

Appendix 4 - Responses to call for evidence

Responses from organisations				
Organisation	Question: 1 What local factors contribute to social and economic inequality in Oxford? (max 2000 characters)	Question: 2 To what extent do you agree with the following statement: Oxford City Council works well with partners to combat inequality.	Question: 3 Thinking about inequality in Oxford, are there current or emerging areas of unmet need or gaps...	Question: 4 What more could the City Council reasonably do to combat inequality? (max 2000 characters)
<p>Oxford and district Child Poverty Action Group</p> <p>231</p>	<p>We focus here on local evidence on child poverty. We see local factors as including housing, transport, planning, employment and education. The price of housing - recently reported to exceed London - is a significant contributor to local inequalities and divisions. It is also difficult for residents in the outer estates of the city to integrate with the rest of the community and have equal access to central facilities, given the price of transport. Planning policies are clearly critically important in the creation and maintenance of mixed communities, which in turn influence the quality of local facilities.</p> <p>In Oxford, 1 in 4 children live in poverty. There is a stark contrast between the north and the SE parts of the city, reflecting the socio-spatial distribution of housing: in 4 areas of SE Oxford, more than 30% do so, compared with 7% in North Oxford. More disadvantaged areas of the city also have poorer health and learning outcomes. Barton and Blackbird Leys have high rates of low birth-weight babies - significantly above the national average, with parts of North Oxford significantly below. Barton and Northfield Brook are in the 5% most deprived areas nationally on the Child Wellbeing Index.</p>	<p>We realise that the city council only has direct powers over only certain services and provision. However, these are important areas where it can act; and it can also be a leader in the local area in its efforts to combat poverty and inequality in partnership with other strategic organisations.</p> <p>It is already doing so in a range of ways we commend. Its pay policy aims to ensure that low-paid workers employed by the council itself and by grant-funded organisations receive a decent wage.</p> <p>The council's continuing support for advice centres also contributes greatly to addressing inequality. In the last full year these centres saw 13,913 clients and helped clients to gain an additional £2.7m. Advice workers helped at least 217 client households to avoid threatened homelessness.</p> <p>The council's policies as a landlord and as a creditor are key in terms of the impact of the authority on some of its poorest residents, and these should all</p>	<p>The withdrawal of legal aid, in particular for family law and welfare benefits, has resulted in the reduction of assistance for many in the most hard-pressed groups. We would urge the city council to provide increased support for advice centres. In addition, certain areas of the city have no local provision: for example, Cutteslowe, Wood Farm, parts of East Oxford. People living in poverty in these areas have to travel to the CAB or elsewhere for help and many find the bus fares prohibitive.</p> <p>There is virtually no advice help available to those in full-time employment. Oxford CAB runs a Saturday morning session but evening and weekend advice sessions elsewhere do not exist.</p> <p>Many people living in poverty cannot read or write English. There is a need for much more provision of interpretation/translation facilities in advice centres and other organisations serving the public.</p>	<p>The city council can tackle child poverty and inequality directly and also tackle their consequences. It should strive to increase the supply of social housing. It should continue to protect families from the impact of national housing policies restricting access and/or income (e.g. the 'bedroom tax').</p> <p>The council should continue to pay the 'living wage' and protect full council tax support. It should encourage schools to ensure families eligible for free school meals register their children, and support holiday meals initiatives.</p> <p>Council funds for education/educational groups/activities should continue and be targeted at schools in the most disadvantaged areas. It should encourage schools to use the pupil premium to benefit the most disadvantaged pupils.</p> <p>The council should have a local food policy to address the needs of the poorest households, particularly with children - including helping sustain local food retailing capacity near where they live, so food good for health can be bought at affordable prices without having to pay for transport to the centre or outlying superstores. The council could encourage employers to advertise all local job opportunities as open to part-time and flexible working in the absence of convincing reasons against. Parents (especially mothers) would more</p>

