficiently and effectively dispose of withdrawn stock.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 4.1 The library service contributes to the to the shared agendas of the wider Council including the Council's Corporate Plan, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Culture and Heritage Strategy.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers). The proposed withdrawal/disposal approach would not directly contribute to changes in this area.
- 5.2 However this approach should lead to slightly fewer items than is currently the case going down a recycling path and more going down a reuse path, by being sold for further use.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6.2 Relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 6.3 Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
- a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
 - c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- 6.4 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in respect of this report and no impact has been determined.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty under the 1964 [Public Libraries and Museums Act](#) 'to provide a comprehensive and efficient Library Service for all persons' in the area that want to make use of it (section 7), taking into account local needs and resources. Further, local councils must:
- have regard to encouraging both adults and children to make full use of the Library Service (section 7(2)(b))
 - lend books and other printed material free of charge for those who live, work or study in the area (section 8(3)(b))
 - keep adequate stocks for borrowing/reference 'sufficient in number, range and quality to meet the general requirements and any special requirements both of adults and children'
- 7.2 It is the statutory duty of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to superintend, and promote the improvement of, the public Library Service provided by local authorities in England and secure the proper discharge by local authorities of the functions in relation to libraries conferred on them as library authorities. The Secretary of State has a statutory power to intervene when a library authority fails (or is suspected of failing) to provide the required service (section 10). He/she will only intervene after careful consideration of local authorities' compliance with the terms of the 1964 Act.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The financial implications are limited, sales of books generates an income stream of under £500 per annum. There are some more valuable items in the library collection, however these are locally important items and therefore would not fall under the scope of the disposal policy, particularly if they are unique to the service
- 8.2 There are some higher value items in the 'reference reserve' books mentioned above which would merit assessment as if these were withdrawn as no longer needed, we would be looking at a return of 1p per book via current routes, rather than a possible average £20-30 per title, if a book was suitable for withdrawal under the policy. Appendix 1 covers the appropriate treatment of more valuable items to maximise the value to the Council and provide a small income stream.

APPENDIX 1 READING LIBRARIES PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL/DISPOSAL POLICY

By purchasing books every year, and with a large stock holding, libraries are obliged to withdraw and dispose of books every year.

Library books are withdrawn based on use, need, quality and condition.

Library books will be moved onto other libraries, either automatically or manually by staff, in order to circulate as widely as possible within the library network and ensure stock works as hard as possible.

If a stock item has been removed from the shelves and is not suitable for transfer to another library, or for the reserve stock, or for repair/binding, it should be withdrawn from stock and disposed of.

The Library Development Manager, Children's Lead, Local Lead or Reading Libraries and Museum Manager will make this decision, either by viewing in person or providing lists or parameters to staff.

Withdrawn stock and surplus library assets may, as appropriate, be

- a) disposed of through a library book recycling scheme, where items generate minimum return and are disposed of or resold by a third party.
- b) offered for sale to the general public through either sales points in Reading Libraries or book sales
- c) sold to specialist book dealers or book collectors at the discretion of the Service Manager and in line with guidelines here. The service is able to solicit or receive approaches and agree any disposal or price to be obtained.
- d) disposed of at auction,
- e) offered on online auction sites where this is compatible with RBC processes.

- f) offered to other libraries or settings including schools/nurseries if appropriate to do so based on content, currency and condition

Donated stock will also be either sold or otherwise disposed of where it is not put into library stock, and this is made clear to those donating in person.

Items with a strong local connection will always be retained (unless condition or duplication merits withdrawal) as would any item where there is a special reason for doing so, often where a local connection or subject matter exists

Income received from sales is coded as library income on a revenue code.

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH & NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	Housing Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee		
DATE:	9 March 2023		
TITLE:	Reading Festival Update		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Councillor Rowland	PORTFOLIO:	Environmental Services & Community Safety
SERVICE:	Planning, Transport & Public Protection	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	Catherine Lewis	TEL:	
JOB TITLE:	Community Protection Group Manager	E-MAIL:	Catherine.Lewis@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 At committee on the 9th of November 2022, it was agreed to provide a further update on plans for Reading Festival 2023. The update provided to Committee in November was in part a closed session due to the commercial nature of the discussion and some proposals were yet to be finalised. This paper updates on those proposal and provides an overview of the event which is in its planning phase for 2023.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Committee note the content of the report.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council are the Licensing authority for the event and work with the organisers, Festival Republic and partners to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all those involved.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position:

- 4.2 Reading Festival 2023 is to be held over the August Bank Holiday weekend; 25th to 27th August with “Early Bird” tickets allowing camping entry from Wednesday 23rd August which is the same as in previous years. There is no change proposed to the capacity of this year’s event, which is set at 104,999.

4.3 There are also no changes proposed to the Arena Layout this year. The event is keeping the two main stages - East and West, with headline acts announced including The Killers, Imagine Dragons, Lewis Capaldi, Sam Fender and Billie Eilish.

5. Changes for 2023

5.1 This year's event offers an introduction of payment plans to ensure tickets are accessible to all.

5.2 Festival Republic are implementing Challenge 25(*Appendices i) replacing Challenge 21. Challenge 25 is a retailing strategy that encourages anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 to carry acceptable ID (a card bearing the PASS hologram, a photographic driving license or a passport) if they wish to buy alcohol. Challenge 25 is the industry standard to allow for a margin of safety when trying to prevent the sale of alcohol to under 18s. Taking this approach is aimed at protecting children from harm.

Safety

5.3 There was concern following the 2022 event that there was not enough accountability or visual presence of support staff, security and assistance within the campsite areas and as such the event made the headlines for the wrong reasons with a minority of festival goers causing disruption within the campsites leading to evictions. A full debrief has been held with Festival Republic and other stakeholders including Thames Valley Police as it is after every event, and plans have been reviewed ahead of this year's event taking concerns into account.

5.4 Festival Republic have worked on measures to improve this and will be introducing key points within the campsite areas to be used as check points and aimed at being friendly, approachable sites for information, support and assistance.

Safeguarding

5.5 The safety initiative 'Ask for Angela' campaign was very successful at Reading Festival 2022. People who feel unsafe, vulnerable or threatened can discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and asking them for 'Angela'. This code-phrase will indicate to staff that they require help with their situation and a trained member of staff will then look to support and assist them. This might be through reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

5.6 Unfortunately, logistically it was not possible to record statistical information on the success of the "Ask for Angela" campaign. However, the "Ask for Angela" campaign was briefed out to staff and security teams prior to the event starting and during on-site briefings. Mystery shopping by the Security Coordinators and Reading Borough Council showed positive engagement by staff with gate security teams proactively explaining to ticket holders that the event was operating the campaign and how to use it. Throughout the event, all security teams were asked for their understanding of the campaign. If any re-briefing was required, it was completed.

- 5.7 Festival Republic keep statistical information from their teams including Medical, Welfare, Safehubs, Evictions and other Safeguarding partners. This is to enable trend monitoring and being able to use first hand data to action any responses.
- 5.8 Multi-agency Meetings are held twice daily throughout show days to ensure these records are followed through in a timely matter. Examples include identifying an increase of a particular crime in a certain area (which will then become a ‘hotspot’) which then follows into the deployment of resources to assist or monitor.
- 5.9 Recognising the challenge of capturing data on the scale of this event, Festival Republic are reviewing how they might be able to do this and the value it might bring to actionable intelligence.
- 5.10 Festival Republic are increasing the number of Safeguarding officers as part of the Festival Republic team to ensure a 24 hour response throughout the event.

Questions from the November 2022 Committee

- 5.11 Cllr Emberson raised concerns about the harm of some of the social media groups can do to the reputation of the event and asked about what monitoring of these sites is done and whether reassurance or correct messaging is provided.
- 5.12 Festival Republic acknowledge the impact and power of social media, particularly amongst the younger demographic who attend the event. Festival Republic’s social media team are keen to explore how social media can be used proactively and positively to reassure or respond to community forums or group pages on social media. Safeguarding partners such as ‘Safe Gigs For Women’ are also keen to look at how they are able to positively present on pages such as Tik Tok. This subject is part of this year’s planning meeting agendas and will remain so as Festival Republic learn more about how these platforms can be used positively to support the community. Festival Republic already use social media in several ways to inform, advise and reassure ticket holders, whereas Thames Valley Police’s Social Media pages, for example, are targeted at reassuring parents of those who attend the event.
- 5.13 Councillor Creswell enquired about emissions from waste, specifically the incineration of non-recyclable material, which are classified as Scope 3 emissions. Festival Republic use DEFRA conversion factors which are used by UK companies as standard to report greenhouse gas emissions. They apply the same factor for recycling and combustion of 21.280 kg CO2e / tonne of waste. Details are set out in the table below:

STREAM	2022 (t)	2022%	CO2e(t)
Landfill	0.00		
Energy From Waste (RDF)	151.75	19.30%	3.23
Energy From Waste (SDF)	103.79	13.20%	2.21
Recycled	436.37	55.50%	9.29

Green Waste (Composted)	94.35	12.00%	0.84
TOTAL	786.26	100%	15.56

- 5.14 The total waste reduced from 2021 was 42 tonnes (5.07%).
- 5.15 Non-recyclable waste (including tents) is sent to Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF) or Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), the latter creates energy.
- 5.16 The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) that processed the festival waste reported a 55.05% recycling rate during the period between 22nd August - 16th September (53% in 2021).
- 5.17 Festival Republic also include water and wastewater processing as part of the on-site Scope 3 emissions, which gives a total of 74.6 tonnes CO₂e compared to the 2021 scope 1, 2 & 3 total of 452 tonnes CO₂e.
- 5.18 It is estimated that 38% of tents were left behind during 2022 which was a 35% decrease from 2021, due to the strong communication of the ‘take your tent home’ message and the ‘No Reading on a Dead Planet’ campaign which saw the eco campsite left absolutely spotless. The festival plans to double the capacity of the eco campsite for this years event.
- 5.19 Festival Republic are happy to work with the Council to help develop an approach which supports the wider festival and events community in Reading.
- 5.20 This year’s event will see the first year with no Campfires permitted. This is something which the Council has been working with Festival Republic on for some time and which supports the Councils Air Quality Action Plan and Climate Change commitments. Officers are working to ensure the message is shared with local shops that no firewood will be allowed to be brought on to the festival site.

Vape Use

- 5.21 Festival Republic recognise the increasing use of VAPE’s by its audience and will be working to ensure that the disposable devices are recycled. Officers will continue to check vape sales arrangements on-site and are working with Festival Republic and local retailers near the site to manage underage sales of vapes.

River Safety

- 5.22 The Council and Festival Republic have had the first boats and river safety meeting for the 2023 event, working with external agencies to include the Environment Agency, Blue Response (Life Guard service on the river), Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, District Enforcement, Marine response, Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This is building on the success of the team that worked during the event in 2022. Last year the team worked to clarify roles and responsibilities and enforcement powers, and the police supported by having a boat on the river to enable immediate action. Feedback was that the benefit of the work that was undertaken during the run up and throughout

the event had an ongoing impact after the event and this is continuing as part of the plan for this year's event.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

6.1 Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

6.2 The actions contained in this report contribute to:

Healthy Environment through the promotion of waste recycling streams, zero waste to landfill and generation of energy from waste.

Thriving Economy through the introduction of payment plans for festival goers and is planning to support the Council and voluntary and community sector through providing advice and information on net zero.

Inclusive Economy by delivering a world-famous festival in Reading.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The impact of the changes which the event is bringing forward are considered to be a net medium positive. The rationale for this is that alongside existing policies to achieving net zero, the event has taken further positive steps to improve its overall impact, including the banning of campfires, the implementation of eco-campsites (where a 1000 festival goers decided to camp during 2022 event), evaluating its Scope 3 emissions and assessing and looking to put in place action to manage new waste streams such as disposable vapes. The event has also committed to supporting activity as part of the Climate Change Action Plan.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

8.1 No community engagement is required, however the festival has its own outreach programme which informs for example its communications approaches and how it engages with its audience on key public health and climate messages.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No Equality Impact Assessment is required.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no Legal implications to this report, however, the Council has a duty under the Licensing Act 2003 to ensure the safety of events and to that end has regular Safety Advisory Groups, which are multiagency meetings to look at every aspect of the delivery of the event. In the event that there are concerns over the ability of an organiser to deliver a safe event, there is a right to review a licence.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1 There are none.

13. Appendices

13.1 <https://wsta.co.uk/challenge-25/>

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS & LEISURE COMMITTEE (via Committees Briefing)		
DATE:	9 th MARCH 2023	AGENDA ITEM:	
TITLE:	HOUSING UPDATE & PROGRAMME OF WORKS TO COUNCIL HOMES 2023/2024		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	CLLR ELLIE EMBERSON	PORTFOLIO:	HOUSING
SERVICE:	HOUSING	WARDS:	ALL
LEAD OFFICER:	ZELDA WOLFLE	TEL:	0118 937 2285
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's 5 year Housing Strategy was adopted by Policy Committee in September 2020. The vision for the strategy is "For all our residents to have the opportunity to live in a good quality sustainable home they can afford within a thriving neighbourhood." Key to this is the supply of accommodation, the quality of accommodation and neighbourhoods and support to residents.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on Housing Service performance and key achievements delivered.
- 1.3 In addition, the report sets out the maintenance work programme for Council homes for the next financial year. The Council's programme continues to have a key focus on low carbon initiatives.
- 1.4 Appendix 1 - Works to Housing Stock 23/24 Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
Appendix 2 - Works to Housing Stock 23/24 General Fund
Appendix 3 - Works to Housing Stock By Ward 23/24

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee note the Housing Service performance and key achievements delivered in the past financial year as outlined in paragraphs 3 & 4 of this report
- 2.2 That Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee note the planned maintenance work programme for Council homes for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendices 1 to 3 of this report
- 2.3 That Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee delegate authority to the Assistant Director of Housing & Communities in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing to: (a) procure; and (b) award and (c) enter into all necessary contracts relating to the individual schemes for the 23/24 work programme as detailed in Appendices 1 and 2 of this report subject to sufficient funding being available in the approved Budget to meet the cost of the relevant schemes.

3. HOUSING PERFORMANCE - COMPLAINTS

- 3.1 In March 2022, as part of the enactment of the Social Housing White Paper, the Housing Ombudsman published an updated Complaints Handling Code (CHC) for all Social Landlords, which came into effect on the 1st October 2022. A replacement Housing Ombudsman Scheme was also implemented on the same day, and compliance with the CHC is a mandatory requirement for membership to the scheme
- 3.2 It is now required that a landlord's performance in relation to complaints will be reported to a 'Governing Body' on an annual basis. Complaints performance is already reported quarterly to the Lead Member for Housing and will now also be included in the Annual Housing Update and Works Programme report, to Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee each March.
- 3.3 In 2022 the Housing Service (including the repairs service located within the Environmental and Commercial Services portfolio) responded to 98 complaints at stage 0, and 177 complaints at Stage1, which is 275 in total (representing 5% of tenants).
- 3.4 These complaints can be broken down into the following areas:

Area	Number	Percentage
Community Partnerships	12	4.4%
Housing Needs	52	18.9%
Property Development	0	0
Property Services	22	8%
Sheltered Housing	0	0
Strategic Housing	0	0
Tenant Services	91	33.1%
Repairs	98	35.6%
Total	275	-

- 3.5 Of the 275 complaints the outcomes are listed in the table below:

Outcome	Number	Percentage ¹
Upheld	139	51%
Partially Upheld	30	11%
Not upheld	71	26%
Multiple Outcomes	24	9%
No Outcome ²	11	4%

3.6 59% of complaints were responded to within the required timescale.

