

Briefing Note Republished after the meeting

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Council

Date: **Monday 6 February 2017**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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This briefing note forms part of the Council agenda papers and should be read alongside these.

The Council meeting is available via a webcast. This means that people may choose to watch all or part of the meeting over the internet rather than attend in person. The webcast will be available to view on the City Council's website after the meeting.

PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES

Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 5 December 2016.

Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.

4 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

No proposed changes of membership have been submitted.

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

There are no speeches in this section.

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

7 DEVOLUTION UPDATE – COMBINED AUTHORITY AND DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR PROPOSAL

The Leader of the Council will present the report and move the recommendations.

**Main
agenda**

**Main
agenda**

Recommendation:

The City Executive Board resolved to recommend to Council that it approves the inclusion of the City Council in the submission of a devolution bid to government for a combined authority and a directly elected mayor

8 SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP) FOR OXFORD

The Board Member for a Clean, Green Oxford will move the recommendations.

**Attached to
CEB agenda
of 15 Dec**

Recommendations:

The City Executive Board recommends that Council notes that the submission of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan to the Covenant of Mayors fulfils the Council's decision of 20 July 2015 to sign up to the Compact of Mayors as these two initiatives are merging into a single global initiative.

QUESTIONS

9 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

**Main
agenda**

Councillors may ask the Board Members questions about matters in these minutes:

- a **Minutes of meeting Thursday 15 December 2016 of City Executive Board**
- b **Minutes of meeting Thursday 19 January 2017 of City Executive Board**

10 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Minutes pack

Questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10(b).

Questions on notice may be asked of the Lord Mayor, a Member of the City Executive Board or a Chair of a Committee. One supplementary question may be asked at the meeting.

The full text of questions must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Monday 30 January.

The briefing note will contain all questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

11 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes pack

The briefing note contains the text of addresses submitted by the deadline.

A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included in this time. Up to five minutes is available for each public address and three minutes for each question.

12 PETITION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES - STOP THE VIOLENT CRACKDOWN ON INNOCENT CIVILIANS IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY

This item has a 15 minute time limit in total.

The head petitioner has been invited to speak to Council for a maximum of 5 minutes at the start of this item.

Council is asked to consider a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme in line with the procedure for large petitions.

The full text of the petition is contained in the accompanying report of the Acting Head of Law and Governance.

The petition proposes that: *We the undersigned citizens of Oxford's – Muslims originated from the State of Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan strongly urge our Local Council and councillors; national leaders – MP and MEP's to act now to demand India to stop violent crackdown of innocent civilians in Kashmir Valley.* This is the petition motion.

Councillor Goddard has submitted a motion setting out suggested actions in response to this petition and will be asked to propose this.

Councillor Rowley has submitted a motion setting out suggested actions in response to this petition and will be asked to propose this.

Council is recommended to:

- **hear the head petitioner for the petition;**
- **debate the two motions submitted to the Council published here**
- **decide the action it wishes to take.**

**Main
agenda -
motions
attached**

a	Motions on notice 6 February 2017 - Kashmir (to be taken with petition) (proposed by Councillor Goddard)	9
b	Motions on notice 6 February 2017 - Kashmir (to be taken with petition) (proposed by Councillor Rowley)	11
13	OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS: OXFORDSHIRE PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE REPORT	
	Councillor Price will present the report on the update on the key Oxfordshire wide partnerships	Main agenda
	Council is invited to ask questions, comment on and note the submitted report.	
	There are no other reports.	
14	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT	
	The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee will present his report	Main agenda
	Council is invited to comment on and note the report.	
PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY		
15	MOTIONS ON NOTICE	13
	This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.	
	Council is asked to consider the motions and amendments set out in the attached report:	
a	Support the Paris Climate Change Agreement (proposed by Councillor Tanner) <u>Amendment proposed</u>	
a	Waiver of fees for interments of stillborns, babies and children (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Wade) <u>No amendment</u>	
a	Avoiding a 'Hard Brexit' (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Brandt) <u>No amendment</u>	

- a **Secondary School Funding and Pupil Places in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Tidball, seconded by Councillor Price)**

No amendment

- a **City Council's response to One Oxfordshire (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)**

Amendment proposed

- a **Supporting Local Social Enterprise (proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hayes)**

Amendment proposed

(a)
(b)

|

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To: Council
Date: 6 February 2017
Title of Report: **Motions submitted by Councillor Goddard in response to petition on the situation in Kashmir (Item 12)**

Councillor Goddard will be asked to propose his motion submitted in response to this petition

Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motion proposed here and/ or the requested actions in the petition.

