

Policy Committee

16 March 2026



Reading
Borough Council
Working better with you

Title	Council Plan Update
Purpose of the report	To make a recommendation to Council
Report status	Public report
Executive Director/ Statutory Officer Commissioning Report	Louise Duffield, Executive Director of Resources
Report author	Alex Wylde, Policy and Performance Manager
Lead Councillor	Councillor Liz Terry
Council priority	All
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That Policy Committee recommend that Council adopt the Council Plan Update 2026-27 (appended).2. That, if adopted, the Council Plan Update 2026-27 be published on the Council's website.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. A new Council Plan for the period 2025-28 was published in 2025. As in previous years, a review has been undertaken to ensure that the Council Plan remains up to date.
- 1.2. The Council Plan Update proposed for publication is included at Appendix One and a change log at Appendix Two.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The Council Plan sets out the Council's vision, priorities and objectives for the next three years, together with the projects to deliver them and the measures that we will use to measure our progress. It provides the framework for prioritisation of resources and is used to inform Service Planning and performance objectives for our staff. The activities set out in the Plan are aligned with the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.
- 2.2. The Council Plan is structured around five components:
 - Vision: which sets out what we want for the future of Reading. This is unchanged from the previous Corporate Plan and is as follows: "Our Vision is to help Reading realise its potential and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share in the benefits of its success."
 - Priorities: the Plan includes 5 high-level areas of focus over the next three years to deliver the vision:
 - Promote more equal communities in Reading.
 - Secure Reading's economic and cultural success.

- Deliver a sustainable and healthy environment and reduce our carbon footprint.
- Safeguard and support the health and wellbeing of Reading's adults and children.
- Ensure Reading Borough Council is fit for the future.
- Objectives: these are the specific outcomes we want to deliver over the next 3 years.
- Projects: these are the activities we are undertaking to deliver the objectives. Progress is reported quarterly to Policy Committee.
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs): these are the metrics that tell us the progress we are making in delivering our objectives and how well our day-to-day services are performing. Each KPI has an associated target and performance against these is reported to Policy Committee quarterly.

3. The Proposal

3.1. A review of the Council Plan has been undertaken, focusing on:

- Factual updates to sections on key achievements in 2025, resident services, and the Council's budget.
- Council Plan projects – updated to reflect any completed projects, those that are or will become business as usual, or new projects in 26/27.
- KPIs – updated to ensure these are still the correct measures going forward and add results for 24/25. Several KPIs have been updated to align with the newly published Local Outcomes Framework.

3.2. Updates proposed are set out at Appendix Two. Data and KPI results for 2024/25 have also been updated.

3.3. The Council Plan Update proposed for publication is at Appendix One.

4. Contribution to Strategic Aims

4.1. This Council Plan update will refresh the projects and KPIs used to track delivery of the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2025-28.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

5.2. The Council Plan includes priorities related to our commitment to environmental and climate improvements for Reading. It does not, however, seek to replicate in full the commitments and activities that are set out in more detailed plans already adopted by the Council (e.g. the Reading Climate Strategy).

6. Community Engagement

6.1. A public engagement exercise ran from 5 to 23 February 2025 on the vision, priorities, and objectives in the Council Plan, as well as our principles and values. Local partners, including the VCS, were also invited to share their views. A dedicated engagement meeting with the VCS took place on 19 February 2025.

- 6.2. As only limited amendments are proposed, no separate engagement was undertaken to inform the update. Consultation and engagement, including the most recent resident survey, continues to inform service planning.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. The Council Plan sets the overall priorities of Reading Borough Council for the next 3 years and does not in itself introduce any new policies or activities. The Plan aims to reduce inequalities between groups that share protected characteristics and advance equality of opportunity. This is articulated in the Plan's overall vision "to help Reading realise its potential and to ensure that everyone who lives and works here can share in the benefits of its success" and in the specific programmes of work set out. Individual projects set out in the Council Plan will have separate Equality Impact Assessments where appropriate.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. None.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. The Constitution of the Council sets out the policy framework of the Council which includes the Council Plan and performance management framework. The Council Plan includes the Council's equality objectives which we are required to set by law (Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) Regulations 2011).

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The Council Plan has been developed in parallel with the budget and only includes projects and commitments that are funded and consistent with the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. If agreed at Council on 24 March, the Council Plan Update will be published on the Council's website.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. There are none.

Appendices –

- 1. Council Plan Update 2026-27**
- 2. Change Log**