

Briefing Note

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Council

Date: **Thursday 20 July 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.

MINUTE'S SILENCE AND TRIBUTES

To hear tributes and observe a minute's silence in memory of former Lord Mayor Bill Buckingham whose funeral was held on 10 July 2017.

PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 MINUTES

Council is asked to approve minutes of 24 April 2017 and 15 May as a correct record.

4 APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES

No changes have been notified.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements by:

1. The Lord Mayor
2. The Sheriff
3. The Leader of the Council (who may with the permission of the Lord Mayor invite other councillors to make announcements)
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 addresses in this section

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS

7 HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Hollingsworth, Board Member for Planning and Regulatory Services, will move the recommendations.

Main agenda

Main agenda

Recommendation: The City Executive Board recommends Council to resolve to adopt the Headington Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Council's development plan for the Headington neighbourhood area.

8 QUARTERLY INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE 2016/17 - Q4

Main agenda

Councillor Turner, Board Member for Finance and Asset Management will move the recommendations.

Recommendations: The City Executive Board recommends Council to resolve to:

- 1. establish General Fund budgetary provision of £745k in respect of the new bids shown in the report and Appendix D;**
- 2. establish an HRA budgetary provision of £300k in respect of the new bids shown in the report and Appendix D.**

9 DIRECT SERVICES TRADING COMPANY - PROGRESS REPORT

Main agenda

Councillor Turner, Board Member for Finance, Asset Management will move the recommendations.

Note: The City Executive Board agreed all the recommendations in the report.

Recommendations: The City Executive Board recommends Council to resolve to:

agree to a further loan of a sum up to £200k to the LATCo companies, on State-Aid compliant terms, to enable the LATCo companies to fund their set up costs and to delegate to the Councils section 151 officer, in consultation with the Interim Chief Executive and Council Leader, authority to approve spending of this money on other related matters.

10 SAFEGUARDING REPORT 2017/18

Main agenda

There are no decisions for Council.

Councillor Tidball, Board Member for Young People, Schools and and Public Health, and Councillor Hayes, Board Member for Community Safety, will present the report.

Recommendations: Council is asked to note the report.

OFFICER REPORTS

11 EXTENSION OF TERM FOR APPOINTMENTS OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

Main agenda

Councillor Price, the Leader of the Council will move the recommendations.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the Council's four Independent

Persons for code of conduct matters for a further two years.

12 REMUNERATION OF A NON-STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER

Main agenda

Councillor Price, the Leader of the Council will move the recommendations.

Recommendations: Council is recommended to:

- 1. note the Leader's proposal to appoint one of the City Executive Board members as an additional (non- statutory) Deputy Leader; and**
- 2. request the Acting Head of Law & Governance to form and convene a meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel to consider the addition of a Special Responsibility Allowance in the Members' Allowance Scheme for a non-statutory Deputy Leader.**

QUESTIONS

13 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:

- a) Minutes of City Executive Board meeting on 11 May 2017**
- b) Minutes of City Executive Board meeting on 15 June 2017**
- c) Minutes of City Executive Board meeting on 20 June 2017**

14 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

P9

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

Briefing note

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

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

P31

There are 4 public addresses.

Briefing note

16 PETITION: KEEP FLORENCE PARK CHILDREN'S CENTRE OPEN-ACCESS AND COMMUNITY-OWNED

Main agenda and **Briefing note P39**

This item has a 15 minute time limit in total.

The head petitioner will 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:

We urge you, the City and County Council, to work together to keep Florence Park Children's Centre as a community asset and open to all. Florence Park Children's Centre is a much loved local resource for children and families in our beautiful local park. It is currently standing empty. We ask you to support the local initiative for The Oasis – a not-for-profit plan which includes a nature-orientated childcare nursery, healthy café and drop in space that is managed by local people. The vision is for 'A place where people can meet, work, eat, create, and play with nature in mind and wellbeing at heart'. This initiative will ensure that all profit from the Centre is ploughed back into the community.

This is the petition motion.

If a Councillor wishes to put a substantive motion/recommendation on a petition that differs from the proposal in the petition then they must submit this by 10.00am on the working day before the full Council meeting. These are then published in the Council briefing note. Any amendments to these must be submitted by 11.00am on the day of the meeting.

Council is recommended to:

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

17 OUTSIDE ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

Main agenda

1. On behalf of Councillor Tidball, the Assistant Chief Executive has submitted the Partnership Report on the Oxfordshire Children's Trust.

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

18 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

Main agenda

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

19 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

P41

This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.

Briefing note

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 July 2017 is below. Motions will be taken in turn from the Green, Labour and Liberal Democrat groups in that order.

Substantive amendments to these motions must be sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 10.00am on 19 July 2017 so that they may be circulated with the briefing note.

Minor technical or limited wording amendments may be submitted during the meeting but must be written down and circulated.

Council is asked to consider the following motions:

- a) **Support a Fair Voting System Proposed by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Simmons**
- b) **Tackling hate crime Proposed by Councillor Hayes**
- c) **Air quality in the city centre Proposed by Councillor Wade**
- d) **Seacourt Park and Ride Extension Proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Thomas**
- e) **Oxford Cycling Safety Proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Wolff**
- f) **Fair employment: voluntary charter “Dying to Work Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson**

20 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION AND EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council’s Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council)

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To: Council
Date: 20 July 2017
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Board Members and Leader

Introduction

1. Questions submitted by members of Council to the Board members and Leader of the Council, by the deadline in the Constitution are listed below in the order they will be taken at the meeting.
2. Responses are included where available.
3. Questioners can ask one supplementary question of the councillor answering the original question.
4. This report will be republished after the Council meeting to include supplementary questions and responses as part of the minutes pack.
5. Unfamiliar terms may be briefly explained in footnotes.

Questions and responses

Board member for A Clean and Green Oxford

1. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Tanner

What is the Portfolio Holder going to do to mitigate the reduction in air quality in the City Centre following the Council's decision to back the construction of the Westgate Shopping Centre?

Response

It remains to be seen whether the opening of the Westgate shopping centre will or will not increase pollution. If most shoppers use the bus, cycle or walk there could be an improvement in air quality, especially if traffic is kept moving.

The City Council is supporting the County Council and the developers in finding a clean-air response to the opening of the shopping centre. The City Council recently published its 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report which found that in the last decade, levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) at the roadside across Oxford have dropped by an average of 36.9 per cent. It was also found that the number of monitoring locations experiencing exceedances of the limit value for NO₂ was reduced from 21 in 2015 to 17 in 2016.

The City Council adopted the Oxford Air Quality Action Plan in 2013 which outlines actions to improve air quality in Oxford.

We are currently working with the County Council on plans to introduce a Zero Emission Zone in the City Centre from 2020 which aims to reduce access for high emitting vehicles. We have also announced plans to install 19 charging points for electric hackney carriages and private hire taxis in the City to enable this part of the fleet to become zero emission.

2. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Tanner

With an increasing number of developments across the city, from small plots to large new estates, there is growing evidence of piecemeal erosion to wildlife protection within Oxford. Does the portfolio holder agree with me that it's now time to develop and implement a comprehensive wildlife protection strategy for the city?

Response

The City Council continue to assess impacts on biodiversity in line with national planning policy, local policy and legislation for developments coming forward and works to ensure wildlife is enhanced and protected as part of proposals. The City Council adopted its Corporate Biodiversity Action Plan in 2015 which sets out the City Council's actions to improve biodiversity. In addition to this the City Council is currently consulting on a new Local Plan which includes policies and plans which seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity in the city.

3. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Tanner

Can the portfolio holder provide an update about the artificial sett for badgers in the Barton Park development please?

Response

Barton Oxford LLP are the developers of the site. The works to close a set and open a new artificial sett is something which is undertaken under licence with Natural England rather than the City Council as the Local Planning Authority.

Barton Oxford LLP have confirmed that the construction of the artificial sett in accordance with the requirements of the Badger Strategy was completed in March 2016. In August 2016 the existing sett was closed under licence from Natural England and the licence return provided to Natural England in December 2016. Barton Oxford LLP have continued to monitor badger activity around the artificial sett and the site. In February this year, evidence was collected of use of the new artificial sett. However, in the last 6 weeks there is no evidence that badgers are currently using the sett. Barton Oxford LLP continue to see evidence of badgers using the surrounding areas within the site, particularly along the Bayswater Brook corridor, and are looking at measures to entice them back into the artificial sett.

4. From Councillor Goff to Councillor Tanner

Can the member assure Council that the apparent use by Council contractors of glyphosate-based weedkiller in Lower Wolvercote and presumably elsewhere in the City is not dangerous to people or wildlife?

Response

I am pleased to confirm that following reviews this Spring, the European Chemicals Agency has concluded that glyphosate should not be classified as carcinogenic. Due to this assurance, the Council and its contractors will continue to use it with care. I am satisfied that there is no danger to people or animals.

Board member for Community Safety

5. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Hayes

The 101 non-emergency service is used by both the public and by neighbourhood police team officers, and residents tell us they have waited for 30 minutes and over for a human reply to calls on that number.

Is the Lead Member able to advise what progress has been made by TVP on identifying a more efficient Contact Management Platform and what priority is being given to this?

Response

Thank you for this question about the 101 non-emergency service, as well as our collaborations so far in providing for improved police communication with ward councillors.

I am concerned to hear about the delays that residents have experienced in waiting for a human reply to calls on the 101 non-emergency service. Clearly such delays are frustrating for residents. Ideally, we would see a faster and better response to residents' non-emergency calls.

As I understand the situation, Thames Valley Police, not this authority, would be responsible for identifying these delays as a concern, prioritising a solution, and identifying a change to their IT systems as the most appropriate solution. The City Council has not been made aware of a new process being put in place by Thames Valley Police to monitor, evaluate, and adapt IT systems which deal with calls or how they grade them. This query is best directed to the police and, with Councillor Wilkinson's consent, I will raise the matter directly with relevant police officers and, as soon as I have helpful information, share my findings with her.