Motion relating to petition submitted on situation in Kashmir (proposed by Councillor Goddard)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council note that the issue of Kashmir remains an outstanding item on the agenda of UN Security Council almost 68 years after the resolution of 13th August 1948, which declared the right of the people of the state of Jammu Kashmir to self-determination, despite this the state remains divided by India and Pakistan. The UN has adopted various further resolutions on the issue but it remains unresolved. During the last 68 years, India and Pakistan have been at war with each other and have also acquired nuclear weapons adding to the danger of this conflict. Another consequence of this conflict is that both countries are spending huge amounts of money on military capabilities while one third of the population of the world lives below the poverty lines with limited access to education, healthcare and clean drinking water facilities.

Since 1990 after an uprising in the areas under Indian Administered Kashmir about 80,000 people have lost their lives, many have been disabled for life and about 10,000 people still remain unaccounted for whilst Amnesty International reports that several unmarked graves have been found. Since 8th July 2016 there has been an escalation in the Kashmir valley after the death of few young persons. The people of Kashmir valley came out in very large numbers to pay tributes their slain youth by the security forces that flared up another cycle of violence. The government imposed a strict curfew in Kashmir valley but the protests and killings continued. Until now around over 100s people lost their lives, more than one hundred young and elderly lost eyesight as pellet guns were used to disperse the protesting crowds and about 6,000 people were injured. The businesses remained closed for over few months; hospitals were short of medicines and doctors worked around the clock to provide emergency health care.

People of Kashmir want to live peacefully but this would not be possible until the wishes of the people of Jammu Kashmir to decide their future in a free fair environment

are fulfilled as promised by the UN Security Council resolutions. It is humble request to members of the Council to please support the people of Kashmir who are seeking their right of self-determination and want to live peacefully with their neighbours. With your support, they would be able to achieve their objective of promoting peace in the region.

This Council believes that a permanent resolution to this dispute would bring considerable benefits to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, India and also Pakistan. It would enhance the overall peace and security of the region, as well as bringing comfort to many Oxford's British Kashmiris with their family connections there.

The Council calls on both elected members of Parliament of Oxford to urge Her Majesty's Government to engage with international partners to:

- Urge intervention by the international community through the United Nations to bring a permanent resolution to the state of Jammu and Kashmir by holding a referendum under the UN peace keeping forces, which allows the people of this state, in accordance with the United Nations resolutions, to exercise their right to decide their future free from coercion and intimidation;
- Stop all forms of mistreatment of the people of Kashmir by the Indian forces that includes abduction, torture, murder and rape as instruments in any political cause, and calling on all sides in this dispute to condemn such incidents and to observe in full, international standards of human rights;
- Insist that all sides permit unimpeded access for international human rights monitors;
- Acknowledge Britain's share of responsibility for a dispute that dates from the arrangements for independence, and recognise that it is under an obligation to seek a solution that is based on a commitment to peace, democracy, human rights and mutual tolerance.
- Involve the people of Jammu and Kashmir in any dialogue as this is an international issue and not just bilateral.

To: Council

Date: 6 February 2017

Title of Report: **Motion submitted by Councillor Rowley in response to petition on the situation in Kashmir (Item 12)**

Councillor Rowley will be asked to propose his motion submitted in response to this petition

Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motion proposed here and/ or the requested actions in the petition.

Motion relating to petition submitted on situation in Kashmir

Labour member motion

(1) Council thanks those concerned members of the public who have addressed and petitioned us on the subject of Kashmir. We share their grave concern for the safety and welfare of the people of Kashmir; we condemn the violence and lament the loss of life. We also share the petitioners' hope for a just peace.

(2) Council believes that a permanent resolution to the Kashmir dispute would bring considerable benefits to the people of Kashmir, enhance the overall peace and security of the region, and bring comfort to many Oxford's British Kashmiris with their family connections there.

