

Council

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Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 20 July 2020**
Time: **5.00 pm**
Place: **Zoom - Remote meeting**

The Council agenda, reports, this briefing note, and any other supplementary papers should be considered together.

This briefing note forms part of the papers to be considered at the Council meeting. It contains additional information; councillors' questions, public addresses; and amendments to motions.

All papers for this meeting can be accessed through the council's website.

For further information please contact:

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Briefing note

Information for councillors and additional papers to be considered.

| | Pages |
|---------------------------------|--|
| PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS | |
| 1 | Apologies for absence |
| 2 | Declarations of interest |
| 3 | Minutes of previous meetings |
| | To approve 5 sets of minutes |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 January 2020• 13 February 2020 (Budget meeting)• 24 February 2020 (adjourned Budget meeting)• 20 May 2020 (Annual meeting)• 8 June 2020 (Special meeting). |
| 4 | Appointment to Committees |
| | to approve a change to committee memberships: West Area Planning Committee - Cllr Wade to replace Cllr Harris Any further changes will be notified at the meeting. |
| 5 | Announcements |
| | Announcements by: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Lord Mayor2. The Sheriff3. 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 |
| | None |

**Main
pack**

OFFICER REPORTS

7 Polling Places Review - Effects of Covid-19 and the postponement of the ward boundaries

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brown, will introduce the report.

Recommendations: Council is recommended to:

1. **approve the draft schedule of polling places and polling districts as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report;**
2. **agree that the changes should not be formally published unless required;**
3. **agree that the scheme approved by Council on 13 February 2020 will apply again from 1 December 2020.**

Main
Pack

8 Decisions taken under Parts 9.3(b) and (c) of the Constitution

The Chief Executive may speak to this report

The Leader of the Council, Cllr Brown, will move the recommendations

Recommendation: Council is recommended to note the decisions taken as set out in the report.

QUESTIONS

9 Questions on Cabinet minutes

This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in the five sets of minutes:

- a) 12 February
- b) March
- c) June
- d) 24 June

Main
pack

9e Minutes of the meeting on Wednesday 15 July of Cabinet

7-12

10 Questions on Notice from Members of Council

13 - 32

23 questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules and responses.

One supplementary question on each written question may be asked by the councillor submitting the question.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 11 | Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting Five public addresses to the Leader and Cabinet members received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules and not related to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda. Written responses are included where available. Cabinet members may give a response at the meeting. Up to five minutes is available for each speech with a total of 45 minutes to hear all speeches and replies. | 33 - 40 |
| 12 | Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions 1. Report on behalf of the Leader of Council on the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (attached) The Leader, Cllr Brown, will introduce the report. Council is invited to comment on and note the report. | 41 - 52 |
| 13 | Scrutiny Committee update report The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Gant, will present the report. Council is invited to comment on and note the report. | |

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 14 | Motions on notice This item has a time limit of 60 minutes. Motions and amendments received by the deadlines. 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) Twinning with a locality on the island of Taiwan (proposed by Cllr Goddard, seconded by Cllr Wade) (amendment proposed by Cllr Clarkson) b) Adopting the C40 Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force principles (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) c) Disproportionate deaths from Covid-19 of Health and care workers from Black, Asian and ethnic minorities (proposed by | 53 - 62 |
|-----------|---|---------|

Cllr Bely-Summers)

- d) Celebrating Oxford's Diversity (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Altaf Khan) (amendment proposed by Cllr Brown)
- e) Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff)
- f) Fossil fuel divestment (proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Turner)
- g) Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Roz Smith)
- h) Liveable Streets initiative (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) (amendment proposed by Cllr Henwood; amendment proposed by Cllr Arshad)

15 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)

This briefing note is published as a supplement to the agenda and should be considered along with the agenda; reports; and other supplementary papers.

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 15 July 2020

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Committee members present:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Councillor Brown (Chair) | Councillor Turner (Deputy Leader) |
| Councillor Hayes (Deputy Leader) | Councillor Chapman |
| Councillor Clarkson | Councillor Hollingsworth |
| Councillor Rowley | Councillor Linda Smith |
| Councillor Upton | |

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Gordon Mitchell, Chief Executive
Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development)
Caroline Green, Assistant Chief Executive
Anita Bradley, Monitoring Officer
Carolyn Ploszynski, Planning Policy and Place Manager
Andrew Humpherson, Regeneration Manager
Mish Tullar, Corporate Policy, Partnership and Communications Manager
Tom Hudson, Scrutiny Officer
Bill Lewis, Financial Accounting Manager
John Mitchell, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also present:

Councillor Andrew Gant
Councillor James Fry

Apologies:

Councillor Tidball sent apologies.

23. Declarations of Interest

None.

24. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

25. Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Board's agenda

None.

26. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

27. Items raised by Board Members

None.

28. Scrutiny Committee Reports

Councillor Gant, Chair of Scrutiny Committee, said the Committee had met on 06 July to consider items 8 and 9 of the agenda (Local Growth Funded Workspace Projects and Local Development Scheme respectively) The discussion in relation to item 8 had resulted in one recommendation which had been partially accepted as described in the report before Cabinet. The discussion on item 9 had not resulted in any recommendations.

Councillor Fry, Chair of the Finance & Performance Panel, said it had met on 07 July to consider item 11 of the agenda (Integrated Performance Report for Q4). The Panel noted that there was a positive variance in relation to service charges and had recommended that the opportunity should be taken to review those charges to HRA council housing tenants to ensure that the charges reflect actual costs.

The Panel had also considered a draft report on monitoring social value which had resulted in two recommendations. One that the Council should benchmark its spending with SMEs against that of similar authorities. The second that the Council should underwrite an event on valuing social value in procurement to involve neighbouring authorities support services and their providers to learn from one another and improve overall standards.

In relation to the recommendation about service charges, Cllr Ed Turner, Cabinet member for Finance & Asset Management, said that the Council was broadly supportive and gave a detailed response, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.

Councillor Turner, said that Cabinet was very supportive of the recommendation in relation to social value and SMEs and, indeed, had already undertaken some of the recommended activity informally and would like to progress this further. The Council was also supportive of the recommendation for an event, whether virtual or otherwise.

29. Local Growth Funded Workspace Projects

The Executive Director (Development) had submitted a report to seek approval to enter into a £1.93m Funding Agreement with Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership for Local Growth Funding to support the refurbishment of 1-3 George Street and redevelopment of Standingford House on Cave Street to provide affordable and innovative workspace to facilitate the inclusive economy.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council, introduced the report which proposed a timely initiative to support local businesses, particularly small local businesses. The

project would provide a welcome addition to the mix of business and office space in the city centre, the need for which had been emphasised during the recent development of the Local Plan. It would also provide an opportunity for necessary improvements to the Council properties listed the report which would, among other things, contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets.

Andrew Humpherson, Regeneration Manager, emphasised that the proposed work was necessary to get the properties concerned into a state fit to be let and so contribute to income for the Council. The immediate focus was on the building shells and getting them up to standard. In relation to their future use, internal designs would be heavily influenced by close co-operation with operators, a dialogue which was already underway. He confirmed that early conversations with the planning department were underway in relation to 1-3 George Street, those with Cave Street would have to wait until later in the process.

It was noted that the funding for this project was required to have been committed by the end of July and not the end of June as described in the report.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Delegate** authority to the Executive Director Development, in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer and the Head of Law and Governance to agree and enter into grant funding arrangements and contractual terms with OxLEP for £1.93m in Local Growth Funds for the delivery of city-centre based workspaces at 1-3 George Street and Standingford House, Cave Street.

30. Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2020-2023

Councillor Hayes joined the meeting during this item.

The Head of Planning Services had submitted a report to present the updated programme for the preparation of documents that will form the Council's statutory Development Plan for approval.

Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning & Housing Delivery, introduced the report which fulfilled a statutory requirement, setting out priorities for consultation on planning policy documents over the following three years. Among other things the report described initial steps towards development of the next Local Plan within the overall context of the 2050 plan for Oxfordshire and the development of the Technical Advice Notes which will flesh out elements of the new Local Plan.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Oxford Local Development Scheme 2020-25

31. Oxfordshire Growth Board Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding

The Assistant Chief Executive had submitted a report to propose revised Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding for the Oxfordshire Growth Board, which required approval by each of the Oxfordshire Council Cabinets / Executives. These were presented for consideration following a recent public review of the Growth Board's role and functions, which had helped to inform the revisions made.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council, introduced the report which was being taken to all of the Oxfordshire's District Councils and the County Council, proposing

relatively minor changes to the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Memorandum of Understanding in relation to the Oxfordshire Growth Board. There had been discussion over the last year about more fundamental issues in relation to the Growth Board, such as how to ensure that the shared interest in dealing with the challenge of climate change was properly addressed.

Caroline Green, Assistant Chief Executive reiterated that this report represented just the first phase of a review of the Growth Board. The revised TOR now included a paragraph on the purpose of the Growth Board which fed into recognition of the need for there to be an improvement of communication with Members, stakeholders and the public.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding at Appendices 1 and 2 respectively; and
2. **Delegate** authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and the Growth Board, to make minor amendments to these documents as required to support the operational efficiency of the Growth Board's work.

32. Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 4 2019/20

The Head of Financial Services and Head of Business Improvement had submitted a report to update Members on Finance, Risk and Performance as at the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

Councillor Ed Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance & Asset Management, introduced the report most of which covered a period before the effects of Covid-19 had been felt. Nevertheless the effects had, inevitably, been felt towards the end of the financial year, notably in relation to the end of year spends for both capital and revenue. The money which it had been possible to save by the end of the financial year was being put towards the Council's response to Covid-19. Carry forward requests into the present financial year were, necessarily, relatively few. The adverse variance on the general fund was largely contributed to by the reduced expectation in relation to the Oxford Direct Services dividend. A favourable variance in relation to commercial property income was welcome but unlikely to be sustained in the foreseeable future. In relation to the capital programme, a considerable amount of work had been done during the year to reschedule projects in relation to which there had been over optimism about their progress. Covid-19 had had a detrimental effect on the programme later in the year. Cllr Turner was in regular discussion with officers about the programme given the importance of its precision in a straitened financial environment.

Bill Lewis, Financial Accounting Manager, emphasised that while the report showed an overall positive variance, this was unlikely to be repeated in the near future as the Council managed a challenging financial environment.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the financial outturn and performance of the Council for the year 2019/20 and also the position on risks outstanding as at 31st March 2020;
2. **Agree** the carry forward requests in respect of the General Fund of £77,182 as shown in paragraph 7 and on Appendix D;

3. **Agree** the transfer to the Capital Financing and NNDR Retention reserve of £2.693 million detailed in paragraph 2 a;
4. **Agree** the carry forward requests in respect of the HRA of £722,000 as shown in paragraph 18; and
5. **Agree** the transfer to the HRA Contributions to HRA Projects Reserve of £4.809 million detailed in paragraph 2 (c).

33. Decisions taken under Parts 9.3(b) and (c) of the Constitution

Councillor Linda Smith joined the meeting during this item.

The Head of Law and Governance had submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) asking Cabinet to note the decisions taken by the Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) using the urgency and emergency powers delegated in Parts 9.3(b) and (c) of the Constitution.

Anita Bradley, Head of Law & Governance introduced the report which listed three decisions taken by the Chief Executive exercising urgency and emergency powers as a consequence of Covid-19.

In response to a question about recouping the costs of addressing the needs of the homeless, the Chief Executive first noted that additional costs would soon be incurred as the Council sought to extend the arrangements initially put in place, in line with revised Government policy. While the Government had provided some funding to Councils to assist with the additional costs associated with Covid-19, none of it had been earmarked specifically for this or indeed any other purpose. Strictly speaking it would not be until later in the year that it would be possible to judge whether the Council's estimate of additional costs exceeded the money which had been provided by Government.