<p>23</p>	<p>In 2011, 17% of Oxford's households with children had no adult in employment - compared with 11% in the SE region and 14% nationally. Blackbird Leys, Churchill, Northfield Brook and Barton and Sandhills all had rates of over 25%. Barton, Greater Leys and parts of Cowley have high rates of children with below average levels of learning development at age 5. Young people aged 16-24 not in education/employment/training (NEETS) tend to be concentrated in Blackbird Leys, Rose Hill and Greater Leys. Oxford is the lowest performing part of the county for all the main end of key stage attainment measures at primary and secondary schools. 12 primary schools in the city (out of 30) have overall absence rates amongst the highest 20% nationally.</p>	<p>be designed and implemented with combating poverty and inequality as a top priority. The decision to retain full council tax benefit for claimant households has been particularly helpful in preventing some of the dire consequences faced by claimants in other local authority areas (as well as avoiding expensive legal proceedings). We would urge the council to ensure that it does not lower its own threshold for debt recovery activity.</p> <p>The Local Strategic Partnership can be a vehicle for devising and championing innovative schemes to combat child poverty and inequality locally. It should ensure that these areas are sustained as high priorities for action.</p>	<p>The credit unions (Blackbird Leys and Oxford) could be supported strategically to have a wider and more effective reach. This will be particularly important with the advent of universal credit, which will put enormous strain on families' budgeting.</p>	<p>easily find employment meeting their needs, which would reduce child poverty. The council must also support child care for working parents.</p> <p>Local employers could be encouraged to take on local workers where possible, and create the maximum number of apprenticeships, particularly for young people from disadvantaged areas.</p> <p>The council could use the principle throughout its strategy to combat inequality of conducting itself as though the socio-economic duty on public bodies had been included in the Equality Act 2010 as originally planned.</p>
<p>Oxford CAB</p>	<p>1.1 Housing. Pressure on housing stock keeps rents at unaffordable levels for many, especially when combined with local housing allowance levels based on a broader market reference area. Private landlords have little incentive to maintain properties well or manage tenancies properly. If tenants fall behind on rent it can be more beneficial to a landlord to evict the existing tenant, retain their deposit and then bring in a new tenant than to agree a long repayment plan. The City Council is working hard to increase the stock of social housing. Council tax banding could be re-visited. Retaliatory evictions in private rented accommodation is an issue. We recently advised a tenant who used her rent to pay for the elimination of vermin in her privately rented flat when</p>	<p>Oxford City Council has worked well with partners to help combat inequality through:</p> <p>Creation of welfare reform team Funding of front line advice services Creation of financial inclusion strategy</p> <p>Targeted funding for regeneration areas</p> <p>Funding based on both geography and community of interest eg older people facing income poverty Keeping the Council Tax Reduction scheme has helped a great many people and we would strongly recommend its continuation Commitment to</p>	<p>Current or emerging needs: Ongoing information and advice services for people facing multiple changes</p> <p>Ongoing support for financial capability, as an integral part of debt processes, as a stand alone input when appropriate, and as part of encouraging unbanked residents to take advantage of more appropriate fee free bank accounts as these become available.</p> <p>In common with CABs across the country Oxford CAB has seen a big increase in the number of clients with Council Tax arrears. I in 5 clients owing money on Council Tax</p>	<p>4.1 Use any purchasing power with utility companies to press for more transparent pricing</p> <p>4.2 continue to fund agencies that help individuals to get the most out of their energy supplier eg Oxford CAB's work to get a better deal for those on pre-payment meters and the awareness raising sessions run on energy efficiency and ways to tackle fuel poverty</p> <p>4.3 ensure that suppliers to the Council have good employment practices – eg are not using zero hours contracts</p> <p>4.4 Encourage suppliers and other local businesses to adopt the living wage.</p> <p>4.5 For many clients their first knowledge of action being taken against them is when the</p>

