

Proposal to abolish Sustainability Manager role at RBC

– consultation open to Friday 16th October!

How to respond to RBC on Budget proposals:

Go to <https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=143766087059>

Then tick on 'Planning and Regulatory Services'

Click 'Next' at bottom – reveals

a link to the 'proposal'

http://beta.reading.gov.uk/media/3576/Proposal-13---Planning-Development-and-Regulatory-Services---Management-and-Operational-Posts/pdf/Proposal_13_-_Planning_Development_and_Regulatory_Services_-_Management_and_Operational_Posts.pdf

- and 3 boxes for text entry with headings:

- 1/. What do you think we should be aware of in terms of how this proposal might impact people?
- 2/. If you have any suggestions or alternative options for how this service could be provided, please write below.
- 3/. If you would like to make any other comments, please write below.

Click 'Next' at the bottom to get to:

- Do you have any comments on the proposals in general, including the introduction?
- Please indicate whether you are responding to these proposals as:

GREN response – agreed at Member Meeting on 7th October – is below. It is proposed to submit this on or before 16th October. If you have any comments or suggestions on this please contact secretary@gren.org.uk before end of Wednesday 14th October.

GREN response to Question 1:

Proposal says: Loss of sustainability management role will directly impact on partnership working where RBC have provided local leadership and been a champion in relation to climate change.

We agree strongly

– The ‘Sustainability Team’ has already been cut back and is to lose another member of staff in April 2016 leaving no-one operating either within the community or at policy level. Loss of the Manager will mean that the expertise, contacts and history built up over many years will be lost to RBC. Ideally there should be at least two staff in the team to give some resilience against ‘natural’ loss of staff.

– RBC will be without specialist expert guidance in this key area – RBC strategy and policy will suffer, and opportunities to access county, regional and national expertise and finance, and to influence initiatives at these levels, will be missed.

– RBC will lose inputs to the planning process reflecting long-term sustainability goals – so decisions on Reading’s future development are likely to be based on short-term considerations .

- RBC will be unable to give support to Reading Climate Change Partnership – a Local Strategic Partnership sub-group.

- If the RCCP continues its members will find it extremely difficult – if not impossible – to monitor and report on progress with the adopted Climate Change Strategy without the involvement of dedicated contacts within RBC to liaise with delivery partners.
- RBC staff have organised successful public events for RCCP every six months. It is not at all clear if these events can continue without staff support – RCCP Board members may not be able to give the time to these activities.

– Without an experienced Manager the remaining staff members focussed on internal energy saving and ‘Warm Homes’ will lack the policy framework and guidance.