

Foreword



Reading is recognised as the capital of the Thames Valley and as a regional centre for business, shopping, leisure and culture. We think of our town, as a city in the making and that is why we are seeking city status.

Since April, when Reading became a unitary authority, we have taken the opportunity to stand back and think about how Reading might grow and change over the next 20 - 30 years. We have called this process 'Reading - City 2020'. We would like to share our ideas with you, see what you think about them and find out what ideas and thoughts you have for the future of our city.

Our Vision is of a city that is clean, safe and easy to get around. One which is based around a series of sustainable communities which will be set within a safe network of footpaths, cycleways and public transport. Reading will be dynamic and constantly changing. Due respect will be paid to the town's past and as a city, Reading will be a centre for innovation and excellent design

that will improve the lives of those who live and work here. It will provide the highest quality range of shops, leisure, educational, cultural and sporting facilities for all our residents, businesses and visitors. Our city will be a source of great pride to all of its people, communities and businesses.

This document sets out our Vision for the future. Everyone has a part to play. Education bodies, young people, residents, businesses and community groups will all have an opportunity to put their views forward and help to shape the future of our city through an extensive consultation programme which will run until March 1999.

We welcome your views.

Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Cllr David Sutton
Leader of Reading Borough Council*