3.7 The most common themes for the complaints are listed below:

- Quality of Service Received
- Communication
- Time Taken to Resolve Issue/ Delays
- Failure to Resolve Issue
- Lack of Support
- Policy Issue

3.8 Improving performance in this area is a key focus for the service and new systems to track, manage and embed learning from complaints are to be implemented over the next 2 months.

4. HOUSING PERFORMANCE -TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

4.1 In Autumn 2022 Reading Borough Council Housing Service commissioned NWA Social and Market Research to undertake a satisfaction survey with a random sample of tenants. The survey consisted largely of Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM's) which will be required by the Housing Regulator from April 2023. A total of 560 tenants completed the questionnaire, 71 online and 489 over the telephone. The overall data therefore has a confidence interval of +/-4%.

4.2 The results from the Survey were largely positive with the Council's Housing Service's performance either improving or staying the same in comparison to the 2020 survey. As outlined above complaints performance is an area requiring improvement. The results of the survey are outlined in the table below:

	Top-Line Findings – Reading Borough Council Housing Services November 2022 Tranches 1, 2 and 3: Based on 561 Responses Overall (2020, 625 responses overall)	2022	2020	Change ('22 - '20)
Q1	Overall satisfaction with RBC Housing Services	82%	81%	
Q2b	Satisfaction with overall repairs service over the last 12 months (2020: Satisfaction with repairs or maintenance work in last 12 months)	77%	74%	
Q3	Satisfaction with time taken to complete most recent repair	73%	NA	

¹ Adds to 101% due to rounding

² Not enough evidence to decide

Q4	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services provide a home that is well maintained	84%	NA	
Q5	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services provide a home that is safe (2020: RBCHS provides a home that is safe and secure)	88%	86%	
Q6	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services listen to your views and act upon them	79%	69%	
Q7	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services keep you informed about things that matter to you (2020: How good/poor do you feel RBCHS is at keeping you informed)	87%	82%	
Q8	Agree that 'My landlord treats me fairly and with respect' (2020: Satisfaction that RBCHS treats tenants fairly)	91%	81%	
Q9b	Satisfaction with RBC Housing Services' approach to complaints handling (2020: Satisfaction with how RBCHS deals with complaints)	29%	18%	
Q10b	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services keep communal areas clean and well maintained	70%	NA	
Q11	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services make a positive contribution to your neighbourhood	85%	NA	
Q12	Satisfaction with RBC Housing Services' approach to handling ASB	67%	NA	
Q13a	Satisfaction that RBC Housing Services give you the opportunity to make your views known	84%	64%	
Q14	Staff at RBC Housing Services pleasant and polite? (Yes)	94%	95%	
Q15	Likelihood of recommending to family and friends – promoters or passive	82%	80%	
Q16	RBC Housing Services has stayed the same or got better in the past year	83%	87%	

4.3 Further interrogation of the data will be completed to understand any age, demographic or geographical difference in satisfaction levels and resulting actions as necessary. Linked with the data set out in section 3 of this report, key actions will also be put in place to improve tenant satisfaction with how the Council handles complaints.

4. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2023/24

4.1 The Service has achieved a great deal this year against a backdrop of recruitment difficulties in key areas including Housing Repairs, Housing Property Services and Tenant Services and in the face of a cost of living crisis affecting our tenants. A few of the key achievements are listed below:

- Low carbon improvements in a further 18 properties in Kentwood ward to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency. The properties benefitted from the installation of new external wall insulation and render, triple glazed windows and mechanical ventilation. This brings the total number of properties with low carbon improvements on the estate to 43
- A further 40 Air Source heat pumps were installed in Granville Road High-Rise flats to reduce carbon outputs and improve energy efficiency. The remaining High-Rise flats at Granville Road are on this coming years programme.
- Continued support and debt advice to our tenants ensured that we maintained top quartile rent collection levels of over 99 % despite the increasing financial pressure on our residents as a result of the pandemic. Additional support was put in place for residents with the continued refresh of the 'Money Matters'³ webpages providing advice, information and assistance to people facing the cost of living crisis
- The Council's Local Authority New Build programme continues to deliver new homes with 15 key worker flats at the old Arthur Hill swimming pool site and 37 homes in North Street due to be handed over in the Spring of this year. Planning applications are shortly due to be submitted for two mixed general needs housing and adult social care provision at the old Central Pool site and a site on Hexham Road expected to deliver a further 103 properties
- Despite levels of increasing homelessness and rising private sector rents the Housing Needs Service maintained the position of not placing homeless families in shared B&B accommodation
- Maintaining high tenant satisfaction levels as detailed in the survey results
- Successful bid to DLUHC for £2.8 million to maintain and increase rough sleeping services
- The Council was shortlisted as finalists for the best social housing initiative for the modular pods in the MJ Awards, APSE Awards and LGC Awards

5.0 PROGRAMME OF WORKS 2023/24

5.1 Housing Property Services manages the planned maintenance, cyclical repairs and void works to approximately 5,662 Council homes.

5.2 The Service has a responsibility to ensure that the housing stock is well maintained in accordance with the Decent Homes Standard and that Council homes are safe and healthy places to live.

³ <https://www.reading.gov.uk/housing/money-matters/>

- 5.3 The Service continues to have a strong focus on improving the thermal efficiency of homes in line with the Council's Climate Change ambitions ensuring homes can be heated efficiently and cost effectively, thus reducing their carbon footprint and reducing fuel poverty. The Council is investing £26.1m between 2023/24 and 2025/26 in moving towards zero carbon options in terms of retrofitting existing housing stock in line with the Council's Climate Change ambitions. The existing housing stock benefits from past initiatives which have ensured that most properties are above EPC level C. As such the Council is currently not benefitting from any extra Government funding towards zero carbon initiatives which are predominantly targeted at EPC level D and below. The Council is therefore reliant on the Housing Revenue Account to continue to pursue zero carbon options.
- 5.4 Beyond bricks and mortar the service also works to improve the wider environment on housing estates to meet the needs and aspirations of both the Council and our tenants.
- 5.5 Tackling issues around mould and damp has been a focus for the service this year encouraging tenants to report any concerns. The service received just under 200 reports and on investigation the majority of the issues related to condensation as the cause as a result of inadequate ventilating and heating of properties. The service has provided guidance on an individual basis to ensure that tenants understand how to operate their heating systems effectively and also to what assistance they may be entitled to when they have struggled to afford heating their homes.
- 5.5 Repairs and maintenance of the stock are delivered predominantly by an in-house workforce. Some works are sub-contracted using measured term contracts to allow for fluctuations in volumes, specialist work or where it is more cost effective to do so.
- 5.6 Appendix 1 provides details of the programmes of work and associated budgets for the Council's HRA Housing Stock 2023/2024. Appendix 2 provides details of the works to the General Fund Housing Stock 2023/2024. Appendix 3 gives a breakdown of the programmes of work by Ward.

6. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 6.1 The programme of works to Council Homes contributes to:
- **A Healthy Environment** by retrofitting existing homes with low carbon initiatives to improve thermal efficiency and ultimately contribute to Reading becoming a carbon neutral town by 2030
 - **Thriving Communities** by introducing thermal efficiency measures to reduce fuel poverty and enable those living in Council homes to have an equal chance to thrive
 - **Inclusive Economy** by seeking to let contracts for major projects to contractors who provide a level of social value to the town including opportunities for education, skills and training
- 6.2 Full details of the Council's [Corporate Plan](#) are available on the website and include information on the projects which will deliver these priorities.
- 6.3 In line with TEAM Reading values the programme of works to Council homes makes a difference to our residents by:
- Safeguarding and protecting those that are most vulnerable; and
 - Providing homes for those in most need.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 On the 26th of February 2019 the Council declared a Climate Emergency and resolved to act to accelerate a carbon neutral Reading to 2030. Reading Climate Change Partnership's Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 and the new RBC corporate Carbon Plan 2020-25 were adopted in November 2020.
- 7.2 The programme of works to Council homes looks to improve the energy efficiency and the insulation of properties wherever possible including:
- Improving window replacements from double to triple glazing.
 - Investigating and trialling of low carbon and alternative heating systems, the results of which will help to shape the approach to retrofitting homes to reduce carbon emissions
 - Replacing external fabric of buildings including external wall insulation
 - Installing mechanical ventilation with heat recovery systems
- 7.3 The average SAP rating, measure of energy efficiency, of the Council's housing stock is currently 74.14 placing Reading in the top quartile when compared to our peer group.
- 7.4 Our local authority new build programmes play a key role in achieving net zero carbon. The application of the fabric first approach of Passivhaus reduces greenhouse gas emissions and will deliver significant long-term energy savings to the tenants. The low running costs and higher quality building mean that costs are significantly reduced over the life of the building for the occupiers.
- 7.5 The use of sustainable material plays an important role in the design. This combined with the high quality of building physics achieved through insulation, thermal bridge-free design and airtightness ensures that the sustainable benefits of Passivhaus principles will last.

8. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 8.1 The Housing Service has an engagement approach that enables consultation with tenants on a range of issues and through different means including, surveys, focus groups, a tenant scrutiny panel and formal consultation, the results of which drive service improvement. Tenant involvement and feedback has driven changes to specifications on kitchens, bathrooms, and flooring.
- 8.2 With all repairs and maintenance, we look to provide an efficient value for money service and recognise this can only be achieved by engaging with tenants, this is crucial when it comes to getting it right first time. Wherever possible tenants are given choices in the use of materials and colours.
- 8.3 When upgrading kitchens there is a design process, the customer is involved to ensure the layout and space allows for white goods. Within the range of kitchen units, worktops and tiles the tenant is offered choice of colour.
- 8.4 When upgrading our Crosswall properties we will consult with residents regarding the elevational treatment of the structure.
- 8.5 On our larger refurbishment schemes tenants are invited to evaluate the tender submissions.

9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment for the purposes of this report

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The 2006 Decent Homes Standard is a government-set standard for council housing. The standard describes a Decent Home as one that is fit to live in, in a reasonable state of repair, having reasonably modern facilities and services, and being insulated to a reasonable standard and weatherproof. The standard was updated in 2006 to include the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).
- 10.2 Within the legal framework affecting housing, programmes are aimed at ensuring the quality of accommodation, maintaining the 2006 Decent Homes Standard (or standards of design and quality that applied when the home was built if higher than the Decent Homes Standard) and providing a cost-effective repairs and maintenance service that meets applicable statutory requirements that provide for the health and safety of the occupants in their homes.
- 10.3 Works contracts worth £5,336,937 (Works Threshold) or more must be advertised in the UK's e-notification service Find a Tender and then tendered or be procured via a framework agreement which itself has already been advertised in OJEU or Find a Tender (as applicable) and undergone a tender process. The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 does not require a Find a Tender advertised tendering process in the case of below Works Threshold contracts. Such contracts must be awarded in line with the Council's Standing Orders.
- 10.4 It will be necessary to enter into contracts with all successful contractors.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The budget for the works programme 2023-24 is £28.969m (plus £0.258m General fund) and is funded through the Housing Revenue Account. The budget is set as part of the Council's annual budget setting programme and agreed by full Council in February 2023.
- 11.2 The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) deals with council housing finance. The main income is housing rent, and all expenditure related to council housing is charged to this account. The Housing Revenue Account is 'ring-fenced' (separate) from other Council activity (this is accounted for through the 'General Fund' account).
- 11.3 The Council regularly updates and revises assumptions in a 30-year business plan for the HRA. This includes a comprehensive 30-year programme for replacing major components of homes (roofs, windows/doors, kitchens, bathrooms etc.) and maintaining them to Decent Homes standards.

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None applicable.

Appendix1 WORKS TO HOUSING STOCK 2023-2024 (HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT)

Item	Work Description	£'000
1	Responsive Repairs	2,750
2	Voids (Minor Works)	890
Planned Programmes		
3	Estate Maintenance	100
4	Gas Servicing and CO Detectors	308
5	Heating Non-Gas Servicing	20
6	MVHR Servicing	15
7	Smoke detector non-gas annual checks	25
8	Essential Cyclical	325
9	Asbestos Surveys	150
10	Electrical Checks	400
11	Sprinkler System Servicing	85
12	Fire Stopping/Disrepair	370
13	Fire Protection (Fire Safety)	100
14	Legionella Testing	100
15	External Repairs and Decorations	1,000
16	Common Areas & Pensioner- decs	250
Major Capital Works		
17	Voids (Major Works)	723
18	Special adaptations	600
19	Roofs/Structural works	300
20	Rewiring/ smoke detectors/upgrades	407
21	Windows	1,745
22	Doors (Fire)	100
23	Central Heating and Boilers	900
24	Granville Rd Heat Pumps	1,325
25	Kitchens & Bathrooms	2,100
26	Door Entry Systems	291
27	Asbestos	150
28	Compliance	150
29	Decent Neighbourhoods Works	150
30	Kentwood Improvements	750
31	Crosswall Blocks	4,230
32	Coley High Rise, External Fabric/Windows and Roof	7,000
33	Ian Mikardo Way	1,000
34	Major Repairs	160
TOTAL		28,969
£'000		

RESPONSIVE REPAIRS

1. Responsive Repairs £2,750,000

The Repairs service is responsive and a customer driven service. Spend in recent years has been increasing. Repairs are delivered predominantly by an in-house workforce. Factors that influence service costs include:

- Standardisation of parts. We benefit from the legacy of earlier generations who standardised components from the 1940's onwards and have continued this process
- A range of competitively priced and recently tendered planned programmes
- Batched gutter cleaning works to reduce use of scaffolding costs
- New types of scaffold and harnessing
- Improved Health and safety provision fuelled by legislation change and by an enhanced risk awareness following the Grenfell fire.
- Repairs analysis and understanding costs broken down by trade job type, material and property type
- Improved specification and more building items to maintain (such as more showers or more alarms and heat recovery ventilation)
- Feedback from surveys driving improvements
- Extended guarantees on boilers.

Benchmarking our costs against other social providers (with similar size and stock), repair costs have been kept comparatively low, allowing us to focus on planned works and improvements. Investing sensibly in planned and replacement programmes over many years has enabled us to continue to keep costs low however the cost of labour and materials has started to rise in the last year.

Responsive repairs are undertaken in all wards across the Borough as required.

2. Voids (Minor and Major Works) £1,613,000

The cost between tenancies to repair homes to an approved standard and then re-let these homes is met from this budget. Our aim is to keep a good balance between expenditure, re-let times and the re-let standards.

Works to Void dwellings are undertaken in all wards across the Borough as and when they become void.

