

# Reading Museum Forward Plan 2020-2025



Adopted on at Housing, Neighbourhoods and Leisure Committee on  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (agenda item 18)



[www.reading.gov.uk](http://www.reading.gov.uk)



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you

# Reading Museum Forward Plan 2020-2025

## 1.0 Introduction

Reading Museum is part of Reading Borough Council's (RBC) Cultural Service, operating from the Town Hall within Reading's historic Abbey Quarter in the town centre. The Museum has been providing original opportunities for enjoyment, creativity and learning since 1883. It has Full Museum Accreditation status from the Arts Council England (ACE) and has achieved the Investing in Volunteers award. In 2019-20 over 100,000 people including 20,000 students visited the Museum. Many more use its outreach and online services.

The Museum has a strategic partnership with the University of Reading's Museum of English Rural Life (The MERL) called Museums Partnership Reading (MPR), which is part of the ACE National Portfolio 2018-2023. The two museums work together to provide cultural opportunities for Reading's young people and diverse communities, through schools, volunteering, outreach, digital engagement and exhibitions.

Innovative engagement with collections and services through learning, community and volunteering programmes is integral to Reading Museum's DNA. In 1911 it was one of the first museums to provide a loans service for schools, offering a unique opportunity for children to handle real artefacts.

The collection of over 490,000 artefacts includes objects discovered at the Roman town at Silchester, a unique Victorian copy of the Bayeux Tapestry, an art collection including works by important artists of national and international standing such as Stanley Spencer, Alan Caiger-Smith and Helen Cammock, Romanesque carvings from Reading Abbey and the Huntley & Palmers Collection relating to the famous Reading biscuit company. Today the museum focuses on collecting linked with Reading, its people and environment, and proudly celebrates our town and its diverse history.

The Museum has ten galleries displaying a fascinating range of objects from its collections as well as the Sir John Madejski Art Gallery which hosts a programme of temporary exhibitions. The landmark Town Hall, conceived by our Victorian forefathers as a cultural, educational and civic complex, offers versatile spaces for conferencing, banqueting, concerts, weddings and events. The Concert Hall is an important venue for classical music and comedy events. In 2018 and 2019 two major capital projects were completed, firstly the conservation and interpretation of the Abbey Quarter, and secondly the creation of new facilities at the Town Hall including museum galleries, shop, reception and café.

The Riverside Museum at Blake's Lock tells the history of Reading's rivers and hosts community art exhibitions in the summer. The Museum team actively builds relationships with communities and organisations in Reading to offer a range of services that contribute to the region's cultural life. Since 2004 the Museum has managed Berkshire Archaeology, the archaeological advice service for Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Bracknell Forest, Slough and Wokingham councils. The Berkshire Archaeology team also looks after the management of the Abbey Ruins in the Abbey Quarter. The recently restored Abbey Gateway, a Grade I listed building, is home to the Museum's popular Victorian Schoolroom experience.

## 2.0 Strategic context

The Borough of Reading is home to 161,780 people while around 370,000 live in the wider urban area around Reading, making it the largest conurbation in the Thames Valley. It is the third most diverse area in the South East and has some of the most affluent and most deprived neighbourhoods in the Thames Valley.

The *Reading 2050 Vision*<sup>1</sup> is an ambitious description of what Reading can be, with three themes central to Reading's long-term success as a smart and sustainable city: a green tech city, a city of culture and diversity, and a city of rivers and parks. The 2050 Vision sees Reading as *'an internationally recognised and economically successful city region. Where low carbon living is the norm and the built environment, technology and innovation have combined to create a dynamic, smart and sustainable city with a high quality of life and equal opportunities for all.'*

Reading's *Cultural and Heritage Strategy (2015-2030)* gives this cultural vision for Reading:

*'By 2030, Reading will be recognised as a centre of creativity with a reputation for cultural and heritage excellence at a regional, national and international level with increased engagement across the town.'*

Reading Museum is part of RBC's Cultural Service within the Directorate for Economic Growth & Neighbourhood Services. The directorate is responsible for the day-to-day management and implementation of the strategic framework for Reading's culture and heritage. The Museum is delivering a key part of this vision through its work, partnerships and strategic role in the Abbey Quarter and High Street Heritage Action Zone.