In relation to expenditure on ICT, the Chief Executive confirmed that this was in addition to the programme of improvement which had already been in place and was to ensure that the Council was in a position to work effectively in the new environment necessitated by Covid-19.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council, noted appreciation for the work of the ICT team in having enabled to Council Members and officers to work remotely in such a short time. In relation to the decision about the Discretionary Grant Scheme, she noted that this was an important mechanism which enabled the Council to support local businesses and help them survive and hopefully thrive in a challenging environment. The need for criteria for distribution had given the Council the opportunity to include ones to reflect its values, such as the social value of businesses.

There was appreciation of the speed with which the grants had been allocated and distributed. In relation to housing benefit and universal credit there was praise for the efficiency of those teams in dealing with an increase in the number of applications.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the decisions taken as set out in the report.

34. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2020 as a true and accurate record.

35. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

- 12 August
- 09 September
- 14 October
- 11 November
- 09 December

All meetings start at 6pm unless otherwise stated.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.45 pm

Chair Date: Wednesday 12 August 2020

To: Council
Date: 20 July 2020
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader

Introduction

1. Questions submitted by members of Council to the Cabinet 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

Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing

No questions

Cabinet Member for City Centre, Covered Market and Culture

1. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Clarkson – Street traders

| Question | Written Response |
|--|---|
| Council made the decision to ban street traders from operating in the City Centre due to concerns over social distancing. That is despite outdoor markets being allowed to | The Council has not banned street trading in the city centre. As part of the suite of measures to make the city centre safe we have not issued any daytime consents for street traders on Cornmarket Street and |

1. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Clarkson – Street traders

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>trade from 1st June.</p> <p>I have received a complaint from one such pedlar who claims she was forced by Council officers on 26 June to move on and challenges the Council's right to discriminate against pedlars in this way.</p> <p>Can the Portfolio Holder please clarify the situation regarding street traders, the Council's legal powers to discriminate against them and can she assure Council that, should lock down be re-imposed, pedlars will be treated the same as outdoor markets?</p> | <p>Queen Street to prevent them causing an obstruction and ensure social distancing is possible for the public.</p> <p>The Council has also been discouraging pedlars from operating in Cornmarket Street and Queen Street for the same reason. There are no powers to ban pedlars so no discrimination has taken place.</p> <p>The pedlar concerned was operating in breach of the Coronavirus Restrictions Regulations by painting henna tattoos on people, which was not a permitted activity.</p> <p>The Council will treat pedlars in accordance with government legislation.</p> |
|--|--|

2. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Clarkson – Noise nuisance and Environmental Health team responses

| Question | Written Response |
|--|---|
| <p>Will the Portfolio Holder consider an early review of the cuts to the noise service, which are leading to a reduction in quality of life for residents living in affected neighbourhoods</p> <p>How many times has The Noise App been used?</p> | <p>It is too early to consider a review of the impact of the small changes made to the out of hours service.</p> <p>In the first quarter of this year the Noise App has been used 3309 times.</p> |

Cabinet Member for Customer Focused Services

3. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Chapman – Cutting grass verges

| Question | Written Response |
|--|---|
| <p>Will the Portfolio Holder agree to change the regime for the cutting of grass verges to protect biodiversity?</p> | <p>We are currently undertaking a review of grass cutting regimes to verges in the City. This review is being undertaken with stakeholders including Oxford Direct Services (ODS). The purpose is to identify areas of grassland suitable for a regime that increases biodiversity. This review will feed in to the next budget cycle identifying and costs and/or savings.</p> |

4. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Chapman – Council Tax correspondence

Question

I recently received a worrying piece of casework from a constituent who continued to receive (at her new address) Council Tax settlement letters from the City Council jointly addressed to her and her previous partner.

Despite her separation being amicable, this caused considerable and understandable distress. One can only imagine how someone fleeing an abusive relationship would have reacted.

Can this practice please end?

Written Response

I am grateful to Cllr. Simmons for giving me plenty of notice he was going to raise this matter in a formal question. I do have sympathy with his request as we want to avoid causing distress especially to people who have split up from their partners, which can itself be a traumatic event.

However, the Council is hamstrung by regulatory requirements.

That is because in a number of circumstances more than one person may be liable to pay the Council Tax on a property. This is known as having 'joint and several liability' and applies in a number of instances which include where more than one person has the same interest in the property in terms of the hierarchy of liability and for residents who are married or live together as husband and wife or are civil partners. Exceptions to this can apply if for instance one of the liable persons is disregarded for Council Tax purposes.

Joint and several liability derives from the provisions of the law (Local Government Finance Act 1992) and is not determined by who is named on the Council Tax bill. If the bill is issued in a single name, recovery proceedings can be taken against that one person. However if there is a joint liability the appropriate notices must be issued in the names of anyone against whom enforcement action is to be taken before such action can take place.

The Council will always issue Council Tax bills in joint names where there is a joint liability, as should the tax remain unpaid, the recovery process can be undertaken against all those who are liable to pay.

In this particular instance the Council Tax bill was issued in joint names, and therefore when this was closed, the closing bill was issued in joint names, one to each party at their respective addresses, as is legally required. At no point was the complainant's address divulged to the ex-partner.

Whilst the Council acknowledges that the process can cause distress, and has indeed apologised to the taxpayer for such distress, it cannot change its process, as this is clearly defined in regulations.

We will continue to explore how we can reduce to a legal minimum references to former partners in our council tax settlement correspondence

5. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Turner – Exposure to a downturn in the city’s retail sector

| Question | Written Response |
|--|---|
| <p>As a result of the lockdown, many retail businesses are vulnerable and it is possible that some may have to cease trading completely.</p> <p>What is the level of the Council’s budgetary exposure (in terms of both rent and rates)?</p> <p>What strategies for protecting businesses and keeping vitality in the city are being considered?</p> | <p>The Council has budgeted income from commercial property of approximately £12.6 million per annum. The council collected approximately 60% of the first quarter’s rents on these properties by the end of June, although the collection rate for the June quarter is not likely to be as favourable. In respect of business rates, we have undertaken a risk assessment of each ratepayer (as we have for our tenants) and it is estimated that the total exposure to failing business in the city centre for the rest of the year would be around £26 million with the city council’s share of this under business rates retention being 40% i.e. £10.6 million (which, after the application of the business rates safety net of £5.8 million would be a loss to the Council against its 2020/21 budget of £3.3 million).</p> <p>Many businesses benefit from the Expanded Retail Relief Discount and consequently pay no business rates this year, but should any business go into administration then the discount is removed. We continue to work with businesses that do not qualify for relief and make arrangements to defer business rates charges. We are also working with our tenants to understand what further relief can be agreed over and above the various relief packages offered by Central Government. When a business has difficulty making a payment, we are treating each case separately in line with recent Government guidelines, the principles of which had already been adopted.</p> <p>We are pursuing various strategies to keep vitality in the city as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A re-opening the ‘high street’ programme, including one-way pedestrian flow guidance in the city centre and on Cowley Road, alongside social distancing signage, and visitor and business engagement and information. We are evolving this to now include a marketing and promotion campaign to instil confidence to encourage people back to the city centre and local centres, safely. Officers are also now working to push the Visit England “We’re good to go” guidance and promotion for visitor economy |

5. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Turner – Exposure to a downturn in the city’s retail sector

businesses.

- Working with the County Council to fund two city centre bus gates to reduce congestion, reduce bus journey times and provide the platform for re-prioritising road space to cyclists and pedestrians to get into our city centre more safely

- Made available details of unclaimed grants to ward members so they can assist in disseminating information and increasing uptake

- Also, working with County Council, to push for more tables and chairs for food and beverage businesses in the city and local centres, including where there is a lack of pavement space and there is a need to use roads

- Working with landlords, agents and would-be new city centre occupiers to develop the interest there is from national and local businesses in vacant city centre units, including building our meanwhile programme, to link businesses, community groups, social enterprises, and cultural organisations with empty space, both our own and others, in the city centre and localities

- Allocated regeneration officers to local centres to work with ward members and others to identify issues and opportunities in relation to economic recovery to feed into our planning

- Working to repurpose the closed Boswell’s department store as a hotel, restaurant and workspace

- Pushing forward with the development of city centre workspace projects at George St and Cave Street

- Developing a City Centre Vision and Action Plan to guide us through recovery, as well as a wider Economic Development Strategy for the city, that will provide a framework for building on our economic and sector strengths (e.g. green economy, science and technology, visitor economy)

- Working with OxLEP, the universities, County Council and other districts on a county-wide Economic Recovery Plan to submit to central Government, including around the areas of business support and funding, skills, sectors and inward investment.

6. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Turner – Business rates relief for language schools

Question

There has been considerable discussion recently on whether the council's discretionary powers to grant business rates relief during the current crisis extend to language schools.

Cabinet has said it does not, and has written to government asking that it should.

However, members of our community in the sector have pointed out that other cities have interpreted the available powers differently, and have granted relief to businesses of this kind, which clearly have a vital role within our city.

Could the portfolio holder please explain why this Council appears to be interpreting the same guidance differently from councils elsewhere?

Written Response

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, in the Budget on 11 March the Chancellor announced that he would increase the Extended Retail Discount to 100% and extend it to include the leisure and hospitality sectors for 2020/21, with no rateable value limit on the relief. The Council has followed the list of eligible premises in the MHCLG guidance for its own scheme, and excluded those which the guidance states should not receive relief. The Council is clear that language schools are not wholly or mainly for the provision of a service to visiting members of the public, nor do they fall into the hospitality or leisure sectors.

We have made enquiries as to how some Councils have arrived at a decision to award the discount (most we have contacted have not responded). Unfortunately the LGA initially issued some guidance, which was later withdrawn, which erroneously suggested that language schools were in scope. It is a matter for each authority to decide and to be accountable for under their discretion. There are equally Councils, including others locally that have not awarded the discount in line with their own interpretation of the guidance. If the Council made payments erroneously, these might have to be paid back to government.

The Council Leader has written to ministers asking them to extend the guidance to cover language schools. Regrettably no response has been received so far to this letter.

There are a number of other business support measures that Language Schools are able to access and details are on both our website and Gov.uk.

7. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Hayes – Access to electric car charging points

Question

Many residents in my part of East Oxford are keen to switch to electric cars but struggle to find public charging points. Most don't have access to off-street parking for a home charger and what public chargers there are are run by a range of companies that use different access methods. ZAPMAP shows that there are less than 10 public chargers serving a catchment of more than 10,000 people. This includes charging points at the Council-owned Union Street Car Park, where the spaces are not dedicated to EVs and where residents have to pay to park.

Will the Portfolio Holder consider, at least until a better public charging solution is available, dedicating free car parking spaces at the Union Street Car Park (and indeed other Council car parks that have public chargers) for EVs that are plugged in and charging?

Will the Portfolio Holder update Council on plans for the installation of further EV charging facilities?

Written Response

Oxford is amongst the Office of Low Emission Vehicle's Go Ultra Low Cities, supporting other local authorities by sharing learnings generated from multiple EV projects trialled here, and thus contributing to improving the quality of charging provision across the UK.

We are currently assessing the role of car parks in the EV market together with ODS.

The Go Ultra Low On-street project is trialling on-street charging for households that don't have off-street parking. We are currently upgrading 39 chargers to permanent solutions. In addition, 4 charge points were recently installed in Manzil Way gardens for the primary use of Taxi and Private Hire vehicles, with the option to expand this to other high priority users. The next phase of Go Ultra Low Oxford (GULO) the GULO On-street project will provide up to 100 charge points in new locations across the city. GULO Taxi will deliver an addition 6 chargers for the taxi trade.

We are committed to engaging residents across the city on the question of how we allocate chargers across the city and we hold a database of residents who have expressed an interest to date, including in East Oxford.

To date 43 charge points for Oxford Residents without access to off-street parking has been delivered, with 10 of these in East Oxford.

