

Reissued Agenda and Briefing Note

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Republished 17 July to include item of urgent business (16) to be certified as such by the Lord Mayor before consideration at the meeting.

Council

Date: **Monday 20 July 2015**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

**Jennifer Thompson, Committee and Members Services
Officer**

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Information in this and the main agenda pack previously published form all the documents for consideration at this meeting.

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Council

Membership

Lord Mayor	Councillor Rae Humberstone	
Deputy Lord Mayor	Councillor Colin Cook	
Sheriff	Councillor Sajjad Malik	
Members	Councillor Mohammed Abbasi	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Michele Paule
	Councillor Farida Anwar	Councillor Susanna Pressel
	Councillor Elise Benjamin	Councillor Bob Price
	Councillor Ruthi Brandt	Councillor Mike Rowley
	Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Gwynneth Royce
	Councillor Bev Clack	Councillor Gill Sanders
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Scott Seamons
	Councillor Van Coulter	Councillor Christine Simm
	Councillor Roy Darke	Councillor Craig Simmons
	Councillor Jean Fooks	Councillor Dee Sinclair
	Councillor James Fry	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor John Tanner
	Councillor Stephen Goddard	Councillor Richard Tarver
	Councillor Michael Gotch	Councillor Sian Taylor
	Councillor Mick Haines	Councillor David Thomas
	Councillor Tom Hayes	Councillor Ed Turner
	Councillor David Henwood	Councillor Louise Upton
	Councillor Sam Hollick	Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen
	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Elizabeth Wade
	Councillor Pat Kennedy	Councillor Ruth Wilkinson
	Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan	Councillor Dick Wolff
	Councillor Mark Lygo	

The quorum for this meeting is 12 members.

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SUMMONS

A meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday 20 July 2015 at 5.00 pm to transact the business set out below.

Peter Sloman

Proper Officer

AGENDA

Pages

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the annual meeting of Council held on 18 May 2015.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

4 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has notified the Head of Law and Governance of proposed changes to the group's membership of committees:

- Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee - Cllr Steve Goddard to stand down and Cllr Altaf Khan to replace him
- Scrutiny Committee - Cllr Altaf Khan to stand down and Cllr Gant to replace him.

Any further proposed changes to memberships will be circulated with the briefing note.

Council is asked to agree these changes with immediate effect.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements by:

1. The Lord Mayor
2. The Sheriff
3. The Leader of the Council
4. The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer

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

13- 20

A total of 45 minutes is available for this and Item 18

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Board member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10 and 11.11 by 5.00 pm on 14 July.

1. Address by Mark Lodge, Director, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research - in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day (may be taken with the second part.)
2. Address by John Semple -urging the council not to adopt the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

7 HOUSING STRATEGY 2015-2018

See main agenda 19-94

The Head of Housing and Property submitted a report to the City Executive Board (attached) which details the Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2018.

The relevant minute (188) of the City Executive Board meeting on 14 May 2015 is attached later in the agenda.

The City Executive Board recommends that Council adopt the Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2018.

8 HOUSING ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

See main agenda 95-174

The Head of Housing and Property submitted a report to the City Executive Board (attached) which details the proposed Housing Asset Management Strategy and associated action plan for Oxford City Council's housing stock.

The relevant minute (21) of the City Executive Board meeting on 11 June 2015 is attached later in the agenda.

The City Executive Board recommends that Council adopt the Housing Asset Management Strategy along with the Oxford Standard as part of the Council's policy framework.

9 TENDER FOR WASTE COLLECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SERVICES

See main agenda 175-178

The Executive Director for Community Services submitted a report to the City Executive Board (attached) which sought approval to tender for commercial waste collections and environmental improvement services to a public body. Confidential papers for this item were made available to members with that agenda.

The relevant minute (173) of the City Executive Board meeting on 27 April is attached later in this agenda. The Board agreed to authorise the submission of the tender, and if successful to recommend Council to approve capital expenditure for the purchase of compactors and bins. The tender was awarded to the Council.

The City Executive Board recommends that Council approve a capital supplementary estimate of £55,000 for a compactor and bins to support delivery of the contract.

10 TOWER BLOCKS REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

See main agenda 179-186

The Head of Housing and Property Services submitted a report to the City Executive Board (attached) which details proposals to increase the project budget and reconfirm delegated authority to the Executive Director for Regeneration and Housing in consultation with the Heads of Finance and Law and Governance, to be able to appoint and award the contract to the preferred principal contractor.

The relevant minute (22) of the City Executive Board meeting on 12 June is attached later in this agenda. Confidential papers for this item were made available to members with that agenda.

The City Executive Board recommends that Council approve an additional budgetary provision within the HRA Capital Programme of £1.750m, funded as detailed at paragraph 19, so that the revised total project budget envelope for the Tower Block Refurbishment Scheme is £20.108m.

OFFICER REPORTS

11 NORTHERN GATEWAY AREA ACTION PLAN: INSPECTOR'S REPORT

See main agenda 187-272

The Executive Director of Regeneration and Housing has submitted a report (attached) which details the conclusions of the Inspector's Report on the examination into the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan (AAP) and proposes adoption of the plan.

Council is asked to:

- 1. note the conclusions of the Inspector's Report on the examination into the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan;**
- 2. adopt the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan as part of Oxford's Local Plan; and**
- 3. endorse the AAP's associated documents as part of the AAP adoption (including the Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment Adoption Statement and Equalities Impact Assessment).**

12 SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2014-2015

See main agenda 273–290

The Executive Director of Community Services has submitted a report (attached) which details the progress made on Oxford City Council's Section 11 (Children Act of 2004) Self-Assessment Action Plan 2014-15 and seeks to approve the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Action Plan for 2015-16.

The report and action plan were submitted to the City Executive Board on 14 May 2015 for approval and the relevant minute (186) is attached later in the agenda.

Council is recommended to:

- 1. note the progress and development of the Council's safeguarding function in 2014-15; and**
- 2. note the Oxford City Council Safeguarding Action Plan 2015-16 as set out in Appendix 1.**

13 EMPLOYMENT POLICIES - DATA MONITORING AND RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

See main agenda 291–316

The Corporate Lead (HR Policy & Organisational Development) has

submitted a report which presents one new and one revised employment policy for approval (attached).

Council is recommended to:

- 1. approve the following policies appended to the report with immediate effect:**
 - **Employee Data Monitoring Policy including current list of monitoring tools**
 - **Recruitment and Selection Policy; and**
- 2. authorise the Corporate Lead (HR Policy & Organisational Development) to amend the policies and procedures from time to time in order to correct any factual or legal errors.**

14 NEW PROCEDURES FOR THE DISMISSAL OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

See main agenda 317–320

The Monitoring Officer has submitted a report (attached) which recommends changes to the Council's Constitution relating to changes to arrangements for the dismissal of statutory officers following new statutory provisions set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations ("the Regulations") which came into effect on 11 May 2015.

Council is recommended to:

- 1. agree to amend the Terms of Reference of the Disciplinary Committee for chief executive, directors and heads of service as set out in the report;**
- 2. agree that the Council's appointed Independent Persons be invited to advise the Disciplinary Committee whenever there is the prospect of dismissal of a statutory officer;**
- 3. agree the proposed amendments to the Employment Rules in Part 20 of the Constitution; and**
- 4. delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance to make any consequential amendments that are required to be made to the Constitution to fully implement the requirements of the Regulations**

15 ARRANGEMENTS FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION AGAINST STATUTORY OFFICERS

See main agenda 321-322

The Head of Business Improvement has submitted a report (attached) which recommends that the contractual arrangements for disciplinary action against the statutory officers are not changed by the new statutory provisions set out in the Local Authorities (Standing Orders)(England)(Amendment) Regulations ("the Regulations") which came into effect on 11 May 2015.

Council is recommended to:

1. agree that contractual arrangements are made in respect of an Independent Person to investigate any allegations of a disciplinary nature against the Statutory Officers; and
2. delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution.

16 FEES AND CHARGES FOR ROSE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

21 - 22

Urgent item under S 100B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972*

The reason for urgency is that the marketing of the facility cannot start before fees and charges are set and the marketing needs to start before the next ordinary meeting of Council in September. Before this can be discussed, the Lord Mayor must state whether he considers the item should be taken at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

The Head of Community Services has submitted a report (attached to the supplement) which asks Council to agree the process for setting the fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre.

Council is recommended to delegate the setting of fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre to the Executive Director of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities.

**Local Government Act 1972 (section inserted by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)*

100B Access to agenda and connected reports.

(1)Copies of the agenda for a meeting of a principal council and.... copies of any report for the meeting shall be open to inspection by members of the public at the offices of the council in accordance with subsection (3) below. .

(3)Any document which is required by subsection (1) above to be open to inspection shall be so open at least five clear days before the meeting, except that— .

.....

(b)where an item is added to an agenda copies of which are open to inspection by the public, copies of the item (or of the revised agenda), and the copies of any report for the meeting relating to the item, shall be open to inspection from the time the item is added to the agenda; .

but nothing in this subsection requires copies of any agenda, item or report to be open to inspection by the public until copies are available to members of the council.

(4)An item of business may not be considered at a meeting of a principal council unless either— .

(a)a copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is open to inspection by members of the public in pursuance of subsection (1) above for at least [F4five clear days] before the meeting or, where the meeting is convened at shorter notice, from the time the meeting is convened; or .

(b)by reason of special circumstances, which shall be specified in the minutes, the chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

17	CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES	23 - 34
	<p>Questions to Board members about the minutes of the Board meetings below. This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.</p> <p>See main agenda pages 323-354</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2015 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2015 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2015 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2015 5. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2015 <p>Attached here</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2015 	
18	QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL	35 - 48
	<p>Questions on notice received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.9(b)</p> <p>Full details of all questions received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on 13 July, and written responses where available, attached.</p>	
PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY		
19	PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING	49 - 68
	<p>A total of 45 minutes is available for this and Item 6.</p> <p>Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Board member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10 and 11.11 received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00 pm on 14 July.</p> <p>Addresses</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address by Mark Lodge, Director, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research - in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day (if not taken earlier) 2. Address by Rob Whitty – Wolvercote Sound Barrier Petition presented to Council 3. Address by Howard Crapper - RFC Oxford Port Meadow Airfield and proposed Memorial to the Airman who lost their lives there during WW1 	

4. Address by Peter Hulley - in support of petition to install lights on path in South Park.
5. Address by Mr Artwell – East Oxford Community Centre
6. Address by Sietske Boeles – Green belt

Questions (responses attached)

Question from Mr Artwell

Question from Rosemary Harris

Question from Patricia Feeney

Question from Sietske Boeles

Question from Lady Jacqueline Gray

Question from Sir Muir Gray briefing note.

20 OUTSIDE ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

See main agenda 355 – 360

1. Each ordinary meeting of Council shall receive a written report concerning the work of one of the partnerships on which the Council is represented.

On behalf of Councillor Price the OSP Manager and Principal Economic Development Officer has submitted a report on the work of **The Oxford Strategic Partnership**.

Council is invited to comment on and note the submitted report.

2. The programme of reporting at future meetings will be:
September 2015: Oxfordshire Health Improvement Board
December 2015: Report on Oxfordshire Partnerships
February 2016: Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
April 2016: Oxfordshire Growth Board
July 2016: Community Safety
September 2016: Environmental and Waste
3. Members who are Council representatives on external bodies or Chairs of Council Committees who consider that a significant decision or event has taken place, will give notice to the Head of Law and Governance by 1.00 pm on 16 July that they wish present a written or oral report on the event or the significant decision and how it may influence future events.

21 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORT

See main agenda 361 - 382

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates Council on the activities of scrutiny and other non-executive Councillors since the last meeting of Council.

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

22 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

69 - 75

Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.16.

Substantive amendments to these motions must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on 16 July.

Full details of motions submitted by the deadline, and substantive amendments submitted, and the motions as amended are attached.

Motions will be taken in turn from the Liberal Democrat, Green, and Labour groups in that order.

1. Provision of key worker housing (proposed by Cllr Wade seconded by Cllr Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

2. Government austerity cuts (proposed by Cllr Hollick seconded by Cllr Thomas)

Green member motion

3. Encouraging collaboration for action on cancer (proposed by Cllr Coulter)

Labour member motion

4. CIL funding for Northern Gateway development (proposed by Cllr Gant seconded by Cllr Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

5. Compact of Mayors (proposed by Cllr Simmons seconded by Cllr Brandt)

Green member motion

6. Oxfordshire Transport Strategy (proposed by Cllr Tanner)

Labour member motion

7. Guidance on external insulation (proposed by Cllr Benjamin seconded by Cllr Wolff)

Green member motion

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

OXFORD CITY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

20 July 2015

AGENDA ITEM 6: PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING.

Addresses

1. **Address by Mark Lodge, Director, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research - in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day (text attached)**
2. **Address by John Semple -urging the council not to adopt the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan (text attached)**

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Address in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day

Cancers are now pervading every section of British society, with more than 50% of the UK population likely to be diagnosed with a malignant disease at some point in their lives, and one quarter of all UK deaths already being cancer-related. Data from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group collected for 2012 show that 4,364 new cases of cancer, including 930 new cases of skin cancer, were reported within the OCCG area and 1,566 cancer deaths. Oxfordshire has a higher than average number of cases of breast cancer and skin cancer, and a growing population of cancer survivors. And while survival is the outcome we are all working towards, and hoping for, it brings its own problems. Cancers represent not only a serious threat to life but also to the financial security and emotional stability of affected families, resulting in social welfare costs that may ultimately have to be borne by Council departments.

As of the end of 2010, around 20,600 people in the OCCG area were living with cancer, some up to 20 years after their original diagnosis. National trends indicate that Oxford is facing not only a 16% increase in the annual number of new cases by 2025 and a 20% increase in the annual number of cancer deaths but also almost a doubling of its cancer survivor community over the next 15 years. The number of cancer survivors is expected to rise to 40,000 by 2030. It is very proper, therefore, for the City Council to consider practical ways by which it can work with others to help protect the population it serves from this increased threat to their lives.

Oxford, like every other British city, faces severe financial challenges, but it enjoys one unique advantage - its reputation - and we should be marshalling this in the fight against cancer. Oxford can boast world class scientific research talent with an established network of almost 500 cancer researchers, nurses and clinicians; a vigorous voluntary sector and a highly regarded hospice movement, but these strengths largely go unrecorded as features of Oxford life; features that could measurably enhance the city's national and international reputation and attract inward investment.

