

To: Councillor G Dennis (Chair)
Councillors Eden, Asare, Ayub, Barnett-Ward,
Challenger, Cresswell, Emberson, Kitchingham,
McCann, O'Connell, Goss, R Singh, Tarar and
Yeo

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31 October 2023

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

NOTICE OF MEETING - HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 8 NOVEMBER 2023

A meeting of the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee will be held on Wednesday, 8 November 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 AFFECTED</u>	<u>Page No</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 6 JULY 2023		5 - 10
3. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES		11 - 18
Minutes of the Community Safety Partnership meetings held on 13 July 2023 and 14 September 2023.		
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.		
5. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS		19 - 20

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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.

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| 6. | READING FESTIVAL UPDATE | 21 - 46 |
| | A presentation by Festival Republic. | |
| 7. | WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2023/24 | 47 - 102 |
| | A report informing the Committee of the outputs delivered by the Winter Service Plan 2022-2023, of the Winter Service Plan review carried out to ensure compliance with the Highway Act 1980 and 'Well managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice' and to inform and seek approval for the Winter Service Plan 2023-2024. | |
| 8. | AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR ROUGH SLEEPING ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME | 103 - 116 |
| | A report seeking authority to award and enter into new contract arrangements for The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road (the Pods) from 1 April 2024 to relieve and prevent rough sleeping in Reading. | |
| 9. | PROCUREMENT OF EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION | 117 - 134 |
| | A report recommending the establishment of a pseudo-Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime to deliver emergency accommodation for families and vulnerable people placed by the Council's Housing Needs department. | |
| 10. | READING CLIMATE FESTIVAL 2023 EVALUATION | 135 - 150 |
| | A report evaluating the 2023 Reading Climate Festival as outlined in Appendix 1 and recognising the efforts of the partners in securing the success of the Festival. | |

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HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE 6 JULY 2023

Present: Councillor Eden (Vice-Chair in the Chair);
Councillors Asare, Ayub, Barnett-Ward, Challenger, Cresswell, Emberson,
Goss, Kitchingham, Magon, McCann, O'Connell, Rowland, R Singh, Tarar and
Yeo.

Apologies: Councillors G Dennis and Hacker

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of 9 March 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

2. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES

The Minutes of the following meeting were submitted:

Community Safety Partnership – 2 February 2023 and 20 April 2023.

Resolved - That the Minutes be received.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reply</u>
Mr Edd Street	Traveller Access to Cintra Park	Cllr Rowland
Mr Edd Street	Glass Recycling	Cllr Rowland

The full text of the question and reply was made available on the Reading Borough Council website.

4. EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE A HOUSING REACTIVE REPAIRS SERVICE TO WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Committee received a report which sought authority for the Council to extend the current partnering contract with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to deliver its repairs and maintenance work to its housing stock for a further two years until 31 March 2025.

The report explained that on 31 March 2017 Reading Borough Council (RBC) had entered into a partnering contract with Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) to deliver repairs and maintenance work to its housing stock. Under the terms of that contract an agreed extension had extended the contract until 31 March 2023. WBC had been very happy with the service provided to date, however they were required to go through a process of market testing and possible re-tender of the contract which they were estimating would take approximately 24 months to complete. As the current contract had come to an end and as they had not been able to enter into a new contract at the current time, WBC had requested that RBC agree to extend the existing arrangement for a further 2 years. There would be an appropriate uplift in costs to ensure RBC were not subsidising the work undertaken for WBC.

The report explained that the benefits to RBC of the provision of this service to WBC included:

- Reducing costs for RBC tenants by benefitting from economies of scale and sharing overhead costs.

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- Putting the service on a good footing to take advantage of any new trading opportunities due to its experience in the provision of a commercial service.
- Joint learning between the authorities on tenant consultation and best practice.

Resolved -

That the Assistant Director of Housing & Communities in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing, Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services and Director of Finance, be authorised to enter retrospectively into a further extension of the Response Housing Maintenance and Response Housing Engineering Maintenance Partnering Agreement with Wokingham Borough Council for a period of two years, expiring on 31 March 2025 and to negotiate and agree various variations to the terms and conditions as proposed by both parties as detailed in the report.

5. FIRE SAFETY IN TALL BUILDINGS

The Committee received a report which provided an update on the Council's ongoing response in the private sector, following the Grenfell Tower fire in 2017. This included action taken in relation to privately-owned high-rise residential blocks within the Borough boundaries and our partnership with the Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS).

The report explained that RBFRS and the six Berkshire Unitary Authorities had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2018, which had been updated in 2022 with the purpose of strengthening the draft Protocol for Fire Safety Enforcement and putting into place a joint plan of action with regards to the roles and responsibilities of each party. In Reading, four residential buildings over 18 metres had been identified as having ACM cladding which failed the required fire safety standard and this had all been removed by May 2022. As part of the government's Building Safety Programme buildings with other types of cladding systems and other external wall systems (EWS) were now being considered and 33 buildings in Reading had been identified as non-compliant and possibly requiring remedial works. The Council and RBFRS had been monitoring progress with works.

The report explained that the Council and RBFRS would continue to work on high-risk buildings which contained deficiencies related to fire safety. The Council would review on a case by case basis whether formal enforcement would be required under the Housing Act or our other powers, following the statutory guidance and the Housing Standards Enforcement Policy. RBFRS would continue to have regular communication to discuss progress with the Building Safety Programme and individual properties. The Council would continue its efforts to obtain external wall systems details of all applicable buildings in response to the request from Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and take action where appropriate. This included any new changes derived from recommendations in the final Grenfell Inquiry report and from the new Building Safety Regulator.

The report added that once this work had been completed the focus would shift to identify and work on other priority areas, which could include buildings over 11 metres tall, residential conversions or flats above commercial properties. The Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities had awarded New Burdens funding of £47,049 for financial year 2023/24 to drive the remediation of unsafe high-rise private sector buildings and some of this funding would be used to deal with backlogs in those teams where staff efforts had been diverted from their usual roles.

Resolved – That the position be noted.

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6. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE: NATIONAL HIGHWAYS GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR READING 2023/24 & 2024/25

The Committee received a report that updated the Committee on the National Highways Grant Funding Allocation of £250k per annum for Reading Borough Council to invest on Highway Assets on the M4 Motorway designated diversion route through Reading for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial year periods.

The report explained that Reading had an opportunity to secure funding from National Highways, who manage the Strategic National Roads including the M4 for a project in relation to the upgrade of Highway Assets on the tactical diversion route between J11/M4 and J12/M4. This diversion route was from Junction 11 of the M4, north along the A33, left onto Rose Kiln Lane, left onto A4 Berkeley Avenue, left onto A4 Bath Road and back to Junction 12 of the M4 Motorway.

The report stated that the Council would undertake works to maintain Highway Assets along this strategic diversion route within the Borough and National Highways were funding works in respect of the Project on the terms and conditions set out in the Funding Agreement which were intended to ensure that the Funding was used by the Recipient for the purpose for which it was awarded.

The report also explained that works would include carriageway resurfacing, road marking refreshing using longer life cold applied Methyl Methacrylate (MMA) paints, preservation materials to extend the life of bitumen carriageway surfaces and the upgrade of strategic directional gantry signage. Works up to the maximum value of £250kpa would be delivered by the Council in a combination of either highway maintenance contracts that the Council would be tendering for the 2023/24 & 2024/25 financial year periods or by the Council's own in-house Highways & Drainage Operations Team.

The Committee noted that the Highways team had won the Best Council Services Team at the Municipal Journal MJ Awards in June in recognition of the quality and breadth of services provided to residents. The Committee thanked Sam and the team for all their hard work and congratulated them on their success.

Resolved:

- (1) That the National Highways Grant Funding Allocation of £250k per annum for Reading Borough Council to invest on Highway Assets on the M4 Motorway designated diversion route through Reading for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years be noted;**
- (2) That the formal funding agreement between the Council and National Highways be noted, and that officers proceed with delivery of the approved schemes;**
- (3) That the Highways team be thanked for all their hard work and success in winning the Best Council Services Team at the Municipal Journal MJ Awards.**

7. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE ASSET MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Committee received a report setting out the approved 2022/2023 Annual Status Options Reports (ASOR) for carriageways, pavements and structures and gave an update on the proposed inspection regime for the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in Reading.

The report explained that the Asset Management tool was used by the Council to report on the condition, the asset value and future funding requirements of the public highway maintainable

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structures, carriageways and pavement assets. The ASORs included the historical investment in maintaining strategic highways and assets and calculated future funding requirements. The tool provided a clear picture of funding levels to improve areas of most need. The approved ASORs were appended to the report as follows:

- Appendix 1- Carriageways
- Appendix 2 – Pavements/footways
- Appendix 3 - Structures

It was noted that the Residential Unclassified Carriageway ASOR showed a significant improvement. The Council had achieved 80% good condition (green) following the £9m Council funded Residential Roads & Pavements 3-year investment programme (2020/23), an improvement from 35% good condition (green) prior to the investment. Subsequently this brought down the number of customer complaints relating to potholes by 44% over the last three years.

The Council had also committed to further investment of £8m over 5-years to further improve the network. This additional funding would also allow a trial to support more cost effective solutions for road resurfacing to provide more preventative rather than reactive measures.

The Committee were also provided with information on Public Rights of Way (PRoW). The Council had a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure that access was maintained and to ensure that PRoWs were kept clear and unobstructed. The Highways team ensured that the PRoWs were inspected on a cyclical basis and that maintenance and clearing works were carried out as necessary by adjacent landowners. The proposal was to align the PRoW inspections with the public highway inspections, to be carried out by the Highway Inspectors to help maximise resources. The inspection results would be brought to a future Committee to set out the hierarchical status of the PRoWs and the proposed future inspection regime. A list of all PRoWs was provided in Appendix 4 to the report.

Resolved:

- (1) **That the approved 2022/2023 Annual Status Options Reports (ASOR) for carriageways, pavements and structures be endorsed;**
- (2) **That the proposed inspection regime for the Public Rights of Way (PRoW) be endorsed.**

8. ALLOTMENTS – CONSULTATION – FEES & CHARGES REVIEW

The Committee received a report which set out progress of the Allotment Rent Review and a consultation on changes to allotment discounts and rents.

Since 2020 the service had sought the opinion of tenants on potential rent and discount changes through the August 2020 Allotment Consultation and ongoing work on the Allotment Self-Management Project while calculating what charges would meet service needs without causing major hardship to low-income tenants.

It was reported that Council currently subsidised the service by £45k per year and rental received was dependent on the two levels of discounts that plot tenants could claim via the Your Reading Passport (YRP) scheme. The discounts were:

- General Discount (10%). Tenants claim the 10% discount by virtue of residency in the Borough being a YRP holder.
- Concessionary Discount (74%). In addition to the General discount, YRP holders who were aged 60+, on low income or with a disability could also claim for this additional discount giving them a total discount of 84%.

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Of the Council's 1,413 current allotment tenants, 509 (36%) claimed one of two discounts available.

The aims of reviewing allotment discounts were as follows:

- To continue to use Discounts to support tenants in financial hardship.
- To simplify the Rent Matrix. Removal of the 10% General Discount would cut three lines from the Rent Matrix and simplify the application and billing processes.
- To standardise the number of Discount levels with other Council Discount schemes, which only offered a single level of discount.
- To align Discount levels with national averages.
- To contribute to the Council Medium Term Financial Strategy.

It was considered that the 84% concessionary discount was generous when benchmarked against discounts offered by other local authorities. A consultation would be undertaken on two future discount schemes which would bring Reading in line with other local authorities and simplify the rent matrix. The consultation would begin in July 2023 for 6 weeks and a report would be brought to the Committee in November 2023 advising of the consultation results and recommending a rents and discount option to be applied from 1 April 2025.

Resolved:

- (1) That the proposed rationale for increasing allotment rents and reducing related discounts be noted;**
- (2) That the Allotment Rent & Discounts Consultation Plan to commence in August 2023 be approved;**
- (3) That a further report be brought back to a future HNL Committee for approval on the new proposed Allotment Rent & Discount structure following the consultation exercise being completed. This is required to give plot holders 12 months written notice of the new rent/discount structure to be implemented.**

9. WEED CONTROL MANAGEMENT – TRIAL OF MARKET AVAILABLE OPTIONS

The Committee received a report which provided an update on trials that took place between May 2022 and October 2022 to explore the alternative to the current weed control practice of using glyphosate to control unwanted vegetation across the borough.

The report explained that the Council remained committed to reducing the use of herbicides across its public estate wherever possible and had over previous years reduced its use considerably. It was noted that the reduction of herbicide complimented the Wildflower Plan to help improve the environment. However, there was a need to provide effective weed control to protect the carriageways and footpaths in the borough, especially following the Council's significant capital investment into resurfacing the boroughs residential roads and pavements.

The trial of alternative methods was carried out on Northumberland Avenue, Rabson's Recreation Ground and Cintra Park. The alternative methods used were:

1. Fatty Acid (Pelargonic Acid) spray.
2. Hot water and steam and manual removal.
3. Hand removal.
4. Glyphosate.
5. Acetic acid Spray.

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The results of the trial showed that glyphosate was the most effective and efficient weed control method used. Whilst hot water and steam produced effective results it was unsustainable and not as efficient as the other methods tested. Hand weeding had the least environmental impact but was not a sustainable option. Pelargonic and Acetic acid treatments produced quicker results but was less efficient, more costly and required the use of more chemicals.

It was noted that if any new alternatives became available then these would be investigated. Officers would also consider how other Councils deal with weed control and continue to explore how to reduce the use of glyphosate and increase rewilding of the public realm.

Resolved:

- (1) That the current position on the Trial of Alternative to Glyphosate be noted.**
- (2) That the continued controlled use of glyphosate as the most cost effective and efficient method for the control of unwanted vegetation on paved areas and in and around grass verges be approved.**
- (3) That any new contract issued include a requirement for the successful bidder to work with the Council to seek a suitable alternative to glyphosate be agreed.**
- (4) That the Streetscene Team continue to explore and monitor the 'Herbicide Market' for any suitable new alternatives to glyphosate. The Streetscene Team would also remain vigilant as to how other councils are dealing with the issue be agreed.**

(The meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 7.45pm).

Agenda Item 3

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 13 JULY 2023

Present:

Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC (in the Chair)
Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Lead Councillor for
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Emma Gee	Interim Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Jill Marston	Senior Policy Officer, RBC
Jason Murphy	RBC
Emma Tompkins	Thames Valley Police
Anna Batty	Prevention Lead, Brighter Futures for Children
Stephen Leonard	RBFRS
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kate Ferguson	PACT
John Ennis	Probation Service
Zoe Hanim	RBC
Jason Kew	?
Lara Patel	Brighter Futures for Children
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair) (In the Chair)
Cllr Tony Page	Deputy Leader, RBC
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Carly Dagg	Probation
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Natausha Vanvliet	PACT
Uri Abdulmutwalib	RBC

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The Partnership noted that the new logo had been agreed and was being used.

2. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023-24 FOR CSP ENDORSEMENT

Anna Batty (Prevention Lead, Brighter Futures for Children) gave a presentation on the Youth Justice Plan 2023-24. She explained that, following the name change from the Youth Offending Service to the Youth Justice Service, a new independent chair, Michael O'Connor, had been appointed. The service aimed to be more child-led than previously. The presentation covered the achievements to date including parent-led support, a turnaround programme, amnesty art and the Young Person's court experience. The priorities in the 2023-24 plan focused on first time

entrants, disproportionality, the impact of serious violence and the participation and involvement of children, young people and their families.

The Group welcomed the plan, particularly the first two priorities which aligned with the wider CSP priorities. The level of first time entrants in Reading was higher than in comparative neighbour and South East authorities and often related to knife crime or illegal substances. Anna reported that she would discuss the possibility of introducing Operation Deter, which provided a YJT officer for young people in custody, with the OPCC.

AGREED: That Youth Justice Plan 2023-24 be endorsed.

3. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO REVIEW (ASB COMMUNITY TRIGGERS) REFRESH

Jason Murphy gave a presentation on the Community Right to Review, which covered the following areas:

- The procedure for the review;
- Who can request a review;
- What is being reviewed:
- The role of the Review Panel Chair;
- Membership of the Review Panel;
- The threshold to trigger a review;
- What is meant by "No Action".

The Group noted that these reviews had only happened sporadically over the past few years and that it could be difficult to find an appropriate person to act as Chair. Cath Marriott suggested that other CSPs could provide members or the Chair for Review Panels.

AGREED: That the presentation be noted.

4. CS FUND BIDS

Jo Middlemass submitted three bids for CSP funding for consideration:

- Specialist Youth Worker, Drug and Alcohol Service, delivering PHSE group work sessions within an educational setting on drugs and alcohol;
- Additional staffing to provide support for a project aimed at reducing secondary school exclusions;
- Criminal Justice Treatment Pathway, aimed at delivering services to individuals across the whole criminal justice pathway.

Jo reminded the Group of the recent reduction in funding allocation for Reading and the way that the Partnership funding bids would be allocated. The Group noted that funding for this financial year would be allocated as it had been previously, but that funding allocations for the next financial year would need to be discussed and agreed at a future meeting. Emma Gee noted that she would be discussing funding with Public Health colleagues as there could be occasions when Public Health initiatives were in receipt of CSP funding.

AGREED: That the bids be endorsed for onward submission to the OPCC for approval.

5. PREVENT UPDATE - CTLP RISK ASSESSMENT/READING'S PREVENT ACTION PLAN

Zoe Hanim and Jill Marston gave a brief presentation updating the Group on the key messages of the 2023 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP), the Reading context, the key objectives of the Local Plan and the key actions for 2023. These key actions included, an online safety campaign, a prevent survey, a resource pack, a Hate Crime Awareness week, conferences, community engagement work and a venue hire policy. The draft action plan, which was a work in progress, would be circulated to members of the Group.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

6. SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY UPDATE

Jason Murphy gave a presentation updating the Group on the achievements to date and future actions for the Serious Violence Duty, which was being delivered by the CSP and the OPCC. He explained that there was very limited funding, and Cath Marriott reminded the partners to submit full geographical and demographic (not personal) data as soon as possible to allow the funding need to be assessed and allocated correctly.

Jason also reported that the Armoured Heart sculpture had now been installed at the Oracle and that it was supported by a website that could be accessed by a QR code. He added that The Knife Crime Delivery Group would be working with schools and young people.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

7. COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY - LESSONS LEARNT, DATA UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS FOR APPROVAL

Jo Middlemass and Sarah Gardner updated the Group on key themes that had been noted following the latest Community Safety Survey. These included the need to engage better with young people, that older respondents tended to be more positive than young people, there was a need to improve community engagement and communications for future surveys. Young people had also commented that many of the questions in the survey were not relevant to them. The Group noted that there had been a short turnaround time for this Survey and that this had impacted on the ability to engage as fully as officers would have liked. Partnership support would be key to improving engagement in future surveys, which would be organised by the Communications Delivery Group. Jo Middlemass would talk to Cath Marriott about the feasibility of combining CSP and OPCC surveys.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

8. PARTNERSHIP NEWS

TVP FORCE REVIEW

Jo Middlemass gave an update on TVP Force Review. She explained that the five-area model had been agreed, and that Reading was in the Berkshire West Area. This area would be one of the last to be rolled-out, and it was hoped that this would mean that any teething problems had already been resolved by the other areas.

COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

Sally Andersen and Jason Kew reported that the Combatting Drugs Partnership would be implementing the actions arising from the Government report by Dame Carol Black. The aim was to break supply chains, educate young people and reduce drug use. The CDP would use a multi-disciplinary outreach model to improve referral pathways. The Group noted that there was a link between school exclusions and young people's involvement with drugs and exploitation and that the CDP could help to provide diversion and support as required.

SAFER STREETS 4

Sarah Gardner reported that the key achievements for Phase 2 of Safer Streets 4 to date included provision of personal consumables to support a campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and designing out crime in the town centre hotspots by improving lighting and surveillance. Future priorities would include the launch of the town centre Safe Hub now that premises had been identified, further work to design out crime. Work would also be undertaken to evaluate the project and its legacy and on communicating the successes.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Jason Murphy reported that there had been a request for a Domestic Violence Review and he was working with Surrey County Council to set this up.

Jo Middlemass reported that she was working with Zoe Hanim and Trip Pannu to set up a discussion forum for Community Cohesion and Prevent.

AGREED: That the position be noted.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting for 2022/23 would take place on:

13 July 2023

14 September 2023

9 November 2023

1 February 2024 and

18 April 2024

All meetings start at 9.30am, **in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices**

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.56am)

COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP EXECUTIVE GROUP – 14 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present:

Steve Raffield	Thames Valley Police (Chair) (In the Chair)
Cllr Karen Rowland	Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety, RBC
Cllr Liz Terry	Deputy Leader and Lead Councillor for Corporate Services and Resources
Sarah Gardner	Community Safety Partnership, RBC
Zelda Wolfe	Assistant Director of Housing & Communities, RBC
Jason Murphy	RBC
Graham Genoni	Project Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Sally Andersen	Senior Wellbeing Commissioning Manager for Drugs & Alcohol, RBC
Joanne Anderson	Neighbourhood Initiatives Team Manager, RBC
Giles Allchurch	Brighter Futures for Children
April Smith	Thames Valley Police
Praveen Liyanage	Prevention Lead, Brighter Futures for Children
Gail Muirhead	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Neil Whiteman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Sabina	PACT
Verity Barton	Probation Service
Abi Harsant	Probation Service
Jason Kew	?
Kirsten Willis-Drewett	South Central Ambulance Service
Julie Quarmby	Committee Services, RBC

Apologies:

Cllr Jason Brock	Leader, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Safety and Enablement Manager, RBC
Emma Gee	Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services, RBC
Lara Patel	Executive Director, Brighter Futures for Children
Melissa Wise	Executive Director of Social Care and Health
Carly Dagg	Probation
Donna Gray	Safeguarding Children, Brighter Futures for Children
Catherine Marriott	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Kathryn Warner	PACT
Natausha Vanvliet	PACT
Zoe Hanim	RBC
Kelly Reed	Thames Valley Police
Stephen Leonard	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Cllr Mitchell	RBC, Observer

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

2. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM REVIEW

Jason Murphy gave a presentation on the Safer Neighbourhood Forum Review which covered the following areas:

- The purpose of the review;
- Actions that had been taken to date;
- The current Forum set up;
- Constraints within the current format;
- What the Review hoped to achieve;
- Proposal for the new structure;

Jason explained that the new structure would be more flexible with a reformed Safer Reading Forum and Safer Reading Champions. Officers would be carrying out further work to clarify the role of the proposed new Street Champions, although it was anticipated that there would not need to be Champion for every street in the Brough and role was most likely to ensure good two-way communication for residents. Officers would also inform the Neighbourhood Forum Chairs of the new structure and the way that the Forums and the Community Safety Partnership worked together.

Jason also added that the new structure would enable the views of young people to be captured, mainly via their involvement in Safer Streets 4. The Group noted that it would also be essential to involve other harder to reach groups such as the elderly, vulnerable people and other traditionally harder to engage group within the community. The Partnership stressed the need for a good communications strategy to encourage two-way information sharing.

AGREED: That the Safer Neighbourhood Forum Review be endorsed for onward submission to the meeting of the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee meeting to be held on 8 November 2023.

3. DELIVERY GROUP UPDATE

Jason Murphy gave a presentation setting out the progress to date made by the Safer reading Delivery Groups:

- The Violence Against Women and Girls Group was developing an action plan, had met for a discussion of data with an analyst and the communications task and finish group was working to promote the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women to be held on 25 November 2023.
- The Knife Crime Delivery Group would hold its first meeting on 20 September 2023. There would be a focus on Young People and knife crime and this would be aligned with the recommendations from the CSPR Thematic Review of Serious Violence. The Knife Crime Amnesty sculpture at the Oracle would be renamed Olly's Work.
- The Anti-Social Behaviour and Hate Crime group were due to meet during October 2023 with a view to identifying ways to progress each area separately whilst ensuring the appropriate links between them were maintained. A Hate Crime task and finish group would be set up to look into barriers to reporting and how partner agencies dealt with knife crime.
- The Reducing Crime Delivery Group aimed to reduce high volume and high harm crimes by analysing the available data to design out crime, and to learn from other's successes. The first meeting would be held in October 2023.

Jason Murphy explained that the other delivery groups were making good progress and several cross-cutting areas had been identified, including the night-time economy, Reading Festival and the town centre. The Chairs of the Delivery Groups would meet in October 2023 to discuss these issues. Steve Raffield added that there would be a clear reporting structure for the Delivery Groups and there was support for creating an overarching communications group to update the public of the Community Safety Partnership's actions and achievements.

Sally Andersen informed the Group that a combatting drugs stakeholder day had been arranged for 29 September 2023 at the football stadium and invitations would be sent out shortly. The event had been planned to discuss desired outcomes and ways to achieve them.

AGREED:

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That Jason Murphy and/or Steve Raffield attend the combatting drugs stakeholder day and give an update at the next meeting of the CSP;**
- (3) That April Smith ask the OPCC analyst to provide figures on drugs in Reading.**

4. WATER SAFETY PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL - FOR APPROVAL

Jason Murphy introduced Gail Muirhead and Neil Whiteman from Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service, who updated the Group on proposals for a Water Safety Partnership for Reading, aimed at preventing future accidental drowning deaths. They explained that a Water Safety Partnership should include relevant public bodies and emergency services, and the Canal and Rivers Trust and that all of the neighbouring local authorities in Berkshire and South Oxfordshire supported a Water Safety Partnership.