(3) To those ends, Council calls on both elected Members of Parliament of Oxford to urge the Government to engage with international partners to:

(a) Press all sides in the dispute to condemn all political violence and any abuse of human rights, in particular the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, and observe all international standards of human rights;

(b) Insist that all sides permit unimpeded access for international human rights monitors throughout Kashmir;

(c) Involve the people of Kashmir themselves in any dialogue as well as the state parties to the dispute;

(d) Protect civilians, promote peace, and work toward a negotiated and democratic solution that will allow the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to decide their own future free from coercion and intimidation.

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To: Council

Date: 6 February 2017

Title of Report: Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17

Recommendation: Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motions and amendment listed below in accordance with the Council’s rules for debate.

The Constitution permits an hour for debate of these motions.

Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 25 January 2017, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance before the publication of the briefing note are also included below.

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

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

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1. Support the Paris Climate Change Agreement (proposed by Councillor Tanner)

Labour member motion

This Council is deeply concerned by the reported views of the president of the United States about climate change. We welcome the conclusion of the United Nations climate change conference in Marrakesh that the Paris Agreement should be implemented in full.

For the sake of Oxford's children and grandchildren we again commit this city to playing its full part in tackling climate change. We will continue to work to reduce CO2 and other climate warning gases in Oxford. We will continue to embrace a low carbon future for the benefit of the people of Oxford and the wider world.

We congratulate the residents of Oxford on making big reductions in their carbon footprints at home, travelling and at work. We continue to support the aim of reducing Oxford's carbon footprint by 40% by 2020, compared to levels in 2005. In line with the Paris Agreement target, we pledge to work in partnership with others to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across Oxford within the second half of the century. As part of this commitment we also pledge that the Council will, by 2050, use only 100% renewable energy. We ask the City Executive Board to set appropriate interim targets to ensure that these pledges are achieved.

Oxford City Council will carry-on reducing its own carbon footprint by at least 5% a year every year. We will continue to work with Low Carbon Oxford, the Low Carbon Hub, the Covenant of Mayors, Climate Alliance and others to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Oxford city.

We call on our MPs and MEPs to do all they can to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We call on the other councils of Oxfordshire, our twin cities and everyone in Oxford to redouble their efforts to prevent the over-heating of our planet

Amendments proposed by Councillor Simmons

Replace 'Covenant of Mayors' with '*Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy*'

[Note: the Compact of Mayors and Covenant of Mayors recently merged to form the 'Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy']

Add after penultimate paragraph

We will also continue to explore, as part of our ethical investment strategy, how we might invest in helping others to reduce their carbon emissions as well as divesting from funds and organisations which promote or otherwise support the use of fossil fuels.

Motion 1 as amended then reads:

This Council is deeply concerned by the reported views of the president of the United States about climate change. We welcome the conclusion of the United Nations climate change conference in Marrakesh that the Paris Agreement should be implemented in full.

For the sake of Oxford's children and grandchildren we again commit this city to playing its full part in tackling climate change. We will continue to work to reduce CO2 and

other climate warning gases in Oxford. We will continue to embrace a low carbon future for the benefit of the people of Oxford and the wider world.

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Oxford City Council will carry-on reducing its own carbon footprint by at least 5% a year every year. We will continue to work with Low Carbon Oxford, the Low Carbon Hub, the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*, Climate Alliance and others to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Oxford city.

We will also continue to explore, as part of our ethical investment strategy, how we might invest in helping others to reduce their carbon emissions as well as divesting from funds and organisations which promote or otherwise support the use of fossil fuels.

We call on our MPs and MEPs to do all they can to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We call on the other councils of Oxfordshire, our twin cities and everyone in Oxford to redouble their efforts to prevent the over-heating of our planet.

2. Waiver of fees for interments of stillborns, babies and children (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Wade)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council is sympathetic to the suffering of families in Oxford who experience the loss of stillborns, babies and children and wishes to support grieving parents as much as it can.

Council notes that the number of interments of stillborns, babies and children in Oxford during the financial year 2015/2016 was as follows:

Botley Cemetery – 7	Headington Cemetery – 2	Wolvercote Cemetery – 6
Total – 15		

Council further notes that the average number of such interments between 1998 and 2016 has been 18 per year, with a peak of 23 in financial year 2007/2008.

Income for fees and charges for 2015/16 interments of stillborns, babies and children in Oxford totalled £5,100.

Council notes the debate on baby loss in the House of Commons on 13 October 2016 and the excellent support given by Sands Stillborn and Neonatal death charity, and understands that some local authorities do not make a charge in these circumstances.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to investigate whether a mechanism for waiving fees charged by the Council for the burial of children or stillborns of Oxford residents might be introduced.