In addition, by mid-2021, through the Energy Superhub Oxford project there will be the largest public EV charging Hub in the UK at Redbridge P&R. The Hub will have a minimum of 52 chargers, with the option for expansion of both

8. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Citizens’ Assembly progress update

Question

Following the Citizens Assembly on Climate Change, the Cabinet set out the next steps it would take. Amongst these, a number will probably have been delayed by the pandemic :

- The holding of a Zero Carbon Summit early in 2020 and the establishing of a (revived) Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership

- The creation of a Climate Change Youth Board

However, other commitments need not have been impacted by the pandemic and it would be good to hear what progress is being made with regard to :

- Procuring of contracts for renewable gas and electricity, with offsetting
- The creation of new carbon budgets within the city’s budget and auditing processes
- Assessment of housing stock for retrofit
- Development of a plan by OCHL for all new building by the Council to be much more thermally efficient, without gas heating.
- Installation of ~400 EV charging points (for which funding had been secured)
- Commencement of a process of mapping natural resources (‘Natural Capital’?)

Can the Portfolio Holder update Council on progress?

Written Response

By passing a motion declaring a climate emergency, this Council confirmed that business as usual cannot continue—we unanimously said exceptional action is needed. In the time since, this administration has moved quickly to develop our strategy for generating a zero-carbon council and city and we have done so by working with our partners and civil society and seeing democracy as part of our response to climate breakdown.

On 28 January 2019, this council approved a motion declaring a climate emergency, with Labour members providing for a Citizens’ Assembly. 244 days later, a Citizens’ Assembly—the first of its scale and complexity in the UK—met for the first time. 34 days after the close of that Citizens’ Assembly, this administration shared a report outlining in detail the findings of the Citizens Assembly. Cabinet agreed 53 actions developed in line with these findings just 28 days later and, on 28 February 2020, a further 41 days later, this Council agreed the funding for some of these actions when it approved the first Budget since the Citizens’ Assembly met. At significant pace and all the while maintaining delivery on existing climate responses, officers have moved quickly and thoughtfully to develop a strategy which is practical and meaningful, and I’m sure Councillor Wolff would like to take this opportunity to show his appreciation.

On 24 March 2020, the Government announced a lockdown of the country. Just 34 days had passed since the approval of the Budget. The City Council, along with so many others, have focused on responding to the public health crisis, with staff and resources being redirected to support the most vulnerable in our communities. The working arrangements of this Council will be familiar to the councillor. Despite this unprecedented emergency response, work has proceeded on a number of areas:

- Plans are being developed for a Zero Carbon Summit later in 2020, which will most likely be held in a virtual format.
- This Council has purchased 10% green gas, with

8. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Citizens’ Assembly progress update

an announcement on offsetting to follow shortly;

- This Council is working to ensure all of its council homes are EPC C where this is feasible. We have already implemented large scale fabric insulation (external and cavity insulation) and solar PV programme on 176 properties (including sheltered accommodation). Tower blocks have been upgraded. There are ongoing loft insulation, boiler replacement, and electric heating upgrade programmes. This Council has two energy advice officers assisting with repairs, energy saving advice and energy tariff changes.
- Oxford City Housing Limited (OCHL) is progressing all new build to an aspiration target of 70% carbon reduction from Building Regulations standard and is moving away from gas heating to electric. Other low carbon housing options such as Passiv haus and Zero Carbon are currently being scoped for feasibility. Oxford Direct Services are currently building 8 off site manufacture zero carbon bungalows and the team is trialling a service to help reduce any performance issues as airtight buildings with energy efficient technologies are known to be difficult to get right through the design/construction
- Work is progressing on the installation of over 150 chargers as part of GULO and ESO to provide residents and businesses with EV chargers, with over 30 chargers installed at ODS in the last few weeks.
- Working with partners to explore solutions to natural capital mapping, including close working with district partners.

I recently invited Councillor Wolff to a briefing with myself and officers to discuss his recent public repudiation of the air quality report published by this Council, the data for which had been ratified by the Governments appointed contractor and the findings of which have been approved by DEFRA. I would be happy to broaden that meeting out and discuss these matters in greater detail if the councillor wishes, so that citizens reading local media in the future are able to have trust in the evidence-based arguments made by their democratically elected body.

Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks

9. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Linda Smith – Deterring littering

Question

In view of the deaths of two cattle and injuries to several horses on Port Meadow after widespread, serious littering, would the councillor explain why a pre-existing anti-litter poster campaign successfully used in locations as varied as York, Bath, Bradford, Liverpool, Guildford, Northampton, Dorset, Braintree, Cheltenham, Epsom, Australia and New Zealand (using posters headed 'Don't be a Tossler', and aiming to use slightly ribald humour and ridicule to target potential litterers) was rejected, and explain how else the City Council is going to take urgent action to deter further littering in the course of the summer?

Written Response

The death and injury of livestock on Port Meadow through littering is intolerable and it demands action. Council and ODS (Oxford Direct Services) officers have formed a new multi-agency group with TVP (Thames Valley Police) to tackle the problem and there are four work strands in progress.

- Review of bins and litter collection.
- Community Engagement.
- Enforcement
- Communications – including signage.

I share the view of some of your Liberal Democrat colleagues representing wards near the meadow, that we in Oxford can do much better than the “Don't be a tosser” campaign used elsewhere. We will have a strong local campaign. **focused on the harm to animal welfare and the possibility of fines being issued for littering.**

10. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Linda Smith – Port Meadow littering

Question

I was shocked, as I am sure many other Councillors were, at the state of Port Meadow following the easing of lockdown which coincided with a period of good weather. The litter and rubbish were an eyesore and a hazard to humans and animals alike.

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us what measures have been put in place to both keep Port Meadow clean in the future,

Written Response

Port Meadow is an attractive and popular destination which has seen an unprecedented number of visitors during lockdown as other venues for recreation have been closed.

Council and ODS officers have formed a new multi-agency group with TVP to tackle the problem and there are four work strands in progress.

1. Bins and litter collection: Capacity of Bins and frequency of collection have been increased and will be kept under review.
2. Community Engagement: litter picking, intelligence sharing, distribution of refuse sacks

10. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Linda Smith – Port Meadow littering

what monitoring is in place, and what efforts are being made to identify and fine those responsible?

and education.

3 .Enforcement: more joint work with TVP, targeted enforcement patrols.

4. Communications: To focus on threat to animal welfare and our enforcement activity with potential of fines.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery

11. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hollingsworth – Accurately defining zero carbon homes

Question

I welcome the building of eight new highly energy efficient Council homes at Bracegirdle Road/Chillingworth Crescent, Mortimer Drive and Broad Oak. However, a press release issued by the Council incorrectly referred to these as ‘zero carbon homes’ – generally understood to refer to a home meeting Level 6 of the original Code for Sustainable Homes. That is, a home which generates sufficient renewable energy to meet the entire operational needs of the house thereby being net zero. The UK Green Build Council and others are seeking to take the definition even further, to include the impacts of construction.

When our own Local Plan requires all new homes to be ‘zero carbon’ from 2030, would the Portfolio Holder agree that our own use of such term needs to be carefully moderated to ensure that we set a good example?

Written Response

The current definition of Zero Carbon homes was established by the Government in 2011 in its ‘Plan for Growth’ to mean emissions that can be regulated by the Building Regulations, something that was subsequently confirmed in the consultation on the Future Homes Standard consultation run from late 2019 until February this year. This is the definition that the Council has used in the new Local Plan, as is made clear in its glossary. The new homes built by the Council comply with this official definition of Zero Carbon, and the press release was therefore not inaccurate.

The 2011 ‘Plan for Growth’ foreword by Secretary of State for Business and Skills Vince Cable and Chancellor George Osborne made clear its disdain for “pointless barriers” to enterprise and “the forces of stagnation” who objected to the removal of these ‘barriers’ ; it was in this political climate that the Code for Sustainable Homes definition was swept away. Speaking personally, I don’t agree that setting the highest possible standards for zero carbon homes was “pointless”, and far from being the forces of stagnation those that objected and still object are the forces of reason and progress.

I am therefore sure that the councillor shares my view that the superseded 2006 Code for

11. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hollingsworth – Accurately defining zero carbon homes

Sustainable Homes was a better document and that the level 6 definition within it set a better benchmark for a Zero Carbon home, but since there is a now a new and nationally applied standard I am also sure that the councillor will agree with me that it is important that the Council consistently uses that national standard both in its Local Plan and its press releases, rather than any different one that he and I might prefer.

12. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Hollingsworth – Landlord Accreditation Scheme

Question

How many landlords are registered with the City Council's Landlord Accreditation Scheme?

Have any been struck off in the last 12 months?

Written Response

There are 148 landlords and 19 letting agents registered with City Council's Landlord Accreditation Scheme.

In the last 12 months 1 landlord has had their accreditation revoked and 8 applications have been refused.

13. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Hollingsworth – ‘Doughnut’ economics framework for sustainable development

Question

The Cities of Amsterdam and Copenhagen have adopted the ‘Doughnut’ economics framework for sustainable development: a new approach to urban planning and development originated here in Oxford by the economist Kate Raworth.

A recent online talk by Dr. Raworth – looking at how the model could be adapted for Oxford – attracted more than 500 people.

Will the Portfolio Holder consider the Doughnut framework for the next iteration of the Local Plan?

Written Response

Dr Raworth’s ‘Doughnut’ tool is a profoundly useful way of visualising the challenges for urban planning at a local level as well as an economic at a macro-economic level, and is certainly something that can form part of the range of ways of identifying and addressing the challenges facing Oxford now and in the future, not just as a city in isolation, but as part of the wider local, regional, national and global environments.

As Dr Raworth herself noted in launching the model for Amsterdam, “this city portrait is not a report and assessment of Amsterdam: it is a tool and starting point, ideal for using in workshops to open up new insights and bring about

13. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Hollingsworth – ‘Doughnut’ economics framework for sustainable development

transformative action”. Planning is a process, and one that has always had to find balances between a wide range of competing and often contradictory pressures – any new tool that helps to bring those pressures out more clearly, and enables the widest range of people to engage with and appreciate those pressures in seeking new and innovative ways of addressing them is to be welcomed.

14. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hollingsworth – Policy making in planning

Question

Does the Cabinet member agree with me that, when planning authorities act responsibly and in the interests of residents, policy-making in planning works best when it sits at the most appropriate level in relation to residents, citizens and voters, and that the guiding principle should be to keep decision-making as close as possible to our residents?

Does he also therefore agree with me that any moves by central government in the direction of centralised, top-down control over, for example, “zoning”, Permitted Development rights and other matters could potentially weaken that principle, would not be welcome and should be resisted?

Written Response

Yes.

To expand, the thesis that ‘planning’ is an obstacle to development, new housing and economic growth is demonstrably false, as has been shown repeatedly by studies commissioned by Governments of all political colours. That the Prime Minister saw fit recently to perpetuate the falsehood that housebuilding is prevented by ‘newts’ is typical of someone whose relationship throughout his career with the truth has been marginal at best.

The planning system is designed to strike a balance between individual rights to private property and the responsibility to past, current and future generations to be protected from the wholly unfettered exercise of those rights. In effect the planning system puts the rights of the community and the environment in which that community lives on a par with the rights of the individual. It is a difficult balance, and it is not always easy to get it right, but however imperfectly it can at times operate I think that largely the system works.

The recent adoption of the City’s Local Plan was the culmination of a long process of consultation, policy development and testing, and finally challenge through the public enquiry process. The Plan sets out a balanced set of policies that address the needs of the whole city and the communities within it, and shows the importance of having different policies set at the right scale – not at such a small scale that the voices of the dispossessed can be ignored, and nor

14. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hollingsworth – Policy making in planning

at such a large scale that the interests of whole cities can be lost in a remote bureaucracy governed from afar.

What is being floated as ‘Planning Reform’ (sic) appears to be a massive tipping of the scales away from our collective responsibilities to current and future generations. It has been clear from recent months that within the current Government there is an ideological drive against any set of regulations or behaviours where the interests of the community might take precedence over the rights of the individual. After all, if you believe that ‘rules’ simply don’t apply to you, then it is very short step away from getting rid of those rules entirely.

The Permitted Development regime has already led to the building of homes with no windows, and offers a way for developers to completely evade any responsibilities for social housing, locally set environmental standards and the like. The most recently announced PD right, to allow the building of additional storeys on flats without planning permission, will over-ride this Council’s longstanding and vitally important protections for the world-famous views of the dreaming spires.