The 4th of February has been designated by the World Health Organisation as 'World Cancer Day' and has become the occasion for awareness raising and fundraising events by cancer charities throughout the UK. Although both sectors demonstrably do good work, all too often the Third sector and the Public sector operate in busy 'silos' that are distant from each other and they can easily miss opportunities to combine together to launch initiatives addressing the needs of disadvantaged or hard to reach sections of the community. Official recognition is a cost efficient way of building a year long platform for dialogue with the voluntary sector.

The following charities are supporting the Motion for the official recognition of World Cancer Day: Cancer Research UK Oxford Centre; CLIC Sargent; Helen and Douglas House; the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research UK; Katherine House Hospice; Macmillan Cancer Support; Maggie's Centre, Marie Curie Cancer; Sobell House Hospice; Sue Ryder Hospices. Being the first UK City Council to recognise World Cancer Day and to bring together these different charities as equal partners in a Town Hall event on February 4th offers three benefits:

1. It will provide the catalyst for greater engagement with the charities that can lead to the development of innovative, cost-efficient strategies to improve cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and the support of cancer patients and their carers.

2. It will send a clear message to the citizens of Oxfordshire that members of this City Council, irrespective of their party differences, are resolved to stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in the fight against cancer.
3. It will promote the wider recognition of Oxford's enduring talent for innovation, research and effective community care.

Members of the City Council, you will recognise that you alone have the authority to grant official recognition to World Cancer Day and that this is no empty political gesture but the necessary prerequisite for combined action against a genuine threat. The threat posed by cancer has now spread to every corner of Oxford and the surrounding towns and villages. It has even entered this Chamber. We must fight back but the more fragmented our strategies, the less effective they will be. The fight against cancer demands both solidarity and harmony.

In the memory of those we have lost and all those still living who we cherish most dearly, let World Cancer Day 4th February 2016 be the day that this Council and these charities raise their standards in alliance and begin to turn the tide in this long war against malignant disease.

Mark Lodge
Executive Director
International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research (INCTR) UK
Prama House
267 Banbury Road
Oxford OX2 7HT UK
Tel. +44 (0)1865 339510
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E-mail: mlodge@canet.org

14 July 2015

Head of Law and Governance
Oxford City Council



Sir,

Northern Gateway Area Action Plan

As a representative of the Upper Wolvercote Action Group, I wish to exercise my right, under Section 11.11. a. of the Constitution of the Oxford City Council, to address the Full Council on Monday 20 July, 2015.

We urge the council not to adopt the NG AAP for the following reasons:

The Inspector's report does not adequately ensure that the the ruling, given on 14 November 2014, in the European Court of Justice on the Government's obligations to meet air pollution targets, as laid down in the Ambient Air Quality Directive on safe levels of NOx is met when the Northern Gateway development and the supporting road network is implemented.

There is insufficient data on the impact of air pollution on Port Meadow's unique and protected habitats which are NOx sensitive and the impact of air pollution on the Green Belt and the hay meadows

The AAP has relied on projected improvements in car technology but this has now been superseded by recent Supreme Court and Appeal decisions, the latter clearly demonstrating that improved car technology cannot be relied upon.

We have run our own extensive air quality tests through recognised Laboratories and found that in many residential areas affected by the development (and within the proposed NG development area) NOx levels are in breach of the statutory legislation of 40 µg / m³ in a 24 hr period over a yearly mean.

Similarly particulate levels (PM2. 5s) are also in breach of these limits **a situation that will be made worse by this development .**

Under adopted EU legislation and DEFRA guidelines: 'Government must ensure that development does not make air quality worse.' The legislation also states that **no development** (or increases in traffic caused by roads or development) **may cause a breach in the permitted pollutant figures.** It is our firm view and that of other professionals that this development will increase

pollutants and cause breaches in the permitted levels in many different places within and around the proposed development.

Oxford City Council has failed to take proper measurements in this part of the Air Quality Management Area

We would like to ask what measures are the council taking to protect their residents, particularly in areas where there are schools and children who are vulnerable to pollutants.

In view of very recent road and building schemes being overturned due to a breach of permitted pollutant levels caused by road traffic there is a very real threat of legal action being taken against this scheme, costing Oxford city council significant sums of money. What measures are Oxford City council taking to ensure that residents' concerns are being addressed in relation to traffic pollutants in and around the development site of the Northern Gateway?

The inspector's report totally ignores climate change issues and due regard was not given to the recent Client Earth decisions regarding NOx and PM.

The Inspector did not give adequate consideration to either human health or ecological concerns.

The Inspector disregarded data we presented and accepted incomplete AQMA data sets from the Council.

The Inspector did not address issues clearly laid out by the previous enquiry for the AAP stage.

J W Semple

North Wolvercote Action Group

OXFORD CITY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

20 July 2015

AGENDA ITEM 6:

Response from Councillor Hollingsworth to the address by John Sempleurging the council not to adopt the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan.

The Inspector explicitly considered the issue of air quality both in the context of impact upon the natural environment and in the context of impact upon human health.

On the former she accepted that there can be no certainty as to how rapidly vehicle emissions will reduce, or about the potential proportions of different types of vehicles being driven in the area, but the AQA has taken a precautionary approach by taking a mid-point of 2020 for its modelling. Natural England is satisfied with this approach and with how the assessment was carried out. She concluded that the development in the AAP is unlikely to affect air quality in a manner which would be detrimental to the integrity of the Oxford Meadows SAC. She also explicitly recorded her satisfaction that the evidence made available to her provided a satisfactory level of detail. There is nothing in the address dated 14 July 2015 that would undermine the approach of the Council, the Inspector and Natural England.

On the latter she concluded that it had not been shown that the air quality at the NG would amount to a contra-indication for residential development and that no conflict between the AAP and the Oxfordshire Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2016 had been established.

Monitoring undertaken to assess baseline levels of nitrogen dioxide indicated two breaches of the annual mean objective in locations that are not representative of relevant public exposure. The modelling of future levels of pollutants undertaken as part of the air quality assessment indicates no breaches of relevant objectives for NO₂ or particulate matter, either PM₁₀ or PM_{2.5}, either with or without development. The modelling does show a minor increase in pollutant levels, but no breaches of legal objectives.

There is no prohibition upon taking account of projected improvements in car technology. The Preliminary Air Quality Assessment explained how future emissions had been predicted using DEFRA's Emissions Factor Toolkit which utilises NO_x emission factors taken from the European Environment Agency COPERT 4 emission tool. That Assessment proceeded to explain how uncertainties regarding how rapidly vehicle emissions would reduce in the future had been accommodated by using 2020 emission factors and background concentrations rather than 2026 figures. DEFRA's Emissions Factor Toolkit remains relevant and, as at 16 July 2015, is available for download from DEFRA's website. The Assessment was carried out to using a recognised model, methodology and data sets.

The claims regarding levels do not accord with the evidence available to the Council. Air quality evidence was introduced at the Inquiry, but it transpired that that material could not be relied upon. The person providing the evidence conceded that it was only illustrative, and this seems to be the data that the Inspector is alleged to have disregarded. It is a matter of record that the Inspector did not disregard it but addressed it and took account of its limitations.

The other criticisms of the Inspector appear to be simple disagreements with the Inspector's conclusions.

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To: Council

Date: 20th July 2015

Report of: Head of Community Services

Title of Report: Fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree the process for setting the fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre

Key decision No

Executive lead member: Councillor Christine Simm

Policy Framework: Strong, Active Communities

Recommendation(s): To delegate the setting of fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre to the Executive Director of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities.

Background

1. Rose Hill Community Centre is due to open in January 2016. The build is progressing well on track for the targeted completion date.
2. The new centre is a high quality replacement for the old community centre, re-providing the community rooms, the sports hall and the social areas. It incorporates a pavilion and the advice centre and also includes additional facilities such as a gym, a dedicated youth zone and health provision.
3. Agreeing fees and charges is a council function that takes place at the start of the financial year. This report requests that as the new centre opens mid-year that delegation to set the fees and charges is given to the Executive Director of Community Services in consultation with Executive Member for Community Services. The reason for urgency is that the marketing of the facility cannot start before fees and charges are set and the marketing needs to start before the next ordinary meeting of Council in September.

Proposal

4. The City Council is committed to ensuring inclusive, but also financially sustainable community facilities. To achieve this it is proposed that the centre has an affordable rate for community groups and a commercial rate for all other bookings.
5. It may also be that there are further concessionary rates available to long standing groups that use the centre and promotions will be used to encourage new bookings. An example promotion would be in the gym where we would run offers such as eleven months for the price of twelve. This is in line with how the other two directly managed community centres already operate.
6. As the centre is a large and complex facility it needs a dedicated team of staff to effectively operate it, which is why it will be managed directly by the council. The team will be supported by a reference group that is already in place and meeting regularly. The reference group includes Councillors, Officers, members of the Community Associations and representatives from other stakeholder groups. This group will also offer advice on promotions and fees and charges.

Legal Issues

7. There are no legal issues.

Financial Issues

8. The fees and charges set will need to enable the centre to meet its budgetary targets.

Environmental Impact

9. There are no environmental risks arising from this report.

Level of Risk

10. The main risk is ensuring that the fees and charges enable the centre to meet its income targets alongside delivering its community objectives.

Name and contact details of author:-

Namelan Brooke
Job title **Head of Community Service**
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MINUTES OF THE CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Thursday 9 July 2015

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COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Turner (Deputy Leader), Brown, Hollingsworth, Kennedy, Rowley, Seamons, Simm, Sinclair and Tanner.

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Van Coulter, Councillor Andrew Gant and Councillor Craig Simmons

OFFICERS PRESENT: Peter Sloman (Chief Executive), Tim Sadler (Executive Director Community Services), Jackie Yates (Executive Director Organisational Development and Corporate Services), Lyndsey Beveridge (Senior Planner), Sarah Harrison (Senior Planner), Mai Jarvis (Environmental Policy Team Leader), Jane Lubbock (Head of Business Improvement and Technology), Jeremy Thomas (Head of Law and Governance), Julia Tomkins (Grants & External Funding Officer), Anna Winship (Financial Accounting Manager), Dave Scholes (Housing Needs Manager), Ian Wright (Environmental Development), Tanya Bandekar (Service Manager Revenue & Benefits), Adrian Roche (City Development) and Catherine Phythian (Committee Services Officer)

30.

There were no apologies for absence.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

32. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The City Executive Board noted the following public questions and the written officer responses (as published):

- Ms Sarah Lasenby (Item 4a - Report of the Scrutiny Inequality Panel)
- Members of the North Oxfordshire Association Community Centre (Item 7 - Diamond Place Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - Adoption)

33. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cllr Simmons, Chair of the Scrutiny ~~28~~ Committee submitted the following reports:

- Report of the Inequality Panel – Combatting inequality
- Grant Monitoring Information for 2014/15
- Statement of Community Involvement in Planning 2015
- Debt Management Policy – from the Finance Standing Panel – provisional
- Integrated Performance Report 2014/15 Q4 – from the Finance Standing Panel - provisional

34. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY INEQUALITY PANEL - COMBATTING INEQUALITY: IS OXFORD CITY COUNCIL DOING ALL IT CAN TO MAKE OXFORD A FAIRER, MORE EQUAL PLACE?

The Inequality Panel of the Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which considers issues of inequality in the city.

Councillor Van Coulter, Chair of the Inequality Panel, presented the report.

On behalf of the Board, Cllr Price thanked the members of the Inequality Panel and the Scrutiny Committee for an excellent report which raised significant issues of concern. He said that he proposed to remit the report to all party groups for consideration and to prepare a substantive response from CEB. The Board suggested that the Scrutiny Committee should consider circulating the report to a wider audience such as the County Council and the Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. REFER the report for discussion at the next meeting of the Cross Party Group;
2. INCLUDE the report on the agenda for the City Executive Board meeting in September.

35. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - GRANT MONITORING INFORMATION 2014/15

Cllr Rowley, Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport responded to the Scrutiny Committee recommendation that “the underspend of £21,040 is rolled forward and spent on grants to community and voluntary organisations in 2015/16.”

He explained that this was not possible because the underspend had already been absorbed into the general fund but assured the Board that every effort would be taken to spend all of the grant allocation within the year on deserving projects.

36. REPORT OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING 2015

The Scrutiny Committee recommendations were addressed during the discussion of agenda item 12 (Minute 46).

37. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY FINANCE PANEL - DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Board noted the following responses to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations:

1. We recommend that the City Executive Board approves the Debt Management Policy subject to a minor amendment to the timescales for recovering Miscellaneous Debts set out in the table on page 9 of the policy.

A: There is an error on page 7 of the policy which will be corrected- this should say 10 days and not 7 days.

2. We reaffirm recommendation 15d of the Inequality Panel about the Council moving towards having a single view of debt. It will still require considerable effort to make this a reality but we strongly endorse this direction of travel and the progress made to date, including the use of fraud detection software to identify individuals with multiple debts owed to the Council.

A: The project to implement this software which will allow us the single view of debt is underway, and will greatly assist in the management of all outstanding debts to the Council and allow us to operate in accordance with the Corporate Debt Policy.

3. We recommend that consideration is given to restructuring relevant teams and resources around a single view of debt model as this initiative progresses.

A: This is already underway as the team restructures take effect and the software is implemented.

38. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY FINANCE PANEL - INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15 Q4

The Board noted the following responses to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations:

1. The City Council's General Fund outturn position for 2014-15 (a favourable variance of £1.808m) is a very good outcome and we recommend that officers are congratulated on overachieving against income targets.

- A: The favourable variance has largely arisen from increased income arising from commercial property rents, engineering works and other income.
2. We support the transfer of £1.4m to a Dry Recyclate Reserve and recommend that the City Council assesses options for significantly mitigating this serious budget pressure, including exploring the possibility of building and operating a waste transfer station and changing the Council's waste collection system.
- A: The Council is exploring a number of options to mitigate budgetary pressures around dry recyclate which have become apparent during negotiations for the renewal of the contract with the current waste transfer station provider. Due to changes in the market price for recyclate the current provider is seeking significant increases in gate fees in order to ensure the viability of the current operation.
3. We note that there are 4 red performance indicators against Meeting Housing Needs but only 3 are explained in the Corporate Summary. We recommend that this is corrected and that fuller explanations are provided for the amber risks relating to Environmental Development (section 4.3 in the Community Services Directorate).
- A: The missing red performance indicator for Meeting Housing Needs relates to Tenant satisfaction with their Estates; this has been discussed in a previous report and there is no new data. Further explanation on the risks within Environmental Development are included in an updated appendix (previously circulated now appended).
4. We recommend that the City Executive Board considers:
- a) Re-directing a relatively small portion of the underspend (£50-100k) towards rough sleeping activities where it could potentially go a long way.
 - b) Explores other potential uses for part of the under-spend in improving performance against corporate targets, including investing in an additional HMO licensing officer.
- A: The under-spend from 2014/15 has been transferred to earmarked reserves largely to mitigate future budgetary pressures. A small proportion has been transferred to the capital funding reserve which is considered prudent given the size of the council's capital programme. There is already a substantive reserve available for the area of homelessness and this can be used if needed. HMO licensing is currently being consulted on and it will be appropriate to consider whether the staffing resource is adequate as part of the response to that consultation.
5. We recommend that the City Council continues to embed and improve the capital gateway process to further reduce capital slippage.
- A: The overall slippage on the capital budget was around £15million in comparison to the original budget of £63million. This primarily related to three schemes, Rose Hill Community Centre, Affordable Homes Programme, and Vehicles. The average spend on capital over the last 9 years has been around £20million and the delivery of £48.7 million in

2014/15 is significantly above this. The Council will continue to embed and improve its monitoring through the Capital Gateway process

39. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON ANY ITEM FOR DECISION ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA

Cllr Gant addressed the Board with regard to agenda item 7: Diamond Place Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Adoption

His comments were addressed during the discussion of that item (Minute 41).

40. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON NEIGHBOURHOOD ISSUES

There were no Councillor addresses on neighbourhood issues.

41. DIAMOND PLACE DEVELOPMENT BRIEF SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT (SPD) - ADOPTION

The Executive Director of Regeneration and Housing submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval for the Diamond Place Development Supplementary Planning Document.

Cllr Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning, Transport and Regulatory Service presented the report. He said that this document was intended to provide context and detail to the existing policies (such as SP14) and that they were intended as guidance to shape the plans for the development of Diamond Place. He stressed that the proposals in the document were not definitive and did not preclude any options that would emerge in more detailed planning discussions.

In response to the points raised by Cllr Gant he said that:

- The concerns about the Diamond Place / Banbury road junction were recognised and a range of options would be carefully considered
- Public open space would be available for all user groups
- Inclusion of other “health services” such as dental practices would be welcome
- All OCC housing policies would apply to the Diamond Place development
- The valued contribution of the North Oxfordshire Association Community Centre was recognised by the Council. NOA would be fully involved in the on-going discussions regarding the proposed relocation of the centre to ensure that there was no risk to services or reputation.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. ADOPT the Diamond Place Development Supplementary Planning Document;

2. DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO the Head of Planning and Regulatory to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document prior to publication in consultation with the Board Member for Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services.

42. CUMBERLEGE HOUSE - DEVELOPMENT APPRAISAL

The Head of Housing and Property submitted (previously circulated now appended) which detailed the options for Cumberlege House which is due to be vacated when the new Bradlands sheltered housing scheme is completed.

Cllr Seamons, Board Member for Housing recommended the report to the Board.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. AGREE not to pursue the disposal of Cumberlege House as approved in principle by Executive Board in November 2007;
2. ADOPT Option 4 in principle as set out in this report – to redevelop Cumberlege House for new Council housing and in consultation with the Council's S151 officer to include the scheme in the HRA new build development programme 2015-18, subject to a reassessment of the Council's HRA investment priorities;
3. APPROVE the demolition of Cumberlege House and instruct the Head of Housing and Property to procure and enter into contract to enable demolition works to start either as soon as the property is vacated or, should a short term lease be agreed, as set out in sections 18-19 of the report, then after that lease end date and prior to the development start on site; and in any case after the impact of the Right to Buy extension has been fully assessed;
4. GRANT delegated authority to the Head of Housing and Property to negotiate and enter into a fixed term lease, should a suitable lessee be identified within a two month period.

43. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AGENCY CONTRACT AWARD

The Head of Housing and Property submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which detailed the proposed arrangements for a Home Improvement Agency that is part funded through a contract with Oxfordshire County Council.

Cllr Seamons, Board Member for Housing introduced the report. He explained that the Home Improvement Agency provides services to enable disabled and elderly people to remain living in their own homes. He said that he was pleased to report that the County Council had asked to extend the scope of the contract to include a minor works element previously undertaken by a private contractor.

The Board suggested that there was scope for the Council to do more to publicise the work of the Home Improvement Agency, in terms of the range of valuable services that it provided to allow people to live in their own homes.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. GRANT delegated authority to the Executive Director of Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Head of Financial Services and Head of Law and Governance to enter into an appropriate contract for the provision of a Home Improvement Agency.

44. ADOPTION OF CORPORATE BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

The Executive Director Community Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which seeks approval for the adoption of A Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxford City Council 2015 - 2020 following a public consultation exercise.

Cllr Tanner, the Board Member for Climate Change & Cleaner, Greener Oxford presented the report, highlighting the wide range of wildlife and natural habitat to be found in the city.

The Environmental Policy Team Leader briefed the Board on the details of the Action Plan, noting the Board's concern that there must be close practical links between the biodiversity team and the parks team to ensure that the Council's practices complied with the principles of the Biodiversity Action Plan. In response to questions from the Board the Chief Executive said that he would be looking at ways in which to promote the Plan with the County Council and other organisations. He would also be looking at ways to promote the initiative to all members of staff.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. ADOPT the Biodiversity Action Plan for Oxford City Council;
2. DELEGATE authority to the Board Member for Climate Change & Cleaner, Greener Oxford and the Board Member for Leisure, Parks & Sport to work with officers to ensure that the park service management plans are consistent with the principles of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

45. SUMMARY OF MONITORING INFORMATION REPORTED BY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS 2014/15

The Head of Community Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which provided details of monitoring information returned by community & voluntary organisations awarded a grant by the City Council in 2014/15.

The Board was pleased to note that the level of grant funding was higher than 5 years earlier despite the reduction in funding from central government, demonstrating the Council's commitment to the voluntary sector.

The Board noted the comments from the Scrutiny Committee concerning the need for a rigorous assessment of all grant applications to ensure that they delivered the best value for money. Officers were asked to provide additional analysis on this point in future monitoring reports. Cllr Simm confirmed that this was an important aspect of the existing process to review grant applications and invited members to refer concerns about any particular scheme to herself and the Grants & External Funding Officer.

The City Executive Board resolved to NOTE the report.

46. ADOPTION OF THE STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING 2015

The Head of Planning and Regulatory submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which detailed a revised and improved version of the Statement of Community Involvement in Planning following an extensive public consultation exercise.

Cllr Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning, Transport and Regulatory Services presented the report. He explained that it was both best practice and a legal requirement that the Council had a formal Statement of Community Involvement in Planning. He said that the document had been subject to extensive public consultation and consideration by all councillors. He thanked the report author for her hard work in preparing the document.

With reference to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations on this item Cllr Hollingsworth said that the suggested drafting amendments would be addressed in the final version of the document; that the action plan would address the need to improve ICT systems to enhance the user experience; and that options for "neighbouring property notification letters" would be referred to all Political Groups for comment.

The Senior Planner briefed the Board on the detail of the report. She explained that an Action Plan had been added to capture issues raised by councillors and residents which could not be immediately addressed. She said that much of the focus of the Action Plan would be to continue to look at best practice and new ideas to promote greater interaction with a wider audience.

The Board noted that residents often felt frustrated by the lack of information available from developers at the earliest, pre-application, stages of large planning developments. The Board asked what could be done to address this. The Senior Planner explained that the document sought to encourage developers to engage with the local community from the outset but that this was not something that could be enforced. One local authority required developers

to sign its Statement of Community Involvement and this was an initiative that the planning officers would be monitoring.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. AGREE to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement in Planning as the Council's formal statement about how it will engage and involve people in planning decisions; and
2. DELEGATE authority to the Head of Planning and Regulatory, in consultation with the Executive Lead Member, to make any necessarily editorial corrections to the Statement of Community Involvement in Planning prior to final publication.

The Board noted that this was the final attendance at CEB of Adrian Roche, City Development officer. They thanked him for his work and support and wished him well in his new position.

47. FLAG FLYING PROTOCOL ON CIVIC BUILDINGS

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which detailed the proposed protocol for flag flying on civic buildings.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. APPROVE the Flag Flying Protocol (as set out at appendix 1 and its annex at appendix 2 to the report);
2. AGREE to delegate to the Head of Law and Governance the operation of the protocol including the arrangements for considering one off requests as outlined.

48. AWARD OF TEMPORARY AGENCY STAFF CONTRACT

The Head of Business Improvement submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which detailed proposals for a temporary agency staff contract available for use by Oxfordshire Councils, following the current contract coming to an end.

The Head of Business Improvement and Technology presented the report explaining that it was a straightforward retender exercise for an existing contract arrangement.

The Board noted and welcomed the initiatives in place to reduce the level of agency staff employed by the Council but recognised that external factors such as the high cost of living and property prices in the city presented a challenge to the recruitment and retention of permanent staff.

The City Executive Board resolved to GRANT delegated authority to the Executive Director of Organisational Development and Corporate Services to award a new temporary agency staff contract.

49. DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) for the approval and formal adoption of the Oxford City Council Debt Management Policy.

The Executive Director for Organisational Development and Corporate Services presented the report. She explained that this draft Debt Management Policy was a refresh of the existing policy, dating from 2013, and that there were no major changes to note. She briefed the Board on the recent organisational changes within the Council which meant that there was now a closer alignment of all service teams dealing with debt management.

The Board was pleased to note the good collection rates for 2014/15.

The City Executive Board resolved to

1. APPROVE the Debt Management Policy, as set out in Appendix A to the report.

50. INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE REPORT 2014/15 QUARTER 4

The Head of Financial Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended) which detailed the finance, risk and performance position as at the end of Quarter 4, 31 March 2015.

Cllr Turner, Board Member for Finance, Corporate Asset Management and Public Health presented the report, referencing the written responses to the Scrutiny Committee recommendations. He drew attention to the Council's General Fund outturn position for 2014-15 (a favourable variance of £1.808m) and congratulated officers in exceeding income targets. He also commented on the improved capital performance of the Council.

The City Executive Board resolved to:

1. NOTE the financial outturn and performance of the Council for the year 2014/15 and also the position on risks outstanding as at 31 March 2015;
2. NOTE the transfers to General Fund earmarked reserves detailed in the report and Appendix E5;
3. NOTE the transfers to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraph 16;

4. AGREE the carry forward requests outlined at paragraph 8 and detailed in Appendix E4;
5. NOTE the capital carry forwards as detailed in Appendix E2

51. ITEMS RAISED BY BOARD MEMBERS

No items were raised by Board Members.

52. MINUTES

The Board resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2015 as a true and accurate record.

PART TWO **MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION**

The City Executive Board resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the item in the exempt from publication part of the agenda in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

53. NOT FOR PUBLICATION - APPENDIX 1B CUMBERLEGE HOUSE DEVELOPMENT APPRAISAL

The Board received and noted the contents of the not for publication appendix to the report at minute 42.

54. NOT FOR PUBLICATION - APPENDIX 2 - HOUSING IMPROVEMENT AGENCY CONTRACT AWARD

The Board received and noted the contents of the not for publication appendix to the report at minute 43.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.25 pm

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OXFORD CITY FULL COUNCIL MEETING 20 JULY 2015

AGENDA ITEM 18 (was 17): QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Board Member for Customer Services and Corporate Services

1. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Brown

As the performance of the Council lies very largely in the hands of its staff, whose wellbeing is thus of great importance, can you assure Council that the working conditions in St Aldate's chambers are as good as they should be?

Response:

Councillor Fooks will be aware that St Aldates Chambers underwent a significant modernisation programme four years ago which radically improved the working environment. This has allowed for more modern working practices including hot-desking and home working but also increased the number and quality of toilets and kitchen facilities. More recently security arrangements have been improved. All staff, including the chief executive and directors, benefit from working in an open plan office with access to shared meeting rooms.

In the recent hot weather staff have benefitted from the passive ventilation system (a greener and less expensive alternative to air conditioning), and the chilled water on tap in every kitchen.

The Facilities Management Helpdesk enables staff to log any concerns with the environment or facilities on a day to day basis, and an office champions' group made up of at least one member of staff from each service area meets quarterly to address feedback and any concerns such as storage, health and safety, maintenance and housekeeping. Actions are logged and progress reported back to staff.

64% of staff scored the office environment as "Excellent" or "Good" in the latest survey in May 2015, a further 25% said it was "Satisfactory".

The City Council has a comprehensive Wellbeing Programme in place for all staff which includes: an employee assistance scheme offering help and advice covering a range of topics; discounted membership for various leisure facilities; health and wellbeing practice groups and workshops and free health checks.

2. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Brown

The Council has rightly been promoting exercise to help staff be healthy. Do you think that this has been furthered by the decision to increase the cost to staff of a Slice card from £37 a year to £30 a month?

Response:

Councillor Fooks is wrong in every detail in her question. There has been no change to the cost of the slice card in 2015/16. The Medium Term Financial Plan agreed by Council in February included a proposal to increase the cost to £20 per month from April 2016 to bring the subsidy in line with the cost to staff of utilising facilities negotiated with LA Fitness in the City Centre. The proposal will be reviewed in the autumn as part of the Council's medium term financial plan refresh process.

The slice card is just one of a number of measures the Council has put in place to promote health and wellbeing.

Board member for Climate Change and Cleaner, Greener Oxford

3. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Tanner

How long has the City Council been aware of the imminent financial challenges relating to the funding of recycling, with the current providers, whose contract is up for renewal in October, proposing to charge the City, rather than pay it, for each tonne of materials recycled?

Response:

Our existing contractual arrangements allowed the contract to be extended by mutual agreement for a further 3 years. Discussions began with the current contractor in January of 2015 about extending the contract however this was against a backdrop of falling market prices for the recycling material we collect. By March 2015, it was evident that our contractor wished to charge us a substantial per tonne gate fee to handle our material. The size of the fee prompted Officer's to consider alternatives, one of which was to go out to tender for a new contract.

An Invitation to Tender (ITT) has been prepared and will be published on 20th July 2015, with contractor submission required by 2nd September 2015. The award date, after the "standstill" period, is 2nd October 2015 with a commencement date of 6th October 2015.

4. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Tanner

I understand that you have authorised the issuance of a Section 46 notice (under the 1990 Environmental Protection Act) to residents in HRA flats who are not correctly recycling. Those that persist will be given a Fixed Penalty Notice. Do you think that this response is fair and proportionate?

Response:

Our education and enforcement procedure applies to all households that do not comply with the waste collection service we provide, as stated in Section 46 of the 1990 EPA.