[Reference](#)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-13/debates/721CDF48-A721-4408-AA94-BE694FA1E7FC/BabyLoss>

3. Avoiding a 'Hard Brexit' (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Brandt)

Green member motion

This Council notes the recent Supreme Court decision which will force the Government to consult Parliament on the triggering of Article 50.

This Council has previously opposed leaving the EU, as have the majority of the City's electorate (despite the many EU nationals that reside in the City being prevented from voting in the referendum). Groups such as 'Oxford for Europe' continue to enjoy high levels of support as witnessed by the recent sell-out public meeting.

This Council has also previously noted the benefits of EU of EU membership to Oxford and the local economy including the retention of common product and environmental standards and the free movement of people.

This Council is deeply concerned at the recent announcement that this Government, if it wins a Parliamentary vote on Article 50, is committed to negotiating a 'hard Brexit' which goes directly against the wishes of this Council and the people it represents. Announcements by Ministers strongly suggest that, to trade competitively outside of the EU trading bloc, they would be willing to turn the UK into a low tax - low spend - low regulation economy which will mean further austerity cuts, weakening social and environmental standards and diminished worker's rights. All of which will impact directly on this Council and the services we deliver.

An increasing number of progressive MPs are recognising that the only way to prevent a 'hard Brexit' is to try and amend any motion on Article 50 presented to Parliament to ensure that a 'hard Brexit' is no longer the UK's primary negotiating position and, if that fails, to vote against triggering Article 50.

This Council asks the leader to write to our local MPs, on behalf of the elected members of this Council, asking them to join this group of progressive MPs with the aim of preventing a 'hard Brexit'.

References: Council motions on
18 April 2016 Oxford City Council support EU membership
<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=3476&Ver=4>
5 December 2016 Oxford's future within the EU - motion including amendment
<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=4108>

4. Secondary School Funding and Pupil Places in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Tidball, seconded by Councillor Price)

Labour member motion

Continuing its decimation of funding for our children's education, the Tory Government's Fairer Funding proposals will hit disadvantaged children hardest and will leave 98% of schools facing a real terms cut in per-pupil funding.. That's an average cut to secondary schools of -£405,611 and an average loss per secondary school pupil of -£477. In Oxford, schools such as the Oxford Academy will face a damaging - £414,208 cut in its funding by 2019 and a -£616 cut per pupil.

This reform will place more pressure on the shortage of secondary school places in Oxford. The way in which school location and catchment areas have worked has meant that several areas of the city have been unable to count any one school as the school for their local community. Parental choice has simply not been operating effectively. As a result, children have been scattered across many different schools when they go into year 7, leading to the break up of friendships and local peer groups and long bus and cycle journeys across the city. It also causes huge amounts of stress for children with Special Educational Needs. By 2019, there will not be enough places in Oxford secondaries for all the children who are moving up in that year. The proposals for a new free school on the Meadowbrook site are controversial and have been delayed. An interim solution involving temporary buildings on the Cherwell School site, allowing time for a satisfactory long term alternative (possibly on Osney Mead) is being developed. It is vital that measures are put in place within the next few months to meet the 2019/20 'bulge'; and that time is given to find the best long term solution to meet the expected pattern of population growth across the city.

Council calls on our local MPs to support the City Council in opposing these funding reductions and calls on the City Executive Board to work with the University, the River Academy Trust and the City Council's planning team, and to consult with Oxfordshire County Council, to find a satisfactory long term solution to the capacity problems of Oxford's secondary schools.

5. City Council's response to One Oxfordshire (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)

Green member motion

This Council notes the One Oxfordshire proposals recently published by Oxfordshire County Council which make the case for a single, countywide unitary authority. This will involve the abolition of Oxford City Council.

This Council has just completed its own cross-party scrutiny review (Devolution Working Group) which looked at both local government reorganisation and devolution.

All these scrutiny recommendations have since been accepted by the City Executive Board.

This Council believes that the recommendations from the scrutiny review group remain relevant and should form the basis of a robust response from the City Council opposing the One Oxfordshire proposals.