In describing what the Government is doing to the planning system, I recently used some robust Anglo-Saxon to a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee. While I won’t commit similar terms to paper in this written answer, I would say in reiterating my agreement with the Councillor’s question that these are profoundly damaging proposals, driven by an ideology that says that ‘rules are for others, not for us’ and backed up by falsehoods from a Prime Minister with a long and dishonourable tradition of lying whenever it suits.

15. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Hollingsworth or Chapman – Tree protection for a specific tree

Question

A Sandhills parishioner recently wrote to the City Council requesting a prominent tree in Delbush Avenue be given a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). This was unfortunately rejected.

Written Response

The process for TPOs is set down in law, initially in the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act, and as subsequently amended.

That process involves the quasi-judicial

15. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Hollingsworth or Chapman – Tree protection for a specific tree

Having received several emails of support for the tree having a TPO, the Risinghurst & Sandhills Parish Council is considering its own letter to the City Council, requesting a reconsideration.

Would the Cabinet member agree that trees are essential assets for local air quality, and that TPOs are an important part of protecting local residents' access to clean air?

Will the Cabinet member also agree to re-consider the request for a TPO on **that** particular tree, and (more generally) to improve tree protection in neighbourhoods facing significant traffic and development pressures?

planning regime, and is not one that a Cabinet member could or should interfere with.

The Council values trees as a both local assets and as part of the broader amenity of the city.

Oxford City Council, as Local Planning Authority, has powers to make a TPO where it is expedient in the interests of amenity; both the amenity and expediency (threat) tests must be met before a TPO is made. In this instance while it was considered to have moderate amenity value, the tree – which is managed by Oxford Direct Services on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council – was felt to be under good arboricultural management and not at risk of removal, thus not passing the threshold for the ‘threat’ test to justify a TPO.

Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford

16. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Upton – Cycling without Age group

Question

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in welcoming the establishment of an Oxfordshire chapter of Cycling Without Age, whose volunteer ‘pilots’ take local elders and care homes residents out on specially adapted ‘trishaw’ cycle rides.

Will the Council be exploring ways it can assist CWA in its mission?

Written Response

I was delighted to attend the recent Cyclox meeting which heard from the founder of Cycling without Age - the obvious physical and mental benefits for both volunteer riders and elderly passengers were wonderful to see. I have since been in touch with the local group and I hope we can help them to expand.

<https://cyclingwithoutage.org>

17. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Upton – Active Travel funding Tranche 2

Question

The County bid for so-called Shapps Tranche 1 Active Travel funding, supported by the City, failed to impress Government who claimed it simply wasn't ambitious enough, failing to meaningfully reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians. Only half the allocated funding was awarded.

What is the City Council doing to ensure that the application for the second Tranche of funding is more successful?

And will the Portfolio Holder be consulting other Councillors on the list of ideas to be submitted for Tranche 2?

Written Response

The City Council has been working to influence the submission for Tranche 1 funding. However, the inclusion of items for submission was not the decision of the City Council, but that of the County Council as Transport Authority.

The City Council is keen to progress measures which support active and sustainable travel. This is why we have ourselves funded the installation of 130 additional cycle parking spaces at Park and Rides.

The Department for Transport (DfT) has now provided the County Council with the criteria for Tranche 2 bids, with a deadline for the funding submission set for 7th August 2020. The County Council will again make the final decision on what is included in their Tranche 2 submission. However, the City Council, along with other districts, will be engaged in this process through an established governance framework set up by the County Council.

Please email me directly with suggestions for further consideration. Proposals will need to clearly satisfy the DfT criteria for inclusion in the Tranche 2 application, to add to the City Council's own priorities. Proposals must therefore reallocate road space to cyclists and pedestrians (both groups, rather than one or the other), meaningfully alter the status quo on the road, include segregation or point closures to through traffic, have a short lead time and demonstrate that the funds can be spent, or fully committed, in this financial year.

I will also be listening to cycling groups in the city who have a lot of expertise to share.

18. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Upton – Reducing drug-related deaths

Question

Drug-related deaths are at a record high in England and Oxford has not been immune from this tragic loss of life.

Will the Cabinet member commit to lobbying the Government for a pilot study into the effectiveness of a Drug Consumption Room set up in the city where illicit drugs can be safely used under the supervision of trained staff?

Written Response

Oxfordshire County Council's Public Health Service are the lead agency in Oxford for providing services to help people affected by drug problems and so it would be for them to develop such a proposal.

19. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Upton – better local COVID19 data

Question

Will the Portfolio Holder join me in calling for more accurate local COVID data to better inform service provision and protect staff?

Written Response

I agree there is an urgent need for more accurate local COVID data. As has been reported in the press, councils and the LGA have been calling for better sharing of COVID data with councils and particularly Directors of Public health who are leading on the Local Outbreak Plans.

In response to these calls, government have published data at local authority level and said they will make more granular data available to councils. At the time of writing this depends on them getting the right data sharing agreements with councils in place.

The Test and Trace system is being led and implemented centrally by Public Health England. It is a source of great frustration that we are not able to put to greater use the proven tracing expertise of our environmental health officers

20. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Upton – LGBTQ citizens access to health services

Question

Oxford's LGBTQ people should feel safe to be themselves – without shame or stigma – and should have access to healthcare that genuinely safeguards their wellbeing.

Does the Cabinet member, agree that so-called “conversion therapy” poses a real danger to LGBTQ people, and that central government is taking too long to ban this discredited and dangerous practice?

Are Oxfordshire's health service providers doing enough to ensure that our LGBTQ citizens are able to receive the health services they actually need, free from prejudice (and the fear of prejudice)?

Written Response

“Conversion therapy” is a discredited and discriminatory practise that should have no place in our society. I refer the questioner to the answer to Q. 21 which outlines the ways in which the City Council is currently supporting LGBTQIA+ people. I have written to our local NHS Trusts to ask them to confirm that they do not endorse “Conversion therapy” and are committed to treating everyone equally regardless of their sexual orientation.

In terms of LGBTQ people's ability to access health services and other services free from prejudice, this was recently discussed at the Children's Board, which heard from the County Council's Children and Family's team that the young LGBT community are reporting that they feel a lack of support from services. There has also been an increase in in mental health referrals for these young people.

We will work with the county and health partners to find solutions to these issues and explore what more our Youth Ambition Programme can do to encourage LGBTQIA+ people to access services they need.

As Cllr Tidball sets out in the answer to Q21, we will continue to challenge stigmatisation and to support LGBTQIA+ groups.

Cabinet Member for Supporting Local Communities

21. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Tidball – LGBTQ rights

Question

Oxford's LGBTQ people should feel safe to be themselves – without shame or stigma – and should feel affirmed by wider society.

Does the Cabinet Member for Local Communities agree that the central government's ambivalent position on trans rights, and failure to act on previous commitments (such as the commitment to ban "conversion therapy"), send worrying signals, and risk perpetuating trauma for too many people?

What measures will the City Council take (beyond existing measures), to actively challenge stigmatisation and ensure that our city's LGBTQ people can remain safe in our communities?

Written Response

It is now two years since Theresa May committed to ban conversion therapy and a year since a consultation on the subject was promised. It is, therefore, very concerning that the current Equalities Minister has recently indicated that this government has not decided how to proceed and that they are still trying to understand the problem. Let's be clear, this is an appalling practice that causes shame and stigma and one which NHS England described as "unethical" and "harmful" back in 2014. The government's failure to deliver on this promise is mirrored in their failure to deliver on its 2017 commitments to reform the Gender Recognition Act, in order to better protect the rights of trans people, and they now look to be resiling from these promises

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/politics/2020/07/12/liz-truss-scrap-self-identification-plans-next-days/>

Trans rights are human rights and the Equality Act 2010 should be upheld in its current form.

So yes, I do agree. The City Council welcomed the statement issued by Instagram on 10 July 2020 that they will block LGBTQIA+ 'conversion therapy' services – see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53339589>

We will continue actively to raise awareness of and challenge stigmatisation and promote the rights of LGBTQIA+ people in Oxford e.g. by continuing our work with LGBTQIA+ people and organisations across the city, including Oxford Pride, to collect, exhibit and tell the stories and histories of LGBTQIA+ people in Oxford. We are delighted that this 'Queering Spires' exhibition project has recently been shortlisted for a prestigious national heritage award – see

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/six-projects-chosen-sustainable-project-year>

We provide support to young LGBTQIA+ people through our Youth Ambition programme and will also continue to provide support for LGBTQIA+

21. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Tidball – LGBTQ rights

groups such as LGBT+ Oxon and the Arc-T Centre who connect people within community and provide services and 'safe space' for LGBTQIA+ people.

We will also continue to work with the LGBTQIA+ community to support and promote unity initiatives such as Oxford Pride.

We are committed to being an inclusive and diverse organisation that challenges discrimination of all forms across the city. Therefore, we are now developing a refreshed equalities action plan that will be influenced by the rich diversity of Oxford, and informed through a range of specific focus groups, including LGBTQIA+/young people so that everyone can fulfil their potential.

Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Partnerships

22. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Pre-determining potential planning matters

Question

A number of councillors recently signed a letter calling for the removal of the statue of Cecil Rhodes in the High Street, despite knowing that any move to do so would be the subject of a planning application to this council, and that in publicly supporting one outcome from any such application they were therefore excluding themselves from serving on any committee hearing any such application. Doing so in such large numbers therefore placed considerable extra responsibility and pressure on their council colleagues who chose to behave differently.

Does the Leader agree with me that councillors who signed acted irresponsibly in terms of their duties, both in pre-determining their view on any planning application, and in placing an extra burden on their colleagues and on officers?

Written Response

Councillors who feel very strongly about an issue will often express views. It is clear that labour colleagues feel strongly about racism and some felt that publically supporting the Rhodes Must Fall campaign was an important demonstration of solidarity with those working for change.

This Labour council does not hide from aligning itself with local people who campaign for an anti-racist city. Indeed we want to work to achieve that. Keeping quiet on issues of racism is not something for any political party to be proud of.

In respect of planning committee activity, as always it is for individual councillors of any party to judge their eligibility for any particular case that comes forward in the future.

23. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Principles for reorganising local government

Question

Does the Leader agree with me that priorities guiding any future re-organisation of local government in our county and region should include:

- Simplicity (so residents know who to go to and access services easily)
- Efficiency, cost saving and enhanced service delivery
- Increased democratic accountability
- Truly local decision making and connection with voters (no to additional layers on top of accountable bodies)
- Opportunities to collaborate and reach consensus on issues like climate emergency, transport, health, economy that are cross border.
- A fair voting system, preferably STV
- A lower voting age of 16

Written Response

The first and over-riding priority for government at all levels right now must be to support our local communities and economies to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and to recover from it.

Local residents in Oxford and local businesses are depending on us to continue delivering services for them and to work with our partners in their interests. Therefore my first principle and priority at the moment is that, and I do not support anything that currently distracts focus from this vital work. This would particularly be true of any sort of reorganisation at this point.

I agree that good access to high quality services, efficiency, democratic accountability, local decision making and collaboration are all important priorities for local government and feature strongly in this council. I also believe that democratic institutions should be close to the people that they serve and that the boundaries should be comprehensible and recognisable to local people and based on a shared community. Again, this is to be found in the current City Council boundaries.

I don't think that votes for 16 year olds are likely to be included in the package that government may propose, as that would be extending democracy. Everything that I have heard so far suggests that they are seeking to stifle democracy and centralise power away from people.

To: Council

Date: 20 July 2020

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 Cabinet Members

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council
3. 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.

Addresses and questions to be taken in Part 2 of the agenda.

1. Address by Colin Aldridge – Drug consumption rooms
2. Address by Peter Thompson, Director Oxford School of English – Expanded Retail Discount scheme
3. Address by Tanagra Jabu Nala-Hartley – Oxford Living Wage
4. Address by Hsin-Yung Yen – Motion on Twinning with Taiwanese city
5. Address by David Madden – concern at the accumulating impact of development.

1. Address by Colin Aldridge – Drug consumption rooms

I am here today to ask you to consider the concept of Drug consumption rooms (DCR).