Gail and Neil reported that Reading had a considerable number of water ways which presented several risk factors meaning the potential for serious injury or fatality was high. The objectives for the proposed partnership could include promoting and developing water-safety education and initiatives' improving public awareness of water-related risks and ensuring a consistent message through campaigns and communications. The partnership could also share best practice and resources across the Borough (and beyond) highlighting a multi-agency approach to water safety. Some particular themes that could be considered included reaching communities that had been identified as less likely to be able to swim and access to water safety equipment. The group noted that throw lines could be used as an alternative to life rings, which were often just thrown into the water. Throw lines were more expensive to purchase, but were more cost effective in the longer term, and Reading Police officers had already been receiving training on using throw lines from vehicles. The Group noted that vehicle access to waterways was often at some distance and considered whether businesses along the waterways would be able to provide locations for throw lines.

Gail and Neil also set out details of the agencies that could be involved in the partnership and it was suggested that local bodies such as rowing clubs, the university of Reading and the football club might also be involved. The partnership's terms of reference and governance would also need to be agreed. It was also suggested that there was potential to combine with West Berkshire's Water Safety Partnership, although it was felt that it would be preferable to set up a Reading-based partnership first with a view to possibly combining the two at a later date.

AGREED:

- (1) That Royal Berkshire Fire and rescue circulate details of the Terms of Reference and membership of the West Berkshire Water Safety Partnership for information;**
- (2) That Councillor Rowland and Steve Raffield discuss membership and leadership of the partnership;**
- (3) That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.**

5. YOUNG PEOPLE'S VERSION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY/SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY EVENT

Carly Newman and Simon Ray updated the Group on actions that had been taken to embed young voices in decision making that would concern their safety. Project work had been set up with appropriate agencies and teams. The Safer Streets 4 project had demonstrated that young people could be fully involved and meant that their views and ideas could be used to shape their own Community Safety/Serious Violence Strategy. A young person's Community Safety event had been organised at the football stadium on 26 October 2023.

Simon Ray added that involvement in Community Safety also gave the young people opportunities to develop life skills. Although those involved were not always paid, they could receive awards such as AQA Public Speaking or Public Involvement, and this could also be seen as part of alternative provision by schools.

AGREED:

- (1) That the position be noted;**
- (2) That an update on the community Safety event be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.**

6. DATES OF FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting for 2022/23 would take place on:

**9 November 2023 - to be re-arranged.
1 February 2024 and
18 April 2024**

All meetings start at 9.30am, **in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices**

(The meeting commenced at 9.30am and closed at 11.36am)

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

HOUSING, NEIGHBOURHOODS AND LEISURE COMMITTEE **8 NOVEMBER**
2023

QUESTION NO. 1

Philip Brooks to ask the Chair of the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee:

Green Waste Collection

For several months the Green Waste collection service has been a mess, resulting in the containers being left on the pavement for many extra days. The Council has not kept the householders informed on the rescheduled collections. This incompetence is unacceptable on a service which we pay for! I would like a full explanation and to know what corrective actions the Council is taking.

REPLY by Councillor Dennis:

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:

Thank you Councillor Dennis.

I would like to thank Mr Brooks for his question regarding the operation of the Green Waste service and the opportunity this provides to raise awareness of the challenges the service has experienced, as well as the actions that we have taken to improve the service to our Green Waste customers in the future.

Challenges:

1. This past growing season, with its particular high levels of rain, resulted in a significantly extended and high volume of vegetation growth across the region. Reading Borough Council and our Re3 partners (Wokingham BC and Bracknell Forest BC) have each experienced a significant increase in the volume of green waste that has been presented for collection this year. In Reading we experienced a 36% increase, which has required the collection crews to make more frequent trips to the waste treatment site to tip off green waste. The increased volumes of waste collected have exceeded the allocated staff resources and this has caused collections to over-run.
2. Our Recycling and waste service team delivers a range of statutory waste collections alongside the paid-for green waste collections. As an Authority, we are required to prioritise waste collections to ensure public health. In the event of an inability to deliver all our eighteen waste collection rounds, as a result of vehicle failure or staff sickness, we must prioritise collections as follows:
 - a. Food
 - b. General Waste

- c. Recycling
- d. Green Waste.

As a consequence - when operational challenges arise, the order of priority afforded to collections impacts Green Waste collections more frequently than other waste streams, as of all those streams, it is the least putrescible. Saying that, we thoroughly accept that this is not optimal in the provision of a paid-for service. As such, we are making changes to ensure that we can better resource our green waste collections for the future, building in needed resiliency to ensure collections of even heightened green waste volumes should they occur again in the future.

Action taken:

To address the pressures experienced by the service, we are rescheduling our broader waste collection rounds to provide an additional 4 days of dedicated green waste collections each fortnight. This will provide greater consistency of collection and is expected to deliver an on-time solution, barring unforeseen situations over which we have no control. For a fifth of our green waste customers, this will mean a change in their collection day.

The additional resources allocated to green waste collections will ensure customers receive an improved service, accepting that the necessary prioritisation of waste collections may occasionally still impact some collections in the future with short-lived delays.

These changes will be introduced over the course of this winter, when the increased volume demands for the service is historically experienced to reduce. All customers will be contacted to advise of these changes and if their collections days will change or remain the same, outlining the benefits the changes will deliver.

In parallel, we are additionally working to introduce measures to improve the ways we keep you informed on the status of collections, through enhanced use of our operating systems, enabling automated communication to customers via their council registered contact details and preferred method of contact.

I understand and accept the frustrations customers have experienced over what was an especially wet summer have not been optimal and for that we not only can apologise, but we must ensure we set it right for the future. Green waste collections are important to us, they help all of us work together to reduce our impact on landfill and we do thank our customers for bearing with us as we've struggled to deliver consistency over the course of this past summer. I do have confidence that the forward plans we are putting in place will resolve this going forward.



«READING FESTIVAL 2023

RBC COMMITTEE MEETING 08.11.23



FESTIVAL REPUBLIC



DAY	ACTIVITY	TIME	NOTES
WEDNESDAY 23 RD	Campsites open for Early Entry	11:00	Advertised 18:00
THURSDAY 24 TH	Campsites open for GA	08:00	
THURSDAY 25 TH	Late night arena open	17:00	
FRIDAY 26 TH	Arena open	11:00	Sam Fender
SATURDAY 27 TH	Arena open	11:00	The Killers
SUNDAY 28 TH	Arena open	11:00	Billie Eilish
MONDAY 29 TH	Campsites close	14:00	Advertised 12:00

THIS IS FESTIVAL REPUBLIC





«READING FESTIVAL

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND >> 25-27 AUGUST 2023 >> BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND >> 25-27 AUGUST 2023 >> BANK HOLIDAY

MAIN STAGE EAST >> FRIDAY READING >> SATURDAY LEEDS

SAM FENDER

LOYLE CARNER • *WETLEG*

MAIN STAGE WEST >> FRIDAY READING >> SATURDAY LEEDS

FOALS

BICEPLIVE • TRIAAK R&D

ALSO APPEARING >> A-Z

MEEKZ • NESSA BARRETT • TION WAYNE
YOU ME AT SIX

MAIN STAGE EAST >> SUNDAY READING >> FRIDAY LEEDS

BILLIE EILISH

STEVE LACY • DECLAN MCKENNA

MAIN STAGE WEST >> SUNDAY READING >> FRIDAY LEEDS

IMAGINE DRAGONS

BECKY HILL • LILTJAY

ALSO APPEARING >> A-Z

ANDY C • DON BROCO • ELIZA ROSE • LOVEJOY
MUNA • SHY FX • SONGER • THE SNUTS

>> PLUS MANY MORE TO BE ANNOUNCED <<

9AM MONDAY >> TICKETS ON SALE 9AM MONDAY >> TICKETS ON SALE 9AM MONDAY >> TICKETS

MAIN STAGE EAST >> SATURDAY READING >> SUNDAY LEEDS

the KILLERS

CENTRAL CEE • NOTHING BUT THIEVES

MAIN STAGE WEST >> SATURDAY READING >> SUNDAY LEEDS

LEWIS CAPALDI

SLOWTHAI • CHASE ATLANTIC

ALSO APPEARING >> A-Z

BABY QUEEN • GEORGIA • INHALER
LF SYSTEM • MK • YUNG LEAN





SUMMARY OF 2023

- Successful event for Festival Republic.
- Fantastic media coverage of artists.
- AIRHUBS (Assistance, Information & Response) implemented into campsites, increased welfare provision and campfire ban.
- Off-site changes as per 2022 due to Rivermead expansion/school build.
- Ask for Angela campaign as per 2022.
- Silent Discos moved successfully from campsites into one main arena venue.
- Challenge 25 across all bars and sponsors activations.
- ECO Campsite more than tripled in size and extremely successful. Continue to build for 2024

LOOKING FORWARD AHEAD TO 2024

- Continued build on AIRHUBS. Explore new partnerships.
- Eco Campsite to be further developed / promoted.
- Pre-festival comms with local schools to be developed via Brighter Futures.





KEY AREAS OF FOCUS:

- CAMPSITES
- SAFEGUARDING
- SUSTAINABILITY





CAMPsites





AIR HUBS



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Fire

NEW POLICY - FIRES BANNED FOR 2023

- No on scene attendance from RBFRS
- Fantastic partnership work as always between RBFRS and on-site fire (Event Fire Solutions)



- Only 17 fires in the open compared to over 90 in previous years



EVENT FIRE SOLUTIONS	2023	2022	2021
Fires	17	92	93
RBFRS Attended	0	0	0





Security

- Increased security personnel and new Tiger Teams with a focus on Drug Mitigation.
- Visibility of security improved with brighter (high vis) vests.
- SIA assessment was successful: 170 Security Operatives checked on-site, all correct/compliant. 637 checks carried out prior to the show using staff lists FR gathered, all correct/compliant.
- Earlier intervention of campsite ring leaders and a harder stance taken, new evictions team to oversee/manage.
- Campsites redesign, more welfare and trader positions thought about.
- Security audit in campsites undertaken which provided accountability.

EVICTIONS	2023	2022	2021
Warnings	54	97	80
Evicted	119	219	194
TOTAL SEEN	173	316	274



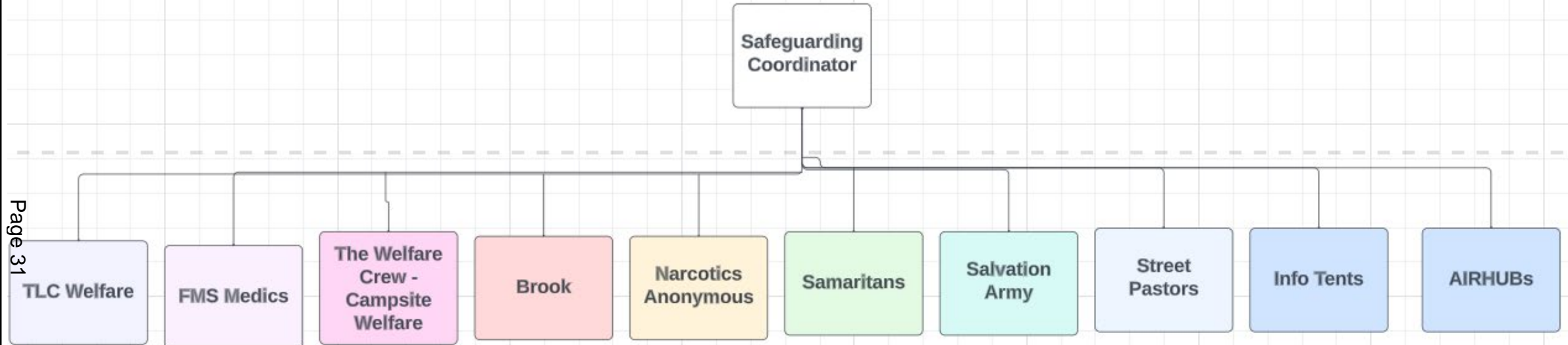


SAFEGUARDING





Safeguarding












- X3 planning meetings held with all partners and security teams prior to festival.
 - Close working relationships with Thames Valley Police Safeguarding teams.
 - Safeguarding team constantly evolving and growing.



WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING? FED UP? OVER INDULGED?
WE ARE HERE TO HELP & NO JUDGEMENTS WILL BE MADE



- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
|  | CAMPSITE AIR HUBS |
|  | CAMPSITE MANAGER |
|  | CAMPSITE WELFARE |
|  | MEDICAL TENT |
|  | INFORMATION |
|  | WELFARE |
|  | PHARMACY |
|  | BROOK SEXUAL HEALTH & WELLBEING |
|  | SAFE GIGS FOR WOMEN |
|  | SALVATION ARMY |
|  | SAMARITANS |
|  | STREET PASTORS |
|  | VICTIMS FIRST |
|  | NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS |

TYPE OF HELP AVAILABLE 24HR

-  **BROOK:** BROOK WILL BE OFFERING JUDGMENT-FREE SEXUAL HEALTH ADVICE AND CONTRACEPTION AT OUR FESTIVAL. THEY ARE ACTIVE IN THE CAMPSITES.
 -  **SAFE GIGS FOR WOMEN:** RAISING AWARENESS FOR UNWANTED ATTENTION AT GIGS USING THEIR 'BYSTANDER METHOD'.
 -  **SAMARITANS:** SAMARITANS WILL GIVE YOU THE TIME AND SPACE TO TALK THINGS THROUGH, SO YOU CAN FIND A WAY THROUGH ANY PROBLEMS. SO YOU CAN TALK TO US ANY TIME YOU LIKE, IN YOUR OWN WAY, ABOUT WHATEVER'S GETTING TO YOU AND IN COMPLETE CONFIDENCE.
 -  **VICTIMS FIRST:** PROVIDING EMOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO ANYONE WHO IS A VICTIM OF A CRIME INCLUDING SEXUAL VIOLENCE. ASK FOR US OR FIND US ON SITE IN THE YELLOW CAMP AREA.
 -  **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN A DRUG FREE LIFE. NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS WILL BE HOLDING MEETINGS AT VARIOUS TIMES FROM THURSDAY TO SUNDAY AT THEIR CONFIDENTIAL TENT IN PURPLE CAMP
 -  **STREET PASTORS:** SAFE PLACES FOR PEOPLE FEELING OVERHELMED OR WHO JUST NEED SOMEWHERE TO GO & SIT. FEELING VULNERABLE OR JUST FED UP? GO SPEAK TO THEM. GRAB A BITE TO EAT, THEY ALSO PATROL THE CAMPSITES.
 -  **AIR HUBS** ASSISTANCE, INFORMATION, RESPONSE. RAN BY VOLUNTEERS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT ORGANISATIONS AND CHARITIES. THEY WILL CREATE A COMMUNITY FEEL IN EACH CAMPSITE, SUPPORTING THE CAMPPERS AS THEY NAVIGATE THEIR WAY AROUND THE FESTIVAL.
 -  **FESTIVAL MEDICAL SERVICES:** MEDICAL POINTS WHERE YOU CAN GO FOR HELP AT ANY TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT.
 -  **WELFARE: TLC & EVENTS WELLBEING** OUR FRIENDLY TEAM OF STAFF FROM TLC WELFARE ARE DEDICATED CARING PROFESSIONALS WHO OFFER INFORMATION, ADVICE, HEALTH, WELLBEING AND EMOTIONAL SUPPORT. WE WILL BE OPEN 24HRS FROM WHEN YOU ARRIVE UNTIL 1PM MONDAY 26TH AND ARE LOCATED IN YELLOW CAMPSITE ON BAKER LANE, BLUE AND PURPLE CAMPSITES, AND IN THE MAIN ARENA.
 -  **SALVATION ARMY:** PROVIDING A LISTENING EAR IN CONFIDENCE. AFTERNOONAL DRINKS AND HOT FOOD TOO.

IS IT AN EMERGENCY?

**SPEAK TO THE
CLOSEST STEWARD
OR SECURITY &
ASK FOR HELP**

ASK FOR ANGELA

THIS YEAR WE ARE SUPPORTING THE ASK FOR ANGELA CAMPAIGN, WHICH IS OPERATIONAL ACROSS THE FESTIVAL SITE AND IS BRIEFED TO ALL STAFF MEMBERS, INCLUDING SECURITY, STEWARDS & BAR STAFF. ASK FOR ANGELA IS AN INITIATIVE AIMED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT IN A DISCREET MANNER FOR ANYONE EXPERIENCING HARASSMENT OF ANY KIND. CUSTOMERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GO TO A MEMBER OF BAR STAFF OR SECURITY AND 'ASK FOR ANGELA' IF THEY NEED DISCREET HELP.

SAFE STORAGE & LOST PROPERTY:

LOST PROPERTY. FESTIVALGOERS CAN LEAVE THEIR BAGS AND VALUABLE ITEMS AT THIS FACILITY IF THEY DON'T WANT TO TAKE IT INTO THE ARENA.



FESTIVAL REPUBLIC

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LOOKOUTFOREACHOTHER

THIS IS FESTIVAL REPUBLIC





Customer Feedback

Of 19k attendees who completed the survey...

- Did you see the #LookOutForEachOther campaign?
 - Reading: 88.5% YES / 11.5% NO

I thought it was excellent! Because of the campaign people were genuinely looking out for each other. If someone needed to get out the crowd people were quick to help unlike previous years

I think it is a very positive message, i am happy that it wasn't every once in a while but rather it was on many screens, posters and staff promoted it as well as the acts themselves also did so.

I felt it was pushed an appropriate amount without being patronising or losing meaning. The alerts on the app were friendly and helpful too.

LOOKOUTFOREACHOTHER



Bars and Alcohol

Challenge 21 > Challenge 25
ASK 4 ANGELA



BARS	2023	2022	2021
Challenges	35899	32664	20592
Refusals	605	729	710
IDs confiscated	130	295	176





HAZMAT – BOH DRUG TESTING

- Significant increase in tests, value and quantity from 2022.
- Excellent working relations between FR/Thames Valley Police/Security teams.
- All of the ‘proactive’ work (i.e. undercover surveillance and identification of individuals) was passed to TVP by FR Security teams.

HAZMAT – DRUG TESTING	2023	2022	2021
Number of tests	1212	575	321
Estimated street value of drugs tested	£277,200	£127,400	£90,800
Estimated value per test	£228	£221	£283
Threats Identified	0	0	2 - 1 Severe





SUSTAINABILITY





Green Nation sees the rapid transition to a low carbon economy as **urgent**.

Green Nation Goals:

- Reduce our scope 1 and scope 2 greenhouse gas emissions* by 50% by 2030
- Power all our offices, venues and live events with 100% renewable energy by 2030

2023 Initiatives:

- 36% HVO biofuel used in generators and most plant vehicles
- 100% LED Festoon and Tower Lights
- 25 x Battery / Hybrid generators used
- Air Quality Assessment was carried out

Results

- **31.24% reduction** in scope 1 & 2* GHG emissions from 2019 (our baseline year)
- **0.5l of fuel used per person per day** (Julie’s Bicycle Benchmark of 0.5l pppd)

Reading Festival scope 1 & 2* GHG Emissions:

Year	CO2e (t)	Yearly Target
2019 (base year)	394	336
2023	271	275

Battery Usage	
Quantity	25
Fuel Savings (estimate)	8856 litres
CO2e Savings (estimate)	23 tonnes



*Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources like generators.
*Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy.
Source: GHG Protocol: https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/standards_supporting/FAQ.pdf

RESOURCE EFFICIENCY: WASTE & PLASTIC



Green Nation prioritises **waste reduction**, followed by reuse, recycling, and then waste-to-energy.

2023 Initiatives:

- **Disposable vapes were banned**
- **A new partnership with Liquid Death sold water in cans**, reducing plastic waste by 130,000 bottles
- Tickets were **paperless** and **electronic crew catering** passes were used to reduce waste
- **Soft drink units** onsite to reduce the amount of plastic needed from rPET bottles
- All cups are paper with a 10p deposit remaining on all cans, cups and bottles sold in the arena, **the minimum amount reduced to 50p from £1** to encourage their return for recycling - **46% returned**
- **Reusable bottles** were encouraged to be brought in packing list and sold in our merch stand, with water refill points clearly signposted throughout the site
- Pre comms sent out to encourage **purchasing a fit-for purpose tent**
- A **three-bin system** is in operation across the site, to allow recyclable, not recyclable and compostable material separation.
- **Recycling points** in each campsite for campers to bring their waste for rewards
- **Waste guides and briefings** provided to traders, bars and sponsors, which are monitored and enforced throughout the event



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY: ECOCAMPSITE



As a waste reduction and engagement initiative and due to popular demand, **Reading Festival** expanded the Eco campsite from one in 2022 to two, **where almost 8200 festival goers decided to camp, compared to 1000 in 2022.**

These campsites offered eco conscious campers the opportunity to camp with others who live life with the planet in mind and leave no trace.

- ### Eco Campsite Facilities / Activities

 - **Compost** toilets were provided
 - **Daily yoga** sessions were really popular
 - **Recycling bags** and recycling point provided



Above Image: Eco-campers with campsite manager Lauren



Above Image: Sorted recycling bags in the Ecocampsite



Above Images: Yoga Class for eco-campers and ecocamp pledge

ECOCAMPSITE: RESULTS



WHITE ECOCAMPSITE Monday 28th August 2023



GREEN ECOCAMPSITE Monday 28th August 2023



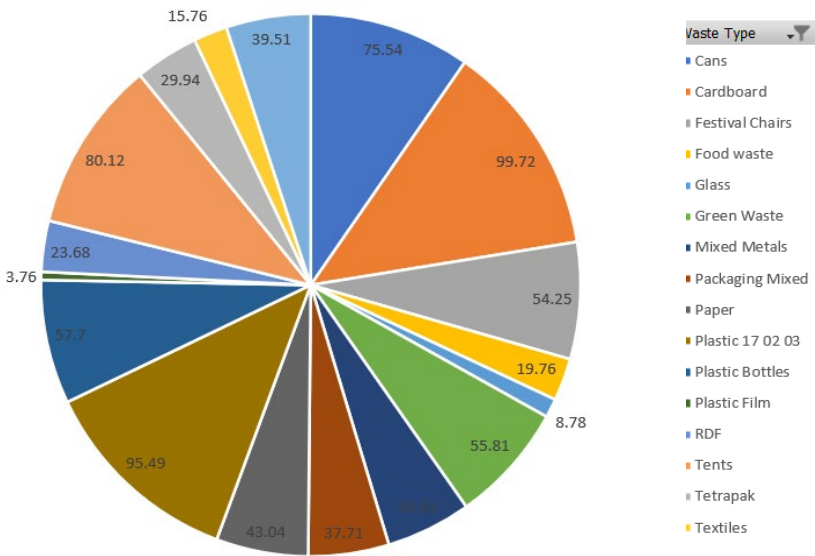
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY: RESULTS



STREAM	2023 (t)	2023%	tCO2e	2022 (t)	2022%	tCO2e
Landfill	0.00			0.00		
Recycled	601.03	77%	12.79	436.37	55.50%	
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	103.8	13%	2.21	151.75	19.30%	3.23
Solid Recovered Fuel (SRF)	0	0		103.79	13.20%	2.21
Green Waste (Composted incl food)	75.57	9%	0.67	94.35	12.00%	0.84
TOTAL	780.4	100%	15.67	786.26	100%	15.56
Per person, per day (kg)	2.48			2.50		



Recycling Breakdown



Tent waste comparison 2021 - 2023

Waste Type	2023		2023 vs 2022	2022		2021	
	Weight	%		Weight	%		
Tents	80.12	10%	-27.53	107.65	14%	120.96	15%
Grand Total	780.4			786.27		821.34	

Results

- Only 2.4kg of waste produced per person, per day
- Tent waste reduced by 28 tonnes and 10% of the total waste (from 14% of the total waste in 2022)
- The Material Recovery Facility (MRF) reported a 77% recycling rate during the period between 23rd August – 17th September (compared to 51.5% RBC publicly available information from 2021/22)
- None of Reading Festival's waste went to landfill
- Non-recyclable waste (including tents) is sent to Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF), creating energy.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Green Nation is working towards **communicating our sustainability aims** clearly and transparently with our audience.

2023 Initiatives:

- Reading has a **Festival Charter** which sets out how the festival is working towards our Green Nation Goals as well as Equality and Inclusion.

Page 43 We worked with Music Declares Emergency again to elevate the message that there's **No Reading On A Dead Planet**, expanding this to include info on what the festival is doing, what festival goers can do and what they can do when they get home. We also asked artists to help share a call to action and showed the campaign video on the big screens. <https://youtu.be/MzqPqxP-Zuk>

- **Climate Live**— youth climate justice activists hosted an environmental themed talk from the **Alternative Stage** to encourage climate action amongst their peers at Reading. They also had a stall where they were engaging with festival-goers and applying free climate-action themed temporary tattoos.





Green Nation relies on the local environment and the communities living nearby to create world class live events. As such, we are stewards of the environment and communities where our venues and live events are based.

