

Item 16: Motions on Notice.

1 Financial Transactions Tax (Proposed by Councillor Bob Price, seconded by Councillor James Fry)

This Council declares its support for the introduction of a Financial Transactions Tax across the European Union and G12 economies as an important contribution by the banking and finance sector to the funding of public investment in education, housing, infrastructure and social security.'

2 Community Budgets (Proposed by Councillor Jean Fooks)

Council notes that:

Public sector cuts would have been made whichever party was in national government (as the former Labour Chief Secretary to the Treasury put it, "There is no money left") and all parties have to work together to find a solution to this problem.

This Council is facing increasing pressures on available budgets due to the cuts in Government funding and the extra burdens placed on it by the welfare cuts. Staff are working to help those affected by cuts in benefits with advice and support but are limited by the particular local situation of an acute shortage of affordable homes and the highest rents outside London.

Council recognises that the whole-place Community Budget pilots have shown the potential for delivering better services at less cost by the approach to transforming public services by integration and demand reduction. It believes that Oxford would benefit hugely from such an approach.

Council notes that the Local Government Association commissioned Ernst and Young to review the potential for the aggregation of whole place community budgets. The report notes that community budgets have the potential to deliver better outcomes and realise substantial financial benefits; with the potential of a net benefit of five years of between £9.4bn and £20.6bn.

Council also recognises that the current government has been working with councils across the country on the Troubled Families programme, with an additional £448 million to support this work. Council urges the government to build on this cross departmental working and extend Community Budgets

Council therefore asks the Leader to write to the Oxford MPs asking them to support the LGA's call for Community Budgets to be extended nationally as the preferred local delivery mechanism for government departments, with appropriate support to local areas to ensure that the maximum benefits are felt from the change.

3 Tar Free Oxford (Proposed by Councillor Sam Hollick)

This council notes that: Canada's tar sands are the biggest energy project in the world. Already, millions of barrels of tar sands oil have been extracted from the Canadian wilderness, decimating the landscape and producing 3.2 to 4.5 times more greenhouse gas emissions than conventional oil extraction (as calculated for example by the US Government's National Energy Technology Laboratory). Nearby First Nations communities are also being devastated by the loss of their traditional lands and access to food and medicine. In 2008, Alberta Health confirmed a 30 per cent rise of cancer rates between 1995 – 2006 in Fort Chipewyan, a nearby community.

Although tar sands oil hasn't yet arrived in the UK in significant quantities, its large-scale import is highly likely as Canada attempts to find new markets for export. Opening up Europe and the UK to tar sands would be a green light for more reckless expansion of this huge industry.

This council also notes that the City Council's Carbon Management Plan states that the council "places environmental sustainability and carbon reduction at the heart of everything that the Council does", and believes that an important part of the city's responsibility in "provid[ing] wider leadership...in reducing the overall carbon footprint of the City" is rejecting tar sands for the carbon-intensive fuel that they are.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Rejects tar sands as an acceptable source of liquid fuel, and declare Oxford a 'Tar Free City';
2. Include measures in its future liquid fuels procurement policies which will ensure that tar sands will not be part of the fuel mix it purchases for its vehicle and plant fleet.

4 Supermarket Levy (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams)

This Council notes the national campaign by Local Works to gather support from local authorities wishing to make a submission under the Sustainable Communities Act to introduce a 'Supermarket Levy'.

This proposal would give local authorities the power to levy a new local rate of 8.5% on large retail outlets in their area with a rateable value not less than £500,000 and the power to use the revenue collected to improve social and community wellbeing and environmental protection.

There is precedent for this already in Northern Ireland where, in 2012, the Northern Ireland Assembly legislated for just such a Levy.

This Council believes that Oxford would benefit from such a Levy which would help boost local jobs, local trade, local services and local communities.

This Council therefore asks the CEB to write to Local Works stating their support for the Supermarket Levy campaign and commence the process of making a submission under the Sustainable Communities Act.

5 Supporting Youth Employment (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Sam Hollick)

This Council recognises that youth unemployment is now an extremely serious issue with damaging long term social and personal consequences.

In accordance with its own priorities, Oxford City Council therefore seeks to establish from its suppliers evidence that they have employees drawn from all age cohorts and do not neglect young people.

Council therefore agrees that a condition of securing a contract to supply goods and services to Oxford City Council will be that the contracting company must have at least 5% of its registered workforce under the age of 23. (Applicable to all companies with a workforce of 25 or more employees).

This Council asks CEB to amend the Council's Procurement Policy accordingly.

6 Impartiality of Planning Process (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)

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 the planning process is to be 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) Planning Applications should include reference to any related disclosures.

7 Supporting the Robin Hood Tax (Proposed by Councillor Elise Benjamin)

Council notes that:

- as a result of the economic crisis, unemployment has become a serious concern;
- local government will see real term cuts in central grant of 28% over the 2010;
- Comprehensive Spending Review period, meaning a cut of £6bn in annual grant by 2015;
- extending the current Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) on shares to other asset classes such as bonds and derivatives could raise £20bn of additional revenue in the UK a year; and;
- At least 11 European nations including France, Germany, Italy and Spain are moving ahead with FTTs on shares, bonds and derivatives estimated to raise £30bn a year.

Council believes that:

- revenues from the FTT could help repair the damage caused by cuts in public services since 2010;
- local government deserves to receive a significant proportion of FTT revenues, making an important contribution to both capital and revenue expenditure such as reversing cuts to council tax benefits; and that whilst an FTT might have a negligible effect on jobs in the City of London, investing FTT revenues in a smart and progressive way would see a significant increase in employment levels in other sectors.

Council resolves that:

- the UK government should extend the current FTT on shares to other asset classes, such as bonds and derivatives.

Council further resolves to:

- write to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, Chancellor and Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government stating this council's support for extending FTTs; and;
- write to all local MPs outlining the Council's position.