Board member for Culture and Communities

6. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Sinclair

Will the Portfolio Holder agree to building small business or social enterprise units on the East Oxford Community Centre site (the section of the site proposed to be sold off for housing) instead of Cave Street putting housing on the larger Cave Street site.

This will meet the goals of the emerging Local Plan to prioritise housing over grade 3 commercial uses AND preserve the integrity of the Community Centre site.

Response

We explored this option and for a number of reasons found that building small business or social enterprise units on the East Oxford Community Centre site (section proposed to be used for housing) instead of Cave Street, and instead put housing on the larger Cave Street site, not to be viable option.

The main reason is the need for the East Oxford Community Centre project to be self-funding (capital raised from non-community uses to cover project costs). New build small business units at the EOCC site would not generate anywhere close to residential value: as such this option is not financially viable.

The 'section proposed for housing' at EOCC is also smaller than the Cave Street site, and would be unable to accommodate the quantum of employment floorspace proposed at Cave Street. The Cave Street site is subject to a 'Protected Key Employment Site'; designation in the Local Plan, and as such the employment use of that site must be retained.

Board Member for Customer and Corporate Services

7. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Brown

Broken down on a yearly basis, over the last 4 years (up to and including the 2016-17 financial year) what has been the underspend in the Discretionary Housing Payment budget in absolute and percentage terms?

Response

The table below summarises the response to this question. Each year, the team have followed the policy set out and agreed by this council in allocating DHP. The aim has been to support people whilst they make changes to their circumstances so that they will not be reliant on additional payments in the future. In other words, it is transitional funding. Because of the excellent support work from the welfare support team, this has been very successful.

It is also worth noting that the council has each year had to use the information supplied by central government about the timetable of the introduction locally of their latest benefit changes and the number of local people affected. Both of these have proven to be somewhat inaccurate indicators.

	Government Grant	Expenditure	Underspend	Expenditure as % of grant
2016/17	376,792.00	379,009.00	-2,217.00	100.59%
2015/16	288,092.00	275,845.00	12,247.00	95.75%
2014/15	£514,496.00	£488,973.00	25,523.00	95.04%
2013/14	£525,369.00	£431,244.10	94,124.90	82.08%

8. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown

The new Oxford Lottery was authorized by the City Executive Board on 20 June.

It is a legal requirement that, on each fruit machine or fixed odds betting terminal, the amount of money lost by the customer should be prominently displayed, expressed as the average percentage he will recover from money paid in to the machine. This informs the customer of the true cost of the game he is playing and of the loss to which he is consenting.

The lottery justifies itself by a chance to win, not by the fact that it also raises money for good causes (which would not in itself distinguish the lottery from any other tax).

The chance should be plainly expressed as a cost to the gambler in pence in the pound. Our residents deserve that information.

Will the Board Member ensure that, on each online ticket, in large red lettering, it will be clearly explained that of each pound invested in the lottery the gambler will on average receive only 20 pence in winnings?

Response

The Gaming Machine (Circumstances of Use) 2007 regulations do not apply to local authority run lotteries. The Council's lottery is in the process of being established. It will be an online only lottery, comply with relevant legislation and the odds of winning each level of prize will be clearly displayed on the website.

9. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Brown

Please can the Lead Member provide dates, times and duration in minutes of all instances when any part of the Council's internet service has been down, including access to the Planning Portal, both on and off site, between 1/1/17 and 30/6/17 on:

- a. weekdays
- b. out of hours

Response

During the period between 1st January and 30th June 2017 the Council's main website has been available for 100% of the time.

Individual services within the website are monitored and their availability varies between 99.992% and 97.482% for that same period. It should be noted that these services are periodically "taken down" for planned maintenance, this is usually for very brief durations (typically between 5 and 10 minutes) and normally in the early hours of

the morning. Our website analytics demonstrate that demand for the website is at its lowest between 1 am and 5 am each day.

Our public access to the Planning system has experienced 3 prolonged episodes of down time in the last 6 months. These are:

Dates	Down Time Period	Total Down Time	Comments
Saturday 14 th January	09:00 – 21:00	12 hours	We are presently progressing this with SCC (City Council's infrastructure provider) to understand what this was in respect of.
Thursday 18 th May To Saturday 20 th May	00:20 To 00:45	48 hours and 25 minutes	Intermittent access due to planned maintenance on underlying electronic document management system
Friday 26 th May To Tuesday 30 th May	22:43 To 09:00	82 hours and 17 minutes	Server failed to re-boot after maintenance by SCC over the bank holiday weekend

Please note that any SCC planned maintenance on servers that needs to take place out of hours is now being conducted mid-week. Therefore, if there are any unforeseen issues that arise, the resolution is fixed the next working day and we are not waiting over a weekend. We are also investigating the potential for ICT out of hours support.

Board member for Housing

10. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Rowley

Over the last four years, can the Portfolio Holder report – on a yearly basis - how many time the Lord Mayor's Deposit Scheme has been applied for and how many times it's been used, and what has been the underspend in absolute terms.

Broken down on a yearly basis, over the last 4 years (up to and including the 2016-17 financial year) what has been the underspend in the Discretionary Housing Payment budget in absolute and percentage terms?

Response

The figures, as requested, on the Lord Mayors Deposit Guarantee Scheme (LMDGS) are:

Year	New Starts Appointments	Live cases supported	Application
13/14	13	107	267
14/15	10	112	217
15/16	8	112	252
16/17	6	105	138

There is no annual approved revenue budget for the LMDGS so no underspend has occurred. Settlements on bonds are funded from contingencies held in reserves, which have, over the years, been topped up from the Lord Mayors charity funding and the Homelessness Prevention Fund. For the past four years these settlements are below:

13/14	£4938
14/15	£2940
15/16	£4250
16/17	£675

11. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Rowley

Does the Portfolio Holder share my concerns that the antagonism that arisen between residents and the Council along with its contractors during the Tower Block refurbishment programme has been a hindrance in the Council's responding to fears over Tower Block fire safety?

Response

I am unclear what antagonism is being referred to here. The Tower Blocks refurbishment project has proceeded smoothly with good levels of consultation and engagement both before and during the works. Apart from individual issues with a very small number of leaseholders and tenants the works have proceeded without any major issues. In no way has the project hindered our engagement with residents about safety in Tower Blocks.

The Council's response following the Grenfell fire was to work jointly with the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (OFRS) to engage proactively and immediately with residents to address concerns and fears about the fire safety of our Tower Blocks. This included letters to residents and drop in sessions flat to flat visits by OFRS for all the tower block residents and rapidly following up on individual residents' concerns.

12. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Rowley

When the refurbishment of the council's tower-blocks was undertaken, what products were actively considered for the cladding? Why was the one used chosen? Was non-ACM cladding considered for Evenlode and Windrush, as used at the other towers?

Response

In accordance with the Council's project governance protocol, Council officers are undertaking a review of the contract governance arrangements and procurement process and will report back to members once that review has been completed. Given Government's concern about how their Building Regulations have been interpreted in practice, results of our review will also be fed into national government's review exercise.

13. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Rowley

Does the Councillor have an update on how long the replacement of the cladding on the two tower-blocks will take?

Can he brief Council on the effect of the works on residents, and the estimated cost to the Council in the light of the statement by Damian Green MP that councils will be “the first port of call to pay” for fire safety improvements?

Is John Healey MP, the Labour shadow housing minister, right that councils “will hold back or potentially cut corners because they know they cannot afford to do the work that is required, either to remove or replace cladding or to make the insides fully fire-safety compliant”, and that “[t]his leaves hundreds of thousands of residents in tower blocks around the country uncertain still whether or not their blocks are safe”?

Reference: Commons Statement, Wednesday 12 July 2017

See: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2017/jul/12/grenfell-fire-councils-to-foot-bill-for-fire-safety-work-in-first-instance>

Response

Initial Government guidance was that all ACM materials that failed its initial tests should be replaced. The Government has subsequently written to councils announcing a new programme of large-scale testing and the appointment of an Expert Panel to advise on testing of cladding materials and additional measures to ensure the fire safety of tower blocks.

The Government’s new position is that ACM cladding could be safe to use on buildings if installed as part of a whole wall system that meets fire safety standards. The Expert Panel has advised a different approach to testing combustibility, which takes these wider fire protection features into account without the need for retesting those ACM samples already checked. Government says it will publish the results of the new tests being undertaken and that further guidance will be issued to councils in the near future.

In the light of changing guidance from Government, and the view of the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service that the fire safety system (including sprinklers and alarms) at the Tower Blocks meets safety criteria, the City Council will await the results of the new tests and further information from the Government’s Expert Panel before making the final decisions around cladding for Windrush and Evenlode. Meanwhile, work is already ongoing with contractors to consider alternative cladding options, put a schedule in place for the works and source materials. We should have this information within the next 3 weeks.

The works will not adversely affect residents; it may however delay the completion of the overall project

Government initially stated that it would cover the costs of work required on Tower Blocks, however they have since back tracked on this commitment. We will be making representations to government on this.

Yes, I think John Healey is likely to be right in that there are Councils that would like to take retrospective safety measures but simply don't have the money. For example, Oxford's five tower blocks were among only 18 in the whole country identified as having had sprinklers retrofitted or being retrofitted before the Grenfell Tower tragedy. In this respect Grenfell is a national disaster and Government must now address the

inadequacies created by defective regulations and guidance and stand by its original commitment to fund required improvements to make Tower Blocks safe.

14. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Rowley

Can the Councillor give Council an update on the materials used in the cladding systems on its tower-blocks, not simply ACM, but also how the complete system is designed, what insulation is used, how the system as a whole relates to current Government regulations, and any possible unwelcome side-effects of removing cladding, for example exposing insulation

Response

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service reviewed the fire safety arrangements at Evenlode and Windrush, and the Chief Fire Officer confirmed the Fire Safety System meets safety criteria.

