

Council Briefing Note

Date: **Monday 3 February 2014**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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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 **APOLOGIES**

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 **MINUTES**

To be signed as a correct record by the Lord Mayor. The Constitution does not permit any "matters arising"

See pages 1 to 30 in the main agenda.

4 **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

5 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Announcements may be made by the Lord Mayor, The Sheriff, The Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.

PART 1 - ITEMS FOR DECISION

6 **PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING**

1 - 2

NOTE: for items 6 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.

Addresses

- (1) Paula Maddison – Corporate Relationship Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire Mind

This address relates to agenda item 14 Motions on Notice and Motion (1) City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues.

7 **ELECTIONS STAFF FEES AND THE OXFORD LIVING WAGE**

See pages 31 to 32 in the main agenda.

8 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

NOTE: This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

See pages 33 – 52 in the main agenda.

9 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

3 - 10

Questions and responses are attached to this Briefing Note.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

10 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING

11 - 26

NOTE: for items 6 and 10 combined, the Constitution sets a time limit of 45 minutes. If there is insufficient time to take all of the addresses and questions, the Constitution says that a written response will be given.

Addresses

- (1) Chaka Artwell – Oxford Voice
- (2) Alasdair de Voil - Concerning abuse/conflict of interest: Visit Oxfordshire
- (3) Nigel Gibson - Why Oxford City Council Could and Should Deliver the Services the People of Oxford Want and Need

A response from Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure Services, is also attached to this Briefing Note.

Questions

- (1) Sietske Boeles - Oxford University Old Road Campus buildings
- (2) Sarah Wild - Planning consultation methods
- (3) Alasdair de Voil – Visit Oxfordshire

11 PETITIONS

None previously submitted for consideration.

12 OUTSIDE ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

See pages 53 to 58 of the main agenda.

Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen, Chair of the West Area Planning Committee has given notice to the Head of Law and Governance that he wishes to make a Statement to Council from the West Area Planning Committee.

Councillor John Tanner the Council's representative on the Oxfordshire Waste and Environment Partnership has given notice to the Head of Law and Governance that he wishes to make a statement to Council on the possible withdrawal of financial support by the Oxfordshire County Council in 2015.

13 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

See pages 59 to 60 in the main agenda.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

14 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

27 - 36

The Constitution provides for a total time of 60 minutes for this agenda item. Members' speeches are subject to a maximum of 3 minutes.

All Motions and amendments are attached to this Briefing Note.

15 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Address to Council by Paula Maddison

Oxfordshire Mind address to the council (by Paula Maddison, Corporate Relationship Co-ordinator for Oxfordshire Mind)

Linking into the motion by Cllr Turner regarding Mental health champions, I would like to address the council regarding the work that Oxfordshire Mind does. My name is Paula Maddison and my role within Mind is that of Corporate Relationship Co-ordinator. I am responsible for linking with employees around the support we can offer to both employers and employees.

At any time, 1 in 6 people will be experiencing some kind of mental health issue. Each year, £26 billion will be lost due to employees' poor mental health. £15.1 billion lost each year through poor productivity of employees who continue to work while experiencing poor mental health. 70 million working days are lost each year.

Oxfordshire Mind's 'mission' is to ensure that anyone with a mental health problem has someone to turn for advice and support. We want to create conversations in the workplace about mental health and to reduce the stigma around accessing help and support.

The Oxfordshire Mind Information Service provides information about mental health and mental health services across Oxfordshire and is open to anyone to access. I will be leaving some cards out for people to take with details of how to contact this service.

I would be very happy to meet with any of you to discuss the work that Oxfordshire Mind does and how we could support the role of mental health champions. We offer mental health first aid training, a nationally accredited course which teaches participants the knowledge and skills to recognise the early signs of mental ill-health and support someone to seek the right help. We also offer a number of short course around 'Coping Skills' including Self-esteem, Assertiveness and Mindful Way of Living as well as shorter, 'bite-size' information sessions around mental health and wellbeing. All of these could be used to start having the conversation about mental health, both at an organisational level, as part of a workplace wellbeing strategy or on a one to one base with employees around mental health issues.

Many thanks for listening and please get in touch to discuss what we are able to offer both you and your organisation.

Paula Maddison
January 2014

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(1) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Ruth Wilkinson

External wall insulation planning permission

Residents have asked whether planning permission is required for external wall insulation and under what conditions, as they wish to reduce energy and save money in their solid wall houses, but feel the responses they have been given by the City Council have been inconsistent. Please can Councillor Cook supply the number of applications that have been made for each of the last four years and indicate how many have been given permission?

Response: Where a property is already rendered (or partially so), the replacement of the existing render with external insulation will **NOT** normally require planning permission, being “permitted development” afforded by Class A Part 1 Schedule 2 of the GPDO.

Where a property is not already rendered, planning permission **WILL BE** required in view of condition A.3(a) of Class A which requires that “*the materials used in any exterior work (other than materials used in the construction of a conservatory) shall be of a similar appearance to those used in the construction of the exterior of the existing dwellinghouse*”.

Dwelling houses located within a Conservation Area are also covered by the restriction in A.2(a) which states that development is **NOT** permitted by Class A if it consists of or includes “*the cladding of any part of the exterior of the dwelling house with stone, artificial stone, pebble dash, render, timber, plastic or tiles*”

Although, again, if such a property’s exterior is **already rendered** planning permission for its replacement, provided that the new render’s appearance was similar to that being replaced, would not be required.

Number of applications received:

2013: 8 applications (one refused). Insulation of 36 properties approved (27 Council owned, 4 Housing Association owned).

2012: 3 applications (one to vary a condition to allow external insulation). All approved (5 properties including 3 x flats).

2011: No applications.

2010: 1 application (approved). 1 property.

Additionally, there were several “Permitted Development checks” submitted over this 4 year period, some of which led to applications for planning permission being submitted. The advice given in these has been consistent.

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

Freight Consolidation Scheme

Would the Board Member please brief Council on progress towards a Freight Consolidation?

Response: The City Council is jointly progressing the commissioning of a freight consolidation study with the County Council to ensure the most appropriate option for consolidation is developed for Oxford.

The brief for this study is currently being finalised and subject to approval by the County and City Council prior to release. Additional work streams to address freight related emissions are being progressed through work on Air Quality, in line with the recently adopted Air Quality Action Plan.

(3) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Graham Jones

Renewables in new buildings

Is the Board Member content with the current minimum requirement for renewables in new buildings in Oxford?

Response: The adopted Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016 first introduced the Natural Resource Impact Analysis (NRIA) in November 2005. This was introduced to push forward development standards in terms of energy efficiency, water use, and the use of recycled materials, given that building regulations, at that stage, were not very challenging. Given that Oxford does not have the land available for large scale renewable energy schemes such as wind farms, the City Council also placed a requirement on small scale developments to generate an element of on-site renewable energy.

