

Council Briefing Note

Date: **Monday 25 February 2013**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

Mathew Metcalfe, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Telephone: 01865 252214

Email: fullcouncil@oxford.gov.uk

The meeting will also be available via a webcast. This means that people may choose to watch all or part of the meeting over the internet rather than attend in person. The webcast will be available to view on the City Council's website after the meeting.

1 MINUTES

This item was dealt with at the Full Council meeting on 18th February 2013.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Guidance on this is contained within the main agenda. Members' attention is drawn to Section 23 of the Constitution.

If Members have queries about possible interests, would they please discuss them with the Monitoring Officer, before the meeting commences.

3 APOLOGIES

Advance apologies for absence have been received from Councillors Tony Brett, Mary Clarkson, Mick Haines, Mike Rowley, Val Smith and John Tanner.

4 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

5 LORD MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Questions and statements may be made on any announcements by the Lord Mayor

6 SHERIFF'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Questions and statements may be made on any announcements by the Sheriff

7 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER

8 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND THE MONITORING OFFICER

9 ADDRESSES BY THE PUBLIC

1 - 6

NOTE: for items 9 and 10 combined, the Constitution sets a time limit of 45 minutes. If there is insufficient time to take all of the questions, the Constitution says that a written response will be given.

The following members of the public have submitted requests to address Council along with the text of their address and have **up to 5 minutes each** to make their address.

- (1) William Clark – Managing the Family Budget
- (2) Nigel Gibson – Temple Cowley Pools Petition
- (3) Jane Alexander – Temple Cowley Pools and recycling

10 QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

7 - 8

Details of the questions are attached to this Briefing Note.

11 HOMELESS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2013 TO 2018 AND FUTURE POLICY IN RELATION TO SECURING PRIVATE SECTOR TENANCIES FOR HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS

See pages 1-48 of the main Council agenda.

12 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISIONS (MINUTES) AND SINGLE EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISIONS (DECISION SHEET)

See pages 49-62 of the main Council agenda.

13 RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS FROM SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

None submitted for consideration.

14 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9 - 10

(a) Questions notified in time for replies to be provided with this Briefing Note

Details of these questions and responses are attached to this Briefing Note.

15 STATEMENTS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

None submitted.

16 CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS

No petitions have been submitted for consideration and debate.

17 MOTIONS IN NOTICE

The Constitution provides for a total time of 90 minutes for this agenda

item. Members' speeches are subject to a maximum of 3 minutes.

Council is reminded that Motions must, by the Constitution, be about things the Council is responsible for or something that directly affects people in the City.

See pages 63-68 in the main Council agenda.

18 REPORTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT ORGANISATIONS THE COUNCIL IS REPRESENTED ON

19 KEY DECISIONS - ALIGNMENT OF THE FINANCIAL LIMITS WITHIN THE CONSTITUTION

See pages 69-70 of the main Council agenda.

20 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES FOLLOWING A BOUNDARY REVIEW OF OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DIVISIONS

11 - 12

See pages 71-86 of the main Council agenda and pages 11-12 of this Briefing Note for a replacement page 75 of the main agenda. The reason for the replacement page is because an old version of that page was included with the wrong street allocation noted against Polling Districts DA and DC. The rest of the report and schedule remains as printed with the main agenda.

21 COUNCIL TAX 2013/14

See pages 87-100 of the main Council agenda.

22 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Agenda Item 9

Managing the family budget – Address by William Clark

We are currently experiencing the worst recession in British history and heading to even more misery with ever greater demands on the British public for their hard earned money.

The present government has imposed swinging cuts in a vain attempt to reduce this country's financial deficits and to what end. They pass on to you, local government, even further reductions in central funding so in order for you to meet the shortfalls you pass these demands on to the residents of Oxford in increased tax bills in order for you to ensure some of our services remain in some shape or form.

