

Briefing Note Republished after the meeting.

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Council

Date: **Monday 24 April 2017**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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Officer**

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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.

There will be a minute's silence in memory of Councillor Van Coulter before the start of the business

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

3 **MINUTES**

Minutes of the ordinary meetings of Council held on 6 February and 20 February 2017. Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.

**Main
agenda**

4 **APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES**

No changes of membership have been submitted.
Any proposed changes will be announced at the meeting.

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.

OFFICER REPORTS

7 **ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF AN INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

The Leader of the Council will move the recommendations.

The Appointments Committee will meet on 24 April. In the event that the Committee wishes to recommend an appointee to Council on 24 April, their recommendations will be tabled at the meeting.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to resolve:

- 1.1 To delegate responsibility to and authorise the Appointments Committee to make an appointment to the position of Interim Chief Executive to replace Peter Sloman; and
- 1.2 That the Appointments Committee has authority to agree the start date and initial period of appointment and other terms of employment as the committee considers reasonable; or
- 2 Alternatively to (1) in the event that the Appointments Committee has met prior to this meeting and is in a position to make a recommendation, to appoint the person recommended for the position of Interim Chief

Executive; and

- 3 In either case (1) or (2), that the person appointed as Interim Chief Executive will, as set out in the Constitution, be designated as Head of Paid Service as required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, Section 4(1), from the first day of their formal employment in that role with Oxford City Council.

8 CONSTITUTION REVIEW 2017

The Leader of the Council will move the recommendations.

Recommendations: Council is recommended to approve, with immediate effect, the amendments to the Constitution outlined in the report and detailed in appendices 1 to 4.

Appendix 1 – Petitions Scheme
Appendix 2 – Contract Procedure Rules
Appendix 3 - Miscellaneous proposed changes
Appendix 4 – Annex to Whistleblowing Policy

9 ANNUAL PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2017

The Board Member for Customer and Corporate Services will move the recommendations.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to approve the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2017 as attached at Appendix 1.

10 REGULATION OF INVESTIGATORY POWERS ACT 2000

The Leader of the Council will move the recommendations.

Recommendation: Council is asked to note the Council's use of its powers under the Regulation of Investigative Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017.

QUESTIONS

11 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.
Councillors may ask the Board Members questions about matters in these minutes:

Minutes of meeting Thursday 9 February 2017

Minutes of meeting Thursday 9 March 2017

Minutes of meeting Thursday 6 April 2017

**Main
agenda**

**Main
agenda**

**Main
agenda**

**Main
agenda**

12 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Minutes pack

Questions on notice from councillors received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Thursday 13 April 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 briefing note contains all questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

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

Minutes pack

Public addresses and questions received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00 pm on Tuesday 18 April and accompanied by the full text of the address or question in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11 and 11.12 and not related to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda. A total of 45 minutes is available for this public speaking item. Responses are included in this time. Up to five minutes is available for each public address and three minutes for each question. The briefing note contains the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

Two addresses have restricted circulation due to purdah restrictions for County Council and General Elections (4 May and 8 June).

14 PETITION - HELP RE-OPEN LUCY FAITHFULL HOUSE HOMELESS ACCOMMODATION

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 petition proposes:

Can you support Iffley Open House in calling on Oxford City Council to do the right thing and to re-open Lucy Faithful House as a night shelter?

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

Council is recommended to:

- hear the head petitioner for the petition;
- debate the proposal to the Council contained within the petition;
- debate motions submitted by the deadline; and
- decide the action it wishes to take.

Labour motion on petition

7

Joint opposition group motion on petition

9

Main agenda – two motions attached

**15 OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS/ COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT:
OXFORDSHIRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Price will present the report.
Council is invited to ask questions, comment on, and note the report.
There are no other reports.

**Main
agenda**

16 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee will present the report.
Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

**Main
agenda**

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

17 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

11

This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.

The full text of motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 10 April is below. Motions will be taken in turn from the Liberal Democrat, Green, and Labour groups in that order. Substantive amendments to these motions be sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 10.00am on Friday 21 April are included.