Main goals:

- Work to minimise the impact of noise and light pollution of our events
- Support local charities and create local employment opportunities

Initiatives:

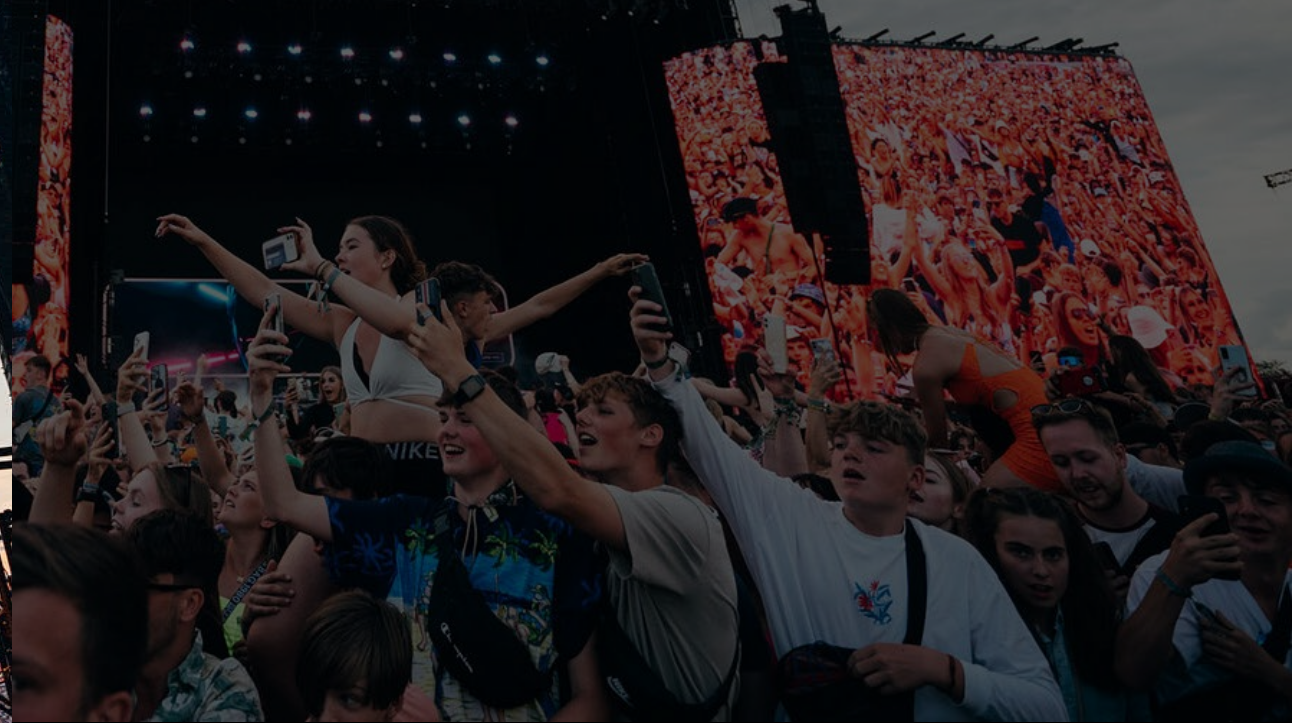
- Page 44
- Reading Festival goers donate £1 of their car parking fee to **Trees for Cities**, this has **funded the planting of 22 mature trees at Spencer Road** in Reading in line with Reading Borough Council’s new Tree Strategy.
 - This year we worked with **Reading Borough Council and Aldi** to provide staffed glass bins outside of Aldi for festival-goers who were decanting their drinks. **This generated 300kg of glass which equals approximately 938 glass bottles**. A recycling team encouraged festival-goers to use the bins instead of discarding their bottles on the streets.
 - **Local charities are given the opportunity to salvage** in the campsites after the festival for discarded, food, camping equipment, and clothes.
 - **Money raised** through our guest tickets helps to support local and international charities
 - An independent team of **noise assessors** are on hand to measure the volumes levels within the community to ensure we are keeping below our agreed levels.

Species	Common Name	Number
<i>Malus sylvestris</i>	Crab Apple	6
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan	2
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam	3
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple	4
<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>	American Sweetgum	6
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch	1





«READING FESTIVAL 2023



Thank you for listening
Any Questions?

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Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee

08 November 2023



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2023/2024
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report status	Public report
Report author (name & job title)	Sam Shean, Highways & Traffic Services Manager
Lead Councillor (name & title)	Councillor Karen Rowland, Lead Councillor for Environmental Services & Community Safety
Corporate priority	Healthy Environment
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Committee note the outputs delivered by the Winter Service Plan 2022/2023. 2. That the Committee note the Winter Service Plan review carried out to ensure compliance with the Highways Act 1980 and 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice'. 3. That the Committee note and approve the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 To inform the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee of the outputs delivered by the Winter Service Plan 2022/2023.
- 1.2 To inform the Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee of the Winter Service Plan review carried out to ensure compliance with the Highways Act 1980 and 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice'.
- 1.3 To inform the Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee and to approve the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1 The Council approved Shaping Reading's Future – our 3-Year Corporate Plan 2021/2022 to 2023/2024. The Plan reflects the Council's priorities for Reading and provides direction for staff in delivering services to meet the needs of communities within the Borough whilst working to a budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and updated to include the current Year-3 priorities.
- 2.2 The aim of the Winter Service Plan is to provide a service to reduce, as far as possible, the effects of adverse weather on the public highway during the winter period.
- 2.3 To make travel more secure, safe and comfortable for all users of the public highway and to provide conditions that are as safe as reasonably practical having regards to financial constraints and our statutory duties.
- 2.4 To secure the most effective use of resources in the delivery of high quality, best value public service. Our Local Transport Plan outlines investments in walking and cycling

initiatives, public transport, and electric vehicle infrastructure that will make it easier for residents to make healthy choices, and feel the benefits of clean, green neighbourhoods.

3. The Proposal

Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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

Current Position:

Overview of Winter Service delivery during 2022/2023, review of Winter Service Plan 2022/2023 and updated Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

- 3.3 This report outlines the review of the Winter Service Plan 2022/2023 and the changes incorporated within the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024, which the Council produce and agree on an annual basis.

Overview of Winter Service delivery during 2022/2023

- 3.4 The 2022/2023 winter season was relatively mild overall although interspersed with colder spells including one brief snow event. However, there were numerous occasions when the temperature reached the trigger point for precautionary salting action, (below 1°C and predicted to go below freezing), resulting in 51 primary runs and 5 secondary runs. The colder spells, including the single snow event, were not severe nor prolonged enough for activation of the Snow Plan.
- 3.5 There were no issues with salt supply / delivery which enabled the contractor to maintain stock levels throughout the winter season.
- 3.6 There were no issues with the contractor replenishing the grit bins as and when required.
- 3.7 The winter decision making process to determine when to salt worked well during the last winter season. The Vaisala weather stations provided the correct data for informed decisions to be made.
- 3.8 The joint arrangement/agreement with Wokingham Borough Council, through their Consultants, Volker Highways, for providing the decision - making service, worked well and delivered against the set key performance indicators during the 2022/2023 winter season.
- 3.9 The Winter Service Plan 2022/2023 provided a robust service for the duration of the winter period with no disruption to the primary and secondary road network during the season, except for some inevitable disruption during the snow event.

Options Proposed:

- 3.10 A review of the Winter Service Plan 2022/2023 has been undertaken. The main points, including updates for the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024, are summarised below:
- The existing 47 highway grit bins, which have scored highly using the Council's Grit Bin Risk Assessment Pro-forma, continue to be justified and form part of the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024.
 - New grit bin requests received for public highway roads have been assessed using the Council's 'Winter Service Assessment Pro-forma' but have not scored high enough to qualify.
 - A review of Christchurch Footbridge has been carried out and taking into account its priority use by cyclists and pedestrians, as well as the construction make up, it has qualified for a new grit bin at a suitable location on the south side of the bridge for use by the public.
 - The contractual salt stock held by the Council's contractor will be 900 Tonnes throughout the 2023/2024 winter service period up to the 31st March when it will reduce to 600 Tonnes. All of the salt stock is stored by the contractor at their Aldermaston site, (under sheeting cover), as set out in Section 8 of the Winter Service Plan.
 - Confirmation has been obtained from Compass Minerals (the salt supplier) that there are adequate National salt stocks available to cope with a severe winter season.
 - Review has shown that the updated spread rates introduced in the 2018/2019 winter season following the National Salt Supply Review continues to prove successful and will continue for the 2023/2024 winter season.
 - Bus routes continue to be on primary or secondary precautionary salting routes.
 - There are no changes to the primary and secondary precautionary salting routes for the 2023/2024 winter season. However, the new Active Travel Cycle Lane on Shinfield Road will receive precautionary salting with an additional 'pass' by the gritting vehicle whilst Shinfield Road receives its primary precautionary salting run. The same will apply when Bath Road Active Travel Plan is implemented.
 - All cross-boundary primary and secondary precautionary salting routes correspond with neighbouring authorities precautionary salting routes.
 - When the Snow Plan is activated (during prolonged adverse weather events), footway/pavement snow ploughs continue to be available for use in the Town Centre and on primary pedestrian routes such as the Reading / Caversham Bridges and Christchurch footbridge. The Snow Plan is available as a background paper.
 - The Town Centre 'core area' footways will be treated with a propriety material when snow is predicted to lay for a prolonged period. Traditional grit/salt may also be used on these Town Centre footways, as an alternative when snow is predicted to lay for a prolonged period. The Town Centre footways are listed in Appendix E of the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 and shown on a plan 'Town Centre Winter Maintenance - Treated Footway Areas' (Drawing Number RBC/WM/001A) which forms part of this Appendix.
 - The Council's advice for cyclists using the Borough's public highway network during the winter season remains the same as for last winter season (Section 7 'Footways and Cycleways' (paragraph 7.5) in the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 refers as follows:

Cyclists can continue to cycle in winter but are advised to dress appropriately, use mudguards and lights, consider tyres (the wider the better) and commuting by bicycle can be comfortable and efficient. It is important to make a safety assessment particularly

during periods of prolonged hazardous conditions, (refer to Council's Snow Plan). The Council does not precautionary grit / salt shared footways and remote cycleways when frost, ice or prolonged hazardous conditions are forecast, with the exception of shared carriageway / cycleway routes on the primary and secondary salting network, (this includes the Shinfield Road Active Cycle Lane). Being part of the carriageway, shared carriageway/cycleway routes on the primary and secondary precautionary salting route networks will be salted by default in accordance with the Winter Service Plan.

Should individuals make the decision to cycle during hazardous winter conditions the Council recommend that they take the necessary precautionary measures for the prevailing conditions.

- 3.11 The updated Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 and map showing the primary/secondary precautionary salting routes and grit bin locations are available in Appendix 1 and on the Council's website.
- 3.12 The Berkshire Winter Service Consortium (includes the six Berkshire Unitary Local Authorities) agreed to jointly tender the 'winter forecasting' service and the supplier was appointed before the 2021/2022 winter season commenced. West Berkshire Council continues to be the lead Local Authority for the administration of this contract on behalf of the Berkshire Winter Service Consortium.
- 3.13 Risk assessments and method statements will be updated and agreed by the Council's Winter Maintenance Contractor, J.H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd. To take account of the lessons learnt from the Covid-19 Pandemic and the ongoing associated risks. The situation will be actively monitored, and any further Government advice will be acted upon.
- 3.14 A Berkshire wide road sensor temperature data collection trial is being deployed during the 2023/2024 winter season and is being funded by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). This will improve road temperature data collection which will enable better decision making, leading to reduced number of precautionary salting runs and provide further opportunities to only treat those colder areas during certain circumstances, thereby further reducing the overall precautionary salting runs required, reducing vehicles and salt/grit use and less waste that ultimately will lead to lower carbon emissions and efficiency savings in future winter seasons.

Other Options Considered

- 3.15 The Highways Team have explored options to join an existing framework contract with nearby Local Authorities to deliver the Winter Maintenance Service within the Borough, however, the framework access fee and high delivery costs are in excess of what we currently have secured with our term gritting contractor J. H. Cresswell & Sons Ltd.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1 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.

- 4.2 The Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan 2022 – 2025 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.

- 4.3 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 & traffic assets.

Make a Difference – Providing a safe inclusive public highway network for all users.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1 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, including road gritting/salting, 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.
- 5.2 The Berkshire Wide Road Sensor Temperature collection trial will improve local road temperature data to provide better decision making. This will lead to reduced number of gritting runs and provide further opportunities to only grit / treat those colder areas during certain circumstances, thereby further reducing the overall number of precautionary gritting runs, reducing the amount of grit / road salt use, reduced vehicle use and reduce waste that will ultimately lead to lower carbon emissions and efficiency savings.
- 5.3 The Tender for the Winter Service Term Contract 2022-2027 provision invited tenderers to submit Environmental Implications proposals. which formed part of the quality element of the tender evaluation. A social value quality submission was also submitted with tenders and evaluation carried out.
- 5.4 Tenders also included carbon reduction targets and improved sustainability. The intent was to reduce the amount of carbon used to produce the materials at source, using recycled materials, reducing the uncontrolled waste in the environment to reduce pollution of the natural environment, use of electric vehicles and plant, sourcing green energy alternatives, carbon off-setting, as well as how they will achieve their own carbon reduction targets.
- 5.5 A Climate Impact Assessment has been conducted, which considers a net 'low-positive' impact as a result of the Winter Service Term Contract 2022-2027. There will be a decrease in the amount of carbon compared with the previous Winter Service Term Contract 2016-2022.
- 5.6 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.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1 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".
- 6.2 The public and national bus operators can report accumulations of snow and ice on the public highway and strategic network and all requests for additional grit bins and roads to consider for gritting will be brought to Committee for consideration and approval should they meet the assessment criteria.

- 6.3 This report and the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 will be available on the Council's website following Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee approval processes.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 The Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 will result in improving access for all users of the public highway. There is no overall reduction to service delivery at this time only how those service requirements are met. Should any future updates/amendments be required, which result in service delivery changes, an equality impact assessment will be carried out.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1 Procedural requirements – There are no current departures from established procedures planned at this time.
- 8.2 Risk management implications – All risk management requirements will be met as part of the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 and Highway Winter Maintenance Contract 2022/23 – 2027/28.
- 8.3 Health and Safety risk assessments – All included within the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 and Highway Winter Maintenance Contract 2022/23 – 2027/28.
- 8.4 Transparency of information and freedom of information implications – Applies.
- 8.5 Effects on the Armed Forces Community (Armed Forces Act 2021) – Included within the Social Value requirements of the Winter Service.
- 8.6 Privacy Impact Assessment – Not Applicable
- 8.7 Impact on Human Rights Act duties – included within the Social Value requirements of the Winter Service.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Borough Council, as Highway Authority, has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 (Clause 1A) and Section 150 to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1 The Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 will be fully funded by the Council's existing Highways & Traffic Services Revenue Budget.
- 10.2 Revenue Budget and risk assessment, refer to Appendix 2.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1 The Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 will come into operation on the 1st October 2023 and continue throughout the winter season until 31st March 2024, and will be extended as necessary.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1 There are none.

13. Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1: Winter Service Plan 2023/2024

13.2 Appendix 2: Financial Implications

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Appendix 2

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

1. Revenue Implications

Use this Table in the report or as an Appendix to set out the revenue implications:

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Employee costs (see note1) Other running costs Capital financings costs	410	418	426.5
Expenditure	410	418	426.5
Income from: Fees and charges (see note2) Grant funding (specify) Other income	0	0	0
Total Income	0	0	0
Net Cost(+)/saving (-)	410	418	426.5

The net cost of the proposal can be funded from (specify service and approved cost centre budget).

Note 1: Specifying any one-off early retirement and redundancy costs. **N/A**

Note 2: In a separate table/appendix set out detailed fees and charges proposals and sensitivity analysis. **N/A**

2. Capital Implications

Capital Programme reference from budget book: page line	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000
Proposed Capital Expenditure	0	0	0
Funded by Grant (specify) Section 106 (specify) Other services Capital Receipts/Borrowing	0	0	0
Total Funding	0	0	0

Note: where more than one option /proposal is being made it may be easier to set out the above information in an Appendix. **N/A**

3. Value for Money (VFM)

Given the continuing need to demonstrate VFM please include evidence that the proposal offers VFM (e.g., benchmarking data): **Term Contract awarded October 2022 for 3-years with an**

option to extend for a further 3 years subject to contract compliance and meeting the KPI criteria.

4. Risk Assessment.

Include relevant comments around any key financial risks associated with the proposal(s): **Risk Assessments and Snow Plan included in the Winter Service Plan 2023/2024.**

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WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2023 - 2024

Directorate of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services
Environmental and Commercial Services
Highways and Traffic
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October 2023

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READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

WINTER SERVICE PLAN 2023 - 2024

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been produced in association with the documents “Well Maintained Highways” Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance (Published July 2005, revised 2009, 2010 & 2011) and “Lessons learned from the severe weather February 2009” report (revised 2010 & 2011), ‘Quarmby Report’ December 2010 and the ‘Well-managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice’ October 2016, to describe the Council’s proposals for dealing with ice/snow deposits on the highway network over the winter period. It details information regarding the winter service, such as the roles and responsibilities of Reading Borough Council and the joint arrangement with Wokingham Borough Council, its Consultant Volker Highways (Wokingham Highways Alliance) and Winter Maintenance Contractor J H Cresswell and Sons Ltd.
- 1.2 Roads forming the Primary and Secondary precautionary salting networks are shown in Appendix A. These are the most heavily used strategic roads in the Borough, including the main bus routes and routes to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- 1.3 A winter service will be provided by the Council for 26 weeks of the year, starting on 1st October 2023 and ending on 31st March 2024. The formal winter service with Wokingham Borough Council and their Consultant, Volker Highways, commences on the 1st November 2023. However, as agreed at the pre-winter season meeting, Volker Highways provides an informal weather data monitoring service from the 1st October 2023. Should salting action be required during October, Reading Borough Council will be advised and the Winter Maintenance Contractor, J H Cresswell and Sons Ltd, will be instructed accordingly. Although the formal winter service ends on 31st March 2024, a similar arrangement will be in place to extend the weather data monitoring service to the end of April 2024 if unfavourable conditions persist.
- 1.4 Precautionary salting of the Primary network (refer to 1.12) and snow clearance on the Primary routes will be carried out based on information received from the weather forecasting service. The Secondary precautionary salting network (refer to 1.13) will only be salted and/or cleared of snow during particularly severe and prolonged hazardous winter weather conditions. The decision to instigate such action will be taken by the Winter Duty Officer based on information received from the weather forecasting service at the time. The primary precautionary salting network is risk assessed and comprises of principal roads, including main bus routes and routes to the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Likewise, the secondary precautionary salting network is risk assessed and comprises of the remaining bus route network and roads linking strategic routes.
- 1.5 Where the Council has been made aware of water being deposited on the highway as the result of an unforeseen incident, for example fire, road traffic accident, burst water main etc, salt shall be applied, during freezing conditions, to reduce

as far as possible the effects of frost, ice and other severe winter weather conditions on the highway.

- 1.6 Where water is being deposited on the highway from a watermain and Thames Water is aware of the problem, they will begin to salt the area affected until the issue has been resolved. Thames Water will continue to salt any visible leaks of their own plant whether or not the leak is on a Council salting network. Thames Water provides the Council with a list of known leak sites to be salted by their own contractor.
- 1.7 Spreading of a proprietary material/grit/salt on Town Centre footways, as detailed in Appendix E, will be carried out based on forecast information received from the weather forecasting service at the time. The decision to spread a proprietary material/grit/salt in the town centre is made and carried out by the Council.
- 1.8 For Primary and Secondary precautionary salting routes, response and treatment times are 1 hour and 3 hours respectively. This means that the Contractor must commence salting within 1 hour of receiving the winter gritting decision/instruction and complete all of the salting routes within 3 hours of leaving their depot.
- 1.9 As the Highway Authority, Reading Borough Council has a legal duty under Section 41 (Clause 1A) and Section 150 of the Highways Act 1980 to remove accumulations of snow, if causing a highway to become obstructed. Roads will therefore be cleared of snow in descending order of priority commencing with the First Priority network as described in Section 9 of this document.
- 1.10 In accordance with the recommendations of the “Lessons learned from the Severe Weather February 2009” report, the Council has introduced a Contingency Salting Network to cover the prolonged periods and heavy accumulations of snow and national salt shortages as described in 6.8.
- 1.11 Salt spread rates, where possible, will be adjusted to meet the directives set out as described in the “Quarmby Audit” report and adopted by Highways Authorities in December 2010.
- 1.12 The Primary precautionary salting network is approximately 120 km in length, represents approximately 30% of the total road network and comprises principal roads, including main bus routes and routes to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- 1.13 The Secondary precautionary salting network is approximately 42.02 km, represents approximately 11% of the total road network and is comprised of, the remaining bus route network and roads linking strategic routes.
- 1.14 There will be 48 grit bins provided at locations throughout the Borough for public use, with the inclusion of an additional grit bin on Christchurch Footbridge. The grit bins are maintained by the Contractor and are detailed in Appendix G. The provision of grit bins on the Borough’s public highway network has been reviewed and risk assessed. A grit bin has to achieve a minimum score of 60 points, using the Council’s approved grit bin risk assessment pro-forma, to qualify; 48 grit bins continue to meet these criteria. The grit bins are repaired and

replenished throughout the winter period as necessary. At the end of the winter, all grit bins are collected, cleaned and stored away during the summer months.

- 1.15 All cross-boundary primary and secondary precautionary salting routes correspond with neighbouring authorities precautionary salting routes, refer to paragraph 6.7.
- 1.16 The treatment of the M4 motorway and the on/off 4 slip roads at Junction 11 is the responsibility of Highways England and their agent. The Junction 11/A33 gyratory, A33 carriageway and bus lanes within the Borough boundary are included within the Council's Primary Salting Network.

2 POLICY STATEMENT

Reading Borough Council aim to provide a winter maintenance service to reduce so far as is reasonably practicable the effects of frost, ice and snow and other severe winter conditions on the public highway. The Council aim to provide travelling conditions as safe as reasonably practicable having regard to the road hierarchy detailed in Section 6 of this document, 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure - Code of Practice' October 2016, as well as the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 (Clause 1A) and Section 150.

3 CLIENT/CONSULTANT/CONTRACTOR RELATIONSHIP

- 3.1 The Winter Maintenance Contract (2022/23-2027/28) specifies the Winter Service operations to be carried out within the Borough. The term contractor is J. H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd.
- 3.2 Innovative ideas proposed by the Client, Consultant, Contractor or DfT that provide improvements in quality of service and/or cost benefits will be adopted during the course of the winter season. An example would be adjusting salt spread rates during prolonged cold periods to maximise coverage and maintain adequate stock levels.
- 3.3 The following table indicates how the principal Winter Service responsibilities between Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and its Consultant and the Contractor are split.

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Preparation of Winter Service Plan	Reading Borough Council
Road hierarchy priorities	Reading Borough Council
Salt purchase & storage	Contractor - J. H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd
Route mapping for precautionary salting network	Contractor - J. H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd
Route mapping for snow Clearance	Reading Borough Council / Contractor - J. H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd
Vehicles/plant and Accreditation	Owned and routinely maintained by Contractor
Winter Service Manager/ Decision making	Wokingham Borough Council (Volker Highways)
Day-to-day operations	Mainly Contractor - J. H. Cresswell and Sons Ltd with central co-ordination by Reading Borough Council/Wokingham Borough Council (Volker Highways) staff
Manning levels	As defined in the Winter Maintenance Contract (2022/23-2027/28).
Performance monitoring	Wokingham Borough Council (Volker Highways)/Reading Borough Council

ACTIVITY (CONT'D)RESPONSIBILITY (CONT'D)

Opening of Emergency
Operations Centre and
Emergency Planning Room

Reading Borough Council

Approval to commence
Operations in extreme
Snow conditions

Reading Borough Council

Weather
Forecasting Service

Vaisala / MeteoGroup

- 3.4 The Contractor will provide the Council with a list of any wet spots identified during each salting run, for the Council to investigate further. The Contractor will also provide the Council with a list of roads that have not been salted and the reason why e.g. road works/traffic management.

4 DECISION MAKING

- 4.1 Decision making is the responsibility of the Consultant's (Volker Highways) appropriate Duty Officer (**except in the cases detailed in paragraphs 4.11 and 4.12**). Each 24-hour period, during the winter service period, the Duty Officer will be on standby.

The Duty Officer also has a specific responsibility for liaising directly with the MeteoGroup duty forecaster and for disseminating information as described in Section 15.

- 4.2 The Duty Officer is responsible for receiving and taking the appropriate action on information relating to the winter service within the Borough. Using the forecast data provided, the Duty Officer will make his/her decision regarding precautionary salting as appropriate. To assist with this process, call out guidance notes are as detailed in Appendices B and C. The Winter Service Manager will also be available to give advice to the Duty Officer when required.
- 4.3 At approximately midday the Duty Officer logs on to MeteoGroup web page and inspects the rolling 36-hour forecast, graphs and appropriate maps. It is likely that the decision will be made at this time. If it is not possible to make a decision at midday the contractor is advised at this time that he is to wait for a decision following the evening update.
- 4.4 At approximately 1800 hours the Duty Officer logs on to MeteoGroup web page and inspects the forecast graph and text for any updated information. The forecast graph continues to have actual road surface temperatures plotted every hour for a rolling 36-hour period. This information can be obtained at any time by the Duty Officer by logging on to the web page. If a decision still cannot be made it may be necessary for the Duty Officer to consult the weather forecaster.
- 4.5 It is the responsibility of each Duty Officer to record all action taken on the justification forms and file for future reference.
- 4.6 The Duty Officer's decision is recorded on a decision sheet as shown in Appendix D, which is disseminated and filed for future reference.
- 4.7 When snow is forecast the snow clearance strategy is to be controlled by the Council in consultation with Volker Highways. In times of prolonged severe weather staff from the Council will liaise directly with the contractor in order to direct operations in the most effective way possible.
- 4.8 The Contractor is contacted via email and mobile phones, which are manned 24 hours per day. The daily decision sheets are emailed to the contractor by Volker Highways to confirm the instruction.
- 4.9 The daily decision sheets are provided by Volker Highways to the Council, electronically. The decisions are also disseminated within the Council and placed on the appropriate social media platform to inform the public.

