

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 2 NOVEMBER 2020

Present: Councillor Brock (Chair);
Councillors Page (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Duveen, Jones, Rowland, Skeats, Stevens, Terry and White

RESOLVED ITEMS

54. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair.

55. QUESTIONS

Questions on the following matters were submitted by members of the public:

	<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reply</u>
1.	Els de Mets	CIL Funding report	Cllr Page

Questions on the following matters were submitted by Councillors:

	<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reply</u>
1.	Cllr White	Reading Sports & Leisure memberships	Cllr Brock (on behalf of Cllr Hoskin)

(The full text of the questions and responses was made available on the Reading Borough Council website).

56. DECISION BOOKS

The Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services submitted a report listing the Decision Books that had been published since the report to the previous meeting of the Committee held on 28 September 2020.

Resolved -

That Decision Book Nos 611-613 be noted.

57. ENDORSEMENT OF READING CLIMATE EMERGENCY STRATEGY 2020-25 & ADOPTION OF CORPORATE CARBON PLAN 2020-25

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Committee to endorse the final Reading Climate Change Partnership's

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Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25 and adopt the new Reading Borough Council Corporate Carbon Plan 2020-25. The following documents were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 - Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25
- Appendix 2 - Consultation Report on Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25
- Appendix 3 - RBC corporate Carbon Plan 2020-25

The report explained that the Reading Climate Emergency Strategy set out the road map for the next five years to work towards the goal of achieving a 'net zero carbon' Reading by 2030 as per the Climate Emergency declaration. A draft of the Strategy had been approved for public consultation by the Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2020 (Minute 78 refers) and the Reading Climate Change Partnership (RCCP) had now revised the Strategy in the light of feedback received during the consultation. Having considered the outcomes of public consultation, the RCCP Board had not felt that the ambitious goal of achieving a net zero carbon Reading by 2030 could credibly be accelerated still further. There had, however, been changes agreed to the commitments and targets in the Action Plans within the Strategy in response to the desire expressed in consultation for more ambition. The Strategy had also been revised to reflect the inevitable delay of some actions due to the disruption caused by COVID-19. The final text had been agreed by the RCCP Board on 22 September and was attached to the report at Appendix 1. A consultation report, summarising the comments received and the changes made to the strategy as a result, was attached at Appendix 2.

The report noted that the RBC corporate Carbon Plan would take forward the Council's own commitment to delivering on the wider aspirations of the strategy and would enable the Council to lead by example as it encouraged Reading's businesses, organisations and residents to take action on climate change. The headline target within the Carbon Plan was to achieve an 85% reduction in RBC emissions by 2025 compared to the 2008/09 baseline. This was considered an ambitious but achievable target, subject to existing investment plans and policies being maintained, and an appropriate milestone on the road to becoming a net zero carbon Council by 2030.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Reading Climate Change Partnership's 'Reading Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-25' be endorsed;
- (2) That the revised RBC corporate Carbon Plan for 2020-25 and the headline target of an 85% reduction on 2008/09 emissions by 2025 be adopted.

58. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved -

That pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of item 59

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below as it was likely that there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in the relevant paragraphs specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to that Act.

59. RTL SHAREHOLDER REPORT

The Executive Director of Resources submitted a report to the Committee acting as shareholder of Reading Transport Ltd (RTL), presenting at Appendix 1 an Operational Update submitted by the Company in respect of its reporting obligations. The covering report set out the key points and recommendations arising from the Company's update.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Policy Committee acting as Shareholder of Reading Transport Ltd note:**
 - (a) The contents of this report in considering the Company's performance update as attached to the report at Appendix 1;**
 - (b) RTL's provisional management accounts for the 20 months ended 5th April 2020;**
 - (c) That the Council would formally write to RTL setting out viable options and timescales for the restructuring of the remainder of the debt owed to the Council;**
 - (d) The financial position of RTL, as set out in Section 4 of the report, and the action being taken to secure the continued success of the Company into the future.**

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.40 pm)