Council is asked to consider the following motions and amendments:

a **Power to impose a tourist tax in Oxford** 13

b **Making vacant buildings within Oxford available for the use as temporary homeless shelters** 15

c **Supporting Local Social Enterprise** 19

d **Joint working to address needs of the boating community** 21

e **Motion on notice proposed by Councillor Simmons** Minutes pack
The text of this motion concerns proposals for local government restructure and will be tabled at the meeting.
Published after the election on 4 May - restricted circulation due to pre-election purdah restrictions

f **Addressing concerns about short-term lets via websites** 23



To: Council
Date: 24 April 2017
Title of Report: Motions submitted by Councillor Rowley in response to petition

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 (proposed by Councillor Rowley)

Labour member motion

Council notes the petition, and welcomes the support from the signatories for sustainable solutions to single-person homelessness in Oxford.

As elsewhere in the country, the rise in single-person homelessness is as a consequence of the government's attack on Social Security, its cuts in mental health provision, and its failure to increase the number of affordable and social homes over the last seven years in government.

In noting the petition, Council also observes that re-use of Lucy Faithfull House would not be a sensible proposition, because no need has been demonstrated. All of the LFH beds have been replaced by beds in Oxford with support provided, and existing homelessness provision is not over-occupied. Council also noted, in rejecting the Budget amendment referred to, that there is no way to make LFH sustainable beyond the lifetime of the Budget.

Council notes that its current approach to homelessness funding has allowed us to shield vital services affected by County Council cuts and maintain funding for services across the City.

Council also notes that it is untrue that "luxury" accommodation is intended to be built on the Lucy Faithfull House site. The site has potential to contribute to the Council's affordable housing strategy, although this will require an agreement with the leaseholder.

To: Council
Date: 24 April 2017
Title of Report: Motions submitted by jointly by Green and LibDem groups in response to petition

Councillor Thomas 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 on the petition, submitted jointly by Green and LibDem groups.

Proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Gant

Opposition parties note the petition, and thank the Petitioner for highlighting the plight of homeless individuals currently sleeping rough on the streets of Oxford.

In contrast to Labour's view that there are no single men sleeping rough on the streets of Oxford who would benefit from re-opening Lucy Faithfull House, it is patently clear the vast majority of those sleeping rough in Oxford are single homeless men, the precise demographic covered by the covenant on Lucy Faithfull House use as a homeless hostel.

We therefore call on the Council to work with the current lease holder to

- a) develop a business plan to re-open Lucy Faithfull as a hostel for single homeless men, and if proven not to be feasible to then;
- b) investigate selling the freehold to the current leaseholder to bring LFH back into use as 100% social housing.

We also call on the Council to give a cast-iron guarantee that if neither of the two options above is realised, at least the maximum percentage required by the Local Plan of the Lucy Faithfull building or any development on the site - as part of the Housing Company's strategy - will be social housing.

To: Council
Date: 24 April 2017
Title of Report: Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17

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 10 April 2017, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by 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 Liberal Democrat, Green, and Labour groups in that order.

Motions:

- a) Power to impose a tourist tax in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Goff)
- b) Making vacant buildings within Oxford available for the use as temporary homeless shelters (proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Simmons)
- c) Supporting Local Social Enterprise (proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hayes)
- d) Joint working to address needs of the boating community (proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills)
- e) Motion concerning proposals for local government restructure (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff). Motion not to be published until after the election period to comply with the pre-election 'purdah' rules. The text will be available at the meeting.
- f) Addressing concerns about short-term lets via websites (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Brandt)

a) Power to impose a tourist tax in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Goff)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that a number of local authorities are currently lobbying for the power to impose tourist bed taxes or “hotel levies”. These include Camden, Westminster, Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Edinburgh and Cornwall.

Council also notes the recent support by the Mayor of London for the introduction of such a levy following the publication for the London Finance Commission by the GLA of Working Paper 83 entitled Options for a tourism levy for London. This report gives details of tourist taxes levied across the world in cities that have a high proportion of tourists.

Council recognizes that the British Hospitality Association is strongly opposed to any imposition of a bed tax, and that the VAT rates in the UK on hotel accommodation are much higher than in other EU countries.

Oxford is the seventh most visited city in the UK by international visitors and is the tourism gateway to the rest of Oxfordshire. The opening of the new Westgate retail offer is expected to generate increased visits to Oxford. Council welcomes tourism in Oxford as this brings many benefits to the City, however this does bring with it an extra demand for infrastructure and environmental improvements, and cost to the Council of increased workload in some departments, for example Streetscene and Parks.

Council notes that there are uncertainties ahead post-Brexit with respect to Oxford's economy, and that it may be wise to join other authorities in lobbying for the power to introduce and retain a tourism levy.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council to work with other local authorities representing cities with high rates of tourism to lobby jointly for the devolution of the above power. It further requests that Council writes to Oxford's two MPs to inform them of this Council's motion and ask for their support.

