

Council



Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 29 November 2021**
Time: **5.15 pm**
Place: **Council Chamber - Oxford Town Hall**

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.

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All public papers are available from the calendar link to this meeting once published

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 Recommendation: to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 4 October 2021.	Main agenda pack
4 Appointment to Committees Group Leaders may notify Council of any proposed changes.	
5 Announcements See main agenda frontsheet.	
6 Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting 1 public address relating to a matter for decision (item 7). Up to five minutes is available for the public address. A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items (items 6 and 19). Responses are included within this time limit.	9-12
CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS	
7 East Oxford Community Centre and Housing Development Cabinet Member Cllr Blackings will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations. Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to	Main agenda pack

agree the appropriation of the land being developed for housing at Princes Street and at Collins Street from the General Fund into the Housing Revenue Account at the equivalent loan debt value of £1.491m.

8 Redevelopment of Standingford House Enterprise Centre and site at Cave Street to provide managed workspace

Cabinet Member Cllr Brown or Cllr Turner will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to approve a capital budget of £9.70m to deliver the project and including the use of £1.13m of funds awarded to the Council from OxLEP's Local Growth Fund. This is an increase to the proposed capital allocation in 21/22 consultation budget and the rationale for this increased investment is set out in the exempt Appendix 1 – Not for Publication (item 24a).

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9 Use of Retained Right to Buy Receipts to increase the provision of more affordable housing

Cabinet Member Cllr Blackings will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to

1. **approve** a capital budget in the General Fund for £1,650,000 of expenditure in 2021/22, subsidised using £660,000 of Retained Right to Buy Receipts, to enable the acquisition and refurbishment of Roken House;
2. **approve** a capital budget in the Housing Revenue Account for £2m expenditure in 2021/22, subsidised using £800,000 of Retained Right to Buy Receipts, to enable further property acquisition activity in the last two quarters of 2021/22.

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10 Council Telephony Contracts Replacement

Cabinet Member Cllr Rowley will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to approve the addition of £50k into the capital programme as set out in paragraph 2 of the report.

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11 Restructure of OXWed JV

Cabinet Member Cllr Turner or Cllr Hollingsworth will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to

1. **agree** the sale of shares in OxWED for up to £360,000 along with the purchase of shares in the Limited Liability Partnership and allocate a budget of up to £360,000;
2. **agree** the novation of the existing loan agreements in the sum of £15.850 million from OxWED to the Limited Liability Partnership on the same terms; and
3. **agree** that a capital budget of up to £700,000 is established for the tax charge resulting from this transaction.

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12 Loan to Low Carbon Hub in relation to Ray Valley Solar Farm

Cabinet Member Cllr Turner will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to

1. **approve** a loan facility agreement with Low Carbon Hub of £2,000,000 together with the associated capital budget for a loan in respect of the Ray Valley Solar (RVS) local renewable energy project, whilst noting the reduction in the separate and already approved Salix grant-backed loan awarded under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The investment will be funded from Council capital resources.

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

13 Appointment of External Auditors 2023/24 to 2027/28

The Chair of the Audit & Governance Committee Cllr Fry will present the report and propose the recommendations.

Recommendation: The Audit & Governance Committee recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **accept** Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023;
2. **authorise** the Head of Financial Services to opt in to the national scheme for auditor appointments for the provision of external audit services starting with the audit of the 2023/24 accounts.

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14 Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2022

The Chair of the Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee Cllr Cook will present the report and propose the recommendations.

Recommendation: The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee recommends that Council resolves to approve the final draft of Gambling Licensing Policy 2022

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15 Appointment of a Parish Council representative as a non-voting member of the Standards Committee

The Chair of the Standards Committee Cllr Pressel will present the report and propose the recommendations.

Recommendations: The Standards Committee recommends that Council resolves to appoint Councillor Peter Nowland of Blackbird Leys Parish Council as the co-opted, non-voting member of the Standards Committee representing the four Parish Councils in Oxford until the end of his current term of office in May 2022.

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OFFICER REPORTS

16 Council and Committee meetings programme for May 2022 to May 2024

The Leader of the Council Cllr Brown will propose the recommendations.

Recommendations: that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the programme of Council, committee and other meetings from 1 May 2022 to 31 May 2024 attached at Appendix 1;
2. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with Group Leaders, to make changes to this programme in the event that there is any decision by Council to change the committee structure or committee remit which impacts on the programme of meetings; and
3. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Law and Governance to set dates for additional training and briefing sessions for Members.

