

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
2 JULY 2018**

**Present:** Councillors Debs Absolom (Chair), David Absolom, Ayub, Barnett-Ward, Gittings, Hopper, Khan, Maskell, O'Connell, Page, Robinson, Stanford Beale and J Williams.

**Apologies:** Councillor Brock

**2. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2018 and 23 May 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the completion of the name of the Chair at the March meeting: Councillor David Absolom.

**3. MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Minutes of the meeting of Traffic Management Sub-Committee held on 8 March 2018 were received.

**4. MINUTES OF OTHER BODIES**

The Minutes of the following meetings were submitted:

- Joint Waste Disposal Board of 27 April 2018
- AWE Liaison Committee of 6 December 2017

**Resolved - That the Minutes be noted.**

**5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Questions on the following matters were asked in accordance with Standing Order 36.

Questioner	Subject
Councillor J Williams	Kennet Mouth Community Sign
Enrico Petrucco	Road User Charging Scheme
Enrico Petrucco	Differential Road User Charging
Zahid Aziz	Traffic Management Plan
Zahid Aziz	Extension of A329(M) and Third Thames Bridge - Update
Zahid Aziz	Bottlenecks in Caversham
John Mullaney	Definitions of 'Mass' and 'Transit'

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

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**6. DRAFT ST PETERS CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking the Committee's approval of the draft Conservation Area Appraisal for the St Peters Area and for undertaking community involvement on the draft Appraisal document between July and October 2018.

The report explained that the St Peters Conservation Area had been designated in 1988 under the Town & Country Planning Act 1971 (as amended) and a full conservation area appraisal had been adopted in 2009. Following discussions over the Council's approach to the historic environment, the Council had agreed to support the setting up of a Reading Conservation Areas Advisory Committee (CAAC). The report stated that one of the primary concerns of the CAAC was the long length of time since many conservation area appraisals had been prepared and adopted. According to best practice, appraisals should be updated every 5-10 years and many of these appraisals were now in need of review. It had subsequently been agreed that the CAAC would lead on reviews of conservation area appraisals in consultation with local communities. The report explained that the Appraisal of the St Peter's Conservation Area was the first review to be completed.

The following documents were attached to the report:

Appendix 1 - St Peters Conservation Area Draft Conservation Area Appraisal, July 2018

Appendix 2 - Equality Impact Assessment

The report explained that the results of community involvement would feed into a revised Appraisal to be presented to the Committee for adoption later in the year.

At the invitation of the Chair, Evelyn Williams and John Nicholls from the CAAC gave a short presentation on the St Peters Conservation Area Appraisal.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the Draft St Peters Conservation Area Appraisal, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for community involvement;**
- (2) That the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the Draft St Peters Conservation Area Appraisal in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to the start of community involvement on the draft document.**

**7. ADOPTION OF THE Re3 STRATEGY 2018-2020 AND THE WASTE ACTION PLAN FOR READING**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report introducing and seeking adoption of the re3 Strategy 2018-2020, which had been endorsed and recommended by the Joint Waste Disposal Board, comprising Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Reading Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council.

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The report informed the Committee of the current work on the Reading Waste Minimisation Strategy 2015-2020, and the proposals to bring it into line with the re3 Strategy and to produce a Waste Action Plan for Reading.

The draft re3 Strategy 2018-2020 was attached to the report as Appendix A.

The report explained that the re3 Strategy principally related to the statutory waste disposal function of the re3 Partnership comprising Bracknell Forest, Reading and Wokingham Borough Councils. It was an important document because, once adopted, it would represent both the specific performance targets for the individual re3 councils, and the agreed consensus within the re3 Partnership in support of strategic development up to 2020.

The report stated that the re3 Strategy aims aligned with those of the RBC Waste Minimisation Strategy 2015-2020 in order to ensure the effective strategic partnership between collection and disposal functions. The re3 Strategy for 2018-2020 had two principal aims:

- Reduce the net cost of waste
- Recycle 50% by 2020

The report explained that both aims would require enhanced collaboration between the statutory waste disposal function and the statutory waste collection function. However, while the re3 Board was constituted to manage the former, its composition (and the supporting officers) afforded the individual partner authorities, and their respective relevant waste functions, with the capacity for genuine strategic partnership.

