

## POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - 13 JUNE 2022

**Present:** Councillor Brock (Chair);

Councillors Page (Vice-Chair), Barnett-Ward, Emberson, Ennis, Hoskin, Leng, McElroy, McEwan, Mitchell, Robinson, Rowland, Thompson and White

**Apologies:** Councillor Terry

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ennis declared a non-prejudicial interest in Item 103 on the basis that he was Chair of the Reading Youth Offending Service which was a service provided by Brighter Futures for Children.

### 3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 4 April and 25 May 2022 were agreed as correct records and signed by the Chair.

### 4. QUESTIONS

Questions on the following matters were submitted by Councillors:

	<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Reply</u>
1.	Cllr McElroy	Use of Bailiffs	Cllr Brock
2.	Cllr White	Tackling the Cost Of Living Crisis	Cllr Brock

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

### 5. APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR CHILDREN LEASES

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report providing background and an update on the Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC) company property portfolio and seeking authority to enter into appropriate agreements on a number of properties.

The report set out the original property portfolio for BFfC and noted that, as part of the transition to service delivery by BFfC, leases had been put in place for the Council properties occupied by the company. The Council meeting on 16 October 2018 (Minute 29 refers) had authorised the Assistant Director of Legal & Democratic Services to agree leases linked to the BFfC Company set up. There had since been some changes to the properties required, both from BFfC service changes and associated requirements as well as from known (or expected) property moves. A number of additional properties had not been listed in the original transfer and therefore a new authority to enter into the

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necessary leases was required and the report sought delegated authority to enter into new leases for the following additional properties:

- Sun Street - BFfC had vacated Katesgrove Community Centre and moved into Sun Street Community Hub. The relevant lease needed to be granted which would also permit ad hoc use of rooms by the midwifery service.
- Dee Park Community Centre - BFfC were currently in occupation of part of Ranikhet Primary School, which would be moving to a new school site as part of the Dee Park regeneration project. BFfC had a provisional agreement to move from Ranikhet to the new Dee Park Community Centre; the building was under construction and completion was targeted for September 2022. A new sub underlease to BFfC was required. Ranikhet Rainbows Pre-School Ltd (Rainbows) had a sub-underlease lease of part of the current property from the Council at a peppercorn rent; BFfC wished to continue supporting Rainbows and would look to grant a sub underlease of part of their demise to Rainbows on peppercorn rent.
- 330 Northumberland Avenue - due to the agreement to develop the Avenue for SEN provision, notice had been advised to BFfC for The Avenue Centre. BFfC were reducing their office requirements in line with a more flexible way of working, so a full like for like replacement for The Avenue Centre was not required. BFfC had requested some alternative office accommodation and 330 Northumberland Avenue had been proposed as the alternative.
- Katesgrove Community Centre - The Youth Offending Service under BFfC currently delivered services from a leased in building at 16 North Street. There was a continued risk that the Landlord could serve notice to seek possession and the recommendation was to relocate the service to provide secure council-owned premises. Katesgrove Community centre was currently underutilised following the refurbishment of Sun Street community hub and had been identified by Facilities Management, the Estates team and BFfC colleagues as the best fit in terms of size, location and functionality while also being the most favourable economic solution. Katesgrove Community Centre would be retained and enhanced for community use alongside the work to relocate the Youth Offending Service. Capital works were being planned for the property with a potential move date of December 2022 and the relevant Lease of part of the property to BFfC needed to be granted.
- 1 Dunsfold Road - BFfC would like to relocate the Family Contact Centre currently sited in the Civic Offices to a more residential setting. 1 Dunsfold was currently part vacant and part occupied by a nursery provider, and had been identified as a suitable site. Capital works were required to the demise with occupation in August 2022 and a new Lease would be required.

The report also noted that due to the vacation of BFfC from The Avenue Centre a storage issue has been encountered, with storage space limited over the Council's portfolio, and officers are working with BFfC and Berkshire Sensory Consortium (BSC) to identify suitable accommodation.