What I am getting to is the fact that there is only a limited amount of money you can squeeze out of the residents there comes a time when it just is not tenable to continue these demands from the loyal citizens and eventually they reject your claims stating the obvious "YOU CAN NOT GET BLOOD OUT OF A STONE". Who knows where the money for compensation will come from following the Port Meadow fiasco?

The proposed new swimming facility on Blackbird Leys you are endeavouring to construct will not be a viable proposition because of the ever increasing demand on our money and to decide whether to go swimming or heat the room will be a no brainer. The demand for such a facility will decrease to the point where it becomes untenable with the only users being schools and the swimming club.

At the moment we have two facilities that with a little love and attention and a fraction of the cost could be refurbished to continue the pleasures of the swimming public for some time to come, there is obviously support for them as they continue to get great support in the form of signatures in petitions, so why is it that you still intend to lavish vast quantities of funding on something that will fall foul of this recession.

We have managed to garner support for the aging Oxford Stadium so surely that must give hope for these two swimming pools, do the right thing and resist the need to line the pockets of contractors who are eagerly lining up to fleece the council for everything they can. Stop the new pool build and listen to what the public are saying.

This page is intentionally left blank

Address by Nigel Gibson, Head Petitioner, in support of a Petition to Oxford City Council, February 2013

The Labour-controlled City Council's decision to close Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre, blatantly ignoring the wishes of the people of Oxford, and in so doing deliberately removing publicly funded facilities from thousands of people inside the ring road in East Oxford, remains the biggest single issue in the city, even after three years of campaigning. These facilities offer so many people the opportunity to exercise and maintain and improve their quality of life, in a place where they want to do it.

A petition with over 1,500 signatures forces the Labour councillors, clearly on the basis of previous debates against their will, to face up to what they have done on behalf of vested interests. These vested interests include selling off the Temple Cowley site for student accommodation, ultimately for Oxford Brookes University, and improving the profits of Fusion Leisure, operators of the Council's leisure facilities, by getting rid of over thirty jobs.

The first petition, over 12,000 signatures, was simply ignored by the Labour councillors, who poured scorn on it. Since then we have regularly collected signatures for a series of petitions, the one being presented this evening being the sixth. All told, over 20,000 signatures.

The topic for this petition was inspired by a remark made by a LibDem councillor when the last petition was debated. He suggested that getting round a table and discussing things would be a good idea; and we agree. Doing that in the first place would have saved a lot of time and money. We've been trying to do that since the start of the Campaign, but the Council don't want that to happen because they would have to admit the information that supports their case for closure is a combination of misleading, inaccurate, incomplete and untrue, something we have demonstrated time and again.

The other reason for discussing this issue openly and transparently is simply because THINGS HAVE CHANGED since the Council made their decision.

The costs have spiralled from an estimate of £3m, then £4.5m, then £5.5m, through to £6.5m ('definitely a maximum figure'), then £9.2m, over £11m and if you include additional supporting costs over £13m....

The demographics have changed. At one time the proposed new swimming pool would have been at the centre of a diamond of housing, as the last Labour government intended concreting over the green space between Abingdon and South Oxford. The latest Census figures reveal that the highest population growth over the last ten years has been in Cowley Marsh, where Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre is situated - an increase of 41%, and big increases as a whole across East Oxford within the ring road. And housing in this area continues to increase. Previously the Blackbird Leys population had been the big number, but not any more - the area

Address by Nigel Gibson, Head Petitioner, in support of a
Petition to Oxford City Council, February 2013

around Temple Cowley now has at least that number of residents, and it is in a place where we know people want to use it. In contrast, Blackbird Leys has grown very little in ten years, and there is absolutely no information on how many people there would actually make any use at all of a new swimming pool on their doorstep. The Council has not dared actually ask the questions that would establish what demand there is for a new swimming pool, or whereabouts in the City this would come from. That's because they know the answer already, and it wouldn't justify closing both Temple Cowley Pools and the existing Blackbird Leys swimming pools, each of which has a different intended group of users. And Labour has consistently 'found' demand only by knocking on doors and giving their version of what they thought happened. We've not on those same doors and found that support for the pool was given based on misinformation. The Council repeats the same mantra, that the proposed new swimming pool is a 'citywide facility', but with nothing that justifies its statements.