	<p>the landlord failed to act and then was evicted for non payment of rent.</p> <p>1.2. Welfare reform Council has put a lot of effort into supporting residents through benefit cap and under occupancy charges. In many cases however it is the cumulative effect of other changes that are driving inequality:delays between claim and payment date;sanctions; changes in relation to EU claimants; changing the uprating measure.</p> <p>1.3 Health inequality The number of claimants on Employment and Support Allowance has remained stubbornly consistent in recent years. The benefit regime contributes to widening economic inequality linked to poor health because of: delays in assessment; poor quality assessments which are overturned when challenged; drop in income while awaiting reconsideration of decisions; low level of support from current welfare to work programmes.</p> <p>1.4 Pressure on employment The detrimental impact of zero hours contracts. CAB advises an increasing number of clients on minimum wage and not paid their essential travel costs, thus bringing their take home pay to a very low level. Many are care workers making a vital contribution to reducing health inequality and need to be properly rewarded for such.</p>	<p>early adoption of eg direct payments of housing benefit in order to get ahead of some of the major changes</p>	<p>also owes money on a credit, store or charge card.</p> <p>Gaps in service provision: Advice areas previously covered by legal aid so: benefits, debt, housing and employment plus large areas of family law</p>	<p>bailiffs arrive at their door. In most of these cases this is because they have moved and mail has not been forwarded onto them. We would suggest DIS and Aof E checks are carried out to ensure that wherever possible cases do not need to be passed to bailiffs. Avoiding bailiff action can help prevent debt problems from escalating and ensure action is not disproportionate to the level of liability.</p> <p>4.6 Could the City Council consider introducing a health impact assessment process to ensure that all relevant council policies, decisions and resource investments contribute to health improvements.</p> <p>4.7 Could the Council take a more rigorous approach to the adoption of measures to disincentivise the number of properties that are being bought for investment purposes only and left empty.</p>
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Oxford City council(Board Member)	poverty,low educational aspirations, low educational attainment in some of the city schools, hard to attract good staff in public sector as house prices very high, too many employers paying minimum wage, possibly discrimination in employment,NHS surgeries should do more outreach work to spot health problems early.	Difficult as a district council but more work needed to combat health and educational inequalities. More needed to help NEETS in the city as many need mentors job clubs and support of another adult to access opportunities. job club needed at Bullingdon /peat Moors as there are 160 NEETS in Lye Valley according to Oxon CC	The football field at Peat Moors will not be marked out by the City Council as there is a pitch at Cowley Marsh. This centralisation of facilities is a severe discouragement to the socially disadvantaged in Wood FarmChurchill ward and lye valley. The community centre at peat moors is small although the population is increasing. The other part of my ward Horspath lacks a community centre and the opportunity for exercise and social interaction that go with that.	Fund the marking out of the football pitch at Bullingdon /peat moors to encourage exercise and reduce health inequalities. Work with bus companies to improve access to new BBL pool from Hollow way area. Continue work to improve educational attainment as well as the youth ambition scheme. Try to work more closely with Pakistani origin community to encourage them into sport and community participation.Introduce language classes for those who wish to improve language skills
234 The Porch	a sever lack of affordable housing, an extremely expensive private rented sector and further cuts on the way. The Private rented sector being dominated by wealthy tenants therefore excluding the less well off.	Our experience of working with the city council has always been a very positive one. At The Porch we seek to support those who are homeless into accommodation and The council has always supported us in our efforts.	HOUSING I think that the council should turn to its colleagues and partners to help lift the burden. There is only so much a council can do, if there is still a need then others should share the responsibility	Offer incentives to big institutions who choose to let property at the Market rate. Maybe a tax, a tax concession something like that. There is only so much that the council can provide and so in times like this they should be looking to distribute the burden.
HealthWatch Oxfordshire	See separate letter. The following documents were also included: Improving Hospital Admission and Discharge for People who are Homeless Standards for Commissioners and Service Providers			
My Life My Choice	The submission comes in the form of a short film featuring people with learning disabilities highlighting the stigma and disadvantage they sometimes face. Here is a link to view the film https://vimeo.com/112900434			
Oxfordshire County Council	Oxfordshire County Council work really hard, together with the City Council, inpartnership, to combat inequality in the city. We put a lot of effort into making sure that our work is evidence based and focused on need. To this end we use the JSNA as a basis for our decision making. The JSNA data set is refreshed, on an on-going basis, and the annual report will be presented to the March meeting of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board. In the meanwhile you can see the most up to date version here. In addition you can find the equalities briefing, prepared to assist managers in considering equalities issues when redesigning services, here . You can also access our Service and Community Impact Assessments (SCIA's) covering our main budget proposals.			