This holistic approach to the use of natural resources was quite ground breaking at the time, and the requirement for 20% renewable energy, both of the regulated and unregulated variety, is still the highest in the UK.

The adopted NRIA Supplementary Planning Document provides more guidance on the implementation of these policies.

The requirements of the Local Plan in relation to the NRIA were reviewed and brought forward into the Oxford Core Strategy 2026 adopted by Council in March 2011.

The City Council has committed to reviewing the implementation of these policies, as it does to all of our Development Plan policies, to see if they are still fit for purpose and delivering the desired outcomes.

In relation to residential development, the NRIA was reviewed in the

Sites and Housing Plan, adopted in February 2013. As part of this review we considered how the various government standards were affecting the need for the NRIA. With the move to zero carbon, and improving building control standards, we concluded the key element to take forward was the renewable energy element. The policy sets out transitional arrangements until zero carbon homes are introduced. The Plan also requires energy statements to be submitted for small residential developments which had not previously been caught by the NRIA.

The ambition nationally is that by 2016 all new residential developments will be zero carbon and all new non-domestic buildings will be zero carbon by 2019.

Officers are conscious that there are wider aspects to sustainability than those covered by the NRIA and that there may be a case for a review of that document, particularly in relation to non-residential development.

However, the position has been complicated by the Government's intention to deregulate various environmental standards, (announced by the Prime Minister in a speech on January 27th this year). There has been some suggestion that the Government intends to relax planning targets and/or Building Regulation controls in relation to renewable energy, but at the current time there has been no official confirmation of what the Government proposes.

That having been said, Oxford remains at the forefront of local authority practice in relation to the requirement for renewables in new buildings. Regrettably, it is unlikely that the Government will countenance any increase in these minimum requirements at the current time.

(4) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Graham Jones

Recovery of recyclates from landfill

Would the Board Member say why he did not support the Scrutiny Committee recommendation to appraise the recovery of recyclates from landfill?

Response: We have considered the option of sorting residual waste to recover recyclables prior to disposal in landfill in principle, but have not explored it further because current working arrangements would make this extremely expensive for the Council. It would require the following major items of expenditure:-

- Land and buildings to allow tipping of the waste, sorting and then reloading to take to the appropriate disposal sites.
- Additional labour to undertake the sorting and reloading.
- Plant and vehicles to cope with the additional operation (i.e. sorting).

In view of the fact that these costs are going to be very large, this option has not been pursued further.

The most economic option would be a pre-sort before incineration at the new County Council plant. We have asked the County Council if this will be possible and have been advised that there is no such facility at the new plant. Equally, the County Council advised that they are not aware of pre-sort arrangements operating at any of the incinerating plants operating in this country.

For these reasons, I have decided not to undertake a more detailed appraisal of this operation.

(5) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Graham Jones

Urban Community Energy Fund

Does the Board Member welcome the Climate Change Secretary's announcement of an Urban Community Energy Fund?

Response: DECC has launched a £10m Urban Community Energy Fund. This is a small pot which sits alongside a similar £10m fund launched last year for rural energy projects. It is an element of the Community Energy Strategy announced recently. This is a useful first step.

Councillors will be aware of the £1.2 million European funded project 'OxFutures' which the City Council leads with the aim of leveraging investment into community renewable projects. So I welcome a government initiative that is catching up with what Oxford City Council has pioneered.

(6) Question to the Board Member, Finance, efficiency and Strategic Asset Management (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Graham Jones

Investment in renewables

Can the Board Member tell us what is the Council's current investment in renewables?

Response: Renewable energy is generally defined as energy that comes from resources which are naturally replenished on a human timescale such as sunlight, wind, rain, tides, waves and geothermal heat. Renewable energy replaces conventional fuels in a number of distinct areas: electricity generation, hot water/space heating and motor fuels.

Over the last few years the Council has undertaken a number of key projects around renewables including:

Existing Installations

1. Photo Voltaic Panels (PV) – 2 Leisure Centres: (cost £288k)
2. PV - large systems on Cardinal, Headley and Knights Houses sheltered blocks: (cost £376k)

3. PV tiles – large system on Northbrook House
4. PV- small systems on 38 individual Local Authority houses mainly in Lambourne Road:
5. Air source heat pumps: 30 individual LA houses in Lambourne Rd
6. Solar thermal on Birch Ct sheltered accommodation
7. Solar thermal: approximately 20 small systems on individual Local Authority homes installed several years ago.
8. Solar thermal: small demonstration system on shower at Hinksey Pools
9. Biomass boilers in Cardinal House and Albert Place housing blocks

The Council has also enabled community PV: on Barton NC, on West Oxford Community Centre and on West Oxford Community Primary School.

Council Planning Policy calls for 20% of energy use to be met by on-site renewable energy technology for larger developments and consequently this has resulted in continued and growing investment in renewables across the city. Regrettably this requirement may be challenged by the government's Technical Housing Standards Review.

Council has initiated "Low Carbon Oxford" to deliver progress against corporate 40% carbon reduction target – this initiative helps community groups and businesses invest in renewables (such as Osney micro hydro, Oxford Bus company solar PV roof, with more coming on stream) There are several renewable installations planned or under investigation by the Council.

1. Biomass for Competition Pool:
2. Biomass for Town Hall
3. PV for BBL Leisure Centre
4. PV for new Rose Hill Community Centre
5. PV pilot on 5 LA houses – to inform a wider rollout - will be carried out this financial year.

(7) Question to the Board Member, Finance, efficiency and Strategic Asset Management (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Jean Fooks

Carbon Accounting

The Council agreed to move to carbon accounting some years ago. Progress seems to have stalled. When will the Council live up to its policy and why has it not yet happened?

Response: Carbon accounting refers generally to processes undertaken to "measure" amounts of carbon dioxide equivalents emitted by an entity

We measure our consumption of utilities, and like other Local Authorities we are obliged to report to the Department of Energy and Climate Change on our greenhouse gas emissions (Co2 plus the basket of greenhouse gases). This is derived from meter readings from across the

majority estate gas, electricity and vehicle fuel. This is submitted annually by the end of July.

As per the Corporate Measure linked to the Carbon Management Plan adopted by the city Executive Board and led by Environmental Development, carbon reduction targets are based on estimated emissions from implemented measures, this is the same as The Carbon Trust Carbon Management Standard. This enables the Council to identify opportunities for energy saving measures (insulation etc.) or renewable energy (solar PV).