The features of the Fire Safety system in place in the Tower Blocks with ACM cladding are:

- Non-combustible Rockwool insulation
- Fire breaks within the cladding system
- Upgraded communal area fire doors and flat entrance fire doors
- Automatic venting system to stairwell to remove smoke
- Upgraded fire seals to waste chutes
- Sprinklers in all flats, directly connected to the Fire Service
- Heat and smoke detectors in all flats
- Smoke detectors in all communal areas, directly connected to the Fire Service

In the light of changing guidance from Government, the City Council will await the results of the new tests and further information from the Government's Expert Panel before making the final decisions around cladding for Windrush and Evenlode. Work is also ongoing to consider alternative cladding options and source installation equipment and materials. It does not make sense to remove the existing rain-screen cladding now as that would expose the non-combustible insulation to the elements which could cause it to deteriorate.

15. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Rowley

Will the Councillor please inform council of the sequence of events around the fitting of sprinklers in the council's tower-blocks, including (but not necessarily limited to):

- When the decision was taken to fit them?
- Why had they not been fitted prior to this date?
- Why the sprinklers in Hockmore, Windrush and Evenlode Towers are installed and operational and those in Foresters and Plowman Towers are not?
- The advice given by the Fire and Rescue Service and the Coroner's recommendations referred to in his press release of 14 June and its role in the decision to fit, including any comments from the Fire and Rescue Service about provision prior to the date of its advice
- The advice given to residents before and after about whether they were required

Response

Under the Building Regulations 2010 there is no requirement to retrospectively fit sprinklers to the Towers. The decision to install sprinklers in our Tower Blocks as part of the refurbishment programme was made against the background of the Coroner's recommendation following the Lakanal Fire in 2009 (Coroner's report, 2013). The Council took the advice of the Fire and Rescue Service and decided to fit the sprinkler system as part of the refurbishment of the Tower Blocks. By choosing to install sprinklers in every flat in all of the tower blocks and directly connect their activation to the Fire Service, the Council has gone above and beyond legal requirements. The Chief Fire Officer confirmed at a public meeting on 26th June, that his understanding was that the councils' five Tower Blocks were of only 18 council Tower Blocks identified as having been retrofitted sprinkler systems in the country.

Sprinklers are fitted and commissioned in Evenlode, Windrush and Hockmore. They are being installed in Plowman and Foresters as part of the refurbishment programme.

The Fire Service has visited all 5 towers and has passed them as safe. Tenants have been kept fully informed and have received advice as to what to do in the event of a fire, including an offer of fire safety visits from the Fire Service.

16. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Rowley

Following on from the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, there has been a media report (Mail Online Sunday 9th July) that Kensington and Chelsea Tenant Management Organisation were advised on fire safety of Grenfell Tower by consultant Carl Stokes who had worked for many years for Oxfordshire Fire Service.

Can you confirm whether Carl Stokes ever acted as a consultant for or provided advice to Oxford City Council?

Response

We have no record of Carl Stokes ever acting as a consultant or providing advice to the council.

17. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Rowley

1. Which agency is responsible for commissioning building works on our social rented properties?
2. Which agency is ultimately responsible for ensuring that such building works carried out are designed and specified (in terms of materials) to be in accordance with current building regulations (including fire safety regulations, structural build quality and thermal insulation performance) and in keeping with recognised 'best practice' within the industry?
3. Which agency or agencies are responsible for inspecting and 'signing off' such works after completion, and which agency is responsible for commissioning/paying these inspectors?
4. Which agency subsequently issues the completion certification guaranteeing that the completed works satisfactorily meet the design and specification?

5. What is the nature of the guarantee, and where does liability lie if it transpires that mistakes have been made :
- a) in design?
 - b) in specification of materials?
 - c) in inspection?
 - d) in certification?

Could the Leader please answer with specific reference to our tower blocks as well as more generally?

Response

1. Oxford City Council via its appropriate officers regarding individual projects.
2. The responsibility for design and specification rests with those engaged to design the scheme. In this case OCC engaged a multi disciplinary firm to act as Project Manager to manage the design and implementations of the whole project on behalf of the Council.

The Project Manager's design team proposed the designs and sought Building Regulation approval. The Building Control service will, where appropriate (as was the case in respect of the tower block proposals) in consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service, confirm whether the proposals met the current regulatory requirements.

There are alternative private sector providers of Building Control services. The Council will always seek to use its in house expertise.

The Council's Building Control service carries out these inspections in conjunction with Housing Services and a Clerk of Works. The completion inspection will be carried out by Building Control, Housing Services and possibly Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service.

3. The primary responsibility for ensuring that the works are carried out in accordance with the specification and Building Regulation approvals rests with the building contractor.

On completion the contractor will notify that the building works are complete. The Project Manager's expert advisers will scrutinise the submissions and will advise the client of their view of the completeness of the works.

The project manager or contractor will notify the Building Control provider and request a completion certificate. The provider will scrutinise the information provided and based on evidence from stage and completion inspections will certify that the building has been completed in accordance with the current building regulations.

The inspections are an audit of the quality of the works and are planned on a risk based approach.

There is a fee for Building Regulation approval and inspections. This is usually paid by the Project Manager on behalf of the client.

On larger projects it is good practice for the client to employ direct a Clerk of Works who surveys the works in progress. A Clerk of Works is employed on the tower blocks programme.

4. The Project Manager will certify that the works are complete to the client. The Building Regulation provider will certify that based on the information available the works have been carried out in accordance with the current regulatory requirements.
5. In practice these can in law be complex issues and will depend on the contractual arrangements, however the generality would be
 - a) in design? The design team, in this case employed by the Project Manager.
 - b) in specification of materials? The design team, in this case employed by the Project Manager.
 - c) in inspection? The person or body carrying out the relevant inspection.
 - d) in certification? The person or body providing the relevant certification

The current status of the tower blocks is that they are works in progress and none of the projects have yet achieved final completion for Building Control purposes.

Board member for Leisure, Parks and Sport

18. From Councillor Goff to Councillor Smith

In view of the administration's willingness to invest a sum of almost £1 million in upgrading facilities in Barton, when does it propose to provide proper facilities in the Five Mile Drive playing fields?

Response

We have been working closely with Summertown Stars around various opportunities and trying to link into possible external funding streams. We have also identified an opportunity to convert an existing building on the site that already has toilet provision, to also potentially include some small changing space and kitchenette. We are currently working through the detail of this with the club to ensure that it works for both parties.

The Council, working with Sport England and the Football Foundation recently invested over £800,000 in Summertown Stars home pavilion a short distance away at Cutteslowe Park

19. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Smith

Over the past month, an increasing number of white goods and other items have been dumped in the car park at Shotover. This started with five fridges which were there for a week after the Council was notified, and more fridges started to accumulate. Additional waste was dumped there on 13 July. Residents are calling for CCTV cameras to be installed.

What further action is planned to address this, please?

Response

CCTV would be of little value in the car park at Shotover as there is no lighting (and the dumping occurs at night). However, conversations have already been had with CRT and TVP as to whether it could be placed further down Old Rd where there is

street lighting. This wouldn't catch perpetrators of fly-tipping in the act of dumping but would show the vehicle involved going up with the material on the back of the vehicle and returning without it.

Investigation of the latest dump of material has uncovered some useful evidence which may help to finding the perpetrator. The Shotover car park lies outside the city and comes under the jurisdiction of South and Vale. All details of the case and evidence have been passed to them to progress.

Board member for Planning and Regulatory Services

20. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Hollingsworth

During the temporary pedestrianisation of Queen Street and the completion of the Westgate development, bus stops have been relocated to High Street outside the Covered Market. Queues for buses (particularly the 3 route to Rose Hill), pedestrians, and long lines of visitors including language school students are crowding pavements to such an extent that people are finding it necessary to walk on the carriageway.

Residents tell me they are worried about safety both of pedestrians and cyclists.

Can the Board Member please tell us what advice is being given by Oxford City Council to tour guides and language school co-ordinators on using alternative walking routes through Oxford if their destination is not a bus stop in the High?

Response

The City Council has raised this safety concern with the County Council and has asked them to look into this in their role as Highways Authority. The City Council does not have powers to require Tour Operators to change routes, although personal experience suggests that regular guides are shifting some of their routes to avoid this section of pavement. Looking forwards, the City Council will promote a protocol with Tour Companies in respect of congested areas through our partnership with Experience Oxfordshire.

21. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Hollingsworth

How can the Portfolio Holder justify allowing just 23% social housing on the Templars Square site?

Response

As the Councillor knows, decisions on planning applications are made by the Council's planning committees, rather than by the Portfolio Holder. All planning applications are judged against national and local planning policies, including policies CS24, HP3 and HP4 on affordable housing. In particular the third paragraph of policy CS24 explains explicitly what should happen if a developer believes that the scheme would be unviable: *"If it can be demonstrated, by open book evidence, that the affordable housing contribution from either residential or commercial development makes a site unviable developers and the City Council will work through a cascade approach until a site is made viable."* This is in line with paragraph 179 of the NPPF, and is amplified by the 'cascade' process outlined in policy HP3 of the Sites and Housing part of the Local

Plan. The procedure for testing viability is laid out in detail in Appendix 3 of the Affordable Housing and Planning Obligations SPD.

In this instance, as the extensive discussion in the officer report to the East Area Planning Committee made clear, the developer produced evidence to support their case. That evidence was tested and accepted by both our own planning officers and external cost consultants, and the policy process laid out in policy CS24 and HP3 was followed. The application of the viability tests and the cascade approach meant that the number of affordable housing units was increased from the 40 originally proposed by the applicant to 51. The members of East Area Planning Committee considered this evidence and voted by a majority to approve the application.

The Local Plan has very carefully considered policies on this issue, with clear and detailed procedures to follow. In this case as in others the Council's officers showed great professionalism and tenacity in ensuring that those procedures were followed to the letter. The recent appeal decision on the former Honeypot pub in Hollybush Row, which upheld the Council's policies on the viability test, shows the importance of applying properly formulated policies rigorously and fairly.