PLANNED PROGRAMMES

3. Estate Maintenance £100,000

A housing management-controlled budget to attend to day-to-day estate management issues and repair needs on our estates. This is typically used to improve parking, manage trees, provide dog bins, manage landscaping and paths that do not form part of the Highway.

Estate Management covers all wards across the Borough as required.

4. Gas Servicing £308,000

A landlord is legally required to make every reasonable effort to carry out gas checks every 12 months and at change of tenancy to all landlord owned gas appliances/ properties with gas meters. The number of gas services required each year increases with new builds added to the stock.

Gas servicing is undertaken in all dwellings that have a gas supply, there are in the region of 5,000 dwellings across the Borough, works will be undertaken in all wards.

5. Heating Non-Gas Servicing £20,000

We have as part of our carbon reduction works replaced some heating systems with air source heat pumps. The second Block at Granville Road has been completed. The servicing costs of heat pumps is considerably more than that of a gas central heating system, we anticipate this will decrease in time as they become the norm rather than the exception.

This is a budget that will increase in the future with more heat pumps being installed as part of our carbon reduction works, however, it will be offset in part as we reduce the number of gas systems within dwellings.

In the main this relates to the servicing of the air source heat pumps, part of our Carbon reduction plan and is in the Southcote ward.

6. MVHR Servicing £15,000

With the introduction of heat pumps there comes the need to better control the ventilation within dwellings, Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) ventilates but also recovers heat, this will help to keep tenants fuel bills down. Better ventilation helps reduce levels of condensation and subsequent mould growth, however, MVHR is only effective if the units are serviced, and filters cleaned or replaced annually.

7. Smoke detector non-gas annual checks £25,000

Our aim is to check all smoke detectors within our stock on an annual basis, to ensure they are functioning and in date.

The majority of these checks are undertaken as part of our Gas Servicing, this budget is for those dwelling that don't have gas.

8. Essential Cyclical Inspections £325,000

This budget is in line with previous years and relates to work in the following areas:

- Basic Lift maintenance and safety certification
- Warden Call system maintenance
- Fire alarms, Dry risers
- Fire extinguisher maintenance
- Checks and modest repairs to door entry systems
- Burglar alarms
- Communal lights maintenance
- Communal TV Aerials maintenance

- CCTV

Essential Cyclical Inspections are undertaken in all wards across the Borough as required.

9. Asbestos Surveys £150,000

This is for the removal of asbestos where required to facilitate improvement works or where the asbestos survey recommends removal of the asbestos rather than its management.

This work is reactive and dependant on other programmes of work it will cover all wards across the Borough.

10. Periodic Electrical Checks £400,000

Electric checks are done either as planned checks or checks at change of tenancy. We are increasing our annual number of inspections, moving from every 10 years to every 5 years in line with best practice. Although the numbers of inspections will increase the resulting repairs should decrease as the period between inspections is reduced, going forward the budget should therefore remain at a similar level.

We use the data collected from the electrical checks to determine the rewiring programme and use the data to set programmes to upgrade and renew smoke detectors.

Periodic Electrical Checks are undertaken in all wards across the Borough as required.

11. Sprinkler System Servicing £85,000

The design of our new build flats incorporate Sprinkler Systems as part of the fire safety measures. We have also fitted Sprinkler Systems within our Wates Flats and the High-Rise Flats at Coley to improve fire safety. To ensure the systems remain operational these systems require an annual service.

Works are at Coley High Rise, Minster ward, and the new build in the Tilehurst ward. The Sprinkler systems in our Wates dwelling are in several wards across the Borough.

12. Fire Stopping/Disrepair £370,000

This provision is to address any need of Fire Stopping as identified in the Fire Risk Assessments undertaken.

In the main this work relates to areas where services and cables pass through the compartmentation of buildings, this is to ensure our buildings are fully compliant with current fire safety legislation.

13. Fire Protection (Fire Safety) £100,000

Depending on the risk associated with the building type Fire Risk Assessments are required to ensure the buildings meet the current standards. High risk buildings are inspected annually, these are the High-Rise Blocks at Coley and Granville Road. Buildings identified as having a lower risk require an assessment every 3 years.

Work will be undertaken in all wards across the Borough.

14. Legionella Testing **£100,000**

We have a legal responsibility to undertake Legionella testing, this budget is for the testing, inspection and treatment to prevent legionella where required.

15. External Repairs and Decoration **£1,000,000**

Typically, this includes a repair package, looking at the outside fabric of the homes and carrying out suitable improvements or repairs to:

- Roofs, Down pipes and gutters and vent pipes
- Brickwork
- Windows and doors
- Porches, Sheds
- Repairs to kitchens

An external painting programme follows the repair works. Painting is subject to weather conditions and stops during the winter period.

Work is carried out on a rolling 7-year cycle.

This year's work will be primarily in Caversham, Katesgrove, Peppard, and Thames wards.

16. Common Area & Pensioner **£250,000**

A seven-year cyclical common area programme is set, whilst maintaining additional budget for highly trafficked or vandalised areas in exceptional cases.

This year's work is £160,000 at Tilehurst, Norcot, Katesgrove and Whitley wards in the main.

The Pensioner decs is currently a three year cyclical programme. The town is divided into three geographic areas, and the budget is usually around £90,000 each year.

To be eligible, customers must be of pensionable age or receive a disability benefit and have no resource to an able-bodied person who can do the work for them. The service is only provided where the condition of the existing decoration is poor. Tenants receive a pre-work visit to ensure eligibility and discuss choices in colour and finishes.

This year, the areas of the town covered by this programme of works are in the main in Church, Katesgrove and Whitley wards, with a few streets in Redlands and Tilehurst wards. Work is carried out by outside contractors.

MAJOR / CAPITAL REPAIRS

17. Major Voids

See Item 2 above

18. Special Adaptations £600,000

The purpose of this budget is to provide adaptations to properties in order to improve living conditions for customers with a disability or mobility needs. The majority of the budget is spent on adapting bathrooms.

Policies and specification changes we have adopted in relation to general council stock, offering showers above baths and standard showers, mean standard bathroom costs will increase, such is demand, special adaptation costs are unlikely to reduce.

This area of work is very reactive and will therefore be across all wards within the Borough.

19. Roofs/Structural works £300,000

£170,000 of the budget is primarily for the roof renewal at Block 33-41b Caversham Road. This work was in last year's programme but unfortunately delayed due to resourcing issues.

The remainder of the budget is used to address one-off structural issues arising through the year where works are required over and above that of responsive repairs; generally, these are isolated cases of failed DPC, underpinning of the structure and fire damaged properties.

The roof renewal at Block 33-41b Caversham Road is in the Abbey ward of the Borough.

20. Rewiring/ smoke detectors/upgrades £407,000

Condition rather than age is setting the rewiring budget. The need for full rewires has decreased. The focus has switched to upgrading systems. Rewires tend to be partial, focusing on circuit board replacement and socket upgrades. Selection for these upgrades is on the recommendation of the electric's team (following electrical checks) rather than from general building surveys.

This area of work is very reactive and will therefore be across all wards within the Borough.

21. Windows £1,745,000

Most windows were replaced from 1986 onwards, replacing comparatively few before 1991 but then the numbers increased. In 1992 we started replacing windows in houses rather than flats. Windows are a key element in the Decent Homes Standard with a lifecycle of 30 years; going forward this budget will increase to reflect the growing need for window renewal.

Generally, our dwellings have double glazed units, although this year we started renewing existing windows with triple glazed units to increase the energy efficiency of the properties thereby reducing carbon.

This year's window renewal is in Peppard, Minster, Redlands, Whitley and Southcote wards.

22. Doors **£100,000**

This budget has previously been used for the replacement of dwelling entrance doors, going forward it will be used for the renewal of Fire Doors where required. Changes in legislation require the door and frame to be completely renewed where a repair is not achievable.

23. Central Heating and Boilers **£900,000**

High investment in past years has made a considerable saving in repair costs and improvement in energy efficiency. We have negotiated extended parts and labour guarantees of 10 years on new boilers.

The replacement of boilers is fixed on a 15-year plan and full systems every 30 to 40 years.

The Council is committed to zero carbon with a target of 2030, in order to achieve this there is a need to look at alternative heating for our dwellings, we need to phase out our gas boilers over time and look to provide alternatives such as air/ground source heating.

The alternatives to gas heating are considerably more expensive, however, we will continue to undertake fuel swap going forward where practicable within this budget.

In some instances, we will need to replace systems with an electric heating system, Quantum heaters or similar, although more expensive to provide initially there are no annual servicing costs.

This is based on a 15-year lifecycle and will be across all wards within the Borough

24. Granville Road Heat Pumps **£1,325,000**

The installation of air source heat pumps at the first two High-Rise Blocks at Granville Road is nearing completion. This coming year we will be starting work on the remaining two Blocks. If affordable one of the Blocks will be a Ground Source Heat Pump. This would give us a useful comparison, air source to ground source regarding the heating efficiency, servicing cost and future maintenance costs, this would better inform our carbon reduction strategy. If Ground Source proves to be too costly, we will replace the existing heating with air source.

The changes to the heating systems at the High-Rise Blocks in Granville Road is contributing to our carbon reduction.

The last Block will be Quantum heaters.

The heat pump and Quantum heater installations will be in Southcote ward.

25. Kitchens and Bathrooms **£2,100,000**

Kitchens and bathrooms will be replaced across all areas of the borough based strictly on the condition of existing facilities.

New kitchens take account of the size and range of tenant's 'white goods' and are individually designed to accommodate these (space permitting). The kitchen specification uses thicker carcasses, hinges those open doors 180 degrees, metal draw runners and are designed to last using a modern look that we hope will stay in vogue whilst offering good tenant choice. All taps for kitchens and bathrooms are lever taps, these permit easier use for tenants who suffer with hand mobility. Some improvements in the specification result in increased responsive repair costs. We aim to strike a responsible balance between modernisation and cost.

A revised specification introduced last year includes the full decoration of all Kitchen and Bathroom upgrades.

This budget provision is based on a 20-year lifecycle for kitchens and 30 years for bathrooms, on a worst first basis and will be across all wards within the Borough

26. Door Entry Systems £291,000

This budget is generally split between upgrades or replacement of older door entry systems and new installations where a door entry system would be advantageous. Addresses are not pre decided.

The programme responds to systems that become inoperable and a repair to the system isn't an option. The programme will cover all wards across the Borough.

27. Asbestos £150,000

Asbestos surveys are required before many programmes of work can take place. We survey the whole property not just the area of the work and the intention is to have data for every property and not be reliant on cloned information.

As a landlord we are required to manage the asbestos within our Stock. We manage asbestos by periodic inspection based on risk, the risk is determined by the type of asbestos, it's condition and the likely disturbance. Periodic inspections are ongoing and apply to all dwelling constructed prior to the year 2000, properties constructed after this date will not have included any asbestos containing materials within the specification.

28. Compliance £100,000

Changes in legislation as a result of the tragedy at Grenfell Tower have created an increased need to inspect all escape routes, common areas and stairs of our High-Risk dwellings, including an inspection of all fire doors on an annual basis, this will include dwelling entrance doors.

Work will be undertaken in all wards across the Borough.

29. Decent Neighbourhood Works £150,000

We continue to develop our knowledge for all blocks and communal areas through surveys. We pick up on the stock needs of drying areas and paths, lighting and landscape and boundaries. Within communal areas, we look at entry doors, door closers, matt wells, stairs and balustrades, finishes, stores security and refuse disposal.

Tenants' choice funding has been amalgamated with this fund into one programme of work with the aim of improving the built environment of Council estates.

Works will cover all wards across the Borough.

30. Kentwood Improvements £750,000

The improvement works at homes in Kentwood are continuing this year. The works include structural repairs, improved external insulation, and render together with triple glazing. Where required the heating will be replaced with air source heat pumps and Mechanical Ventilation with Heat Recovery (MVHR) systems.

All the measures in this scheme contribute to our carbon reduction strategy and are based on a fabric first approach.

31. Crosswall Blocks £4,230,000

The Crosswall construction consists of load bearing party walls and a lightweight infill construction to the front and rear elevations. Constructed in the late 1960's these properties are amongst the poorest of all our stock in terms of energy efficiency, in many cases the external walls are tile hung with no additional insulation.

The works proposed are the modernisation of the external walls to our low rise Crosswall properties. Initially selecting two blocks, the works will consist of a reconstruction of the infill front and rear elevations that will incorporate replacement triple glazed windows. These properties will not only be insulated to a high standard the opportunity exists to refresh the tired appearance of the properties with new look low maintenance materials.

The scheme will include alternative heating, the proposal for the initial blocks at Bamburgh Close were to include Ground Source Heat Pumps, however this will now be Air Source as this is currently more affordable.

In total we have in the region of 70 two and three storey Crosswall blocks. In the main the three-story blocks were insulated about 12 years ago, the windows of these blocks need replacement going forward, however, the two-story blocks are predominantly as built and will need significantly more work.

All the measures in this scheme contribute to our carbon reduction strategy and are based on a fabric first approach.

This year's Crosswall blocks to benefit from these major improvements are in the Redlands ward.

32. Wensley Road Estate Flats, External Fabric/Windows and Roofing £7,000,000

The proposals for the three blocks of flats at Wensley Road estate include a number of measures in line with the Council's Zero Carbon Strategy, the major elements included within the scheme are the replacement of the external insulation together with triple glazed windows and a new waste management system.

A more efficient insulation and triple glazed windows will significantly improve the thermal efficiency of the dwellings. The works to the three blocks has an estimated overall cost of £15,000,000 and are tied in with the wider improvements and development of new build homes on the estate.

The scheme has slipped due to changes in the specification and a delay in the first phase of the new build homes on the estate, however, the works to the High-Rise Blocks is to be phased over two years rather than three years.

The Coley High Rise blocks are in the Minster ward of the Borough.

33. Ian Mikardo Way **£1,000,000**

A number of dwellings have been identified as having Tentest ceiling boards. Although there have been no issues with this type of ceiling it doesn't give the same level of fire protection as plasterboard. This budget is for the replacement of the identified ceilings with plasterboard.

This work is primarily in the Caversham ward of the Borough.

34. Major Repairs **£160,000**

Major repairs are batched together for increased efficiencies. Work includes a variety of projects such as replacing fencing, flooring, damp treatments etc.

Works tend to be reactive in nature and will cover all wards across the Borough.

Appendix 2

£258,000 WORKS TO HOUSING STOCK 2022-2023 (GENERAL FUND) (Programmes of work funded from the General Fund)

£'000

1	Garage Repairs	50
2	Garage Planned maintenance	40
3	Temporary Accommodation	168

1. Responsive Garage Repairs **£50,000**

This budget is for the provision of day-to-day repairs to the 1060 garages.

2. Planned Maintenance to Garages **£40,000**

Garage maintenance is done on a seven-year cycle of planned maintenance to reasonably maintained sites to ensure garages are kept up to standard

The business case for this budget is to keep garage sites in a lettable condition to maintain the revenue stream whilst maintaining our asset and the appearance of estates. Over the last decade investment in garages has much improved the appearance of estates and removed areas of neglect

Numbers of garages have fallen in recent years as sites are redeveloped or land included in regeneration projects (such as at Dee Park). Where a site is designated for redevelopment within the next five years, we do not carry out planned maintenance.