The political climate has changed; there are heavy curbs on local government spending, and an investment of this size, when there is a much better value alternative, must surely be constantly questioned?

When there are major changes in circumstances such as these, a local authority, in this case Oxford City Council, has a legal obligation to review its decision. So the petition gives the Council, and Labour, the opportunity to do just that.

The petition reads as follows:

"We call on Oxford City Council to enable Council officers and members of the Save Temple Cowley Pools Campaign to hold a series of meetings where they can discuss, identify and clarify areas of common understanding based on a full, open and transparent exchange of information. These meetings should be apolitical, jointly chaired, open to the public and develop a consensus so that we can agree a way forward that will benefit the people of Oxford"

More than 20,000 people have signed our petitions and asked the Council to think again. The Campaign continues because of this huge and continuing support across Oxford and beyond, while the Labour-controlled Council seems determined to ignore the views of so many thousands of people. For more information email savetcp@gmail.com and visit the Campaign website <http://tiny.cc/savetcp>.

Address to Council from Jane Alexander

The last time I spoke at a Full Council meeting in December I asked why there was no recycling bins at Temple Cowley Pools and that the blue collection box I had provided some years earlier had been removed and the staff were now telling me that not only did they not do any recycling now, that they had never done recycling at that site!

The recycling bins are clearly available at other Fusion Lifestyle run sites so why not at Temple Cowley?

Councillor Tanner answered that he would immediately get on and find out what had gone wrong. To me the word immediately means right away or very soon but almost three months have passed and I still see staff at TCP emptying all waste including recyclables into black PLASTIC bags and throwing them into the green 'non-recyclable' waste.

I have had no feedback from Cllr Tanner and it would seem that he has done nothing to rectify this.

I am also concerned to see that the regular care of the building is not being well carried out at Temple Cowley Pools. It is the responsibility of the council to ensure that the money they give to Fusion Lifestyle to run the centre is well spent and that all cleaning and regular maintenance is carried out fully.

Despite these things the numbers of users at TCP are still well up and new people are joining every day. Something to do with the location being so accessible!

When the time comes to replace TCP and that shouldn't be for at least 25 years from now according to the council's own condition survey, then there is a site which suits everyone much better than Blackbird Leys.

The swimming club have said they "don't mind where it is, people have cars so location doesn't matter". "We just want to be able to hold more Galas and Meets each weekend in good, well maintained pool". "If they open a 50 metre at Didcot we would probably go there".

Blackbird Leys people need to know that the Club have held at least ten events where the whole TCPools are closed to the public all days in the last three months and these are always at weekends.

If the council is so set on building a new pool for the people who at present use TCP then why not build it at the Council's own Cowley Marsh Site (which is soon to be vacated) adjacent to Cowley Marsh Recreation Park. This would mean it is still accessible to many and convenient for buses with space for parking.

Building a new wet and dry site at Cowley Marsh, with competition pool with all timing equipment etc and full competition seating, training pool with moveable floor, with environmental rigid covers, 6 tennis courts, two squash courts, exercise/dance studios, **80** station gym, sauna and steam rooms, crèche, cafe PLUS improving the facilities at the present Blackbird Leys Pool

improved disabled facilities, improved changing rooms, training pool and water slide/flume, enlarged entrance area with cafe, could all be built for less than the amount this council proposes to spend on just one swimming pool, one training pool and a 'splash area' at Blackbird Leys, by employing the right high-standard Pool Construction Consultant Company suggested by the ASA.