Amid a wartime panic, the government imposed the Defence of The Realm Act (DORA) which banned the sale of cocaine, opium and cannabis without prescription to troops. Before this time these drugs were readily available and in the 1800s, Laudanum could be readily available without prescription, its use was famously advocated by Shelley, Byron, Wordsworth and Keats. Queen Victoria was said to have used opium and Britain fought twice with China for control of opium trade during the Opium Wars – the British Empire was in fact the biggest drug dealer around during this time [see [reference](#)]

I do not want you to consider legalising drugs in their entirety but a small change to the present law to allow Drug Consumption Rooms. Drug consumption rooms have the ability to reach and maintain contact with high-risk drug users who are not ready or willing to stop using drugs. The [evidence base](#) contradicts concerns that such facilities encourage drug use, delay treatment entry, or aggravate problems arising from local drug markets – finding instead that both the users and the community stand to benefit.

As frontline, low-threshold services, drug consumption rooms are often among the first to gain insights into new drug use patterns and thus they also have a role to play in the early identification of new and emerging trends among the high-risk populations using their services. The emergence of new forms of injectable stimulants, including new psychoactive substances, have resulted in potentially increased risks for drug users, and this is part of the context for the political discussion in some European countries about the introduction of drug consumption rooms

This clear and concise presentation of the evidence suggests that the benefits of drug consumption rooms “may include improvements in safe, hygienic drug use, especially among regular clients, increased access to health and social services, and reduced public drug use and associated nuisance”.

Previous Home Secretaries, when responding to the advice of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, have all reiterated that the majority of public opinion is against reforming the current stance on prohibition. However, [a poll commissioned on the 10/07/2010](#) by the Liberal Democrats found that when the definitions of three regulatory options were given to members of the public instead of simply asking "Do you think drugs should be legalised?" the majority in fact supported new regulatory control.

As of April 2018, there were 90 Drug Consumption Rooms in Denmark, France, Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain and Switzerland.

Pragmatic solutions have led to rewarding results in Portugal; after decriminalising possession and consumption of drugs in 2001, the country has since seen drug related deaths reduced to three per million [see [reference](#)]

There were 3,756 deaths relating to drug poisoning in England and Wales in 2017, a rate of 66.1 deaths per 1 million population, and similar to levels seen in 2016. [see [reference](#)]

The public recognise DCR's are not the complete answer to drug use but a step in the right direction.

I would urge you to talk to the residents you represent, listen to what they say and make the decision to talk with all the MP's to talk to their colleagues in Parliament. DCR's will happen it just depends when.

2. Address by Peter Thompson, Director Oxford School of English – Expanded Retail Discount scheme

As you know, Oxford City Council has decided that English language schools do not meet the eligibility criteria for this Scheme.

The guidance issued by the government sets out broad categories of those businesses that are eligible, and lists examples; however, the guidance also states that this list 'is not intended to be exhaustive... Authorities should determine for themselves whether properties are broadly similar in nature and, if so, to consider them eligible for the relief.'

In contrast to Oxford City Council, at least 17 other local authorities have interpreted the guidance to conclude that English language schools do indeed meet the criteria, and have therefore granted the relief to language schools in their area.

These 17 authorities include Brighton City Council which sought specific advice directly from the government. As a result, in late May the Council announced that they would indeed include their own language schools in the rates relief scheme. The Council explained that they had defined a test of eligibility, saying that 'This test will evidence to government that we have fully considered their requirements before making an award'.

Oxford City Council has said that it considers English language schools 'to be educational and that the tourism element is a benefit derived from their primary function'. With respect, the Council is entirely wrong. It must be evident to all Oxford residents that the prime reason for the majority of students attending courses at English language schools is not to study English, but to engage in a form of tourism. At Easter and in the summer this is an inescapable fact of our city centre, as groups of these teenage tourists throng the streets and public spaces.

These young people are here to experience British life, to participate in British customs, and to live with British people. Most are here for just two or three weeks, but it can be as little as five days. They are, very evidently, tourists.

Oxford School of English provides an income to some 70 staff and 250 host families, and annually contributes almost £3m to the local economy. The annual value to the British economy of our sector as a whole is £1.4bn.

Since March our income has been zero, and is unlikely to recover to any degree until Easter next year. We need help to reach that point. Without that help, we and other schools are in imminent danger of failure.

On behalf of our sector's 200 Oxford staff, and of the thousand or so host families whose income is threatened, and of the many thousands of residents who benefit in other ways, I urge Councillors to look again at this scheme and to follow the lead of your colleagues in Brighton, and to grant us the rates relief we so desperately need.

3. Address by Tanagra Jabu Nala-Hartley – Oxford Living Wage

As chair of the Oxford Living Wage Campaign, I would like to thank the continued support we have from the Oxford City Council. We would like the council to continue to support the campaign especially as we face economic challenges from Covid-19.

Oxford communities must continue to be supported in their plight. The gig economy has devastated workers through precarious contracts which have eroded decent wages.

We must continue in our efforts to build solidarities and strengthen our resolve especially as the Covid-19 crisis is not over.

As Chair of the campaign I would like to place on record our thanks to Oxford City Council for its work on the Oxford Living Wage, and to use this opportunity to invite the Council to reaffirm its commitment to paying and promoting the Oxford Living Wage.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask all Councillors present to take up the cause of the Oxford Living Wage, to join the campaign, and argue for the Living Wage in their wards.

4. Address by Hsin-Yung Yen – Motion on Twinning with Taiwanese city

My name is Hsin-Yung Yen, the founder of a pharmaceutical company based in Oxford. I was born in Taiwan and moved to the UK as a postdoctoral researcher in Oxford University in 2014. It has been a wonderful opportunity for me to work in this world's top University. What I have learn from this greatest environment is its diversity with different culture and perspectives. I have been inspired by interacting with colleagues from different countries and this has in turn driven my research success and led to the formation of our company with £40 million investment. I am very delighted to devote myself, especially with all the training and experience I received from Taiwan, to the growth of high-end industry in the UK. I truly believe in the value of what we call "Taiwanese experiences" and how much it could bring to the UK policy and economy. There have been many examples demonstrating our contributions in human rights, technology, global health, etc. What I can foresee from this motion is to bring more Taiwanese talents to Oxford, to help drive growth of the city and to enhance the understanding of our culture. The decision to twin Oxford with a city in Taiwan will create a channel with bilateral benefits between Taiwanese and British people, and therefore I fully support it.

5. Address by David Madden – concern at the accumulating impact of development.

Thank you for agreeing that I can address your meeting today.

My reason for requesting to speak is the growing level of concern at the accumulating impact of developments on the Conservation Area, the environment and the community: now and in the future.

The North Oxford Victorian Suburb Conservation Area is a very important part of the history and heritage of Oxford. It was preserved for a purpose. When it's gone, it's gone. There is no way back. You the Council are the current custodians, or guardians, of the Conservation Area. Please honour that trust. To allow the piecemeal destruction of the Area would be an abuse of authority and process.

Much the same applies to the environment. You have declared a Climate Emergency. So far that is merely words. It needs action to mean something. Again, you are the custodians. We long ago reached the stage when we should stop destruction. We need sustainability and regeneration. We look to you to take a lead. At present, the wide range of climate-related issues is not being addressed.

The community is awaiting signs that you listen and engage; respond to reasoned concerns and criticisms; and act as our champion. And, above all, please do not fall into avoidable mistakes and setting bad precedents. Developers everywhere are looking for signs of weakness and exploitable opportunities.

A number of us have tried to engage with Council officers and Councillors on development issues: but with the exception of some specific Councillors, have not felt listened to.

Oxford is changing. It has a huge pipeline of development projects ahead. These need to be considered holistically and strategically.

Those points may be rather general in tone, but they are important. I have four more detailed suggestions for the meeting today:

- Planning Committees have their role, but that does not absolve the Council of responsibilities or the right of overview and oversight. Might senior Councillors involve themselves more in the work of the Committees, a) to check that nothing is amiss, and b) to sniff out the potential for justified objections?
- There is a widespread view that Planning Officers can become, because of their close long-term association with projects, the mouthpieces of developers. This is bad for local democracy. And the close relationship means that developers can exert pressure. The planners need to maintain independent scrutiny, and be prepared to listen to objections as well: so that they can advise Councillors wisely. Could they balance their apportionment of time and engage with the community as planning goes forward?
- More specifically, an element of good design included in planning rules is acceptability to the local community. At present there is (occasional) engagement with the residents only through the developers, and on their terms. This is surely not acceptable. Is it not possible to build consultation with the community on questions of design directly into the planning process?
- Often there will be competing views eg on difficult and loaded (but absolutely essential) issues like biodiversity. These have to be resolved, not just left hanging in the air. There can quite easily be independent resolution. Could officers engage more with known experts, and not just the developers?

And one final, over-arching point; public confidence in processes of planning and development have to be preserved. This is essential. They affect the lives, health and livelihoods of everyone.

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To: Council
Date: 20 July 2020
 (originally written for the cancelled 30 March 2020 meeting)
Report of: Director of Development
Title of Report: Partnership Update– Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

| Summary and recommendations | |
|---|---|
| Purpose of report: | To provide members with an update on the progress and impact of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP). |
| Key decision: | No |
| Cabinet Member with responsibility: | Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of Oxford City Council and Economic Development Portfolio holder |
| Corporate Priority: | Fostering an Inclusive Economy |
| Policy Framework: | Economic Development Strategy |
| Recommendation: That Council: | |
| 1. Comments on and notes the report. | |

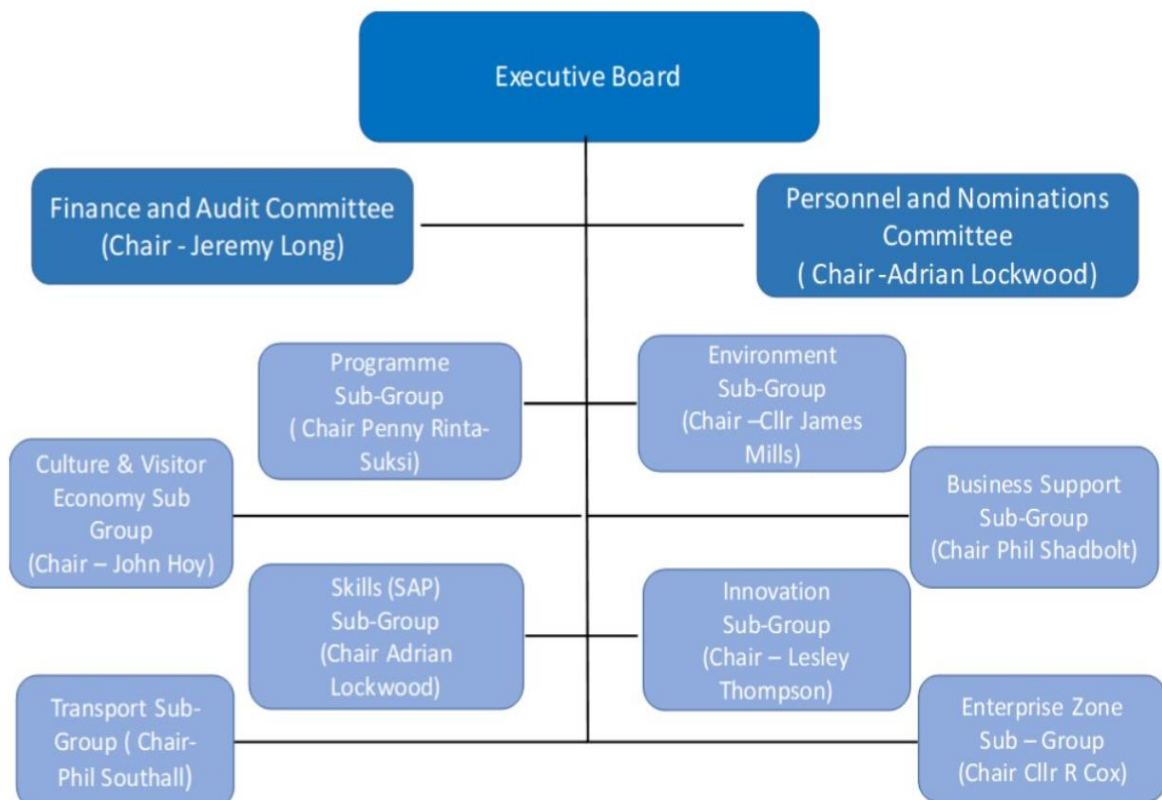
| Appendices | |
|-------------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | Addendum to Council Report – OXLEP Update since March 2020 |
| Appendix 2 | OXLEP factsheet |

Introduction and background

1. Now operating for nine years, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership Ltd (OxLEP) is the the over-arching local partnership promoting economic growth, and shaping the strategic direction of the Oxfordshire economy. Chief Executive, Nigel Tipple leads a team of staff who work closely with a network of business representatives, further and higher education representatives, and Economic Development officers.
2. Jeremy Long was appointed as Board Chair in March 2016. He is currently Chief Executive for Europe of the Hong-Kong headquartered international railway and property group MTR Corporation, and has played a role in positioning the importance of Oxford Station. Cllr Susan Brown is the City Council’s OXLEP Board member, alongside the other council leaders across the county. Peter Nolan, formerly of Oxford BioMedica sits on the OXLEP Board and also chairs the Oxford

Economic Growth Board (Oxford Strategic Partnership sub-group), providing a direct link between the city's interests and the wider OXLEP area. Phil Southall, Managing Director of the Oxford Bus Company, and Penny Rinta-Suksi, Partner at Blake Morgan are also Oxford based members of the Board covering transport issues and programmes.