3. Temporary Accommodation **£168,000**

A budget is used for the repair and maintenance of temporary accommodation properties. In recent years we have decreased the budget as repair costs have fallen following the refurbishment of Jimmy Green Court and 2 Wensley Road flats in recent years.

Appendix 3

**WORKS TO HOUSING STOCK BY WARD
2023-2024**

	Work Items	Planned/ Demand led	Ward(s)
1	Responsive Repairs	Demand led	All Wards
2	Voids (Minor Works)	Demand led	Various
Planned Programmes			
3	Estate Maintenance	Demand led	Various
4	Gas Servicing and CO Detectors	Planned	All Wards
5	Heating Non-Gas Servicing	Planned	Southcote ward and Tilehurst
6	MVHR Servicing	Planned	Various
7	Smoke detector non-gas annual checks	Planned	Various
8	Essential Cyclical	Planned	Various
9	Asbestos Surveys	Demand led	Various
10	Electrical Checks	Planned	All Wards
11	Sprinkler System Servicing	Planned	Coley, Tilehurst, and the Wates Flats in various wards across the Borough
12	Fire stopping/Disrepair	Planned	Various
13	Fire Protection (Fire Safety)	Planned	All Wards
14	Legionella	Planned	All Wards
15	External Repairs and Decorations	Planned	Caversham, Katesgrove, Peppard, and Thames
16	Common Areas Pensioner Decs	Planned	Tilehurst, Norcot, Katesgrove and Whitley Church, Katesgrove, Whitley, Redlands and Tilehurst
17	Voids (Major Works)	Demand led	Various
18	Special adaptations	Demand led	Various
19	Roofs/Structural works	Planned/Demand led	Abbey (Roofs)/Various
20	Rewiring/ smoke detectors/upgrades	Demand led	Various
21	Windows	Planned	Peppard, Coley, Redlands, Southcote and Whitley
22	Doors (Fire)	Planned/Demand led	All Wards
23	Central Heating and Boilers	Planned	Various
24	Granville Rd Heat Pumps	Planned	Southcote Ward

25	Kitchens & Bathrooms	Demand led	Various
26	Door Entry Systems	Demand led	Various
27	Asbestos	Demand led	Various
28	Compliance	Planned	All Wards
29	Decent Neighbourhoods Works	Planned	All Wards
30	Kentwood Improvements	Planned	Kentwood
31	Crosswall Blocks	Planned	Redlands
32	Coley High Rise, External Fabric/Windows and Roof	Planned	Coley
33	Ian Mikardo Way	Planned	Caversham
34	Major Repairs	Planned	Various

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READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	Housing, Neighbourhood and Leisure Committee		
DATE:	9 th March 2023		
TITLE:	Environment Act 2021 - Waste Management		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	Cllr Rowland	PORTFOLIO:	Environmental Services and Community Safety
SERVICE: Waste	Waste Management	WARDS:	All
LEAD OFFICER:	Oliver Burt	TEL:	
JOB TITLE:	Re3 Strategic Waste Manager	E-MAIL:	Oliver.burt@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To brief Members on aspects of the Environment Act 2021. The Act covers a wide range of environmental issues such as biodiversity, air and water quality, and waste management. This report refers to the elements on waste management and the Act's impacts on Reading Borough Council and Reading residents.
- 1.2 Further reports will be presented in due course, incorporating proposals for service change to move towards a position of compliance in relation to both waste collection and the shared re3 arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 *The Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee note the contents of the report.*

3. POLICY CONTEXT

3.1 Policy context as follows:

- On December 18th, 2018, Government published its Resources and Waste Strategy which announced sweeping plans to change the way that waste is collected and treated in the UK.
- There followed two rounds of public consultations (2020 and 2021), in which Government sought input on how the three main limbs of the strategy (Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) and Waste Collection Consistency) should work. These three parts are now bracketed under the name of 'Collections and Packaging Reform' (CPR).
- A fourth limb, which establishes a tax on plastic products that have a recycled content below 30% is already in effect but has little direct, operational impact on the councils' day to day service delivery.
- The results of the Government consultation on EPR were published on 26th March 2022.
- The results of the Government consultation on DRS were published on 20th January 2023.

- The results of the Government consultation on Waste Collection Consistency are awaited.
- The detail of each limb has been keenly anticipated but has undoubtedly been delayed by demands on Departmental resources (e.g. Brexit preparation and the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Details of when separate parts of the forthcoming legislation and statutory guidance will become operative are included, below, where that detail is known.

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 The purpose of the Environment Act, in so far as it relates to waste management, is the intended promotion and delivery of: (a) extended producer responsibility, to include the costs for the treatment of packaging, (b) increased recycling, (c) the simplification and increased consistency of waste collection across the UK, (d) the development of a circular economy, and (e) the reduction of litter.

4.2 Environment Act

4.3 There are three principal limbs in the waste-related sections the Environment Act, that have a direct impact on local authorities. They are presented under the umbrella title of ‘Collections and Packaging Reform’ (CPR). They will be discussed in the sections below, with particular reference to the elements that will directly impact on council services.

4.4 Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

4.5 Government wants producers of packaging to pay the full net cost of collection and treatment associated with the packaging placed into circulation. This is to encourage better overall design of packaging and systems of capture, and to promote resource circularity.

4.6 Under EPR, producers will pay modulated fees, set according to the assessed environmental impact and/or treatment cost of the packaging they put into circulation. The aggregated fees will be used to make payments to local authorities for the costs of managing packaging. Government believes that fee modulation will encourage greater recyclability and packaging design that reduces environmental impacts.

4.7 There will be some significant changes to the way that waste collection and management performance is measured. This will be important in aligning the payments through EPR with the expectations of the packaging and retail sector.

4.8 An important example of this will be in relation to waste collection performance. Councils will be assessed according to the relative ‘Efficiency’ and ‘Effectiveness’ of their service. Councils will be placed within a performance cohort, wherein their costs and their performance will be benchmarked against a ‘best in class’ council. Each cohort will be drawn from councils that share some similarities. Individual councils deemed to be sub-optimally ‘efficient’ and/or ‘effective’ may be presented with an Improvement Notice. When an Improvement Notice is issued, it will also identify future-year funding reductions that will be applied if the requirements of the Notice are not satisfied.

4.9 Performance will initially be assessed on modelled estimates of council costs. The scheme will eventually assess actual council costs.

4.10 There will be potentially significant changes to the way performance data is captured, and likely larger amounts of data needing to be captured. There are current statutory requirements to sample the quality of recycling delivered by the three councils to the re3 Material Recycling Facility (MRF); we expect the frequency and sample sizes to be

increased as a result of the EPR requirements. In terms of waste collection, the cost of staff, vehicles, maintenance, depot space and administrative overheads are all likely to be captured for benchmarking, alongside the captures rates of council collections and recycling rates.

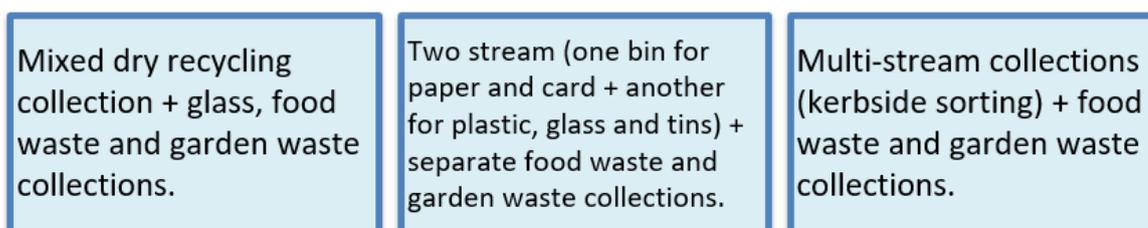
- 4.11 The arrangements will be quite different from current operating conditions, and will likely mirror more commercial operating conditions.
- 4.12 The timescales are subject to change but, at present, local authorities are expecting to be presented with their initial funding allocation during the 2023/24 year.
- 4.13 Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)**
- 4.14 A deposit, an additional sum on top of the normal sale price, will be added to in-scope packaging, at the point of sale. To encourage the return of the packaging, the deposit will be reclaimable via reverse vending machines at retailers and via smaller shops.
- 4.15 In-scope packaging will have specific packaging and iconography, to support consumers in knowing which items are part of the DRS and to identify appropriate items that require being scanned for reverse vending.
- 4.16 In-scope packing will include all Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic drinks bottles and tins/cans (aluminium and steel) for drinks between 50 ml and 3 litres. Neither High Density Polyethylene (HDP) nor glass bottles will be included in the DRS in England.



*DRS will almost certainly not include food, or other, tins and cans - only drinks containers.

- 4.17 The level of the deposit will be controlled by the Deposit Management Organisation (DMO). The deposit will most likely be a sum such as £0.20 per item - a sum that has been widely referred-to throughout the consultations. The Government will set a maximum amount for the deposit, though the sum will be determined by the DMO. The deposit will apparently be applied to all single, in-scope, items and also those sold as part of a multi-pack.
- 4.18 The DMO will be an industry-based organisation, representative of companies and trade associations. Any unredeemed deposits will be used to cover the costs of the scheme.
- 4.19 Waste Collection Consistency**
- 4.20 It is important to note that we await the Government response to the second round of consultations on Waste Collection Consistency. The details shared below are reflective of current expectations but may be subject to change.
- 4.21 Councils will be mandated to collect newspapers and magazines, cardboard, glass bottles, plastic bottles, plastic pots/tubs/trays and steel and aluminium cans or tins. A separate food waste collection will also be required. The list of mandated materials, for councils to collect, retains materials that are in-scope for the DRS, described above.

- 4.22 Plastic film, aerosols, cartons and foil will be added to the list of mandated materials, most likely in 2027.
- 4.23 At present, the re3 councils are well-placed to comply with the requirements of waste collection consistency through the facility to process many of the waste types, through the shared arrangements. The commonly collected, ‘kerbside’, materials of newspapers, cardboard, plastic bottles, steel and aluminium cans or tins and aerosols have been collected for many years. In 2017 the re3 MRF was amended to allow for the inclusion of plastic pots/tubs/trays and cartons. Food waste was incorporated into the shared arrangements in 2019.
- 4.24 Glass collection and plastic film collection and processing will need to be added to current services to achieve compliance.
- 4.25 Businesses will also be required to make available for collection most of the items listed above, with some flexibility according to the size of the business. This element of the legislation has not been fully pursued at the same time as for household waste but it will be introduced.
- 4.26 Councils will be required to move from their current form of waste collection to one of three service archetypes, designed by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). They are likely to be defined as follows:



The first archetype most resembles the collection system operated by each of the councils within the re3 partnership, save for the requirement to collect glass.

- 4.27 If a change to current service design (to adopt one of the archetypes) is not considered appropriate, there will be a process of justification that councils can pursue. It will be via enhanced form of assessment of the technical, economic and environmental practicability (TEEP) of retaining a non-compliant service design. Non-compliance and failure to satisfy TEEP criteria, may link to the assessment of efficiency and effectiveness, described above, and the level of funding allocated to a council.
- 4.28 Government consulted on whether councils should provide free garden waste collections. Many councils make a charge for the service, based on the premise that the recipients of the service should pay for it, rather than the cost being levied against all residents in an area. Government is apparently considering two options: (a) a free scheme for residents or, (b) an assessed reasonable charge, based on estimates put together by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), and pitched at about 50% of current service charges. If Government chooses to go for the first option, free garden waste collections, RBC has estimated it would face a budget pressure of c£950k.

Potential Impacts and Opportunities

- 4.29 It is important to recognise that the precise impacts from the Collections and Packaging Reform (CPR) package will not be known for some time, until they have operated alongside each other, and the operating environment has adapted. However, at the time of writing this report, it is clear that the suite of changes are considered to represent a significant challenge to local authorities. This section of the report will seek to highlight some of the potential challenges and opportunities.

- 4.30 Defra recognises that the ‘full net cost’ referred to above (and in the consultations) is unlikely to equate to the full *prevailing* cost for each local authority. The benchmarking process, within cohorts of similar councils, will allocate available funding according to an assessment of what the service should cost.
- 4.31 The likelihood that an individual council will receive an Improvement Notice will be relatively high (as only one council in each cohort can be ‘best in class’). It remains to be seen how prescriptive each Notice is but local decision-making, and/or prioritising, may be affected by the process.
- 4.32 The additional cost of the deposit cannot be avoided by consumers when they buy in-scope items of packaging. There are potentially millions of UK residents who, through disability or age (or other, non-protected characteristics), may find it challenging and/or inconvenient to access and utilise a reverse vending terminal. Government is due to update its impact assessment for DRS at some point this year.
- 4.33 At time of writing the following examples of the proportion of the deposit, relative to the new net cost, were identified from the online sales website of a leading UK supermarket:
- 12 x 330ml Diet Coke £5.40, DRS £2.40 (33.77%)
 - Heinz Baked Beans £1.40, DRS £0.20 (12.50%)
 - Robinsons Orange Squash £1.85, DRS £0.20 (9.76%)
- 4.34 Government has decided to allow the retention of unredeemed deposits by the scheme, so that producers or retailers can reduce their costs of compliance.
- 4.35 The removal of up to 90% of plastic and metal packaging from recycling collections is likely to prove challenging to many councils who have contractual obligations that relate to waste composition, financial value or tonnage. It should be anticipated that Contractors may seek contractual relief and/or compensation through Change in Law (CiL) provisions. As part of the re3 response to the Government consultations on the Environment Act, in 2021, the re3 Project Team worked with the Contractor to assess the likely cost on the re3 contract. The cost was assessed, by the Contractor to be £582k. The cost was derived from an assessment of the loss of income and contractual costs.
- 4.36 The co-collection of household and trade waste, where appropriate (and subject to the eventual inclusion of trade obligations, as described above) should be pursued with caution. It has hitherto been broadly good practice for a council to seek to supplement funding through discretionary commercial activity. It remains to be seen, however, whether the funding principles of forthcoming CPR arrangements will simply ‘net off’ any income from commercial activity.
- 4.37 There are also some potential areas of opportunity for councils to exploit, and risk mitigations, subject to local risk appetite. Early examples include the following:
- The re3 partnership would be well advised to consider operating its own reverse vending service, within the partnership area. It could be a way of extending access to harder to reach groups, or to position DRS at other publicly convenient locations, such as transport hubs or in neighbourhoods. This might be a way of supporting the existing investment of the councils into their sorting facility and retaining important engagement with residents.
 - Alongside that, the councils should consider how waste collection can assist residents for whom DRS is either impractical, due to disability or advanced age, or even just inconvenient, such as residents who live in flats or HMOs where

their capacity to store recycling (until they next go to the reverse vending machine) is reduced. This might be through pursuing the concept of a Digital DRS, as is being trialled in Wales, which could allow users to scan in-scope items at home for inclusion within the existing council collection. This approach would also help to moderate the scale of any compensation/relief that could be claimed by the Contractor to the re3 partnership (as described above).