It is fair to say that the organisations' move towards its own internal carbon monitoring system has not progressed as quickly as we would have liked although in mitigation this is not a process which is truly embedded in many local authorities. We have asked our internal auditors to report back to us on suggested ways forward based on good practice from other sectors, whilst also exploring alternative ways to engage across the organisation to meet carbon targets. We obviously report annually on our carbon usage and purchase of CRC, and also provide updates through the Carbon Natural Resources Board on the usage and spend on utilities.

(8) Question to the Board Member, Finance, efficiency and Strategic Asset Management (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Jim Campbell

Consultation Budget - Responses

In last year's Consultation Budget (2013-14) could you tell us how many comments (individual and group) were received, and could you also let us know what changes were made to the final budget in response to these comments, and to those from *Talk Back*?

Response: There was general agreement from respondents to the Budget Consultation last year on the proposals put forward and some of these were mentioned in the budget report that was presented to Council on 18th February 2013 with summary details shown below.

Table 6 Results of consultation on council tax increase

	Percentage In Favour %
Freeze council tax and make cuts elsewhere	39
Increase council tax by 2%	61

Table 7 Budget Consultation – New Investment

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	%	%	%	%	%
Dial a ride	43	24	18	10	5
Older peoples	44	34	14	5	3

support grant					
Apprenticeships	42	38	13	4	3
Grants	39	26	18	9	8
Free bulky collection	39	27	13	14	7

The Council also sought views on technical changes to council tax discounts and exemptions and there was an average of 90% agreement to the changes proposed. We have subsequently received some feedback on the operation of these and have therefore amended arrangements this year (supported in the consultation).

Given the constrained nature of the Council's finances, as well as the fact that consultation on our main priorities occurs through means of local elections, we seek to put clearly-defined propositions to the public in the budget consultation.

(9) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Jim Campbell

Area Forums and Community Meetings

Could you let us know how many Area Forums and other Council supported Community Meetings took place during 2013, and how many members of the public attended each one?

Response: The Communities and Neighbourhoods team work with Councillors to set up meetings in areas where they wish to hold an Area Forum. The East Area Forum is running and details of meetings are on the website. North Area Councillors have decided that individual wards might consider holding a Forum if a suitable topic arose. None have yet been requested. In the other areas dates are being canvassed and Officers will help members to set up these Forums. Publicity for any Area Forums is via website, social media, production of standard posters, emailing residents on database. Records of public attendance may be kept by the members but are not recorded by Communities and Neighbourhoods.

The Community Partnerships are supported by Communities and Neighbourhoods (CAN) Officers in the regeneration areas. The 7 areas have a range of public attendance/involvement depending on how long the partnerships and local community engagement, have been supported. For example, at Barton, 169 residents took part last year (range from 4-8 at each partnership meeting, sub-group meetings) while in Littlemore or Cutteslowe Partnership meeting, very small numbers attended. Barton has had a CAN Officer dedicated resource for a number of years whereas other areas have not.

(10) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Graham Jones

Universal Suffrage

Can the Leader of the Council tell us on what grounds does he support or not support the principle of universal suffrage in local elections, regardless of nationality?

Response: Under current British law, any British, Irish, EU and Commonwealth citizen can vote in local elections. I am reliably informed that this is the widest restricted franchise in the world. No country in the world allows all residents to vote in all elections. The nearest to that are Uruguay (which requires 15 years' residence), New Zealand (which requires permanent resident status) and Malawi (which requires seven years residence).

My personal view is that the franchise should be linked to citizenship rather than residence. Hence, I would support extending voting rights to EU citizens in national and European elections, but no further.

Agenda Item 10

A presentation for full Council of Oxford City Council by Oxford Voice (Chaka Artwell)

London has welcomed people seeking sanctuary for many centuries: Jean-Jacque Rousseau, Karl Marx, & Marcus Garvey have all had need to seek sanctuary in London during times of personal persecution. London has been the City of choice for many peoples seeking sanctuary and this tradition is something the English peoples should cherish.

Today in 2014 there is a man whose Whistle Blowing activities have not only saved many people in places like Iraq and Afghanistan from unlawful military attack. But this man's activities is helping to established the rights of western people not to be arbitrarily put under surveillance by the covert intelligence societies of the United States.

As a result of Mr Julian Assange's Whistle Blowing activities the world has seen an Apache helicopter fatally attacking Rueter Journalist and then attacking the Ambulance who assisted the dead and wounded. In a world governed by secrecy there is a need for brave courageous people who will speak our for truth and justice in a world full of government led wrong doings.

Oxford Voice is calling on Oxford City Councillors to support a humanitarian Petition asking the Home Office to allow this brave man to leave the Ecuadorian Embassy in order to seek sanctuary in Ecuador.

I am sure Oxford City Councillors would welcome the chance to uphold the fine tradition of sanctuary for the oppressed. Your support in this matter is much needed as offering sanctuary is a fine and noble tradition. In support of the best tradition of English freedom, please sign this Petition to free Mr Assange from confinement in Ecuadorian Embassy in London. Thank you.

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Address to Council by Alasdair de Voil

Concerning abuse/conflict of interest: Visit Oxfordshire

Please note that I have been complaining for over 2 years about how Visit Oxfordshire Ltd., which runs Oxford visitor information centre on behalf of Oxford City & County Councils, sees fit to go out of their way to undermine and disadvantage local businesses like mine- the very tourism businesses which it is supposed to be introducing information about our services to the public. Essentially, Visit Oxfordshire does the opposite of its remit and when it comes to presenting information about guided tours of Oxford (the most relevant service it offers), it does little else than sell and market only one tour (its so-called 'Official Oxford walking tour') to the almost complete exclusion of every other tour. In other words, despite receiving public funding to provide a public service on behalf of Oxford City and County Council, it actually misuses its position to run a monopoly interest on selling its own tour. How it can even be appropriate for a supposedly impartial service provider to even run its own tour, is strange in itself and represents already a conflict of interest.

I can give many examples of how it abuses its position but the most obvious is if you visit their website, nearly every single page directs people to its official tour but you'd have to look very hard to find tours like mine listed there. The website has something like 5,000 % more advertising for the official tour than it does for any other tour- despite fact the that we pay them a minimum £390 annual partnership fee and the official tour pays absolutely no such fee to be advertised!

I have also already several times pointed out to the Highways department that every day, a sign is put outside Oxford Visitor Information Centre, which doesn't comply with highways guidelines as their guidelines state that a sign board may only be left outside a business unless 50% of the advertising on display is about the business it is located outside of. Yet the sign advertises now only the so-called 'Oxford Official Walking Tour', which is according to Oxford visitor info centre, an independently operated business from their own organisation's remit. Yet when people like MP Andrew Smith and the Local Government Ombudsman and the Oxford Times have asked questions about how can the visitor centre operate impartially (while being a publicly funded and supposedly impartial service), no one has been offered a reasonable explanation of why Visit Oxfordshire is advertising and selling only one Oxford walking tour to the almost complete exclusion of performing their remit to provide a public service about all tours available.

