

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – 24 MAY 2023

Present: Councillor Eden (Mayor);

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

1. ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

“That Councillor Tony Page be elected Mayor of this Borough.”

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

2. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR

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

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

3. ADDRESS BY THE MAYOR

Councillor Page addressed the Council.

4. MINUTES

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

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

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

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

6. ADDRESS BY RETIRING MAYOR

Councillor R Eden addressed the Council.

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7. ELECTIONS 2023 REPORT

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

Resolved –

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

8. APPOINTMENT OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolved –

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

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

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

Resolved –

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

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

11. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND OTHER BODIES

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

Resolved -

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

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

Labour
Councillors

Davies
C Dennis
Edwards
Gavin
Gittings
Hoskin
McEwan
Mpofu-Coles
Tarar
Woodward

Conservative
Councillors

Ballsdon
Robinson

Liberal Democrat
Councillor

O'Connell

Green
Councillor

Cresswell
Keane

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

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

Health & Wellbeing Board

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

Named Substitutes: Councillors C Dennis and Mpofu-Coles

Observers: Green, Conservative and Liberal Democrat Group Spokespersons

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

<u>Labour Councillors</u>	<u>Conservative Councillors</u>	<u>Liberal Democrat Councillor</u>	<u>Green Councillors</u>	<u>Independent Councillor</u>
Asare Ayub Barnett-Ward Challenger G Dennis Eden Emberson Kitchingham Rowland Tarar Yeo	Goss Singh	O'Connell	Cresswell Magon McCann	Hacker

Licensing Applications Committee (9:2:1)

<u>Labour Councillors</u>	<u>Conservative Councillors</u>	<u>Green Councillors</u>
Asare Davies G Dennis Edwards Kitchingham Page Rowland Tarar Woodward	Mitchell Robinson	Keane

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Personnel Committee (4:1)

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

Mitchell

Investigating & Disciplinary Committee (4:1)

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

Mitchell

Appeals Committee (4:1)

<u>Labour</u> <u>Councillors</u>	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillors</u>
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Barnett-Ward
Brock
Page
Rowland
(or nominees)

Robinson

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

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

Goss
Robinson

Moore

Cresswell
Williams

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Policy Committee (10:2:1:1)

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

Standards Committee (6:1:1:1)

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

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

Named Substitutes (1:1:1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adult Safeguarding Panel

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

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

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

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

<u>Labour Councillors</u>	<u>Conservative</u> <u>Councillor</u>
Brock C Dennis Edwards Gavin Gittings Hoskin McEwan Terry	Robinson

Arts & Heritage Forum (4:2:1)

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

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Children’s Safeguarding Panel

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

Civic Board (6:1:1:1)

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

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

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

Community Safety Partnership

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

Cultural Partnership Board

Lead Councillor for Leisure and Culture and other Group Spokespersons.

Cycle Forum (4:1:1:1)

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

Community Learning and Skills Advisory Board

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

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Foster Panel

Councillor Edwards

Joint Health & Overview Scrutiny Committee

Councillors Gittings and McEwan

Local Joint Forum (3:1)

Labour Councillors

Brock
Ennis
Terry

Conservative Councillor

Mitchell

(or nominees)

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

Labour Councillors

C Dennis
Eden
Gittings
Hornsby-Smith
Kitchingham

Conservative Councillor

Robinson

Liberal Democrat Councillor

O'Connell

Parenting Panel (4:1:1)

Labour Councillors

C Dennis
Gavin
Hoskin
Mpofu-Coles

Conservative Councillor

Robinson

Liberal Democrat Councillor

O'Connell

Planning Management Panel (3:1:1)

Labour Councillors

Gavin
Lovelock
Yeo
(or nominees)

Conservative Councillor

Robinson

Liberal Democrat Councillor

Moore

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SACRE (3:1:1)

Labour Councillors

Asare
Ayub
McEwan

Conservative Councillor

Goss

Liberal Democrat Councillor

O'Connell

Safer Reading Neighbourhood Forum (7:1)

Labour Councillors

Asare
Ennis
Hornsby-Smith
Lanzoni
Leng
Mpofu-Coles
Rowland

Conservative Councillor

Ballsdon

School Admission Forum

Councillors Hoskin and McEwan
Observers – Group Spokespersons

Town Twinning Group (2:1)

Labour Councillors

Brock
Mpofu-Coles

Conservative Councillor

Mitchell

(Mayor – ex-officio)

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

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

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

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRS/VICE CHAIRS OF COMMITTEES

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

Resolved –

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

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

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13. DATES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2023/23

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

Resolved –

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

(The meeting closed at 8.10pm).