The procedure starts with our Collection Crews applying a reminder sticker and reporting the issue via their in-cab technology. This automatically produces an educational letter. A second occurrence receives a re-sticker and an in-cab report that stimulates a Field Officer educational visit. A third non-compliance is stickered again and activates an Enforcement Officer investigation with the potential of a S46 being served. Breaches of this notice can result in the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

The procedure is applied to all privately managed flat sites, HMO's, individual private residencies as well to all properties within the Council's ownership.

Board member for Crime, Community Safety and Licensing

5. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Sinclair

How many hours of officers' time and at what cost (direct wages) were spent on the City Centre PSPO project prior to the PSPO paper being pulled from CEB on 11th June 2015?

Response:

The development of the PSPO proposal was absorbed into Officer's day to day activities and no such calculation exists. The report was only deferred, not withdraw, and will return to CEB. Therefore any time spent on preparation has not been wasted or aborted time.

6. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Sinclair

Will the Council be issuing a formal response to Liberty's critique of the City Centre PSPO and commenting on its threat to start legal proceedings against the Council had CEB voted in favour of the PSPO on 11th June 2015?

Response:

No. It was merely an opinion. Legal Officers time will be better spent on addressing any valid criticisms within the body of the CEB report, rather than issuing a counter opinion.

Board member for Culture and Communities

7. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Simm

Will the Portfolio Holder agree to rescind the notice issued to the East Oxford Community Association to quit the Community Centre given that the new management committee have met all the Council's requirements?

Response:

The Notice to Quit to East Oxford Community Association will not be rescinded as it is not apparent that all the requirements have been met. I am not going to provide detail of this in a public forum.

Instead efforts will be focused on supporting the Reference Group which the Council has established to support a positive future for the Centre and for the people that it should serve.

The Reference Group includes representatives from the Community Association, the current users of the Community Centre, local Councillors, tenants of the Community Centre, the Chinese Community Centre, the Games Hall and the local Residents Association. Its work is supported by City Council officers and Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to facilitate the process of identifying the needs and aspirations of the local community to inform the development of the Centre, including design, and to support the process of consultation with that community. It is an opportunity for reflection and forward planning.

I am confident that by engaging with the wide range of opinions, interests, activities and talent the future of the Community Centre will be both supported and enhanced.

In the immediate future, the Council will support the continued use of the Centre for all its current activities, and will welcome new suggestions, proposals and initiatives. This process is already underway. By working together we can achieve a thriving Centre meeting the needs if the community it serves.

Board member for Housing

8. From Councillor Hollick to Councillor Seamons

The council is already missing its targets on keeping down the number of people sleeping rough before the effect of County Council cuts has started to be felt. What urgent action will the board member take to prevent people having to sleep rough?

Response:

Although rough sleeping numbers continue to be high in the city, our last four street counts show a downward trend (Sep 2014 counted 31; Nov 2014 counted 26; Feb counted 20; May 2015 counted 18). This is evidence of the good work that is done by services and in particular the outreach team that is funded by Oxford City Council. The outreach service was restructured following re-commissioning and the new service has been in place since 1st April 2015.

We commissioned emergency provision – The ‘sit-up service’ – in O’Hanlon House in July 2014, providing 10 additional spaces for rough sleepers to come off the streets. This will remain in place initially until 31st March 2016, when it will be reviewed.

The adult homeless pathway is currently in live tender. This is led by the County Council and the City has had limited input into the development of the service specification, but will be involved in tender evaluation. In the meantime we will continue contingency planning work using the available resource and are currently modelling options.

9. From Councillor Hollick to Councillor Seamons

The HMO registration targets were missed this year, despite the target representing only half the number of HMOs in the city, and the compliance rates with license conditions is very low. What is the board member doing to address this poor performance?

Response:

The target for the number of licensed HMOs was only missed because of processing issues brought about because of delays due to legal requirements and steps have been taken to reduce the backlog that built up in the system.

Compliance with licence conditions and the requirement to obtain a licence is the responsibility of landlords and it is their poor performance that the Council has been challenging, with 33 successful legal cases taken in the last 12 months resulting in fines of £110,000.

The HMO Licensing Review has highlighted the significant improvements made by regulating a sector that nationally has high levels of non-compliance and the review recognises that further work is required, which is why we are currently consulting on renewing the scheme for a further 5 years to enable the Council to continue the solid progress it has made so far.

10. From Councillor Hollick to Councillor Seamons

Can the board member explain why we are yet again failing to meet our target for delivery of affordable housing? Could they explain what use, if any, has been made of compulsory purchase powers to make up for the failure of the private sector to deliver affordable housing?

Response:

There has been some slippage in the Council’s development programme which has resulted in a number of units not being delivered at the end of March 2015. The 14/15 delivery targets were

therefore not met, but these units will be handed over by September, and will result in the 15/16 affordable housing delivery targets being exceeded, as they are now falling into that financial year.

The Council has not yet used compulsory purchase powers to help in the delivery of affordable housing, but could consider this, for certain sites, as an option, if and when appropriate. In such instances, the City Executive Board would be required to approve this.

11. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Seamons

The recent budget increased the tax relief offered to those who rent out spare rooms in their homes. Given that this continues to present one of the lowest cost options for those seeking full or part-time accommodation in Oxford, what is the Portfolio Holder doing to encourage home-owners with spare rooms to offer them for rent?

Response:

The Council provides a clear strategic commitment to consider private sector and 'renting rooms' as a housing solution. This is identified in the Homelessness Strategy 2013-17. This strategy includes a priority of: 'Preventing and Responding to Homelessness'. Actions to meet this priority are: 'Increase access to private rented sector homes'.

The Council also undertook a marketing campaign in October 2013 to boost the private rental sector as part of the solution to finding a suitable home for people in housing need. The campaign included publicity in the newspapers, websites, Social Media, bus shelters, schools etc. As a result, some family accommodation was made available rather than individual 'rent a room' opportunities.

We are keen to pursue all options to maximise housing opportunities, so following receipt of this question, officers have added additional and up to date information on this scheme to the Housing pages on the Council's website, with links to Government and Shelter websites for more advice and information.

Board member for Leisure, Parks and Sport

12. From Councillor Benjamin to Councillor Rowley

Following the tragic drowning of 15 year old Mohammed Hussain near Donnington Bridge in 2012, former Green Iffley Wards Councillor David Williams put in several requests to install lifebelts on the Meadow Lane side of the Thames, funded from his ward member grant. Can the Portfolio Holder explain why the offer to fund these lifebelts was lost in the system and, despite reminders, still hasn't been acted upon?

Response:

The availability of lifebelts is checked on a regular basis, but there is a significant problem of vandalism which results in replacements often being required and gaps therefore occurring in their availability. We will re-assess the current number and placing of lifebelts and will also work with the EA and other partners to review the management of risk from drowning. Sadly, the most recent death occurred in a side channel where life belts would not generally be expected and re-emphasises the need for good provision of swimming lessons and lessons at school covering the hazards presented by the many watercourses around the city.

13. From Councillor Benjamin to Councillor Rowley

The latest tragic drowning of 13 year old AownDogar has once again raised awareness of the lack of lifebelts on some stretches of the Thames. Will the Portfolio Holder assure me that the long promised life belts on the Meadow Lane side will be installed as a matter of urgency, and will the

portfolio holder also instruct officers to conduct a review of lifebelts along all our waterways to ensure that there are no other gaps in provision?

Response:

The availability of lifebelts is checked on a regular basis, but there is a significant problem of vandalism which results in replacements often being required and gaps therefore occurring in their availability. We will re-assess the current number and placing of lifebelts and will also work with the EA and other partners to review the management of risk from drowning. Sadly, the most recent death occurred in a side channel where life belts would not generally be expected and re-emphasises the need for good provision of swimming lessons and lessons at school covering the hazards presented by the many watercourses around the city.

Board member for Planning, Transport and Regulatory Service

14. From Councillor Gotch to Councillor Hollingsworth

You will hear an address relating to the petition to Council from Rob Whitty of Lower Wolvercote. Will the Portfolio Holder use his best endeavours to ensure that CIL funds are made available to contribute towards the total cost of an effective sound barrier between the A34 and houses in Home Close, Rosamund Rd and Elmthorpe Rd in Lower Wolvercote? Funding is also being sought from the County Council and central government. Section 106 funding should also be attached to any planning consents for the Mill Site and Northern Gateway to protect those sites against A34 noise. Noise levels in Lower Wolvercote from the A34 exceed EEC and UK legal limits.

Response:

I agree that environmental noise is a serious concern and that noise barriers could be worth considering as a means of reducing exposure to some properties, though funding or a power to require them are beyond the City Council's remit.

Whilst sympathetic to the request for CIL funding, the principle underlying CIL funding is that it should be used to support development rather than to remedy existing problems like this. As the A34 is part of the national trunk road network it should be the responsibility of Highways England to fund a barrier, if one is required (although if it is not in their current spending programme, then this could be an uphill task). I doubt that the County Council will be willing to contribute as it isn't responsible for the A34.

We have already identified a number of schemes to be funded from CIL receipts, indeed the cost of the schemes on the CIL list already outweighs the amount of CIL that we have collected or expect to collect. If we were to spend CIL receipts on an A34 sound barrier it would inevitably mean that another scheme elsewhere would miss out on funding. (This proposal isn't on our CIL Regulation 123 list at present)

The decisions on the CIL spending programme are taken, by all Councillors, as part of annual budget setting process.

The CIL regulations do however also specify that 15% of CIL receipts from development in areas without a parish council (such as Wolvercote) have to be spent in accordance with the wishes of the community under the neighbourhood funding element of CIL. If the local community considers the sound barrier to be a key priority, then this project could be a candidate for funding from the 'neighbourhood' CIL pot.

It should be borne in mind that infrastructure projects cannot be funded through both CIL and S106 as this would constitute double charging, so if the City Council did decide to allocate some CIL

funds towards the A34 barrier this would preclude us from seeking S106 contributions towards the same project.

In any event the Council can only require planning obligations or impose planning conditions that are necessary to resolve some issue that otherwise makes the development unacceptable. It cannot use them to remedy a pre-existing problem or issue not created by the proposed development. The Council also cannot impose requirements that the developer is unable to comply with.

15. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Hollingsworth

What attempts were made to try and find a developer to build housing - rather than a hotel - on the site of the Cooper Callas building on Paradise Street?

Response:

This is a privately owned site, and if a landowner/prospective landowner wishes to develop the site for a hotel or any other uses they will submit the proposal and the City Council will consider any such application on its merits against the policies that apply.

The relevant policies are contained within the West End AAP which identified sites for development (Appendix 2 of the AAP). The Cooper Callas site was identified as being potentially suitable for flats, offices, food and drink uses and/or arts and cultural uses but this is not a site allocation. As such these identified sites are not restricted to the indicative uses. Other uses may also be suitable.

. The AAP seeks to deliver a renaissance of the West End area and to deliver high quality development that matches Oxford's international reputation. An important element of the AAP was for sites to be mixed use which ensure vibrancy area throughout the day and support a wider range of activities. The AAP sought to encourage not just office and residential development but other types of development such as commercial leisure and tourist related development. As such the Oxford Local Plan 2001-2016 site allocation for primarily residential on this site was removed and the AAP brought in more flexibility in potential uses on any site in the West End. The AAP itself was adopted by the Council in 2008.

In terms of policy the West End Area Action Plan (Policy WE26) states that hotels are a suitable use throughout the West End and therefore would be appropriate on the Cooper Callas site in principle (subject to design matters and other policy matters). The Oxford Hotel and Short Stay Accommodation Futures published in 2007 was important evidence to justify the policy approach of encouraging more hotels in the West End. It showed that there was a high demand for hotel rooms in Oxford and strong potential for growth in demand for hotel and short stay accommodation in Oxford. It summarised "the buoyancy of the hotel, hostel and serviced apartment sector and keen commitment of operators and developers to be part of Oxford's future, represent a real opportunity for the sector to make a positive contribution to the development of this world class city."

The AAP also requires sites to be mixed use so we would expect more than one use to be developed on the site.

A planning application for a hotel development has not been received although a public exhibition of potential development has recently been held.

16. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Hollingsworth –

Has the Oxford Association of Hotels and Guest Houses been consulted with, regarding the plan to greatly increase the number of hotel rooms in the city centre?

Response:

An increase in hotel bed spaces was agreed in Policy CS32 of the Core Strategy, which was adopted in 2011 after a five year consultation and development process. The Policy CS32 identified the West End as an area where new hotel accommodation will be supported. The West End Area Action Plan (AAP) Policy WE26 and supporting text provides some further direction on new hotel accommodation. Both the Core Strategy and the West End AAP policies are derived from the evidence within The Oxford Hotel and Short Stay Accommodation Futures Study produced in 2007.

The Oxford Association of Hotels and Guest Houses were not consulted specifically on the West End AAP but they were consulted on the Core Strategy at three stages (Issues and Options in June 2006, Further Preferred Options in March 2008 and Proposed Submission in September 2008). The Association did not respond on any occasion.

The consultants of The Oxford Hotel and Short Stay Accommodation Futures Study which informed the West End AAP and the Core Strategy hotel policies, also directly contacted local hotels and guest houses. Research for the Study included:

- A review of national hotel performance and development trends;
- An audit of the existing supply of hotel and short-stay accommodation and assessment of recent and planned future changes to the city's accommodation supply in terms of closures and planned developments;
- Interviews with managers and owners of hotels and short-stay accommodation in and around the city to assess recent and current performance levels and trends;
- An assessment of factors that could influence future demand for hotel and short stay accommodation, including the impact on demand of planned major development projects;
- The preparation of forecasts for the potential growth in hotel accommodation demand over 5, 10, 15 and 20 year periods;
- Consultations with a sample of hotel developers to assess their interest in developing in Oxford.

The study was supported by Tourism South East whose own documents also informed the study.

Board member for Young People, Schools and Skills

17. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Kennedy

The Council allocated £250,000, an increase of £150,000 over the original scheme, to the Equity Loans Scheme in the February 2015 budget to support the employment of senior teachers in city schools. How many loans have been made since the scheme started in July 2013?

Response:

No loans have been granted to date under the criteria of the original scheme which was focussed on new appointments to 'head and senior leadership' posts. Additional funding to extend the criteria was included as part of the Council's approved budget for 2015/16. The revised Equity Loans Scheme, which is being launched this month, now allows housing assistance to be provided to all existing and newly appointed teachers, in permanent leadership posts, within target schools. Opening up the scheme in this way recognises the importance of having settled staff in these key roles as this in turn, helps to drive educational improvement.