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Resolved -

That the Executive Director for Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the relevant Lead Councillor and the Director of Finance and Assistant Director Procurement & Contracts be authorised to approve BFfC property (non-education) changes, new leases, including under-valued properties, for the assets listed above and in paragraph 4.1.2 of the report.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report asking the Committee to make appointments or nominations to outside bodies for the Municipal Year 2022/23, or longer where required. A schedule of outside body appointments showing the Group Leaders' recommendations was tabled at the meeting.

Resolved -

(1) That appointments or nominations to the listed outside bodies be made as follows:

Title	Representative	Political Party	Terms of Office	of
Age UK Berkshire - Board observer	Councillor Gul Khan	Labour	1 year	
Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)	Councillor Paul Gittings	Labour	1 year	
Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE)	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year	
AWE Aldermaston - Local Liaison Committee	Councillor Clarence Mitchell	Conservative	1 year	
AWE Aldermaston - Local Liaison Committee	Councillor Mark Keeping	Labour	1 year	
Berkshire Local Transport Body	Councillor Paul Gittings	Labour	1 year	
Berkshire Local Transport Body	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year	
Berkshire Maestros	Councillor Paul Gittings	Labour	1 year	
Berkshire Pension Fund Panel	Councillor Glenn Dennis	Labour	1 year	
Bus Lane Adjudication Service /PATROL Adjudication Joint Committee	Councillor Matt Yeo	Labour	1 year	
Bus Lane Adjudication Service Joint Committee / Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London Adjudication Joint Committee	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year	
Caversham Park Village Association	Councillor Clarence Mitchell	Conservative	1 year	
Citizens' Advice Bureau Trustee Board	Councillor Wendy Griffith	Labour	1 year	
Citizens' Advice Bureau Trustee Board	Councillor Harry Kretchmer	Conservative	1 year	
Citizens' Advice Bureau Trustee Board			1 year	
Community Alcohol Partnerships CIC	Trading Standards and Coroners Manager			
Conservation Area Advisory Committee	Councillor Wendy Griffith	Labour	1 year	
Conservation Area Advisory Committee	Councillor Richard Davies	Labour	1 year	
Flexible Home Improvements Limited	James Crosbie			
Hexham Community Association	Councillor Will Cross	Labour	1 year	

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Management Committee				
Homes for Reading Limited	Councillor Jan Gavin	Labour	3 years (annual confirmation)	
Homes for Reading Limited	Councillor Jo Lovelock	Labour	3 years (annual confirmation)	
Homes for Reading Limited	Councillor Liam Challenger	Labour	3 years (annual confirmation)	
Homes for Reading Limited	Councillor Raj Singh	Conservative	3 years (annual confirmation)	
Homes for Reading Limited	Frances Martin		3 years (annual confirmation)	
Improvement and Efficiency Enterprise	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year	Social
Improvement and Efficiency Enterprise	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year	Social
Kenavon Drive Management Company	Councillor Richard Davies	Labour	1 year	
Kennet and Avon Canal Trust	Councillor Paul Gittings	Labour	1 year	
Kennet Day Nursery Association	Councillor Ruth McEwan	Labour	1 year	
Launchpad Reading	Councillor Rachel Eden	Labour	1 year	
LGA Unitary Councils Network	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour		
LGA Unitary Councils Network	Councillor Liz Terry	Labour		
Local Enterprise Partnership	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year	
Local Government Association (Conference)	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year	
Local Government Association (Conference)	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year	
Local Government Information Unit Management Committee	Councillor Alice Mpofo-Coles	Labour	1 year	
Local Government Information Unit Management Committee	Councillor Rachel Eden	Labour	1 year	
Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee	Councillor Sue Kitchingham	Labour	3 years	
Mapledurham Playing Fields Management Committee	Councillor Paul Carnell	Conservative	3 years	
Mid and West Berkshire Local Access Forum	Councillor Barnett-Ward	Labour	1 year	
Pakistani Community Association	Councillor Wendy Griffith	Labour	1 year	
Queen Victoria Institute	Councillor Karen Rowland	Labour	4 years	
Readibus Board of Directors	Councillor Gul Khan	Labour	1 year	
Readibus Board of Directors	Councillor Jacopo Lanzoni	Labour	1 year	
Readibus Board of Directors	Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Labour	1 year	
Readibus Board of Directors	Councillor Ruth McEwan	Labour	1 year	
Readibus Board of Directors	Councillor Carnell	Conservative	1 year	
Reading Climate Change Partnership	Ben Burfoot		1 year	
Reading Climate Change Partnership	Chris Maddocks		1 year	
Reading Climate Change Partnership	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year	
Reading College Business Advisory Board	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year	
Reading Deaf Centre	Councillor Gul Khan	Labour	1 year	
Reading Hampshire Property Partnership	Frances Martin			
Reading In Bloom Committee	Councillor Karen Rowland	Labour	1 year	