Useful references:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/tourism-levy-for-london-wp83.pdf>

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/sadiq-khan-calling-for-visitors-to-be-hit-by-new-tourism-tax-2017-1>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/travel/news-and-advice/could-bath-be-the-first-uk-city-to-bring-in-a-tourist-tax-a7516856.html>

b) Making vacant buildings within Oxford available for the use as temporary homeless shelters (proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

Recognising:

- the growing number of individuals sleeping on our streets;
- the dangers of sleeping rough;
- the significant number of long and short-term vacant buildings within the city [1];
- the potential to move on with their lives and off the street (into permanent accommodation and employment) that a period of stable and safe accommodation could offer many of those current sleeping rough;

The Council requests the City Executive Board to commission and give consideration to an urgent report that would enable the City Council to:

- Make policy that allows for all vacant City Council owned buildings – including commercial premises - to be made freely available for use as temporary homeless shelters, to be run by community charity and voluntary organisations that are able and willing to do so [2];
- Encourage other parties with similarly vacant buildings – particularly Oxford University and Oxford Colleges – to make those buildings available to be utilised as part of this initiative;
- Publicises the availability of relevant vacant buildings to the voluntary and community sector, and calls for expressions of interest from the community to operate these spaces;
- Assist in the co-ordination of the provision of key “wrap-around” services to residents making use of the temporary accommodation;
- Make preparations for this at the earliest possible time, and offers clear guidance frameworks and assistance to all interested parties;
- Sets terms of reference for use of spaces, conditions of use, and clearly sets out the arrangements for reclaiming possession of the relevant premises when circumstances require it [3]

[1] As witnessed by the on-going, serial occupation of empty premises being organised by the 'Open House' project

[2] Recent experience of Iffley Open House that the willingness and capacity for such an undertaking exists within Oxford's voluntary community

[3] For example, Iffley Open House was vacated without issue on a date agreed between the free-holder and the homeless community.

Amendment 1 proposed by Councillor Rowley:

Delete all after '*Council requests*' in the middle emboldened part of the motion , and replace with : '*Council requests the CEB to commission a report from officers early in the new municipal year on the processes and procedures that could be used to make empty properties available for use as temporary homeless shelters.*'

Amendment 2 proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Gant:

Replace the first three bullet points after '*enable the City Council to:*' with

- Take legal advice as to whether registered charities could act as agents for the City Council in providing accommodation on licence in vacant City Council owned buildings for rough sleepers;
- Compile a list of charities willing to operate such licences as agents for the Council;
- Encourage other landowners in Oxford City with similarly vacant buildings to make their buildings available as part of this initiative;
- Publicise the list of available buildings to the charities which have expressed a willingness to consider providing accommodation on licence for rough sleepers;

And omit '*and capacity*' in Note [2] of the footnotes

Motion as amended by Councillor Rowley (1) reads:

Recognising:

- the growing number of individuals sleeping on our streets;
- the dangers of sleeping rough;
- the significant number of long and short-term vacant buildings within the city [1];
- the potential to move on with their lives and off the street (into permanent accommodation and employment) that a period of stable and safe accommodation could offer many of those current sleeping rough;

The Council requests the City Executive Board Council to commission a report from officers early in the new municipal year on the processes and procedures that could be used to make empty properties available for use as temporary homeless shelters.

Motion as amended by Councillor Wade (2) reads:

Recognising:

- The growing number of individuals sleeping on our streets;
- The dangers of sleeping rough;
- The significant number of long and short-term vacant buildings within the city [1];
- The potential to move on with their lives and off the street (into permanent accommodation and employment) that a period of stable and safe accommodation could offer many of those currently sleeping rough;

The Council requests the City Executive Board to commission and give consideration to an urgent report that would enable the City Council to:

- ~~• Make policy that allows for all vacant City Council owned buildings—including commercial premises—to be made freely available for use as temporary homeless shelters, to be run by community charity and voluntary organisations that are able and willing to do so [2];~~
- ~~• Encourage other parties with similarly vacant buildings—particularly oxford University and Oxford Colleges—to make those buildings available to be utilized as part of this initiative;~~