- 4.10 Appropriate training is provided regularly for all Duty Officers, particularly with regard to technological improvements in forecasting techniques and the ice prediction system.
- 4.11 Where one of the emergency services contacts the Council requesting a one off gritting following either a road traffic accident, a fire resulting in localised excess water or a water leak, Streetcare Services will instruct during normal working hours or, if out of hours, The Answering Service (TAS) will instruct accordingly.
- 4.12 The Town Centre footway / pavement areas, listed in Appendix E, are treated by the Council's Streetcare Services. The decision whether to treat these is taken by Streetcare Services as outlined in Section 7.

5 ROSTERING OF SUPERVISORY AND OPERATIONAL STAFF

- 5.1 Wokingham Borough Council has employed Volker Highways to act as Highways and Transportation Consultant's whose role is to act as the Winter Service Manager. As part of the above agreement Reading Borough Council have a joint arrangement for Volker Highways to provide a winter decision making service.
- 5.2 The Consultant's team of Duty Officers is rostered to be on standby for the winter period, which is generally November to March inclusive. However, as agreed at the pre-winter season meeting, Volker Highways will be providing an informal weather data monitoring service/Duty Officer standby arrangement from the 1st October 2023 with a similar arrangement in place extended through to the end of April 2024 if unfavourable weather conditions persist.
- 5.3 A Winter Service Duty Officer is available 24 hours a day/ 7 days a week during his/her duty period. During normal office hours all Winter Service enquiries from members of the public should be directed to the Highways and Traffic Services - Highways Maintenance & Asset Management Team at Reading Borough Council, disseminated, and where the policy applies, information forwarded onto the Consultant's (Volker Highways).
- 5.4 Outside normal office hours, enquiries should be directed to the call out facility listed in Appendix F. (Officers' home telephone numbers will not be released to members of the public).
- 5.5 To continually improve the service, all public requests for salting and grit bins will be logged by the Council and forwarded to the Highways and Traffic Services - Highways Maintenance & Asset Management Team for assessment at the end of the winter season. Only in circumstances where emergency services make a request for salting will the Council's Winter Maintenance Contractor be mobilised before an assessment is completed. Further information concerning weather forecasts and the decision-making process are provided in Sections 4 and 13.
- 5.6 Rosters of all of the Contractor's staff involved in winter service operations are requested and made available by 1st October 2023.
- 5.7 All operators of salt spreading equipment are in possession of The City and Guilds Institute (scheme 6159) 'Winter Maintenance Operators Qualification' and all gritting plant conforms to current Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) Quality Assurance certification and accreditation. The Winter Maintenance Contractor provides the gritting vehicle calibration certificates to the Council in advance of the winter season.
- 5.8 Prior to the commencement of the winter period, each Duty Officer is provided with an information pack, which includes details of all appropriate telephone / mobile contacts, together with any additional information that may be appropriate.

6 ROAD HIERARCHY

- 6.1 The Primary precautionary salting network comprises all Category 1 and Category 2 roads and some heavily trafficked Category 3 roads which are defined as follows:

Category 1: The most important roads in the Borough in terms of volume of traffic carried, the proportion of heavy goods vehicles and their strategic function as principal links.

Category 2: The main distributor roads carrying significant volumes of traffic and public transport services. These are important thoroughfares distributing traffic from the strategic routes to residential and commercial areas.

Category 3: All other roads being roads providing local access within and between residential and commercial areas.

The total length of the Council's Primary Salting Network is approximately 120 km which represents approximately 30% of the highway network (excluding the motorway) within the Borough area.

- 6.2 The Secondary precautionary salting network is approximately 42.02 km in length and represents approximately 11% of the highway network. It is comprised of the remaining bus route network and roads linking strategic routes, which become hazardous if left untreated during prolonged periods of particularly severe weather conditions.
- 6.3 The Primary precautionary salting network is broken down into 3 individual salting routes. Each route is efficiently designed in order to comply with the maximum treatment time of 3 hours. In the event of the Snow Plan being activated the Primary precautionary salting network is broken down into 4 individual salting routes. The Primary precautionary salting routes to be treated by the Contractor are detailed in Appendix A.
- 6.4 The Secondary precautionary salting network is broken down into 4 salting routes. The Secondary salting routes to be treated by the Contractor are detailed in Appendix A.
- 6.5 The snow clearance routes comprise of 3 priority groups.

First All of the Category 1 network which are all the A Class roads in the Borough.

Second All of the Category 2 network which includes all of the B Class roads and some of the heavier trafficked C Class roads.

Third The remaining C class roads.

Snow clearance shall commence with the 'first priority' network and only when this has been cleared shall resources cascade to the 'second priority' followed by the 'third priority' networks.

Roads will therefore be cleared of snow in descending order of priority until such time as the 'first priority' network is clear. Only when this is clear shall resources cascade to the 'second priority' followed by the 'third priority' networks (see Section 9).

- 6.6 Performance of the Contractor in relation to response and treatment times is monitored to ensure satisfactory service delivery and contract compliance, where appropriate.
- 6.7 By agreement no cross Borough boundary salting and snow clearance will take place between Reading Borough Council and adjoining Unitary Authorities or vice versa, (refer to Appendix I).
- 6.8 In accordance with the recommendations of the "Lessons learned from the Severe Weather February 2009" report, the Council will introduce a Contingency Salting Network to cover any prolonged periods and heavy accumulations of snow and national salt shortages. The length of network to be treated will be determined based on the Council's salt stocks, the national salt stock situation and the anticipated period of severe weather.
- 6.9 The "Quarmby report" from 2010 gives guidance on efficient spread rates for preserving salt stocks. This is used when determining the rate at which salt is spread over the public highway during different weather conditions and salt levels.
- 6.10 The treatment of the M4 motorway and the on/off entry and exit slip roads at Junction 11 is the responsibility of the Highways England and their agent. The M4 Junction 11/A33 gyratory, A33 carriageway and bus lanes within the Borough boundary are included within the Council's Primary Salting Network.

7 FOOTWAYS AND CYCLEWAYS

- 7.1 The Council does not precautionary salt any of its footway network, however if snow is predicted to lay for a prolonged period, then the Town Centre area, as detailed in Appendix E, will be treated with a proprietary material/grit/salt to prevent snow and ice forming. The footways listed in Appendix E are treated with a proprietary material/grit/salt as they have a high pedestrian footfall.
- 7.2 The decision to treat the footways listed in Appendix E is taken by the Council's Streetcare Services. This work is also directly carried out by Streetcare Services.
- 7.3 Streetcare Services usually require approximately 3 hours' notice to prepare the equipment, product and staff for the works. Once the spreading of a proprietary material/grit/salt has started it takes approximately 1.5 hours to cover the route.
- 7.4 The Council has 2 hand operated snow ploughs which will be deployed on town centre footways, over Reading and Caversham Bridges and over the Christchurch Bridge, in the event of heavy accumulations of snow. On completion of these locations a decision will be made on cascading down to other high footfall areas based on a dynamic risk assessment reflecting conditions prevailing at the time.
- 7.5 Cyclists can continue to cycle in winter but are advised to dress appropriately, use mudguards and lights, consider tyres (the wider the better) and commuting by bicycle can be comfortable and efficient. It is important to make a safety assessment particularly during periods of prolonged hazardous conditions, (refer to Council's Snow Plan). The Council does not precautionary grit / salt shared footways and remote cycleways when frost, ice or prolonged hazardous conditions are forecast, with the exception of shared carriageway / cycleway routes on the primary and secondary salting network (including Shinfield Road Active Travel Cycle Lane). Being part of the carriageway, shared carriageway/cycleway routes on the primary and secondary precautionary salting route networks will be salted by default in accordance with the Winter Service Plan.

Should individuals make the decision to cycle during hazardous winter conditions the Council recommend that they take the necessary precautionary measures for the prevailing conditions.

8 SALTING OPERATIONS AND SALT

Response time

- 8.1 Throughout the winter service period the Contractor must start salting within 1 hour of receiving the instruction from the Duty Officer or at the time specified.
- 8.2 Each primary precautionary salting route is designed so that treatment can be completed in a maximum of 3 hours from the time of leaving the depot.
- 8.3 Salt complying with BS3247 shall be supplied by the Contractor and stored at Aldermaston. It is a contractual requirement that appropriate salt stockpiles are in place by 1st October each year.

	Minimum Quantity	Minimum Quantity	Minimum Quantity	Minimum Quantity
Quantity	1 st October (100%)	31 st December (100%)	28 th February (100%)	31 st March (66%)
Salt Total	900 tonnes	900 tonnes	900 tonnes	600 tonnes

- 8.4 All of the salt stock is stored in the open at Aldermaston, covered by proprietary sheeting.
- 8.5 Salt shall normally be applied in accordance with the “Quarmby Report” unless there are severe prolonged periods of snow or low national salt stocks. In such situations an appropriate spread rate will be implemented by the Contractor as agreed by the Council in consultation with the Consultant, Volker Highways, the Contractor and the salt supplier.
- 8.6 Bridge decks are given a double precautionary salting as the surface temperatures get much colder than those of regular roads. The bridges that are given a double precautionary salt are listed in Appendix H.

Motorways

- 8.7 The treatment of the M4 motorway and the on/off slip roads at Junction 11 is the responsibility of the Highways England and their agent. The M4 Junction 11/A33 gyratory, A33 carriageway and bus lanes within the Borough boundary are included within the Council’s Primary Salting Network.

9 SNOW CLEARANCE

- 9.1 When conditions are such that snow clearance becomes necessary, an instruction will be given by the Duty Officer to the Contractor to commence the snow clearance operation. It is essential that snow ploughs are fitted without delay.
- 9.2 During prolonged severe weather when snow clearance becomes necessary, the Emergency Planning Officer will implement the Council's Snow Plan and open the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) which will be staffed until conditions abate. During this time, all incoming calls relating to winter service operations will be directed by the EOC. Responsibility for instructing the Contractor will be passed from Volker Highways Duty Officer to the appropriate Council Officer.
- 9.3 The Council provides snow clearance routes for the Contractor to treat in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Snow Plan. The highway (carriageway) network is cleared in descending order of priority, concentrating on the clearance of the first priority network followed by other priority networks in accordance with the agreed policy. Certain highway (footway) areas in the Town Centre that are block paved will be treated using a proprietary material/grit/salt, these are shown in Appendix E.

The snow clearance route priorities are:

First	A33, A329 (including IDR), A4, A4074, A4155, A327.
Second	B3270, B480, B3031.
Third	All other remaining roads.

- 9.4 Following snow clearance operations, the routes will be inspected for damage. Details of the damage will be passed to Streetcare Services for preparation of estimates and damage repair.
- 9.5 In the case of prolonged periods and heavy accumulations of snow and/or a national salt shortage, the Council will implement a Contingency Salting Network. The network will be designed to deliver a risk based contingency service in line with the UK Road Groups Report "Lessons from the Severe Weather February 2009" report and new Code of Practice.

Motorways

- 9.6 The treatment of the M4 motorway and the on/off slip roads at Junction 11 is the responsibility of the Highways England and their agent. The M4 Junction 11/A33 gyratory, A33 carriageway and bus lanes within the Borough boundary are included within the Council's Primary Salting Network.

10 GRIT BINS

- 10.1 Grit bins are provided on the Borough's public highway network but only where they have achieved a minimum score of 60 out of a total of 85 points as previously assessed, using the grit bin risk assessment pro-forma (Appendix G refers to the approved grit bin locations). The grit bins are repaired and replenished throughout the winter period as necessary. At the end of the winter, all grit bins are collected, cleaned and stored away during the summer months.

Grit bin requests are evaluated on a risk-based scoring system using the following criteria in the risk assessment pro-forma:

- Not on roads already on the gritting network or nearby grit bin
- Gradient greater than 10%
- Severe bends not including junctions
- Close proximity to and falling towards a heavily trafficked main road
- Number of premises for which the road is only access
- Traffic density at peak times
- Roads with high vehicle usage and a gradient of 10% or more
- Shaded carriageways with a minimum gradient of 10%
- Side road leading onto a main road
- Known problem with water and/or frost hollows
- Access available from carriageway for filling

(To qualify, a grit bin requires a minimum score of 60 out of a total of 85 points).

- 10.2 Requested locations for grit bins on the public highway will be reviewed and evaluated on an annual basis before the start of the winter season. Any new requests will be required to achieve a minimum score of 60 out of a total of 85 points to qualify. (Grit bin locations which have been assessed previously will not be reassessed).
- 10.3 For non-public highway areas, stakeholders and other Council Directorates/Teams are advised to purchase their own grit bins and salt stocks, as well as to make their own arrangements to spread the salt, prior to the winter season. Stakeholders and Council Directorates/Teams can choose to contact Streetcare Services for a quote to supply grit bin(s) and/or salt. The stakeholder / Council Directorate/Team will need to make their own arrangements for salt spreading as appropriate.

- 10.4 The Council will support community groups & individuals who express an interest to fund the installation of additional grit bins and take on the maintenance liability by way of an appropriate Highway Licence.

It should be noted that Streetcare services and its Winter Maintenance Contractor/Consultant will give priority to delivering the winter service for the Borough's public highway network.

11 PLANT AND VEHICLES

- 11.1 The Council's Winter Maintenance Contractor owns and maintains all the equipment used for Winter Service operations with the exception of the footway ploughs and proprietary material hand-spreaders (Refer to 11.8).
- 11.2 Prior to the operational winter service period the Contractor will carry out a 'dry' run of each precautionary salting route, attach/remove snow ploughs to/from each vehicle and carry out calibration test to the equipment.
- 11.3 To be effective, salt must be spread evenly and at rates to suit prevailing weather conditions. Excessive salt spreading is undesirable on both environmental and economic grounds. To this end, it is essential that the spreading equipment is calibrated annually in accordance with BS 1622 and the controls marked accordingly for spreads of 8g/m² for normal pre-salting and 11g/m², 15g/m², 16g/m², 20g/m² and 40g/m² for more severe conditions in line with recommendations outlined in the Quarmby Report December 2010.
- 11.4 All winter service vehicle drivers are issued with mobile phones for communication.
- 11.5 All of the Contractor's staff are qualified to City and Guilds Local Government Management Board 6157 now superseded by City and Guilds 6159 for salting and snow clearance operations.
- 11.6 Details of all routes including maps are kept in each vehicle.
- 11.7 A small, towable salt spreader is used on narrow roads where the larger winter service vehicles cannot manoeuvre or travel along due to road widths, parked vehicles etc.
- 11.8 The Council own two hand operated footway snow ploughs and several proprietary material hand-spreaders to reduce the effects and lower the risk of snow and ice accumulations in the Town Centre block-paved areas (refer to Appendix E).

12 OPERATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

- 12.1 All winter service vehicle drivers are in contact with the Contractor's depot via mobile phones in order that instructions can be passed and current information relayed back directly from the vehicles.
- 12.2 The Contractor is required to provide the Council with a list of the contact details that are to be used by 1st October 2023.
- 12.3 The Contractor is required to provide the Council with a copy of the Daily Winter Service Action report after each salting run. This records details of each vehicle, driver, route number, start time, finish time, rate of spread and any other remarks.
- 12.4 In emergency situations when mobile phone networks are not available, the Council and Volker Highways have the use of airwave radios for communication purposes.

13 WEATHER FORECASTS

During the winter period, the Council will use the 'Roadmaster' forecasting service provided by MeteoGroup, from their UK HQ in Victoria, London. The information received each day includes the following:

- (i) detailed rolling 36-hour forecast
- (ii) evening update forecast
- (iii) site specific temperature graphs (three sites)
- (iv) early morning summary and preliminary forecast
- (iv) 2 - 10 day forecast

The 36-hour forecast is received at approximately midday each day. The main features of this forecast are as follows:

- (i) **Readiness Colour**
This is based on the traffic light system of colours; green, amber or red. The definitions are:

Green	No hazard expected.
Amber	RSTs below zero but road dry RST between 0 and +1C (inclusive)
	RST > +1C and < +2C with low confidence
Red	RSTs below zero with a hazard.
- (i) **Hazards**
This section includes the hazards causing the red or amber readiness colours as well as other weather hazards such as heavy rain, high winds or fog, which could accompany a green readiness colour. A qualifying time will be given for all hazards.
- (iii) **Minimum temperatures**
Minimum air and road temperatures for urban and rural areas are provided.
- (iv) **Confidence statements**

This consists of high, moderate or low confidence for each of the hazards described above, together with a qualifying statement. For example: low confidence regarding extent of showers this evening but high regarding road temperatures falling below zero.
- (v) **36-hour weather summary**

This is a general summary of the forecast for a rolling 36-hour period.

At approximately 1800 hours each evening, a forecast update is issued by MeteoGroup and can be viewed by the Duty Officer at home on a portable laptop computer. "If further information is required, the Duty Officer can make use of the 24-hour consultancy service provided by MeteoGroup - 0845 603 0563"

Example of a typical 24-hour summary forecast is shown overleaf on Pages 21 & 22.

24 HOUR SUMMARY FORECAST FOR Berkshire
FORECAST FOR MONDAY 11/10/2010 12:00 TO TUESDAY 12/10/2010 12:00

Headline	RSTS ABOVE ZERO
Confidence	HIGH

General Synopsis

This afternoon, it will be dry and bright with long periods of sunshine. Tonight, dry with the chance of some clearer breaks at first, but mist and low cloud will become extensive. Tomorrow morning, dry but with cloudy skies. RSTs above zero throughout the period.

Hazards and temperatures (Example)

	Berkshire	
Readiness Colour	GREEN	
Hoar Frost	N	HIGH
Ice	N	HIGH
Snow	N	HIGH
Snow Level (m)	N/A	
Drifting	N	HIGH
Heavy Rain	N	HIGH
Fog	N	HIGH
Freezing Rain	N	HIGH
Minimum Air Temp	7.5	
Bridgedeck min temp	9.0	
Urban Min RST	10.0	
Urban RST period < 0	N	
Min RST	9.0	
RST period < 0	N	

Snow Summary

None

Wind Table (Example)

Mon 11/10 12-18					Mon 11/10 18-00				Tue 12/10 00-06				Tue 12/10 06-12			
Domains	Dir	Avg mph	Exp Gust mph	Ext Gust mph	Dir	Avg mph	Exp Gust mph	Ext Gust mph	Dir	Avg mph	Exp Gust mph	Ext Gust mph	Dir	Avg mph	Exp Gust mph	Ext Gust mph
Berkshire County Wide	NE	13	28	31	NE	11	22	25	NE	9	20	23	NE	9	20	24
MeteoGroup UK.																
Forecaster																
Produced at		11-10-2010 10:38:39 BST														
Issued at		11-10-2010 12:31:12 BST														
Telephone		0845 603 0563														
Fax		020 7963 7579														
Visit RoadCast at																
www.roadcast.co.uk																

14 THERMAL MAPPING AND ICE PREDICTION

Reading Roads

- 14.1 Vaisala Ltd has undertaken thermal mapping across Berkshire, a technique for measuring and analysing the thermal characteristics of road surfaces. It is normally carried out under three different weather conditions, one of which is the extreme condition or night when skies are clear and winds light. The other weather conditions are known as intermediate and damped. Under extreme conditions, the maximum variation in road surface temperature is produced, this, together with the coldest absolute temperatures, leads to potentially hazardous road conditions. Under such conditions it is most important to be able to accurately predict road surface temperatures.
- 14.2 The information yielded from thermal mapping is used in conjunction with site specific forecasts to predict accurately the minimum temperature of road surfaces across the road network. This allows accurate decisions to be made not only about whether to salt or not but whether to salt only those roads that require treatment.
- 14.3 Thermal mapping has been used to produce data, which allows the pre-salting routes to be analysed objectively and to ensure the optimum location of road surface and atmospheric condition sensors.
- 14.4 Annual calibration checks on sensors are undertaken by the equipment supplier(s).
- 14.5 Every hour, information from these sensors is fed automatically into the Central Processing Unit at Vaisala's offices in Birmingham. The parameters recorded are, air temperature, humidity, precipitation, wind speed and direction, road surface condition (wet or dry) and depth temperature. Forecasts are produced by MeteoGroup based on this information. These forecasts when used in conjunction with the thermal mapping data forms one of the most sophisticated ice prediction systems in the U.K.
- 14.6 West Berkshire Council acts as lead authority on behalf of the Berkshire Unitary Authorities in respect of the co-ordination and procurement of contracts with Vaisala and MeteoGroup Ltd. The formulation of this alliance between the authorities is known as the Berkshire Consortium.
- 14.7 All six members of the Berkshire Consortium (consisting of the six Unitary Local Authorities within the former Berkshire County Council administrative area) have access to the ice detection equipment described above.
- 14.8 The Berkshire Consortium own weather stations situated within Berkshire and have a contract with Vaisala Ltd. Once the data is in a usable format it is passed on to MeteoGroup who will make the weather predictions. The nearest weather station for Reading is on the A329 Oxford Road (located outside Battle Library).

15 MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

- 15.1 Liaison with the news media, particularly the local radio stations, The Breeze, BBC Radio Berkshire and Heart FM is of the utmost importance and will be maintained during periods of severe snowfall. This is to notify the public of any driving advice or road closures etc that will affect their journeys or safety. This contact will normally be directly with the Council's Press Office who will be fed information from Streetcare Services.
- 15.2 It is also desirable that communications with the local Police force is maintained. To this end, whenever an instruction to salt is issued by Volker Highways, a copy of the decision sheet will be emailed to the Thames Valley Police Headquarters at Kidlington who will then distribute the notification accordingly. Additional information will also be provided as appropriate to the motoring organisations during periods of snow clearance when it is essential that the travelling public are advised of current road conditions and cleared routes.
- 15.3 Information on winter gritting / salting and guidance on safer driving this winter on Reading roads together with a plan showing the roads that will be treated is published on the Council's website.
- 15.4 Information on the current policy and precautionary salting plans is available on the Council's website.
- 15.5 The 'Winter Service Plan 2023/2024' Committee Report, presented to the Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee, is available on the Council's website. This Report includes details on the review process carried out following the 2022/2023 winter season and updates to this Winter Service Plan for the 2023/2024 winter season.

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SUMMARY OF ROADS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

TABLE 1 - COUNCIL'S PRIMARY SALTING NETWORK

ROAD NAME	SECTION
A33	ALL - INC MRT BUS LANES / BYPASS - SOUTH OAK WAY R/BOUT
ALEXANDRA ROAD	PART - UPPER REDLANDS ROAD TO ADDINGTON ROAD
ADDINGTON ROAD	PART - REDLANDS ROAD TO CRAVEN ROAD
B3270	ALL
BAGNALL WAY	ALL
BASINGSTOKE ROAD	ALL
BATH ROAD	ALL
BEDFORD ROAD	PART - OXFORD ROAD TO CHATHAM STREET
BERESFORD ROAD	ALL
BERKELEY AVENUE	ALL
BLAGRAVE STREET	ALL
BRIANTS AVENUE	ALL
BRIDGE STREET, CAVERSHAM	ALL
BRIDGE STREET, READING	ALL
BUCKINGHAM DRIVE	ALL
BURGHFIELD ROAD	ALL
CASTLE HILL	ALL
CASTLE STREET	ALL
CAVERSHAM PARK ROAD	ALL
CAVERSHAM ROAD	ALL
CHAPEL HILL	ALL
CHATHAM STREET	ALL
CHEAPSIDE	ALL
CHRISTCHURCH GARDENS	PART - NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE TO BASINGSTOKE ROAD
CHRISTCHURCH ROAD	ALL
CHURCH ROAD, CAVERSHAM	ALL
CHURCH STREET, CAVERSHAM	ALL
CITY ROAD	ALL
CORWEN ROAD	ALL
COW LANE	ALL
CRAVEN ROAD	ALL
CRESSINGHAM ROAD	ALL
CROWN STREET	ALL
DEE ROAD	ALL
DONKIN HILL	ALL
DUKE STREET	ALL
DWYER ROAD	ALL
ELDON ROAD	ALL
ELM ROAD	ALL
EVESHAM ROAD	PART - SOUTHDOWN ROAD TO BUCKINGHAM DRIVE
FORBURY ROAD	ALL
FRIAR STREET	ALL
GEORGE STREET, CAVERSHAM	ALL

SUMMARY OF ROADS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

TABLE 1 - COUNCIL'S PRIMARY SALTING NETWORK CONT'D...

ROAD NAME	SECTION
GILLETTE WAY	ALL
GOSBROOK ROAD	PART - PROSPECT STREET TO BRIANTS AVENUE
GREAT KNOLLYS STREET	PART - CAVERSHAM ROAD TO NORTH STREET
GREYFRIARS ROAD	ALL
GROVELANDS ROAD	ALL
GUN STREET	ALL
GWEAL AVENUE	ALL
HARTLAND ROAD	ALL
HEMDEAN ROAD	PART - CHURCH STREET TO OAKLEY ROAD
HENLEY ROAD	ALL
HIGH STREET	ALL
HILDENS DRIVE	ALL
HOLYBROOK ROAD	ALL
HONEY END LANE	ALL
IDR INNER RELIEF ROAD	ALL
KENDRICK ROAD	ALL
KENTWOOD HILL	ALL
KING STREET	ALL
KING'S ROAD, READING	ALL
LIEBENROOD ROAD	ALL
LINDISFARNE WAY	ALL
LONDON ROAD	ALL
LONDON STREET	ALL
LOWER ELMSTONE DRIVE	ALL
LOWER HENLEY ROAD	ALL
LOWFIELD ROAD	ALL
MANOR FARM ROAD	PART - GWEAL AVE TO GILLETTE WAY
MARKET PLACE	ALL
MAYFAIR	ALL
MILL LANE	ALL
MINSTER STREET	ALL
MOUNT PLEASANT	ALL
NORCOT ROAD	ALL
NORTH STREET, READING	ALL
NORTHERN WAY	ALL
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE	ALL
OVERDOWN ROAD	ALL
OXFORD ROAD	ALL
PARK LANE	ALL
PELL STREET	ALL
PEPPARD ROAD	EXCLUDING LOOP LOWFIELD ROAD TO BUCKINGHAM DRIVE
PEPPER LANE	ALL
PIERCES HILL	ALL

SUMMARY OF ROADS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

TABLE 1 - COUNCIL'S PRIMARY SALTING NETWORK CONT'D...