- Waste collection is an important universal service, with high levels of recognition by residents and thus reflects on the council as whole. Accordingly, councils should prepare to be creative in both service provision and local communication, to ensure that the value of the extant waste service is not negatively impacted by the 'market entrant' of DRS.
- With the requirements for collections to satisfy exacting 'efficiency and effectiveness' standards, the development of a glass collection service should be given careful consideration. If opportunities exist to reduce costs, and/or moderate likely long lead-in times for vehicles, through working as partners, they could be worthy of exploration.

4.38 It is recommended that the council, and its partners, seek to identify and exploit all possible opportunities to thrive within the new and still emerging legislative environment. As described above, the position of local government is not obviously bolstered by the new arrangements and that may have wider implications, beyond waste management.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 The specific contribution to relevant Reading Borough Council strategic aims, will be assessed when operational changes are designed and proposed for council approval.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Government estimates that the combined carbon saving from the suite of CPR arrangements will total 61.69 (MtCo2e) in the period (2022-2032). It should be noted however that operational impacts were not commenced in 2022, so it is perhaps best to attribute that benefit to the 10 years following commencement, rather than the specific dates.

6.2 Specific environmental and climate implications, relevant to Reading Borough Council, will be assessed when operational changes are designed and proposed for council approval.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

7.1 Specific community engagement implications, relevant to Reading Borough Council, will be assessed when operational changes are designed and proposed for council approval.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8.1 As noted, above, we await the impact assessment from Government for the DRS and Waste Collection Consistency limbs.

8.2 When the initial consultation on DRS was published, the accompanying risk assessment did not give specific consideration to any protected characteristics.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The scope and scale of change will undoubtedly have legal implications for the council and its partner councils.
- 9.2 The impact of DRS on the facilities provided through the council's shared arrangements with Bracknell Forest and Wokingham Borough, under the re3 partnership, will be significant. Government plans to remove some materials, previously included within contractual undertakings made by the re3 partnership (and sponsored by Defra through the Private Finance Initiative), by making them the responsibility of producers and other private sector organisations.
- 9.3 It is foreseeable that the councils will receive claims for compensation and or relief, through Change in Law mechanisms in the re3 contract, in respect of the following (examples):
- a. Change in waste composition
 - b. Change in waste tonnage
 - c. Loss of income
- 9.4 Government does acknowledge that there will most likely be some negative impacts on long-term contracts but has hitherto not recognised and/or quantified them specifically.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The financial implications of the proposed change in legislation are complex to assess at present, without full details of the requirements to which councils must comply. It is also apparent that some details are still being finalised.
- 10.2 However, the re3 Project Team have worked with the Contractor for the re3 partnership in seeking to quantify the impacts, as they are understood. Further detail has been contributed by colleagues in the council.
- 10.3 It is important to stress, however, that further detailed costings will be required once the full detail of the legislation is known. Undoubtedly the task of quantifying the financial implications will be an ongoing and iterative process, and further reports will be brought back with detailed financial implications once they are known.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1 N/A

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READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

TO:	HOUSING NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE		
DATE:	9TH MARCH 2023		
TITLE:	HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 2023/2024 & 2022/2023 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	COUNCILLOR K ROWLAND	PORTFOLIO:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES & COMMUNITY SAFETY
SERVICE:	ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICES	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	SAM SHEAN	TEL:	0118 937 2138
JOB TITLE:	HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC SERVICES MANAGER	E-MAIL:	sam.shean@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the progress of year-3 (2022/23) of the 3-year £9M Highway Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 1.2 To update the Committee on the progress of year-1 of the Council's additional £8M 5-year (2022/23 to 2026/27) Highway Capital Investment Programme.
- 1.3 To update the Committee on the progress of year-1 of the Council's additional £4M 2-year (2022/23 to 2023/24) Bridges & Structures Capital Investment Programme.
- 1.4 To inform the Committee of year -2 of the 3- year Department for Transport (DfT) Highway Maintenance Award 2023/24 Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement.
- 1.5 To provide the Committee with an update on the completed Highway Maintenance 2022/23 DfT Local Transport Block Funding Capital Works Programme.
- 1.6 Appendix 1: 2022/23 Programme Delivered
 - £9M Residential Roads & Pavements 3-year programme (2020/21 to 2022/23)
 - DfT Roads & Bridges Programme (2022/23) Programme

Appendix 2: Proposed Delivery programme

- £8M Residential Roads & Pavement Programme 5-Year Programme (2022/23 to 2026/27)

Appendix 3: Bridges & Structures 5-Year Rolling Programme (2023/24 to 2027/28)

Appendix 4: Financial Implications Report

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 That the Committee note the progress of year-3 (2022/23) of the 3-year £9M Highway Capital Investment Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the update on the progress of year-1 of the Council's additional £8M 5-year (2022/23 to 2026/27) Highway Capital Investment Programme.
- 2.3 That the Committee note the update on the progress of year-1 of the Council's additional £4M 2-year (2022/23 to 2023/24) Bridges & Structures Capital Investment Programme.
- 2.4 To inform the Committee of year-2 of the 3-year Department for Transport (DfT) Highway Maintenance Award 2023/24 Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement.
- 2.5 That the Committee note the update on the completed Highway Maintenance 2022/23 DfT Local Transport Block Funding Capital Works Programme.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 The Council approved Shaping Reading's Future - Our 3-year Corporate Plan 2022/23 to 2023/24. The Plan reflects the Council's priorities for Reading and provides direction for staff in delivering services to meet the needs of the communities within the Borough whilst working to a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and updated to include to current Year-2 priorities.
- 3.2 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service.
- 3.3 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway.
- 3.4 To provide a public highway network as safe as reasonably practical having due regard to financial constraints and statutory duties.

4. THE PROPOSAL

BACKGROUND

- **£9M COUNCIL FUNDED 3-YEAR (2020-2023) RESIDENTIAL ROADS & PAVEMENTS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**
- **ADDITIONAL £8M COUNCIL FUNDED 5-YEAR (2022-2027) RESIDENTIAL ROADS & PAVEMENTS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**
- **ADDITIONAL £4M COUNCIL FUNDED 2-YEAR (2022-2024) BRIDGES AND STRUCTURES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**

- 4.1 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy is informed by and supports delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan priorities including its commitment to address the climate change emergency and seeks to ensure that the Council is "fit for the future", with sound finances that allow the Council's future funding challenges and spending pressures to be met in as sustainable a way as possible.
- 4.2 The underpinning rationale of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy is to deliver a balanced and affordable budget that ensures the Council's finances are sustainable in both the short (one year) and medium term (three years). The Strategy is also informed by the Council's Vision: "to ensure that Reading realises its potential - and that everyone who lives and works in Reading can share in the benefits of its success", as well as its Corporate Plan priorities:
- Securing the economic success of Reading;
 - Improving access to decent housing to meet local needs;
 - Protecting and enhancing the life outcomes of vulnerable adults and children;
- 4.3 The Strategy builds on work over the previous 4-5 years to stabilise the Council's financial position and build reserves back to a more robust level and seeks to facilitate vital investment in core infrastructure to drive efficiency improvements, facilitate service redesign and thereby manage pressures within demand led services. This invest to save approach provides for a robust financial position going forward and enables vital and valued services can continue to be delivered.
- 4.4 As part of MTFS an ambitious capital investment programme is being delivered with the Council investing **£9M** (over 3-years from 2020/21 to 2022/23) Capital and an additional **£8M** (over 5-years from 2022/23 to 2026/27) in Reading's local residential road and pavement network. This welcomed investment is over and above the annual Local Transport Block Funding settlement from the (DfT) for highway maintenance work to improve the condition of local residential roads and pavements and reverse a deteriorating highway network.
- 4.5 In additional to the Council's investment in Reading's local residential road and pavement network, the Council is investing a further **£4M** in Reading's bridges & structures to address 'very poor' and 'poor' structural assets to improve their condition and reverse these deteriorating Council structural assets over a 2-year period (2022/23 to 2023/24).
- 4.6 The Council has and will continue to actively bid for appropriate external funding including Department for Transport (DfT) and Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) grants to maximise the use of available funding to improve the condition of all highway assets.

PROPOSED PROGRAMME - Highway Maintenance Spend Proposal 2023/24

- 4.7 The Council carried out a further Residents' Survey with its Citizen Panel in December 2020 as part of the Council's on-going conversation with residents. The aim of the survey was to gather information to inform customer service delivery in a number of ways. More specifically, the survey asks about

residents' views of their neighbourhoods and of Council services, which has helped the Council to understand what residents really value in their local areas and services, in order to make decisions on budgets and services that reflect those values.

- 4.8 Over 77% of respondents (compared with 65% in 2018) said that they were satisfied with their local area as a place to live. Respondents were asked what they thought needed improving and the number one consensus 47% (compared with 58.05% in 2018) said that the condition of roads & pavements needed improving.
- 4.9 The annual National Highways & Transport MORI Residents Satisfaction Surveys for 2022 has shown an improvement with 141 national indicators being above average and 90 indicators improving, with the biggest improvement in how the Council is dealing with the potholes / damaged roads indicator.
- 4.10 The Council continues to listen to the residents of Reading and the **£9M** Capital Investment over 3 years (2020/21 to 2022/23) and a further **£8M** Capital Investment in Residential Roads & Pavements over a 5-year period (2022/23 to 2026/27) will continue to accelerate the resurfacing programmes and reverse the deteriorating condition of our highway asset in Reading's local residential roads and pavements.
- 4.11 The Council's additional investment will deliver a total investment of £6.588M Capital Investment in local Residential Roads & Pavements and Bridges & Structures is set out in the table below (awaiting LLFA Award):

	2022/23 Spend (Works Only)	2023/24 Spend Proposal (Works Only)
Residential Roads Surfacing	£3,125,000	£2,088,000
Pavement Resurfacing	£625,000	£ 400,000
Bridges /Structures	£750,000	£3,900,000
Tree Planting	£96,000	£100,000
Innovation / Carbon Reduction	£0	£100,000
Lead Local Flood Alleviation Grant (LLFA) Funding	£150,000	TBC
TOTAL	£4,650,000	£6,588,000

Residential Roads Surfacing 2023/24 (£2,088,000) - Financed by the £1.5M Year-2 Council Investment (Year-2 of the £8M over 5-years) and £1.83M of the DfT 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Award for Bridges & Carriageways.

With the funding available we have prioritised the schemes based on nationally accepted technical assessment processes as well as visual engineering assessments.

- 4.12 The provisional programme for category 1 and 2 roads (mainly class A and class B roads and roads with high volumes of commercial traffic) surface treatment has been prioritised after assessment of carriageways using information from:
- SCANNER surveys which checks the structural integrity and residual life of existing carriageways;
 - SCRIM (sideways-force coefficient routine investigation machine) surveys to check skidding resistance.
 - VISUAL/ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT by Highways Maintenance (Engineering) Team.

Based on the above assessments the roads/sections of roads listed in Appendix 2 are recommended for treatment during Financial Year 2023/24. These are shown in priority order and will be progressed until the available allocation is spent. To make the most effective use of the budget available only the sections of the roads with a poor and deteriorating residual life, as identified from the SCANNER surveys and visual engineering assessments, will be treated.

- 4.13 Tenders for this work will be invited shortly and the documents will include reserve schemes so that in the event that returned tender prices prove to be more favourable than current estimates suggest, we will be able to undertake further scheme(s) within the available budget. In the event of unforeseen carriageway deterioration on roads not currently on the list, the programme of works would be reviewed and if necessary, a reallocation of funding within the budgets would be made to undertake higher priority carriageway schemes.
- 4.14 For category 3 roads (residential and other distributor roads) there is generally no skid or condition information available therefore priorities have to be established as a result of visual condition surveys to determine deterioration. The common types of deterioration are, for example, the number of potholes, rutting, the amount of patching and cracking.
- 4.15 A visual assessment of the road surface condition for minor roads is therefore carried out annually using the Council's agreed criteria. The assessment process consists of scoring the carriageway condition against various criteria. Those roads with the highest scores are then subjected to a further engineering assessment and those which, again, score highly through this process as well as being considered appropriate, are recommended for inclusion in the next Financial Year's minor roads surfacing programme, subject to budget availability.

- 4.16 Based on the above a list of schemes was prepared as detailed in Appendix 2. Estimated costs based on current contract expenditure are shown against each scheme and would suggest that up to 54 roads will be achieved in the programme.
- 4.17 In the event of unforeseen carriageway deterioration outside of the scope of normal maintenance work, the programme of works would be reviewed and if necessary, a reallocation of funding within the budgets would be made to undertake higher priority carriageway schemes.
- 4.18 Due to the size of the 8-Year Council investment programme (2020/27), the Council is engaging with Statutory Undertakers / Utility companies early to reduce the risk of newly resurfaced roads being dug up and also ensure that other planned major transport schemes are considered within the programme.
- 4.19 A number of cycle routes are included in the programme where they are located on residential roads.

It should be noted that a number of local cycle routes are on classified main roads. The annual highway maintenance programme will consider improvements to routes identified in the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

Pavement Resurfacing (£400,000) - Financed by the £1.5M Year-2 Council Investment (Year-2 of the £8M over 5-years) and £1.83M of the DfT 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Award for Bridges & Carriageways.

- 4.20 Potential pavement resurfacing schemes are identified as a result of visual condition surveys to determine deterioration. An assessment of the pavement surface is carried out on a rolling programme using the Council's agreed criteria. The assessment process consists of scoring the pavement condition against various criteria; those pavements with the highest scores, as well as being considered appropriate, are then recommended for inclusion in the next Financial Year's pavement maintenance programme, subject to budget availability.
- 4.21 It is proposed to continue to split the focus of the Council's Capital Investment pavement programme between a combination of resurfacing and/or reconstructing damaged pavements/stretches of pavements, and surfacing with a slurry sealing or equivalent product, as this cost-effective process which provides a new 'veneer' overlain surface that seals and ultimately extends the life of pavements, and which will accelerate the Pavement surfacing programme considerably. Both solutions will be delivered by the Council's in-house Highway Works Team.
- 4.22 The Council will continue to offer residents discounted vehicle crossings in residential roads where pavement works are being carried out, provided they are requested in advance and satisfy the Council's Vehicle Crossing Policy. To date we have installed 40 no. vehicle crossings as part of the pavement programmes, which is providing affordability to the residents of Reading.

- 4.23 The Council will continue to include highway trees where appropriate taking into account underground services and sight line visibility/safety requirements, to support the Council's carbon reduction and bio-diversity ambitions. To date 350 no. trees have been planted.
- 4.24 The Council will continue to install pedestrian dropped crossings at road junctions on the pavements being resurfaced to improve accessibility for all users of the public highway. The Council recognises that Reading is an old established town with historically older roads that were built at a time when accessibility was not considered during the design process. The pavement programme is an ideal opportunity to address this matter and to date 60 no. pedestrian crossings have been installed at road junctions.

Other Carriageway Maintenance Works - To be financed by the remaining £1.5M Year-2 Council Investment (Year-2 of the £8M over 5-years) and £1.83M of the DfT 2023/24 Local Transport Plan (LTP) Award for Bridges & Carriageways.

