

**Motion adopted by Council on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2006 entitled  
“Consultation on Residents’ Parking Charges”**

“This Council notes that Oxfordshire County Council will shortly be going out to consultation on its plan to charge Oxford's residents for their parking permits.

This Council has expressed its opposition to charges being introduced in Oxford as controlled parking zones are a key element in the County's transport strategy for this City. This Council believes that it is particularly disappointing that County Councillors who represent areas in Oxford City have publicly expressed their support for residents' parking charges. For example, County Councillor Roaf wrote in the Oxford Mail that charges are ‘a legitimate charge for the privileged right to park on the public highway and has been levied for many years across the country and in other towns in Oxfordshire’, and County Councillor Roz Smith claimed that ‘other parts of the County pay for their parking and are happy to do so’.

This Council notes the very high levels of public opposition to the proposals for charging for residents' parking in Oxford, as demonstrated by the number of people who have signed petitions opposing the introduction of charging.

This Council notes the fact that the County Council appears to have already made a decision to introduce residents' parking charges. At a meeting of the joint Tory/Lib Dem administration in 2004, a report was agreed which stated that “The County Council has a long standing policy to make a charge for residents' parking” and that “a charge for residents' parking should be introduced in Oxford.” Tory and Lib Dem members of the Executive voted to “affirm that the Executive was minded to bring Oxford into line with the updated policy”.

This Council is concerned to note that the initial report suggested “using permit charges as a restraint mechanism in zones where the parking Orders do not include a limit on the number of permits per household”. The fact that this is mentioned in the report undermines the case that the charges are relatively affordable.

The Council therefore recommends that the Executive Board :

- (1) calls for the consultation to be genuine and for the final decision to reflect the views of people in Oxford, not the desire of the County Council to charge the people of Oxford for parking enforcement elsewhere in the County;

- (2) makes a submission on behalf of this Council reiterating our principled objections to charging for residents parking in Oxford as previously agreed by this Council;
- (3) writes to County Councillors who represent Oxford Electoral Divisions and who have expressed support for the introduction of residents' parking schemes, explaining the reasons for their constituents' opposition to the proposals.