This Forward Plan supports RBC's Corporate Plan (2021-2022) priorities:

1. Healthy environment
2. Thriving communities
3. Inclusive economy

The MPR Youth Strategy 2019-2022 has been planned within the policy landscape of both Reading Borough Council and the University of Reading and aligns with Arts Council England's vision. The Youth Strategy's vision is that 'Every child and young person in Reading will benefit from the MPR through opportunities to: See, touch and understand the relevance of museum collections to their lives; participate in high quality age appropriate learning activities; enjoy safe and welcoming museum spaces; and make their own creative contributions'.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://livingreading.co.uk/reading-2050>

### 3.0 Adapting to Coronavirus (Covid-19) in 2020/21

The pandemic struck just as the Museum was preparing this Forward Plan and reviewing several aligned policies and plans. The Museum closed on 17 March 2020, reopening on 6 September 2020. ACE announced that National Portfolio funding through the MPR would be extended by a further year until March 2023.

Within weeks of lockdown the Museum team created a digital workflow, moving planned public programmes onto the Museum's website and social media. The digital work was co-ordinated across the MPR by our ACE-funded Digital Editor. The MPR's experience of digital and its focus on agile working has been vital in achieving this transformation. These are some of the key developments in 2020:

- In June the Museum was the first national recipient of the Contemporary Art Society's Rapid Response Fund, commissioning artist Eleanor Lakelin to create an artwork made of felled wood from Chestnut Walk. It takes its title *Oh beautiful world!* from the words Oscar Wilde uttered on leaving Reading Gaol.
- Our new Access Policy was approved by Decision Book in June 2020.
- The online exhibition *Enigma of Arrival: The Politics and Poetics of Caribbean Migration to Britain*, a partnership with Barbados Museum and the University of the West Indies, was critically acclaimed, featuring in ACE's national round-up. It received a last-minute virtual visit from the Faith Minister, Lord Greenhalgh (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) hosted by the Mayor of Reading. It was part of Windrush Day 2020, a partnership project including Reading's Caribbean Associations Group, the Alliance for Community Cohesion and Racial Equality, AGE UK Berkshire, Globe Church Community and Reading Museum.
- The Museum was voted 'Best family museum' by users of the Little Ankle Biters website for Berks, Bucks and Oxon on 4 July 2020 (a recognition of our strong physical and virtual family offer).
- Since the start of the crisis the Museum team created new digital content to increase and deepen community engagement. By May 2020 resources had been viewed or downloaded over 50,000 times, representing a 206% increase from before the lockdown. Social media engagement similarly increased by 258% from before the lockdown. There has been lots of user feedback and appreciation, especially for the VE Day hub, online Animal exhibition, Windrush hub and the Archaeology Festival. By early September we had had over 3.2 million views on social media and 120,000 website visits since lockdown started.
- We reopened the online Museum shop in September and launched new virtual school sessions in October, both of which can operate even if the Museum is closed in future lockdowns.
- In October Reading Arts and Venues (including Reading Museum) received £989,374 from the Government's Culture Recovery Fund, showing how valued the culture and heritage sectors are in Reading and acknowledging their importance within our community.
- The Museum reopened on 6 September for pre-booked visits within a Covid-safe environment. October half term was fully booked. We closed again from 5 November until 3 December, and then from 18 December 2020.

The future is still uncertain, but this Plan has been an opportunity to take stock, refocus, adapt our work and to align with *Powered by People*, Reading's new economic recovery strategy, developed by Reading UK and adopted by RBC. This

Forward Plan particularly supports section 3.0 - Destination Reading - a great place to work, live and do business.