Deputy Leader of the Council, Board Member for Finance, Corporate Asset Management and Public Health

18. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Turner

At the April Audit and Governance Committee, the City's internal auditors, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, criticised the management of the Rose Hill Community Centre building project. There were substantial criticisms of the procurement process and the project management which ultimately led to an overspend of almost £500,000 or about 12% of the original budget. It was worrying to read in the June CEB report on the Tower Blocks refurbishment project that again a large increase in budget is being requested. An extra £1.75m was requested to increase the budget to over £20m. Using £700,000 of unallocated S106 affordable housing contributions towards the Council's new build programme to help fund an agreed project, not provide a single extra unit of social housing, seems to be contrary to the aim of increasing housing supply. Are you satisfied that sufficient measures are now in place to ensure that such significant overspends do not become a regular feature of City finance reports?

Response:

First of all, it would not be right to view this as an "overspend (this would be the case if contract costs had been exceeded), but rather, it is a matter of fact that the Council incorrectly estimated the cost of the new building, not least as the specification in the end agreed upon was higher than that originally proposed. A similar point applies in relation to the Tower Blocks. The report from PWC was instigated by officers as a learning point for future projects. Whilst there were a number of recommendations included within this report these were not viewed as criticisms but areas upon which the council could improve its approach towards project management. Indeed at the time of the increase in costs on the Rose Hill Project the Capital Gateway process had only just commenced and the Gateway itself would not necessarily have led to a different outcome regarding the increased cost on this project which was caused mainly by external factors outside the council's control. The reason for the increased cost on the tower blocks has been well documented in the report to City Exec Board and with regard to the issue of the S106 grant the Head of Finance advised at the June CEB that this was more down to a confusing paragraph in the report, rather than an inappropriate use of S106 monies as is suggested here. The Tower Block

report was attempting to say that unallocated section 106 receipts held by the Council for affordable housing would be used to fund such expenditure in the Council's existing capital programme currently funded by capital receipts. The released capital receipts would in turn be used to fund the budget increase in the Tower Block programme. Whilst price variations, especially on contracts of this size cannot be ruled out in future I am satisfied that the embedding of the Capital Gateway process for project management will provide a robust process by which the council can as far as possible budget, procure, identify, mitigate and report issues and provide overall good governance to capital projects that it undertakes..

19. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Turner –

What is the Portfolio Holder doing to address the slippage in the Capital Programme which has again occurred despite the introduction of the Gateway Process?

Response:

The overall slippage on the capital budget was around £12million in comparison to the original budget of £63million. This primarily related to three schemes, Rose Hill Community Centre, Affordable Homes Programme and Vehicles. The average spend on capital over the last 9 years has been around £20million and the delivery of £48.7 million in 2014/15 is significantly above this and represents the largest investment in the city in as many years. The Council will continue to embed and improve its monitoring through the Capital Gateway process which the Council is continually improving. However, the councillor should note that some delays (particularly where external contractors are involved or the conclusion of financial agreements is required) are beyond the Council's control.

20. From Councillor David Thomas to Councillor Turner

Can the portfolio holder explain why the HRA budget of 2013/14 underestimated depreciation by a worrying 50% to the tune of £3m, contributing substantially to the fact the HRA account was only able to support the Capital programme by £10.1m rather than the anticipated £16.8m?

Response:

The question refers to 2013/14 but I suspect means 2014/15.

Please note that the movement in depreciation does not have a detrimental impact on the availability of resources for revenue contributions to capital as inferred in the question. Through a series of allowable accounting adjustments they both represent resources available to fund HRA capital expenditure in the year.

This is because depreciation in the HRA whilst initially budgeted for in accordance with proper accounting practices is effectively overridden at year-end with the actual Major Repairs Allowance (MRA) figure the Government has pre-determined and insisted we show as part of the self-financing valuation agreement first implemented in April 2012. This is best exemplified by the tables below:

2014/15	£'000's
HRA Capital Programme Expenditure	21,134
Total Spend	21,134
Sources of Finance	
Major Repairs Reserve	8,704
Revenue Contribution to Capital	10,109
Grants and Contributions	221
Capital Receipts	2,100
Total Financing	21,134

2014/15	£'000's
HRA Extract	
Depreciation	8,704
Revenue Contributions to Capital	10,109

The highlighted lines within Sources of Finance are the two elements identified within the HRA, namely depreciation and revenue contributions to capital.

Therefore, there was no need to provide £16.8m revenue contributions to capital as it was not required, we only needed the £10.109m as shown above. What has been undertaken is the balance of unused resources in the HRA was transferred to an HRA reserve to finance slippages in the 2014/15 HRA capital programme that will now take place in future financial years. So in effect all the 2014/15 revenue funding for capital will indeed follow the capital spend as and when it is incurred.

21. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Turner

Given that you have agreed to roll over unspent ward member budgets into the next financial year, why have you refused Scrutiny Committee's request to rollover unspent grants money? (I am referring to the underspend to the small grants and social inclusion funds which amount to about 25% of the total.)

Response:

Underspends are considered by City Executive Board each year in the context of the financial outturn and approval given to carry unspent balances is then considered. In particular, projects work can be carried forward, but that is not the case here. Unfortunately not all underspends can be carried forward since the underspends are required to mitigate overspends or other emerging budgetary pressures such as the increased cost of recycling highlighted in the 2014/15 outturn report. We will monitor the call upon our grants budgets throughout the year and see if variation to the budget is required. The Councillor will note the long-standing commitment of the administration

to supporting community and voluntary organisations in Oxford and the fact that, even in times of austerity, budgets have been maintained and indeed increased.

22. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Turner

Will the Portfolio Holder (a) join me in congratulating the organisers of the Cowley Road Carnival for another excellent event and (b) commit to extending their funding at the same time as (c) looking at ways to increase the City Council's contribution to costs?

Response:

First of all, I enjoyed attending the carnival with my family and would absolutely agree with the congratulations to the organisers, as well as the council staff and other public services who helped make the event such a success. The council committed a three year programme of funding which ends this year. This funding was put in place to give the event organisers time to develop a sustainable carnival model; they are due to present their business plan to the council's events team this August, and we will obviously need to consider the outcome of this meeting. We want the Carnival to continue to flourish – at the same time, other potential sources of finance obviously need to do their bit as well. I find it puzzling that the suggestion from the outset is that the Council should look to increase its contribution to costs from the outset, and that does not reflect the good sense of the councillor in most financial matters, nor does it demonstrate an awareness of the financial situation of local government at the moment.

23. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Turner

Can you tell Council whether there are still plans to change the name of the Panel Room to the Freeman's Room, at an estimated cost of between £15k and £20k?

Response:

The change of name forms part of the wider re-signage plan for the Town Hall, which is likely to take place over the course of the next year, as part of the general maintenance and refurbishment programme. The cost of the change of name for the Panel Room itself will be very small.

Leader of the Council, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development

24. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Price

The Town hall café is I gather losing money. I understand that service areas are charged for any refreshments, including water provided in Council rooms. Do you not think that water, as an important health provision, should be provided in every room where a meeting is to be held as a matter of course and without charge to the service areas holding such a meeting? Is it true as it appears that these charges are subsidising the operation of the cafe?

Response:

Water is provided free of charge in all rooms when requested.

25. From Councillor Fooks to Councillor Price – officer exec decisions

The Forward Plan for July 2015 to April 2016 has three items listed as Delegated Officer Executive Key decisions. Two involve the delegated authority to make decisions resulting in the Council incurring expenditure of more than £500,000, the third has a significant effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards. In the interest of transparency in

decision making, can the portfolio holder tell Council where the decisions will be publicised when made?

Response:

These decisions, when made, will be published on the council's web site and can be viewed on the "Council and Democracy" page under the "Decisions" tab.

26. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price –

Each councillor is allocated £1,500 per year to spend on anything that improves the economic, social or environmental well-being of their ward. At the end of 2013, Labour Councillors had failed to disperse £27,848. This situation deteriorated further during 2014/15, with Labour Councillors dispersing just £25,896 (54%) out of a budget of £48,000, meaning that at the end of 2014/15 Labour Councillors were sitting on a staggering £49,953 - a whole year's budget!. As of 2015/16, the Labour Councillors have an available budget of just short of £100,000 at their disposal. What assurances can the Leader of the Labour Group give that this money will be used for the purpose it was intended and actually dispersed to those in need, and will he commit to setting a target that his group's councillors will have a total carry-over of under £5,000 at the end of 2015/16.

Response:

Members have discretion to use their ward budgets as and when they wish. It would be unwise to spend public money if there are no projects for which the funds would be appropriate.

27. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price

Can Councillor Price please disclose the consultation strategy officers will adopt in the redrafting the City Centre PSPO legislation to avoid the repetition of an 11th hour threat of a legal challenge from Liberty.

Response:

Officers are currently developing their advice on the points in the letter from Liberty and a fresh report will be the subject of a Scrutiny review and CEB decision in September or October.

28. From Councillor Hollick to Councillor Price

Would the board member support the idea of the city centre ambassadors being able to provide first aid to members of the public, and will they arrange for providing publicly accessible first aid kits and training for the ambassadors in first aid and in using the publicly accessible defibrillators?

Response:

This is a very interesting proposal and it will be discussed with the City Centre manager and town team.

29. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Price

The National Pensioners Convention has created a Dignity Code and is inviting councils to sign up to it. The purpose of this Dignity Code is to uphold the rights and maintain the personal dignity of older people, within the context of ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of those who are increasingly less able to care for themselves or to properly conduct their affairs. This Code recognises that certain practices and actions are unacceptable in the care of older people. (Full details of the Code are available on line via the National Pensioners Convention.)

Could the portfolio holder indicate if they are willing to sign up as a supporter of the Code of Dignity and to uphold these standards in those services provided to older people?

Response:

Yes.

30. From Councillor Benjamin to Councillor Price

How can the Council expect other landlords to charge reasonable rents when it is letting out the two bedroom flat in its own Town Hall (previous let for an affordable rent to staff) for the advertised price of £1,000 per week? (Note this is about three times the average rent for a two bedroom flat in Oxford).

Response:

The Town Hall flat is a General Fund asset. Housing Services considered it for letting but felt that it was unsuitable for their purposes. The flat was therefore let through a Landlord and Tenant Act tenancy to J C Penny Ltd for £15,000 per annum. The company refurbished the flat and is now letting it on the open market.

OXFORD CITY FULL COUNCIL MEETING

20 July 2015

AGENDA ITEM 19 (was18): PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING.

Addresses

1. **Address by Mark Lodge, Director, International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research - in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day (text attached) (unless taken earlier in meeting)**
2. **Address by Rob Whitty – Wolvercote Sound Barrier Petition presented to Council (text separate)**
3. **Address by Howard Crapper - RFC Oxford Port Meadow Airfield and proposed Memorial to the Airman who lost their lives there during WW1 (text separate)**
4. **Address by Peter Hulley - in support of petition to install lights on path in South Park. (text attached)**
5. **Address by Mr Artwell – East Oxford Community Centre (text attached)**
6. **Address by Sietske Boeles – Green belt (text attached)**

Questions (attached)

1. **Question from Mr Artwell**
2. **Question from Rosemary Harris**
3. **Question from Patricia Feeney**
4. **Question from Sietske Boeles**
5. **Question from Lady Jacqueline Gray**
6. **Question from Sir Muir Gray**

Questions and responses where available in advance

1. Question from Mr Artwell

Will the Councillors support the continued management of East Oxford Community Centre as this is the will of the people of Oxford East?

Response

The Notice to Quit to East Oxford Community Association will not be rescinded as it is not apparent that all the requirements have been met. I am not going to provide detail of this in a public forum.

Instead efforts will be focused on supporting the Reference Group which the Council has established to support a positive future for the Centre and for the people that it should serve.

The Reference Group includes representatives from the Community Association, the current users of the Community Centre, local Councillors, tenants of the Community Centre, the Chinese Community Centre, the Games Hall and the local Residents Association. Its work is supported by City Council officers and Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action.

The purpose of the Reference Group is to facilitate the process of identifying the needs and aspirations of the local community to inform the development of the Centre, including design, and to support the process of consultation with that community. It is an opportunity for reflection and forward planning.

I am confident that by engaging with the wide range of opinions, interests, activities and talent the future of the Community Centre will be both supported and enhanced. In the immediate future, the Council will support the continued use of the Centre for all its current activities, and will welcome new suggestions, proposals and initiatives. This process is already underway. By working together we can achieve a thriving Centre meeting the needs of the community it serves.

2. Question from Rosemary Harris

(Regarding) Condition 1 attached to the partial discharge of Condition 19 in relation to **NOISE** from EWR Phase 1 (Application No: 14/00956/CND):

The reason for Condition 1 is stated as "the **Noise Scheme of Assessment** has been prepared upon the basis of these details and deviation from them would not necessarily result in the standards of **vibration** mitigation required by the Noise and Vibration Mitigation Policy (January 2011) being achieved." [Emphasis added]. The Council is aware that there is NO vibration mitigation proposed but there is in fact noise mitigation proposed.

Please can the Council state their rationale for stating "the standards of vibration mitigation requiredbeing achieved" in the condition relating to the partial discharge of noise mitigation?

Response

The reference to vibration in the reason paragraph of this condition is a typographical error which should have referred to noise. The Council believes that this error is not material in that it does not have any significance to the enforceability of the condition because it does not form any part of the operative wording of the condition. The error and the Council's view on it has been notified to Network Rail and we do not expect a challenge to that view.

3. Question from Patricia Feeney

(Regarding) Condition 2 attached to the partial discharge of Condition 19 in relation to VIBRATION from EWR Phase 1 (Application No: 14/00232/CND):

Please can the Council state how it will monitor that Network Rail is complying with this condition?

Response

This is the condition limiting the movements of trains. The scheduling of passenger and freight train movements on a particular line is a matter of public record as it is raw real-time train running data. The availability of this information, together with the extent of local interest, means that the Council's attention can reliably be expected to be drawn to any apparent contravention of this condition.

4. Question from Sietske Boeles

On April 1 over the last 5 year how many properties were exempt from paying council due to being occupied by full time students? Can you give a breakdown for each year for the two exempt categories N and M : the halls and private residences?

Response

The number of exempt Class M and N properties as at the 1st April each year are as set out below:

	Class M	Class N	Total
April 1st 2010	2,130	2,713	4,843
April 1st 2011	2,428	2,907	5,335
April 1st 2012	2,488	2,846	5,334
April 1st 2013	2,595	2,762	5,357
April 1st 2014	2,656	2,713	5,369
April 1st 2015	2,751	2,622	5,373

The definition of a student for Council Tax purposes is someone:

“undertaking a full-time course at a college or university in the UK. (prescribed educational establishments include universities on the ERASMUS programme within the European Union); or under 20 years old in part time or full time education; or a Foreign language assistant - registered with the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and working at a school or other educational establishment”.