Building a new wet and dry site at Cowley Marsh, with competition pool with all timing equipment etc and full competition seating, training pool with moveable floor, with environmental rigid covers, 6 tennis courts, two squash courts, exercise/dance studios, **80** station gym, sauna and steam rooms, crèche, cafe PLUS improving the facilities at the present Blackbird Leys Pool improved disabled facilities, improved changing rooms, training pool and water slide/flume, enlarged entrance area with cafe, could all be built for less than the amount this council proposes to spend on just one swimming pool, one training pool and a 'splash area' at Blackbird Leys, by employing the right high-standard Pool Construction Consultant Company suggested by the ASA.

An alternative company to MACE have also said that they would be able to build what the council presently proposes for Blackbird Leys for just £4.2 million not the £9 million which the council is now quoting.

An alternative company to MACE have also said that they would be able to build what the council presently proposes for Blackbird Leys for just £4.2 million not the £9 million which the council is now quoting.

In the light of this and the fact they the council have based their figures of proposed pool use of 2001 figures of population in Blackbird Leys, Cowley and East Oxford which have changed considerably in the intervening years, it is time to stop this plan to build this new pool at Blackbird Leys now.

It is now time to stop this present proposal and meet with those of us who are in touch with the people of Oxford including many at Blackbird Leys and construct a plan which will be acceptable to the majority.

In the light of this and the fact they the council have based their figures of proposed pool use of 2001 figures of population in Blackbird Leys, Cowley and East Oxford which have changed considerably in the intervening years, it is time to stop this plan to build this new pool at Blackbird Leys now.

It is now time to stop this present proposal and meet with those of us who are in touch with the people of Oxford including many at Blackbird Leys and construct a plan which will be acceptable to the majority.

10. QUESTIONS BY THE PUBLIC

NOTE: Questions and answers to them cannot, by the Constitution, take longer than 3 minutes.

(1) Question to the Board Member, Leisure (Councillor Van Coulter) from Nigel Gibson

Action following submission of petition

At the last Council meeting, a petition with 1,666 signatures concerning university building in Roger Dudman way and the view across Port Meadow was rightly supported by Council, who immediately responded by instituting an enquiry, and now, we hear, discussions with the University to remedy the situation. Why did Council not respond with similar speed and decisiveness when a 12,000 signature petition to keep Temple Cowley Pools open, affecting the health and well-being of thousands of people across Oxford, was presented to council?

(2) Question to the Board Member, Leisure (Councillor Van Coulter) from Sarah Lasenby

Fusion Leisure Contract

At the last Full Council meeting a question was asked by Nigel Gibson concerning the payments to Fusion Lifestyle as the information then available did not add up. But the answer given did not answer this question in anyway as far as I could see. This really shocked me as the Council has a policy to make information publicly open and transparent. In this case it did not happen.

I am confused; did the Councillor or whoever constructed the answer for him, not agree with the policy of openness or with the Contract or what? Please could I have an answer to the question this time? Can you please publish a breakdown by Leisure Centre and by year of the payments to Fusion Lifestyle up to the end of this financial year? You show the totals and I should be grateful if you could show how these are made up.

(3) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Jane Alexander

Ethical Procurement

At the last Full Council meeting, there was a motion proposed by Cllr Hollick that was out of time for debate. It asked council to enforce an ethical procurement approach by not using suppliers operating tax avoidance schemes. Will the Leader of the Council endorse this approach, and instruct the Chief Executive to

cancel the contract with Fusion Lifestyle who operate a tax avoidance scheme through its charitable status?

14. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(a) Question notified in time for replies to be provided with this Briefing Note

(1) **Question to the Board Member, Young People, Education and Community Development (Councillor Steve Curran) from Councillor Jean Fooks**

Youth Ambition Fund

Could you give Council a report on how the £240k 'Youth Ambition' fund has been spent this financial year?