Amendment to motion 5 proposed by Councillor Gant

First paragraph:

Change “Oxford City Council” to “Oxfordshire County Council and the five district councils within Oxfordshire, and provides a detailed scheme for replacing their functions and powers”.

last paragraph:

add full-stop after “remain relevant”. Delete rest of last paragraph, and add:

Council notes that the review group report very specifically does not recommend supporting or opposing any particular model of reorganisation, and that it does specifically state that reorganisation will need to be looked at at some point, without offering a view of when that point might be reached

Council notes that there have been significant developments even since the report was issued, including the appearance of the One Oxfordshire proposal

Council notes that, like all other proposals, the One Oxfordshire document leaves important areas to be addressed in more detail, including, but not limited to, the level of democratic accountability, genuine guarantees that area boards will have real substantive authority in their localities and be directly responsive to their electorate, and a binding assurance that regional variations of approach to important things like ownership of housing stock, approach to new social housing and management of direct services will be respected

Council notes that, subject to the guarantees above, the One Oxfordshire proposal provides a model which seeks to achieve the benefits of unitary governance which have been widely identified, including in the City Council's own commissioned report, by the leaders of other district councils, and by members of this council of all parties

Council notes that leaders of other district Council in Oxfordshire have publicly expressed a willingness to talk about reorganisation, and in the case of Vale of White Horse District Council have passed a unanimous resolution to that effect

Council believes that the voters of Oxfordshire want their leaders to engage constructively with each other about potential new models of government

Council therefore:

-welcomes the One Oxfordshire proposal as a genuine attempt to realise the benefits of re-organisation

-notes that the One Oxfordshire proposal has, at the time of writing this amendment [Jan 31], received the enthusiastic public backing of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour groups on the County Council

-calls upon Cllr Price to engage with colleagues in other councils and elsewhere about the One Oxfordshire proposal, without commitment.

Motion 5 as amended then reads:

This Council notes the One Oxfordshire proposals recently published by Oxfordshire County Council which make the case for a single, countywide unitary authority. This will involve the abolition of ~~Oxford City Council Oxfordshire County Council and the five district councils within Oxfordshire~~, and provides a detailed scheme for replacing their functions and powers.

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-calls upon Cllr Price to engage with colleagues in other councils and elsewhere about the One Oxfordshire proposal, without commitment.

6. Supporting Local Social Enterprise (proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hayes)

Labour member motion

Social enterprise is a business that trades for a social and/or environmental purpose. It will have a clear sense of its 'social mission': which means it will know what difference it is trying to make, who it aims to help, and how it plans to do it. It will bring in most or all of its income through selling goods or services. And it will also have clear rules about what it does with its profits, reinvesting these to further the 'social mission'.

Since 2014 Oxfordshire has been designated a 'social enterprise place' by Social Enterprise UK, this designation recognises the variety of local social enterprises on our doorstep and makes it easier to stay informed about what local social enterprises have to offer.

As a council we already recognise that our procurement power is a mechanism for delivering and realising tangible benefits for local communities. Over 50% of the Council's spend is local to Oxfordshire with approximately 27% of this being paid to Small and Medium Enterprises. Social Value is also a key consideration when high value contracts are let.

This Council asks the City Executive Board:

- to establish an officer group to identify any further actions to embed the social value act and its principles across the council and encourage the use of local social enterprise suppliers; and
- to recommend to the Board Member any changes to the Procurement Strategy or rules to achieve this.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Wolff

Add additional bullet point at the end:

"Look at what could be done regarding our business rate relief scheme to assist social enterprises"

Motion 6 as amended then reads:

Social enterprise is a business that trades for a social and/or environmental purpose. It will have a clear sense of its 'social mission': which means it will know what difference it is trying to make, who it aims to help, and how it plans to do it. It will bring in most or all of its income through selling goods or services. And it will also have clear rules about what it does with its profits, reinvesting these to further the 'social mission'.

Since 2014 Oxfordshire has been designated a 'social enterprise place' by Social Enterprise UK, this designation recognises the variety of local social enterprises on our doorstep and makes it easier to stay informed about what local social enterprises have to offer.

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Small and Medium Enterprises. Social Value is also a key consideration when high value contracts are let.

This Council asks the City Executive Board:

- to establish an officer group to identify any further actions to embed the social value act and its principles across the council and encourage the use of local social enterprise suppliers; and
- to recommend to the Board Member any changes to the Procurement Strategy or rules to achieve this.
- *To Look at what could be done regarding our business rate relief scheme to assist social enterprises*

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