When everyone apart from the highways department asked what is the status of the relationship between the official tours and the visitor centre, each time they were advised that the Official Oxford tour is not the visitor centre's tour but that they simply see fit to sell (only it and no other Oxford tour). They always claimed the tour is in fact run by the blue badge guild of guides. However, when the highways department asked visitor centre about the sign outside the visitor centre (advertising only the official Oxford tour), they told them the tour is the visitor centre's own tour. In other words: 1) the visitor centre is running a monopoly interest if it is their own tour (as they claim to the Highways department) but 2) it is not their own tour, when anyone

else asks them why with a remit to be impartial, they only want to advertise and sell tickets for one tour

Truth be told, tour operators like myself, only really need signage in one location and only need our advertising to be found easily and without prejudice at one location and on the one most important website which nearly all visitors to Oxford will use. The periphery of other sites and advertising sources are very secondary in importance to our opportunity to attract customers. (in last 3 years)

However, sadly the visitor information centre is so far from being either impartial or functioning with a remit to benefit businesses like mine which pay it a significant partnership fee, this in spite of the fact that Visit Oxfordshire Ltd has received almost £1 million in the last 3 years from Oxford City and County Council, to deliver a publicly funded service. Instead, it continues to see fit to directly undermine local businesses like mine- which provide the services that it exists to promote information about to the public. I have been complaining about these circumstances for over 2 years to Oxford City Council because in effect, the Council is permitting a supplier to ruin our business opportunity and is doing all this with Council funding.

This is a serious matter as the public is not getting its money spent in the fair way it should be and local businesses are being damaged. Legal advisers recommended that as the City Council is the organisation finally responsible for this abuse of a public service, if we were to elect to sue for damages, it would be easier to sue the Council than Visit Oxfordshire Ltd. However, such a prospect is completely unnecessary anyway as the Council has a duty to ensure its services are being provided in an appropriate manner. Visit Oxfordshire Ltd. doesn't even provide its partners with a description of how they will provide a fair service- despite my asking for such a statement since the day I relented to pay them my annual £390 partnership fee. The value of sales which I have had as a result of my fee and partnership is nothing like a return on investment on the fee I paid them and I have heard so many other partnership members say the same thing that they find the service they get is appalling and not a R.O.I. We see this as being the case because it is so evidently clear that Visit Oxfordshire's agenda is to market and sell the Official Oxford tour wherever possible and only then offer an alternative if they can't do so.

As nearly all visitors gravitate towards the visitor centre and its website, funnily enough, what this means as a result is that nearly all the opportunity for customers goes to the visitor centre's monopoly Official Oxford tour. This is in spite of the fact that while we pay them a partnership fee, the blue badge guild of guides pays no partnership fee at all! That's because Visit Oxfordshire receives about 50% in commission from every individual ticket they sell for the official tour.

These completely unsatisfactory circumstances have been made known to Oxford City Council for over two years but absolutely no action has yet been taken to ensure a fair marketplace and to reprimand Visit Oxfordshire Ltd. which runs the visitor centre, nor has any action be taken to conduct a review of why the City Council permits such a gross conflict of interest to continue unchecked. The result is that it forces small businesses like mine to depend on claiming welfare benefits as we simply can't make a living when we are being exploited by the very organisation and

public service which has a duty to represent and promote our interests (instead of effectively stealing what could have been our customers).

Myself and other Oxford tour operators have lost patience with these circumstances and we suggest very strongly that the City and County Council take more responsibility for the damage caused to our businesses or we will have to review what alternative paths may have to be undertaken to see that we can make a viable living by having a fair marketplace. Surely the Council is supposed to be supporting small local businesses to thrive- especially ones which develop and promote Oxford's heritage and culture. Currently, the average £300,000 annual funding which the Council is paying Visit Oxfordshire Ltd, is being used to no better effect than to force tour operators like myself into losing money just trying to operate tours. We want to make a modest living but instead in my case, I am having to work several other jobs and depend ultimately on housing benefit and working tax credit, to be able to survive. Is this all that your Council has to offer entrepreneurs like me?

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Address to Council by Nigel Gibson

Why Oxford City Council Could and Should Deliver the Services the People of Oxford Want and Need

I am here this evening to hand over these seven petitions from the people of Oxford, who are clearly expressing their wish, yet again, that you keep Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre open.

I realise that many of you regard the matter of closing Temple Cowley Pools as history, as something you've made a decision on years ago and so shouldn't have to consider again. But, the people, your voters, have a very different view, and express it plainly by choosing to sign the petition. They are extremely angry that you are wasting their money and ignoring what they want.

The people of Oxford want their services for health and exercise kept open, provided in a place where they want and need them, at Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre. You must recognise just how strongly people feel about this issue. The first petition presented to you in 2010 was the largest in the history of Oxford at over 12,000 signatures. We only stopped collecting signatures because you chose to ignore the petition – so we started another petition, and another, and another... The strength of feeling remains the same – people are angry now that you continue ignoring them, just as you ignored them when you carried out your so-called 'consultation' process.

But it's not just about opinion; you would have us believe that this is a matter on which people can 'reasonably differ' in their views and that as you are in power your view must prevail. But the mantra of Labour has been for many years to follow 'evidence-based' policy making. And in this case it is not just opinion that is against you, but evidence. Councillors have claimed that you took "quite a lot of persuading" before deciding to close Temple Cowley Pools. Well, despite all the claims to be following an open and transparent process, at no point have we seen any evidence to justify closure that is either persuasive or even mildly convincing. We have repeatedly asked to see any evidence of what persuaded you; our requests have been met with patronising responses along the lines of 'we must trust the experts', even though it is clear that your 'experts', your hired hands, are only interested in delivering the message you want to hear.

We have demonstrated, either using information you have provided, or using information we have had to drag out of the council using Freedom of Information requests, how all this so-called 'evidence' of yours is a combination of misleading, inaccurate, incomplete and untrue. And that is unfortunate, because as a Campaign we would rather work with you than against you. And this evening, yet again, with yet another petition (now of course the largest number of petitions on one topic ever to have been presented to this council) you have the opportunity to do the right thing.

You have decided to continue to build a 25m, non-Olympic swimming pool at Blackbird Leys. The total cost of this exercise, not just the current build cost of £9.23m, will be over £13m by the time you have finished. This is the most expensive 25m swimming pool in the UK, and probably in Europe – that is over half a million pounds for each metre!