5. Question from Lady Jacqueline Gray

(Regarding) Condition 3, attached to the partial discharge of Condition 19 in relation to vibration from EWR Phase 1 (Application No: 14/00232/CND):

Please can the Council state when it will inform residents of the details of the vibration monitoring agreed with Network Rail?

Response

The condition requires that a scheme of monitoring is effected as approved by the council before the railway is put back into use. The Council has not yet received proposals from Network Rail.

6. Question from Sir Muir Gray

(Regarding) Condition 3, attached to the partial discharge of Condition 19 in relation to vibration from EWR Phase 1 (Application No: 14/00232/CND)

Please can the Council state when it will inform residents of the details of the vibration monitoring agreed with Network Rail?

Response

The condition requires that a scheme of monitoring is effected as approved by the council before the railway is put back into use. The Council has not yet received proposals from Network Rail.

Address in support of the Motion to recognize World Cancer Day

Cancers are now pervading every section of British society, with more than 50% of the UK population likely to be diagnosed with a malignant disease at some point in their lives, and one quarter of all UK deaths already being cancer-related. Data from the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group collected for 2012 show that 4,364 new cases of cancer, including 930 new cases of skin cancer, were reported within the OCCG area and 1,566 cancer deaths. Oxfordshire has a higher than average number of cases of breast cancer and skin cancer, and a growing population of cancer survivors. And while survival is the outcome we are all working towards, and hoping for, it brings its own problems. Cancers represent not only a serious threat to life but also to the financial security and emotional stability of affected families, resulting in social welfare costs that may ultimately have to be borne by Council departments.

As of the end of 2010, around 20,600 people in the OCCG area were living with cancer, some up to 20 years after their original diagnosis. National trends indicate that Oxford is facing not only a 16% increase in the annual number of new cases by 2025 and a 20% increase in the annual number of cancer deaths but also almost a doubling of its cancer survivor community over the next 15 years. The number of cancer survivors is expected to rise to 40,000 by 2030. It is very proper, therefore, for the City Council to consider practical ways by which it can work with others to help protect the population it serves from this increased threat to their lives.

Oxford, like every other British city, faces severe financial challenges, but it enjoys one unique advantage - its reputation - and we should be marshalling this in the fight against cancer. Oxford can boast world class scientific research talent with an established network of almost 500 cancer researchers, nurses and clinicians; a vigorous voluntary sector and a highly regarded hospice movement, but these strengths largely go unrecorded as features of Oxford life; features that could measurably enhance the city's national and international reputation and attract inward investment.

The 4th of February has been designated by the World Health Organisation as 'World Cancer Day' and has become the occasion for awareness raising and fundraising events by cancer charities throughout the UK. Although both sectors demonstrably do good work, all too often the Third sector and the Public sector operate in busy 'silos' that are distant from each other and they can easily miss opportunities to combine together to launch initiatives addressing the needs of disadvantaged or hard to reach sections of the community. Official recognition is a cost efficient way of building a year long platform for dialogue with the voluntary sector.

The following charities are supporting the Motion for the official recognition of World Cancer Day: Cancer Research UK Oxford Centre; CLIC Sargent; Helen and Douglas House; the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research UK; Katherine House Hospice; Macmillan Cancer Support; Maggie's Centre, Marie Curie Cancer; Sobell House Hospice; Sue Ryder Hospices. Being the first UK City Council to recognise World Cancer Day and to bring together these different charities as equal partners in a Town Hall event on February 4th offers three benefits:

1. It will provide the catalyst for greater engagement with the charities that can lead to the development of innovative, cost-efficient strategies to improve cancer prevention, early detection, treatment and the support of cancer patients and their carers.

2. It will send a clear message to the citizens of Oxfordshire that members of this City Council, irrespective of their party differences, are resolved to stand together, shoulder to shoulder, in the fight against cancer.
3. It will promote the wider recognition of Oxford's enduring talent for innovation, research and effective community care.

Members of the City Council, you will recognise that you alone have the authority to grant official recognition to World Cancer Day and that this is no empty political gesture but the necessary prerequisite for combined action against a genuine threat. The threat posed by cancer has now spread to every corner of Oxford and the surrounding towns and villages. It has even entered this Chamber. We must fight back but the more fragmented our strategies, the less effective they will be. The fight against cancer demands both solidarity and harmony.

In the memory of those we have lost and all those still living who we cherish most dearly, let World Cancer Day 4th February 2016 be the day that this Council and these charities raise their standards in alliance and begin to turn the tide in this long war against malignant disease.

Mark Lodge
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Wolvercote Sound Barrier Petition presented to Council on 20th July 2015

Thank you Lord Mayor and Councillors for hearing me out on another environmental issue in Lower Wolvercote. This issue was supported / accompanied by a petition to County in April 2015.

On behalf of the residents and over 290 households of Wolvercote we presented this petition to the Cabinet of the County Council to lobby the Highways agency and Government and prioritise an acoustic sound barrier for a length up to 1 mile long; primarily the raised section of the A34 that borders Lower Wolvercote from the Peartree junction to the Thames bridge.

It is a petition that demonstrates the serious concern that affected residents have about the invasive noise that we face on a daily and nightly basis. It is a concern that some campaigns within Britain have described as Torture.

It is a petition that should remind the Council that it is not the first time this issue has been raised as a serious concern. The longer it is not resolved, the higher the financial cost and detrimental public health effect to Oxford residents will be.

The A34 is a busy road night and day. It is also up to 80 ft above Wolvercote roads, so noise travels far. Resurfacing with 'quieter tarmac' was done in the last 4 years at a considerable cost (up to £16m based on an estimate from Hansard). The comparative cost of acoustic fencing for the same stretch would be probably less than £700,000 (or more than 20 x less per mile than the resurfacing). Assisting residents to get doubleglazing will also not address the problem.

The A34 is also a very noisy road (and more so with a southerly wind direction). Sound measurements taken on different Wolvercote roads showed continuous noise levels up to 92db (the same level as a lawnmower continuously running immediately outside our houses).

Public Health officers would confirm that exposure to noise levels in excess of 85db over 8 hours are internationally recognised as damaging to health and hearing (especially for children).

According to the WHO, EU and the UK Government recommendations, noise outside a dwelling is seen as acceptable up to a maximum of 45dB. We regularly face noise levels in our homes and gardens that are subjectively more than 85% louder on a logarithmic scale. A34 noise levels must not continue to be ignored.

The EU brought in legislation in 2004 that prescribes checks and measurements for busy roads, and investment in sound barriers for noise levels over 68db (standard in mainland Europe). Yet neither the Government nor Defra have complied with this legislation in Oxfordshire.

The effect of noise should not be underestimated. Recent articles in the national press and the BMJ suggest that road noise causes an increase of up to 4,000 deaths annually. A 5db increase in road noise has been shown to equate a 4% increase in death rates and strokes. The EU estimates 1.6m disability life years are lost due to road noise. The effects of prolonged road noise are increased cardiovascular disease, stress, strokes, ulcers and premature pregnancies, sleep, anxiety and breathing disorders, all of which unnecessarily increase the local public health burden.

Any specialised company would confirm that Acoustic sound barriers can reduce noise levels by up to 80%. Councils also have a legal duty under the Land Compensation Act 1973 and the Noise Insulation Regulations 1975 to provide noise protection or insulation where noise exceeds prescribed levels.

Councillor Mike Gotch unsuccessfully lobbied the Government for acoustic sound barriers 5 years ago. Now the residents of Wolvercote (as well as other Oxford residents and visitors to the area) that face this barrage day or night, appeal to the Council, Government and Highways Agency to resolve this avoidable assault on our quality of life and our health.

Any cost to the budget could be substantially reduced if officers and members of council include a Section 106 clause to any planning consent for substantial funding for a sound barrier to protect the Mill site housing or Northern gateway Development which both border the A34 in Wolvercote (see attached map). I would also request that a CIL contribution is included to the total cost of protecting Lower Wolvercote.

We suggest that initial funding from the city council could be matched by funding from the county council and central government to cover the total cost.

We will not let the issue drop and have already presented this petition from over 290 households to the County Council in the expectation that Councillor Bob Price and both Councils will not drop it either as the Mill site and Northern Gateway developments progress.

Our Councillors, MP Nicola Blackwood and MEP Catherine Bearder are all aware of the petition and the new Highways England CEO has been written to and invited to visit the area.

We therefore present the petition to you from over 725 voters to act on, support and address as a priority.

Rob Whitty
47 Elmthorpe Road
OX2 8PA

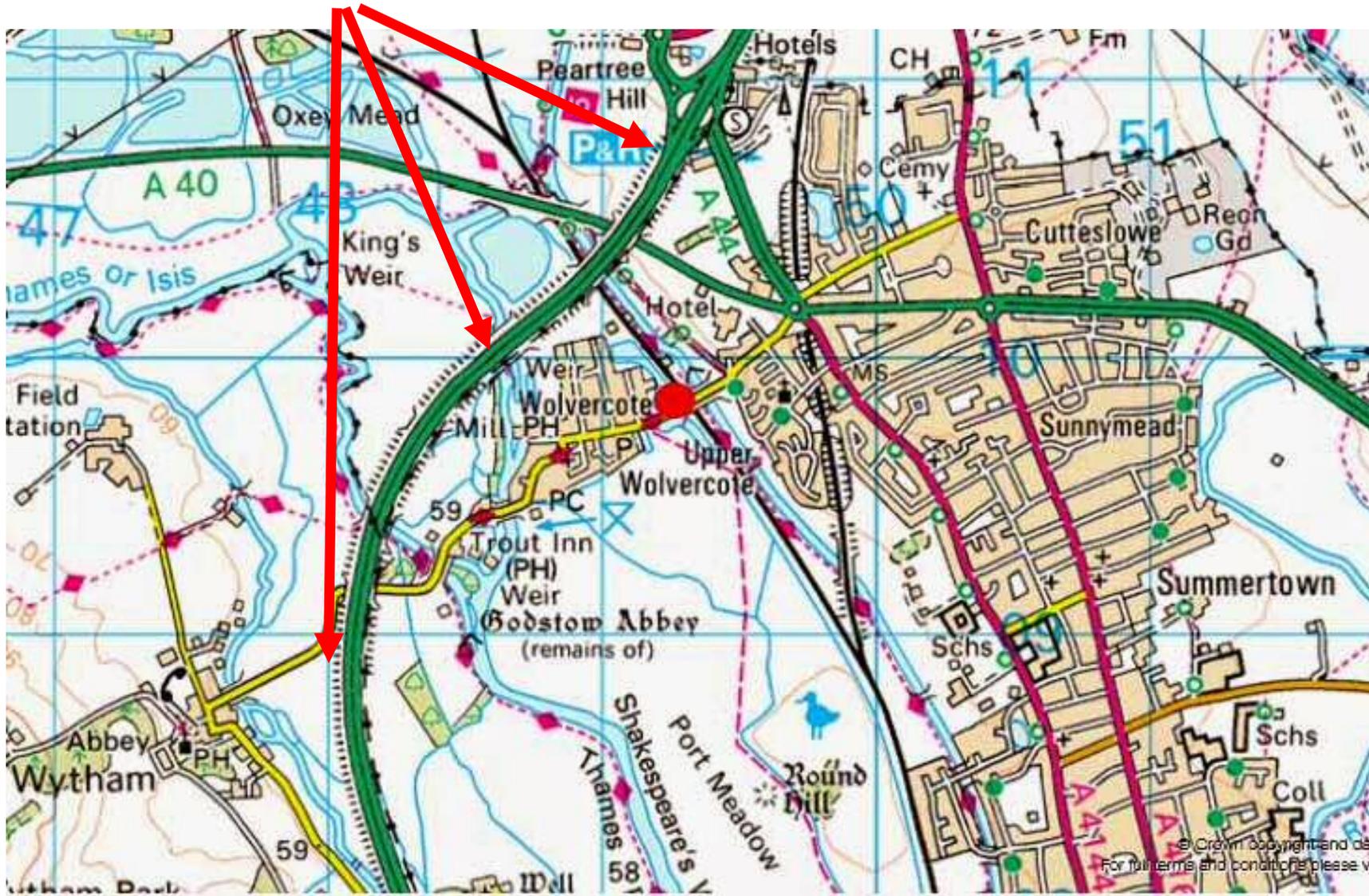
The Petition reads:

To Oxford County and City Council,

We the undersigned, call on you to rectify the noise levels we have to face on a daily (and nightly) basis on the raised part of the A34 north of Oxford and thereby improve our quality of life.

We hereby request you lobby the Highways Agency and support the installation of a sound barrier or acoustic fence (as has been installed as standard on so many other noisy roads next to residential areas in Oxfordshire, the UK and in Europe) on the Eastern side of the raised section of the A34 from the Peartree Roundabout to just past the Thames bridge.

Map of Raised section of A34 passing SW / NE of Wolvercote and Mill Site



World War 1 aerodrome on Port Meadow and Wolvercote Common

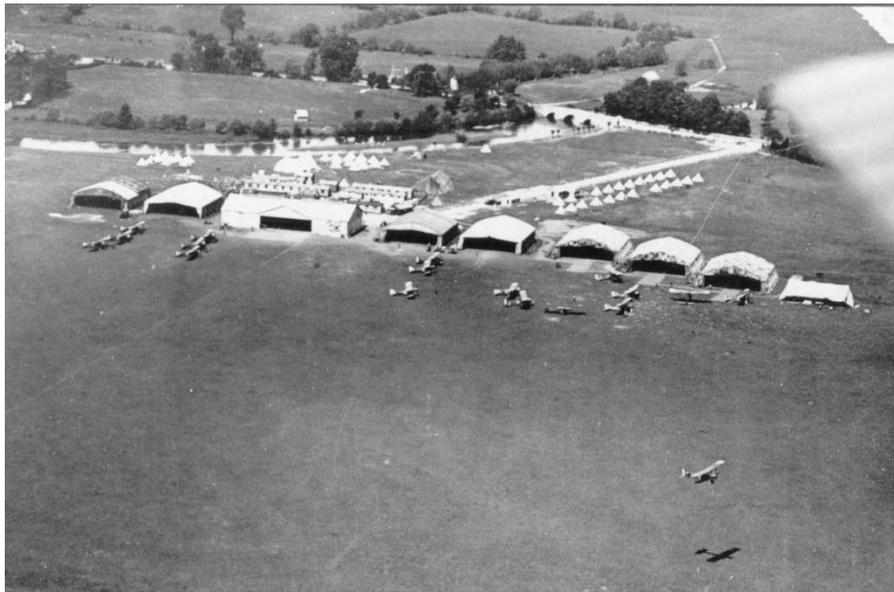
- The Wolvercote WW1 Aerodrome Memorial Project

I represent a local community project Committee, formed in January 2015 to create a new memorial to fatal casualties of flying accidents associated with use of the aerodrome during WW1. Thank you for the opportunity to brief you about this project today.