Responses not from organisations

Question: 1 What local factors contribute to social and economic inequality in Oxford? (max 2000 characters)	Question: 2 To what extent do you agree with the following statement: Oxford City Council works well with partners to combat inequality.	Question: 3 Thinking about inequality in Oxford, are there current or emerging areas of unmet need or gaps...	Question: 4 What more could the City Council reasonably do to combat inequality? (max 2000 characters)
<p>Poverty, lack of housing, extreme differences in educational attainment.....</p> <p>235</p>	<p>We don't work well enough with the County Council, especially on schools.</p> <p>We need to exercise even more influence over the NHS.</p>	<p>Great differences in life expectancy.</p> <p>Educational attainment</p> <p>Housing.</p>	<p>Build more homes and get others to do so, e.g. enforce 50% affordable housing from developers.</p> <p>Work better with the County and the NHS/OCCG.</p> <p>Do much more effective signposting, e.g. ALL our staff need to know how to direct residents to services and how to alert services to people in need.</p> <p>Improve the operation of our CaN Dept.</p> <p>Our tenancy support officers should actually SUPPORT and not just concentrate on reducing rent defaulting.</p> <p>Campaign for a change in the council tax bands -- and against welfare benefits delays and over-harsh sanctions etc.</p>
<p>Exorbitant prices, rents and travel costs, and many people earn a wage that is well below a locally specific living wage. Oxford is my home and I feel that I'm being pushed out because of rent and house prices, in addition to poor quality properties. Budget squeezing and tightening belts due to the national governments austerity programme obviously exacerbate the widening chasm between the two poles of the socio-economic spectrum.</p>	<p>But I feel that the local council don't have enough resources to act on inequality even if it wanted to</p>		<p>commit to a regional living wage, restrain increasing rent prices and build more social housing. Lobby west minister against austerity, which makes no logical sense in periods of recession and small growth. AND SCRAP THE BEDROOM TAX!!!</p>
<p>A major factor would be the housing market, both the high price and poor quality are issues. I know many people who grew up in Oxford and feel priced out of their hometown, these are often people with degrees and decent jobs. I feel the city is in danger of becoming a mini London in this</p>		<p>The city suffers from the large scale cuts to public services caused by the governments free market centric economic agenda.</p>	<p>Act to regulate the housing market and build more good quality social housing rather than paying housing benefit directly to private landlords.</p>

regard as more areas become gentrified pushing ordinary working people to the outskirts.			
Lack of interim opportunities for recovery from illness/ ESA/ start work.		There are very few day services for chronically mentally ill people. We just want a place to get together for a cuppa and a bite of lunch. People make friends for life, build independent support networks, just get through a difficult day. Surprisingly cheap, so effective. It helps people create social solutions that endure beyond statutory service provision.	Restore some of the middle ground that has been destroyed through funding cuts, in particular childcare services and learning opportunities.
Unaffordable housing			Increase availability of affordable housing. Not only for those on the lowest incomes, but also those on middle incomes, as they too cannot afford to live in the city.
<p>If you are poor you do not need to be deprived by the action of the Council taking your easily accessible leisure centre away. This applies to Rose Hill</p> <p>236</p>	The amazing increase in population in the Cowley area and I suspect elsewhere, will have produced increased overcrowding. These are the very people who need to have easy access to leisure facilities yet the Council has decided to take the existing facilities away ! Certainly this will increase inequality.	Over crowding increasing	Not sure - but it would help to keep Temple Cowley Pools and Gym
Unemployment, low wages, poor housing conditions in some area		More teaching assistants in schools, more social housing, encourage businesses to offer more apprenticeships	Block unnecessary redevelopment, especially where it forces the elderly to move.
Unemployment, homelessness. low wages			
	The University has some of the country's most notable thinkers in the sphere of inequality. Most of these academics live within the city (Danny Dorling is in Marston for heaven's sake!), making them relatively easy to engage with and liable to want to engage in efforts to improve their locality. Moreover, academics are always looking for ways to apply their theories	<p>Housing. Improve the availability of affordable housing. Come up with innovative ways to restrain the increase in house prices. Rethink the punitive policies toward people who live on the city's waterways.</p> <p>Education. I don't have kids and don't have experience of studying in Oxford, so can't comment on these. But, what does the council have against users of the city's public library? No toilets?</p>	Much more public engagement. Please recognise that even phrases like 'inequalities' exclude people from the discussion because while these terms are familiar to Guardian readers and may convey a meaning to people already engaged in issues related to 'inequalities', they are far from vernacular. Try expressing what you mean, and try to make this comprehensible and inclusive to everyone. It might clear up some of your own thinking around these issues too, since it seems to me that what the city council could and should be interested in is not 'inequality' (partly because