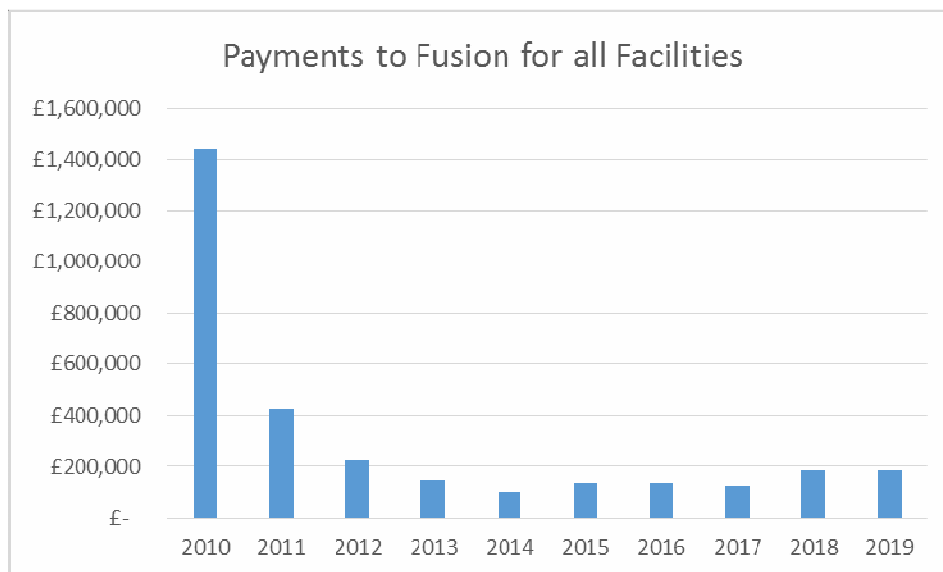
And you intend closing two sports centres in the process, despite your claims in an answer at the last City Executive Board that “there is no policy of reducing publicly funded leisure facilities” – really? I think it is clear that you are most definitely reducing facilities that people want and need, moving them away from where they want and need them. There is absolutely zero evidence of demand for a new swimming pool at Blackbird Leys – if people there really wanted more swimming, there would be a clamour for the existing pool to be open to the public much longer than the 9 hours it currently is each week.

If you had taken a different course, you could have protected all your front-line services from the swingeing cuts in your Central Government grant, and fully refurbished Temple Cowley Pools, and had done whatever you want – to keep facilities for health and fitness where they should be – in walking and cycling distance of most of the existing users. And you have chosen a different route, to proceed with your white elephant of a vanity project. But there is still time. Time to keep Temple Cowley Pools open, and do what the public wants.

I’m not going to revisit all the sound, robust and factual evidence for keeping Temple Cowley Pools open, as the Campaign has presented them to you many times before, and each time you’ve chosen to ignore them. Ignore what was the most popular leisure centre despite you actively trying to run it down, ignore that it was the most energy efficient leisure centre, ignore that it is sited in Oxford’s area of fastest population growth over the last ten years, ignore the independent conditions surveys that you commissioned and then hid because they told you there is nothing basically wrong with it.

At the heart of your desire to close Temple Cowley Pools is money, or rather, ‘you say’ saving it. We hear repeatedly that it costs us over £500,000 a year to operate the centre. You claim that the vast majority of that, £340,000 last year, is a contractual payment to the operators, Fusion, who also take all the admission money while operating a tax avoidance scam under the pretence of being a charity.

Well, you publish the annual payments from the Fusion contract on your website. Here they are, for the whole contract term:



Andyou claimedinananswerto a publicquestionat a CityExecutiveBoardmeetinglast yearthatnothing hadchanged,andthat youarenot payinganythingadditionalto Fusion. Youwillseequite clearlythat thepaymentslastyearwereunder£200,000forallourleisure centres,soclearlythere's someadding upgoingwrong inyourclaim fortheoperatingcosts ofTempleCowley.Orsomeoneislying?

Andyou cansee,quiteclearly,thattheannualpaymentstoFusionwillstaybelow £200,000 fortherestof thecontract.Andyetforthebrandnew25mnon-Olympicswimmingpool you aregoingtopayFusion£150,000ayear!Howon earthcanthisbe value for money?

Here'sasolution. Themaintenance cost of TempleCowley Poolsisunder£100,000ayear. Therealcontract'cost'toFusion foroperating thecentrecannot bemorethanabout £30,000ayear.You can bringthe divingpoolbackintousefor£60,000– the onlypublicly fundeddivingpoolinOxfordshire .Theonlymajorcostsinmaintenance,accordingtoyour own figures,aretheair handling unitsandtheroof–thesewill cost £300,000.Sohereisa realvalue-for-moneysolutionthattrumpsanythingelseyouaredoing anywhereelsein Oxford;cheapertoenactandcheapertorunthanthe newswimmingpool,offeringmore facilities that willenableandpreservethehealth,fitness,well-beingand qualityoflifeof thousandsofpeopleinOxfordandacrossthecounty.Nonemoresothantheelderly and infirm,whorelyonthishealthandfitnesscentrebeingwhereitisnowasconvenientfor themtoexerciseandmaintaintheirqualityof life,enablingthemtoremain independent andoutof thecostly clutchesof theNHS.

Andso,supportedby thesolutionIhave justdescribed,Iwouldliketopresentyou withthe seventhpetition fromthepeopleof Oxford:

"Wethe undersigned stronglyoppose Oxford CityCouncil's plan to demolish Temple CowleyPools and Fitness Centre in orderto sell publiclyowned land for housing.We believethis is a short-sighted,destructive policywhich will havedetrimental effects on health and well-being,particularlyofthe most vulnerable people,who usethe centre tomaintain their health and qualityof life,and independence from the NHSforas long as possible.We call upon OxfordCityCouncil to workimmediatelywiththe SaveTemple CowleyPools Campaign to find thebest wayto enhance and preserve the existingfacilities in Temple Cowley."

Nigel Gibson–February2014

CampaigntoSaveTempleCowley Pools &Fitness

Centresavetcp@gmail.com

www.savetemplecowleypools.webs.com

@savetcp

fb:savetcp

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Response from Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure Services to the address to Council by Nigel Gibson

The Council's website contains detailed answers to these points which have already been provided to Mr Gibson.

<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decLP/ConsultationonLeisureFacilities.htm>

To assist members I have summarised a few key points:

The new pool costs are just over £9 million, not the stated £13 million. The £9 million figure is made up of the professional fees and constructions costs.

Temple Cowley Pools costs the council in excess of £500,000 per year. The table shown in Mr Gibson's address to council shows the estimated management fee but excludes utilities and repair and maintenance costs. Both these costs are very high at the two centres that are being replaced by the new pool at Blackbird Leys.

