

AGENDA ITEM 6

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

Relates to: Item 16 – Motions on Notice

1 Supporting the Financial Transactions Tax- Jack Bloomer

We the undersigned are writing to ask you to show Oxford City councils' support for the introduction of a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) otherwise known as the Robin Hood Tax.

Many of us students in Matthew Arnold school live in the city and West Oxford which is why we decided to approach the Oxford City Council through the local councillor for West Oxford – Susanna Pressel.

As students from Matthew Arnold's sixth's form we believe that the impact of the cuts is making the country more unfair and unequal, restricting our future opportunities, and making it a place that we do not want to grow up in. Three issues of particular concern to us, as students and teenagers, are the abolition of EMA, the increase in university of tuition fees, and lack of funding to combat climate change

We recognize that this has largely been due to the actions of central government in cutting grants to local authorities, but we believe this Council could be doing more to stand up for our country's future by speaking up for alternatives to the austerity approach of central government.

With unemployment at 2.5 million, growth stagnant across the country, frontline public services strapped for resources, and lack of action on climate change, we believe that without an alternative approach the world that the youth of this country will inherit looks bleak. This is why we think the Council should take a formal stand against this – and the FTT would be an important step in doing so.

An FTT would raise up to £20bn a year in the UK. It would see wealthy people and institutions in the financial sector help clear up the mess they caused, rather than today's youth paying with our futures and ordinary people paying with their jobs, frozen or lower wages, and declining public services. Local government has felt the cuts more than most, and should be at the forefront of the fight back against these centrally-imposed measures.

I write to ask you to bring forward a motion calling on the government to introduce an FTT, and secure formal backing for it from this Council. In doing so, you would be making a real, and popular, contribution to our collective future.

This page is intentionally left blank