- 4.25 It is recognised that there are roads which repeatedly do not meet the appropriate criteria for inclusion within the major carriageway resurfacing or residential roads surfacing programmes but would benefit from other maintenance treatment(s) to extend the life of these assets. Examples of such maintenance works are explained in more detail below:
- Following a SCRIM (Sideway-force Coefficient Routine Investigation Machine) survey, where a carriageway surface appears, overall, to be in a good condition but would benefit from a surface rejuvenation to improve/restore skid resistance, extending the life of the road. This process would prove to be a cost-effective treatment, when compared with full scale resurfacing, enabling more roads to be treated.
 - There are a number of concrete roads across the Borough which have previously been overlain with a thin flexible surfacing course. Over time this surfacing has locally worn away leaving a 'scabbed' surface. Typically, these areas do not meet the Council's current defect investigatory level to trigger repairs and as long as the underlying concrete slabs are in a stable condition, they are unlikely to increase in depth. Although such deterioration is aesthetically not pleasing, if the underlying concrete slabs are in reasonable condition, such roads do not score/rank as high as other roads for programmed maintenance work. Nevertheless, these roads would benefit from an appropriate treatment whereby the existing surfacing is either rejuvenated or replaced to not only improve the running surface but to also seal and protect the underlying concrete slabs, in turn, extending the life expectancy of these roads.
 - There are also examples of localised carriageway deterioration where the surfacing and/or sub-structure show signs of wear and tear in specific areas but not extensive enough to justify full-scale maintenance work to the complete carriageway area. In these situations, substantially sized patching, whether in the form of a surfacing only repair, a surfacing and base course repair or perhaps a greater depth full reconstruction repair,

can rectify the issue locally and help to extend the overall life expectancy of the complete road.

Bridges & Structures 2022/24 (£3.9M) - Financed by the £4M Year-2 Council Investment and the £1.838M DfT Award

- 4.26 The Council has maintenance responsibility for around 80 bridges and 300 other structures. Each structure is inspected in line with the Code of Practice for Highway Structures. This welcomed additional Council investment will address the 'very poor' and 'poor' condition structures and extend the life of these structural assets. This investment is over and above the DfT annual award which together will assist in tackling the backlog in structural maintenance. Refer to Appendix 3 showing the proposed 2023/24 bridge and structures programme.
- 4.27 The Council approved an additional £ 7.2M Capital funding to address the IDR Bridge Bearings and Berkeley Avenue Strengthening schemes, however, as this scheme is the Council's strongest Bridges & Structures case to attract DfT funding, it is proposed to delay the scheme by a further year to allow a funding bid to be made when the opportunity becomes available. Spend approval and scheme update will be brought back to this committee at that time.
- 4.28 The Council will continue to actively bid for appropriate external funding including DfT, Environment Agency (EA) & DEFRA grants to maximise the use of available funding to improve the condition of all highway assets.
- 4.29 The Department of Transport (DfT) 3-year Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport and Highway Maintenance) settlement from Financial Year 2021/22, with an initial National funding pot of £1.7bn year-1 Funding, £3.8bn year-2 and then increasing to £4.4bn in future years, as part of the Local Roads Spending Review.
- 4.30 This settlement covers general headings of Major Carriageway, Pothole Reduction, Bridge / Structural Maintenance & Lead Local Flood Alleviation. The Highway Authority then needs to demonstrate that it has made suitable use of their allocation in accordance with highway needs and within the general criteria for which LTP maintenance funding is allocated.
- 4.31 In previous years the Local Transport Block Funding settlement has been split into a number of different areas to make best use of the funds available, and it is intended to continue with this approach. (Refer to item 4.11).

Bridge/Structural Maintenance £ 3.9M - Financed by the £4M 2-Year Council Investment and the £1.838M Award

- 4.32 The Council has maintenance responsibility for around 80 bridges and 300 other structures. Each structure is inspected in line with the Code of Practice for Highway Structures. Based on these inspections the priority for works within the capital programme is determined and a rolling 5-year programme is developed and updated annually. Appendix 3 details the schemes proposed for 2023/2024 that are achievable within the available budget. Whilst these schemes are all high priority, they will not necessarily be completed in the

order they are listed, as other factors have to be considered when developing a scheme and programme to ensure they are achievable within the timescale / financial year. The current bridge backlog is managed by risk assessment, monitoring and if necessary interim measures.

Street Lighting - LED streetlighting Capital Programme Update

- 4.33 The LED streetlighting upgrade programme has delivered over 60% annual energy consumption saving. The Council's additional investment is addressing those units not included within the original LED programme, including conversion of all sign lighting, subway lighting and bespoke lighting units.
- 4.34 Streetlighting maintenance has reverted to its normal cycle of works, predominantly dealing with emergencies such as RTA damage, column testing and inventory updates. Street lighting will be managed according to Highways asset management principles and inventory management and life cycle planning will be managed using the lighting module of the WDM system to coordinate with the pavement management and roads maintenance system. Once populated and operational the system will support web based self-serve reporting of street lighting faults via a dedicated portal improving customer reporting and reducing the reliance on the current communication channels.
- 4.35 The Council are currently reviewing our streetlighting specifications to reduce the brightness of the LED lanterns from 4,000k (kelvin), to 3,000k and below to reduce the environmental impact.

Pothole Repair Plan 2023/24 (Unfunded) - Financed by the DfT Award

- 4.36 No announcement has yet been made by the Department for Transport on the Pothole Action Fund Award allocation for 2023/24. However, should appropriate funding become available this will be reported accordingly to a future Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee. It is proposed to allocate any funding towards the carriageway resurfacing programmes, which will further improve the condition of Readings roads.

Lead Local Flood Alleviation Grant (LLFA) Funding for 2023/24 and later years (Unfunded)

- 4.37 No announcement has yet been made by DEFRA on the Lead Local Flood Alleviation grant for 2023/24. However, should appropriate funding become available this will be reported accordingly to a future Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee.

There are several costly flood risk/surface water management priority schemes identified for Reading under the 'Local Flood Risk Management Strategy' and the 'Surface Water Management Plan'. However, given that these are very costly schemes and, unfortunately, are unsupported by appropriate funding at this moment in time, it is highly unlikely that they will form part of the 2023/24 works programme.

- 4.38 Any future grant will, however, be used towards the annual ditch cleaning programme and to investigate/progress further several smaller schemes identified through flood modelling. A detailed list of works/schemes will be

presented to this Committee for approval at a future meeting during the year to keep Councillors updated.

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE DELIVERY UPDATE 2022/2023

- 4.39 The Council has carried out an extensive works programme of major carriageway resurfacing, specialist carriageway surfacing of concrete roads, minor residential roads surfacing, pavement resurfacing, streetlighting (LED Replacement), as well as a bridges/structural maintenance programme.

Year-3 of the £9M COUNCIL 3-YEAR CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN LOCAL ROADS & PAVEMENTS (Including the DfT LTP 2022/23 Award)

- 4.40 The Council advertised and awarded a competitive tender to Kiely Bros. Limited to deliver up to 500 local residential 'micro asphalt' and 'hot rolled asphalt' major roads, refer to Appendix 2 over the full Council's 3-year Residential Roads & Pavement investment programme.
- 4.41 An extensive Communications Strategy was developed to inform residents of the investment and improvement by the Council at the start of the year-1 local residential roads and pavement programme. The Communications Plan included residents' letters, an infographic to visually explain the surfacing process, as well as a colouring competition. An extensive and proactive social media strategy was also undertaken by the Council's Communication Team.
- 4.42 A further review of the communication strategy was carried out after Phase 2 of the local residential road year-2 programme. Following feedback from residents and Local Ward Councillors a 'lessons learnt' exercise was carried out and these are being incorporated in future work programmes.
- 4.43 The contractor resumed the residential road surfacing programme in early spring 2022 using 2 No. surfacing teams. The process involved surfacing of Micro-Asphalt material which is an appropriate local residential road product. The material is water based so cannot be laid during heavy rain nor during very cold spells, which prevents the material setting.
- 4.44 The Highways & Drainage (H&D) in-house operations team carried out extensive pre-patching in advance of the residential road surfacing programme. Any defect that warranted attention, irrespective of its depth were repaired, thereby providing added structural integrity to the road construction.

Pavement Resurfacing (£625,000) - Financed by the Year-3 Council Investment

- 4.45 As was the case with the first two years of the pavement maintenance programme, it was intended to focus the Council's Capital Investment year-3 programme on resurfacing and/or reconstructing damaged pavements/stretches of pavement in 2022/2023 using the Council's in-house Highway Teams, as they are a competitive and cost-effective team, who are experienced in delivering patching and minor road & pavement schemes.

- 4.46 The residential pavement / footway schemes programme commenced in early April 2022 and due for completion by the end of March 2023, refer to Appendix 2.

Bridge/Structural Maintenance - Financed by the Council's 2-year investment (2022/23 to 2023/24) and the annual DfT LTP Award

- 4.47 The Council has maintenance responsibility for around 80 bridges and 300 other structures. Each structure is inspected in line with the Code of Practice for Highway Structures. Based on these inspections the priority for works within the capital programme is determined and a rolling 5-year programme is developed and updated annually. Appendix 2 details the completed schemes for 2022/2023.
- 4.48 A range of schemes are underway including phase 4 of Kings Road Culvert, strengthening of phase 6 Kennetside Retaining Wall, Reading Station Subway Ceiling Refurbishment, bridge inspections & assessments, managing the abnormal loads, planned maintenance and reactive maintenance response.
- 4.49 Appendix 2 refers to the works programme delivered by the Highway Maintenance 2022/2023 Award from the DfT Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement.
- 4.51 Appendix 2 satisfies the Grant Determination requirements on the use of the funding allocation by the DfT for Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) 2022/2023 settlement.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 Reading Borough Council's vision is:

To help Reading realise its potential - and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share the benefits of its success.

- 5.2 The Highway Maintenance Programmes will contribute to the Council's 3-Year Corporate Plan 2021/2024 objectives of:

- Healthy environment - Keeping the town clean, safe, green and active
- Inclusive economy - Enabling the infrastructure to continue to support the economy
- Thriving Communities - Remaining financially sustainable and to ensure everyone has an equal chance to use the public highway

- 5.3 TEAM Reading values:

Together - Collaborative working approach between the Council, consultant, contractors and the public

Efficiency - Continue to explore efficiency savings within the contract

Ambitious - Investing into the public highway

Make a Difference - Providing a safe inclusive public highway for all users

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council declared a climate emergency at its meeting in February 2019 and as such recognises the need to minimise the climate impacts of its decisions. A climate impact assessment of this decision has been conducted which suggests a 'net low negative' impact. Highway maintenance is an energy intensive activity and some carbon emissions from the process are inevitable, but a number of steps are being taken to mitigate these impacts as far as possible as set out below.
- 6.2 The Council on 15th October 2019 formally adopted of the 'Unite Construction Charter' where the Authority supports the 'Get Britain Building' campaign, which is aimed at supporting and sustaining the British construction industry. As a result, all relevant construction contracts will be required to comply with the Authority's Sustainable Buying Standard for Highways and Construction Materials, which requires structural steel and other relevant materials to be covered by BES 6001 Responsible Sourcing of Construction Product certification, or equivalent.
- 6.3 Tenders for any subsequent contracts that are necessary will be invited to submit Environmental Implications proposals which will form part of the quality element of the tender evaluation. A social value quality submission will also be required to be submitted with tenders and evaluation.
- 6.4 Tenders also needed to include carbon reduction targets and improved sustainability within tender returns. The intent is to reduce the amount of carbon used to produce the materials at source, using recycled materials, lower temperature bitumens, reducing the uncontrolled waste in the environment to reduce pollution of the natural environment, use of electric vehicles and plant, as well as how they will achieve their carbon reduction targets.
- 6.5 The Council is committed to a tree planting programme to increase canopy cover, improve biodiversity and reduce localised flooding. The Council is committing up to 1% of the value of the road resurfacing programmes towards this initiative.
- 6.6 The Reading Climate Emergency Strategy, which was endorsed by the Council in November 2020, highlights the importance of adapting to climate impacts as well as reducing the emissions which are driving climate change. The Council will regularly review design standards for roads, in conjunction with industry bodies, to take into account the extreme weather events (both extreme heat and extreme cold) to ensure sustainability of the public highway network.

7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

- 7.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".

- 7.2 The public can report highway defects to the Council, including road and structures condition concerns, which are assessed and included within the annual review of the highway assets that inform the ‘Annual Status Option Reports’ (ASOR) with the proposed high priority schemes brought to Committee for consideration and approval should they meet the assessment criteria.
- 7.3 This report will be available on the Council’s website following Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee approval processes.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 8.2 The Highway Maintenance programme 2023/2024 consists of improvement work to the Council’s existing public highway network and will be making improvements to existing highway assets. There is no overall change to service delivery at this time and all users will have a safe public highway. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway.
- 9.2 The Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, has a duty under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to reduce the risk of flooding.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The Highway Maintenance programme 2023/2024 will be fully funded by the by the following:
- Year-3 of the Council’s £9M 3-year (2019/20 to 2022/23) Capital Residential Roads & Pavement Investment of £3.75M.
 - Year-2 of the Council’s £8M 3-year (2022/23 to 2024/25) additional Capital Residential Roads & Pavement Investment of £2M.
 - Year-2 of the Council’s £4M 2-year (2022/23 to 2023/24) Capital Bridges & Structures Investment of £2M.
 - The Council’s £ 1.371M Investment into LED Streetlighting Investment.
 - The Local Transport Block Funding (Integrated Transport & Highway Maintenance) settlement for 2023/2024).

- The DEFRA Lead Local Flood Alleviation Grant (LLFA) Funding 2023/2024 (tbc).

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None.