The management fee paid to Fusion Lifestyles is the combined net fee for all the centres. The ice rink and Ferry Centre generate a surplus which is then offset against the cost of the other centres, of which temple Cowley is by far the most costly.

Whist Fusion are responsible for maintenance at the newer centres, the council continues to be responsible for the maintenance costs at the older sites with higher risk of failure (Temple Cowley, Blackbird Leys Pool, the Ice Rink and Hinksey outdoor pool). This is because the cost of transferring that risk to Fusion Lifestyles is prohibitively high.

The £150,000 management fee for the new pool is inclusive of all utilities and maintenance costs.

The business case and feasibility study were developed with the support of Mace. Mace are an highly respected international consultancy and construction firm who have stood by their advice throughout intense scrutiny over recent years.

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QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Sietske Boeles

Oxford University Old Road Campus buildings

Recently Oxford University occupied two new bio medical research buildings at the Oxford University Old Road Campus. These are the Kennedy Institute for Rheumatology, and Research Facilities building for the Nuffield Orthopaedic Department.

Oxford University was permitted to move into the buildings despite **not** meeting the requirements of the Core Strategy Policy CS 25

“That no increase in academic floor space is allowed if there are more than 3,000 students outside of accommodation provided by the relevant University ”. (1)

Every year the Universities are required to submit figures where their students live to the Council. These figures are then recorded in Oxford Annual Monitoring (AMR)

Attached are the figures for Oxford University since 2011:
Number of Oxford University students living in private accommodation whilst only 3000 students are permitted in private accommodation:

AMR 2011 (page 21/22): 3251*

AMR 2012 (page 23/24): 3401*

AMR 2013 (page 30/31): 3508**

The Question is:

Given the above figures why was Oxford University permitted to move into the new buildings on the Old Road Campus when it has not met the requirement of the CS 25, and given the above figures, will Oxford City Council enforce CS Policy 25 by not permitting Oxford University to occupy newly completed academic buildings like for example the Mathematical Institute until it has met the Policy requirements ?

* Please note that Oxford University states that it will meet its requirements the following year whilst it has not. .

** The Council cannot rely on the argument that the University say that it will reach the 3000 target the following year as the University has said this on previous occasions and this undertaking was subsequently not met.

It was accepted by Oxford University that research facilities are regarded as academic floor space (letter by Colin George to oxford City Council, 8th July 2011

Response: Ms Boeles quotes from the October 2013 Annual Monitoring Report April 2012 - March 2013 which says that as at 31st March 2013 the University exceeded the 3,000 threshold by 508 students.

The Annual Monitoring Report is a snapshot and is based on

information for the 2012-13 academic year provided to the City Council by the University in a letter received in August 2013, and from which the 2012-13 Annual Monitoring Report was compiled.

The Annual Monitoring Report itself went on to explain that although the target to have fewer than 3,000 students outside of university-provided accommodation was not met in the monitoring period, the University was expected to meet this requirement in the next monitoring period as a result of the additional units of accommodation under construction.

Through a footnote to her question to Council Ms Boeles casts doubt on the University's ability to reach the 3,000 threshold because on previous occasions such an undertaking was subsequently not met.

However, in August last year the University anticipated completion of an extra 540 units by the start of Michaelmas Term 2013. Indeed this has been achieved now and is made up of 45 units for Corpus Christi College, 25 for Kellogg College, 11 for Linacre College, 37 for Lincoln College, 54 for St Anthony's College, 59 for St Hilda's College, and 312 for the University itself at Roger Dudman Way.

The current assessment is that there are fewer than 3,000 students living outside University of Oxford provided accommodation.

(2) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Sarah Wild

Planning consultation methods

One of the recommendations following the investigation into what happened over Roger Dudman Way is that consultation methods between the council and members of the public should be improved. This would mean that the public had optimal access to planning documents.

So why have the public been denied access to hard copy planning application documents, except for major developments, when the on-line version is unclear?

Response: Approximately 80% of all planning applications to the City Council are now submitted electronically. The City Council no longer holds a paper copy of all planning applications in the reception area at St Aldate's Chambers ready to be viewed by the public. It is Council policy to encourage customers to access Council information via its website as far as possible.

However, the City Council does not deny access to hard copies of planning application documents. It has been, and remains, willing to make a hard copy of a planning application available on request in reception if a customer makes an appointment to come and view a particular application because the on-line copy is unavailable or unclear.

Furthermore, the City Council will be reviewing its post-application guidance on planning processes in response to one of the recommendations in the Independent Report on Roger Dudman Way.

(3) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Alasdair De Voil

Visit Oxfordshire

Since the city council has agreed to let Visit Oxfordshire Ltd deliver tourism information services on its behalf, can you please report back on what documentation exists to demonstrate Visit Oxfordshire's remit and obligations to ensure that it delivers these services in a way which benefits local businesses and which is impartial. Please can you also report what steps exist to supervise this arrangement and to take action against Visit Oxfordshire Ltd, where it is not found to be delivering its remit appropriately?

Response: To be given at the meeting.

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MOTIONS ON NOTICE – Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green

(1) City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues – (Proposed by Councillor Ed Turner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council supports the work of MIND and the Mental Health Foundation and asks the City Executive Board to consider appointing a member of council to be a champion of mental health issues in much the same way as we have an older people's champion.

Council acknowledges it is not directly responsible for healthcare provision but believes it nonetheless has an important role to play. Council requests the City Executive Board to play a full role in the Health and Well Being Board and other partnership forums to maximise support for mental health work, and also to ensure its work providing and funding advice services is accessible to people with mental health problems.

Council believes councillors can support the wellbeing of people in their areas through both casework and their strategic role within the council. Council welcomes the practical steps set out by Mind and the Mental Health Foundation, whose new report, *Building Resilient Communities*, that can be taken to promote wellbeing, build resilience and help to prevent mental health problems – including steps that can be taken by Councillors.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Ruth Wilkison to the City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues – Motion (1):-

Councillor Ruth Wilkinson will propose an amendment seconded by councillor Mark Mills, to Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Ed Turner as follows:

(1) To add at the end of the Motion the following:

Furthermore, Council wishes to meet best employer practice regarding mental health, and to encourage a commitment from all front line contractors and existing and prospective employers to follow its lead. Council requests that the Chief Executive signs MIND's *Charter for Employers who are Positive About Mental Health* on behalf of Oxford City Council. It also requests that the Chief Executive writes to his counterparts at the County Council, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford to invite their organisations to follow the City Council's lead as a *Mindful Employer* to sign up to the *Charter* too.

The amended motion would read:

This Council supports the work of MIND and the Mental Health Foundation and asks the City Executive Board to consider appointing a member of Council to be a

Champion of Mental Health Issues in much the same way as we have an Older People's Champion.