#### 4.0 Our Statement of Purpose and Aims

Reading Museum champions our town’s unique identity. We play a leading part in Reading’s transformation as a cultural community and a place of culture by:

1. actively engaging with diverse local communities and partners locally and nationally
2. providing opportunities for high quality object-based learning and creativity
3. caring for our collections and Reading Abbey, and encouraging physical and digital access to them
4. providing enterprising and sustainable income opportunities

#### 4.1 Our Priorities 2020-2025

<b>Museum priorities</b>	<b><i>Link to RBC corporate priorities</i></b>
1. Work in partnership, particularly with Museum Partnership Reading, to actively engage Reading’s diverse communities with our collections and services	Healthy environment; Thriving communities; Inclusive economy
2. Provide learning and training opportunities that inspire children, young people and teachers	Thriving communities; Inclusive economy
3. Champion pride in Reading’s heritage through promotion of the Abbey Quarter and improved access to our collections, especially at our new offsite store and digitally	Healthy environment; Thriving communities; Inclusive economy
4. Maximise opportunities to generate environmentally sustainable income and fundraising by working with partners and RBC colleagues	Healthy environment; Thriving communities; Inclusive economy

This Forward Plan is supported by the following service policies and plans:

- Access Policy and Action Plan
- Collection Development Policy
- Collection Management Policy and Action Plan
- Environmental Policy and Action Plan

This Plan is also supported by Museums Partnership Reading’s annual business plans and MPR Youth Strategy 2019-2022. These MPR plans support the outcomes and investment principles of ACE’s 2020-2030 strategy ‘Let’s Create’.

### **Acknowledgements**

The achievements of our previous plan (see appendix A) were thanks to our committed team of staff and volunteers, Reading Borough Council colleagues, and the support of our partners, especially the Cultural Education Partnership, Friends of Reading Abbey, Friends of Reading Museum (FoRM), The MERL, Reading Foundation for Art, and the University of Reading.

Our project and development work has been supported by generous grants from Arts Council England (ACE), The Art Fund, Contemporary Art Society, The Earley Charity, FoRM, The Happy Museum, Historic England, and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

### **Consultation and Review**

This Plan was written following a process of reviewing our previous plans and consultation with staff, volunteers, and stakeholders, and feedback from our customers and visitors. Significant input was received during the Local Government Association's Cultural Services Peer Challenge (2017), Reading Town Hall Business Strategy (2018-19), Mutual Ventures Cultural Services Options Appraisal (2019) and the MPR annual business planning process. It replaces the previous Forward Plan 2016-2020.

The Museum regularly evaluates its services and consults with users following the Access Policy and Plan. As part of MPR, we use Audience Finder to evaluate the visitors and groups that we have worked with directly, we also consult through other evaluation methods. We involve our communities in the running of the Museum through consultative groups (youth panel, access group etc.) and community steering groups for partnership projects and initiatives (for example the Reading Windrush Group, Heritage Action Zone). We know there are barriers to engagement, and there are opportunities for museums and Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee representatives to come together to find and develop cultural opportunities. Through its Access Policy and Plan the Museum is committed to actively engaging with Reading's diverse local communities.

The regular review of the Forward Plan is both good practice and a key requirement of the Museum Accreditation Scheme - The UK Standard for museums and galleries, under which Reading Museum has Full Accreditation status (Accredited Museum No. 978) from the Arts Council England (ACE). Museums participating in the Scheme must demonstrate effective forward planning approved by their governing body.

The Action Plan will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Museum Manager. The work of staff and public consultation is ongoing and will feed into and inform these reviews and the development and delivery of our priorities. The next Forward Plan will be developed in 2024-2025 and approved by the Council.