APPENDIX 1 - 2022/23 PROGRAMME DELIVERED

£9M RESIDENTIAL ROADS AND PAVEMENT INVESTMENT PROGRAMME AND DFT BRIDGES PROGRAMME 2022/23

(TOTAL ROADS SURFACED / RESURFACED: 491)

YEAR 1 (2020/21)

MICRO ASPHALT ROAD SURFACING - 63 ROADS SURFACED

ROAD	WARD
Lynmouth Road	ABBEY
Newport Road	ABBEY
Prince's Street	ABBEY
Sackville Street	ABBEY
Sun Street	ABBEY/PARK
Alma Street	BATTLE
Belmont Road	BATTLE
Cambridge Street	BATTLE
Cannon Street	BATTLE
Dorset Street	BATTLE
Elm Lodge Avenue	BATTLE
Sherwood Street	BATTLE
Falkland Road	CAVERSHAM
Hemdean Hill	CAVERSHAM
Hemdean Rise	CAVERSHAM
Paddock Road	CAVERSHAM
Piggott's Road	CAVERSHAM
The Slopes	CAVERSHAM
Wolsey Road	CAVERSHAM
Barnsdale Road	CHURCH
Hollydale Close	CHURCH
Poplar Gardens	CHURCH
Wentworth Avenue	CHURCH
Clent Road	KATESGROVE
Edgehill Street	KATESGROVE
Cranborne Gardens	KENTWOOD
Hartslock Way	KENTWOOD
Honiton Road	KENTWOOD
Modbury Gardens	KENTWOOD
Torrington Road	KENTWOOD
Upper Warren Avenue	MAPLEDURHAM
Baker Street	MINSTER
Boston Avenue	MINSTER
Brownlow Road	MINSTER
Brunswick Street	MINSTER
Castle Crescent	MINSTER
Westcote Road	MINSTER
Taff Way	NORCOT

New Lane Hill	NORCOT/SOUTHCOTE/TILEHURST
Waverley Road	NORCOT/BATTLE
Grange Avenue	PARK
Manchester Road	PARK
Norris Road	PARK
Pitcroft Avenue	PARK
Saint Edward's Road	PARK
Cavendish Road	PEPPARD
Eric Avenue	PEPPARD
Chiltern Road	PEPPARD/THAMES
Addington Road	REDLANDS
Canterbury Road	REDLANDS
Denmark Road	REDLANDS
Circuit Lane	SOUTHCOTE
Haldane Road	THAMES
Newlands Avenue	THAMES
Newlands Avenue	THAMES
Peppard Road	THAMES
Peppard Road	THAMES
Corwen Road	TILEHURST
Crescent Road	TILEHURST
Elmstone Drive	TILEHURST
Chagford Road	WHITLEY
Swallowfield Drive	WHITLEY

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

YEAR 2 (2021/22)

MICRO ASPHALT ROAD SURFACING - 277 ROADS SURFACED

ROAD	WARD
Addison Road	ABBEY
Baker Street	ABBEY
Carey Street	ABBEY
George Street	ABBEY
Great Knollys Street	ABBEY
Kings Meadow Road	ABBEY
Orts Road	ABBEY
Ross Road	ABBEY
Argyle Road	BATTLE
Argyle Street	BATTLE
Audley Street	BATTLE
Brunswick Hill	BATTLE
Catherine Street	BATTLE
Chester Street, Reading	BATTLE
Connaught Close	BATTLE
Connaught Road	BATTLE

Curzon Street	BATTLE
Deepdene Close	BATTLE
Fulmead Road	BATTLE
Gloucester Road	BATTLE
Gower Street	BATTLE
Hart Street	BATTLE
Kensington Road	BATTLE
Kent Road	BATTLE
Lancing Close	BATTLE
Little Street	BATTLE
Lorne Street	BATTLE
Norfolk Road	BATTLE
Ormsby Street	BATTLE
Rutland Road	BATTLE
Suffolk Road	BATTLE
Thornton Mews	BATTLE
Valentia Road	BATTLE
Wantage Road	BATTLE/NORCOT
Anglefield Road	CAVERSHAM
Champion Road	CAVERSHAM
Chester Street, Caversham	CAVERSHAM
Clifton Park Road	CAVERSHAM
Coldicutt Street	CAVERSHAM
Cromwell Road	CAVERSHAM
Donegal Close	CAVERSHAM
Eccles Close	CAVERSHAM
Forge Close	CAVERSHAM
Hampden Road	CAVERSHAM
Harley Road	CAVERSHAM
Heron Island	CAVERSHAM
Ian Mikardo Way	CAVERSHAM
Keston Close	CAVERSHAM
Kings Road Caversham	CAVERSHAM
Knighton Close	CAVERSHAM
Luscombe Close	CAVERSHAM
Mill Road	CAVERSHAM
Nelson Road	CAVERSHAM
North Street, Caversham	CAVERSHAM
Oxford Street	CAVERSHAM
Peel Close	CAVERSHAM
Queen Street	CAVERSHAM
Queens Road Caversham	CAVERSHAM
Richmond Road, Caversham (Albert Road to Woodcote Road)	CAVERSHAM
Short Street, Caversham	CAVERSHAM
South View Avenue	CAVERSHAM
St Johns Road	CAVERSHAM

Talbot Close	CAVERSHAM
Washington Road	CAVERSHAM
The Mount	CAVERSHAM/THAMES
Blagdon Road	CHURCH
Foxhays Road	CHURCH
Hawkchurch Road	CHURCH
Linden Road	CHURCH
Rushden Drive	CHURCH
Salcombe Road	CHURCH
Seaton Gardens	CHURCH
Staverton Road	CHURCH
Tamarisk Avenue	CHURCH
Totnes Road	CHURCH
Wheatley Close	CHURCH
Willow Gardens	CHURCH
Windermere Road	CHURCH
Alpine Street	KATESGROVE
Arkwright Road	KATESGROVE
Bourne Avenue	KATESGROVE
Chesterman Street	KATESGROVE
Dale Road	KATESGROVE
East Street	KATESGROVE
Elgar Road	KATESGROVE
Francis Street	KATESGROVE
Glebe Road	KATESGROVE
Hagley Road	KATESGROVE
Highgrove Street	KATESGROVE
Home Farm Close	KATESGROVE
Milman Road	KATESGROVE
Newark Street	KATESGROVE
Rowley Road	KATESGROVE
Shenstone Road	KATESGROVE
Short Street	KATESGROVE
South Street, Reading (London Street to Sidmouth Street)	KATESGROVE
Spring Gardens	KATESGROVE
Upper Crown Street	KATESGROVE
West Hill	KATESGROVE
Bramshaw Road	KENTWOOD
Brooksby Road	KENTWOOD
Chepstow Road	KENTWOOD
Coalport Way	KENTWOOD
Forest Hill	KENTWOOD
Grasmere Avenue	KENTWOOD
Kinson Road	KENTWOOD
Larissa Close	KENTWOOD
Oakham Close	KENTWOOD
Pottery Road	KENTWOOD

Rockbourne Gardens	KENTWOOD
Rydal Avenue	KENTWOOD
Ullswater Drive	KENTWOOD
Weald Rise	KENTWOOD
Fernbrook Road	MAPLEDURHAM
Hilltop Road	MAPLEDURHAM
Queensborough Drive	MAPLEDURHAM
Shepherds Lane	MAPLEDURHAM
Silverthorne Drive	MAPLEDURHAM
Wincroft Road	MAPLEDURHAM
Highmoor Road	MAPLEDURHAM /THAMES
Conisboro Avenue	MAPLEDURHAM/THAMES
Benyon Court	MINSTER
Berkeley Avenue (Service Road from 89 - 119)	MINSTER
Brook Street West	MINSTER
Carsdale Close	MINSTER
Coley Park Road	MINSTER
Downshire Square	MINSTER
Epsom Court	MINSTER
Froxfield Avenue	MINSTER
Garnet Hill	MINSTER
Garnet Street	MINSTER
Kimberley Close	MINSTER
Lima Court	MINSTER
Littlecote Drive	MINSTER
Lower Brook Street	MINSTER
Lower Field Road	MINSTER
Maitland Road	MINSTER
Maldon Close	MINSTER
Mansfield Road	MINSTER
Marlborough Court	MINSTER
Portway Close	MINSTER
St Saviours Road	MINSTER
Tintern Crescent	MINSTER
Trelleck Road	MINSTER
Upavon Drive	MINSTER
Wolseley Street	MINSTER
Fairsted Close	NORCOT
Links Drive	NORCOT
Mowbray Drive	NORCOT
Shaftesbury Road	NORCOT
St Georges Terrace	NORCOT
Tern Close	NORCOT
Usk Road	NORCOT
Amity Road	PARK
Amity Street	PARK

College Road	PARK
Coventry Road	PARK
Culver Road	PARK
Norton Road	PARK
Wykeham Road	PARK
Abingdon Drive	PEPPARD
Aldeburgh Close	PEPPARD
Barnard Close	PEPPARD
Bellingham Walk	PEPPARD
Birchwood Close	PEPPARD
Bramber Mews	PEPPARD
Buckingham Drive (service road in front of 51 - 87)	PEPPARD
Buckingham Drive (Service Road junction Marshland Square to 49)	PEPPARD
Burcombe Way	PEPPARD
Carisbrooke Close	PEPPARD
Chalgrove Way	PEPPARD
Chestnut Avenue	PEPPARD
Copse Avenue	PEPPARD
Corfe Mews	PEPPARD
Courtenay Drive	PEPPARD
Crawshay Drive	PEPPARD
Dacre Avenue	PEPPARD
Devon Drive	PEPPARD
Dunster Close	PEPPARD
Earlsfield Close	PEPPARD
Elstow Avenue	PEPPARD
Emmer Green Court	PEPPARD
Fraser Avenue	PEPPARD
Greenleas Avenue	PEPPARD
Knights Way	PEPPARD
Littlestead Close	PEPPARD
Lowfield Green	PEPPARD
Marshland Square	PEPPARD
Micklands Road	PEPPARD
Pinetree Court	PEPPARD
Rosehill Park	PEPPARD
Spinney Close	PEPPARD
Woods Road	PEPPARD
Yarnton Close	PEPPARD
St Barnabas Road	PEPPARD/THAMES
Alexandra Road	REDLANDS
Erleigh Road (Craven Road to Alexandra Road)	REDLANDS
Granby Gardens	REDLANDS
Hatherley Road	REDLANDS

Hexham Road	REDLANDS
Junction Road	REDLANDS
Kearsley Road	SOUTHCOTE
Pentland Close	SOUTHCOTE
Southcote Farm Lane	SOUTHCOTE
Briar Close	THAMES
Buxton Avenue	THAMES
Cawsam Gardens	THAMES
Cedarwood Crescent	THAMES
Eliot Close	THAMES
Ellesmere Close	THAMES
Harrogate Road	THAMES
Kildare Gardens	THAMES
Lady Jane Court	THAMES
Matlock Road	THAMES
Moss Close	THAMES
Norman Road	THAMES
Oakley Road (Albert Road to Kidmore Road)	THAMES
Onslow Gardens	THAMES
Penn Close	THAMES
Picton Way	THAMES
Raglan Gardens	THAMES
Scholars Close	THAMES
St Andrews Road	THAMES
The Ridgeway	THAMES
Valentine Crescent	THAMES
Surley Row	THAMES/PEPPARD
St Peters Avenue	THAMES/MAPLEDURHAM
Berkshire Drive	TILEHURST
Chieveley Close	TILEHURST
Delaney Close	TILEHURST
Felton Way	TILEHURST
Green Acre Mount	TILEHURST
Hazelwood Close	TILEHURST
Holland Road	TILEHURST
Neath Gardens	TILEHURST
Recreation Road	TILEHURST
Elvaston Way	TILEHURST/NORCOT
Ashby Court	WHITLEY
Ashmore Road	WHITLEY
Blandford Road	WHITLEY
Brixham Road	WHITLEY
Callington Road	WHITLEY
Chudleigh Gardens	WHITLEY
Cooper Close	WHITLEY
Corinne Close	WHITLEY
Denbury Gardens	WHITLEY
Durham Close	WHITLEY

Heatherden Close	WHITLEY
Helston Gardens	WHITLEY
Kingsbridge Road	WHITLEY
Kingston Gardens	WHITLEY
Lamerton Road	WHITLEY
Landrake Crescent	WHITLEY
Lulworth Road	WHITLEY
Meavy Gardens	WHITLEY
Merrivale Gardens	WHITLEY
Merton Road North	WHITLEY
Merton Road South	WHITLEY
Moreleigh Close	WHITLEY
Mortimer Close	WHITLEY
Newlyn Gardens	WHITLEY
Padstow Gardens	WHITLEY
Redruth Gardens	WHITLEY
Rossington Place	WHITLEY
Salford Close	WHITLEY
Sheldon Gardens	WHITLEY
Shirley Avenue	WHITLEY
Spencer Road	WHITLEY
Stockton Road	WHITLEY
Stratton Gardens	WHITLEY
Thurlestone Gardens	WHITLEY
Village Close	WHITLEY
Whitstone Gardens	WHITLEY
Woodman Close	WHITLEY
Woodside Way	WHITLEY
Wrenswood Close	WHITLEY
Yelverton Road	WHITLEY

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

YEAR 3 (2022/23)

MICRO ASPHALT ROAD SURFACING - 109 ROADS SURFACED

ROAD	WARD
Elm Park Road	BATTLE
Gordon Place	BATTLE
Graveney Drive	CAVERSHAM HEIGHTS
Ashburton Road	CHURCH
Modbury Gardens	CHURCH
Lincoln Road	KATESGROVE
Mount Street	KATESGROVE
Surrey Road	KATESGROVE
Waterloo Road	KATESGROVE
Winchester Road	KATESGROVE

South Street	KATESGROVE / REDLANDS
Armour Hill	KENTWOOD
Broomfield Road	KENTWOOD
Woodcote Way	MAPLEDURHAM
Parkside Road	MINSTER/SOUTHCOTE
Combe Road	NORCOT
Stoneham Close	NORCOT
Tofrek Terrace	NORCOT
Windrush Way	NORCOT
Amherst Road	PARK
Bishops Road	PARK
Brighton Road	PARK
Cholmeley Place	PARK
Cholmeley Road	PARK
Liverpool Road	PARK
Palmer Park Avenue	PARK
Radstock Road	PARK
Waybrook Crescent	PARK
Aldenham Close	PEPPARD
All Hallows Road	PEPPARD
Blackwater Close	PEPPARD
Chatsworth Close	PEPPARD
Dumbarton Way	PEPPARD
Eynsford Close	PEPPARD
Fallowfield Close	PEPPARD
Farleigh Mews	PEPPARD
Farnham Drive	PEPPARD
Framlingham Drive	PEPPARD
Galsworthy Drive	PEPPARD
Gayhurst Close	PEPPARD
Gifford Close	PEPPARD
Goodrich Close	PEPPARD
Hadleigh Rise	PEPPARD
Harlech Avenue	PEPPARD
Hawthorne Road	PEPPARD
Hertford Close	PEPPARD
Highbridge Close	PEPPARD
Holyrood Close	PEPPARD
Ibstone Avenue	PEPPARD
Ilchester Mews	PEPPARD
Illingworth Avenue	PEPPARD

Jordan Close	PEPPARD
Kelso Mews	PEPPARD
Kendal Avenue	PEPPARD
Kirkham Close	PEPPARD
Launceston Avenue	PEPPARD
Lomond Avenue	PEPPARD
Mallory Avenue	PEPPARD
Melford Green	PEPPARD
Montpelier Drive	PEPPARD
Netley Close	PEPPARD
Northbrook Road	PEPPARD
Odiham Avenue	PEPPARD
Old Barn Close	PEPPARD
Osterley Drive	PEPPARD
Pendennis Avenue	PEPPARD
Queensway	PEPPARD
Ragley Mews	PEPPARD
Rowallan Close	PEPPARD
Stirling Close	PEPPARD
Tenby Avenue	PEPPARD
The Ridings	PEPPARD
Thetford Mews	PEPPARD
Twin Oaks	PEPPARD
Ulster Close	PEPPARD
Uppingham Gardens	PEPPARD
Venetia Close	PEPPARD
Whitby Green	PEPPARD
Blenheim Gardens	REDLANDS
Cintra Avenue	REDLANDS
Foxhill Road	REDLANDS
Newcastle Road (Cul-de-Sac)	REDLANDS
Warwick Road	REDLANDS
Stanhope Road	REDLANDS/CHURCH
Holybrook Crescent	SOUTHCOTE
Brill Close	THAMES
Dovedale Close	THAMES
Longhurst Close	THAMES
Morecambe Avenue	THAMES
Orwell Close	THAMES
St Davids Close	THAMES
Tyler Close	THAMES