Council acknowledges it is not directly responsible for healthcare provision but believes it nonetheless has an important role to play. Council requests the City Executive Board to play a full role in the Health and Well Being Board and other partnership forums to maximise support for mental health work, and also to ensure its work providing and funding advice services is accessible to people with mental health problems.

Council believes councillors can support the wellbeing of people in their areas through both casework and their strategic role within the council. Council welcomes the practical steps set out by Mind and the Mental Health Foundation, whose new report, Building Resilient Communities, that can be taken to promote wellbeing, build resilience and help to prevent mental health problems – including steps that can be taken by Councillors.

Furthermore, Council wishes to meet best employer practice regarding mental health, and to encourage a commitment from all front line contractors and existing and prospective employers to follow its lead. Council requests that the Chief Executive signs MIND's Charter for Employers who are Positive About Mental Health on behalf of Oxford City Council. It also requests that the Chief Executive writes to his counterparts at the County Council, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford to invite their organisations to follow the City Council's lead as a Mindful Employer to sign up to the Charter too.

(2) Saving Community Pubs – (Proposed by Councillor Tony Brett, seconded by Councillor Mary Clarkson)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council notes the possibility of submitting the following proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

‘That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.’

This Council notes that if this power was acquired it would allow the council to determine if pubs should be demolished or converted into other uses and could save many valued community pubs.

This Council resolves to ask City Executive Board to consider and submit the proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act and to work together with Local Works and the Campaign for Real Ale to gain support for the proposal from other councils in the region and across the country.

(3) Protecting Immigrants' Access to Housing – (Proposed by Councillor Dick Wolff, seconded by Councillor Sam Hollick

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

Noting the Immigration Bill currently proceeding through Parliamentary Scrutiny, Oxford City Council:

- is proud of our international heritage and welcomes all people who live in our city
- notes that the Bill proposes making it compulsory for landlords and letting agents to check the immigration status of tenants,
- believes that many people living lawfully in the UK do not possess passports or other documents required to prove that entitlement,
- believes that many thousands of people living without Home Office permission in the UK (and therefore unable to produce such documents) have nonetheless applied for permission to remain, but their cases are either lost or held up in Home Office legal systems, in some cases for many years,
- notes that legal aid for such people has been terminated, making it impossible for them to pursue their applications or appeals,
- believes that each case concerning an undocumented migrant is different, and an unknown number have lived and worked in the UK, raising families born here and living as part of our communities,

and therefore:

- condemns the attempt by the Home Office to force landlords and letting agencies into policing an unjust immigration policy,
- believes that the impact of the policy will be to drive already-vulnerable people 'underground' or into destitution, overloading our support services for the homeless and vulnerable, breaking up families and creating significant knock-on effects for a variety of local services,
- resolves not to include the additional landlords' responsibilities as created under this Bill in its own conditions for licensing and accreditation of the rented sector,
- instructs the leader to write to the relevant minister and the city's two MPs expressing the council's opposition to these new requirements on landlords.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Ed Turner to the Protecting Immigrants Access to Housing – Motion (3):-

Councillor Ed Turner will propose an amendment to Motion 3 in the name of Councillor Dick Wolff as follows:

To add a seventh bullet point in the first part of the Motion as follows:

- Believes that the requirement upon landlords to check the immigration status of prospective tenants may place citizens of a black and minority ethnic background at a disadvantage in finding accommodation

And amend the final bullet at the end of the Motion to include the following:

"And endorses the decision not to include the additional landlords' responsibilities as created under this Bill in its own conditions for licensing and accreditation of the rented sector".

The amended Motion would read:

Noting the Immigration Bill currently proceeding through Parliamentary Scrutiny, Oxford City Council:

- *is proud of our international heritage and welcomes all people who live in our city*
- *notes that the Bill proposes making it compulsory for landlords and letting agents to check the immigration status of tenants,*
- *believes that many people living lawfully in the UK do not possess passports or other documents required to prove that entitlement,*
- *believes that many thousands of people living without Home Office permission in the UK (and therefore unable to produce such documents) have nonetheless applied for permission to remain, but their cases are either lost or held up in Home Office legal systems, in some cases for many years,*
- *notes that legal aid for such people has been terminated, making it impossible for them to pursue their applications or appeals,*
- *believes that each case concerning an undocumented migrant is different, and an unknown number have lived and worked in the UK, raising families born here and living as part of our communities,*

- *Believes that the requirement upon landlords to check the immigration status of prospective tenants may place citizens of a black and minority ethnic background at a disadvantage in finding accommodation*

and therefore:

- *condemns the attempt by the Home Office to force landlords and letting agencies into policing an unjust immigration policy,*
- *believes that the impact of the policy will be to drive already-vulnerable people 'underground' or into destitution, overloading our support services for the homeless and vulnerable, breaking up families and creating significant knock-on effects for a variety of local services,*
- *resolves not to include the additional landlords' responsibilities as created under this Bill in its own conditions for licensing and accreditation of the rented sector,*
- *instructs the leader to write to the relevant minister and the city's two MPs expressing the council's opposition to these new requirements on landlords and endorses the decision not to include the additional landlords' responsibilities as created under this Bill in its own conditions for licensing and accreditation of the rented sector*

(4) Inadequate flooding prevention funding – (Proposed by Councillor John Tanner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council is appalled by the inadequate measures taken by the Coalition Government to help tackle Oxford's increasing flooding problems.

We call on Her Majesty's Government to allocate funding immediately for the Conveyance Channel so that floods bypass Oxford. We call on the Environment Agency and the County Council to work with the City Council to significantly improve protection for homes and to guarantee that main roads and the railway remain open even when there is flooding.

We congratulate the staff of the Environment Agency, the emergency services, and the County and City Councils, for their hard work in helping Oxford residents during the floods. We also congratulate Oxford residents for their positive outlook, co-operation and determination to keep going, during the latest floods.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Jean Fooksto the Inadequate flooding prevention funding – Motion (4):-

Councillor Jean Fookswill propose an amendment to Motion 4 in the name of Councillor John Tanneras follows:

- (1) Replace the first paragraph with the following words:

“This Council regrets the lack of investment in flood defences by successive governments. As climate change is leading to more frequent storm events , it is imperative that more is done to reduce the risk they pose to Oxford and its citizens.”

- (2) Replace the second paragraph with the following words:

“We call on Her Majesty’s Government to allocate funding immediately for the work to improve the flow of the River Thames at Sandford Lock. We ask that immediate attention be given to investigating what other measures will be most effective in reducing the flooding risk to Oxford citizens and properties, especially whether major tree planting schemes upstream would reduce the flood risk as well as having great environmental advantages”

We call on the Environment Agency to work with the City and County Councils to minimise the risk of flooding to homes and to develop schemes whereby the risk of closure of main roads and railway lines is reduced as far as practically possible.’

