

Summons and Agenda 27 June 2023

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



Jackie Yates CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Civic Offices, Bridge Street, Reading RG1 2LU 18 937 3787

To: All Members of the Council

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

19 June 2023

Your contact is: Michael Popham - Democratic Services Manager

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Reading Borough Council to be held at **Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Reading** on **Tuesday, 27 June 2023 at 6.30 pm,** when it is proposed to transact the business specified in the Agenda enclosed herewith.

Yours faithfully

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's Announcements.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

11 - 22

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

4. **PETITIONS**

To receive petitions in accordance with Standing Order 8.

5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

6. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Questions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

Motions

7. EXTENSION OF THE FRANCHISE - OUR HOME OUR VOTE

Councillor Moore to move:

The Council notes:

The Elections Act received Royal Assent on the 28th of April 2022.

The Act is a major piece of national legislation with local implications for the residents of Reading, including the use of mandatory photographic voter ID at the polling station and changes to overseas voting and voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens.

In 2019, people born outside the UK made up an estimated <u>14% of the</u> <u>UK's population</u>. They live, work, study, and make use of public services in the UK, and call the UK their home. Many of our foreignborn residents from EU and Commonwealth countries can vote in our local elections. However, approximately over <u>1 million residents</u> across England and Northern Ireland do not have a right to vote. In the Reading Borough Council area, approximately 38,000 people (according to the last census) were not born in the UK and therefore may not have the right to vote.

Scotland and Wales implemented residence-based voting rights where all residents with lawful immigration status have the right to vote in local and devolved national elections. A poll conducted by Number Cruncher showed that <u>63% of people agree</u> that all residents with lawful status in the UK should have the right to vote in local elections in England and Northern Ireland.

The Council welcomes:

That all our residents, no matter their nationality, call Reading their home and bring significant value to our area.

That the voting and candidacy rights of EU citizens with pre-settled and settled status who entered the UK before 2021 will be maintained.

That <u>the London Assembly passed a motion in support of residence-based voting rights on the 11th of November 2021</u> and that various organisations in the democracy and immigration sector <u>support</u> the Our Home Our Vote campaign for residence-based voting rights.

The Council expresses concern that:

EU citizens who enter the UK from the 1st of January 2021 and are not covered by bilateral voting rights treaties (currently only active with Poland, Luxembourg, Portugal, and Spain) will not have voting and candidacy rights in local elections when the Elections Act is fully implemented by May 2024. This will create an unequal situation where some EU citizens will have the right to vote where others will not.

The complexity in voting eligibility will cause confusion and will reduce voter turnout in local elections amongst migrant voters, a group already seen as having disproportionately a lower voter registration rate compared to British voters.

Local Authorities will be under-resourced to manage the removal of a significant number of EU citizens from the electoral register and this may result in some being wrongfully removed from the electoral register.

The Council commits to:

- A. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Minister of State at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that the franchise for local elections be extended in England and Northern Ireland to all qualifying foreign nationals in line with eligibility criteria in Scotland and Wales. This would ensure a UK-wide and fair approach so that all our residents who are also our council tax payers are enfranchised.
- B. Work collaboratively with other local authorities and voluntary sector organisations in our local authority to develop a strategy of communications about voter eligibility following the Elections Act.
- C. Ensure council officers have a strategy in place to ensure that the implementation of the Elections Act, including the removal of some EU citizens from the register, does not wrongfully remove eligible voters from the register.

8. THAMES WATER SEWERAGE NETWORK

Councillor Cross to move:

That this Council notes that:

- There has been national attention on the environmental consequences of the dumping of sewage into rivers and watercourses across the country.
- The discharge of sewage into water courses is a consequence of a sewerage network that is easily overwhelmed, owing to a lack of investment in the network by the privatised water utility companies.
- In Reading and in neighbouring areas, the same underinvestment in infrastructure has resulted in the collapse of sewers most recently on Church Street, Caversham and that the consequent unplanned major disruption is often detrimental to the lives of residents and the vitality of local businesses.

This Council believes that proactive investment in Thames Water's infrastructure is essential to avoid the environmental harm of sewage overflows into water courses and to mitigate the risk of infrastructure failures, and that the cost of such necessary investment should be borne by the utility providers following a public duty principle. This Council further believes that the dividends paid out by Thames Water and other water utility companies evidence that profit motive has been placed before this necessary principle.

Consequently, this Council resolves to invite Thames Water to a meeting of the Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport Committee and, at such meeting, scrutinise Thames Water's investment plans for Reading, encouraging Thames Water to positively and proactively work with this Council to ensure best that the delivery of necessary upgrades is as effective and efficient as possible, for the benefit of both residents and businesses.

9. DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION ON NEW BUILD DEVELOPMENTS

Councillor Keeping to move:

That this Council notes that:

- Some housing developers have exclusivity arrangements with telecommunications providers which restrict the installation of digital infrastructure on new built developments, creating a monopoly of provision and curtailing resident choice of internet access providers.
- For developments on unadopted roads, this can have a long-term consequences as the developer can restrict the installation of alternative provision.
- For developments on public highways, such arrangements will have a shorter-term impact measured in years but still has an inequitable effect.

This Council believes that access to affordable and reliable internet access is an ever-increasing necessity in the modern world, and that

this is best ensured by allowing residents a full choice of possible providers. Moreover, this Council believes that access to such connections, and new technologies as they become available, is an economic imperative for our town.

Consequently, this Council resolves to instruct officers to explore the implementation of an 'open access' principle for digital infrastructure providers on all new build developments in Reading as part of the forthcoming update of the Local Plan. Furthermore, this Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State to call for the application of such a principle nationally in the planning policy framework and guidance.

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Present: Councillor Eden (Mayor);

Councillors Asare, Ayub, Ballsdon, Barnett-Ward, Brock, Challenger, Cresswell, Cross, Davies, C Dennis, G Dennis, Edwards, Emberson, Ennis, Gavin, Gittings, Goss, Griffith, Hacker, Hornsby-Smith, Hoskin, Juthani, Keane, Keeping, Kitchingham, Lanzoni, Leng, Lovelock, Magon, McCann, McElroy, McEwan, McGonigle, Mitchell, Moore, Mpofu-Coles, O'Connell, Page, Robinson, Rowland, Singh, Tarar, Terry, Thompson, White, Williams, Woodward and Yeo.

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The first business to be transacted being the election of the Mayor, it was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Rowland and CARRIED:

"That Councillor Tony Page be elected Mayor of this Borough."

No other candidate having been nominated, Councillor Page was duly declared elected.

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Councillor Emberson and CARRIED:

"That Councillor Glenn Dennis be appointed Deputy Mayor of this Borough for the Municipal Year 2023-24."

3. ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR

Councillor Page addressed the Council.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

5. VOTE OF THANKS TO COUNCILLOR R EDEN AND COUNCILLOR R DAVIES

It was moved by Councillor Mpofu-Coles and seconded by Councillor Leng and CARRIED:

"That the Council record their sincere appreciation of the ability, courtesy and diligence with which Councillor Rachel Eden has discharged her duties attached to the office of Mayor since 17 November 2021. They also record their grateful thanks to Councillor Richard Davies for the support and assistance he rendered in the capacity of Mayor's escort throughout the Mayor's term of office."

6. ADDRESS BY RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor R Eden addressed the Council.

7. ELECTIONS 2023 REPORT

The Returning Officer submitted a report on the results of the Municipal Elections held on 4 May 2023.

Resolved –

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the Returning Officer be asked to prepare a report for Policy Committee on the impact of Voter ID at this election and other forthcoming changes to elections in Reading.

8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

It was moved by Councillor Terry and seconded by Councillor Ennis and CARRIED:

"That Councillor Brock be appointed Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24."

9. CONSTITUTION; POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES; SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES; AND DELEGATIONS

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report making recommendations for the Municipal Year 2023/24 to:

- appoint the Committees of the Council: the allocation of seats between Groups had to be calculated in accordance with Sections 15-17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and details had been circulated to Group Leaders before the meeting;
- (2) appoint a local Standards Committee for the authority;
- (3) agree the powers and duties of committees, sub-committees, partnerships and consultative Working Parties (Appendices A and B);
- (4) agree the general dispensation granted to all Members as set out in para. 3.17 of the report.
- (5) amend the Council's scheme of Councillors' Allowances, and confirm those Councillors who met the definition of Members having significant responsibilities in relation to the discharge of the Council's functions in terms of entitlement to Special Responsibility Allowance at Tier 4 for the financial year 2023/24;
- (6) re-establish the Remuneration Panel for the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- (7) agree Lead Councillor portfolio titles.

It was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Terry and CARRIED:

Resolved –

That recommendations 3.1 to 3.19 in the report by the Monitoring Officer be approved.

10. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY LEADER AND LEAD COUNCILLORS AND ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS

It was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Terry and CARRIED:

Resolved –

- (1) That Councillor Terry be appointed the Deputy Leader of the Council for the Municipal Year 2023/24;
- (2) That for the Municipal Year 2022/23, the following Councillors be appointed as Lead Councillors for the services listed below:

Adult Social Care	Councillor Gittings
Children	Councillor Hoskin
Education and Public Health	Councillor McEwan
Environmental Services and Community	Councillor Rowland
Safety	
Housing	Councillor Emberson
Leisure and Culture	Councillor Barnett-Ward
Corporate Services and Resources	Councillor Terry
Climate Strategy and Transport	Councillor Ennis
Planning and Assets	Councillor Leng

11. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

It was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Terry and CARRIED:

Resolved -

(1) That, subject to the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act, 1989, and Regulations made thereunder, the following Councillors be appointed to serve on Committees in the Municipal Year 2023/24:

Adult Social Care, Children's Services & Education Committee (10:2:1:2)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
Davies C Dennis Edwards Gavin Gittings Hoskin McEwan Mpofu-Coles Tarar Woodward	Ballsdon Robinson	O'Connell	Cresswell Keane

Audit & Governance Committee (5:1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
G Dennis Edwards Emberson Gittings Yeo	Mitchell	Thompson	Williams

Health & Wellbeing Board

Leader of the Council Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care Lead Councillor for Children

Named Substitutes: Councillors C Dennis and Mpofu-Coles

Observers: Green, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Group Spokespersons

Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee (11:2:1:3:1)

<u>Labour</u> <u>Councillors</u>	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillors</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u>	<u>Green Councillors</u>	<u>Independent</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Asare Ayub Barnett-Ward Challenger G Dennis Eden Emberson Kitchingham Rowland Tarar Yeo	Goss Singh	O'Connell	Cresswell Magon McCann	Hacker
Licensing	Applications Comm	<u>ittee (9:2:1)</u>		

Labour
CouncillorsConservative
CouncillorsGreen CouncillorsAsare
DaviesMitchell
RobinsonKeane

G Dennis Edwards Kitchingham

Woodward

Page Rowland Tarar

Personnel Committee (4:1)

<u>Labour</u> Councillors	<u>Conservative</u> Councillor
Brock	Mitchell
Ennis	MILCHEI
Mpofu-Coles	
Terry	
(or nominees)	

Investigating & Disciplinary Committee (4:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>
<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
Emberson Ennis Mpofu-Coles Terry (or nominees)	Mitchell

Appeals Committee (4:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillors</u>

Barnett-Ward Robinson Brock Page Rowland (or nominees)

Planning Applications Committee (9:2:1:2)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	Councillor
Davies Emberson Ennis Gavin Hornsby-Smith Leng Lovelock Rowland Yeo	Goss Robinson	Moore	Cresswell Williams

Policy Committee (10:2:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillors</u>
Barnett-Ward Brock Emberson Ennis Gittings Hoskin Leng McEwan Rowland Terry	Mitchell Robinson	Thompson	White

Standards Committee (6:1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	Councillor
Asare Ayub G Dennis Edwards Gavin Keeping	Mitchell	Moore	Keane

(Together with the following independent member: Mrs T Barnes)

Named Substitutes (1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>
<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
Terry	Robinson	Thompson

Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee (10:2:1:2)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillors	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
Cross Ennis Griffith Hornsby-Smith Juthani Keeping Lanzoni Leng Page Terry	Ballsdon Singh	Moore	Magon McElroy

(2) That the following Councillors be appointed to serve on other bodies in the Municipal Year 2023/24:

Access and Disabilities Working Group (3:1:1)

<u>Labour</u> Councillors	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Gavin	Goss	Thompson
Hornsby-Smith		
Rowland		

Adult Safeguarding Panel

Membership to be drawn from the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee on an ad hoc basis.

Alliance for Cohesion and Racial Equality (1:1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillor	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	Councillor
Eden	Singh	Thompson	Williams

<u>Appeals Pool from which Members will be drawn to serve on the Curriculum</u> <u>Complaints Panel or the Removal of Early Years Providers Appeals Panel, as</u> <u>required by regulation.</u>

Labour Councillors	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Brock C Dennis Edwards Gavin Gittings Hoskin McEwan Terry	Robinson
Arts & Heritage Forum	<u>n (4:2:1)</u>

Labour Councillors	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Barnett-Ward Davies	Goss Mitchell	Thompson
Gavin		
Rowland		

Children's Safeguarding Panel

Membership to be drawn from the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee on an ad hoc basis.

Civic Board (6:1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green Councillor</u>
<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	
Brock Eden Gavin Page Terry Yeo	Mitchell	Moore	Williams

Cleaner Air & Safer Transport Forum (5:1:1:1)

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green Councillor</u>
<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillors</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	
Barnett-Ward Cross Ennis Lanzoni Rowland	Goss	O'Connell	McCann

Community Safety Partnership

Councillors Brock, Rowland and Terry Observers: Councillors Mitchell and Moore

Cultural Partnership Board

Lead Councillor for Leisure and Culture and other Group Spokespersons.