The APHO SPD was approved in late 2013: since 2014 there have been 75 Major Planning Applications, only two of which – this one, and the Jericho Boatyard application – have used a viability argument and the process in the APHO SPD to successfully make a case for a reduced proportion of affordable housing.

22. From Councillor Brandt to Councillor Hollingsworth

What measures is the Portfolio Holder taking to prevent the “Westgate Effect” which is seeing Cornmarket and large parts of the city centre drift towards offering only food outlets?

Response

While the opening of the Westgate will inevitably have an impact on the city centre as retailers move premises or change leases, it is not clear that that is the main consequence of any perceived shift towards food outlets. Government policies, allowing changes from A1 to A3 use in smaller units under permitted development rights rather than through the planning process, have significantly undermined the Council's ability to manage the mix of uses in retail areas. Changes in shopping behaviour, with over an eighth of all shopping done online in the UK (Centre for Retail Research Online Retailing Report 2017) and increasing at over 10% a year, is also a major fact in driving a shift in uses.

The Westgate Centre will deliver a substantial increase in A1 retail space in the City Centre, of some 65,00m². In the recent period two A1 units on Cornmarket have moved from A1 to A1/A3 under a planning permission, while another appears to have used PD rights. Another two units elsewhere in the city centre have received permission to move from A1 use. The recent Retail Needs survey identified 152 retailers looking for space in and around Oxford City Centre, indicating very strong demand for A1 use, and rental values in and around Cornmarket are holding up strongly, confirming the continuing demand for space there.

23. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Hollingsworth

What is the Portfolio Holder doing to ensure that the Westgate Partnership do NOT introduce discounted parking at the Westgate thus undermining the City's parking revenues and increasing city centre congestion?

Response

The Westgate Alliance are allowed to set parking tariffs for their car parks, while taking into account the City Council's existing tariff structures and the policies that underlie them. Members and Officers of this Council have met with the Alliance regularly since the inception of the project, and the Westgate Alliance are well aware of the need for parking tariffs to be set at an appropriate level to manage traffic levels, and balance demand for parking spaces with the limited supply of them. I therefore expect any tariffs set by the Alliance to adopt a similar approach to the City Council's.

24. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Hollingsworth

Can the Board member please confirm what air quality standards were imposed on the new underground car park at the Westgate Centre by the city during the planning process?

Response

Air quality standards in underground car parks are covered by Part F of the Building Regulations, and in supporting guidance. They are therefore not addressed by the planning process per se. The City Council's Building Control team are currently working with the developers to sign off on this part of the Building Control process, and have worked closely with the Council's own specialist environmental health officers in assessing the ventilation systems and thresholds for air quality. While this is ongoing process my understanding is that the information provided by the developers is considered acceptable by officers.

25. From Councillor Wilkinson to Councillor Hollingsworth

What are the arrangements for access, for members of the public and for academics, to historical planning records which pre-date the material available via the City Council website please?

Response

If a member of the public requests, in writing or in person, access to a historic record/decision notice that is in the archive basement storage, the process is that the file is brought from the archive by a member of the application team who then goes through the files and copies it. These requests take around 2 weeks to provide and are free of charge. These files are not on line and there is currently no plan to have them all scanned and uploaded on our system. (Please note that some late 1950s and early 1960s files were lost in a flood in the basement some years ago and are therefore not available.)

26. From Councillor Goff to Councillor Hollingsworth

Could the member explain why a Planning enforcement complaint submitted on 11th January 2017 by a Wolvercote ward resident was still having to be chased by that resident at the end of May 2017 having received no substantive response?

Response

The planning enforcement complaints have been fully investigated and neither was found to be a breach of planning control. The complainants have been advised of the outcome of the investigations. The timing of the original complaints coincided with a period of staff shortages in planning enforcement and an interregnum period where agency staff was covering the work of this part of the service. This issue has now been resolved through permanent recruitment to the Senior Planning Enforcement officer post.

27. From Councillor Goff to Councillor Hollingsworth

Could the member explain why a query to the Planning department about City Council policy on HMOs submitted on 23rd January 2017 by another Wolvercote ward resident was still having to be chased in June 2017 having received no response at all?

Response

The query was responded to in June and the Planning part of the Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory service has apologised for the time taken to deal with this matter.

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

28. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Turner

This year's Q4 outturn figures again show underspends in the annual Revenue, HRA and Capital Budgets. At a time when we have a housing and homelessness crisis, community facilities under threat, as well as many other social and environmental projects that would benefit from funding, will the Portfolio Holder say how he intends to avoid such financial surpluses in the future?

Response

The premise of the question is that over-achieving income, or spending less than budget, is in and of itself a bad thing, and this is something I would question. I might add that our council has not made cuts in the service areas the questioner mentions.

If budget variations arose as a result of poor financial planning, that would of course be something to be addressed. But that is not the case here: for instance, £1.2 million of over-achieved income and fuel savings came from Direct Services, and £400k from over-achieved income in commercial property income. It would be reckless to plan on over-achieving income in such areas every year, and we need to be prudent when allowing, for instance, for rises in fuel costs, a downturn in market conditions, or voids in our commercial properties – such things would be beyond our control.

Moreover, we regularly report on our budget position to CEB, and in some cases have agreed significant carry-forwards (where a timetable has changed and a project continues but needs to be rolled over into next year). We have devoted significant efforts to completing capital works in a timely fashion, and now have a sound record in this regard (with variations in HRA and general fund both under 1% of budget). We have also proposed offering a partnership to address health inequality with a proportion of last year's budget variation, which is something creating and positive I would hope the questioner would welcome.

I would remind the questioner that local government operates in an increasingly risky financial context – in our case, that means relying more on external income from necessarily uncertain sources, and of course being vulnerable to variations in business rate income. That reinforces the need for caution in budget planning.

Of course we are committed to sound financial planning, but that means having appropriately cautious, prudent assumptions. If that means a relatively modest underspend compared to our overall budgets, I am far happier with that than I would be with unachieved savings and cutting services to plug gaps.”

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

29. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Price

On 14 June Councillor Price wrote to residents of the Council's tower blocks that “we have gone above and beyond legal requirements to ensure an enhanced level of fire safety for the families living in these blocks”. Could he give Council details of the legal requirements he is referring to and the ways in which the council has surpassed them?

Response

Under the Building Regulations 2010 there is no requirement to retrospectively fit sprinklers to the Towers. By choosing to install sprinklers in every flat in all of the tower blocks and directly connect their activation to the Fire Service, the Council has gone above and beyond legal requirements.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 requires a risk assessment to be carried out and the features of the Fire Safety system put in place in our blocks are:

- Non-combustible Rockwool insulation
- Fire breaks within the cladding system
- Upgraded communal area fire doors and flat entrance fire doors
- Automatic venting system to stairwell to remove smoke
- Upgraded fire seals to waste chutes
- Sprinklers in all flats, directly connected to the Fire Service
- Heat and smoke detectors in all flats
- Smoke detectors in all communal areas, directly connected to the Fire Service

30. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Price

On 14 June Councillor Price stated that “the external cladding fitted to these blocks [i.e. all five of the council’s tower blocks] is fire retardant”. On 26 June, following testing, he reported that samples of ACM cladding from Evenlode and Windrush Towers had now been identified as “a risk” and will be replaced with “improved non-combustible material”. On the same day, a Q & A document issued by the council contained the following:

Q. Is the cladding fireproof?

A. No.

Given the importance of and uncertainty around definitions of the properties of materials and the legal status of such definitions, could the Councillor inform Council what technical definition he was using for the term “fire retardant” in his statement of 14 June?

Response

As acknowledged in the question there has been considerable uncertainty about terminology since the Grenfell disaster, not helped by government’s changing interpretation of requirements of building regulations.

It has emerged that the test now being applied is combustibility and that is the terminology that should be used. The ACM on Evenlode and Windrush is O rated as required by building regulations, but as stated in the letter to residents did not pass the government’s test of non-combustibility and was therefore identified as a risk, though the Fire Service have confirmed our whole system to be safe. Government’s most recent guidance suggests that ACM may be acceptable in some circumstances and is now carrying out further tests on whole cladding systems. We are awaiting the outcome of this testing process and clarity on future requirements.

It might it be useful to add that "fire-retardant" isn't the same as "fireproof" - indeed nothing is "fireproof", the aim of compartmentalisation in tower blocks is to hold back fire for 60 mins and our rockwool insulation conforms to that.

31. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Price

In a press release of 26 June, the Council said it was in discussions with the County Council and other employers with large buildings in Oxford to ascertain whether there are any such within Oxford city which should be tested for fire safety.

Were any such buildings identified?

Response

The Council’s Head of Planning, Sustainable Development and Regulatory Services wrote in an advisory capacity to all large employers in the City on the 23rd June to inform dutyholders of the latest Government advice regarding the steps they should be taking to ensure their buildings were safe. No responses to the letter have been received. The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has written to housing associations and a number of institutional bodies in the Universities and Health sector to provide guidance relating to the testing of composite cladding material used in residential blocks above 18m in height. To date the information provided to us by DCLG does not as yet include any other buildings in the city that have been identified as requiring testing.

32. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price

How many decades would it take a typical retail assistant in the Westgate Centre on the current minimum wage to save a sufficient deposit to purchase a house in Oxford?

Response

It is impossible to give a universally accurate response to this question since much will depend on the housing costs that the person concerned is incurring while saving up for a purchase. If they are living with parents or relatives rent free, disposable income would be very substantially higher than if they are renting in the PRS. However, given the average cost of property in Oxford it is highly unlikely that anyone purely dependant on the minimum wage and with no access to other financial resources, will ever be able to afford to buy within the City.