ROAD NAME	SECTION
PORTMAN ROAD	ALL
PRIEST HILL	ALL
PROSPECT STREET, CAVERSHAM	ALL
QUEEN'S ROAD, READING	ALL
READING BRIDGE	ALL
REDLANDS ROAD	ALL
RICHFIELD AVENUE	ALL
ROSE KILN LANE	ALL
ROTHERFIELD WAY	ALL
SOUTHDOWN ROAD	PART - ROTHERFIELD WAY TO EVESHAM ROAD
RUSSELL STREET	ALL
SCHOOL ROAD	ALL
SHEPHERDS LANE	PART - UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD TO WOODCOTE WAY
SHINFIELD ROAD	ALL
SIDMOUTH STREET	PART - LONDON ROAD TO QUEEN'S ROAD
SILVER STREET	ALL
SOUTHAMPTON STREET	ALL
SOUTHCOTE LANE	ALL
ST MARYS BUTTS	ALL
ST PETERS HILL	ALL
ST SAVIOURS ROAD	PART - BERKELEY AVENUE TO HOLYBROOK ROAD
STANSHAW ROAD	ALL
STATION HILL	ALL
STATION ROAD	ALL
THE FORBURY	PART - VALPY STREET TO MARKET PLACE
THE MEADWAY	ALL
THE TRIANGLE	PART - ST MICHAELS ROAD TO WALNUT WAY
TILEHURST ROAD	ALL
TROOPER POTTS WAY	ALL
TUDOR ROAD	ALL
UPPER WOODCOTE ROAD	ALL
VALPY STREET	ALL
VASTERN ROAD	ALL
WATER ROAD	ALL
WATLINGTON STREET	PART - QUEEN'S ROAD TO KING'S ROAD
WELDALE STREET	PART - CAVERSHAM ROAD TO NORTH STREET
WENSLEY ROAD	PART - HOLYBROOK ROAD TO HOSPITAL ROUNDABOUT
WEST STREET	ALL
WHITLEY STREET	ALL
WHITLEY WOOD LANE	ALL
WHITLEY WOOD ROAD	ALL
WIGMORE LANE	ALL
WOKINGHAM ROAD	ALL
WOODCOTE ROAD	ALL
WOODCOTE WAY	ALL

SUMMARY OF ROADS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

TABLE 2 - COUNCIL'S SECONDARY SALTING NETWORK

ROAD NAME	SECTION
ACRE ROAD	ALL
ADDINGTON ROAD	PART - CRAVEN ROAD TO ERLEIGH ROAD
ALBERT ROAD	ALL
ALL HALLOWS ROAD	ALL
ALPINE STREET	ALL
AMERSHAM ROAD	ALL
ARMOUR HILL	ALL
ARMOUR ROAD	ALL
ASHAMPSTEAD ROAD	ALL
BEECH ROAD	ALL
BENNET ROAD	ALL
BERKSHIRE DRIVE	ALL
BLAGDON ROAD	ALL
BLENHEIM ROAD (CAVERSHAM)	ALL
BUCKLAND ROAD	ALL
CHURCH END LANE	ALL
CIRCUIT LANE	PART - SOUTHCOTE LANE TO SILCHESTER ROAD
COCKNEY HILL	ALL
COLEY AVENUE	ALL
CONISBORO AVENUE	PART - ALBERT ROAD TO UPLANDS ROAD
CONNAUGHT ROAD	PART - TILEHURST ROAD TO PRINCE OF WALES AVENUE
CORBRIDGE ROAD	ALL
COURTENAY DRIVE	ALL
CRANBURY ROAD	PART - TILEHURST ROAD TO PRINCE OF WALES AVENUE
CRESCENT ROAD	ALL
EASTERN AVENUE	PART - CRESCENT ROAD TO WHITEKNIGHTS ROAD
ELGAR ROAD	ALL
ELGAR ROAD SOUTH	ALL
ELMHURST ROAD	ALL
ELMSTONE DRIVE	ALL
ERLEIGH ROAD	ALL
EVESHAM ROAD	PART - SOUTHDOWN ROAD TO GROVE ROAD
GOSBROOK ROAD	PART - BRIANTS AVENUE TO STAR LANE
GROVE ROAD	ALL
HEXHAM ROAD	PART - NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE TO CORBRIDGE ROAD
HIGHMOOR ROAD	PART - ALBERT ROAD TO WOODCOTE ROAD
HOGARTH AVENUE	ALL
HUNTERS CHASE	ALL
IMPERIAL WAY	ALL
ISLAND ROAD	ALL

SUMMARY OF ROADS ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRECAUTIONARY SALTING NETWORK

TABLE 2 - COUNCIL'S SECONDARY SALTING NETWORK CONT'D...

ROAD NAME	SECTION
KENAVON DRIVE	ALL
KENSINGTON ROAD	PART - TILEHURST ROAD TO PRINCE OF WALES AVENUE
KIDMORE END ROAD	ALL
KIDMORE ROAD	ALL
KILN ROAD	PART - CAVERSHAM PARK ROAD TO MARCHWOOD AVENUE
KINGS MEADOW ROAD	PART - VASTERN ROAD TO NAPIER ROAD
LINDEN ROAD	ALL
MICKLANDS ROAD	ALL
NEW LANE HILL	PART - HOGARTH AVENUE TO THE MEADWAY
NAPIER ROAD	ALL
NEWCASTLE ROAD	PART - NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE TO CORBRIDGE ROAD
NORTHBROOK ROAD	ALL
OAKLEY ROAD	ALL
OAK TREE ROAD	ALL
OLD HONEY END LANE	ALL
PROSPECT STREET, READING	ALL
RICHMOND ROAD (CAVERSHAM)	ALL
SHEPHERDS LANE	PART - WOODCOTE WAY TO KIDMORE ROAD
SILCHESTER ROAD	PART - CIRCUIT LANE TO FAIRCROSS ROAD
SPEY ROAD	ALL
ST. ANNE'S ROAD	ALL
ST. MICHAEL'S ROAD	ALL
STAR ROAD	ALL
SURLEY ROW	PART - ROTHERFIELD WAY TO ST. BARNABAS ROAD
SWALLOWFIELD DRIVE	ALL
TAY ROAD	PART - DEE ROAD TO SPEY ROAD
TREDEGAR ROAD	ALL
THE MOUNT, CAVERSHAM	PART - ALBERT ROAD TO PRIEST HILL
UPLANDS ROAD	ALL
USK ROAD	ALL
WAVERLEY ROAD	ALL
WENSLEY ROAD	PART - HOSPITAL ROUNDABOUT TO END/LOOP
WESTERN ELMS AVENUE	ALL
WESTWOOD ROAD	ALL
WESTWOOD GLEN	ALL
WHITEKNIGHTS ROAD	ALL
WILSON ROAD	ALL
WOLSELEY STREET	ALL

WINTER SERVICE 2020/2021**GUIDANCE NOTES FOR DUTY OFFICERS****1. FORECAST INFORMATION**

- (i) At approximately midday log on to MeteoGroup web page and inspect rolling 36-hour forecast, graphs and appropriate maps. It is likely that your decision will be made at this time. If it is not possible to make a decision at midday the contractor must be advised at this time that he is to wait for a decision following the evening update.
- (ii) At approximately 1800 hours log on to MeteoGroup web page and inspect forecast graph and text for any updated information. The forecast graph will continue to have actual road surface temperatures plotted every hour for a rolling 36-hour period. This information can be obtained at any time by logging on to the web page. If a decision still cannot be made it may be necessary to consult the weather forecaster.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of each Duty Officer to record all action taken on the justification forms and file for future reference.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- (i) If the Duty Officer needs to communicate with the Duty Manager, then contact should initially be made by mobile phone.
- (ii) The Duty Officer and the Duty Manager should keep each other aware of their movements if they are likely to be unable answer the mobile phone for any length of time.
- (iii) The Duty Officer will also be responsible for sending a fax/email message to the Police, local radio stations and neighbouring authorities informing them of the decision made concerning precautionary salting.

3. ROLE OF THE DUTY MANAGER

The Duty Manager will be available to give advice to the Duty Officer when required.

WINTER SERVICE CALL OUT GUIDELINES

FORECAST ROAD CONDITIONS

1. Road Surface Dry
2. Wet patches due to seepage etc.
3. Road surface wet but may dry
4. Road surface wet
5. Road surface dry but may become wet

FORECAST WEATHER

- A. Road Surface Temperature (RST)
above freezing
(i) + 4°C or above
(ii) above 0°C, below +4°C
- B. RST at or below 0°C
(i) 0°C to -3°C
(ii) below -3°C
- C. B(i) or B(ii) with rain beforehand
- D. Hoar Frost.
- E. Freezing fog
- F. Freezing rain
- G. Snow
(i) light falls up to 30mm
(ii) falls over 30mm

RECOMMENDED ACTION

- a) No precautionary salting.
- b) Partial salt: wet patches, major structures, high ground etc.
- c) Inspection at a time to enable any necessary action to be taken before conditions become critical.
- d) Full pre-salt to be completed before onset of freezing conditions.
- e) Full pre-salt after rain has finished.
- f) Salting crews to remain in Depot awaiting instructions.
- g) Road conditions to be monitored by Duty Officer using ice prediction system.

ROAD CONDITIONS	FORECAST									
	A (i)	A (ii)	B (i)	B (ii)	C	D	E	F	G (i)	G (ii)
1	a	a	a	b		d	d		d	df
2	a	g	b	b		d	d		d	df
3	a	g	c	bc		d	d		d	df
4	a	g	d	d	e	d	d	df	d	df
5	a	g	g	b	e	d	d		d	df
DUTY OFFICER TO DETERMINE TIMING OF SALTING RUNS AND RATES OF SPREAD DEPENDING ON FORECAST DETAILS										

THE ABOVE TABLE IS FOR GUIDANCE ONLY

DUTY FORECASTER SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS NECESSARY.

SAMPLE DECISION SHEET



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



WINTER SERVICE DECISION SHEET 2013/14 - Ref 201314/089

Date Decision made: Wednesday 19th December 2013

Time Decision made: 12.46hrs

Winter Duty Officer:

Contact No.

	Wokingham Borough Council Network		Reading Borough Council Network	
Routes	Time Action Required	Spread Rate Required	Time Action Required	Spread Rate Required
Primary Routes	21:00	7gm/2	21:00	10gm/2
Secondary Routes	N/A	No Action	N/A	No Action
Third Tier	N/A	No Action	N/A	No Action
Footways/Cycletracks	N/A	No Action	N/A	No Action

Readiness Colour Alert	Green	Amber	Red
			-1.5

COMMENTS :

Action required for both Wokingham and Reading BC areas

EXTRACT FROM 24HR WEATHER FORECAST:

Sunny spells this afternoon. This evening, cloud will increase with a band of showers spreading from the west - some of them heavy. These showers should move away to the east by approximately 2000-2100 to leave it dry with largely clear skies through the remainder of the night. RSTs dropping quite quickly after the showers, falling below zero with ice. Tomorrow, it will be bright and breezy.

APPENDIX E

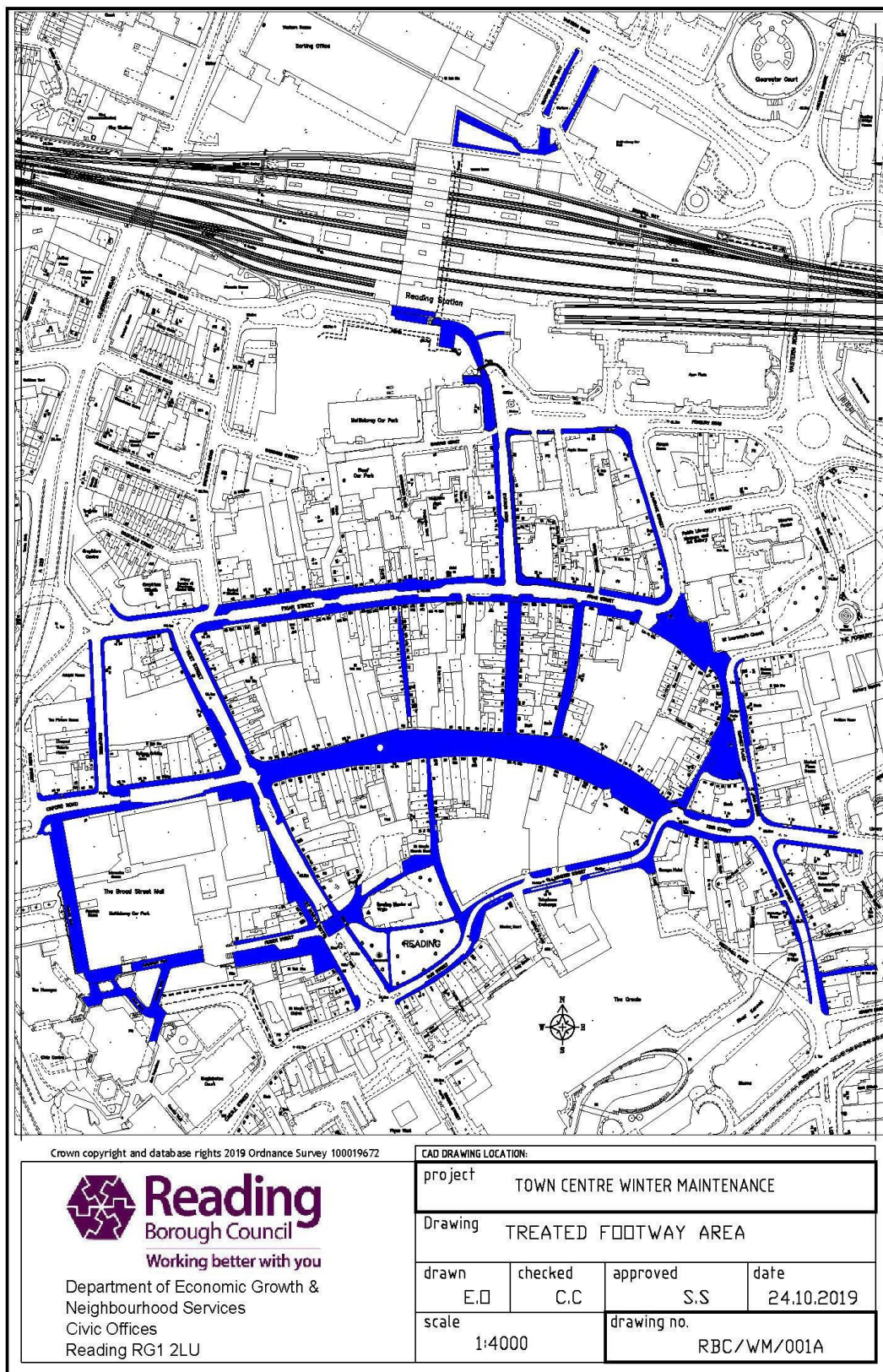
FOOTWAYS - SNOW CLEARING/ PRE-SALTING

READING TOWN CENTRE BLOCK PAVED AREAS (TREATMENT WITH PROPRIETARY MATERIAL/SALT/GRIT) AS SHOWN ON DRAWING NO. RBC/WM/001A INCLUDED IN THIS APPENDIX.

STREET NAME	SECTION
Broad Street	All
Butter Market	All
Chain Street	All
Cheapside	All
Cross Street	All
Duke Street	King Street to Star Lane
Dusseldorf Way	All
Friar Street	Part - Block Paved Areas only
Gun Street	All
Hosier Street	All
King Street/Kings Road	Part - Minster Street to Abbey Square
Minster Street	All
Market Place	All
Queen Victoria Street	All
Queen's Walk	All
Reading Station	Part - Defined pedestrian route swathe on public highway from Station Road to Station Hill (Taxi Rank shelter) via pedestrian ramp and continuing to pedestrian underpass (south side). Also from pedestrian underpass (north side) to Trooper Potts Way (bus shelters).
St Mary's Butts	All
Station Road	All
Union Street	All
West Street	All

FOOTWAYS - SNOW CLEARING/ PRE-SALTING CONT'D...

DRAWING NO. RBC/WM/001A - TREATED FOOTWAY AREAS



APPENDIX F

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL CALL OUT FACILITIES

OUTSIDE OFFICE HOURS

Call 0118 937 3787 (*Calls are charged*)

GRIT BIN LOCATIONS

AREA	ROAD	LOCATION	BINS
North	Blenheim Road, Caversham	Facing junction with Oakley Road	1
North	Brill Close	Top of Close. Outside No. 25	1
North	Christchurch Footbridge	South side of footbridge	1
North	Crawshay Drive	Junction with Kidmore End Road. Adjacent to Street Nameplate	1
North	Eliot Close	Junction with Grove Hill	1
North	Fallowfield Close	End of wooden fence part way down Close	1
North	Glenrhondda	Near No. 14	1
North	Gravel Hill	Opposite Numbers 31 & 33 near Merthyr Vale junction.	1
North	Grove Hill	Mid way. Against high wall	1
North	Hemdean Road	Near Badgers Rise	1
North	Highdown Hill Road	Junction with Soane End (Private Drive)	1
North	Horse Close	On island near No. 26	1
North	Hunters Chase	Adjacent to lamp column No. 12	1
North	Keston Close	Junction with Donegal Close. (Right hand side)	1
North	Luscombe Close	Back against picket fence line. Right hand side	1
North	Picton Way	Junction mid-way up hill. Adjacent to Street Nameplate	1
North	Ruskin	On bend	1
North	Russet Glade	Mid-way at brow of hill	1
North	Scott Close	Adjacent to lamp column. Against brick wall	1
North	Sheriden Avenue	Outside No. 2 at junction with Hemdean Road	1
North	Surley Row	Junction with Sheep Walk	1
North	Tredegar Road	By railings	1
North	Tredegar Road	Junction with Glenrhondda	1
North	Tymawr	Opposite No. 21 (Off Hunters Chase)	1
North	Upper Warren Avenue	Near junction with St Peters Avenue	1
West	Brooksby Road	Junction with Juniper Way. Outside No. 110 in grass verge	1
West	Calder Close	On corner of junction	1
West	Carlisle Road	Junction with A329	1
West	Dudley Close	Near junction with Armour Hill	1
West	Dulnan Close	Near Elderly Persons flats	1
West	Elsley Road	Junction with Oxford Road. In grass verge at end of footway	1
West	Oak Tree Road	Opposite Numbers 49 & 51	1
West	Little Oaks Drive	At junction with Oaks View	1

West	Pottery Road	Near junction with Dresden Way	1
West	Rissington Close	By lamp post outside No. 5	1
West	Rodway Road	At corner of Derwent Avenue	1
West	Romany Lane	Junction Romany Close	1
West	Sandgate Avenue	Near junction with Grasmere Avenue	1
West	Taff Way	Near junction with Dee Road	1
West	Thurso Close	Dee Road Estate. In grass verge opposite block of flats	1
West	Ullswater Drive	Junction with Elsley Road	1
South	Alpine Street/Elgar Road	Back against gable wall of No. 25 Elgar Road	1
South	Barnsdale Road	Opposite Windermere Road junction in grass verge	1
South	Birdhill Avenue	Junction with Cressingham Road	1
South	Blagdon Road	i) 1no. near Cherry Grove junction. ii) 1no. opposite Bankside Close. Both i) & ii) secured to single steel posts	2
South	Brybur Close	Junction with Winton Road	1
South	Ennerdale Road	Corner Northcourt Avenue	1

(All of the above grit bins have achieved a score of at least 60 out of a total of 85 points to qualify).

LOCATION OF STRUCTURES TO RECEIVE 'DOUBLE PRE-SALT' SALTING

ROAD NO	LOCATION	STRUCTURE
A329	Watlington Street	River Kennet Overbridge
A329	King's Road	River Kennet Overbridge
A329	Watlington Street Northbound	Kennet Canal Overbridge
A329	Watlington Street Southbound	Kennet Canal Overbridge
A329	IDR Eastbound	Mill Lane Flyover
A329	IDR Westbound	Mill Lane Flyover
A329	Chatham Street Eastbound	IDR Overbridge
A329	Chatham Street Westbound	IDR Overbridge
A329	Castle Hill Eastbound	IDR Overbridge
A329	Castle Hill Westbound	IDR Overbridge
A33	A33 Northbound	River Kennet Overbridge
A33	A33 Southbound	River Kennet Overbridge
A33	A33 Northbound	Foundry Brook Overbridge
A33	A33 Southbound	Foundry Brook Overbridge
A33	M4 Junction 11 West	Motorway Overbridge
A33	M4 Junction 11 East	Motorway Overbridge
A4	Berkeley Avenue	A33 Relief Road Overbridge
A4	Bath Road	Rail Overbridge
A4155	Bridge Street Caversham	River Thames Overbridge
B3345	George Street Caversham	River Thames Overbridge

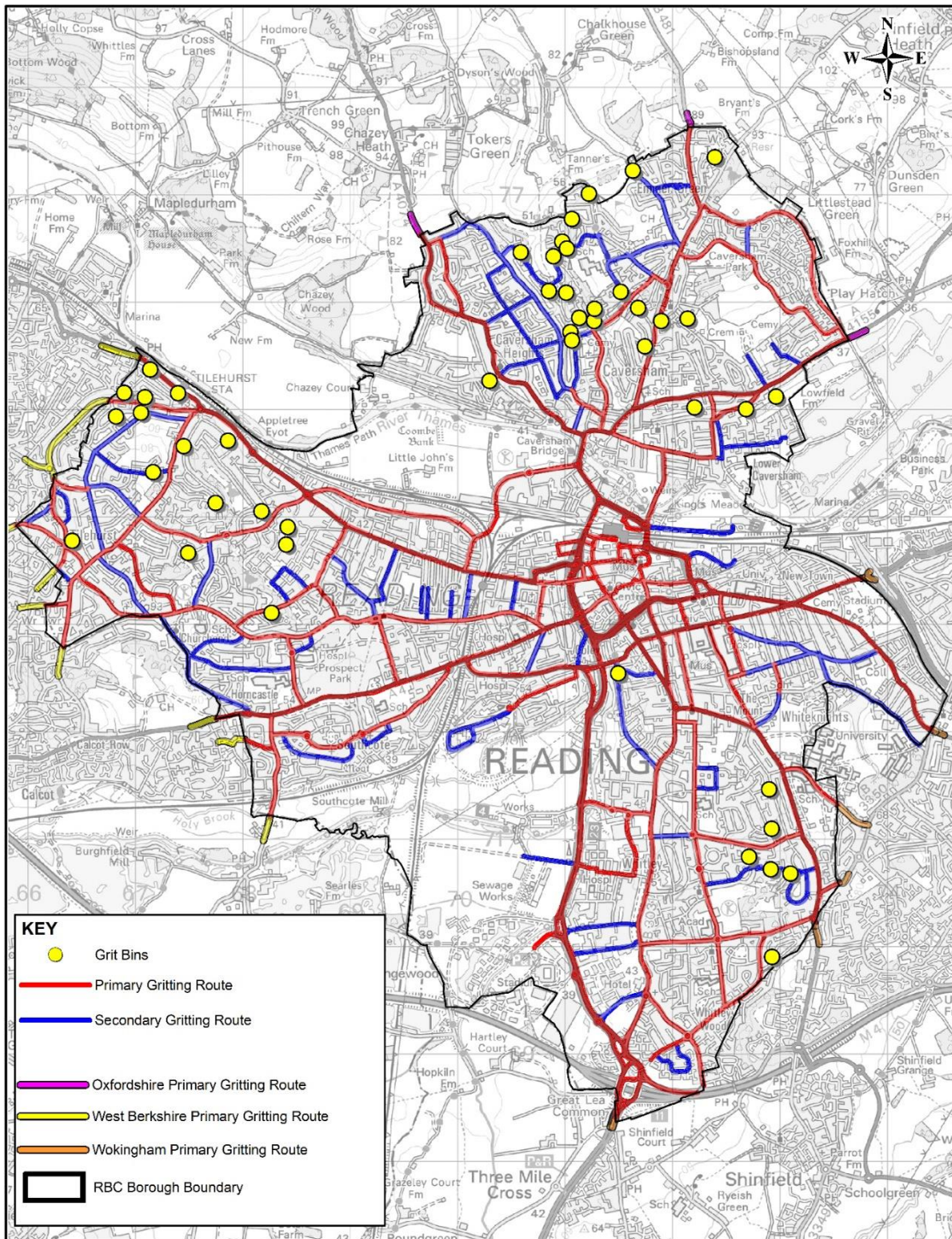
WINTER SERVICE CROSS BOUNDARY ARRANGEMENTS

The cross-boundary arrangements have been reviewed and risk assessed.

Reading Borough Council will salt up to a point beyond the Borough boundary where it is safe for the gritter vehicle to turn around. With agreement, the neighbouring Councils are similarly working to ensure that all of the cross-boundary highway network is treated.

This does not constitute any form of agreement or responsibility for the treatment of the highway network outside the Borough boundary, it is merely to ensure full coverage of the Council's salting network.