Response: To develop a sustainable programme that makes a real difference to young people's lives we are taking a strategic approach. Initial steps have been to work with Anna Wright (Educational Advisor) to develop an up to date understanding of needs. This work is being supported through the Local Government Association's 'Roots to Success' programme which provides free consultancy support to improve services for young people. We have also worked with partners to attain a better understanding of what is already being delivered and understand opportunities for more joined up work. This work has provided the information to develop a Youth Ambition Strategy which will come to CEB on the 10th of April.

Coupled with this we have also launched our youth ambition grants which will see £50,000 per year awarded to voluntary and community groups. We will increasingly support these groups to build their capacity and help them attain funding from other sources. We have also launched a free access session at Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre and continued sessions at Wood Farm and Court Place Farm that would have otherwise not been funded. We are also sponsoring the Youth Awards which take place on the 21st Feb. To resource this work we have recruited two people who will help to deliver the programme.

This leaves just over £100,000 which we intend to roll over into the new financial year for match funding bids; one such bid has just been submitted to Sport England.

(2) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Jean Fooks

Payment for garden waste bags

I see that the administration is proposing to save £20k by insisting that residents pay by direct debit for garden waste bags. This is blatantly discriminatory and unfair. Will you confirm that the saving can be made by offering a direct debit facility but continuing to accept cash or cheques, as well as debit card transactions, in future?

Response: although we will encourage direct debits it will still be possible to pay by cash or cheque.

Polling District(s)	Polling Place	No. of stations	Electorate	Streets	Comments
BC	Summertown URC Church Hall, Banbury Road	1	1028	Banbury Road, Hamilton Road, Hawkswell Gardens, Hernes Close, Hernes Crescent, Hernes Road, Kings Cross Road, Lonsdale Road, Lucerne Road, Mayfield Road, Portland Road, Summerfields, Victoria Road	Accessible
BD	Cuttleslowe Community Centre, Wren Road	1	826	Grimbly Place, Harpes Road, Islip Road, Water Eaton Road	Accessible
St. Margaret's					
CA	St Margaret's Centre, Polstead Road	2	2517	Bainton Road, Banbury Road, Brindley Close, Burgess Mead, Canterbury Road, Chalfont Road, Clear Water Place, Complins Close, Cox's Ground, Elizabeth Jennings Way, Frenchay Road, Hayfield Road, Kingston Road, Lark Hill, Lathbury Road, Moreton Road, Navigation Way, Polstead Road, Rackham Place, Rawlinson Road, Ryder Close, St Margaret's Road, Staverton Road, Stone Meadow, Woodstock Road	Accessible
CB → →	St Andrew's Church Centre, Linton Road Entrance	1	1422	Banbury Road, Bardwell Road, Belbroughton Road, Chadlington Road, Charlbury Road, Cunliffe Close, Ewert Place, Ferry Pool Road, Garford Road, Linton Road, Marston Ferry Road, Northmoor Place, Northmoor Road, Staverton Road, Woodstock Road	Accessible
North					
DA	Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Woodstock Road	1	1656	Aristotle Lane, Balliol Court, Butler Close, Farndon Road, Kingston Road, Leckford Place, Leckford Road, Longworth Road, Merrivale Square, Merton Court, Observatory Street, Plantation Road, Plater Drive, Rutherway, Southmoor Road, St Bernard's Road, Tackley Place, Walton Street, Walton Well Road, Warnborough Road, William Lucy Way, Woodstock Road (part).	Accessible
DB	St Giles' Parish Room, Woodstock Road	1	1322	Adelaide Street, Banbury Road, Bevington Road, Norham Gardens, Observatory Street, St Anne's College, Walton Street, Woodstock Road,	Accessible
DC	Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, Woodstock Road	1	1418	Acer Walk, Banbury Road (part), Benson Place, Bradmore Road, Canterbury Road, Church Walk, Crick Road, Fyfield Road, Norham Gardens, Norham Mews, Norham Road, North Parade Avenue, Park Town, Winchester Road, Woodstock Road (part).	Accessible

This page is intentionally left blank