The average house price in Oxford is currently £491,900. This is around 16 times the average annual household income of £29,400 (ref. Centre for Cities 2017). Household income data reflect both single and dual earner situations. Thus, to purchase a 2-bedroom terraced house priced at £365,000 (the median price in Oxford for such properties in 2015), the deposit needed would be £73,000 (at 20%); or £36,500 (at 10%). In the former case, the mortgage required would be £292,000 which would require the person to have an income of circa £65,000 pa gross if they were to secure 4.5 x income to borrow a mortgage of £292,000.

Help to Buy would mean a deposit of 5%. For a house costing £365,000 the 5% deposit would be £18,250. The mortgage would still be £292,000 (income needed would be circa £65,000 pa gross) with the remainder of the deposit being paid by via a government equity loan (no payment due on this for the first 5 years but interest is then charged on the equity loan).

These examples show that while it would be theoretically possible to save up for the required deposit on the minimum wage by living extremely frugally, the likelihood of being granted a mortgage would be negligible due to the requirements of mortgage repayments – even at low interest rates.

33. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price

How many retailers in the Westgate Centre have given an undertaking to a) pay the Oxford Living Wage and b) veto the use of zero hour contracts?

Response

The City Council does not have access to this information and the landlord does not seek this type of information from their tenants.

Many of the Westgate retailers are early in the recruitment stage as they gear up for opening in October 2017. We expect to be able to build up a clearer picture in the months following opening, based on information provided by Westgate tenants on a voluntary basis.

34. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Price

Will the Leader join me in celebrating the fact that, following the General Election, Oxford is now entirely without Conservative Party representation?

Response

Yes. The very substantial increase in the Labour vote in Oxford East and in the Liberal Democrat vote in Oxford West clearly reflected the degree of public hostility towards the Tory Government's austerity policies and their impact on the key public services that are so important for citizen's quality of life. The cuts in education expenditure, the failure to tackle the problems of care in old age and the rising demand for health services, the dreadful cuts in social security that are going to impact the poorest sections of our fellow citizens over the next two years, and the determination to draw red lines which will condemn the UK to a hard Brexit or no Brexit deal at all, were all important features of voters' anger with the current government.

35. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price

Will the Leader agree to a meeting (including all Group Leaders) with the City's new MPs to discuss our response to Brexit and how they might best represent our interests in Parliament?

Response

We have regular meeting with the two City MPs. They both understand the City Council's strong opposition to the hard Brexit being pursued by the interim Prime Minister and David Davis (if not all members of the Cabinet) and we keep each other briefed on the issues that are arising as the negotiations get under way. If there is a point at which such a meeting would be useful, I will certainly pull one together.

36. From Councillor Thomas to Councillor Price

Does the Leader agree with me that a target of zero children living in food poverty in Oxford would be a powerful challenge for the city, and will he make achieving this target one of our measures of being a "World Class City"?

Response

Tackling deprivation has been a core theme of Council policy since 2002, and similarly of the Oxford Strategic Partnership. The last Labour Government achieved a marked reduction on child poverty but all that progress has been lost under the regressive tax and benefits policies of the Coalition and Tory governments since 2010. Our community team are working in a number of areas (e.g. through the Healthy Barton project and the Lottery funded project on Rose Hill) to specifically target child food poverty, and this remains one of the key targets for the community team across the whole city.

We are also working with Good Food Oxford and Feeding the Gaps to get a better understanding of food poverty in the City, promote the existing provision to the public and to identify gaps in provision. That has included funding to develop a data base and map of available support which will provide a valuable resource for families and individuals, as well as enabling key workers to give the people that they are working

with up to date food advice and support. We will continue to work together to take this work forward.

37. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Price

Councils in Dorset have submitted plans for two unitary authorities to the Secretary of State. East Dorset District Council was one of three among the nine affected councils to vote against the plan. However, EDDC will take up seats on a joint committee being set up to plan the proposed changes, which will save Dorset taxpayers £108m over six years, or £18m per year.

EDDC will reserve the right to explore other options while sitting on the committee, but Councillor Simon Tong, portfolio holder for change and transformation, said that “members recognise that the interests of East Dorset residents will be best served if our council takes up its seats so that we are able to share in these discussions while we await the decision of the secretary of state”.

Does Councillor Price agree with Councillor Tong’s analysis of how councils should best serve the interests of residents?

See: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-40566649?utm_source=LGiU+Subscribers&utm_campaign=9daaa37c46-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_07_12&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_4e47157211-9daaa37c46-199042461

Response

Of course not.

Cllr Tong was speaking in the context of a particular situation in Dorset, where there have been discussions over more than two years which led to a broad agreement among the Council leaderships in support of dividing the county of Dorset and the two adjacent unitary authorities into two new larger unitaries. This reorganisation did not find favour in their full Council meetings so they are continuing discussions over the details of the agreement to see if the backbenchers can be persuaded. The position in Oxfordshire is that there was broad agreement across all councils on a move to a combined authority, and the councils are continuing to work very effectively together under the aegis of the Growth Board, towards a joint spatial plan and infrastructure strategy as part of the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor, and a joint housing deal. This joint working is serving the interests of the city and county’s residents rather better than engaging in fruitless discussions about local government reorganisation.

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To: Council

Date: 20 July 2017

Title of Report: Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision – as submitted by the speakers and with written responses from Board Members

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Board members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. This report will be republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This will list the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.
3. Please note that the first address on the Motion will be given by two separate speakers.

Addresses in part 2

- 1a Address by Shaista Aziz on the Motion on reducing hate crime
- 1b. Address by Dr Hojjat Ramzy on the Motion on reducing hate crime
2. Address by Hassan Sabrie, Chair East Oxford United Football Club
3. Address by Artwell – facilities in Barton
4. Address by Judith Harley – replacement for Temple Cowley Pool

Addresses in part 2

1a Address by Shaista Aziz on the Motion on reducing hate crime

My name is Shaista Aziz, I'm a proud Oxfordian and was born in the city and grew up here and attended nursery and primary and high school in the city. My family live in Oxford and my nieces and nephews attend local schools.

I'm a journalist, a former aid worker and a women's rights and anti racism campaigner.

I'm the founder of the anti racism digital platform 'The Everyday Bigotry Project'. We aim to create debate and disrupt narratives around bigotry. We are advocacy project and work closely with another anti racism project – Post Ref Racism.

The Everyday Bigotry Project creates space to generate debate and discussions on how to tackle bigotry – one of our main focuses has been anti Muslim and racial hate crime, however we believe all forms of bigotry must be tackled and in order to do this we understand the interaction – the connections - between racism, misogyny, homophobia, disability, and classism.

Increasingly we are working on issues around gendered Islamophobia.

I have been working in schools in London to debate issues around racism and bigotry in schools with pupils of different ages.

I've conducted media training workshops for British Muslim women so they feel more comfortable to do media interviews and tell their stories, one of our key areas of work is to challenge narratives around bigotry which have been created and amplified by a number of media organisations and also by sections of social media users and sadly, our elected officials.

Over the past year I have moved back to Oxford following my work with international aid organisations and working in numerous international contexts across the world.

I have always known that despite my work taking me across the world, Oxford is my home and where my roots are and where my family, friends, and wider community are.

Sadly, like many visible minorities in our city and county I have been subjected to a number of hate crimes over the past three years, each of these racial and anti Muslim hate crimes have been reported to the police, here in Oxford and London. The incidents have included a man shouting racist abuse at me before driving his car at speed towards me in London, a man racially abusing me at a bus stop in Heading ton and then lurching to punch me, and most recently, in June, my mum and I were subjected to racial abuse and intimidating behaviour by a man in the centre of Oxford.

Again, this incident was reported to the police who continue to investigate the incident.

Racism has a devastating and visceral impact. It can make individuals lose self-confidence, fear further attacks, and retreat into themselves. It makes you question why your humanity, life, and dignity are of no worth to those who chose to target you with hate.

As I have said bigotry intersects, misogyny and Islamophobia is connected – my visibility as a woman, in the very public work I do and my visibility in places where bigots do not expect to see me, my confidence – it acts as a trigger to these individuals, in my experience they have always been men. Islamophobia is increasingly gendered and it is designed to push women back into their homes and to make women feel scared.

The toxic political and public discourse in our country especially in the run up to the Brexit vote has created an atmosphere where open and brazen racism is again visible and present on the streets of our country.

As an anti racism campaigner and a journalist I am hearing more and more testimonies from individuals- especially women impacted by hate crimes.

A few weeks ago I organised and chaired a meeting for Muslim women in our city to hold a discussion with representatives from Thames Valley Police to discuss their lived experiences of unreported hate crimes.

One woman of Pakistani heritage said she no longer felt safe to take her granddaughter to the park alone. Another woman spoke about how in the past year she has been racially abused while walking. She said this had not happened to her in the previous six years of living in Oxford.

I have also kickstarted an idea now being carried forward by Oxford City Council to put up posters in our city asking the public to report hate crime.

It is important for us as a city to send a clear message – we are a city that has a zero tolerance policy towards hate and all forms of bigotry. This is especially important because we are an international city with links across the globe.

We must not be complacent in understanding why we need to publically and vocally advocate for creating a city where everyone feels safe, respected and valued.

1b. Address by Dr Hojjat Ramzy on the Motion on reducing hate crime

Honourable members of the Oxford City Council, I greet you with the Islamic greeting of peace Assalamu Alaykum, peace be up on you all.

The number of hate crimes in Oxford and UK is growing, and we are in urgent need of tougher punishments for all acts of racism, islamophobia, anti-Semitism and other forms of prejudice and discrimination.

As a representative of the Muslim community in Oxford and director of Tell-MAMA in the Thames Valley, which measures Anti-Muslim Attacks, I would like to praise Cllr Tom Hayes and the Oxford City Council for attempting to highlight this issue to the government. I believe all Muslims in Oxford support this action in calling for this motion.

Since Brexit, the lives of many British Muslims have been turned upside down.

Muslims are fearful for their lives, their properties and their places of worship.

The far right has interpreted the 'yes' vote for Brexit as a licence to show hatred and enmity towards Muslims and other minority groups in the UK.