PLAN SHOWING SALTING NETWORK/ROUTES AND LOCATION OF GRIT BINS



Title: **Winter Salting Routes 2022/2023.**

Drg.No.:

Date: 26/10/2022

Scale at A4: 1:46000

Produced by GIS & Mapping Services

Ref: G:\Winter Gritting_2022.WOR



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CIRCULATION LIST

1 Adjoining Highway Authorities

- 1.1 Wokingham Borough Council
Shute End
PO Box 153
Wokingham
RG40 1WL
0118 9746000
- 1.2 West Berkshire District Council
Council Offices
Market Street
Newbury
RG14 5LD
01635 551111
- 1.3 Oxfordshire County Council
Director of Environmental and Economy
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford OX1 1NE
01865 815700

2 Emergency Services

- 2.1 Thames Valley Police
Police Headquarters
Kidlington
Oxford
OX5 2NX
- 2.2 Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service
Newsham Court
Pincents Kiln
Calcot
Reading
RG31 7SD
0118 945 2888
- 2.3 Royal Berkshire Ambulance NH Trust
44 Finchampstead Road
Wokingham
Berkshire
RG40 2NN
0118 9365
500

CIRCULATION LIST CONT'D.

3 Highways England's Agents

EM Highway Services Ltd.
 Rosalind House
 Jays Close
 Viabes Business Park
 Basingstoke
 Hampshire. RG22 4BS

4 Media Organisations

4.1 BBC Radio Berkshire
 550 Thames Valley Park Drive
 Reading. RG6 1PT_
radio.berkshire.news@bbc.co.uk

4.2 Heart FM
 PO Box 2020
 Reading
 Berkshire. RG31 7FG
thamesvalley.news@heart.co.uk

4.3 The Breeze (Radio Station)
 Suite 2
 Paddington House
 Festival Place
 Basingstoke. RG21 7LJ
tvnews@celador.co.uk

5 Motoring Organisations

5.1 RAC
 Public Affairs Dept
 114 Rochester Row
 London

5.2 Automobile Association
 Fanum House
 52 London Road
 Twickenham
 Middlesex

6 Councillors Suite

Reading Borough Council
 Civic Offices
 Bridge Street
 Reading. RG1 2LU

REFERENCES

- Highways Act 1980.
- Highways Winter Maintenance, ICE 2000.
- Well Maintained Highways - Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management 2005 (revised 2009, 2010 & 2011).
- Lessons from the Severe Weather February 2009.
- The Resilience of England's Transport Systems in Winter Interim Report July 2010.
- Quarmby Audit Report December 2010 (revised 2011).
- Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice - October 2016.
- Winter Service Plan 2023/2024 - Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee Report - 8th November 2023

Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee

08 November 2023



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	Award of Contracts for Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme
Purpose of the report	To make a key decision
Report status	Public report
Report author	Selina Ma
Lead Councillor	Cllr Ellie Emberson
Corporate priority	Thriving Communities
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee note the DLUHC award of funding in the sum of £760,919 from the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) to deliver 50 units of "Move-on Homes" in 2024/25 comprising 10 units at The Nova Project and 40 units at 57 Caversham Road. 2. That Housing Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee provide delegated authority to the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing and Director of Finance to enter into a 12 month contract with the successful tenderer in respect of services to deliver "Move-on Homes", from 1 April 2024.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks authority to award and enter into new contract arrangements for The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road (the Pods) from 1st April 2024 to relieve and prevent rough sleeping in Reading. Contracts will be funded utilising Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) grant funding from the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing (DLUHC).

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. In 2018, the Government published their national Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan aiming to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminate it by 2027. In 2019, Reading's Rough Sleeping Strategy 2019 – 2024 was published to support this aim with key priorities being (1) Early intervention and prevention; (2) Recovery and community intervention; (3) Rapid intervention; (4) United support and enforcement action in Reading and (5) Provision of information and alternative ways for the public to give/support to those on the streets.
- 2.2. In October 2020, DLUHC announced allocations to local authorities and partners from £150m of Government funding to deliver Round 1 of RSAP. This was to deliver more than 3,300 new "Move-on Homes"¹ for people sleeping rough.
- 2.3. RSAP's objective is to provide "Move-on homes"¹ as long-term assets with accompanying support to prepare people who are rough sleeping, who have a history of

¹ Defined under RSAP as accommodation and support made available to occupants on the basis that they will be a pathway to settled accommodation.

rough sleeping, or who are at risk of rough sleeping, for independent living. The fund is part of a range of measures to support councils to achieve a sustainable reduction in rough sleeping.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. Under DLUHC's RSAP Round 1 Reading was awarded three years revenue funding to the value of £2.3m to deliver 50 units of "Move-on Homes" between 2021 and 2024. These units provide an off the streets offer to those rough sleeping, or those who are at risk of rough sleeping having previously and repeatedly been verified. The units have a specific focus upon supporting people with mental ill-health, substance misuse and preventing re-offending and returns to the streets.
- 3.2. Support to ten "Move-on Homes" has been delivered under contract with St Mungo's since 21 December 2020 to females with complex needs requiring a 24/7 supportive environment at The Nova Project. A waiver to CPR rules was signed off by the Assistant Director of Procurement and Contracts and Executive Director of Environment, Growth and Neighbourhoods (DEGNS) on 23 November 2020 to award a contract for 15 months to St Mungo's from 21 December 2020 until 31 March 2022 under Covid exceptions. Since officers had insufficient time to undertake a procurement without risk to service delivery, a further Officer Decision was agreed by the Executive Director of DEGNS to award contracts to St Mungo's from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2023.
- 3.3. 40 units of "Move-on Homes" at 57 Caversham Road were completed in November 2021, with all clients having moved into their self-contained studio 'pod' with 24/7 on-site staffing presence by January 2022. Support to clients assessed and earmarked to move into one of the units was delivered under contract with St Mungo's from 5 July 2022 to males, females and couples with complex needs. The contract began, prior to site completion, in July 2022 to (a) engage with the client group and prepare them for moving in and (b) comply with grant conditions and spend in the financial year 2021/22 to avoid any clawback from DLUHC due to underspend. A waiver to CPR rules was signed off by the Assistant Director of Procurement and Contracts and Executive Director of DEGNS on 23 November 2020 to award a contract for 12 months to St Mungo's from 5 July 2021 until 4 July 2022 under Covid exceptions. Since officers had insufficient time to undertake a procurement without risk to service delivery, a further Officer Decision was agreed by the Executive Director of DEGNS to award contracts to St Mungo's from 5 July 2022 until 31 March 2023.
- 3.4. A further open procurement exercise for the Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road was undertaken in November 2022 following the award of further RSAP grant funding for 12 months. St. Mungo's secured the tender and the contract started on 1st April 2023 and is coming to an end on 31st March 2024.
- 3.5. Current grant conditions do not allow for spend or contract extension beyond March 2025. There may be opportunity for RBC to bid for further funding from DLUHC for this purpose, but that cannot be confirmed at this stage. Clients can be accommodated for up to 2-3 years before moving on. Both projects are specifically commissioned to enable a longer period of support for clients with mental ill-health, substance misuse and prevention of re-offending than traditional supported accommodation models.
- 3.6. Multi-agency work to progress move-on from these units is ongoing. The NHS and Public Health, who commission a Health Outreach Liaison Team (HOLT) and Multiple Disadvantage Outreach Team (MDOT) respectively, continue to provide outreach and in-reach specifically to those residing at The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road. These specialist services provide wrap-around health and substance misuse support, aiming to transition clients into core/mainstream support services and independent living.

Option Proposed

- 3.7. It is proposed that, RBC undertake an open tender exercise and award a 12-month contract from 1 April 2024. Options are being explored around including a contract

extension if further grant funding is secured beyond March 2025. The grant conditions under which RSAP were bid for, and awarded, are for the grant to be spent by March 2025. The contract will provide a 24/7 staffed environment of accommodation with support to people who are rough sleeping, or at risk of rough sleeping, within 50 units of "Move-on Homes" across The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road.

Other Options Considered

- 3.8. Not utilise DLUHC funds awarded under RSAP, which would result in clients living in accommodation without support.
- 3.9. Delivery of services in-house; however, RBC does not have the capacity or expertise to deliver these specialist services and recognises the importance of commissioning specialist external providers to work in partnership with RBC to address rough sleeping issues.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The report's recommendations contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan theme of Thriving Communities by:
 - Tackling inequality in our society, to ensure everyone has an equal chance to thrive whatever their economic, social, cultural, ethnic or religious background
 - Building relationships and strengthening the capacity and resilience of the voluntary and community sector
 - Prioritising the needs of the most marginalised groups and the most vulnerable adults in our communities
 - Tackling the effects of the pandemic, such as increased unemployment, long term health problems, mental health issues and social isolation where rough sleeping/risk of rough sleeping is the ultimate symptom of these effects
- 4.2. These recommendations also contribute to TEAM Reading values by supporting the Council's ambition to considerably reduce rough sleeping to as close to zero as possible by 2027 and making a positive difference to the lives of people with complex multiple needs including drug/alcohol misuse, offending histories and mental ill-health.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. There are no environmental or climate implications arising from the report's recommended decision and therefore no mitigations are required e.g., service user resilience to future climate change will not be impacted and there are no identified implications for the environment and biodiversity.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. The funding application to RSAP was co-produced with DLUHC, as informed by significant on the street intelligence and ongoing needs analysis of those sleeping rough/at risk of sleeping rough. The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road have been, and will be, specified as having learnt from best practice and knowledge of 'what works' in Reading and other boroughs for this cohort.
- 6.2. In February 2022 RBC undertook a self-assessment to assess strengths and gaps, specific cohort needs and how Reading plans to shape services and outcomes for rough sleeping groups over the next three years.
- 6.3. To inform this self-assessment and support compilation of priorities, Homeless Link provided an independently facilitated workshop with commissioned, statutory services including Public Health, VCS and faith sector partners. All of Reading's Homelessness Partnership (HoP) partners were invited to give their views. This was followed up by an on-line survey which asked sector partners to prioritise the themes they had identified in the workshop. Findings confirmed that specialist, 24/7 staffed projects for women, complex couples and those experiencing mental ill-health are a priority for Reading.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for this decision and is attached as *Appendix 1*. It concludes that a negative impact is identified regarding The Nova Project being a cis or transgender female specific project. This means that anyone who is not, cannot access the project. However, there is a justifiable reason; there can be disproportionate risks towards females who rough sleep/are at risk of rough sleeping as identified within independent sector research. This shows that a safe female-only space is key to recovery and moving away from addiction/lifestyles on the streets where mixed gender supported environments can present additional risk of continued unhealthy/co-dependent relationships, risk of domestic abuse and/or forced sex-working. 57 Caversham Road provides the same 24/7 supported environment and support offer for couples (including same sex couples), males and females with complex needs who do not meet the criteria of The Nova Project. This ensures equality of support offer. Both The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road are for single people/couples without dependent children and are for those aged 18 or over only. This is justifiable given the complex and multiple needs of those accommodated, including offending histories and substance misuse creating an unsuitable environment for families and children. Other young person's projects with 24/7 support, including parent and baby units, are commissioned to meet the needs of those aged under 18 and aged 18 – 24 (e.g., the YMCA Reading) and these provide a specialist environment for this age group and 16/17-year-olds owed a statutory responsibility by the local authority.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. The Council will need to enter into the DLUHC's grant agreement and comply with the conditions for the grant.
- 8.2. Service providers delivering the Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP) will need to be procured in accordance with the Council's tendering processes and Standing Orders and contracts entered into with the successful tenderer.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The total value of grant funding is £760,919 for 2024/25.
- 9.2. Grant funding to cover the contract is awarded under s.31 of the Local Government Act 2003 meaning that spend will be restricted to the activities laid out in the bid application. There are no other direct financial implications, the grant received would be ringfenced to meet the contract costs. Should there be delays in contract implementation or underspend that requires grant carry-over into the next financial year, written permission would be requested by RBC from DLUHC. If this permission was not granted, and their decision was not to allow the repurposing or carry-over of funds that resulted in a surplus, clawback provisions may be enacted by DLUHC.
- 9.3. **Value for Money (VFM):** Efficiencies will be maximised by procuring support to 50 "Move-on Homes" under one contract and with one support provider, rather than deliver The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road as two separate contracts. Two separate contracts would require additional line management costs/risk of there being no interested parties due to the smaller contract value of The Nova Project for 12 months only. Staff costings for both grant applications have been benchmarked against existing

provision and known market salaries, provider on-costs, overheads and inflationary salary increases to ensure VFM as well as competitive tender interest.

- 9.4. **Risk Assessment:** No key financial risks have been identified with this proposal.

10. Timetable for Implementation

- 10.1. The advert for the tender was dispatched at the end of September 2023 with the evaluation of bids taking place in early November 2023. It is expected for the contract to be awarded in December 2023 with an anticipated contract start date of 1st April 2024.

11. Background Papers

- 11.1. There are none.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Equality Impact Assessment

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

For advice on this document please contact Clare Muir on 72119 or email

Clare.Muir@reading.gov.uk.

Please contact the Project Management Office at pmo@reading.gov.uk for advice and/or support to complete this form from a project perspective.

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed:

Contracts for grant funded “move-on homes” with 24/7 Intensive Support for those rough sleeping / at risk of rough sleeping report and decision

Directorate: DEGNS
Service: Housing Needs

Name: Selina Ma
Job Title: Acting Rough Sleeping Initiatives Manager (Contracts and Commissioning)

Date of assessment: 14th July 2023

Version History

Version	Reason	Author	Date	Approved By
1	Report draft to go to Policy Committee	Selina Ma	14.07.23	Selina Ma

Scope your proposal

- **What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?**
-

Procurement, award of contracts and authorisation to enter into new contract arrangements for two specialist services for vulnerable cis and transgender females with complex needs (the Nova Project - 10 units) and for males, females and couples with complex needs at 57 Caversham Road (the Pods - 40 units). Contracts will be from April 2024 until March 2025.

An open tender may mean a change in support service provider, but the procurement process will ensure that a provider with suitable experience and expertise deliver to the same Specification and T&Cs.

-
- **Who will benefit from this proposal and how?**
-

Those benefiting from the services, which are existing, and will continue under the same contract terms and service specification, and are the groups outlined in the paragraph above.

-
- **What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?**
-

Both projects will be tendered to ensure best value from grant funds awarded by DLUHC and the outcomes of both of these projects, as per existing contracts, are to accommodate and support people with a rough sleeping history, with complex needs, to move-on into independent living within 2-3 years.

-
- **Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?**
-

- Vulnerable cis and transgender females with complex needs (The Nova Project)
 - Males, females and couples with complex needs (57 Caversham Road)
-

Assess whether an EqlA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; advancing equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

- Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some groups may be affected differently than others (due to race, disability, sex, gender, sexuality, age, religious belief or due to belonging to the Armed Forces community)? Make reference to the known demographic profile of the service user group, your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.

Yes.

- Cis and transgender females only who will be accommodated at The Nova Project
- Those aged 18+
- Single people and couples (including same-sex couples) without dependent children

-
- Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Make reference to your complaints, consultation, feedback, media reports locally/nationally.

No.

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above, you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If **No** you **MUST** complete this statement.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because:

An EqlA is relevant.

X

Selina Ma
Completing Officer

X

Lead Officer

Assess the Impact of the Proposal

Your assessment must include:

- **Consultation**
- **Collection and Assessment of Data**
- **Judgement about whether the impact is negative or positive**

Think about who does and doesn't use the service? Is the take up representative of the community? What do different minority groups think? (You might think your policy, project or service is accessible and addressing the needs of these groups, but asking them might give you a totally different view). Does it really meet their varied needs? Are some groups less likely to get a good service?

How do your proposals relate to other services - will your proposals have knock on effects on other services elsewhere? Are there proposals being made for other services that relate to yours and could lead to a cumulative impact?

Example: A local authority takes separate decisions to limit the eligibility criteria for community care services; increase charges for respite services; scale back its accessible housing programme; and cut concessionary travel. Each separate decision may have a significant effect on the lives of disabled residents, and the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable. This combined impact would not be apparent if decisions are considered in isolation.

Consultation

How have you consulted with or do you plan to consult with relevant groups and experts. If you haven't already completed a Consultation form do it now. The checklist helps you make sure you follow good consultation practice.

[Consultation manager form - Reading Borough Council Dash](#)

Relevant groups/experts	How were/will the views of these groups be obtained	Date when contacted
Consultation undertaken with St Mungo's, current providers of The Nova Project, in establishing case-by-case assessment and access criteria for The Nova Project.	Sector research and experience/existing female only services have informed the Service Specification for service delivery at The Nova Project.	November 2021

Collect and Assess your Data

Using information from Census, residents survey data, service monitoring data, satisfaction or complaints, feedback, consultation, research, your knowledge and the knowledge of people in your team, staff groups etc. describe how the proposal could impact on each group. Include both positive and negative impacts. (Please delete relevant ticks)

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on racial groups**
- **Is there a negative impact?** No

No impact on racial groups.

Access is not restricted to either The Nova Project or 57 Caversham Road on any ground apart from age (18 or over) or gender (cis or transgender female) for The Nova Project.

Those who rough sleep in Reading are predominantly single, white males aged 35+ who state that they are heterosexual and Christian/have no religious beliefs. 57 Caversham offers the same level of 24/7 supported environment that The Nova Project does. Whilst this is the trend in demography for people that rough sleep, other/any racial groups would not be precluded from accessing either project should they meet the criteria regarding a rough sleeping background, local connection and needing the level of support offered.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Sex and Gender identity (include pregnancy and maternity, marriage, gender re-assignment)**
 - **Is there a negative impact?** No

The Nova Project offers accommodation to vulnerable females requiring 24/7 support who have a history of, or are at risk of rough sleeping. The project provides a protected environment for cis and transgender females in accordance with the following Service Specification criteria:

The Provider must: “Ensure transgender clients are not excluded from access to the Service. Referrals for transgender clients should be discussed and considered alongside all other referrals at the Specialist Projects Panel on a case-by-case basis so that the most appropriate housing offer is made for the client, considering both the needs of the client and other service users at the Service.”

People identifying as female will be considered in accordance with this referral and access criteria.

There is a justifiable reason for a female only service where there can be disproportionate risks towards females who rough sleep/are at risk of rough sleeping as identified within independent sector research. This shows that a safe female-only space is key to recovery and moving away from addiction/lifestyles on the streets where mixed gender supported

environments can present additional risk of continued unhealthy/co-dependent relationships, risk of domestic abuse and/or forced sex-working. 57 Caversham Road provides the same 24/7 supported environment and support offer for couples (including same sex couples), males and females with complex needs who do not meet the criteria of The Nova Project. This ensures equality of support offer.

No negative impact identified.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Disability**
 - **Is there a negative impact?** No
-

Access is not restricted to either The Nova Project or 57 Caversham Road on any ground apart from age (18 or over) or gender (cis or transgender female) for The Nova Project. Those with disabilities, requiring accessible accommodation and presenting with complex needs will be assessed and able to access either project.

No impact on disability.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Sexual orientation (cover civil partnership)**
 - **Is there a negative impact?** No
-

57 Caversham Road accommodation can be offered to couples (including same sex couples). All couples are accommodated in separate units due to the size of units/to reduce any potential risk of domestic abuse.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on age**
 - **Is there a negative impact?** No
-

Both The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road are for single people/couples without dependent children and are for those aged 18 or over only. This is justifiable given the complex and multiple needs of those accommodated, including offending histories and substance misuse creating an unsuitable environment for families and children. Other young person's projects with 24/7 support, including parent and baby units, are commissioned to meet the needs of those aged under 18 and aged 18 - 24 (e.g., the YMCA Reading) and these provide a specialist environment for this age group and 16/17-year-olds owed a statutory responsibility by the local authority.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Religious belief**
 - **Is there a negative impact?** No
-

Access is not restricted to either The Nova Project or 57 Caversham Road on any ground apart from age (18 or over) or gender (cis or transgender female) for The Nova Project.

Those who rough sleep in Reading are predominantly single, white males aged 35+ who state that they are heterosexual and Christian/have no religious beliefs. 57 Caversham offers the same level of 24/7 supported environment that The Nova Project does. Whilst this is the trend in demography for people that rough sleep, other/any religious groups would not be precluded from accessing either project should they meet the criteria regarding a rough sleeping background, local connection and needing the level of support offered.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on the Armed Forces community (including reservists and veterans and their families)**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

Both The Nova Project and 57 Caversham Road are for single people/couples without dependent children and are for those aged 18 or over only. This is justifiable given the complex and multiple needs of those accommodated, including offending histories and substance misuse creating an unsuitable environment for families and children, including the families of veterans/reservists.

However, any member of the Armed Forces community, including reservists and veterans who meet the service criteria of sleeping rough/at risk of rough sleeping, with a local connection and multiple needs (mental ill-health, offending histories and substance misuse) could be referred into and offered accommodation.

Make a Decision

If the impact is negative then you must consider whether you can legally justify it. If not you must set out how you will reduce or eliminate the impact. If you are not sure what the impact will be you **MUST** assume that there could be a negative impact. You may have to do further consultation or test out your proposal and monitor the impact before full implementation.

1. **No negative impact identified - Go to sign off**
2. **Negative impact identified but there is a justifiable reason**
You must give due regard or weight but this does not necessarily mean that the equality duty overrides other clearly conflicting statutory duties that you must comply with.
3. **Negative impact identified or uncertain**

What action will you take to eliminate or reduce the impact? Set out your actions and timescale

The Nova Project is for cis and transgender female clients only and therefore male clients will not be permitted to access the project. This project is commissioned following evidence of increased risk to females who rough sleep/are at risk of rough sleeping regarding domestic abuse from males, an inability to break away from unhealthy relationships, including forced sex working, when accommodated alongside males/partners - this has been researched and evidenced across the sector and is demonstrated in an independent report by St. Mungo's (2015) *Rebuilding Shattered Lives - The Final Report: Getting the right help at the right time to women who are homeless or at risk.*

The Nova Project has been commissioned alongside 57 Caversham Road, with the same level of support and the same support provider (now and under any retender/ recommission) to ensure that males and couples with a history of rough sleeping and with complex needs receive the same level of service and support offer.

• **How will you monitor for adverse impact in the future?**

Outcomes - positive move-on, evictions and abandonments will be monitored and compared across the KPIs of each service.

Demographic data - including sexuality, gender identity - will be collated and compared against rough sleeping population data.

X

Selina Ma
Completing Officer

X

Lead Officer

Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee

08 November 2023



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	Procurement of Emergency Accommodation
Purpose of the report	To make a key decision
Report status	Public report
Report author (name & job title)	Selina Ma, Acting Rough Sleeping Initiatives Team Manager (Contracts and Commissioning)
Lead Councillor (name & title)	Cllr Emberson, Lead Councillor for Housing
Corporate priority	Thriving Communities
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Housing and the Director of Finance be given delegated authority to approve the establishment of a pseudo–Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime for the provision of emergency accommodation for a period of five years. 2. That the Assistant Director of Housing and Communities is authorised to (i) enter into call-off contracts with the successful providers and (ii) directly award placements on a spot contract basis where suitable arrangements cannot be made via the DPS; or where crisis or emergency circumstances dictate that it is not possible to do so via the DPS during its lifetime for the provision of emergency accommodation.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report recommends the establishment of a pseudo–Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime to deliver emergency accommodation for families and vulnerable people placed by the Council's Housing Needs department. This will replace existing processes and formalise arrangements between the Council and Providers.
- 1.2. The aim of the DPS is to ensure a continuity of supply of good quality privately managed properties for households placed into emergency accommodation by the Housing Needs department. Whilst guaranteeing that the Council is meeting its legal requirement in the procurement of its services and delivering of value for money.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 set out a Local Authority's responsibilities in respect of homeless households who approach the Local Authority for assistance. The legislation specifies that all Local Authorities have a duty to provide interim accommodation to certain households whilst investigating their circumstances and temporary accommodation to applicants who are homeless, eligible for assistance, in priority need and not intentionally homeless. In addition, the Council holds discretionary powers which can be used for the provision of emergency

accommodation to individuals and couples who are not owed a statutory duty, in certain circumstances, such as during periods of severe weather as part of the Council's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) or in response to an emergency or disaster that is a danger to life as seen during the Covid pandemic.