The report listed the objectives of the Strategy.

The report stated that the aims of the re3 Strategy and the Reading Waste Minimisation Strategy had been aligned in 2017 to ensure co-ordination of work streams and strategic partnership working. Officers were working closely with re3 and partner authorities to share resources and best practice around common themes such as waste collection from flats, the introduction of kerbside food waste and recycling, and communication initiatives. It was now appropriate to replace the Reading Waste Minimisation Strategy with a Waste Action Plan for Reading which would set out a clear path for the delivery of the high-level strategic objectives of the re3 Strategy and the specific service development priorities for Reading Borough Council including the need to deliver substantial savings as set out in the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The report explained that the key objectives of the emerging Waste Action Plan for Reading would focus on reducing cost and would include:

- Introduction of weekly kerbside food waste collection.
- Steps to improve diversion of recyclable material from the residual bin to recycling.
- Reductions in the contamination of recyclable material with non-recyclable wastes, by way of a dedicated team of Waste Officers.
- Improved and sustained communications campaigns, including schools.
- Improved direct contact with residents, businesses and landlords.

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- Further promotion of the Council's trade waste offer
- Hard market testing of the waste service.

The report stated that the Waste Action Plan would set out the actions and milestones relating to each objective, and performance would be monitored regularly and reported to the Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee as appropriate.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the re3 Strategy 2018-2020 be adopted, as recommended by the re3 Joint Waste Disposal Board on 27 April 2018;**
- (2) That the outline objectives of the emerging Reading Waste Action plan and the intention to develop a more detailed action plan to deliver the aims of the re3 strategy be noted.**

**8. CENTRAL AND EASTERN BERKSHIRE JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval for the Draft Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and associated supporting documents, which were attached at Appendix 1.

The report explained that consultation on the Draft Document was intended to be undertaken, starting in August and finishing in October 2018. This consultation/ community involvement would then feed into the preparation of a revised version of the draft local plan for eventual submission to the Secretary of State.

The report explained that Reading Borough Council was preparing the Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan jointly with the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Wokingham Borough Council. The Plan was being prepared on behalf of the participating authorities by Hampshire County Council. The Draft Plan consultation papers were attached to the report and were available on request. They were at an advanced stage of preparation, but would be subject to some further minor drafting/amendment prior to being made available as part of the consultation.

The report explained that the Draft Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan followed on from consultation on the Issues and Options stage of local plan preparation which had been undertaken during summer 2017. Responses to that consultation, along with various factors detailed within the report, had been taken into account in drawing up the Draft Plan.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the Draft Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;**
- (2) That community involvement on the Draft Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and associated supporting documents be authorised to take place during late summer/October 2018;**
- (3) That the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the Draft**

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**Central and Eastern Berkshire Joint Minerals and Waste Plan, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to the commencement of community involvement.**

**9. DRAFT HOSIER STREET AREA DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking approval of a draft development framework for the Hosier Street Area. The area included the Broad Street Mall, the now vacant site of the former Civic Offices, the Thames Valley Police headquarters, the Magistrates Courts and the Hexagon Theatre. In the light of the multiple ownerships of the area, it had been decided that a draft framework should be produced to guide future development. The draft framework had been produced by the Council (with the assistance of an urban design consultancy) and was attached at Appendix 1.

The report explained that the former Civic Offices had been vacated during 2014/15 and subsequently carefully demolished. In order to develop proposals for the eventual disposal and development of the site, the Council had entered into a partnership arrangement with Kier Construction. At the same time Thames Valley Police had been reviewing their headquarters buildings with redevelopment of the site being one option. The Council and its partner Kier had been involved in discussions in relation to possible future redevelopment of this site. In the meantime, the new owners of Broad Street Mall (Moorgarth) had been evolving ambitious plans for the remodelling and development of the Broad Street Mall which included incorporating a significant level of new residential development in various buildings above the roof of, and adjacent to, the current building, along with various improvements to the Mall and other property in the vicinity. The owners were currently discussing their proposals with officers as part of a process of pre-application advice. They intended to submit a planning application in the near future.