The rate of reported hate crimes by police and Tel-MAMA is high and the rate of people who have been the subject of hate crimes is even higher.

Many are afraid that if they report these crimes, the police complicated procedure may add to their stress and the perpetrators may retaliate and the situation may escalate. Therefore, they don't report it.

Consequently, in fear, they are suffering in silence, and many more will do so too, If the full force of law is not been used against the perpetrator of these evil acts.

Dear Friends the tougher laws and punishments will reduce the rate of hate crimes and restore hope and security to communities around the country.

Thank you and God bless

Written Response from Councillor Hayes, Board Member for Community Safety

Everybody living, working, and visiting Oxford has the right to be treated without discrimination or prejudice. New figures show a significant increase in racially motivated

hate crimes in Oxford (and across the country) which is why the City Council is considering a motion which calls for unity and tolerance across all our communities and a government review of hate crime legislation.

We have seen two strong public addresses on the issue of hate crime, which this Council will no doubt reflect upon during our later discussion of the hate crime motion. I would like to thank the two members of the public for their addresses to Full Council, their long-time campaigning for a stronger, united, and diverse city, and their ongoing campaigning to tackle hate crime.

As part of that ongoing campaigning, I'm pleased to see a commitment to talking with everybody affected by discrimination in this city. I hope to see more of the meetings which one speaker has organised and chaired for Muslim women to speak directly with local police officers.

Oxford City Council takes reports of hate crime seriously and works closely with Thames Valley Police to address them, and I'm having fruitful discussions about this matter with Oxford's police leadership.

We take very seriously indeed our role in building cohesive and strong communities all year round. Through the funding of community events such as Cowley Road Carnival (which happily takes place in part in my ward), the funding of community groups, and the organisation of community, sports, and leisure activities, we help to bring the city's communities together. And one particularly important way of bringing people together is through the council's maintenance of shared public spaces, namely our fantastic community centres across Oxford.

Newly released hate crime figures reflect those incidents which have been reported. Clearly there will be an underreporting of hate crime, which means we don't have the clearest or fullest picture of the level of hate crime in Oxford. I hope that these addresses and the motion to be considered later will encourage everybody to report hate crime if they experience or witness it.

2. Address by Hassan Sabrie, Chair East Oxford United Football Club

Hello Councillors

Thank you for inviting me to speak to you on behalf of East Oxford United Football Club (EOUFC). The club has been set up since 2009 and now has 85 members. The age of the young people coming to the club varies and we have teams for different age groups (7 year to 16 age groups).

The boys who come along, mainly come from low-income families in Oxford including East Oxford, Blackbird Leys, Barton and Rose Hill. They also come from many different cultural backgrounds - Somalia, India, Jamaica, Afghanistan, Sudan. Any others?

We have already had an 8 a side football tournament for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants playing for a 'United Oxford Club' to foster community cohesion and integration. This was a great success and brought together many different organisations to work together including MIND, Refugee Resource, the City Council and the Oxford Mail.

We are planning this year to have another football event linked in with Oxford Against Cuttingwork to help prevent female genital mutilation (FGM) of girls and women living in Oxfordshire. There will be 12 countries represented at the football tournament and it will a great event to highlight the issues related to FGM at an event where lots of different cultures and backgrounds will be there.

We also plan to have more activities for girls in the future, including football, and are currently working with MIND on table tennis activities for both boys and girls.

The club is also really excited because as part of Oxford's twinning relationship with Perm, Russia, young footballers from EOUFC have been invited to take part in a summer camp in Perm in August 2017. The club has been fundraising in every way possible, through sponsorship, grants, and events, and still have a bit of funding left to find and would be grateful for any contribution from councillors.

The club are doing great things in the community and want to become more self-sufficient as the boys and their families really enjoy the football matches and it is good for both increasing physical activity and also community cohesion and integration.

We have to pay out weekly hire charges for the football pitches and changing rooms at Cowley Marsh park and also pay for the referees for matches. We are applying for grants to help us. If we can get trained some of our members as referees then we can save on the costs of buying in referees. We would also like to see if we can talk with the Council about whether our group together with any other local groups could manage the Cowley Marsh Pavilion. This would save us hiring it from the Council and would help us to become more self-sufficient in terms of funding.

EOUFC have really strong links across a wide variety of cultures and communities in Oxford. We have done really well to raise funding to go to PERM but it has taken a lot of time to do this. We want to develop and grow and have lots of ideas to get people active, so need more funding and volunteers to keep moving forward!

I'm immensely proud of our football club, and I'm here now to ask you - the Council - to work with us - in providing modest funds and helping access facilities – to help promote social cohesion here in Oxford.

3. Address by Artwell – facilities in Barton

Barton has lost three community spaces in the last four years. Because of this, the very successful Ballet Dance troupe has ceased to function, along with other youth and adult gatherings. Sandhills and Barton has well in excess of 800 people under the age of eighteen, and the loss of three community spaces has impacted greatly on their group activities. Council, in the City by-election in May over two hundred Sandhills and Barton residents voted for the Independent candidate, who called for more community-managed Community Space for hire for the people of the ward. Elected Councillors and Executive Officers, over five hundred people have already signed a Petition asking for the former Royal British Legion site to be restored as a community-managed Community Space. In addition, we require assistance with the restoration of St. Mary's Church and Community Hall, which was heavily used by the people of Barton, prior to the Hall's closure.

My plea is very simple: please listen to the people of Barton. Instead of – or as well as – improving the neighbourhood centre, please use some of this very considerable amount of Regeneration money to restore the Royal British Legion site into a community-managed community space, and help to restore St. Mary's Church and Community Hall for the people of the ward.

At the City Executive Board meeting on Tuesday 20th June 2017, the expenditure of £3.7 million Regeneration Grant for Barton, including £950,000 to "improve" the largely pristine neighbourhood Centre, was approved.

It is of great concern that none of decision-makers or speakers at the CEB were residents of Barton. As a resident of Barton, and as someone who is aware of the needs in Barton, I would ask the Council to use this considerable amount of public money to meet the real needs of the people of Barton. I believe it would be a dereliction of public duty to spend the £3.7 million in the form currently outlined by the CEB meeting.

Written Response from Councillor Sinclair, Board Member for Culture and Communities

Barton residents have told us clearly and repeatedly that they believe the success of the Barton Park development depends on communities being well integrated. Key to this integration is community space which is shared across Barton and Barton Park. The investment we are making will bring an improved Neighbourhood Centre – part managed by the community – which will provide more accessible and flexible use whilst also developing health services for the growing population. The new pavilion will not only provide modern changing facilities for the sports pitches but also further flexible space for community use. There will be a new community hub attached to the school in Barton Park and of course Barton Leisure Centre already provides a multi-purpose room in addition to an excellent swimming pool and gym. Further to this we understand that Bayards Hill primary school is currently looking to offer their facilities, both inside and out, for the use of the community.

We have previously approached the British Legion about surrendering their lease but they have declined to do so. We have a responsibility to invest funds in programmes which reflect the community's priorities whilst providing value for money and through this investment Barton stands to enjoy at least four modern community facilities to meet a variety of needs. If the ballet troupe is still looking for alternative accommodation we would be very keen to investigate alternative accommodation for them.

4. Address by Judith Harley – replacement for Temple Cowley Pool

Lord Mayor, Councillors,

As you should know, the City Council is working on a new Oxford Local Plan 2036, which will shape development in Oxford over the next 20 years. The current public consultation runs until Friday 25th August, and the current consultation leaflet states: "We have listened to what local communities, businesses and other organisations told us and are now considering a range of options."

Councillors, I am asking you to listen to what the local communities in Temple Cowley, Cowley, and further afield have been telling you for several years – we need a swimming pool in Temple Cowley to serve the needs of the ever-increasing local population. We do not want to hear from you a re-run of your arguments about the new swimming pool in Blackbird Leys, which have been fully explored and exhausted. We want – and need – a swimming pool in Temple Cowley. The Oxford Local Plan 2036 could be a means of achieving this.

On Wednesday 28th June I attended the Oxford Local Plan Consultation Briefing facilitated by the Civic Society and the City Council. On speaking to City Officers after the event it appears that some current site designations in the existing Local Plan, 2016, are being re-assessed and could change according to local need for the Local Plan 2036. With this in mind I am asking you as a Council to support the residents of Temple Cowley and the surrounding area in their proposal to re-designate the site of the Marsh Road City Council Depot, which we are told will be vacated within the next 5 years, for leisure – specifically for a new swimming pool and associated facilities – instead of its current designation for housing. We appreciate that there is a chronic housing shortage in Oxford but, as I have said at numerous Planning meetings, housing consideration should not override all other considerations. With increasing housing development all around us, including on the former Temple Cowley Pools and Fitness Centre site, we need increasing leisure facilities in Temple Cowley, and the Marsh Depot, conveniently situated next to Cowley Marsh Park, would be an ideal leisure site to complement the Park itself.

One of our local City Councillors, Councillor Saj Malik, told residents on the doorstep when campaigning for last year's local elections that he expected to see a new swimming pool on the Marsh Depot site within the next 10 years. Our previous Local MP, Andrew Smith, said something very similar on BBC radio last year, and told me in person, around the same time, that the Marsh Depot would make a good site for a swimming pool. As we already, clearly, have the backing of our local councillors and our former MP for this scheme, can I ask the rest of the Council to answer the following question:

As housing consideration should not override all other considerations, will you support the residents of Temple Cowley and the surrounding area in their proposal, for the Local Plan 2036, to designate the site of the Marsh Road City Council Depot for a new swimming pool and associated facilities, instead of its current designation for housing?

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Oxford City Council meeting 20 July 2017 Agenda Item 16: PETITION: KEEP FLORENCE PARK CHILDREN'S CENTRE OPEN-ACCESS AND COMMUNITY-OWNED

Statement on the petition from Councillor Tidball, Board Member for Young People, Schools and Public Health

We recommend that Council notes this petition but things have moved forward following its submission.