Objective Area	Action	Lead role <sup>2</sup>	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
and 3.2 for Collection Development)	2. Collect customer feedback esp. Audience Finder survey and act on comments			Staff and volunteer time	Core and MPR budgets		Evaluation Policy implemented; comments inform services and customer satisfaction performance indicators	
1.2 Museums Partnership Reading (MPR). NPO Consortium with Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), UoR (also see 1.1, 1.5, 2.4)	1. Deliver MPR business plans for years 3, 4 and 5 including Youth Strategy 2020-2023. 2. Reapply for next NPO funding round (2023+)	mm	MPR project board, steering group, and staff	Staff time	ACE	Until 2023 (current NPO funding ends 2023)  Submit NPO application to ACE 2021/22	Meet Business Plan targets and ACE grant requirement  Submission of NPO application	1 Healthy environment 2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.3 Friends of Reading Museum (FoRM) and Friends of Reading Abbey (FoRA)	Maintain good working relationship with our independent Friends organisations, agree joint projects and fundraising support (see 4.6)	mm	Friends committees/trustees	Staff time	n/a	Ongoing	At least two review meetings a year  Agree joint projects and fundraising targets	2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.4 Reading Foundation for Art (RFfA)	Continue to work in partnership with the RFfA following their	ec	RFfA trustees	Staff time	RFfA	Nov 2020 - Nov 2025	Collecting follows the agreed	3 Inclusive economy

Objective Area	Action	Lead role <sup>2</sup>	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
	Collection Development Strategy 2020 - 2025						Strategy in collaboration with the museum	
1.5 British Museum Archaeological Resource Centre (BM ARC), UoR Science Park	Explore MPR partnership with BM ARC for development of a joint learning and community engagement programme	mm	MPR staff	Staff time	MPR budget BM	2020-2024	Agree programme plan before ARC opening in 2023	2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.6 2021 anniversaries including Abbey 900, Festival 50 and RFC 150	Contribute to partnership and programme of 2021 anniversary events	mm	cc, ec, vs, lo Reading UK CIC RBC events team UoR events team RAR project manager	Staff time Project budgets Grant funding	MPR budget (Festival 50) RAR and 900 budgets	2020-2021	Deliver and promote 1971 Festival exhibition and youth programme  Deliver and promote 900 <sup>th</sup> anniversary headstop on Abbey Gateway  Recruit PHD Studentship (see 3.1)	2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.7 Reading High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) (see 4.4)	Support the three project strands: • Physical interventions	mm	HSHAZ team Lo MPR staff Cultural Consortium partners	Staff time Grant funding for community work	HSHAZ (Historic England)	Pilot project Sept 2020 - March 2021	Project aims achieved within time and budget	2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy

Objective Area	Action	Lead role <sup>2</sup>	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community engagement</li> <li>Cultural programme</li> </ul>					Delivery - April 2021- March 2024		
1.8 Museum Accreditation standard for service (see 1.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)	Retain Full Accreditation status from the ACE	mm	museum team	Staff time	n/a	Accreditation Return invite due March 2022	Return submitted to ACE and Accreditation retained	1 Healthy environment 2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.9 Access Policy <sup>4</sup>	Policy regularly reviewed, updated and implemented (Accreditation requirement see 1.8)	vs	Access workgroup	Staff time	n/a	Review 2025	Policy reviewed, approved and implemented	2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
1.10 Staff development and well-being	Staff training and development needs identified through regular 1 to1s, team meetings and appraisals. Yearly training plan completed for RBC Learning and development team	vs	Line managers RBC learning and development team	Staff time	Training budget	Annually review	Staff have skills and knowledge as identified in appraisals	3 Inclusive economy
1.11 Increased collaboration between RBC	Collaboration between our museums, libraries	ad, gm, mm	Museum, libraries and theatres teams	Staff time	n/a	Ongoing	Increased collaboration building on	1 Healthy environment

<sup>4</sup> Reading Museum Access Policy 2020-2025

Objective Area	Action	Lead role <sup>2</sup>	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
cultural services	and theatres through programming, marketing and operations (see 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.3, 2.6, 3.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.6)						current joint services and initiatives (also see individual actions listed)	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy



Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
	or care homes, social services- including virtual training developed during Covid (more accessible and reduced travel)							
2.4 Volunteering (see 1.1, 1.2)	1. Regular review of policy and action plan 2. Retain Investing in Volunteer (liV) status for MPR	vc	MPR staff collection & learning team  Reading Voluntary Action  FoRM and FORA	Staff time  liV application and assessment	Current budgets/ MPR budget	Review Policy 2022  Reapply liV 2021/22	Policy updated and implemented Retained liV	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy
2.5 Children and vulnerable adult protection	Service protection policy implemented and regularly reviewed <sup>5</sup>	lo	lm, vs	Staff time	Staff training	Review 2023	Policy regularly reviewed and updated; staff trained and aware	2 Thriving communities
2.6 Reading Cultural Education	Contribute to CEP delivery plan and attend quarterly meetings	lm	RBC Culture Development Officer	Staff time	Artswork	2020-2024 (current CEP strategy)	Museum contributing Partnership's	2 Thriving communities

<sup>5</sup> Reading Museum Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy 2019-2023

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
Partnership (CEP)							to delivery outcomes	3 Inclusive economy

### 3 - Champion pride in Reading's heritage through Abbey Quarter and improved access to our collections

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
3.1 Abbey Quarter: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver Reading Abbey Revealed (RAR) project (also see 1.1 and 4.3)</li> <li>• Ensure benefits of RAR project continue and site is well maintained</li> <li>• Work with new Reading Prison owners to continue to enhance AQ (see 4.4)</li> <li>• Reading Abbey Collaborative Doctoral Award - to support understanding and management of archaeological resource</li> </ul>	Implement conservation, activity and interpretation plans	mm	RAR project manager Museum and project staff	RAR budget	National Lottery Heritage Fund (£1.77m) RBC section 106 (£1.4m)	complete and evaluate RAR project by winter 2022	Final evaluation report and grant drawdown submitted to NLHF	1 Healthy environment 2 Thriving communities 3 Inclusive economy
	Ensure ongoing management plan implemented	mm, pa	Maintenance contractor		Site venue hire income Berkshire Archaeology Ruins maintenance budget	Ongoing	Annual maintenance completed	
	Extend site interpretation, wayfinding and activities	mm	RAR project manager RBC planning			Ongoing	Interpretation and public access extended	
	UoR partnership application to Arts and Humanities Research Council, joint supervision of successful PhD student	mm	pa UoR (lead partner)		Arts and Humanities Research Council	CDA starts Oct 2021. Ends June 2024	Student recruited Research published and promoted	
3.2 Collection Development policy focuses on	1. Policy reviewed, following	cm	acquisition group	Staff time	n/a	Review Policy in 2021	Policy reviewed and implemented	2 Thriving communities

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
Reading - sense of identity and the needs of learners <sup>6</sup> (see 1.8 and 1.9)	Accreditation guidance, and implemented 2. Only collect within available resources (including staff time)			Staff time Storage capacity Purchase grants required for some acquisitions	Purchase grants - Art Fund, RfFA, CAS	ongoing	Collecting within policy criteria	3 Inclusive economy
3.3 Collection Management policy and plans <sup>7</sup> (see 1.8)	Ensure Collection Policies and Plans are reviewed and implemented	cm	curators, ca, co  volunteers (store teams)	Core collection budget (e.g. for licences, materials)	n/a	Policy Review 2022 Plan Review 2025 Plan delivery - ongoing	Collection plans are systematically reviewed, and progress monitored annually	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy
3.4 Collection storage provision (also see 1.1 and 1.8)	Complete off-site collection store relocation (delayed by Covid)	cm	curators, ca, co property services	Staff time  Removal contractor	RBC capital budget	Complete move by spring 2021 Review move and store access 2021	Move completed and collection accessible to staff and users  Old store is vacated and available for disposal	1 Healthy environment  2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy

<sup>6</sup> Reading Museum Collection Development Policy 2016-2021

<sup>7</sup> Reading Museum Collection Management Policy 2017-2022

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
3.5 Collection Access - improving visitor experience and digital access	Deliver gallery and digital projects within Access Plan (see 3.1) including Silchester Gallery upgrade and increasing online collections access	mm	curators, ca, co, vs, lo, de	Staff time Volunteers Museum and collection online websites	project funding	ongoing	Individual projects delivered project plans time and budgets	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy
	Bayeux Tapestry website content moved to more accessible museum website	de	mm	Staff time Project budget	Grant funding  Silchester Gallery - NLHF bid and match funding  RAR project	2021-2024  2020-2021	Content moved; URLs redirected; SEO optimised; launched	

#### 4 - Maximise opportunities to generate environmentally sustainable income and fundraising by working with partners and RBC colleagues

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
4.1 Maximise museum shop income	Annually review of retail plan (stock, lines, pricing, suppliers)  Develop online shop offer (including click +collect) and social media promotion	vs	mm, dvs, de vs team	Staff time	Core budget	Annually (March)  ongoing	New lines, with increased turnover and profit  Increasing online sales	3 Inclusive economy
4.2 Maximise hands-on learning income (see 2.1)	Maintain income from schools by adapting products and charges to meet customer needs and to respond to changing economic environment (e.g. Covid)	lm	lo, ba	Staff time	marketing budget (Reading Arts)	ongoing	Deliver school income targets	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy
4.3 Maximise Abbey Quarter income	Ensure hire of Abbey Ruins for events and filming to provide income for site maintenance (see 3.1) and provide vibrant seasonal programming	Leisure & Recreation events team	RAR project manager Reading UK CIC RBC comms and events	Staff time  Grant funding	Venue hire fees  NLHF recovery fund	Ongoing  2020-2021	Fully booked for summer season with cultural, music and food events	3 Inclusive economy
4.4 Improved signage and marketing initiatives	1. Pedestrian signage - Abbey Quarter/HSHAZ (see 1.7 and 3.1) extended to Station Hill /Prison	mm	RBC planning  HSHAZ project manager	Staff time Developer contributions	NLHF; S106	2021-2025	Signage delivered on time and budget to approved plans	3 Inclusive economy

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
	<p>site/Minster Quarter</p> <p>2. Great West Way/Reading Tourism Group - linked to <a href="#">Powered by People strategy</a></p> <p>3. See 2.1 hands-on learning and 4.1 shop</p>	lm/vs	MPR staff, Reading UK CIC	Staff time		ongoing	Museum participates in partnership tourism initiatives	
4.5 Fundraising strategy	<p>1. Fundraising strategy created for cultural services (incl. museum)</p> <p>2. Museum explore use of Crowdfunder with FoRM as part of Covid recovery - see 1.3</p> <p>3. External funding applications for programmes and projects - see 1.1, 1.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.5</p> <p>4. Continue to encourage visitor donations</p>	Reading Arts  mm  mm  vs	mm, lm  FoRM de, lm  museum team - depending on project  gallery staff and volunteers	Staff time   Staff time  Staff time		Plan 2020-21 Implement 2021-24  2020-21  2020-2025  ongoing	Strategy created and implemented  Crowdfunding campaign launched and reviewed  Applications submitted  Donations increase per visitor	2 Thriving communities  3 Inclusive economy
4.6 Website operating system upgrade	Move website to Drupal 8/9 from 7 - to ensure secure and reliable online	Reading Arts	de, museum team	Staff time	Marketing budget	2021-22	Successful upgrade without	3 Inclusive economy