- Members of the project Committee include two former Lord Mayors - Ann Spokes Symonds & Bryan Keen (who also held the office of Sheriff), representatives of the Wolvercote Commoners and Oxford Freemen, 2 local historians and a local researcher (in the Chair). The project enjoys the support of the current Mayor, Sheriff & local councillors
- This project has 2 objectives:-
 1. To raise local awareness of the aerodrome during this national WW1 centenary commemoration period, through events, articles and talks, and, most importantly
 2. To visibly recognise by way of a new, permanent and local memorial the ultimate sacrifice made by the 17 young airmen who died. We are aiming to have this in place by November 2018, and preferably sooner
- Members may already be aware that the wartime role of this aerodrome was to train new pilots and observers, but the associated fatalities are generally little known locally. Despite there being up to 10 large canvas hangars and several other buildings accommodating several hundred personnel at its peak, there are very few physical remnants of the aerodrome now, except for the "Target" structure (which the WCC wish to see preserved in some way) and parts of the access road
- The Committee (& many local residents) feel it would be appropriate to commemorate their loss visibly with a memorial, in the same way as the 1912 RFC aeroplane crash was with its plaque on the Toll Bridge at Wolvercote
- The 17 men were trainees, instructors and experienced pilots alike, some combat veterans, who were killed in training or other accidents while serving their country based at or visiting this aerodrome during WW1
- 15 of the 17 were killed locally, 2 near Ascot. Most were aged in their early twenties and 4 had gallantry medals. One was a recognised Ace who had shot down 21 enemy aircraft and who, aged 20, died after refuelling on a cross country flight. Others died training through pilot error, structural failure or mechanical fault
- Statistically, we understand more pilots were killed training at home than by enemy action, a reflection of how dangerous flying was. We think there may have been between 80 and 120 crashes associated with this airfield over 2 years. While most of them were not fatal, 12 were. We know of 18 serious injuries
- 8 men are buried in Wolvercote cemetery⁵⁹¹ in Botley, 2 in Ascot and the others repatriated to home town locations across the UK – in Wales, Scotland & England

- We have a lot of background information on all 17 and are in contact with living relatives of 7 so far - residing in Canada, America, South Africa and Australia, as well as within the UK. There was/is a truly international human flavour to this aerodrome
- In terms of where we are with the project;-
 1. the Committee has agreed on a **preferred design** – a granite plaque (potentially the same stone as the 1912 plaque) set within a stone cairn -, & a **preferred location** – on one of the concrete bathing hut bases near the Wolvercote car park, adjacent to the aerodrome site but, significantly, not on the Meadow itself. We feel an interpretation panel is also required, and potentially some works to the concrete bases.
 2. We need to **undertake pre-application consultation** with your planning department (& possibly other organisations) to ensure our preferred design & location are feasible. We **may consider an outline planning application** prior to fund raising, if considered necessary to provide some certainty
 3. We then need to **get firmer estimates** for all the work. We have approached 3 stonemasons around the memorial itself (with 2 initial responses so far) and think the full package of work (including the interpretation panel and other works to the base) could be between £7,500 and £10,000.
 4. We recognise **fundraising** will be a challenge, however we feel there is a groundswell of community & hopefully political support for this worthwhile cause - a memorial to as yet unrecognised local casualties of WW1. We will be opening a bank account shortly, and are developing a fund raising strategy to include social media, and possibly crowd funding. All potential sources of funding will be considered.
 5. To help **raise awareness**, the aerodrome specifically featured in the BBC WW1 At Home digital archive series last year (an 11 minute item) broadcast locally, and our researcher has published several articles in the Oxford Mail and Oxford Times & does local talks. Committee members have also run a stall at local community events in Wolvercote in June & West Oxford earlier this month to promote public awareness & support. Straw polls at other community events have been unanimous in support for this project.
- The Committee is very keen to progress this project, and is pleased with and enthused by the positive feedback from residents and others so far. What we'd like to ask of your Council is:
 1. Are Members supportive of this project (& would you like regular updates?)
 2. Can Members [the Council] assist in terms of facilitating pre-application feedback and helping us progress & promote this project
 3. Are there any specific issues, concerns or suggestions Members may have that we need to be cognisant of and/or that may help this project
 4. [Is this Council able to support the project financially]

Wolvercote WW1 Aerodrome Memorial Project – Annex



The aerodrome in May 1918



Five of the seventeen fatal casualties



61
One of the eight casualties buried in Wolvercote Cemetery

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4. Address by Peter Hulley in support of petition to install lights on path in South Park.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my petition this evening. As a resident of the Divinity Road area and a student of Oxford Brookes, it has become increasingly evident to me over the past year that it is imperative that lights are fitted along the path at the top of South Park. I understand that the path was opened for use by Cheney School students to use during the day. However, the logic which required the path to be opened - that of it being the most direct route between the school and residential areas around Cowley Road, has inevitably meant that the path has also become the main route for other pedestrians, including Brookes students and other residents, very often at night.

As a student walking to and from Brookes campus at night, it has become evident to me that of all the parts of the route to be left unlit, this is the worst: it is too dark to even see your feet, to the point that it is possible to lose the path; I have often come near to walking into other people. Anyone who has read the comments on the petition will see that there is consensus that the path is scary to walk along at night. This has only been made worse by the knowledge that there was a sexual assault in the park last year.

Many girls of my acquaintance are too scared to walk through the park alone at night, and take the longer route along Cheney Lane. Though this route is only 3 minutes longer, this is long enough to dissuade most people taking it, and it also requires walking along an unpaved path, which most avoid because it is very muddy in winter. Thus a new danger arises; that of pedestrians walking on the road. It is possible to walk along Gipsy Lane, which is the only safe route at night, but hardly anyone does this, as it is significantly longer.

A concern has been raised about the lights causing antisocial behaviour. However, this doesn't make sense. Even if lights do contribute to more antisocial behaviour, surely this is a small price to pay for the sake of real increased safety? The petition has been signed by a mixture of students, parents and local residents. I hope that the council will listen to their concerns. Thank you.

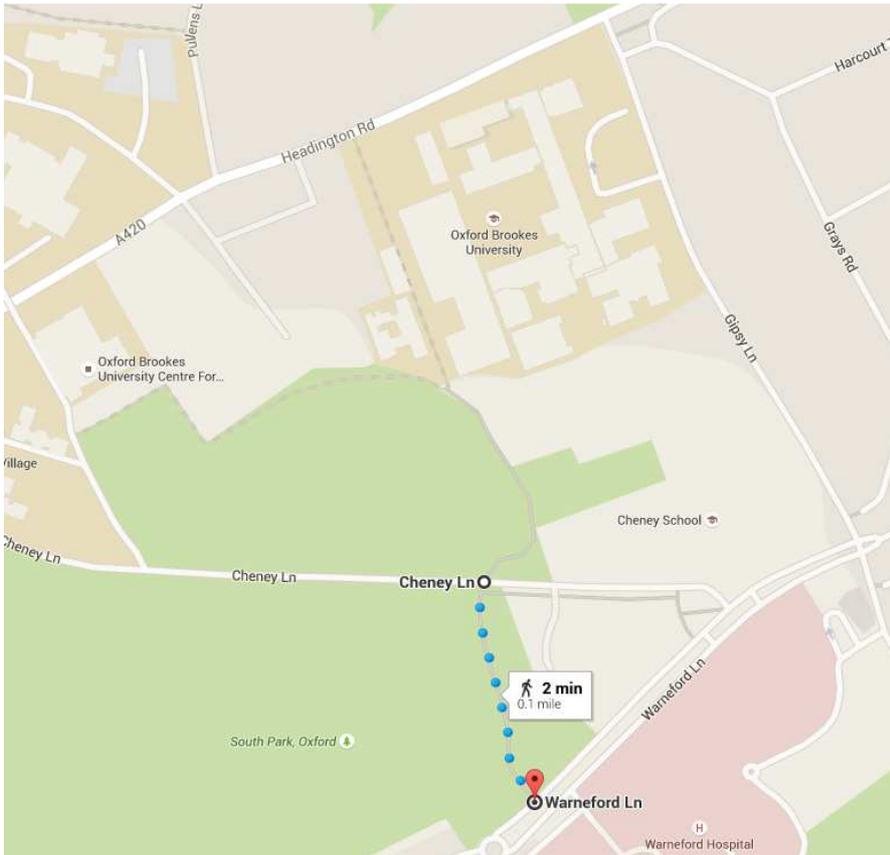
Text of petition: (571 signatures)

Oxford City Council: Install lights along the path at the top of South Park

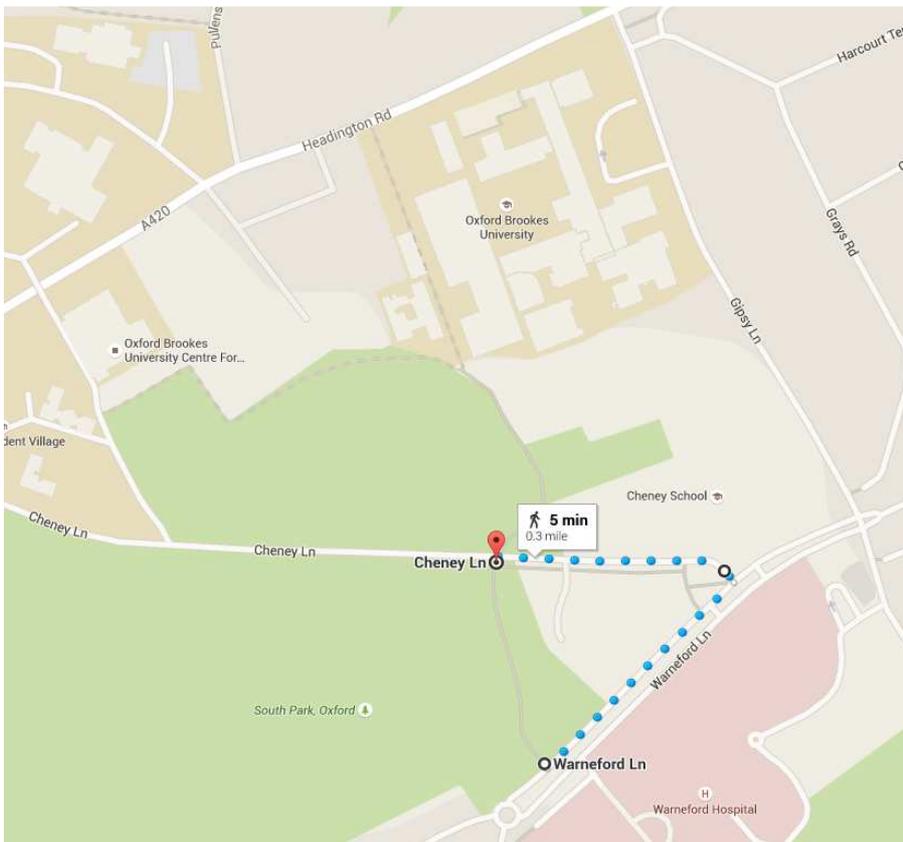
About this petition

Oxford City Council should install lights along the length of the path at the top of South Park as a matter of priority. The path's location between student housing / halls in Cowley and Brookes University mean that it is commonly used as a thoroughfare by students. It is similarly used by students at Cheney School. Though it affords a beautiful view over the city's famous dreaming spires during the day, at night it offers no view at all. Many returning from a late night stint at the library or a night out will be familiar with the routine: a growing sense of apprehension when approaching the path; a quickened pace to traverse the path as quickly as possible. The lack of lighting means that on a dark night it's impossible to even see your feet unless you have enough charge on your phone to use it as a torch. The park's reputation as a site of past sexual assault makes the installation of lights a matter of even greater urgency. (Copy and paste this link into your browser for more information:<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-29327722>) If you feel that the path at the top of South Park should have lights installed, sign the petition! Let's aim for 500 signatures, but the more the better! The petition will be presented to the Members of the City Council for consideration.

This is the path in question:



Below is the alternative route, which is unpaved along Cheney Lane.



5. Address by Mr Artwell – East Oxford Community Centre

Once again, I find it is necessary for me to be so concerned that I must speak to you this time on behalf of the Friends and Users of East Oxford Community Centre.

At the Public Meeting on Monday 6th July, I was Elected as the Campaign Co-ordinator to defeat the plan of Mr Tim Sadler and other Officers to ignore the wishes of the Friends and Users of East Oxford Community Centre. Councillors are you aware that Officers have issued formal Notice to Quit to the Trustees, this comes into force on 31 August 2015?

You are Elected Councillors, you have been Elected to represent the people of Oxford, not the over paid Officers who in this case seem to be acting against the people of Oxford East, possibly without your approval?

I wish to explain some of the issues that are being used to justify the removal of the Trustees from the management of East Oxford Community Centre.

EOCA is a Charity. There has been some difficulties with the Bar, which Mr Tim Sadler is using against the Trustees. Did any Councillors agreed to the plan to remove the Trustees when the local people do not want this to happen?

Is it fair to use the Bar disaster as their excuse for the closure.?

Please NOTE there are no problems with EOCA's accounts. They are praised each year by their auditor.

Time is short. My Campaign would have started in January, but the Trustees asked me to delay the Campaign because they were negotiating with Mr Sadler and the Trustees did not want my Campaign to antagonise Mr Sadler et al.

The reason the Campaign to save EOCC has started so late is because the negotiation with Mr Sadler came to nought and the Notice to Quit remains in force.

Councillors, I asked a question at the CEB meeting on the 12th May. I was seeking to know what was Labour controlled Oxford City Council's plan for Community Centres in Oxford. The written answer I received was that, as long the Community Centres were well managed, the Labour Controlled City Council had no designed on the Community Centre. The Trustees of East Oxford Community Centre managed the Centre well, and they are not paid an obscene salary, in fact they receive no salaries at all. We can see no reason why the Officers issued this Notice to Quit.

Councillors, surely you can understand why we are afraid of the Labour Controlled Oxford City Council. We have seen what Labour have done to the large beautiful and well used Community Centre in Cowley; Labour have reduced it to a "room" where it would not be possible to swing a cat and there is no space for a Bar and socialising.

Labour have ignored the wishes of the people of Oxford East to be able to Swim at Temple Cowley Pools and Gym. We have watched with horror Labour's treatment of the Community Centres in Northway and the traders in the Covered Market. Finally Labour's criminal plan to criminalise homeless people trying to find somewhere to rest their heads on a cold Oxford night.