Uplands Road	THAMES
Valley Close	THAMES
Wilwyne Close	THAMES
Woodberry Close	THAMES
Bourton Close	TILEHURST
Calder Close	TILEHURST
Normanstead Road	TILEHURST
Portland Gardens	TILEHURST
Basingstoke Road Service Road	WHITLEY
Creswell Close	WHITLEY
Harness Close	WHITLEY
Heroes Walk	WHITLEY
Hilary Close	WHITLEY
Lexington Grove	WHITLEY
Sampage Close	WHITLEY
Sandleford Close	WHITLEY
St Elizabeth Close	WHITLEY

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

HOT ROLLED ASPHALT RESURFACING 2021 - 15 ROADS RESURFACED

ROAD	WARD
Whiteknights Road	PARK
Kentwood Hill	KENTWOOD
Whitley Street	KATESGROVE
Beresford Road	BATTLE
Little Johns Lane	BATTLE
Vicarage Road	KATESGROVE/REDLANDS
Eaton Place	ABBEY
Hemdean Road (Oakley Rd to Sheridan Ave)	CAVERSHAM/THAMES
Liebenrood Road	SOUTHCOTE
Scours Lane	KENTWOOD
Trafford Road	ABBEY
St Annes Road	CAVERSHAM
Upton Road	NORCOT
George Street, Reading	ABBEY/BATTLE
Christchurch Gardens	KATESGROVE/REDLANDS

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**HOT ROLLED ASPHALT RESURFACING 2022 - 13 ROADS RESURFACED**

ROAD	WARD
Elmhurst Road	REDLANDS/CHURCH
Star Road	CAVERSHAM/THAMES
Cholmeley Road	PARK
Oakley Road (Kidmore Road to Hemdean Road R/Bout)	THAMES
Halls Road	TILEHURST
Norcot Road (Church End Lane to Broomfield Road)	KENTWOOD/TILEHURST/NORCOT
Alexandra Road (London Road to Erleigh Road)	REDLANDS
De Beauvoir Road	REDLANDS
Francis Street (Hill St to Sherman Rd)	KATESGROVE
Somerstown Court	ABBEY
Pierces Hill	KENTWOOD / TILEHURST
King Street	ABBEY
Janson Court	COLEY

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**KIELYLOCK SURFACE DRESSING JUNE 2022 - 2 ROADS SURFACED**

ROAD	WARD
Albert Road	THAMES
Erleigh Road (Alexandra Road to Addington Road)	CAVERSHAM

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME**CONCRETE ROAD RESURFACING 2021 - 5 ROADS RESURFACED**

ROAD	WARD
Cressingham Road	WHITLEY
The Meadway	NORCOT
Southcote Lane (remaining sections)	SOUTHCOTE
Northumberland Avenue (Honiton R/A to Hartland Rd)	WHITLEY
Northumberland Avenue (Honiton Road to Hartland Road)	WHITLEY

RESIDENTIAL ROADS INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

CONCRETE ROAD RESURFACING 2022/23 - 7 ROADS RESURFACED

ROAD	WARD
Hartland Road (Basingstoke Road to Northumberland Ave)	WHITLEY
Northcourt Avenue	WHITLEY
Dawlish Road	WHITLEY
Corbridge Road	WHITLEY
Newcastle Road	WHITLEY
Hexham Road	WHITLEY
Northumberland Avenue (Honiton Road including R/A to Cressingham Rd)	WHITLEY

2022/23 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
	£	£
Kings Road Culvert Strengthening - Phase 4	240,000.00	240,000.00
	£	£
Bridge Assessment Programme (intrusive investigations and load assessment of 5no. Culverts in North Reading)	90,000.00	330,000.00
	£	£
Kennetside Retaining Wall Strengthening - Phase 6 (approximately 112m length of river wall at the confluence with the Thames, plus parapet replacement)	950,000.00	1,280,000.00
	£	£
IDR Bridges - GPR and Topo Survey	50,000.00	1,330,000.00
	£	£
Kennetside Retaining Wall Strengthening - Phase 5 (approximately 65m length of river wall adjacent to Sapphire Plaza - between Silly Bridge and Kings Bridge)	103,000.00	1,433,000.00
	£	£
General Management	35,000.00	1,468,000.00
	£	£
Kings Meadow Footbridge Replacement	225,000.00	1,693,000.00
	£	£
Fobney Bridge PTSI	25,000.00	1,718,000.00
	£	£
Station Subway Ceiling Removal	380,000.00	2,098,000.00

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APPENDIX 2 - PROPOSED DELIVERY PROGRAMME

MAJOR ROADS RESURFACING LIST 2022/2023:

No.	Road	.	Section
1	Richfield Avenue (Caversham Road to Cow Lane)		Caversham Road to Cow Lane
2	Lowfield Road (Buckingham Drive to Montpelier Drive)		Buckingham Drive to Montpelier Drive
3	IDR Inner Relief Road (Castle Street off slip North)		Castle Street off slip North
4	Forbury Road (Station Road to Vastern Road roundabout)		Station Road to Vastern Road roundabout
5	Honey End Lane (Cockney Hill to Chimney Court)		Cockney Hill to Chimney Court
6	Kings Road (Kingsgate Street to Cemetery Junction)		Kingsgate Street to Cemetery Junction
7	Shinfield Road (South of Beech Road for 200m north)		South of Beech Road for 200m north
8	Rose Kiln Lane (Northbound from Matalan roundabout)		Northbound from Matalan roundabout
9	Hogarth Avenue (Bath Road to Lingholm Close)		Bath Road to Lingholm Close
10	Shinfield Road (North of Wellington Avenue junction)		North of Wellington Avenue junction
11	Greyfriars Road (Tudor Road to Sackville Road)		Tudor Road to Sackville Road
12	Church Road (St Annes Road to 200 metres west)		St Annes Road to 200 metres west
13	Kidmore End Road (Brooklyn Drive north to Borough Boundary)		Brooklyn Drive north to Borough Boundary

14	Bath Road (Castle Hill, Castle Hill roundabout to Harrow Court)		Castle Hill, Castle Hill roundabout to Harrow Court
15	The Meadway (Park Grove for 300 metres west)		Park Grove for 300 metres west
16	Link between Rose Kiln Lane and IDR (Berkeley Avenue to Pell Street)		Berkeley Avenue to Pell Street
17	Peppard Road (Cedar Wood Crescent to south of Fallowfield Close)		Cedar Wood Crescent to south of Fallowfield Close
18	Whitley Wood Road (Newstead Rise to Shinfield Road)		Newstead Rise to Shinfield Road
19	Church End Lane		Full Extent
20	Russell Street		Full Extent
21	Lower Henley Road (Star Road to Rosebank House)		Star Road to Rosebank House
22	Caversham Road (Vastern Road to Thames Avenue)		Vastern Road to Thames Avenue
23	Lowfield Road (Montpelier Drive to Caversham Park Road)		Montpelier Drive to Caversham Park Road
24	Tilehurst Road (Liebenrood Road to Parkside Road)		Liebenrood Road to Parkside Road
25	George Street Caversham (Queens Road to Gosbrook Road)		Queens Road to Gosbrook Road
26	Caversham Road (Fire Station to Vastern Road)		Fire Station to Vastern Road
27	Kidmore Road (Highmoor Road to Richmond Road)		Highmoor Road to Richmond Road

28	Westfield Road (Gosbrook Road for 200 metres north)		Gosbrook Road for 200 metres north
29	Kidmore Road (Sandcroft Road to Borough Boundary)		Sandcroft Road to Borough Boundary
30	Henley Road (Chiltern Road to Grosvenor Road)		Chiltern Road to Grosvenor Road
31	Rose Kiln Lane (Basingstoke Road to Gillette Way)		Basingstoke Road to Gillette Way
32	Tilehurst Road (Between Connaught Road and Cranbury Road)		Between Connaught Road and Cranbury Road
33	Craven Road (Erleigh Road for 160 metres south)		Erleigh Road for 160 metres south
34	Bath Road (Southcote Lane to Berkeley Avenue)		Southcote Lane to Berkeley Avenue
35	Upper Woodcote Road (Richmond Road to St Peters Avenue)		Richmond Road to St Peters Avenue
36	Oxford Road (Eaton Place to Russell Street)		Eaton Place to Russell Street
37	Overdown Road (Brooksby Road to Larkswood Close)		Brooksby Road to Larkswood Close
38	Bridge Street (Caversham Bridge to Church Street)		Caversham Bridge to Church Street
39	London Road (Craven Road to Denmark Road)		Craven Road to Denmark Road
40	Richmond Road (Albert Road to Kidmore Road)		Albert Road to Kidmore Road
41	Caversham Park Road (100 metres either side of Northbrook Road)		100 metres either side of Northbrook Road

42	Basingstoke Road (Across Manor Farm Road)		Across Manor Farm Road
43	Caversham Park Road (Henley Road to North of Lowfield Road)		Henley Road to North of Lowfield Road
44	Caversham Road (Chatham Street roundabout to Weldale Street)		Chatham Street roundabout to Weldale Street
45	School Road (Chapel Hill to Westwood Road)		Chapel Hill to Westwood Road
46	Kidmore Road (Ashcroft Close to Morecambe Avenue)		Ashcroft Close to Morecambe Avenue
47	Briants Avenue		Full Extent
48	Whitley Wood Lane (Forest Dean to Burlingham Close)		Forest Dean to Burlingham Close
49	Norcot Road (Kentwood Hill to Blundells Road)		Kentwood Hill to Blundells Road
50	Elgar Road South		Full Extent
51	Alexandra Road (Addington Road to Upper Redlands Road)		Addington Road to Upper Redlands Road
52	Erleigh Road (Craven Road to Alexandra Road)		Craven Road to Alexandra Road
53	St Saviours Road (Holybrook Road to Berkeley Avenue)		Holybrook Road to Berkeley Avenue
54	De Montford Road		Full Extent

Appendix 3: Bridges & Structures 5-Year Programme (2023/24 to 2027/28)

ROLLING 5- YEAR PROGRAMME (2023/24 TO 2027/28)

2023/24 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

No.	Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Kennetside Retaining Wall Strengthening - Phase 7 (approximately 40m length of river wall near Silly Bridge plus 300m of parapet replacement on the wall)	£500,000.00	£500,000.00
2	Orbit Footbridge deck repairs and repainting	£300,000.00	£800,000.00
3	Berkeley Avenue Canal Bridge Refurbishment	£450,000.00	£1,250,000.00
4	Berkeley Avenue Railway Bridge Refurbishment	£450,000.00	£1,700,000.00
5	Denbeigh Place Culvert Strengthening Works	£450,000.00	£2,150,000.00
6	IDR Footbridge Deck Waterproofing	£250,000.00	£2,400,000.00
7	Duke Street Culvert Investigation and Repairs	£100,000.00	£2,500,000.00
8	General Management	£35,000.00	£2,535,000.00
9	Repair/Replacement of Stone Parapet on High Br	£250,000.00	£2,785,000.00

2024/25 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

No.	Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Kennetside Retaining Wall Strengthening - Phase 8 (approximately 40m length of river wall near Silly Bridge plus 300m of parapet replacement on the wall)	£550,000.00	£550,000.00
2	Oxford Road Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£1,400,000.00	£1,950,000.00
3	Castle Street North Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£900,000.00	£2,850,000.00
4	Castle Street South Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£900,000.00	£3,750,000.00
5	Chatham Street North Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£875,000.00	£4,625,000.00

6	Chatham Street South Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£875,000.00	£5,500,000.00
7	IDR Kennet Bridge - replacement of bearings and expansion joints	£1,350,000.00	£6,850,000.00
8	Load Assessments & Structural Reviews	£50,000.00	£6,900,000.00
9	General Management	£35,000.00	£6,935,000.00
10	Caversham Mill Footbridge Deck Replacement	£50,000.00	£6,985,000.00

2025/26 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

No.	Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Kennetside Retaining Wall Strengthening - Phase 8 (approximately 40m length of river wall near Cholmeley Road)	£500,000.00	£500,000.00
2	Randolph Road Culvert Strengthening	£400,000.00	£900,000.00
3	Addison Road Culvert Strengthening	£400,000.00	£1,300,000.00
4	Load Assessments & Structural Reviews	£50,000.00	£1,350,000.00
5	Bridge deck waterproofing repairs	£150,000.00	£1,500,000.00
6	General Management	£35,000.00	£1,535,000.00

2026/27 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

No	Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Podium Structure (Station Approach Understructure East) Infilling	£600,000.00	£600,000.00
2	Brook Street West Retaining Wall Strengthening	£700,000.00	£1,300,000.00
2	Bridge deck waterproofing repairs	£200,000.00	£1,500,000.00
4	General Management	£35,000.00	£1,535,000.00

2027/28 CAPITAL BRIDGE PROGRAMME

No.	Scheme / Project	Cost Estimate	Cumulative Total
1	Newport Road Culvert Strengthening	£400,000.00	£400,000.00

2	Swansea Road Culvert Strengthening	£400,000.00	£800,000.00
3	De Montfort Road Culvert Strengthening	£400,000.00	£1,200,000.00
4	Bridge deck waterproofing repairs	£250,000.00	£1,450,000.00
5	General Management	£35,000.00	£1,485,000.00

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APPENDIX 4:

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS - HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023/24

The financial implications arising from the proposals set out in this report are set out below:

1. Revenue Implications:

	2023/24
Employee costs	£ 100,000
Other running costs (On-going Maint.)	£ 0
Capital financings costs	£ 0
Expenditure	£ 100,000
Income from: Fees and charges (see note2) Grant funding (specify) Other income	£ 0
Total Income	£ 0
Net Cost (+)/saving (-)	£ 100,000

2. Capital Implications

Capital Programme reference from budget book: page line	2023/24
Proposed Capital Expenditure:	£ 6,588,000
Funded by Grant (specify)LTP for Bridges & Carriageways Section 106 (specify) Other services	£ 1,838,000
Capital Receipts/Borrowing	£ 4,750,000
Total Funding	£ 6,588,000

3. Value for Money (VFM)

This is a statutory service provision.

Tenders will be advertised in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and included a 60/40 split between tender price and quality. The size of the capital programmes will ensure that competitive tenders are received.

4. Risk Assessment.

The Council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to maintain the public highway. The investment programme will reduce the risk to the Council and the public for decades to come. The on-going maintenance costs will be absorbed within existing revenue budgets for

highway maintenance. Method statements agreed with winning contractor to ensure delivery during the current financial crisis and fall out from the Covid Pandemic to minimise disruption. Supply chain for products risk mitigated by the contractor buying large volumes & stockpiling materials based on the size of the capital programme

Increasing fuel costs is and will remain a risk pressure, which will need to be manage throughout the programme.