The local Community Association hosted and chaired a meeting at the Florence Park Community Centre on Monday 17 July. Both City and County Councillors, along with the County Council Cabinet Member with the portfolio for Children's Centres, Councillor Mark Gray, and other local residents attended this meeting.

At the meeting, the City Council set out its position as follows:

- 1) Like Florence Park Community Association, with whom we met, the City's main concern is to ensure that any future tenant of the Centre provides a good service to the totality of children and families in the surrounding locality. The City Council greatly values the work at Florence Park Children's Centre. This is, however, a matter for the County Council who are seeking to re-assign the lease. Whilst the City Council is the freeholder (owner) of the building, the County Council have a 50 year lease so we cannot refuse to allow the transfer of their lease, whichever provider the County Council selects to assign their lease to. We do not have the legal power to restrict the lessee, the County Council, in this way based on the options that they are considering.
- 2) Further, our position as freeholder of the building is separate from the requirements placed on the use of this space by government. Between 1999 and 2002, the Labour government allocated £540m to establish a nationwide network of Sure Start Children's Centres. Government criteria under a contractual 'clawback' restrict the County, as other local authorities, in its use of buildings developed with Sure Start grant funding. It requires local authorities to notify the DfE of proposals to "dispose of or change the use of buildings or assets funded wholly or partly through Sure Start capital grants" they "risk being told to pay back the Sure Start Grant funding" to the Department for Education. The DfE retains an interest in Sure Start assets for 25 years. In this particular instance, if the asset transfer amounted to such a disposal or change of use of the space a 'claw back' by the Treasury, in the region of £500,000 to £600,000, could be triggered (see paragraphs 33 to 45 of the Capital Guidance).
- 3) It should be noted that the County Council's own Community Asset Transfer Policy further restricts their asset transfer. This policy says that "Assets will be made available for transfer unless one of the following principles Applies"; the relevant paragraphs in this context are 2.1 d) and e):
...
d) "Grant conditions for capital expenditure on the property prevent the property being transferred or prevent a change of use within a specified timescale.
e) The proposed use and terms of the transfer would result in a liability upon the County Council to repay grant monies."
...

The County Council's Community Asset Transfer Policy also states in para 1.4 that:

"This policy will enable use of assets by Parish and Town Councils and community/voluntary organisations that are not-for-profit and are registered e.g. a registered charity, community interest company, etc. The County Council will advise if an organisation has any doubt of eligibility."

- 4) That we have informed Oxfordshire County Council and other parties that if the San Remo Cafe contract is a barrier to implementing the most suitable solution at Florence Park, that the City would break the San Remo contract with the provider if that is necessary to secure a satisfactory outcome to meet the needs and aspirations of local children. It is important to us that Florence Park Children's Centre re-opens as it provides a great service to the local community. In the event of such a break in the City's contract, we would be liable for an estimated £10,000 lost by the business through investment in the site and the City could lose a further estimated £8,000 per annum for annual revenue for the projected income from San Remo's profit contributions for the remainder of the contract. As the contract is up for renewal in March 2018 the City will subsequently then lose this annual revenue. To reach a final figure would require negotiation with San Remo. Further, while the City have to follow a process of financial due diligence, having financial recompense from the County is not a condition of the City's preparedness to break this contract.
- 5) If progress is made by Aflah and Aspire in developing a joint proposal; that the County ensures the local residents have an opportunity to feedback on this proposal.
- 6) If this is not successful, that a new process is begun to invite new bids to be submitted, with clear criteria for eligibility.
- 7) That in this event, the County ensures the local residents have an opportunity to feedback on all potential future bid proposals.

I therefore recommend Council notes this petition. Thank you.

To: Council

Date: 20 July 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

1. This document sets out motions received by the Acting Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on Monday 10 July, as amended by the proposers.
2. All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Acting Head of Law and Governance by publication of the briefing note are also included below. Minor technical amendments may be submitted during the meeting but must be written down and circulated.
3. Unfamiliar terms may be explained in footnotes.
4. Motions will be taken in turn from the Green, Labour, and Liberal Democrat groups in that order.
5. Council is asked to consider the following motions:
 - a) Support a Fair Voting System
 - b) Tackling hate crime
 - c) Air quality in the city centre
 - d) Seacourt Park and Ride Extension
 - e) Oxford Cycling Safety
 - f) Fair employment: voluntary charter "Dying to Work"

a) Support a Fair Voting System

Proposed by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Simmons

Green member motion

This Council believes that a parliament which more accurately reflects the views of the nation, enabling people to feel that their votes count, is more likely to develop an economic, social and environmental agenda that benefits Oxford's residents.

Furthermore, Council recognises that a robust democracy must include a fair voting system and that nobody should be disenfranchised because of where they live.

Following the recent general election, this Council agrees that the 'First Past the Post' voting system:

1. has again failed to live up to its reputation to provide strong and stable government;
2. has again yielded a wildly disproportionate allocation of seats with, for example, the Democratic Unionist Party gaining 10 seats from 292,316 votes compared with 12 seats from 2.4 million votes for the Liberal Democrats;
3. has spectacularly failed to match votes to seats with 27,930 votes required to elect one MP from the Scottish National Party compared with 525,371 votes to elect one Green Party MP, thus rendering some people with more valuable votes than others.

This Council:

1. applauds the many groups and organisations campaigning for fair votes including the Electoral Reform Society, Make Votes Matter, the Labour Campaign for Electoral Reform [1] and Liberal Democrats for Electoral Reform.
2. notes that the Single Transferable Vote system is already used for local elections in Scotland and in both Northern Irish local elections and the Northern Ireland Assembly while proportional electoral systems are used to elect the devolved parliaments and assemblies in Scotland, Wales and London.

This Council therefore:

- 1. calls for the introduction of a proportional voting system for local elections in England and Wales;**
- 2. calls on the Leader of the Council to send a copy of this motion to Oxford's two MPs as well as to the Leaders of all political parties represented in the UK Parliament.**

[1] The Labour Campaign for Elector Reform in 2017 published *The Many, Not the Few – Proportional Representation and Labour in the 21st Century*, which states 76% of Labour voters are committed to changing to PR and 5% are against.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Wade:

In the last paragraph insert between the recommendations 1 and 2:

2. calls for District and City Councils to be given the power to introduce a system of their own choosing and for Oxford City Council to introduce a proportional system

3. calls for the franchise to be extended to sixteen and seventeen year olds, which would recognize the growing political awareness of this demographic – 1.5 million people nationwide.

The recommendations on the motion as amended would then read (with the preamble unchanged):

This Council therefore:

1. calls for the introduction of a proportional voting system for local elections in England and Wales; or
2. *calls for District and City Councils to be given the power to introduce a system of their own choosing and for Oxford City Council to introduce a proportional system; and*
3. *calls for the franchise to be extended to sixteen and seventeen year olds, which would recognize the growing political awareness of this demographic – 1.5 million people nationwide.*
4. calls on the Leader of the Council to send a copy of this motion to Oxford's two MPs as well as to the Leaders of all political parties represented in the UK Parliament.

b) Tackling hate crime

Proposed by Councillor Hayes

Labour member motion

We all have the right to be treated without discrimination. Council is gravely concerned with reports of a significant increase in racially motivated crimes in Oxford, and across the country, in the year since the referendum vote to leave the European Union. Regardless of how anyone voted in that referendum, all acts of hatred are unacceptable. Council takes pride in Oxford's diversity and community cohesion and condemns all acts of racism, xenophobia, and homophobia.

The overwhelming response of Oxford's citizens to these events has been to condemn them. Communities across Oxford have joined together to stress our common values of tolerance and unity.

This Council is committed to working with all our partners to challenge prejudice and intimidation, and will always take incidents of hate crime extremely seriously. We are also committed to ensuring that every person living and working in Oxford can feel that they are valued members of the community. Our city welcomes people from all over the world, in particular those EU nationals who are concerned about their rights and futures in the face of the British Government's drive to a hard Brexit.

Council notes with concern that the longest prison sentence that a court can give for homophobic, transphobic or disability common assault is six months. This prison sentence length is a quarter of the two-year maximum for race and faith common assault. Council regrets that some groups should be seen as more worthy of protection than others, and is concerned that a hierarchy of hate crime undermines may victim confidence in the law.

Council urges everybody to report hate crime to the police if they experience or witness it. Reporting hate crime when it happens will help to stop it happening to somebody else. Without knowing that hate crime has been taking place, the police and other bodies cannot help to keep our communities safe. Reporting hate crime helps the police and those bodies to have a clear picture of the level of hate crime in Oxford and make the right decisions to stop it happening again.

This Council asks the Leader of Oxford City Council:

- 1. to write to the Prime Minister with a request for an independent review of hate crime legislation, including measures to tackle online hatred and abuse.**
- 2. to invite the Police and Crime Commissioner for the Thames Valley region to personally update Oxford City councillors on the practical measures that are being taken to fight hate crime, including overcoming possible barriers to reporting hate crime.**
- 3. to also make this update available to the public.**

This Council asks the City Executive Board:

- 1. to work with local organisations to raise awareness of hate crime and how to report it, starting this year.**

Amendment proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Wolff

After the last sentence add:

2. ask officers to provide training for Oxford City Councillors on tackling hate crime and fostering community harmony

Motion as amended then reads as above with one additional recommendation

c) Air quality in the city centre

Proposed by Councillor Wade

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council notes:

- 1) the County's proposals for an experimental Queen Street pedestrianisation plan and associated transport improvements
- 2) the NICE guideline published 30 June 2017 on Air Pollution which makes, inter alia, the following recommendation: "when 'plan making' ... county, district and unitary authorities ... consider ...avoiding the creation of street and building configurations (such as deep street canyons) that encourage pollution to build up where people spend time."