Objective	Actions	Lead role	Additional Support	Estimated Resource	Source of funding	Timescale	Performance measure	Corporate Link
	platform to support services and income generation						service disruption	
4.7 Environmental policy <sup>8</sup> and plan	1. Policy regularly reviewed and updated - linked to ACE Let's Create and <a href="#">Reading's climate strategy</a> 2. Action Plan reviewed and updated	mm  vs	MPR	Staff time  Staff time	n/a	Review by Sept 2022 (end of current policy)  2021/22	Policy updated  Plan reviewed and implemented - feed into policy update	1 Healthy environment

**Abbreviations:**

ACE - Arts Council England  
FoRM - Friends of Reading Museum  
FORA - Friends of Reading Abbey  
MERL - Museum of English Rural Life  
MPR - Museums Partnership Reading  
NLHF - National Lottery Heritage Fund  
NPO - National Portfolio Organisation (ACE)  
RAR - Reading Abbey Revealed project  
RFfA - Reading Foundation for Art  
UoR - University of Reading

**Staff roles-**

ad- Assistant Director of Culture

ba - bookings administrator  
ca - collections assistant  
cc - community engagement curator  
co - MPR collection officer  
cm - collection management curator  
de - MPR digital editor  
ec - exhibitions & partnerships curator  
gm - museum and town hall general manager  
lo - learning officer  
lm - MPR learning and marketing officer  
mm - museum manager  
pa - principal archaeologist  
vs - visitor services officer  
vc - MPR volunteer co-ordinator

<sup>8</sup> Reading Museum Environmental policy statement 2017-2022

## Appendix A Previous Plan Key Achievements

This current plan replaces 2016-2020 plan. These are just some of our achievements over the past five years:

- 2016-17 The MERL and Reading Museum awarded £237,500 for a digital engagement project - #digiRDG - bringing collections and communities together, improving social media, websites and creating our popular blog
- We were one of only four UK art galleries invited to join the Children and the Arts Trust Great's Art Quest 2016 involving Reading schools
- October 2017 - Museum awarded Full Accreditation status by Arts Council England
- April 2018 - The MERL and Reading Museum strategic partnership, Museums Partnership Reading, awarded £1.25m from Arts Council England National Portfolio 2018-2023
- Over 20,000 people attended reopening of Reading Abbey Quarter in June 2018 after successful delivery of £3.15m Reading Abbey Revealed project - conservation, interpretation and community engagement led by museum team and supported by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic England
- September 2018 - successfully moving and reopening of our popular Victorian Schoolroom at the restored Abbey Gateway
- Museums Partnership Reading (MPR) created a three-year Youth Strategy in 2019 linked to Reading Cultural Education Partnership strategy
- Investing in Volunteers re-awarded - February 2019
- Museum on Wheels - our hands-on outreach programme reached 22,608 people across the Borough in 2018-9. Supported by NLHF and The Earley Charity
- Official opening of the final part of the new Story of Reading Gallery and Welcome Gallery in May 2019, followed by the new Museum Shop in August 2019
- 'Highly Commended' at 2020 National Civic Trust AABC Conservation Awards - 6 March 2020. One of Europe's most prestigious awards, one of only 8 successful shortlisted projects, also shortlisted as a South East Regional Finalist in Nov 2019
- 'Best use of Heritage in Placemaking' for Reading Abbey Revealed project- Planning Awards 2020 - 8 September 2020. The judges were particularly impressed with our use of community participation in consultations to ensure a broad spectrum of people could participate and enjoy a new 'sense of place' within the Abbey Quarter
- The online exhibition *Enigma of Arrival: The Politics and Poetics of Caribbean Migration to Britain*, partnership with Barbados Museum and the University of the West Indies launched June 2020 - critically acclaimed project featuring in ACE's national round-up, and receiving virtual visit from the Faith Minister, Lord Greenhalgh (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government)
- 'Best Family Museum' - voted by users of the Little Ankle Biters website for Berks, Bucks and Oxon - 4 July 2020
- Throughout 2020 completed preparation for major collection move to new energy efficient store, delayed by Covid in March but to be completed in 2021.