237	to the 'real world'. Has the city council made any effort to work with academics whose area of interest is inequality?	<p>REALLY? Spare me the excuses, find a solution, it's not that difficult. Public libraries still represent a gift to our future – help people use it by giving them some basic facilities.</p> <p>Transport. Rethink. Make things better for people who don't own cars. Improve the facilities for cyclists.</p> <p>Social exclusion. People with disabilities still have a hard time in Oxford – try taking a wheelchair into Christ Church meadow, or along the towpath on the opposite side of the river. Also, Oxford has a huge problem with homelessness and I'm not at all convinced that recent posters telling people not to give money to people on the streets did anything to improve this issue, or to improve people's understanding of it.</p> <p>Health. The work has not even begun in Oxford.</p>	much of the determinants of this are utterly beyond the council's control, also because I doubt very much that you will be considering doing anything so bold as to challenge those people who enjoy the benefits of being at the upper end of the inequality), but rather something more like 'how to improve the experience of living in Oxford for people on lower incomes'. Once you have the subject for consideration clear you could try taking it out into forums where you might be able to discuss it with some of the people whom (I assume) you are hoping to benefit. I am fairly confident that these forums will not include the consultation pages of the Oxford City Council website.
High rents and house prices; low income; inadequate access to health and fitness facilities; limited education and job opportunities		Temple Cowley - now deprived of swimming and fitness facilities with the closure of Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre. The new Leys pool is less accessible for all residents of Cowley, Lye Valley, Cowley Marsh and similar areas.	Re-open Temple Cowley Pools to allow residents of all ages and abilities to resume swimming to improve their health and fitness.
Lack of powers or will (?) to introduce more progressive council tax to redistribute wealth in Oxford (massive wealth in the city); lack of council owned affordable housing; growth policy driven by profit motive of big organisations rather than social need (unemployment in Oxford is low and high tech jobs don't necessarily benefit local people) which draw in more people from outside resulting in increasing pressure on house prices so local people are pushed further and further out ; greed driven developments which fail to provide	I think OCC tries hard in many ways eg service delivery, living wage, partnership work at local level - but is constrained by outdated approach to growth, lack of local powers to make changes, structural problems and national policy	Affordable housing is the major need. Building council housing that is not sold to private individuals would be a much more efficient way of meeting housing need then endless housing developments of luxury properties to serve the needs of rich knowledge elite with minor provision for affordable housing.	To answer that question I would need to know what powers OCC has that it could use. A consultation like this should provide relevant information, as well, so we can provide a properly informed response What i can say that inequality is a major issue in Oxford and is recognised widely (including by the IMF) as a constraint on growth

adequate social housing and attract more people making it more and more unaffordable for local people; divided social networks; major institutions employees do not reflect social and ethnic mix of city			
<p>1. Oxford's geographical situation:</p> <p>a. proximity to London, which results in large numbers of commuters many of whom have high (London) incomes, which pushes up house prices and creates exclusive social ghettos (North Oxford, Jericho, Boar's Hill).</p> <p>b. position on a flood plain, which restricts available residential land (the problem is becoming worse with man-made climate change leading to increased flood events).</p> <p>2. A strong low-wage economy in the city centre because of the Oxford colleges.</p> <p>3. Related to 2, a lack of other unskilled or semi-skilled jobs in Oxford, esp. in the relatively limited presence of traditional industry.</p> <p>4. Related to 1a, highly variable quality in primary and secondary provision.</p> <p>Personally, having recently visited five primary schools in East and South Oxford, I was angered and depressed by how very poor Rose Hill primary was by comparison with the others.</p>	I'm not qualified to comment on this.	Given how much service provision must have changed in the last year or so, with all the funding cuts, I don't feel qualified to comment on this. I'm glad we have good Children's Centres around the city; I think that more can always be done in early years provision and intervention, in order to prevent the problems we know result in later life if children's welfare and education is not addressed. Given governmental attacks on the poor and the disabled, there are bound to be problems of unmet need and gaps in provision for these groups, to which a holistic approach should be taken.	As above, work on ante-natal and early years guidance and support is surely essential.
Landlords privately renting to University students are an absolute abomination to the community. Let these students be housed in university accommodation and allow locals decent affordable rentals and the ability to get on the housing ladder. It is also shaming to Oxford, of all places, that the state school system is so poor. Bring back grammar schools, bring back decent standards of education and schools' ability to adequately and daringly discipline students and parents who bring down the standards for all students. Poor education contributes enormously to inequality.	I have little evidence to support my view but suspect, as in most things, large amounts of money are wasted on publicity, management - and not spent at the grass roots level where it is most needed.	Yes. Health, Education, Housing - it's an embarrassment to Oxford that our standards compare so poorly to elsewhere.	Stop allowing landlords to take up the vast majority of available housing and allowing these people to become rich by downgrading the areas their houses are in. The housing is usually scruffy, locals have to put up with noisy, irresponsible students and it is impossible for young working people to get on the housing ladder. Also, Stop overloading the Council's employment sector with overpaid and inefficient managers