- ~~Publicises the availability of relevant vacant buildings to the voluntary and community sector, and calls for expressions of interest from the community to operate these spaces;~~
- *Take legal advice as to whether registered charities could act as agents for the City Council in providing accommodation on licence in vacant City Council owned buildings for rough sleepers;*
- *Compile a list of charities willing to operate such licences as agents for the Council;*
- *Encourage other landowners in Oxford City with similarly vacant buildings to make their buildings available as part of this initiative*
- *Publicise the list of available buildings to the charities which have expressed a willingness to consider operating temporary accommodation on licence for rough sleepers;*
- Assist in the co-ordination of the provision of key “wrap-around” services to residents making use of the temporary accommodation;
- Make preparations for this at the earliest possible time, and offer clear guidance frameworks and assistance to all interested parties;
- Set terms of reference for use of spaces, conditions of use, and clearly set out the arrangements for reclaiming possession of the relevant premises when circumstances require it [3]

c) 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 Gant:

After "are let", add:

"Council also recognises that it has a functional relationship with social enterprise companies not just through its own trading and procurement activities, but also in policy terms: The principal example is planning, where an application from a social enterprise will typically have different objectives from an application from a developer, and, at the same time, will be subject to a different set of financial considerations. Council recognises the social benefits of potential planning applications from social enterprises, and wishes to encourage and facilitate them, and at the same time to mitigate as far as possible against the financial restraints on achieving those benefits."

after the current end of the motion, add:

"and to include new and/or adapted policies in the emerging Local Plan which will encourage and facilitate social benefit delivered by planning applications from social enterprises, including in instances where current policy would not do so"

Motion 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.

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.

Council also recognises that it has a functional relationship with social enterprise companies not just through its own trading and procurement activities, but also in policy terms: The principal example is planning, where an application from a social enterprise will typically have different objectives from an application from a developer, and, at the same time, will be subject to a different set of financial considerations. Council recognises the social benefits of potential planning applications from social enterprises, and wishes to encourage and facilitate them, and at the same time to mitigate as far as possible against the financial restraints on achieving those benefits

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;**
- ***and to include new and/or adapted policies in the emerging Local Plan which will encourage and facilitate social benefit delivered by planning applications from social enterprises, including in instances where current policy would not do so.***

d) Joint working to address needs of the boating community (proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills)

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council welcomes the work done by the Board Member and City Council officers in consulting with the boating communities, riparian owners, the Canal and River Trust and others on the draft Waterways Public Spaces Protection Order.

This Council notes that on 6 April the City Executive Board accepted a Scrutiny recommendation that the draft Waterways Public Spaces Protection Order should not be progressed. However officers are still being asked to identify localized solutions to specific concerns raised at four locations which might require 'bespoke solutions, many of which are already available through existing legislation' i.e. statutory provision and local bye-laws.

This Council asks the Board Member to request officers to continue working with the Canal and River Trust to explore the following possibilities, proposed by members of the boating community, which should assist with the problems identified:

- a) a sanitary facility on the Thames in Oxford - currently there is no disposal point for sewage between Abingdon and Eynsham (there is one on the canal at St Edward's but this is difficult to reach from the Thames). The disposal point could also include a waste disposal facility to save rubbish piling up.
- b) a caretaker boater with a boat moored at a city site, to manage over-staying, inappropriate behaviour etc. The City Council would provide a free mooring in Oxford (worth perhaps £300 – 500 p.m.) with the boater performing caretaking duties in exchange, initially perhaps 12 hours p.w. This proposal would involve no cost to the Council beyond the use of a mooring.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Sinclair (changes in italics)

This Council welcomes the work done by the Board member and City Council officers in consulting with the boating community, riparian owners, the Canal and River Trust and others on the draft waterways PSPO.

This Council notes that on 6th April the CEB approved the following recommendations which were supported by the Scrutiny Committee.

These were as follows:

- 1. Not to progress the proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order for the generality of the waterways of Oxford;*
- 2. Commission officers to develop localised solutions to public safety concerns for four identified priority areas;*
- 3. Commission officers to further develop policy proposals that will address public safety and antisocial behaviour problems and improve public enjoyment of the city's waterways resources.*

This Council will now continue to develop the solutions on the identified areas with local stakeholders and particularly welcomes the investment and commitment to improving the city's waterways.

This Council *now* asks the Board member to request officers to continue working with the Canal and River Trust to *explore a range of possible measures, which could, if practical, include the following:*

- a) A sanitary facility.....
- b) A caretaker boater...