The report stated that, in order to move forward in terms of the future development of the wider area and in the interests of achieving a high quality, comprehensive development of the area in accordance with the Local Plan policies, officers had sought to encourage the preparation of a single development brief by the various owners of land in the area. In the light of the difficulties in getting the agreement of the owners to prepare (and fund) that piece of work, and with a need to move forward on the former Civic offices site, it had been decided that the Council would undertake the work.

The report explained that the primary purpose of the draft framework was to provide a public realm-led master plan for the area, showing how it could be developed as a series of quality streets, squares and new spaces, and might look once developed. The draft proposed broad principles for the development of the area and provided a comprehensive Masterplan and urban design framework. It contained more detailed studies of the different quarters of the Masterplan area, the Hexagon Quarter, Minster Square, and Oxford Road/St. Mary's Butts.

The report explained that, subject to the Committee's approval, the draft framework would be published and would be the subject of a formal consultation exercise, led by the Council. The consultation was expected to begin in mid-July 2018 and would last for a period of ten weeks (to allow for the summer holiday period) until early

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October 2018. Responses received would be considered in preparing a final draft framework for adoption.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the Draft Hosier Street Area Development Framework, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for community involvement;**
- (2) That the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services be authorised to make any minor amendments necessary to the Draft Hosier Street Area Development Framework, in consultation with the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport, prior to the start of community involvement on the draft document.**

## **10. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROJECT**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report the outcome of a successful bid to the Department of Environment, Farming & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the details of a project which aimed to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles and pilot new electric charging infrastructure in areas of the Borough with no off-street parking.

The report stated that the Government had published the Clean Growth Strategy in 2017, in which it had announced its intention to:

- End the sale of new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.
- Spend £1 billion supporting the take-up of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV), including helping consumers to overcome the upfront cost of an electric car.
- Develop one of the best electric vehicle charging networks in the world.

The report explained that the Council had been able to bid to DEFRA in December 2017 for EV funding because the Borough had an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) that had been declared before March 2017 and, in addition, currently marginally exceeded predicted roadside NO<sub>2</sub> on one stretch of road identified by DEFRA. The Council's analysis of the sources of nitrogen dioxide carried out in 2013, had shown that cars accounted for 55% of vehicle NO<sub>2</sub> emissions (40% Diesel, 15% petrol). This was the single largest contribution to locally produced NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The current Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan focused on delivering transport based solutions, which could help to deliver improvements at source.

The report explained the range of barriers to the uptake of electric vehicles, many of which were outside the Council's control. However, one area where the Council could have some influence was by delivering pilot projects on electric vehicle infrastructure in areas that would normally be considered to be technically difficult, such as to households without off-street parking. This could result in the acceleration of the uptake of electric vehicles and a resultant reduction in NO<sub>2</sub>, particulates and CO<sub>2</sub> as conventional diesel and petrol vehicles were replaced.

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The details of the project were set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The work packages set out in paragraph 4.7 of the report included a survey of areas to assess suitability; residents' survey to identify demand; pilot scheme(s) involving the installation of EV charge points; evaluation of the pilots and education and advertising to promote electric vehicles as a viable solution for residents. Officers hoped that, in addition to providing residents with evidence of a tested solution, the project would enable the Council to test and validate potential market solutions (eg lamppost EV charging), as well as feed into policy making which would help shape Reading's Ultra Low Emission future.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the actions set out in paragraph 4.7 of and Appendix 1 to the report be endorsed;**
- (2) That spend approval for the project up to the value of the bid be delegated to the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services in consultation with the lead member for Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport.**

#### **11. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS PLANS - ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on progress with the implementation of planning policies concerned with promoting Employment and Skills Plans.

Nigel Horton-Baker, Executive Director of Reading UK, presented the report which described how, through engagement and contributions from developers and users of completed developments, appropriate hiring and skills development had been undertaken to assist the local economy and local residents seeking employment. The report described the successes gained through the delivery of plans, working mainly with the construction industry, the various employment projects delivered using financial contributions and the proposals for the next wave of projects to be delivered using contributions.