- 2.2. The Council currently uses a range of accommodation to meet both the interim and temporary accommodation needs for those placed into emergency accommodation, including designated blocks of flats, purpose constructed modular units, permanent stock and paid nightly emergency accommodation.
- 2.3. Wherever possible the Council avoids the use of paid nightly accommodation provided by an external landlord, including Bed and Breakfast (B&B), however, due to ongoing demand there remains a need for its use as emergency accommodation for homeless households.
- 2.4. The Council has achieved a sustained reduction in the use of paid nightly accommodation from July 2016, reducing to a low of 11 households in March 2020. However, the number of households in this type of accommodation increased during the period following the emergence of COVID-19, which can be attributed to a number of factors.
- 2.5. Emergency measures put in place to protect tenants during the coronavirus pandemic were lifted in 2021, subsequently, there has been a steady increase in the number approaching following a notice being served. This has been further impacted by the cost-of-living increase, fuel prices and rising interest rates, putting significant financial pressures on owner occupiers, landlords and tenants. Nationally, we are seeing that the reason landlords are issuing notices to tenants is due to them wishing to sell or relet their property, normally with an increased rent. The rise in approaches from the private sector only gives part of the picture - the private rented sector is also the Council's main tool to prevent and relieve homelessness. Therefore, a lack of affordable accommodation in the private sector is having a two-fold impact on the numbers of people facing homelessness. Households are becoming homeless from the sector and are unable to find alternative accommodation, and there are fewer options to assist households in crisis which has led to an increase in placements.
- 2.6. Further, lockdowns were a pivotal time for domestic abuse survivors, as highlighted in the media during this time. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021, which came into force following lockdowns, made changes to provisions available to protect survivors and expanded the definition of domestic abuse. It also made those approaching as homeless as a result of domestic abuse automatically priority need, and therefore entitling them to interim accommodation duties.
- 2.7. More recently, one of the most significant emerging needs is the increase in approaches from those fleeing conflict. There are currently two Ukraine schemes, one is a known quantity which we can address in the short term with pre-emptive planning and support however the family scheme is an unknown quantity for which figures are not obtainable and so the need is hard to define and homelessness presentations from this cohort has applied further pressure.
- 2.8. Finally, there has been increased grant provision from DLUHC to specifically offer short term discretionary paid nightly accommodation for those who sleep rough to encourage engagement with supported accommodation as well as reconnections to other areas with the overarching aim of reducing rough sleeping numbers in the Reading borough.
- 2.9. The Council maintains the aim to move away from the use of this accommodation as far as possible, however, there is a recognition of an ongoing requirement for some nightly paid accommodation for short term placements and to help manage fluctuations in demand.
- 2.10. Wherever the Housing department uses externally sourced accommodation it is subject to a programme of initial checks by the Housing Needs Department to provide assurances for the safety and wellbeing of tenants, however, there are currently no formal contractual

arrangements in place between the Council and providers to manage the procurement and ongoing monitoring of the accommodation.

3. The Proposal

Current Position:

- 3.1. Arrangements for procuring and managing emergency accommodation have emerged over time and whilst they are robust, they have not been subject to formal procurement processes. The Council considers that formalising the process of procurement of accommodation is important for the following reasons.

Standards of accommodation

- 3.2. A formal procurement arrangement will allow the Council to more easily approve a cohort of landlords who are competent to provide accommodation to meet minimum standards regarding property condition, maintenance, and management. The arrangement will ensure that providers are contractually required to provide initial and ongoing assessments against a range of standards, including health and safety, management criteria and supply of services, providing a framework for monitoring rectification of any areas of concern. The DPS will aid the Council to manage any quality through proportionate entry standards of providers and through ongoing contract monitoring.

Supply of accommodation

- 3.3. Currently the Council sources accommodation on an ad-hoc basis as required. The proposed procurement process will allow the Council to establish a pool of providers who are able to provide accommodation as demand dictates. There will be no limit on the number of providers joining the DPS and no obligation on the Council to use any unrequired accommodation. This will allow the Council to manage fluctuations in demand providing flexibility in sourcing and reducing the use of accommodation as required.
- 3.4. In addition, a formal system will allow the Council to direct the market in terms of type and location of accommodation and provide greater clarity to providers regarding projected need.

Legal requirement

- 3.5. This procurement process will replace and formalise current arrangements, ensuring that the Council is compliant with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, EU regulations for the procurement of services and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Value for money

- 3.6. Currently there is no formal framework for the pricing of individual placements; costs of placements are agreed on an individual basis. The arrangement will provide a prescribed pricing schedule that will act as a guide for providers to encourage them to set their rates competitively and in line with other landlords. This will set expectations for providers in terms of charges and will ensure that the market remains more stable if there are times of increased demand.
- 3.7. Currently processes relating to the procurement, management and monitoring of B&B accommodation are time consuming. It is intended that this system will also improve operational process and efficiency, saving officer time and making better use of Council resources.

Options proposed:

- 3.8. For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that the Council seeks to procure accommodation via a pseudo-Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) under the Light Touch Regime (LTR), allowing for the sourcing and management of emergency accommodation placements in line with all relevant regulations.
- 3.9. The DPS will ensure that all providers have met minimum standards in relation to accommodation and facilities provided, ensuring that there is consistency in the quality of

accommodation secured for households placed in emergency accommodation. The DPS will provide a mechanism for any providers that fall short of the expected standards to be suspended whilst quality issues are addressed.

- 3.10. It is proposed that the DPS is established and run for the period of five years allowing the Council to call-off from the DPS over this time based on a range of pre-determined criteria.
- 3.11. It is proposed that the DPS is established in early 2024 to allow for the purchasing of placements through this method from that time. The DPS operates by running a fully compliant open tender procedure to accredit and enrol Providers onto the DPS to ensure that only Providers that meet the Council's standards can join.
- 3.12. New Providers can apply and be enrolled at pre-set intervals during the DPS' period of operation providing they can meet the required standards. During this process, the Council will retain the ultimate decision as to which Providers to secure accommodation for individual placements, based on individual homeless household's needs, considering price, suitability and location.
- 3.13. There will be a transition period of up to 6 months providing time for existing placements to be moved onto Providers within the new Scheme.

Other options considered:

- 3.14. The option to continue securing accommodation in the current way is not recommended. The Council needs to move to a formalised and transparent method of securing emergency accommodation to improve value, standards and to ensure that it is compliant with EU procurement regulations.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The proposal will contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan theme of Thriving Communities by:
 - Tackling inequality in our society, to ensure everyone has an equal chance to thrive regardless of their economic, social, cultural, ethnic or religious background

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. The Climate Impact Assessment tool indicated there will be net nil impact as a result of this proposal. This impact is due to providers using existing properties/hotels/B&Bs for this provision and will not involve the creation of new properties. In line with Reading's net zero carbon by 2030 commitment providers will be encouraged to take steps to reduce their carbon footprint through various measures.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. Current providers of emergency accommodation have been informed of the proposed changes and provided with the opportunity to comment. Providers will be given appropriate information ahead of the initiation of the tender process to ensure those who wish to apply to the DPS can do so.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. 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.

- 7.2. An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken for this report and is attached as Appendix A. The implementation of this procurement process is formalising current arrangements and is required to ensure the Council's compliance with procurement law. There is no material change to the process for accessing emergency accommodation. In light of this, it is considered that there is no indication that any groups would be adversely impacted by this new formal procurement process. As stated earlier in this assessment, Housing Advice is open to all who are eligible under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 and those who are assessed as being eligible for emergency accommodation will be provided with this support.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1. The Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017) sets out a Local Authority's responsibilities in respect of homeless households who approach the Local Authority for assistance. Where certain criteria are met the Local Authority is required to provide interim or temporary accommodation.
- 8.2. Properties procured through the DPS will meet property standards as set out in the Homelessness Code of Guidance and the Housing Act 2004.
- 8.3. The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Council's own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1. The length of the proposed DPS is five years. The numbers of households accommodated in emergency accommodation fluctuates and is influenced by a number of factors as described earlier in this report. Actual spend on emergency accommodation for the last five years is shown below:

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Gross Spend (£)	711,394.71	310,443.39	2,451,928.99	1,037,028.54	2,952,197.30
Cumulative (£)		1,021,838.10	3,473,767.09	4,510,795.63	7,462,992.93

- 9.2. It must be noted that during this five-year period the number of placements increased as part of the response to the pandemic and that numbers have risen in the last year due to the aforementioned cost of living crisis.

Value for Money

- 9.3. Currently there is no formal framework for the pricing of individual placements. Costs of placements are negotiated on an individual basis. The new arrangement will provide a pricing schedule that will act as a guide to providers setting expectations for providers to set their rates competitively and in line with other landlords, support the market to remain more stable at times of increased demand.

10. Timetable for Implementation

- 10.1. It is anticipated that the new approved list of suppliers will be implemented in early 2024 to allow for the purchasing of placements through this method from that time. The approved list will be established by running a fully compliant open tender approach to enrol providers onto the list – this activity will take place from October 2023. There will be

a transition period to allow for any placements to be moved from providers that do not secure a place on the approved supplier list.

11. Background Papers

11.1. There are none.

Appendices – delete if there are none

1. Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

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Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

For advice on this document please contact Clare Muir on 72119 or email Clare.Muir@reading.gov.uk.

Please contact the Project Management Office at pmo@reading.gov.uk for advice and/or support to complete this form from a project perspective.

Name of proposal/activity/policy to be assessed:

Implementation of a Dynamic Purchasing System for Emergency Accommodation

Directorate: DEGNS
Service: Housing Needs

Name: Selina Ma
Job Title: Contracts and Monitoring Officer
Date of assessment: 16.06.2023

Version History

Version	Reason	Author	Date	Approved By
1	Report draft to go to Policy Committee	Selina Ma	23.06.2023	

Scope your proposal

- **What is the aim of your policy or new service/what changes are you proposing?**

The establishment of a pseudo dynamic purchasing systems (DPS) under the Light Tough Regime (LTR) for the provision of emergency accommodation provided by the Housing Needs department. The Council will advertise for landlords/agents acting on their behalf who can provide emergency accommodation on a nightly basis for households in Reading that are or become homeless who have no alternative accommodation available to them. The Council seeks to procure accommodation via the LTR to establish a pool of providers who are competent to provide accommodation as required. There will be no limit on the number of providers that can join the DPS, however they will be required to meet minimum standards for property condition, maintenance and management.

- **Who will benefit from this proposal and how?**

Those who require homelessness assistance from the Council - The DPS under the LTR will ensure that all providers have met minimum standards in relation to accommodation and facilities provided. Additionally, should any providers fall short of the expected standards an inbuilt mechanism to suspend such providers will enable any quality issues to be addressed. This will ensure that an equitable and consistent quality of accommodation is secured for households placed into emergency accommodation.

This procurement process will replace and formalise current arrangements, which have emerged over time in an ad hoc manner, therefore ensuring that the Council is compliant with EU regulations on procurement. In addition, there currently is no formal oversight in terms of pricing. Providers will be asked to submit prices with which they will be ranked from cheapest to most expensive with the aim of encouraging them to set their rates competitively. Council officers will be required to select placements based on price and location although there is scope for placements to be made with more expensive providers if certain circumstances, such as risk management, arise. This change will benefit the Council.

- **What outcomes does the change aim to achieve and for whom?**

The main aim for this procurement process is to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of suitable accommodation for use by the Council to accommodate homeless households under its statutory duties, powers or obligations under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. The procurement process will help ensure that accommodation provided to homeless households meets defined property standards whilst achieving best value for money. The DPS offers an open, transparent system which provides equity and compliance as well as a consistent methodology for sourcing placements, with evaluation based on price and location.

This procurement process will formalise current arrangements where ad hoc agreements are currently in place with various providers thus ensuring that the Council is compliant with EU regulations on procurement.

The procurement process will also allow for greater oversight across providers in terms of property standards and expectations of providers in how they manage the accommodation.

The change also aims to ensure that flexibility regarding accommodation remains - by not specifying a minimum or maximum number of providers the ability to increase or reduce supply as demand dictates is preserved.

- **Who are the main stakeholders and what do they want?**

Households who are homeless and owed a duty by the Council to secure accommodation under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 as well as households who are provided emergency accommodation via discretionary powers - such as in times of severe weather under the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol or during public health emergencies such as Covid - Anecdotal feedback from households indicates that they wish to remain in Reading with minimal disruption to family/work life. So far as is possible, the Council aims to meet this requirement and will continue to do so through the ongoing procurement process with priority being given to accommodation located within the Borough.

Current providers of emergency accommodation - Currently used providers will be consulted on the proposed DPS with the option to provide feedback on all the proposed changes. Previously in 2017, providers were consulted about the possibility of a DPS being established in the same way as is currently planned. At that time all respondents were in favour of the overall intention and aim of the DPS and welcomed the consistency in terms of property standards and oversight that the new process will bring.

Assess whether an EqlA is Relevant

How does your proposal relate to eliminating discrimination; advancing equality of opportunity; promoting good community relations?

- Do you have evidence or reason to believe that some groups may be affected differently than others (due to race, disability, sex, gender, sexuality, age, religious belief or due to belonging to the Armed Forces community)? Make reference to the known demographic profile of the service user group, your monitoring information, research, national data/reports etc.

Yes:

Age - under 18's presenting as individuals and not part of a family unit.

- Is there already public concern about potentially discriminatory practices/impact or could there be? Make reference to your complaints, consultation, feedback, media reports locally/nationally.

No

If the answer is **Yes** to any of the above, you need to do an Equality Impact Assessment.

If **No** you **MUST** complete this statement.

An Equality Impact Assessment is not relevant because:

An EqIA is relevant.

31/07/2023

X Selina Ma

Completing Officer
Signed by: Ma, Selina

X

Lead Officer

Assess the Impact of the Proposal

Your assessment must include:

- **Consultation**
- **Collection and Assessment of Data**
- **Judgement about whether the impact is negative or positive**

Think about who does and doesn't use the service? Is the take up representative of the community? What do different minority groups think? (You might think your policy, project or service is accessible and addressing the needs of these groups, but asking them might give you a totally different view). Does it really meet their varied needs? Are some groups less likely to get a good service?

How do your proposals relate to other services - will your proposals have knock on effects on other services elsewhere? Are there proposals being made for other services that relate to yours and could lead to a cumulative impact?

Example: A local authority takes separate decisions to limit the eligibility criteria for community care services; increase charges for respite services; scale back its accessible housing programme; and cut concessionary travel.

Each separate decision may have a significant effect on the lives of disabled residents, and the cumulative impact of these decisions may be considerable.

This combined impact would not be apparent if decisions are considered in isolation.

Consultation

How have you consulted with or do you plan to consult with relevant groups and experts. If you haven't already completed a Consultation form do it now. The checklist helps you make sure you follow good consultation practice.

[Consultation manager form - Reading Borough Council Dash](#)

Relevant groups/experts	How were/will the views of these groups be obtained	Date when contacted
Existing providers of emergency accommodation currently used by RBC	A survey outlining the proposed changes to the process will be sent out inviting providers to give their feedback.	July 2023

Collect and Assess your Data

Using information from Census, residents survey data, service monitoring data, satisfaction or complaints, feedback, consultation, research, your knowledge and the knowledge of people in your team, staff groups etc. describe how the proposal could impact on each group. Include both positive and negative impacts.

(Please delete relevant ticks)

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on racial groups**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

Those who rough sleep in Reading are predominantly single, white males aged 35+ who state that they are heterosexual and Christian/have no religious beliefs and those who access statutory homelessness services are in the main are white individuals. Whilst this is the trend in demography for people that sleep rough and access statutory homelessness services, any other racial groups are not precluded from approaching the Council for homelessness assistance. There are no restrictions placed on accessing statutory or non-statutory services because of race. Anyone aged 18+ can approach the service for a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, emergency accommodation will be provided.

- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Sex and Gender identity (include pregnancy and maternity, marriage, gender re-assignment)**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

Data drawn from RBC's database from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 indicates a near equitable split of 60/40 of female to male lead applicants placed into emergency accommodation - it should be noted that this information is drawn from households where rent accounts were in place and there are some instances where a placement ends prior to a rent account being set up.

Rough sleeping is more common amongst men than women; with over 80% of individuals sleeping rough in Reading being male. Reviewing placements made under discretionary powers over the same period, 40% of placements were provided to women despite women accounting for less than 20% of those sleeping rough. This approach is proportionate given that there are accepted elevated risks to females who sleep rough as shown through independent sector research (report by St. Mungo's (2015) Rebuilding Shattered Lives - The Final Report: Getting the right help at the right time to women who are homeless or at risk).

Under the Housing Act 1996, pregnant women are designated automatic priority need. This means there is statutory duty to provide emergency accommodation if

they are eligible and homeless and are offered emergency accommodation where required.

Marriage and civil partnership - No positive or negative effects resulting from marital or civil partnership status have been identified as likely to arise from this change.

Gender reassignment - Transgender people are at risk of experiencing discrimination and being victims of hate crime. Stonewall estimated that 2 in 5 trans people (40%) nationally have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months. This elevated risk to trans people is taken into account when being assessed for homelessness assistance.

Those requiring homelessness assistance, can approach the Council's Housing Needs teams. There are no restrictions on access and all approaching the service will be provided with a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, accommodation will be provided.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Disability**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

Those with disabilities, requiring homelessness assistance, are able to approach the Council's Housing Needs teams. There are no restrictions on access and all approaching the service will be provided with a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, accommodation will be provided. There is a more limited supply of adapted/accessible property in the private rented sector however, through the establishment of the DPS the Council aims to increase its pool of accommodation which is accessible/adapted.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Sexual orientation (cover civil partnership)**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

No positive or negative effects resulting from sexual orientation or civil partnership status have been identified as likely to arise from this change. Those requiring homelessness assistance, can approach the Council's Housing Needs teams. There are no restrictions on access and all approaching the service will be provided with a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, accommodation will be provided.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on age**
-

- **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

Anyone aged 18+ can approach the service for a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, emergency accommodation will be provided. The provision of emergency accommodation by Housing Needs is for those aged 18+. In instances where an individual aged 16/17 presents as homeless, the Housing Needs department are not legally able to provide emergency accommodation as this responsibility falls to Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC). To ensure that the needs of 16/17 year olds are met a joint protocol between Housing Needs and Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) is in place. The protocol requires an officer from each organisation to conduct a joint assessment of the needs of the young person and any provision of emergency accommodation is the responsibility of children's services (BFfC). The proposed change will not have any affect in this area.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on Religious belief**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

No positive or negative effects resulting from religious belief have been identified as likely to arise from this change. Those requiring homelessness assistance, can approach the Council's Housing Needs teams. There are no restrictions on access and all approaching the service will be provided with a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, accommodation will be provided.

-
- **Describe how this proposal could impact on the Armed Forces community (including reservists and veterans and their families)**
 - **Is there a negative impact? No**
-

No positive or negative effects resulting from being a member of the Armed Forces community have been identified as likely to arise from this change. Those requiring homelessness assistance, can approach the Council's Housing Needs teams. There are no restrictions on access and all approaching the service will be provided with a homelessness assessment, and where assessed as appropriate, accommodation will be provided.

Make a Decision

If the impact is negative then you must consider whether you can legally justify it. If not you must set out how you will reduce or eliminate the impact. If you are not sure what the impact will be you **MUST** assume that there could be a negative impact. You may have to do further consultation or test out your proposal and monitor the impact before full implementation.

(Delete numbers below which don't apply)

1. **No negative impact identified - Go to sign off**
2. **Negative impact identified but there is a justifiable reason**

You must give due regard or weight but this does not necessarily mean that the equality duty overrides other clearly conflicting statutory duties that you must comply with.

3. **Negative impact identified or uncertain**

What action will you take to eliminate or reduce the impact? Set out your actions and timescale

There is no identified negative risk arising from this change in the procurement of emergency accommodation to meet both the Council's statutory duties and aims via discretionary powers. Anyone approaching the Housing Needs department for assistance will be offered a homelessness assessment and where assessed as eligible homeless and in priority need will be provided with a statutory emergency placement. Other routes into emergency accommodation are also available via discretionary powers which are used in circumstances to encourage engagement with support for complex needs and/or where there is a risk to health/life such as in times of severe weather or public health emergencies.

- **How will you monitor for adverse impact in the future?**
-

Demographic data - this is collected as standard and will be reviewed against prior data sets and rough sleeping population data.

31/07/2023

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Completing Officer
Signed by: Ma, Selina

Lead Officer
Signed by: Ma, Selina

Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee

07 November 2023



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	Reading Climate Festival 2023 Evaluation
Purpose of the report	To note the report for information
Report status	Public report
Report author	Donna Pentelow and Peter Moore
Lead Councillor	Councillor Barnett Ward and Councillor Ennis
Corporate priority	Healthy Environment
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the committee note the evaluation of the 2023 Reading Climate Festival as outlined in Appendix 1 and recognise the efforts of the partners 2. That the committee note the impact of Luke Jerram's Gaia on participation and engagement in Reading Climate Festival 2023. 3. That the Committee note the value of arts, culture and creativity in engaging people in wider social issues (in this case, climate change)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The 2023 Reading Climate Festival took place from 10-21 June with the stated aim of 'inspiring and encouraging positive action on climate change'. The first Reading Climate Festival, curated by the Reading Climate Action Network (RCAN) with support from a range of partners, including the Council, was held in November 2020. This inaugural Festival took the form of a series of on-line events necessitated by the pandemic restrictions in place at the time, with the centrepiece being the launch of the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25. The festival has been held annually since 2020, building a reputation and achieving good levels of participation of around 1000 participants a year. This is a good level of participation
- 1.2 particularly in the context of the very limited resources available for its delivery.
- 1.3 The festival is run and curated by the Reading Climate Action Network (RCAN), the public-facing brand of the Reading Climate Change Partnership, a multi-agency partnership for which the Council acts as 'host' and accountable body.
- 1.4 In 2023 RCAN, the Council, the University of Reading and the Reading Economic & Development Agency (REDA) recognised the potential of a partnership approach to deliver against a number of shared objectives:
 - to showcase the important role Reading has played on the world stage in understanding and addressing climate change;
 - to inform and engage the community about the work of RCAN/partner organisations in working towards a net-zero, climate resilient town by 2030;
 - to inspire and facilitate individuals/families to make clear pledges to adopt greener behaviours in support of our community's effort to address climate change.
- 1.5 The centrepiece of this vision was the exhibition of a major international artwork, Luke Jerram's Gaia, at Reading Town Hall engaging over 13,000 people over 20 events held

across Reading, attracting people from all parts of Reading and the UK. As well as engaging a wide range of people in conversations about climate change, the festival represented a significant cultural, educational and economic event for Reading as a whole. The costs of bringing Gaia to Reading were recovered through income, delivering high value at little or no cost to the public purse.

2 Policy Context

- 2.1 Prior to the adoption of the national 'net zero by 2050' target, Reading Borough Council had declared a climate emergency at its meeting in February 2019, committing to the more ambitious aim of a net zero carbon Reading by 2030. In November 2020, the Council subsequently endorsed the new Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 (prepared by the Reading Climate Change Partnership) based on the 'net zero by 2030' ambition. The Climate Emergency Strategy recognises the importance of communicating and engaging with the residents and businesses of Reading to deliver this ambition. The Reading Climate Festival was developed as a vehicle to achieve this engagement.
- 2.2 This report covers the evaluation of the Reading Climate Festival 2023, its successes in continuing and growing the climate conversation, engaging new people in that conversation, nurturing strong sector wide partnerships and legacy.

3 Reading Climate Festival Evaluation Findings

Context of the Reading Climate Festival

- 3.1 The Reading Climate Festival was founded in 2020 by Reading Climate Action Network (Reading CAN), the public-facing 'brand' of the Reading Climate Change Partnership, a non-executive, multi-agency body for which the Council serves as 'host' and accountable body. The festival is aimed at helping individuals, communities and organisations understand how they can support Reading's commitment to being a net-zero, climate-resilient town by 2030 (as per the vision set out in the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy).
- 3.2 Since 2021 the festival has been held in association with the UK's Great Big Green Week, as aligning with this enabled external funding to be secured. It offers a series of free in-person and online events co-created with the community to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change.
- 3.3 The festival's strategic priorities are: to showcase the important role Reading has played on the world stage in understanding and addressing climate change; to inform and engage the community about the work of RCAN/partner organisations in working towards a net-zero, climate resilient town by 2030; to inspire and facilitate individuals/families to make clear pledges to adopt greener behaviours in support of our community's effort to address climate change.
- 3.4 To help realise these ambitions and given the ability of arts and culture to reach new audiences and be a vehicle to have wide ranging conversations, Luke Jerram's iconic artwork Gaia was brought to Reading Town Hall as a key focal point for the festival. To manage this event and the wider festival, we built on an existing strong working relationships established during the Year of Culture 2016 and subsequently built on between the University of Reading, REDA, the Reading BIDs, Reading Borough Council and RCAN. This partnership allowed us to share and increase resources to have a greater impact and reach.
- 3.5 Gaia was chosen as a unifying piece of artwork that met all partners' strategic priorities. It was a piece that spanned all our audiences, and which could very easily be linked to the climate narrative in a positive and informative way. It is also internationally known and drew people from other parts of the country.
- 3.6 Gaia was hosted at the Reading Concert Hall from the 10th to the 18th of June 2023. The partnership collaborated to deliver 57 public ticketed sessions, including 'Twilight'

(for evening sessions) and 'Relaxed' (aimed at neurodivergent audiences) events. Sessions were £2 per ticket for over 16s, under 16s were free. There were 10 curated events and 10 school sessions that sat alongside Gaia. An additional 19 events took place as part of the Reading Climate Festival programme.

Key Outcomes from the 2023 Reading Climate Festival

- 3.7 Gaia as part of the Reading Climate Festival, helped engage new people in the climate conversation growing the audience by approximately 1,200% in one year. The combined cooperation and use of each partner's online resources meant that reaching a wider audience was possible. This event put Reading on the map and engaged Reading residents that may not have previously engaged in the festival.
- 12,000 people attended Gaia at the Reading Climate Festival, of which approximately 24% were from outside of the town. A further 1,300 attended other events at the festival.
 - Together the partnership's social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) impressions were 283,772. The Council's reach was 82,893. 100,000 people were reached via newsletters.
 - Via the What'sOnReading.com website the Gaia webpage had 23,615 unique page views (16,649 Unique Users) from the 23rd of March to the 21st of June. This is an impressive number when compared to a Reading favourite, the annual Panto which had 52,049 unique page views (37,844 unique users) for the calendar year of 2022. In three months, Gaia received approximately 45% of the number that the panto got in the whole of 2022.
 - The Committees from both Reading Central and Abbey Quarter Business Improvement Districts (BID), representing over 700 local businesses, voted unanimously to support the installation of Gaia.
 - During the Gaia exhibition, the BID sponsored three separate events developed to engage the local businesses and their workforce: including a talk by bushcraft and survival expert, Ray Mears. This engaged with nearly 300 people from 100 local businesses.
 - The festival enhanced Reading's sense of place and reinforced its identity as a place which is engaged with the climate change issue. responded to a post-event survey 90% of respondents who were from Reading said Gaia and the ancillary programme made them feel proud of the town.
 - Climate anxiety is a growing concern in the UK, with 80% of those surveyed by Statista ¹having some concern about climate change. Many people report feeling daunted by the enormity of the problem, and by incorporating the RCAN Small Pledge initiative into the booking process we hoped to alleviate this sense of helplessness and give participants a sense of agency.
 - 503 people responded to a post event survey, 25% of respondents were moved to join the climate action conversation as a result of seeing Gaia.
 - The festival engaged young people: The Reading Museum Education Team and University of Reading managed the schools' outreach programme for Gaia engaging with 18 primary schools and 6 secondary schools. We first offered the opportunity to schools in the areas serving those in the most economically deprived areas of Reading. Of those that were invited 11 accepted. Together they reached over 600 school pupils and created online resources that will exist beyond the project.