Motion as amended reads:

This Council welcomes the work done by the Board member and City Council officers in consulting with the boating community, riparian owners, the Canal and River Trust and others on the draft waterways PSPO. This Council notes that on 6 April the CEB approved the following recommendations which were supported by the Scrutiny Committee.

These were as follows:

1. Not to progress the proposal for a Public Spaces Protection Order for the generality of the waterways of Oxford;
2. Commission officers to develop localised solutions to public safety concerns for four identified priority areas;
3. Commission officers to further develop policy proposals that will address public safety and antisocial behaviour problems and improve public enjoyment of the city's waterways resources.

This Council will now continue to develop the solutions on the identified areas with local stakeholders and particularly welcomes the investment and commitment to improving the city's waterways. This Council now asks the Board member to request officers to continue working with the Canal and River Trust to explore a range of possible measures, which could, if practical, include the following:

- a) a sanitary facility on the Thames in Oxford - currently there is no disposal point for sewage between Abingdon and Eynsham (there is one on the canal at St Edward's but this is difficult to reach from the Thames). The disposal point could also include a waste disposal facility to save rubbish piling up.
- b) a caretaker boater with a boat moored at a city site, to manage over-staying, inappropriate behaviour etc. The City Council would provide a free mooring in Oxford (worth perhaps £300 – 500 p.m.) with the boater performing caretaking duties in exchange, initially perhaps 12 hours p.w. This proposal would involve no cost to the Council beyond the use of a mooring.

f) Addressing concerns about short-term lets via websites (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Brandt)

Green member motion

Council is aware that through AirBnB, and similar websites, over three hundred properties in Oxford are available for short-term let over the internet in an unregulated, supposedly self-policing system.

Some of these lets are rooms within owner-occupied properties. Others are otherwise unoccupied, unsupervised properties.

Whilst recognising that in the majority of cases there is mutual benefit for hosts and guests, and for the city as a whole:

- a) Council is aware of the potential abuse of this system by organised criminal elements running 'pop-up brothels', 'pop-up drug shops', human sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation.
- b) Council is also concerned about the as-yet unmeasured impact on housing supply for long-term Oxford residents, on registered guest houses and on the regulated hotel sector.

Other local authorities in the UK and elsewhere are currently exploring ways of better monitoring and regulating online short-term letting agencies

Council therefore:

- 1. Asks its Hotel Watch partnership with the police and other agencies, through its representatives on that body:**
 - a. to monitor, record and collate concerns about these letting services picked up by police, ASBIT and HMO Licensing team**
 - b. to monitor issues arising in other cities around the world and the city authorities' various regulatory responses to them (e.g. in Berlin, London, San Francisco, New York, Barcelona, Madrid, Reykjavik and Cambridge)**
- 2. Agrees to review the situation this autumn, after the summer season, to see whether – if any – further action is needed.**

Amendment proposed by Councillor Tanner:

In the last section in bold amend the recommendation to read:

Council therefore asks the City Executive Board to consider:

1. *Asking its Hotel Watch*
2. *Reviewing the situation*

Motion as amended reads:

Council is aware that through AirBnB, and similar websites, over three hundred properties in Oxford are available for short-term let over the internet in an unregulated, supposedly self-policing system.

Some of these lets are rooms within owner-occupied properties. Others are otherwise unoccupied, unsupervised properties.

Whilst recognising that in the majority of cases there is mutual benefit for hosts and guests, and for the city as a whole:

- a) Council is aware of the potential abuse of this system by organised criminal elements running 'pop-up brothels', 'pop-up drug shops', human sex trafficking and child sexual exploitation.
- b) Council is also concerned about the as-yet unmeasured impact on housing supply for long-term Oxford residents, on registered guest houses and on the regulated hotel sector.

Other local authorities in the UK and elsewhere are currently exploring ways of better monitoring and regulating online short-term letting agencies

Council therefore asks the City Executive Board to consider:

- 1. Asking its Hotel Watch partnership with the police and other agencies, through its representatives on that body:**
 - a. to monitor, record and collate concerns about these letting services picked up by police, ASBIT and HMO Licensing team**
 - b. to monitor issues arising in other cities around the world and the city authorities' various regulatory responses to them (e.g. in Berlin, London, San Francisco, New York, Barcelona, Madrid, Reykjavik and Cambridge)**
- 2. Reviewing the situation this autumn, after the summer season, to see whether – if any – further action is needed.**