- (3) Retain the current third paragraph which becomes the fourth paragraph.

The amended Motion would read:

This Council regrets the lack of investment in flood defences by successive governments. As climate change is leading to more frequent storm events, it is imperative that more is done to reduce the risk they pose to Oxford and its citizens.

We call on Her Majesty’s Government to allocate funding immediately for the work to improve the flow of the River Thames at Sandford Lock. We ask that immediate attention be given to investigating what other measures will be most effective in reducing the flooding risk to Oxford citizens and properties, especially whether major tree planting schemes upstream would reduce the flood risk as well as having great environmental advantages

We call on the Environment Agency to work with the City and County Councils to minimise the risk of flooding to homes and to develop schemes whereby the risk of closure of main roads and railway lines is reduced as far as practically possible.

We congratulate the staff of the Environment Agency, the emergency services, and the County and City Councils, for their hard work in helping Oxford residents during the floods. We also congratulate Oxford residents for their positive outlook, co-operation and determination to keep going, during the latest floods.

(5) Control of residential lettings boards in the City – (Proposed by Councillor Ruth Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Jim Campbell)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Council acknowledges that “To Let” and “Let by” signs are erected on some properties for months despite the properties being occupied. This creates visual clutter, community objection and planning enforcement complaints, highlights student-targeted areas, and police advice in other parts of the country has pointed to a strong correlation between crime levels and the properties displaying “To Let” boards.

Council notes that other authorities have tackled this issue by means of either a voluntary code or a mandatory code, and that mandatory codes have been introduced in Leeds, and also in Newcastle following a review of a previously agreed voluntary code. Council further notes the well-documented success of a mandatory code on the erection of residential lettings boards in Inner NW Leeds which led to a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour, and improved the appearance of two predominantly student areas in the City.

Council also notes that the majority of agencies involved in letting residential properties do ensure that boards are taken down when reminded.

Council asks the City Executive Board:

- (a) To require officers to introduce a code on the erection of residential lettings boards in Oxford
- (b) To carry out a formal consultation process on whether this code should be voluntary or mandatory
- (c) To work with landlords, estate agencies which operate lettings, lettings agencies, boards agents, Oxford City Council officers and the Universities on the content of the code, taking into account the relevant regulations and ensuring that there is an agreed and clear definition of the start date of a tenancy which triggers the board erection process.

(6) Flood Insurance and Mitigation – (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council notes that flooding incidents in Oxford are likely to increase as climate change worsens with serious effects on those whose homes and businesses are badly damaged and lives disrupted.

This Council also notes that the agreement between the UK Government and the insurance industry, the so-called 'Statement of Principles', which required members of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to make insurance available for properties in areas at significant flood risk, expired last year. The outline of a new scheme, called 'Flood Re', has been agreed with the industry but this will not come into effect until at least 2015. Its terms, conditions and costs remain unclear.

In the interim, flood insurance is being provided on a voluntary basis with the risk that premiums and excesses will rise and new households where flooding is a risk will find getting a policy more and more difficult.

This Council therefore asks the relevant officer to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing its concern on behalf of those at risk of flooding in the City and asks for details of any interim measures that will guarantee cover until the new arrangements are in place.

This Council also agrees to revisit its own policy on climate change adaptation working with other agencies to ensure that the City, its people and economy, are better prepared for more extreme weather events.

(7) Roger Dudman Way – (Proposed by Councillor Elise Benjamin, seconded by Councillor Dick Wolff)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council accepts the findings of the Independent Report into the flaws, errors and limitations in the planning processes around the approval given to the damaging and highly controversial Roger Dudman Way Oxford University graduate buildings, and resolves to work together with all bodies to ensure that the impacts on Port Meadow and William Lucy Way are reversed, and the views of the Grade 1 listed St Barnabas Tower and other views restored, for the benefit of current and future generations of residents, visitors and students in Oxford City and elsewhere.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Louise Upton to the Roger Dudman Way – Motion (7):-

Councillor Louise Upton, seconded by Councillor James Fry will propose an amendment to Motion 7 in the name of Councillor Elise Benjamin as follows:

To delete all of the words after “William Lucy Way are” and replace with the following words:

“ameliorated and reduced, and notes that every recommendation of the Report of the Independent Reviewer has been endorsed, accepted and agreed by the West Area Planning Committee and that officers have already begun to put them into effect. The Council therefore resolves to receive a report on progress as soon as possible, and to instruct the West Area Planning Committee in the meantime to continue its oversight of the work which is being done to achieve the aims of this motion.”

The amended Motion would read:

Oxford City Council accepts the findings of the Independent Report into the flaws, errors and limitations in the planning processes around the approval given to the damaging and highly controversial Roger Dudman Way Oxford University graduate buildings, and resolves to work together with all bodies to ensure that the impacts on Port Meadow and William Lucy Way are ameliorated and reduced, and notes that every recommendation of the Report of the Independent Reviewer has been endorsed, accepted and agreed by the West Area Planning Committee and that officers have already begun to put them into effect. The Council therefore resolves to receive a report on progress as soon as possible, and to instruct the West Area Planning Committee in the meantime to continue its oversight of the work which is being done to achieve the aims of this motion.

(8) Improving Access to the Register of Gifts and Hospitality – (Proposed by Councillor David Williams seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council believes that both Councillors and officers must act, and be seen to act, in an impartial and objective way if public faith in Council processes are to be maintained and enhanced.

There is already a requirement under the Employee Code of Conduct for each Service Area to maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality, but members of the public are unable to easily access this information.

Council therefore resolves that, in the interest of openness and transparency:

- (1) All Service Area Registers of Gifts and Hospitality should be made readily available to Councillors and members of the public via a link on the Council website; and
- (2) Reports on planning applications, and other quasi-judicial documents, should include reference to any related disclosures.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Colin Cook to the Improving Access to the Register of Gifts and Hospitality – Motion (8):-

Councillor Colin Cook will propose an amendment to Motion 8 in the name of Councillor David Williams as follows:

To delete all of the words after “This Council believes that” and replace with the following words:

“the Councillors and Officers of this Council act in an impartial and objective way.

A new (intranet based) system for recording any gifts and/or hospitality went live for staff on 1st December 2013 and we will publish the details of any gifts accepted on the website from the start of this year. The list will be updated quarterly from then on”.

The amended Motion would read:

This Council believes that the Councillors and Officers of this Council act in an impartial and objective way.

A new (intranet based) system for recording any gifts and/or hospitality went live for staff on 1st December 2013 and we will publish the details of any gifts accepted on the website from the start of this year. The list will be updated quarterly from then on.