This Council is concerned that this pedestrianisation project, on which 'Oxfordshire County Council is working closely with the Westgate Oxford Alliance', has not properly taken into account the effect on Air Quality in St Aldates, The High St and Cornmarket, of new bus routes, bus lay over bays and a changed taxi rank.

This Council is committed to improving Air Quality in Oxford and therefore calls upon the City Executive Board to ask officers:

1. to set up additional air quality monitoring stations in Queen Street, Cornmarket (south end) and The High Street (west end) to aid evaluation of environmental impact throughout the 'experimental' period
2. to provide figures for air quality pollution in St Aldates and The High Street over the last 12 months for comparison purposes with results from existing and additional air quality monitoring stations over the next 18 months.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Tanner:

Paragraph 3, 1st line: delete '*is concerned*' and replace with '*believes*'. 3rd line: delete '*has not properly taken*' and replace with '*must take*'.

Para 4, 2nd line: delete '*calls upon*' and replace with '*congratulates*'. Delete '*to ask officers*' and replace with '*for*'.

Para 5, amend to '*preparing* to set up additional air quality monitoring stations *in the city centre area* (eg in Queen Street, Cornmarket (south end) and The High Street (west end)) and then continue as before with '*to aid evaluation etc ...*'

Para 6, delete '*to provide*' and insert '*providing*' (note: these have been provided to government)

Add para 7, '*3. helping to reduce pollution in Oxford by 35% in the last ten years, experimenting with on-street electric charging, introducing a network of high-speed electric charging points for taxis and for working with the County Council to introduce a Zero Emission Zone in the city centre from 2020.*'

Add para 8, '*This Council further welcomes the high levels of walking, cycling and bus use in Oxford. The City Council has its own fleet of low emission vehicles. We urge everyone to use polluting diesel and petrol vehicles less and to walk, cycle and use public transport more in order to create cleaner air in Oxford.*'

Amendment proposed by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Simmons

In the paragraph starting with "*This council is concerned*" change "*Cornmarket*" to "*other streets surrounding the Westgate Centre*"

In the section calling on the CEB to ask officers:

- add the following two items:

3) *to continue to develop the Zero Emissions Zone as a long-term solution.*

4) *to conduct an urgent study looking at mitigation options for the large increase in the number of expected shopping trips, an increase of 11 million trips a year, which could affect air quality in the city centre even further.*

Motion as amended by Councillor Tanner would then read:

This Council notes:

1. the County's proposals for an experimental Queen Street pedestrianisation plan and associated transport improvements
2. the NICE guideline published 30 June 2017 on Air Pollution which makes, inter alia, the following recommendation: "when 'plan making' ... county, district and unitary authorities ... consider ...avoiding the creation of street and building

configurations (such as deep street canyons) that encourage pollution to build up where people spend time.”

This Council is ~~concerned~~ *believes* that this pedestrianisation project, on which ‘Oxfordshire County Council is working closely with the Westgate Oxford Alliance’, has not properly taken *must take* into account the effect on Air Quality in St Aldates, The High St and Cornmarket, of new bus routes, bus lay over bays and a changed taxi rank.

This Council is committed to improving Air Quality in Oxford and therefore ~~calls upon~~ *congratulates*’ the City Executive Board ~~to ask officers~~ for:

1. *preparing* to set up additional air quality monitoring stations *in the city centre area* (eg in Queen Street, Cornmarket (south end) and The High Street (west end)) to aid evaluation of environmental impact throughout the ‘experimental’ period
2. ~~to provide~~ *providing* figures for air quality pollution in St Aldates and The High Street over the last 12 months for comparison purposes with results from existing and additional air quality monitoring stations over the next 18 months.
3. *helping to reduce pollution in Oxford by 35% in the last ten years, experimenting with on-street electric charging, introducing a network of high-speed electric charging points for taxis and for working with the County Council to introduce a Zero Emission Zone in the city centre from 2020.*’

This Council further welcomes the high levels of walking, cycling and bus use in Oxford. The City Council has its own fleet of low emission vehicles. We urge everyone to use polluting diesel and petrol vehicles less and to walk, cycle and use public transport more in order to create cleaner air in Oxford.’

Motion as amended by Councillor Thomas would then read:

.....as original

This Council is concerned that this pedestrianisation project, on which ‘Oxfordshire County Council is working closely with the Westgate Oxford Alliance’, has not properly taken into account the effect on Air Quality in St Aldates, The High St and ~~Cornmarket~~, *other streets surrounding the Westgate Centre* of new bus routes, bus lay over bays and a changed taxi rank.

This Council is committed to improving Air Quality in Oxford and therefore calls upon the City Executive Board to ask officers:

1. to set up additional air quality monitoring stations in Queen Street, Cornmarket (south end) and The High Street (west end) to aid evaluation of environmental impact throughout the ‘experimental’ period
2. to provide figures for air quality pollution in St Aldates and The High Street over the last 12 months for comparison purposes with results from existing and additional air quality monitoring stations over the next 18 months.
3. *to continue to develop the Zero Emissions Zone as a long-term solution.*
4. *to conduct an urgent study looking at mitigation options for the large increase in the number of expected shopping trips, an increase of 11 million trips a year, which could affect air quality in the city centre even further.*

d) Seacourt Park and Ride Extension

Proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Thomas

Green member motion

Council notes the decision at the last budget to spend approximately £4m in extending Seacourt Park & Ride.

In line with our duty to consider social value, Council notes that the opportunity social costs of the £4m expenditure for the extension of the Seacourt Park & Ride has not yet been tested. Neither has the impact or need for the extension been assessed as part of a comprehensive transport demand study.

This Council therefore calls on the City Executive Board to withhold any further work on the proposed Seacourt extension until:

- a) completing a transport demand study to determine the need and impact of the planned Seacourt P&R extension.**
- b) assessing the relative social impacts of foregoing the Seacourt P&R extension and instead investing in affordable housing, green energy and community facilities.**

e) Oxford Cycling Safety

Proposed by Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Wolff

Labour member motion

Council notes with great sadness the death of cyclist Claudia Comberti on a road in our city earlier this year.

We recognise the huge benefits that increased cycling rates would have for our city, in terms of reduced pollution and congestion, increased levels of physical activity, and equality of access. To achieve this we need to make cycling safer.

Council notes with concern that, to date, Oxfordshire County Council has failed to access a single penny of funding to which it is entitled from the national cycling safety "Bikeability" fund.

Council supports the City's on-going commitment to encouraging cycling and promoting safety, and welcomes the recent initiative to declare itself a "Cycling City".

In the spirit of this commitment, we therefore call on:

1. the Leader of the City Council to write to the Leader of the County Council to ask that the County Council applies for the maximum level of funding it is entitled to from the Bikeability fund, and commits to ensure a fair portion is spent in the city.
2. the City Executive Board to commit to facilitating this spending if necessary.
3. the Leader of the City Council to ask the County Council to send us their 10-year plan for improving the cycling infrastructure in Oxford to make it a safer place to bike for everyone.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Wade:

Insert words in italics:

.....cycling safety “Bikeability“ fund.

Council notes the Department for Transport’s ‘Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan Guidance’ (LCWIP) and specifically that the DfT invites Local Authorities to make use of the DfT’s technical support for developing plans, for integrating them into local policies and strategies, and for making the economic case for investment.

Council supports.....

Then add to the recommendations:

2. the City Executive Board to take full advantage of the Department for Transport’s LCWIP guidance.

The motion as amended would then read:

Council notes with great sadness the death of cyclist Claudia Comberti on a road in our city earlier this year.

We recognise the huge benefits that increased cycling rates would have for our city, in terms of reduced pollution and congestion, increased levels of physical activity, and equality of access. To achieve this we need to make cycling safer.

Council notes with concern that, to date, Oxfordshire County Council has failed to access a single penny of funding to which it is entitled from the national cycling safety “Bikeability“ fund.

Council notes the Department for Transport’s ‘Local Cycling and Walking infrastructure Plan Guidance’ (LCWIP) and specifically that the DfT invites Local Authorities to make use of the DfT’s technical support for developing plans, for integrating them into local policies and strategies, and for making the economic case for investment.

Council supports the City’s on-going commitment to encouraging cycling and promoting safety, and welcomes the recent initiative to declare itself a “Cycling City”.

In the spirit of this commitment, we therefore call on:

- 1. the Leader of the City Council to write to the Leader of the County Council to ask that the County Council applies for the maximum level of funding it is entitled to from the Bikeability fund, and commits to ensure a fair portion is spent in the city.**
- 2. *the City Executive Board to take full advantage of the Department for Transport’s LCWIP guidance.***
- 3. the City Executive Board to commit to facilitating this spending if necessary.**
- 4. the Leader of the City Council to ask the County Council to send us their 10-year plan for improving the cycling infrastructure in Oxford to make it a safer place to bike for everyone.**

f) Fair employment: voluntary charter “Dying to Work”

Proposed by Councillor Wilkinson

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council seeks to provide support and guidance to all its employees. In its Fair Employment Statement published in October 2016, the Rights and Responsibilities section makes it clear that:

“Every employee and potential employee has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and not to be discriminated against, victimised, bullied or harassed or to be treated less favourably than any other on any basis of any protected characteristic.”

It is acknowledged that unforeseen events can affect the lives of council workers, and that it is important that the Council does all that it can to maintain the dignity of staff who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Council notes that the TUC’s Dying to Work campaign includes a voluntary charter for employers to sign which sets out an agreed way in which their employees will be supported, protected and guided through their employment, following a terminal diagnosis.

The charter states the following:

- We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.
- Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.
- We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.

Council notes that a significant number of other city councils have signed up to this charter including Birmingham, Leicester, Liverpool and Sheffield.

This Council supports the TUC’s Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind.

Council therefore asks that Oxford City Council signs the Dying to Work voluntary charter to show its on-going commitment to supporting rights and responsibilities towards its staff and to bring back to Council any consequential changes to policy.

It further requests that the City Council informs Oxfordshire County Council and the other district councils in Oxfordshire of its actions so that they may consider whether to follow its example.

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