Elected Councillors, I ask you, beg you to stand with the campaign and help us achieve an East Oxford Community Centre for the people of East Oxford, Managed by the people of East Oxford.

Councillors, you speak of "inclusion" and of wishing to see local people contributing and participating in local concerns. Elected Councillors please help us to reverse this plan by the Officers to remove the EOCA Trustees who have managed East Oxford Community Centre for very many years.

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6. Address by Sietske Boeles – Green belt

The Government's House of Commons Briefing Paper on Green Belts, leads off with CPRE's position in Paragraph 1.

That position is that when we lose open Green Belt land, we lose more than just a view, a space to run or play, an easy escape from the city or valuable farmland. We lose land that has its own identity and plays its own role in England's heritage.

Green Belt land is important for our wider environment, providing us with the trees and the undeveloped land which reduce the effect of the heat generated by big cities. Instead of reducing this green space, we should be using it to its best effect. We know from our research that three quarters (79%) of the population would like to see more trees planted and more food grown in the areas around towns and cities. Green Belt land is ideally placed to do this – providing more local produce which will help the environment again, by reducing food miles.

The openness of Green Belt land needs to be cherished and protected permanently. That way, Green Belts will protect our countryside and help regenerate our cities.

Countywide research undertaken by CPRE Oxfordshire as recently as last March, when the City's campaign against the Green Belt, supported by much of the local media, was at its height, were asked, bearing in mind that some would argue that Green Belts are preventing necessary development from happening in the best place, ***"How much, if at all, do you agree or disagree that the green belt around Oxford should remain open and undeveloped, and building on it not allowed?"***

The answer was unequivocal. Three quarters of respondents considered that the Green Belt should be left open and undeveloped, and this hardly varied between City and country residents, homeowners or non-home owners.

Indeed, two thirds of respondents saw housebuilding as the biggest threat to the openness they wanted to see preserved.

As our research shows yet again, the Green Belt is the best loved of all planning tools, and it is not hard to see why.

Born when it was obvious that urban sprawl was destroying both the towns doing the sprawling and the countryside being sprawled over, the purpose of Green Belts was to contain urban area, ensure that cities always had fresh, open land on their doorstep, and protect the integrity of surrounding villages which would otherwise be engulfed.

Just how the Green Belt benefits city dwellers could not be clearer than at the City's key development target area, Grenoble Road. On one side, the housing estates of the Leys; on the other, rural walks, and distant views of the hills, across wide open green fields.

That is why it is Government Advice that the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open, and that the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.

That the construction of new buildings should be regarded as "inappropriate" for the green belt, and, particularly, Government Guidance is that *Unmet housing need (including for*

traveller sites) is unlikely to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt and other harm to constitute the “very special circumstances” justifying inappropriate development on a site within the Green Belt.

This is spelled out in the October 14 Planning Practice Guidance which deals with the possible conflict between SHMAs and the Green Belt. This says assessing need is just the first stage in developing a Local Plan. *Once need has been assessed, the local planning authority should take account of any constraints such as green belt, which indicate that development should be restricted **and which may restrain the ability of an authority to meet its need.***

In other words, that Local Authorities should put the imperative to keep the Green Belt as a whole to remain permanently open ahead of the objective of meeting notional housing demand in full.

The benefits of the Green Belt are obvious, and the public overwhelmingly endorses its being kept permanently open and, particularly, kept free of housing development.

Government advice, republished as recently as the end of June, is that, even if that means unmet housing need, Green Belts should be kept permanently open.

Instead of wasting public funds on Growth Board driven reviews, Local Authorities should accept that the Green Belt must remain intact and look elsewhere for development opportunities.

This should include, first and foremost, a new Local Plan for the City which concentrated on satisfying housing need, not exacerbating it, and the direction of any need the City is actually unable to meet to the 87% of the County which is not Green Belt.

Let us keep the Green Belt and allow the City to breathe.

OXFORD CITY FULL COUNCIL MEETING 20 JULY 2015

AGENDA ITEM 22 (was 21): MOTIONS ON NOTICE –motions from, Liberal Democrat, Green, Labour groups in turn.

Motions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.16.

Substantive amendments received by the Head of Law and Governance before publication of this document are included here.

1. Provision of key worker housing (proposed by Cllr Wade seconded by Cllr Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Original motion

This Council welcomes the progress of the Barton Park development but notes that there is no provision for key worker housing on this estate.

This Council believes that key workers are vital to the continuing success of this City, and in particular consider that the lack of key worker housing for teaching professionals has contributed to the poor results in City schools.

This Council asks the Executive Board to request a report from officers (a) suggesting the categories of workers who should be eligible for key worker housing, and (b) recommending how quality housing should be provided specifically for key workers in our City.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Hollick, seconded by Cllr Benjamin
--

Add to end of motion " <i>without impacting on the level of social housing provision.</i> "

Motion as amended reads

This Council welcomes the progress of the Barton Park development but notes that there is no provision for key worker housing on this estate.

This Council believes that key workers are vital to the continuing success of this City, and in particular consider that the lack of key worker housing for teaching professionals has contributed to the poor results in City schools.

This Council asks the Executive Board to request a report from officers (a) suggesting the categories of workers who should be eligible for key worker housing, and (b) recommending how quality housing should be provided specifically for key workers in our City *without impacting on the level of social housing provision.*

2. Government austerity cuts (proposed by Cllr Hollick seconded by Cllr Thomas)

Green member motion

Original motion

This Council is deeply concerned at the benefit, and other funding, cuts announced by the Government on 8th July and the likely hardship that this will cause to the residents of Oxford, in particular those in housing need.

We therefore ask CEB to look carefully at this year's £4m underspend with a view to formulating a mid-year 'emergency budget' aimed at mitigating the impact of these cuts on the most vulnerable.

We also ask the Leader to write to the Ministers responsible expressing our serious concern at the austerity cuts and their effect on Local Government and the City's most vulnerable people.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Turner

Delete the middle paragraph and replace with

We therefore ask CEB to continue to focus its efforts on mitigating the impact of government and county council cutbacks on the most vulnerable, to strive to make the city a fairer, more equal place to live, and to redouble its efforts to reflect these priorities in proposals on the Medium Term Financial Strategy which it will table to Full Council.

Motion as amended reads

This Council is deeply concerned at the benefit, and other funding, cuts announced by the Government on 8th July and the likely hardship that this will cause to the residents of Oxford, in particular those in housing need.

We therefore ask CEB to continue to focus its efforts on mitigating the impact of government and county council cutbacks on the most vulnerable, to strive to make the city a fairer, more equal place to live, and to redouble its efforts to reflect these priorities in proposals on the Medium Term Financial Strategy which it will table to Full Council.

We also ask the Leader to write to the Ministers responsible expressing our serious concern at the austerity cuts and their effect on Local Government and the City's most vulnerable people.

3. Encouraging collaboration for action on cancer (proposed by Cllr Coulter, seconded by Cllr Lygo)

Labour member motion

Original motion

Oxford City Council congratulates each of the organisations meeting together at Oxford Town Hall on 4 February to Mark "World Cancer Day". Council thanks each of those organisations for providing advocacy, for highlighting the suffering caused by cancer, and for providing hope through the development of innovative treatments and supportive care - all of which is centred on improving outcomes for patients, their families and their carers.

Each year, 8.2 million die worldwide from cancer. Four million die prematurely. And, one out of every two of us will experience painful illness through cancer.

Oxford has a significant role in medical science and in cancer research, with 450 post-doctoral researchers working on cancer related investigations - bringing £22 million to our local economy and with the likelihood such work will expand, for example, with the Churchill Hospital's recognition as a lead centre for targeted cancer therapy.

Oxford City Council resolves to ask the Executive to support "World Cancer Day" as an annual event and TO seek to find cost effective ways to work with the charitable, voluntary and academic communities and organisations for improved outcomes for cancer sufferers, their families and their carers.

4. CIL funding for Northern Gateway development (proposed by Cllr Gant seconded by Cllr Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Original motion

Council notes the likelihood of a substantial Community Infrastructure Levy (C.I.L.) from the prospective development at Northern Gateway.

Council asks the Executive Board to allocate a substantial proportion (the exact amount to be decided at a later date) of the C.I.L. for funding for measures to mitigate the effects of various forms of pollution from the consequent increased traffic in the neighbourhood of the Northern Gateway development. These measures should include, but not be restricted to, improved cycle lanes and traffic calming, especially for routes into and from the site itself and should be developed in consultation with the local community

5. Compact of Mayors (proposed by Cllr Simmons seconded by Cllr Brandt) Green member motion

Original motion

Council notes that the Compact of Mayors, launched at the 2014 United Nations Climate Summit, is the world's largest coalition of city leaders addressing climate change by pledging to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, tracking their progress and preparing for the impacts of climate change.

The Compact of Mayors was launched by the UN Secretary-General under the leadership of the world's global city networks – C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and the United Cities & Local Governments – with support from UN-Habitat, the UN's lead agency on urban issues.

The Compact establishes a common platform to capture the impact of cities' collective actions through standardized measurement of emissions and climate risk, and consistent, public reporting of their efforts. Through the Compact, cities are:

- Increasing their visibility as leaders responding to climate change;
- Demonstrating their commitment to an ambitious global climate solution, particularly important in the run-up to a new round of climate talks in Paris in December 2015;
- Encourage investments in cities by meeting transparent standards that are similar to those followed by companies and national governments;
- Building a consistent and robust body of data on the impact of city action; and
- Accelerating more ambitious, collaborative, and sustainable local climate action.

Council asks the Council Leader to sign up for the Compact and commit to engaging with the Compact's climate change management programme.

6. Oxfordshire Transport Strategy (proposed by Cllr Tanner) Labour member motion

Original motion

The City Council welcomes the County Council's new transport strategy for Oxford as far as it goes but believes a number of key improvements are needed. We endorse the submission from the City Council about the OTS. In particular we believe that:

1) Tunnelling under the centre of Oxford is a costly nonsense which will damage the beautiful heart of Oxford and destroy archaeology.

2) The County are right about the increase in journeys in future but the Rapid Transit Buses (RTB) they propose will not provide the number of extra buses and seats that are needed.

3) The new Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) does not make it clear which modes of transport should have most priority. We want to give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and buses especially during rush hours.

4) The City Council wants a speedy end to the effective moratorium on urgently needed improvements for cyclists on Oxford's roads.

5) The City Council supports the same balanced transport policy for the Headington hospitals and the Cowley business park, that has operated successfully for the city centre for many years. At present very many people who work in the eastern arc have little choice but to drive.

6) The County's latest OTS has failed to indicate sensible routes for the RTBs. Using crowded roads like the Cowley Road and London Road, or driving a bus lane across a golf course in Lye Valley, are unworkable.

7) The City Council will continue to keep open its Park & Rides (P & R) in the city. Indeed we want to expand Seacourt P & R. But we also support more Park & Rides beyond Oxford in addition.

8) We support some ideas in the OTS such as more electric vehicles, cleaner air, a passenger rail link to Cowley and consulting about a work-place parking levy. We are opposed to road pricing as an unworkable burden on car drivers and businesses.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Thomas

Add to the end of point 2) *“Furthermore, the existing roads on the proposed RTB routes will probably have to be completely rebuilt to cope with them. Council believes that, instead of RTB, the practical feasibility of trams should be given serious consideration.”*

Amend 8) to delete final sentence and replace with *“We believe that an inner city congestion charge should be consulted upon if the proposed zero emission zone fails to materialise or proves insufficient to address Citywide air quality issues.”*

Add additional point 9) *“We are also concerned that the OTS does not properly consider carbon dioxide emissions which will increase under the proposed future transport scenarios.”*

Supporting Note to point 9). This is due to the increased number of commuter journeys and the unambitious aim of the OTS to stabilise rather than reduce the number of journeys by car.

Add new item 10) *We are disappointed that measures to reduce the need to travel, for example, a strategy to promote more remote working, have not been given serious consideration as the increasing broadband provision within Oxfordshire will allow many in the service sector to work entirely, or for some of the time, remotely either from home or from internet office ‘hubs’.*

Motion as amended reads

The City Council welcomes the County Council's new transport strategy for Oxford as far as it goes but believes a number of key improvements are needed. We endorse the submission from the City Council about the OTS. In particular we believe that:

- 1) Tunnelling under the centre of Oxford is a costly nonsense which will damage the beautiful heart of Oxford and destroy archaeology.
- 2) The County are right about the increase in journeys in future but the Rapid Transit Buses (RTB) they propose will not provide the number of extra buses and seats that are needed. *Furthermore, the existing roads on the proposed RTB routes will probably have to be completely rebuilt to cope with them. Council believes that, instead of RTB, the practical feasibility of trams should be given serious consideration.*
- 3) The new Oxford Transport Strategy (OTS) does not make it clear which modes of transport should have most priority. We want to give priority to pedestrians, cyclists and buses especially during rush hours.
- 4) The City Council wants a speedy end to the effective moratorium on urgently needed improvements for cyclists on Oxford's roads.
- 5) The City Council supports the same balanced transport policy for the Headington hospitals and the Cowley business park, that has operated successfully for the city centre for many years. At present very many people who work in the eastern arc have little choice but to drive.
- 6) The County's latest OTS has failed to indicate sensible routes for the RTBs. Using crowded roads Like the Cowley Road and London Road, or driving a bus lane across a golf course in Lye Valley, are unworkable.
- 7) The City Council will continue to keep open its Park & Rides (P & R) in the city. Indeed we want to expand Seacourt P & R. But we also support more Park & Rides beyond Oxford in addition.
- 8) We support some ideas in the OTS such as more electric vehicles, cleaner air, a passenger rail link to Cowley and consulting about a work-place parking levy. *We believe that an inner city congestion charge should be consulted upon if the proposed zero emission zone fails to materialise or proves insufficient to address Citywide air quality issues.*
- 9) *We are also concerned that the OTS does not properly consider carbon dioxide emissions which will increase under the proposed future transport scenarios.*
- 10) *We are disappointed that measures to reduce the need to travel, for example, a strategy to promote more remote working, have not been given serious consideration as the increasing broadband provision within Oxfordshire will allow many in the service sector to work entirely, or for some of the time, remotely either from home or from internet office 'hubs'.*

7. Guidance on external insulation (proposed by Cllr Benjamin seconded by Cllr Wolff)

Green member motion

Original motion

Council notes the lack of clear and consistent advice for property owners wanting to install external wall insulation. Council therefore asks the Executive to prepare guidance, such as that available from Havering Council, to post on the council website.

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