<u>Cycle Forum (4:1:1:1)</u>

<u>Labour</u>	<u>Conservative</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat</u>	<u>Green</u>
Councillor	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>	<u>Councillor</u>
Barnett-Ward Ennis Gittings Lanzoni	Goss	Moore	White

Community Learning and Skills Advisory Board

Leader of the Council, Lead Councillor Education and Public Health and Councillor Terry Conservative and Liberal Democrat Group Spokespersons

Foster Panel

Councillor Edwards

Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Gittings and McEwan

Local Joint Forum (3:1)

Labour Councillors

<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u> Mitchell

Brock Ennis Terry

(or nominees)

Older People's Working Group (5:1:1)

Labour Councillors

<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>

Robinson

<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u> O'Connell

C Dennis Eden Gittings Hornsby-Smith Kitchingham

Parenting Panel (4:1:1)

Labour Councillors

<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>

C Dennis Gavin Hoskin Mpofu-Coles Robinson

<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u> O'Connell

Planning Management Panel (3:1:1)

Labour Councillors

<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>

Robinson

<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u> Moore

Gavin Lovelock Yeo (or nominees)

SACRE (3:1:1)

Labour Councillors	<u>Conservative</u>
	Councillor

<u>Liberal Democrat</u> <u>Councillor</u>

O'Connell

Asare Ayub McEwan

Safer Reading Neighbourhood Forum (7:1)

Labour Councillors

<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>

Ballsdon

Goss

Asare Ennis Hornsby-Smith Lanzoni Leng Mpofu-Coles Rowland

School Admission Forum

Councillors Hoskin and McEwan Observers – Group Spokespersons

Town Twinning Group (2:1)

Labour Councillors	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Brock Mpofu-Coles	Mitchell

(Mayor – ex-officio)

- (3) That the terms of reference of the above bodies be as set out in Appendices A and B to the Monitoring Officer's report on the Constitution, Powers and Duties of the Council and Committees etc;
- (4) That the following Councillors be appointed/nominated as appropriate as Chairs/Vice-Chairs of the bodies listed at (2) above:

Working Party etc	Chair/Vice Chair
Access & Disabilities Working Group	Councillor Gavin (Chair)
	Councillor Rowland (Vice-Chair)
Adult Safeguarding Panel	Ad hoc
Arts & Heritage Forum	Councillor Barnett-Ward (Chair)
	Councillor Gavin (Vice-Chair)
Children's Safeguarding Panel	Ad hoc

Civic Board	Councillor Brock (Chair)
	Councillor Terry (Vice Chair)
Cleaner Air & Safer Transport Forum	Councillor Cross (Chair)
	Councillor Ennis (Vice Chair)
Community Safety Partnership	Councillor Rowland (Vice-Chair)
Cultural Partnership Board	Councillor Barnett-Ward (Chair)
Cycle Forum	Councillor Gittings (Chair)
	Councillor Ennis (Vice Chair)
Community Learning & Skills Advisory	Councillor Brock (Chair)
Board	Councillor McEwan (Vice Chair)
Local Joint Forum	Councillor Terry (Chair)
Older People's Working Group	Councillor C Dennis (Chair)
	Councillor Gittings (Vice-Chair)
Parenting Panel	Councillor Hoskin (Chair)
	Councillor C Dennis (Vice-Chair)
Planning Management Panel	Councillor Lovelock (Chair)
	Councillor Yeo (Vice Chair)
SACRE	Non-Councillor
Safer Reading Neighbourhood Forum	Councillor Rowland (Chair)
School Admission Forum	Councillor McEwan (Chair)
Town Twinning Group	The Mayor

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS/VICE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

It was moved by Councillor Brock and seconded by Councillor Terry and CARRIED:

Resolved –

That the following be appointed Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the following Committees for the Municipal Year 2023/24:

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Adult Social Care,	Councillor Mpofu-	Councillor Gavin
Children's Services &	Coles	
Education		
Audit & Governance	Councillor Williams	Councillor Glenn
		Dennis
Health & Wellbeing Board	Councillor McEwan	Dr A Ciecierski
Housing, Neighbourhoods	Councillor Glenn	Councillor Eden
& Leisure	Dennis	
Licensing Applications	Councillor Woodward	Councillor Edwards
Planning Applications	Councillor Lovelock	Councillor Yeo
Personnel	Councillor Terry	Councillor Brock
Investigating & Disciplinary	Councillor Terry	Councillor Emberson
Committee		
Appeals Committee	Councillor Brock	Councillor Rowland
Policy	Councillor Brock	Councillor Terry
Standards	Mrs T Barnes	Councillor Edwards
Strategic Environment,	Councillor Cross	Councillor Hornsby-
Planning & Transport		Smith

13. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2023/23

It was moved by the Mayor and seconded by the Deputy Mayor and CARRIED:

Resolved –

- (1) That the calendar of meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24, as attached to the agenda, be approved; and
- (2) That, before the day of the Annual Meeting in 2024, meetings of the Council be held at half-past six o'clock in the afternoon on 27 June, 17 October 2023, and 30 January, 27 February and 19 March 2024, unless the Mayor shall specify some other date and time.

(The meeting closed at 8.10pm).