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Reading Sports Aid Fund	The Mayor (ex-officio)		
Reading UK Community Interest Company Board	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year
Reading UK Community Interest Company Board	Frances Martin		1 year
Reading Voluntary Action	Councillor Adele Barnett-Ward	Labour	1 year
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Councillor McElroy	Green	1 year
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Councillor Jo Lovelock	Labour	1 year
Royal Berkshire Fire Authority	Councillor Paul Gittings	Labour	1 year
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust - Governor	Councillor Deborah Edwards	Labour	1 year
South East Employers	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year
South East Employers	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year
South East Employers (sub)	Councillor Liz Terry	Labour	1 year
South East England Councils	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year
South East England Councils	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year
South East Strategic Leaders	Councillor Jason Brock	Labour	1 year
South East Strategic Leaders	Councillor Tony Page	Labour	1 year
Standing Committee On Archives	Councillor Sarah Hacker	Labour	1 year
Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel	Councillor Rowland	Labour	1 year
Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel	Councillor Liz Terry	Labour	1 year
Tilehurst Poor's Land Charity			4 years
Trading Standards South-East Ltd	James Crosbie		1 year
Trading Standards South-East Ltd	Trading Standards and Coroners Manager		1 year
University of Reading Court	The Mayor		1 year
Weller Centre Advisory Board	Cllr Gavin	Labour	4 years

- (2) That the appointments or nominations be made on an “or nominee” basis where the organisation in question was willing to accept this arrangement.

### 7. 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 items 105 and 106 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.

### 8. CRESCENT UNDER FIVES PRE-SCHOOL AT ALFRED SUTTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for a proposal to enter a new lease at below market value with The Crescent Under Fives for a self-contained non-profit charity pre-school at Alfred Sutton Primary School. The site of the pre-school was shown on a plan attached to the report at Appendix 1.

**Resolved -**

**That the granting of a lease of the pre-school at Alfred Sutton Primary School to The Crescent Under Fives on a less than market rent as set out in the report be approved.**

(Exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3).

**9. ADELPHI HOUSE, FRIAR STREET**

The Executive Director of Economic Growth and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval to enter into a Deed of Variation with the existing Tenant of Adelphi House, Friar Street to ensure that the Tenant remained in occupation for the full term of the Lease. A site plan was attached to the report at Appendix A.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That it be agreed to enter into a variation of the lease for Adelphi House, as set out in paragraph 4.2.1 of the report, to ensure that the tenant remained in occupation of the property for the full term of the current lease;**
- (2) That, in the event that the tenant subsequently changed their negotiated position, the Executive Director of Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services be authorised, in consultation with the Director of Finance, Leader of the Council, the Lead Councillor for Planning & Assets and the Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, to agree revised terms that represented best value to the Council.**

(Exempt information as set out in Paragraph 3).

(The meeting started at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.00 pm)