3. City Council Officers remain involved in a range of OXLEP partnerships, and OxLEP colleagues are involved in many city and district partnerships. There is ongoing officer involvement and engagement with the LEP through various officers and teams including Directors, Regeneration and Economy, Planning, Sustainability, and Welfare Reform. LEP related partnerships that have involved city council officers over the last twelve months include;
 - a. The Local Industrial Strategy Steering Group
 - b. Oxfordshire Skills Board (Skills Advisory Panel)
 - c. Oxfordshire European Structural Investment Funds Committee
 - d. Joint Oxfordshire Business Support Group
 - e. Tourism Zone working group
4. The LEP is also involved in supporting the following partnership and policy areas;
 - a. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc.
 - b. The Oxfordshire Growth Board
 - c. The Oxford Strategic Partnership
 - d. The Oxford Economic Growth Board
5. The LEP's Governance Structure and main strategic groupings are highlighted below:



OxLEP Partnership Highlights 2019-2020

6. The Oxfordshire Industrial Strategy (LIS) was published in July 2019. The ambition for the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy is to position the county as one of the top-three global innovation ecosystems, highlighting the world-leading science and technology cluster and to be a pioneer for the UK and our emerging transformative technologies and sectors. It also contains a commitment to Inclusive, low carbon growth. The partners are now working on the Delivery Strategy and Investment Prospectus for the key projects and initiatives in the strategy. Key among these involving council officers are proposals around
 - a. The West End Innovation Quarter
 - b. The Inclusive Economy Commission
 - c. Developing a business case to test the need for an Oxford Creative Industries Hub
 - d. Oxford Science Park expansion and Cowley Branch Line
 - e. Defining Oxfordshire Living Lab proposals on energy, mobility and health, with a range of county-wide partners
7. Working with officers, OxLEP has identified an additional £5m (now £10m) and aligned this with the indicative programme for delivery of the West Side Improvement at Oxford Station, including the Botley Bridge replacement. This will support the R£145-65m bid by Network Rail to Dept. for Transport to deliver the scheme. The LEP have been active in supporting partnership efforts to bring forward Oxford Station and other vital infrastructure to enable developments in Oxford's West End.
8. Very recently, OxLEP has also awarded £1.93m to the City Council for the creation of entrepreneurship and enterprise workspaces in Oxford City centre. A portfolio of spaces is being reviewed by officers as part of a Workspace Assessment and Feasibility exercise. This could create around 10,000 sq. ft. of new space and support 160 local jobs in the city centre.
9. The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Seminar Series has brought a range of delegates together on research, policy and data on economic and social inequality to define the real scale of the challenge and highlight potential interventions to be developed through the seminar series and beyond. Whilst the Oxford Strategic Partnership and City Council have led this work, OxLEP has worked closely alongside to devise this seminar series, and will continue to on the formation and resourcing of the Inclusive Economy Commission. Officers are also working with the Chair of the LEP, Director of Strategy, and Skills team and short and longer term interventions to follow.
10. European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF): OxLEP has been administering this €19.3m programme from 2014-2020. Launched in 2018, Innovation Support for Business (ISfB) is a £5.2m programme run in Oxfordshire by OxLEP Business to support eligible start-ups as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Finance for the programme has been provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with match funding from our local partners. It has enabled improved access to experts and collaborate with research institutes to commercialise new ideas and introduce new innovations to businesses. OxLEP is delivering the ISfB

programme with partners from the University of Oxford, Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. It will finish in September 2020.

11. Existing programmes involving Oxford City Council include the £3.2m 'OxFutures' Low Carbon Economy Programme, £586K community grant European Social Funds to boost employability skills and Building Better Opportunities (£734K) in conjunction with Lottery Funds focussing on supporting those not in training education or employment (NEETs). The LEP played a role in securing these through its ESIF strategy and administering the ESIF process at a local level alongside central government. These programmes are all set to finish in the coming months.
12. It should be noted that this funding source will cease completely, as a) the programme form 2014-20 ends, and b) The UK leaves the EU. There is a vital requirement to look at resourcing of business support and skills/employability programmes in future. The United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund is the key fund intended to replace Structural Funds with a UK funding system. This UK Shared Prosperity Fund is intended to reduce inequality between communities across the four nations and to deliver sustainable, inclusive growth. £500 million was highlighted in the current Government's Election Manifesto. Depending on how this is distributed across the UK, there may need to be novel local approaches to resourcing the type of business and skills support typically provided through Structural Funds.
13. Business Support (Growth Hub): from a Local Enterprise Partnership point of view, the £10m investment announced in March 2020 Budget, into England's growth hubs announced offers some encouragement, allowing continuation of core business advice, resilience and guidance in uncertain times for small business communities.
14. Skills Board and programmes: Some of the key activity overseen by the Oxfordshire Skills Board includes;
 - a. Oxfordshire Careers Hub OxLEP is a Careers Hub as part of the Careers and Enterprise Company). 24 from 40 schools are part of the careers hubs and the aim is to increase the quality and depth of careers education across the eight [Gatsby benchmarks](#). There are demonstrable improvements on these benchmarks county-wide, but long term concerns over resource and funding. It looks likely government support will continue but the level of support is uncertain and this will shape the level of impact in this important area to shape school leaver career choices.
 - b. LIS related Skills projects being worked up include a bid of £18m over 5 years to include all 53 schools and 3 colleges in the hub focussing on improving careers advice further, requesting new resource ring-fenced for career leader time. A £3.5m Apprenticeships and T-Levels (Technical Levels) promotion programme for staff to link providers and employers, unlocking more apprenticeship levy funds. Officers will support these efforts where possible.
 - c. The LEP's 4th Apprenticeship Awards, a growing flagship event, aimed to promote quality apprenticeships among business, was recently postponed due to COVID-19. Officers will work to support the LEP with the event when it is rearranged.

15. Linked to above, officers are working closely with the LEP on all business support issues related to the impact of COVID-19. This will cover communication to business on all available support, intelligence gathering on impact, and engagement with banks and businesses on further support needs. An OxLEP webinar for business on COVID-19 is planned for early April.

Financial implications

16. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Legal issues

17. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Level of risk

18. N/A

Equalities impact

19. N/A

Conclusion

20. In general, Oxford City Council has a very positive partnership relationship with OxLEP’s key staff, teams and Boards. This is directly supporting local business, shaping policy and earmarking funds for key initiatives in Oxford. Some of the main highlights and wider statistics on county-wide impact can be found in OxLEP’s most recent annual report (linked below), and Factsheet, attached as a background paper.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
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| Service area or department | Economic Development |
| Telephone | 01865 252021 |
| e-mail | mpeachey@oxford.gov.uk |

| |
|--|
| Background Papers: None |
| 1 OxLEP Annual Report – Published April 2019 |

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Addendum to Oxford City Council Report 20 July 2020– OXLEP Update since March 2020

Mitigating the negative economic impacts of the COVID19 lockdown and resultant closures, as well as planning for economy recovery, have increased the importance and intensity of the City Council's work with OxLEP.

Both partners immediate response to COVID has been focused on coordinating and engaging extensively with businesses to identify their concerns, needs and gaps in support schemes and lobbying government to respond to these needs. We have also focused on raising awareness of the different government business support grants and get them paid out to all eligible businesses as quickly as possible. As we move into transition phase we have developed an economic recovery strategy with a focus on supporting local businesses back into operation but also building on our economic strengths for a future economy that is inclusive and sustainable as key priorities of a new economic development strategy.

Our city-side strategy will be aligned to an Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan, led by the LEP with council input at senior level, as a means to secure strategic investment. We have already worked with LEP and partners to ensure a strong business case for investment in the Oxfordshire economy with a portfolio of shovel ready capital projects submitted to Government for potential investment in the next 3-21 months. Government remains interested in the opportunities of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, and particularly now its part in a national economic recovery strategy.

In particular we are working with OxLEP on the following Economic recovery actions across aligned phases

During the reset phase we will continue to;

- Work with OxLEP to monitor local labour market impacts and manage rapid structural change. This might involve promoting redeployment, changing training and skills offerings, and identifying opportunities to generate jobs through procurement, contracts and local supply chains
- Continue work with OxLEP on the Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy Investment Plan to promote Oxford and Oxfordshire's role in the response to COVID (via health sciences) and the national economic recovery.
- Re-engage partners including OxLEP the OSP Inclusive Economy Commission and work-streams. Inequality is likely to be exacerbated if service sectors do not bounce back quickly.
- Engage in resumption of Arc-wide discussions with Government about investment in the region's economic potential as part of the national recovery strategy

The recovery phase of our joint work will focus on finding ways to respond to the changes in the city/county economy, supporting job creation and business start-up and growth;

- Work with OxLEP to reframe their brokerage, employability training and skills support package in light of increased levels of unemployment & intelligence from business stakeholders

- Engage OxLEP and business stakeholders on potential areas of innovation to help re-start the economy, support entrepreneurship & community wealth building
- Restart and promote meanwhile or longer-term use of our assets to help re-start the economy by provided physical space to support small businesses, entrepreneurship & community wealth building.

Our work on the longer term renewal phase will include;

- Work closely with OxLEP and industry to develop a new apprenticeship programme focusing on new careers in growth sectors post COVID19
- Ensure OxLEP buy-in to the oxford Economic Strategy City Centre Vision & Action Plan
- Progress major strategic development projects: Oxford Station; West End Innovation Quarter, Northern Gateway and South Oxford Science Village
- Through our Economic Development Strategy - position Oxford to build on its core and emerging strengths for further clean energy / green economy initiatives, industries, life sciences and creative industries. A re-focussed vision for the Visitor Economy will be needed.
- Work with Growth Board partners, including the LEP and government to secure investment in local infrastructure priorities (including digital infrastructure), support for innovation and, devolution of funding for skills and business support, based on the refreshed Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy, the Oxfordshire 2050 Plan and the Local Industrial Strategy Investment Plan.
- There is support in place through eScalate, an EU funded OxLEP support programme. We will discuss with OxLEP, and other partners how this might be done for the longer term building on their eScalate programme which supports social entrepreneurs, enterprising charities and other purposeful businesses committed to enabling positive social and environmental impact.
- Officers are also planning working to embed a Community Wealth Building approach with local anchor institutions to boost demand side potential for the sector, and opportunities for local people.