<p>Limited job opportunities which pay a living wage.</p> <p>The high cost and low availability of housing.</p> <p>The punitive effect of national government budget restrictions on local councils.</p>		Affordable housing.	Take all possible steps to maintain public provision of youth services, libraries, pools and sports centres. Defend the public realm from mall developments which offer excessive space to income generating commercial activity.
Access to decent affordable housing and good schools.	Oxford City Council appears to be more motivated by profit than by protecting the interests of residents. The universities are allowed to buy up and build accommodation. They have access to a variety of sports and leisure centres while some of ours are being closed.	Public transport is extremely expensive in Oxford, this restricts the movement of those that cannot afford a car although driving in Oxford is such a nightmare these days. Focusing on efficient and effective local transport would really open up possibilities esp in satellite areas such as Barton and Greater Leys. Connections to local towns such as Abingdon should be improved.	Primarily by building affordable housing, introducing fair rents policy and penalising those who buy properties and can afford to leave them empty.
<p>Inadequate, affordable housing.</p> <p>High student population contributing to affordable housing shortage.</p> <p>High cost of living - comparable to London.</p> <p>Too many zero-hours and short-term contracts.</p> <p>Failure of employers to implement a Living Wage.</p> <p>Sub-contracting by organisations, including the local hospitals, to agencies, that pay low hourly rates, and sack people without the right of appeal.</p> <p>Insufficient resources allocated to people with mental health problems.</p> <p>Poor health outcomes for families on low incomes.</p> <p>Closure of family centres.</p> <p>Lack of investment in community centres.</p>	Where would evidence of this collaboration be found?	See above	<p>Moratorium on new student accommodation.</p> <p>Limit HMOs.</p> <p>Invest in more affordable housing.</p> <p>Offer incentives to employers to pay Living Wage.</p> <p>Restore area parliaments to allow greater local involvement.</p> <p>Encourage more employers to recruit people with mental health problems and disabilities.</p> <p>Refuse to comply with Austerity agenda of present government!</p>
<p>Poor housing - mostly in the PRS, with high rents and some appallingly low standards.</p> <p>Low education attainment, with the added disadvantage of poor careers advice for young people, meaning school leavers often do not have the skills businesses look for.</p> <p>Low esteem - particularly where the levels</p>	The scale of Inequality is not fully identified. More information needs to be sifted through a literature review.	Asylum seekers is an area of unmet need - as there is a prohibition on public funding of needs.	Overcome silos and joined up thinking is where I'd like to start. But listening to service users is vital in identifying gaps.

<p>of multiple deprivations grind down confidence through the despondency rejection causes.</p> <p>Fragmented communities and social isolation, with low or poorly established soft networks.</p>			
<p>Extremely rich people are starting to buy houses in Oxford that they may regard largely as investments. Even if they are seldom here, their large houses remind people of them. The social cohesion that used to exist because almost everyone attended their local church has largely been lost and there is no adequate substitute [I am not a regular church-goer myself]. People do not know many of their neighbours.</p>		<p>I am not well enough informed to give a useful answer.</p>	<p>I am not convinced that it is the City Council's job to combat inequality. It should ensure that the same services are available to all who need them and not go beyond that.</p>
<p>Affordability of housing, both rented and bought. Educational inequality, in particular of outcomes. Skill/employability factors.</p> <p>240</p>		<p>Service provision does not seem an adequate response - inequality in Oxford is growing deeper than ever. A range of fundamental issues are unlikely to be handled in the short term, but drastic increases in the number of houses would be a start, as would policies that would cut the costs of that housing, whether it is rent or mortgages. Wealth taxes and land value taxes are probably beyond the immediate scope of the City Council, but would help. Addressing the range of educational outcomes across the city's state and private schools should be a priority; they are an obscenity.</p>	
<p>The cost of belonging to a sports centre, parking in Oxford, bus fares.</p>		<p>Disabled access to some shops and restaurants</p>	<p>I don't know</p>