The report explained that in the last two years £65,000 cash contribution had been drawn down through Section 106 cash contributions, and had been used to deliver outputs including job fairs, construction skills certificates, access to work events, Over 50s return to work activity and school outreach. The successes included:

- 170 people supported into self-employment
- An estimated £1.2m saved on benefit payments through self-employment
- Over 700 local people attending jobs fairs - with over 100 employers with live vacancies attending
- 200 Over 50's attending a routes to work event with employers and workshops

Appendix A to the report provided details of 42 current Section 106 Agreements supporting delivery of the Employment and Skills Plan.

Appendix B to the report included details of the track record of delivery supported by cash contributions.

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Appendix C to the report outlined the planned delivery of Employment and Skills Plan activities in 2018/19.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the report be noted and the ongoing delivery of employment and skills outcomes, enabled by Section 106 Employment and Skills Plans, be welcomed;**
- (2) That the benefits of this delivery to the local economy and in particular to local residents in order to assist residents to find good quality, permanent employment within the Borough be noted.**

**12. HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE - POTHOLE REPAIR PLAN 2018/2019**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report advising the Committee of the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund awarded to the Council in 2017/18, as notified by the Department for Transport on 1 February 2018 and paid to the Council on 2 February 2018.

The report also informed the Committee of the £134,681 share awarded for 2017/18 and 2018/19 from the further £100 Million of funding made available through the Pothole Action and Flood Resilience Fund, as announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 March 2018, paid in two instalments to the Council, one of £100,147 on 29 March 2018 and a subsequent payment of £34,534 in April 2018.

The report explained plans for establishing a Pothole Repair Plan, as in previous years, which would operate from July 2018 until 31 March 2019 and provided details of the procedures for identifying, inspecting and prioritising the repair of potholes.

An update on the Pothole Repair Plan would be included in the 'Highway Maintenance Update 2018/2019 and Programme 2019/2020' report, which would be presented to Strategic Environment Planning and Transport Committee in March 2019.

The report sought spend authority for the specialist/proprietary material surfacing work on a section of Mayfair using the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund awarded to the Council in 2017/18, and for the 2018/2019 Pothole & Flood Resilience Repair Plans.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the additional allocation of £66,975 from the Pothole Action Fund Award (2017/18) as notified by the Department for Transport on 1 February 2018 and paid to the Council on 2 February 2018, be accepted;**
- (2) That the £134,681 share from the Pothole Action and Flood Resilience Fund for 2017/18 and 2018/19 as announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 March 2018, be accepted.**



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- (3) That the proposed specialist/proprietary material surfacing work on a section of Mayfair and the proposed spend allocation outlined in Section 4 of the report be approved;
- (4) That the proposed 2018/2019 Pothole & Flood Resilience Repair Plans and the proposed spend allocation outlined in Section 4 of the report be approved.

**13. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR: READING TRANSPORT LTD.**

The Chief Executive submitted a report inviting the Committee, acting as shareholder of Reading Transport Limited (RTL), to appoint a director to the RTL Board.

The report explained that there was one vacancy, arising from Councillor Stanford-Beale coming to the end of her four-year term.

**Resolved - That Councillor Stanford Beale be appointed as a Director of Reading Transport Ltd.**

**14. EXCLUSION OF 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 15 below, as it was likely that there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

**15. CONTRACTUAL MATTER**

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report seeking the Committee's authority to activate a voluntary termination clause within the NCP contract, which currently managed nine car parks for the Borough, in order to bring the service in-house. The report stated that this would deliver savings in relation to the management and maintenance of the Council's off-street car parking facilities.

The full financial business case was included in the report as Appendix A and the worked scenarios based on operating costs for the purpose of termination were set out in Appendix B.

**Resolved -**

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That the proposal for voluntary termination of the NCP contract and to bring the service back in-house be approved.

(The meeting started at 6.30pm and closed at 8.47 pm).