Factsheet: OxLEP, the Oxfordshire economy and our impact

Our impact and pivotal role:

- We have secured in-excess of **£650 million-worth** of central government and European funds benefitting the Oxfordshire economy and our communities
- Working with the private sector, we have supported the creation of around **50,000 new jobs between 2012 and 2017**, representing over 50% of a 2031 target of 85,600 new jobs
- Working alongside key partners, we now oversee a **£2.2bn growth programme** for the county

Key statistics on the Oxfordshire economy:

- A **GVA of £23bn per year**, currently, one of just three net County contributors to the exchequer
- A potential **£180bn boost to the UK economy** through our four transformative technologies, as identified in the county's 2017 Science and Innovation Audit
- The UK five-year survival rate for businesses born in 2011 and still active in 2016 was 44.1%, **Oxfordshire averaged 49.3%** during the same period
- Home to the **number one 2019 Times Higher Education's globally-ranked university** – the University of Oxford was also number one in 2018
- The **number one concentration of science research facilities** in Western Europe, via Harwell Campus
- **£600m: The largest fund for university spin outs in Europe**, via Oxford Sciences Innovation
- Annual visitor spend increased **by 5.1%**, taking its value up to **£2.28bn** per year.

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc:

- A key player in the evolution of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc – an area which currently contributes **over £111bn GVA per year**, with the potential to do more
- We are working with government, local authorities, other LEPs, the private sector and universities to develop a **proposed investment programme for the Arc**
- We are also working with DIT to promote the Arc's international opportunities – including a significant presence at MIPIM International

Government-funded programmes:

Local Growth Fund:

Via Local Growth Funds 1, 2 and 3 we have secured **£142.56m** to support dynamic economic growth in Oxfordshire.

Projects include:

- Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) Pit Lane, Culham Science Centre
- Livestock Technology Centre, Abingdon and Witney College
- ProDrive's Powertrain Development Centre, Banbury

IMPACT:

- Capital spend forecast to March 2021: **£107.6m**
- By March 2025 – indirect jobs created: **9,544 jobs**
- By March 2025 – a forecast leverage of **£670m**

City Deal:

City Deal ensures we are able to support the county's economy through a **£55.5m** programme, creating 18,000 jobs.

Projects include:

- The Oxford BioEscalator
- Access to enterprise zone – Harwell Campus
- Improvements to the Northern Gateway – Oxford

IMPACT:

- By March 2025 – match funding: **£90.5m**
- By March 2025 – indirect jobs created: **18,600 jobs**
- Actual (at March 2019) – housing accelerated: **9,000 homes**

Growing Places Fund:

From an overall Government fund of £500m, we secured **£9m** to support schemes addressing infrastructure development in Oxfordshire.

Enterprise Zones:

We benefit from two enterprise zones both backed by central Government. Together, the two zones combine to act as one of the **most active science-based clusters anywhere in Europe**.

Our two enterprise zones are:

- Science Vale UK (EZ 1)
- The Didcot Growth Accelerator (EZ 2)

IMPACT:

- Enterprise Zone 1 – 70 jobs created by June 2019
- Enterprise Zone 2 – 142 jobs created by June 2019

Delivery on the ground:

Strategy:

- Working with over **300 businesses**, as well as central Government and local authorities – in September, we launched the Oxfordshire Industrial Strategy, which **aims to position the county as one of the top-three global innovation ecosystems**
- Last November, we launched the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy – **it sets out an ambitious framework**, with an aim of reducing countywide emissions by **50% by 2030 (compared with 2008 levels)**
- In June last year, we held the **first-ever Oxfordshire Creative Industries Showcase** – engaging **350 individuals** including businesses, investors, creatives with the event having ministerial backing

Skills Hub:

- In October 2019 – alongside the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC), we launched the **Oxfordshire Skills Hub**. We work with **24 schools** helping to bring business and education closer together.
- Our Enterprise Advisor Network is working with **43 schools and colleges**
- **Skills for Business** (ESF-funded programme): We aim to engage a total of **400 SMEs** supporting them with skills need assessments
- **Apprenticeships**: A network of **25 apprentices**, across multiple sectors, inspire young people and businesses across Oxfordshire to sign-up to an apprenticeship
- **Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards**: Just under **100 businesses/young people** have submitted an award application for this year's awards, held at WilliamsF1,
- **Work experience**: We secured **5,500 meaningful work experience placements** during 2018/19 with businesses across Oxfordshire

Growth Hub:

- A total programme of **£11m available** to support a host of businesses in Oxfordshire, including;
- **Innovation Support for Business (ISfB)** – a **£5.2m** ERDF programme supporting our entrepreneurs and SMEs to develop and commercialise innovative business ideas.
- **eScalate** – a three-year, business support programme helping social enterprises develop new business models to boost productivity and SMEs looking to increase their market share

- **1 to 1 support and business resilience workshops:** A new set of services which provides one-to-one support, helping SMEs to build resilience when facing current and future challenges.

Investment and trade:

- Working alongside the Department for International Trade, we have created an **Internationalisation Delivery Plan for Oxfordshire**, from 2019 to 2022.
- Since 2015/16 – we have consistently scored above the national baseline average for annual Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) successes, **hitting 98 during 2017/18**

Transparency:

- We have held our last **two Board meetings** in public, moving meeting locations across the county

Communications and ongoing event programme:

House of Commons economic briefings:

- Through **five Oxfordshire MP-backed economic briefings**, we have demonstrated to a national and international audience the significant potential of our transformative technologies
- We have engaged **with a total of 375 senior individuals** – including foreign embassies, investors and senior government officials
- **IMPACT: Creating significant discussions between key Oxfordshire assets and foreign investors – for example, Harwell Campus and South Australia’s space agency**

Q&As:

- **9** business-facing Q&As since January 2018, held across Oxfordshire at least every quarter
- Almost **620 individuals engaged** through these events – this includes large **business CEOs, university start-ups, education providers, SMEs** and the **Oxfordshire media**
- Themes covered: **Productivity, Placemaking, Connectivity**, (themes set out in the UK Industrial Strategy’s ‘grand challenges’) **Skills** and **Brexit**
- **IMPACT: Creating long-lasting relationships with the county’s business community and creating a funnel for our business support programmes**

Annual Event:

- A total of **130 individuals** from across our business community attended our Annual Event in September 2019
- **IMPACT: Engaging unicorns and SMEs alike on the ambition of the Local Industrial Strategy and how our communities will benefit**

Communications:

- Around **15,000 followers** across our OxLEP, OxLEP Skills and OxLEP Business social media platforms

To: Council
Date: 20 July 2020
Title of Report: **Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17**

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

The Constitution permits an hour for debate of these motions.

Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 8 July 2020, as amended by the proposers.

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

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

Motions will be taken in turn from the Liberal Democrat group, the Green group, the Labour group, and an Independent member (if any) in that order.

1. Twinning with a locality on the island of Taiwan (proposed by Cllr Goddard, seconded by Cllr Wade) [amendment proposed by Cllr Clarkson]
2. Adopting the C40 Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force principles (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons)
3. Disproportionate deaths from Covid-19 of Health and care workers from Black, Asian and ethnic minorities (proposed by Cllr Bely-Summers, seconded by Cllr Azad)
4. Celebrating Oxford's Diversity (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Altaf Khan) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown]
5. Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff)
6. Fossil fuel divestment (proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Turner)
7. Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Roz Smith)
8. Liveable Streets initiative (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) [amendment proposed by Cllr Henwood; amendment proposed by Cllr Arshad, seconded by Cllr Tanner]

1. Twinning with a locality on the island of Taiwan (proposed by Cllr Goddard, seconded by Cllr Wade) [amendment proposed by Cllr Clarkson]

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes:

1. That Oxford currently has twin towns and cities in Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. However, at present it has no such links with anywhere in East Asia.
2. That [no town or city in the UK is currently twinned with any town or city on the island of Taiwan](#).
3. That amongst the achievements of the inhabitants of Taiwan are:
 - A. Building what [Freedom House](#) describes as a “*vibrant and competitive democratic system has allowed three peaceful transfers of power between rival parties since 2000*” with “*generally robust protections*” for civil liberties. The organisation gives Taiwan a higher on their Global Freedom Index than the USA, France or Spain.
 - B. Creating an “[economic miracle](#)” by which real GDP per capita on the island has increased more than 30 times since 1950. This make it one of the five fastest growing economies in the whole world during that period.
 - C. Becoming the first jurisdiction in Asia to legalise same-sex marriage.
 - D. A World beating response to Coronavirus. At the time of writing, there have been just seven confirmed fatalities from COVID-19 on the island, despite it having a population of 24 million and being in close proximity to the initial outbreak in Wuhan.
 - E. In April 2020, donating [7 million face masks](#) to European countries, including the UK, dealing with a shortage due to COVID-19.
4. That [Taiwan is the UK’s second fastest growing export market](#) and that the UK government is undertaking [free trade talks](#) with the Taiwan authorities.
5. Cities in numerous countries which take the same diplomatic stance towards Taiwan have ‘sister cities’ on the island.

Council believes that:

1. It should reaffirm [the view](#) that: “*Twin city links give citizens the chance to engage with other cultures and ways of life, and make these experiences more accessible through established contacts and networks in the linked cities. They also bring benefit to cities through knowledge-sharing activities, where people can learn from how problems are tackled in other countries, exchange ideas and understand different viewpoints.*”
2. That Oxford would have much to gain from twinning with a locality in Taiwan and expanding its international links to encompass East Asia.
3. That a municipality-to-municipality relationship is separate from the UK’s official diplomatic position of recognising the People’s Republic of China and avoiding dealing with the Taiwan authorities on a government to government basis. Oxford is grateful for the friendship of people from throughout the People’s Republic of China and the contribution its citizens make to the city as visitors, students and residents.

Council resolves:

1. that Oxford City Council shall negotiate a twinning agreement with an appropriate municipality on the island of Taiwan.
2. *to ask the Leader* to write to [the Taiwan Representative Office in the United Kingdom](#) to formally request their assistance in arranging this.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Clarkson

under 'Council believes that' bullet point 2 should read:

2. That it would be worthwhile for Oxford to explore the possibility of establishing friendship links with a locality in Taiwan with a view to expanding its international links to encompass East Asia in the long term.

The other bullet points in this section should remain unchanged.

Under 'Council resolves' the first bullet point should read:

1. that Oxford City Council hereby encourages those interested to explore the possibility of establishing grassroots friendship links, in a similar way to those developed with Ramallah, with a longer term view of a twinning agreement with an appropriate municipality in Taiwan.

The second bullet points beginning 'to ask the Leader' is deleted in its entirety.

The amendment if accepted changes the motion to:**Council notes:**

[original text remains]

Council believes that:

1. It should reaffirm the view that: "Twin city links give citizens the chance to engage with other cultures and ways of life, and make these experiences more accessible through established contacts and networks in the linked cities. They also bring benefit to cities through knowledge-sharing activities, where people can learn from how problems are tackled in other countries, exchange ideas and understand different viewpoints."
- ~~2. That Oxford would have much to gain from twinning with a locality in Taiwan and expanding its international links to encompass East Asia.~~

That it would be worthwhile for Oxford to explore the possibility of establishing friendship links with a locality in Taiwan with a view to expanding its international links to encompass East Asia in the long term.

3. That a municipality-to-municipality relationship is separate from the UK's official diplomatic position of recognising the People's Republic of China and avoiding dealing with the Taiwan authorities on a government to government basis. Oxford is grateful for the friendship of people from throughout the People's Republic of China and the contribution its citizens make to the city as visitors, students and residents.

Council resolves:

that Oxford City Council shall negotiate a twinning agreement with an appropriate municipality on the island of Taiwan.

~~to ask the Leader to write to the Taiwan Representative Office in the United Kingdom to formally request their assistance in arranging this.~~

2. Adopting the C40 Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force principles (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons)

Green member motion

This Council welcomes the findings of the C40 Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force that has published a set of principles aimed at rebuilding cities & economies in a way that 'improves public health, reduces inequality and addresses the climate crisis'.