Income, where you live (for example North Oxford vs. Wood Farm, where I live), what local schools are available (state and private), state of employment or unemployment, colour of skin/race and ethnic background, whether or not you have a disability etc. (Having said that, the council should be commended for maintaining the green spaces in Wood Farm -- they do an excellent job in cutting grass, trimming hedges, etc. -- and this contributes to the sense of pride of the people who live here).	I think given its limited resources, OCC works reasonably well, but it could do more.	Perhaps more support for women and children from other countries, for whom English is not a first language. More awareness of the needs of disabled people. Is there a Council subcommittee on which disabled people sit and can represent the views of that very diverse community?	I'm afraid I don't have any concrete ideas, but I would like to see children whose first language is not English receive more personal tuition in schools, more programmes aimed at teenagers who at present are at risk of getting into trouble because they just hang around with no purpose.
Government austerity cuts to services. Also concerned at inability of young people to stay in education - both further and higher.	City council tries its best in difficult circumstances and has the right priorities in focusing on the poorest areas.	Concerned about elderly isolation, given the paucity of free centres for the elderly to attend.	This is difficult. We need more revenue to develop projects for young people and also the elderly. Concerned what 5 more years of austerity would do.
Oxford had the worst performing Keystage 1 schools in the country, and has already taken action - see below.	Local schools are key to combatting inequality, and the city has made a good start that must be built on.	A massive, current unmet need for increasing literacy hours for Keystage 1 pupils up to 20 hours weekly for those that need it, which I got in 1958.	<p>Read and understand the following and act accordingly. Oxford City Council recently took action to improve literacy in Oxfords infant schools, even though schools are a County responsibility. This action can be improved enormously if the reasons for failure are properly understood.</p> <p>The reasons for literacy failure are the loss of teaching time due to the introduction of 'small set' or 'ability set' teaching methods that divide classes, but more importantly divide and lose teaching time actually received by pupils.</p> <p>If this situation is confronted directly and successfully, not only will inequality be dealt with at source in the City, but can also be used to inform the rest of the country and the world - Oxford has hosted several Global Literacy Summits in recent years to address the recognised global literacy crisis. If the hours are returned then those who have no home education ethos can also be taught very well - as I was.</p> <p>Teaching by multiple sets in a single classroom</p>

plainly reduces teaching vastly, compared to whole class teaching. In private schools they maintain the hours to make sets work. The state system has never done that.

PARAMETERS, VARIABLES AND COMPARATORS. THE PARAMETERS. (THE VARIABLES ARE MISSING, AND CAN BE SUPPLIED BY INFANT SCHOOLS).

1. Teaching week hours = around 21.
2. Weekly time allotted for literacy = ?
3. Sets per LITERACY class = ? (my son had 5 in 1994, thus losing 80 percent minimum teaching time compared to me in 1958).
4. Pupil literacy teaching hours received = literacy time divided by sets. ? Obtaining the above from schools will give the following info –
5. Time wasted per pupil due to number of sets = THIS IS THE PROBLEM.

The point is that from 80 to 95 percent of infant literacy teaching has been lost to pupils since so called 'Ability Sets' or small group teaching was introduced in the 1960's.

The 'time wasted' was once learning time until classes were divided into small sets.

THREE COMPARATORS.

1. My infant school in 1958-59 gave 20 hours weekly for literacy. Giving approx 1,500 between ages 5 and 7, in whole class teaching.

2. Statutory Law for Infant Literacy Hours. The bare minimum used to be 5 hours weekly, which obviously would be for the top achievers. Lower achievers would get more and lowest 20 hours, what I got. Statutory Law was removed by New

Labour in 2009.

3. The 'Oxford Experiment' which shows how efficiently I and millions were taught in the 1950's - the 'Oxford experiment' method does not waste time teaching sets independently of each other if they can benefit by being included. Being 'included' can increase teaching time by 500 to 600 percent without increasing the school day.

link -

http://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/10768444.Kick_starting_children_s_enthusiasm_for_learning/

DO THE EXERCISE.

Whatever variables are supplied from infant schools, it will be very easy to see that 'time received for literacy' by pupils aged 5 to 7 will fall far far short of the time indicated in the 'comparators'.

Note - Statutory Law 5 hours weekly and 'Oxford Experiment' 45 minutes daily are both inadequate amounts of time for most pupils.

If anything is unclear or you need more information please contact me. The Oxford Mail has printed several of my letters concerning literacy, search for S.NICHOLSON OXFORD LITERACY within Oxford Mail website. Please publish as wide as possible. Thank you.

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