3.8 Conclusions.

¹ <https://www.statista.com/statistics/426733/united-kingdom-uk-concern-about-climate-change/>

- 3.9 Using Gaia as the centrepiece of the 2023 Festival, increased its reach to c13,000 people compared to previous festival audiences of c1,000, clearly demonstrating the potential of cultural events and the arts to attract new and different people to the climate change discussion.
- 3.10 The inclusion of Gaia in the festival also brought wider benefits to Reading in terms of pride in place, sense of place, partnership working, wider reputation and economic activity, although these have been more challenging to quantify.
- 3.11 Whilst the specific pledges made by participants may be relatively modest in number, the impact of a few can already be seen. For example, 83 households pledged to turn their heating down by 1 degree, this small change represents an approximate saving over 6.3 tons of Co2 emissions a year (full details can be found in the table in appendix one) which is roughly equivalent to the amount of carbon that 289 trees could absorb in a year. Moreover this is not the only measure of the success of the project: the ability to start climate conversations and get people thinking about, talking about and acting on climate change – which are inherently more difficult to measure - was where the real benefits lay.
- 3.12 Plans for the 2024 Reading Climate Festival, centred around Show Your Stripes Day on 21 June, are already in development with the same partners. The partnership is keen to build on the success of the 2023 festival and arts and culture will continue to feature strongly. Full legacy plan can be found in Appendix 1.

4 Contribution to Strategic Aims

- 4.1 Involvement in the Reading Climate Festival supports the following RBC Corporate Plan strategic priorities:
- **Healthy Environment:** The Reading Climate Festival helps inform our community of the work that is happening locally to tackle climate change and how they can get involved with helping Reading reach a net zero carbon town by 2030.
 - **Thriving Communities:** Many of the events help inform residents of how to reduce their carbon footprint but also their household bills in the process.
 - **Inclusive Economy:** The festival brought people in from outside of Reading, enhancing our tourism offering. Engaged young people in the conversation and addressed climate anxiety.

5 Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1 The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers). Although there are no direct climate implications arising from the recommendations in this report, a Climate Impact Assessment has been completed which suggests that the Festival as a whole is likely to have delivered a 'medium positive' impact, based on the significantly increased levels of engagement achieved compared to previous climate festivals.

6 Community Engagement

- 6.1 The evaluation of this project was carried out by Reading Museum volunteers and a post event survey sent out by the Reading Arts and RCAN Team. The responses from audience members and participants formed the basis of this evaluation.
- 6.2 Reading's Youth Council rep for Climate Change was part of the festival's steering group, helping shape the programme and offered feedback on youth engagement.
- 6.3 Work was undertaken with schools from across Reading to engage them in a school's climate summit on Show your Stripes Day.

7 Equality Implications

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this report. Efforts were made, however, in the planning and delivery of the Festival to ensure that it was accessible to

all and as inclusive as possible by making almost all events free, offering a balance of online and 'in person' events, promoting events via a diverse range of channels, and keeping ticket prices for Gaia at the minimum level required to cover costs.

8 Other Relevant Considerations

8.1 None to report.

9 Legal Implications

9.1 None to report.

10 Financial Implications

10.1 The costs of bringing Gaia to Reading were recovered through ticket income and joint investment from the partners therefore delivering high value at no cost to the public purse. The total cost of the bringing Gaia to Reading was £47,270, all of which was covered through sponsorship from partner organisations (£20,657), UK Shared Prosperity Funding (£10,969) and ticket income (£15,642).

11 Timetable for Implementation

11.1 N/A

12 Background Papers

12.1 There are none.

Appendices

1. Gaia Evaluation Report

Appendix 1 – Gaia Final Report

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Introduction

In 2023 The Reading Climate Festival was in its fourth year. Over the previous three years it had enjoyed a good level of support from community as well as business organisations. This year there was an opportunity to further grow the festival and extend its reach and therefore impact, by bringing Luke Jerram's Gaia to the Town Hall. It was for this purpose that Reading Borough Council, University of Reading, the Reading BIDs and the Reading Climate Action Network (ReadingCAN) Reading Climate Festival came together.

Through this collaboration, there was the opportunity to work together to programme activity around Gaia in the town hall, jointly raise funding, work through each other's communications networks, share resources and amplify messaging.

Aim of the Reading Climate Festival

Luke Jerram's Gaia was held as part of the Reading Climate Festival. The Festival is held in association with the UK's Great Big Green Week and with the support of Reading's Economic and Destination Agency. Reading Climate Festival offers a series of free in-person and online events to inspire and encourage positive action on climate change.

Founded and curated by [Reading Climate Action Network](#) (ReadingCAN), the festival is aimed at helping individuals, communities and organisations understand how they can support Reading's commitment to being a net-zero, climate-resilient town by 2030.

Gaia

Gaia was hosted at the Reading Town Hall, in the Concert Hall from the 10th to the 18th of June 2023. The partnership collaborated to deliver 57 public tickets sessions, including Twilight (for late night sessions) and Relaxed (aimed at neurodivergent audiences) events, these sessions were £2 per ticket for over 16s, under 16s were free. There were 10 curated events and 10 school sessions that sat alongside Gaia. An additional 19 events took place as part of the Reading Climate Festival programme.

The Purpose

The purpose of the Gaia Exhibition was to deliver against jointly agreed strategic priorities. These included:

1. To showcase the important role Reading has played on the world stage in understanding and addressing climate change.
2. To inform and engage the community about work of RCAN/partner organisations in working towards a net zero, climate resilient town by 2030.
3. To inspire and facilitate individuals/families to make clear pledges to adopt greener behaviours in support of our community's effort to address climate change.

Evaluation of the event was carried out to understand whether this event met these targets. The results of the evaluation are discussed below.

Why Culture and Creativity as a vehicle?

*'A key challenge is that climate change is an unprecedented 'collective action problem that requires agreement, collaboration and shared action among people and organisations that may not normally collaborate...decisions on climate action taken by organisations, communities and individuals will often depend not only on a factual understanding of climate change but the underlying personal values, social and cultural norms, and ability to adapt.'*²

*For this reason there is a growing recognition that climate change constitutes not only an environmental and scientific challenge but a cultural challenge, and that there is a need to make climate change and climate action more meaningful and personally relevant...'*²

Because Climate Action and engagement in the Climate Conversation is such a personal journey we need to consider *'other methods of engagement beyond the presentation of scientific facts.'*³

Culture is a powerful *'conduit for public engagement'* and the artists and practitioners are *'agents of change'*⁴ helping us envision a climate resilient future, galvanising people towards shared goals of planetary balance. Over the years, culture and these agents of change have played a key role in catalysing social and political change.

Culture, Art, and Creativity is a proven way to support people's understanding of the natural world, making complicated and sometimes anxiety inducing topics accessible, driving understanding and starting important conversations. It can also support change in behaviours and help people make changes in their lives that will help benefit the bigger picture.

We understand that big changes are needed to truly tackle this challenge that we are all now facing, however, every journey starts with a first step, and that first step cannot be a leap, it needs to feel achievable, manageable and have a measurable change. The aim is to engage those who have traditionally disengaged, give confidence to those who are inactive but want to engage and further

² [12. engaging-the-public-on-climate-change.pdf | Diversity of Cultural Expressions \(unesco.org\)](#)

³ [12. engaging-the-public-on-climate-change.pdf | Diversity of Cultural Expressions \(unesco.org\)](#)

⁴ [What does climate action look like for the Culture and Creative Sector Industries? - Climate-KIC](#)

direct those who are already comfortable with the climate change topic. Culture and creativity can help bridge the gap between all three of these audiences.

Why Gaia?

'Fascinating view of earth. It (Gaia) made me think about how beautiful the earth is and why we should protect it.' Gaia Attendee

Gaia was chosen as a unifying piece of artwork that met all partners' strategic priorities. It was a piece that spanned all our audiences, and its main purpose was not a climate story but one that could very easily be linked to that narrative in a positive and informative way. It is also a piece that is internationally known and will draw people from other parts of the country.

For many people, taking action against climate change feels like an almost unbearable task, facing them too late and with too few options of attack.⁵

At a time when many people are experiencing stress as a result of our 'anxiety-provoking culture'⁶, and two thirds of Britons are experiencing eco anxiety, this is a more gentle 'nudge theory' approach to the Climate Crisis that evokes the Overview Effect⁷.

'I thought the exhibit was quite profound, making me feel in awe of the world and also protective towards the planet. Both good things.' Gaia Attendee

The piece was installed and supported with a view to engaging new people in the conversation and offering possibilities to a situation that can feel quite hopeless.

Putting Reading on the Map

Showcasing the important role Reading has played on the world stage in understanding and addressing climate change.

Gaia helped further highlight Reading as a place that leads on sustainable best practice and spread the word about the ongoing good work that partners are doing to help combat climate change.

The University of Reading collaborated with partners to create a complimentary exhibition, celebrating the work that the partners are doing on a local, national and international stage to combat climate change, but also to promote ways in which people can get involved with climate action.

Reach of the event

12,000 people viewed this exhibition and Gaia, of which approximately 24% were from outside of the town.

'Inspiring and amazing to have this iconic piece of art in Reading.' Gaia Attendee

The collaboration helped extend the reach beyond the realms of each individual organisation, further helping to amplify key climate messaging. Together our social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn) impressions were 283,772 and our reach was 82,893.

We communicated directly through newsletters with over 100,000 people from our local community of students, businesses and residents.

Via the What's On website the Gaia webpage had 23,615 unique page views (16,649 Unique Users) from the 23 March to the 21st of June, this is an impressive number when compared to a Reading

⁵ [Why It's Hard to Stay Motivated in the Fight Against Climate Change \(verywellmind.com\)](https://www.verywellmind.com/why-it-s-hard-to-stay-motivated-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-2786484)

⁶ [NOTES ON A NERVOUS PLANET | Kirkus Reviews](#)

⁷ [Overview effect - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Overview_effect)

favourite, the Panto which got 52,049 unique page views (37,844 unique users) for the calendar year of 2022.

In three months, Gaia got approximately 45% of the number that the panto got in the whole of 2022.

Local and regional media outlets supported the event, a selection of links to the news articles can be found below:

- <https://rdg.today/gaia-unveiled-in-reading-as-the-climate-festival-gets-underway> and news features can be found below.
- <https://planetradio.co.uk/greatest-hits/berkshire-north-hampshire/news/gaia-art-work-reading/>

It was also covered by ITV Meridian and local radio stations, including BBC Radio Berkshire and Planet Radio.

Gaia was also advertised through the Great West Way and via the GWR networks.

Enhancing Reading's Sense of Place

Pride in place is 'the emotional bond between people and place.'⁸ A sense of place is important for a town, it develops a sense of community and belonging. On the surface this would seem like an arbitrary need, especially in the context of Climate Change.

However, research into developing a locality's sense of place can '*Influence our well-being, how we describe and interact with a place, what we value in a place, our respect for ecosystems and other species, how we perceive the affordances of a place, our desire to build more sustainable and just urban communities, and how we choose to improve cities.*'⁹

*Sense of place plays a key role in predicting and promoting public support for conservation in diverse socioecological contexts.*¹⁰

Although our evaluation was not in-depth enough to explore some of the above outcomes in more detail, we were able to do some high-level research in Pride of Place, which is the emotional connection one feels towards the town they live in. We recognise that more research would need to be done to irrefutably demonstrate the connection between the two concepts. That being said, 90% of those who were from Reading said Gaia and the ancillary programme made them feel proud of the town.

From a partnership point of view, the nature of this event attracted high-profile names in support of the programme. This confidence led to MP Alok Sharma, President of COP26 climate talks, TV weather presenter Laura Tobin, broadcaster Ray Mears and others speaking as part of the programme of events.

Feedback from the project team was that Gaia brought a sense of occasion, similar to the one that is brought about by large festivals. That sense of occasion afforded all partners the confidence to work together to amplify joint messaging and leverage in contacts that may not normally have engaged with this work.

Engaging people in the conversation

To inform and engage the community about work of RCAN/partner organisations in working towards a net zero, climate resilient town by 2030.

In Reading, 'Action on Climate Change' was given the second highest level of dissatisfaction and the second lowest level of satisfaction from people who responded to the Residents' Survey.¹¹

⁸ [Townscapes: Pride in Place | Resources | High Street Task Force \(highstreettaskforce.org.uk\)](#)

⁹ [Sense of Place – The Nature of Cities](#)

¹⁰ [The ecosystem service of sense of place: benefits for human well-being and biodiversity conservation | Environmental Conservation | Cambridge Core](#)

¹¹ [Appendix 12 - Summary of the Results of the Residents Survey 2022.pdf \(reading.gov.uk\)](#)

Nationally,

- 70% of British people want politicians to take urgent action to tackle climate change¹²
- UK wide, two thirds of people are experiencing eco-anxiety and 80% of those surveyed by Statista had some concern about climate change¹³.
- 80% of those surveyed across 17 developed economies said they were willing to make a change to help combat climate change.¹⁴
- 73% said they were willing to take personal action to help protect our planet

Engaging our communities in the climate conversation, supporting their climate action journey and promoting the work that the partners are doing to combat climate change will help alleviate some of the concerns felt by local residents thereby supporting people's mental wellbeing and sense of agency.

Engaging people in the conversation:

- 12,000 people attended Gaia and the ancillary events curated by the partners, which compares to c.1000 at previous Reading Climate Festivals
- 503 people responded to a post event survey, of those who responded 82% gave the event a 4 star or more
- 25% of respondents were moved to join the climate action conversation as a result of seeing Gaia
- The Committees from both Reading Central and Abbey Quarter Business Improvement Districts (BID), representing over 700 local businesses, voted unanimously to support the installation of Gaia.
- During the installation the BID sponsored three separate events developed to engage the local businesses and workforce. This engaged with nearly 300 people from 100 local businesses.

Engaging new people in the conversation:

A link to where bookers were from in Reading can be found [here](#). This spread of bookers' locations will serve as a benchmark for future events. As can be seen from the map the majority of bookers were from Reading, with the furthest booking being from Australia. Although our aim is to ensure that the climate conversation reaches as many people as possible we do understand that with the cost-of-living crisis and the pressures that people are facing in some of our most economically deprived areas of Reading, that climate action may not be the top of their priorities.

When engaging people in the climate conversation, the primary aim of doing this is ensuring that the conversation is relevant and applicable to their circumstances, and it is possible for them to take part in the conversation without bias or barriers.

In order to do this we employed key principles for the event:

- Making it accessible
 - Low cost or free
 - Accessible events for neurodivergent people
 - Additional support for blind and hard of hearing people
- Not only about the science
 - The event could be engaged with both from a scientific and a pure enjoyment perspective
- Family friendly

¹² <https://www.euronews.com/green/2023/01/18/two-thirds-of-brits-are-struggling-with-climate-anxiety-heres-what-you-can-do-about-it>

¹³

<https://www.statista.com/statistics/426733/united-kingdom-uk-concern-about-climate-change/>

¹⁴ [Climate Change Concerns Make Many Around the World Willing to Alter How They Live and Work | Pew Research Center](#)

- This event was about bringing all generations together to experience as individuals or together
- Manageable changes
 - Small pledges

Engaging Young People

‘The climate crisis is taking a growing toll on the mental health of children and young people...eco-anxiety “risks exacerbating health and social inequalities between those more or less vulnerable to these psychological impacts”... Although not yet considered a diagnosable condition, recognition of eco-anxiety and its complex psychological effects was increasing, they said, as was its “disproportionate” impact on children and young people.

...a 2020 survey of child psychiatrists in England showing that more than half (57%) are seeing children and young people distressed about the climate crisis and the state of the environment.’¹⁵

At a local level, No5 Young People’s Counselling found that eco anxiety was the second biggest concern that young people are facing, but that concern is not being expressed in counselling sessions. There are a number of hypotheses as to why this might be the case, one of the beliefs is that this may be around the lack of language to express this concern, work is ongoing to address this.

Through this project the aim was to demonstrate the power of creativity and culture in the context of the school curriculum to support education, engagement and agency around climate action and change.

The Museum Education Team and University managed the schools’ outreach programme for Gaia. Through this programme they engaged with 18 primary schools and 6 secondary schools. First offering the opportunity to schools in the areas serving those in the most economically deprived of Reading.

Together they reach over 600 school pupils and created online resources that will exist beyond the project.

They gave young people the agency to discuss climate action and climate change in a safe environment.

Primary school students were asked two questions after the Gaia viewing:

Question 1: why is Nature important and why should we protect it?

Question 2: What can I do to protect the environment?

They wrote their answers to the first question on flower-shaped post-its which were pinned at the base of a tree to create a visual natural environment for it.

Then they wrote their answers to the second question on leaf-shaped post-its which were pinned to the branches of the trees to show how their efforts and pledges can bring the tree back to life.

¹⁵ [‘Eco-anxiety’: fear of environmental doom weighs on young people | Anxiety | The Guardian](#)



This feedback will be used to inform future work at the Museum and also help create further resources.

Feedback from the schools:

English Martyrs:

"(the session leader) was wonderful- meeting us outside and helping to get us organised. She gave us a lot of information and answered the children's questions with enthusiasm. Our Eco-team at school loved this experience. Having written activities was also great to help children stay focused on "doing"."

Caversham Primary:

"The exhibition was amazing and the session questions had obviously been well thought out and considered. Having three groups in the room at the same time didn't work very well though - we had the quietest guide and we couldn't hear her but could hear the other two guides very loudly. Also, it all seemed a bit rushed - the children didn't have time to just look at the globe and I think there was a wasted opportunity not to go up to the second storey of the hall to look at the amazing exhibit from a different point of view."

Hemdean House:

"This was a unique opportunity for the children and they all found it fascinating. Could have been a little longer."

New Christ Church Primary:

"My class had a brilliant time, the teacher was fantastic and responded so well to the class".

Feeling empowered and Taking Action

Inspire and facilitate individuals/families to make clear pledges to adopt greener behaviours in support of our communities' efforts to address climate change.

"Fear of the unknown and fear of not having control may contribute to people who feel stuck," says Gulotta. "Taking small steps in a way that makes them feel they are in control of their own actions may make them feel less stressed and less fearful."¹⁶

Through this programme over 100 people signed up to the RCAN Climate Pledge. Although a small proportion of those who visited, it is a good start. As a partnership we will be aiming to develop this scheme and support people to continue their climate journey.

¹⁶ [Why It's Hard to Stay Motivated in the Fight Against Climate Change \(verywellmind.com\)](https://www.verywellmind.com/why-it-s-hard-to-stay-motivated-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-278616)

The 15 options that are offered to those signing up are mostly measurable. The impact from these small changes is listed below and will be shared with the developing community that RCAN is creating – through their mailing list growth campaign among other things – to help spur people on and build confidence around engaging in climate action.

Pledge	Number Assumptions: Each person is responsible for a household	Possible Impact**
Turn heating down by 1c	83	Approximate saving of 1530kw a year per household and 10-13% on their bills. Total: 1530kw x 83 households = 126,990 kw Approximate Carbon Saving of 126,990 kw x 50g Co ₂ ¹⁷ emissions per kwh = 6,349,500g Co ₂ emissions
Switching appliances off at the wall	70	¹⁸ Average saving per household of £60/45kgCO ₂ e p.a. by switching off at the wall. This would equate to: 45kg x 70 households = 3150Co ₂ Kg savings a year
Take a shower instead of a bath	79	Taking a shower every day instead of a bath every day, saves a person 3650 gallons a year. 3650gallons x 79 = 288,350 gallons a year saving ¹⁹
Wash clothes at 30c and only a full load	75	Approximately £13 saving a year per household
Tap water only and use reusable bottle	84	Carbon footprint of making a plastic bottle of water approx. 82.9g of Co ₂ ²⁰ and 5.3litres of water ²¹ Assumption that people may buy 3 bottles of water a month. (3*12)*84= 3024 bottles of water saved 3024 * 82.9g Co ₂ =251,000 3024*5.3litres = 16000 litres
Eat local and mainly vegetable based diet	71	1 vegetarian day per week (52 days a year) can save nearly 100kgs of CO ₂ per year.

¹⁷ [Carbon Dioxide Emissions From Electricity - World Nuclear Association \(world-nuclear.org\)](https://world-nuclear.org/)

¹⁸ [Guide to choosing home appliances - Energy Saving Trust](#)

¹⁹ [How Much Money Can You Save a Year by Taking a Shower Instead of a Bath? | Budgeting Money - The Nest](#)

²⁰ [What Is the Carbon Footprint of a Plastic Bottle? | Sciencing](#)

²¹ [The Water Footprint of Your Plastic Bottle - FoodPrint](#)

		1 vegetarian week per month (12 weeks a year) can save nearly 153kgs of CO2 per year. 1 vegan day per week (52 days a year) can save nearly 143kgs of CO2 per year. 1 vegan week per month (12 weeks a year) can save nearly 231kgs of CO2 per year. ²²
Change supplier to a sustainable energy supplier	80	Each household could save approximately 1 tonne of CO2 per year by switching ²³
Recycle	84	You could save approximately 61kg a month of CO2 ²⁴
Walk, cycle or scoot to the shops and short journeys	70	Those who switch just one trip per day from car driving to cycling reduce their carbon footprint by about 0.5 tonnes over a year, representing a substantial share of average per capita ²⁵ CO2 emissions Introducing our new carbon calculator (stepcount.org.uk)
Avoid fast fashion	80	Recycling Carbon Footprint Savings Calculator [2023] (recyclewits.com)
Buy products without plastic	82	On average people produce 68 pounds of plastic waste per year. For every 1lb of plastic waste it creates 3lbs of Co2 during the manufacturing process. Therefore 68lbs x 3= 204lbs of Co2 per person 204lbsx82= 16,728 ²⁶²⁷
Write to MP about Climate Change	48	Why it's worth contacting your MP about the environment – even if they don't seem to care Greenpeace UK
Use Ecosia	47	Reading specific link for Reading Residents to use - https://ecosia.co/readingplantstreets
Find out more about RCAN and local work	68	

²² [How much carbon could you save by going veggie or vegan every so often? - Exeter City Council News](#)

²³

[Everything You Need To Know About Switching To A Sustainable Energy Supplier | HuffPost UK Tech \(huffingtonpost.co.uk\)](https://huffingtonpost.co.uk/)

²⁴ [Recycling Carbon Footprint Savings Calculator \[2023\] \(recyclewits.com\)](https://recyclewits.com/)

²⁵ [Ditching the car for walking or biking just one day a week cuts carbon footprint | Imperial News | Imperial College London](#)

²⁶ [Food Packaging Waste Statistics: Understanding the Rise of Food Packaging Waste - Environment Co](#)

²⁷ [How Much Plastic Does One Person Use in a Day? - Naturaler](#)

** We understand that exact calculations can be very difficult to ascertain, however, every effort has been made to use reputable sources to come to an informed possible impact of the pledges.

Conclusions

- By increasing the reach of the Festival to c13,000 people compared to previous Festival audiences of c1,000, using Gaia as the centrepiece of the 2023 Festival clearly demonstrated the potential of cultural events and the arts to attract new and different people to the climate change discussion
- The inclusion of Gaia in the Festival also brought wider benefits to the town in terms of pride in place, partnership working, wider reputation and economic activity
- Whilst the specific pledges made by participants may be relatively modest in number, the impact of a few can already be seen, moreover this is not the only measure of the success of the project: the ability to start climate conversations and get people thinking about, talking about and acting on climate change – which are inherently more difficult to measure - was where the real benefits lay

Legacy from the project

-see the benefits of engaging in art to start and continue important conversations

- engaging new audiences

Target	How	Lead(s)
Continue to build and develop the partnership created through Reading Climate Festival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the steering group on a quarterly basis for the Climate Festival and collaborate on future Climate Festival projects • Rotate Chairs to ensure that each organisation has equal engagement in the project • Develop a Terms of Reference for the Steering Group • Agree a JD for Chair and Co-Chair 	RBC, UoR, BID, RCAN, Reading Youth Council
Jointly curate a headline programme of creative/cultural-events or a creative/cultural event for future Reading Climate Festivals, as well as a programme of action-oriented hybrid events focused on supporting the objectives of Reading's climate strategy	Agree a timeline for sign off	
Evaluation of each programme to ensure that it fits with the strategic priorities of each of the partners	A jointly penned and agreed informal partnership understanding	

Continue to support the development of the pledges initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jointly work to encourage pledging sign- up • Continually develop the initiative to ensure that it meets with the strategic priorities of Reading 	
Continue to advocate for young people's mental wellbeing in the context of eco-anxiety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allyship training • Eco-anxiety training • Engage young people in the climate festival 	