This Council notes the principles:

1. The recovery should not be a return to 'business as usual' - because that is a world on track for 3°C or more of over-heating;
2. The recovery, above all, must be guided by an adherence to public health and scientific expertise, in order to assure the safety of those who live in our cities;
3. Excellent public services, public investment and increased community resilience will form the most effective basis for the recovery;
4. The recovery must address issues of equity that have been laid bare by the impact of the crisis – for example, workers who are now recognised as essential should be celebrated and compensated accordingly and policies must support people living in informal settlements;
5. The recovery must improve the resilience of our city and communities. Therefore, investments should be made to protect against future threats – including the climate crisis – and to support those people impacted by climate and health risks;
6. Climate action can help accelerate economic recovery and enhance social equity, through the use of new technologies and the creation of new industries and new jobs. These will drive wider benefits for our residents, workers, students, businesses and visitors;
7. We commit to doing everything in our power to ensure that the recovery from COVID-19 is healthy, equitable and sustainable;
8. We commit to using our collective voices and individual actions to ensure that our national government supports both cities and the investments needed in cities, to deliver an economic recovery that is healthy, equitable and sustainable;
9. We commit to using our collective voices and individual actions to ensure that international and regional institutions invest directly in cities to support a healthy, equitable and sustainable recovery

This Council agrees to monitor the on-going work of the Task Force and adopt the C40 Mayors principles in planning its own 'build back better' efforts.

Source: <https://www.c40.org/other/covid-task-force>

3. Disproportionate deaths from Covid-19 of Health and care workers from Black, Asian and ethnic minorities (proposed by Cllr Bely-Summers, seconded by Cllr Azad)

Labour member motion

People from Black, Asian and ethnic minority backgrounds are twice as likely to die of Covid-19 in the UK as white British people. This is the conclusion of the Public Health Report (PHE) *Beyond the data: understanding the impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups*.

44% of NHS doctors are from ethnic minority backgrounds but they accounted for 90% of the deaths of doctors. Black, Asians and ethnic minority nurses are 20% of the workforce but accounted for 75% of deaths.

Ethnic minority healthcare workers and care workers believe systemic racism and discrimination in the NHS and in the Social Care sector is one of the reasons many of their colleagues died.

The report highlights

- Lack of representation in senior roles
- Being less likely to seek care due to poorer experience with the NHS.
- Being less likely to speak up when they had concerns about PPE and risks
- A higher proportion of healthcare workers from ethnic minority working on Covid wards and care homes.

The Covid-19 pandemic has simply shone a light on a widespread entrenched problem. From the ongoing hostile environment and the Windrush scandal to the health surcharges for migrants. Local health unions have testimonies of ethnic minority healthcare workers and care workers not protected at work.

Some have left the profession, others have had to make life or death decisions. In modern Britain this is unacceptable.

The first PHE report commissioned by ministers explained why some populations groups are more affected than others but did not publish the recommendations which would have helped to reduce the disparities.

The chapter on community engagement was missing silencing again the voices of those who have been the most affected in spite of a very extensive consultation.

We have clapped for our NHS staff who have risked their lives to save us as well as our care workers. Far too many have made the ultimate sacrifice. Now it is time to address systemic racism, injustice and discriminations in our institutions and communities.

Oxford City Council therefore

1. **supports calls** for extensive research to be funded on the disproportionate number of deaths of ethnic minority workers and care workers with clear recommendations; **and**
2. **asks the Leader** to write to Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to request as a priority that PHE and the government implement in full and within a clear timeline all the seven recommendations set out in '*Beyond the data : understanding the impact of Covid-19 on BAME groups*':
 - comprehensive and quality ethnicity data collection and recording
 - support community participatory research

- improve access, experiences and outcomes of NHS
- accelerate the development of culturally competent occupational risk assessment tools
- culturally competent Covid-19 education and prevention campaign
- target culturally competent health promotion and disease prevention programmes
- reduce inequalities caused by the wider determinants of health.

4. Celebrating Oxford's Diversity (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Altaf Khan) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown]

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that varied communities make a huge contribution to the vitality and integrity of civic life here in Oxford. Council believes that contribution should be acknowledged as much as possible, and that this council should use its own resources of visibility and public leadership to do so.

Council therefore agrees to ask Cabinet to work towards establishing a list of the national days of the principal communities represented here in Oxford, to invite them to supply a flag, in consultation with officers over logistical matters such as size, which they would like to be flown from the Town Hall on their national day, and to instruct officers to undertake the necessary work.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Brown

Delete the second paragraph.

The amendment if accepted changes the motion to:

Council notes that varied communities make a huge contribution to the vitality and integrity of civic life here in Oxford.

Council believes that contribution should be acknowledged as much as possible, and that this council should use its own resources of visibility and public leadership to do so.

[ends]

5. Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff)

Green member motion

This Council opposes the proposal by the Conservative Leader of the County Council to delay the County elections planned for 2021 until 2022.

6. Fossil fuel divestment (proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Turner)

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council welcomes Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Fund's climate-focused ambitions for its pension investments.

This Council welcomes the following changes by the Pension Fund as additions to an earlier decision to switch five per cent of its assets into a low carbon fund:

- To switch another six per cent of assets into a new Sustainable Equities Fund being developed by Brunel Pension Partnership, the company owned by Local Government Pension Funds to manage investments on their behalf.
 - To introduce the target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from investments by 7.6% p.a. in line with the Paris Agreement and a maximum 1.5°C increase in global temperatures. The world needs more business plans to be in line with or improve on the 2015 Paris Accord agreement over emission paths.
1. This Council congratulates the following for their contributions:
 - Oxfordshire Pension Fund has travelled far in its plans to respond to the risks of climate breakdown, and this Council congratulates the Committee.
 - the campaign group Fossil Free Oxfordshire and UNISON for co-operation with the Pension Fund and looks forward to seeing further collaboration.

Taking money out of fossil fuels is the right thing to do. It is also the financially prudent thing to do. Keeping fossil fuel companies in a portfolio reduces its total value, fossil fuel investments risk becoming 'stranded assets', and the climate crisis threatens the global economy and the ability of the Oxfordshire Local Government Pension Scheme to meet its liabilities.

In passing fossil fuel divestment motions, this Council has made clear that it makes no sense to invest in companies that undermine our future.

2. Oxfordshire Pension Fund's journey must be completed.

This Council asks the Leader to write to Oxfordshire Pension Fund to:

- ensure the pledges to decarbonise the fund are underpinned by metrics that ensure the target emissions reductions will be met, including those that measure exposure to fossil fuel producers, not just fossil fuel users.
- request confirmation that it will exclude from the portfolio any companies that continue to explore for or develop new fossil fuel reserves.
- review the entire Climate Change Policy and Implementation Plan by 2022 at the latest, including 1) the effectiveness of engagement as stated in the implementation plan and; 2) progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (rather than waiting until 2025 as suggested in the implementation plan).

However ambitious a pension fund pool member may be, the pace toward emissions reductions of 7.6% p.a. will be limited by the fund offerings provided by Brunel.

Brunel has shown recent climate leadership, **but this Council asks the Leader to write to Oxfordshire Pension Fund to urge Brunel to go further by:**

- making a formal request to provide a range of funds that enable it to meet its 7.6% p.a. target while spreading risk, including zero carbon passive and managed funds.

- writing an open letter asking Brunel to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of all portfolios by 7.6% p.a. and to reduce the fossil fuel reserves exposure of their existing portfolios.

7. Against postponing County Council elections (proposed by Cllr Roz Smith)

Liberal Democrat member motion

At the recent meeting of the County Council on July 14 the Leader of the Council, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, tabled a motion [[agenda item 15](#)] which, among other things, called on the Leader to “write to the Secretary of State requesting that its 2021 elections are held over until 2022 to allow sufficient time to undertake an open and wide-ranging conversation with our local authority partners, residents and stakeholders to explore all options for a new future for Oxfordshire”.

Council

- **wholeheartedly opposes** any attempt to delay scheduled elections, further reducing democratic accountability, bearing in mind that other elections are also due to be held in May 2021, many of them already delayed by a year, and
- **instructs the Leader** to write to the Leader of the County Council and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government communicating its view.

8. Liveable Streets initiative (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) [amendment proposed by Cllr Henwood; amendment proposed by Cllr Arshad, seconded by Cllr Tanner]

Green member motion

Council notes and supports the County Council’s renewed interest in ‘liveable streets’ as evidenced by the inclusion of some low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) measures in the *Tranche 1 Active Travel* funding application and the inclusion of LTNs in the recently published Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Council also notes that creating a liveable street requires coordinated action by both City and County Councils as many responsibilities span both authorities (e.g. noise, air quality, planting, community safety and so on). The City is also a potential contributor of funding and a key stakeholder for any infrastructure works within the City.

Council notes that the Greater London Authority has developed specific indicators (along with checklists, guidance and tools) for measuring the degree to which a street is ‘healthy’ and agrees to use these as part of its approach to designing and delivering liveable streets within the City.

[The 10 key Healthy Streets Indicators](#), backed up by a measurement method, extensive case studies and guidance, are:

1. Everyone feels welcome
2. Easy to cross
3. Shade and shelter
4. Clean air
5. People feel relaxed

6. People choose to walk and cycle
7. Not too noisy
8. Places to stop and rest
9. People feel safe Things to see and do

Source: <https://healthystreets.com/home/about/>

Amendment proposed by Cllr Henwood

In the last paragraph, replace indicator *4 Clean air* with

4 Air quality (to also include Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes and adjacent main roads)

Amendment proposed by Cllr Arshad, seconded by Cllr Tanner

Insert new second paragraph:

Council notes and supports *the motion proposed by County Councillors John Sanders and Damian Haywood and passed unanimously by Oxfordshire County Council on 14 July 2020 to support the concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and aim to introduce them when and where feasible." Further, Council supports the efforts of Oxfordshire Liveable Streets (OLS) and Labour City and County Councillors throughout the City to give effect to this motion.*

Amend next two paragraphs to add words in italics:

Council also notes that creating a liveable street requires coordinated action by both City and County Councils as many responsibilities span both authorities (e.g. noise, air quality, planting, community safety and so on), *although ultimately responsibility sits with the County Council.* The City is also a potential contributor of funding and a key stakeholder for any infrastructure works within the City *and should continue to enable changes which are joined up and achieve an integrated transportation plan.*

Council notes that the Greater London Authority has developed specific indicators (along with checklists, guidance and tools) for measuring the degree to which a street is 'healthy' and agrees to *encourage the County Council to use these as part of its approach to designing and delivering liveable streets within the City.*

The amendments if both are accepted change the motion to:

Council notes and supports the County Council's renewed interest in 'liveable streets' as evidenced by the inclusion of some low traffic neighbourhood (LTN) measures in the *Tranche 1 Active Travel* funding application and the inclusion of LTNs in the recently published Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

Council notes and supports *the motion proposed by County Councillors John Sanders and Damian Haywood and passed unanimously by Oxfordshire County Council on 14 July 2020 to support the concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and aim to introduce them when and where feasible." Further, Council supports*

the efforts of Oxfordshire Liveable Streets (OLS) and Labour City and County Councillors throughout the City to give effect to this motion.

Council also notes that creating a liveable street requires coordinated action by both City and County Councils as many responsibilities span both authorities (e.g. noise, air quality, planting, community safety and so on), *although ultimately responsibility sits with the County Council.* The City is also a potential contributor of funding and a key stakeholder for any infrastructure works within the City *and should continue to enable changes which are joined up and achieve an integrated transportation plan.*

Council notes that the Greater London Authority has developed specific indicators (along with checklists, guidance and tools) for measuring the degree to which a street is 'healthy' and agrees to *encourage the County Council to use these as part of its approach to designing and delivering liveable streets within the City.*

The 10 key Healthy Streets Indicators, backed up by a measurement method, extensive case studies and guidance, are:

1. Everyone feels welcome
2. Easy to cross
3. Shade and shelter
4. ~~Clean air~~ Air quality (to also include Low Traffic Neighbourhood Schemes and adjacent main roads)
5. People feel relaxed
6. People choose to walk and cycle
7. Not too noisy
8. Places to stop and rest
9. People feel safe Things to see and do

Source: <https://healthystreets.com/home/about/>