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QUESTIONS		
17	Questions on Cabinet minutes <i>This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.</i> Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in these minutes:	Main agenda pack
17a	Minutes of meeting Wednesday 13 October 2021 of Cabinet	
17b	Draft minutes of meeting on Wednesday 10 November 2021 of Cabinet	
18	Questions on Notice from Members of Council 28 questions on notice. The questioner may ask one supplementary question of the Cabinet Member who supplied the response, or the Leader in their absence.	13-34
PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY		
19	Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting 4 public addresses not relating to matters for decision at this meeting. Up to five minutes is available for each public address. A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items (items 6 and 19). Responses are included within this time limit.	35-42
20	Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions	
20a	OxLEP and Skills Board Report submitted on behalf of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Brown, on the work of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) and the skills board. Council is invited to comment on and note the report.	Main agenda pack
20b	Oxford Strategic Partnership Report submitted on behalf of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Brown, on the work of Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP). Council is invited to comment on and note the report.	43-62

21 Scrutiny Committee update report

63-80

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

22 Motions on notice 29 November 2021

81-96

This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.

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) Becoming a trans inclusive council (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Jarvis)
- b) Violence Against Women and Girls (proposer Cllr Aziz, seconder Councillor Abrishami)
- c) Noise Nuisance from Licensed Premises (proposer Cllr Miles, seconder Cllr Landell Mills)
- d) Oxford Stadium (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Dunne) [amendment, proposer Cllr Turner]
- e) End Fire and Rehire (proposer Cllr Mundy, seconder Councillor Dunne)
- f) Speeding Enforcement (proposer Cllr Snowton) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Brown]
- g) Endorsing The Green Norrington Table and calls for Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation (proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Hollingsworth) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes]
- h) EU Nationals deserves to be treated with Respect (proposer Cllr Bely-Summers)
- i) Plant based eating and sustainable farming (proposer Cllr Dunne)

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

To: Council

Date: 29 November 2021

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council about matters for decision at this meeting, are below. Any available written responses provided by Cabinet Members are also included.
2. The text reproduces that sent in by the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. Their addresses are 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 1 of the agenda

1. Address by Ciaran Walsh, Chairperson of East Oxford Community Association (EOCA) – on item 7: East Oxford Community Centre and Housing Development

Addresses and questions to be taken in Part 1 of the agenda

1. Address by Ciaran Walsh, Chairperson of East Oxford Community Association (EOCA) – on item 7: East Oxford Community Centre and Housing Development

From the time the redevelopment of EOCC was proposed EOCA has had some objections to the way the programme developed. We were very disappointed in the small number of responses generated by the consultation procedure, which we considered inadequate in view of the fact that EOCC is an important space intended to serve the whole of the East Oxford parliamentary constituency and the wider city.

Subsequently, during the reference group meetings not enough attention was devoted to the future governance of EOCC which should have been the first item on the agenda before technical specifications if the redevelopment was aimed to serve the interests of the groups using EOCC and the wider community of stakeholders.

EOCA in all good conscience cannot acquiesce in the building of a block of housing units on the space of EOCC. We view this as the enclosure and privatisation of Public Space, intended for community use. Space which will be lost to future generations if this plan goes forward, a severe depletion of the legacy left for future generations in East Oxford.

We are concerned that there will not be sufficient space to house the current users of EOCC after the redevelopment, let alone offer space to the important community groups that we wished to see accommodated and given a home at EOCC, such as The Oxford Kurdish Association (OKA), The East Timor Association, East Oxford Fabricators, all factored out of the plan.

An important issue for EOCA is where will the Association and other community groups such as the Afrikan and Caribbean Kultural Heritage Initiative (ACKHI), Oxford Action Resource Centre (OARC) operate during the redevelopment. We have been told that the Cave Street facility which houses the EOCA and ACKHI temporary offices is also to be demolished and redeveloped simultaneously with EOCC thus making EOCA, ACKHI homeless. This shows scant regard to wishes and needs of local community groups, as did the whole process, with a real lack of genuine engagement.

EOCA has not been opposed to the idea of a redevelopment of EOCC but positively wanted an expansive inclusive plan that would cater to the needs of East Oxford's diverse communities in the future, unfortunately we do not think this plan will accomplish that.

Written Response from the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless

OCC has actively engaged with the East Oxford community and stakeholders throughout the proposed redevelopment of the community centre and undertaken a wide range of consultations from public events, reference group meetings (including with EOCA) and 1:1 meetings with individual user groups. This continual engagement over many years has been conducted working together with the reference group who have provided very helpful and valuable input. The consultation events were successful, with over 150 people attending the first event to share their views and comments on the proposals, with some of the local community groups providing

support to the event with items such as provision of food to those who attended. Throughout the design process, engagement with the user groups has helped develop a scheme which offers a modern and flexible space for both existing and future users of the centre.

The Council recognises that inclusive governance arrangements are key to the successful operation of the centre and this was discussed regularly at the reference group meetings. The Council has listened very carefully to the views and feedback from the various community groups and it is important that this is taken into consideration and ensuring that new and existing community groups are being welcomed back into the redeveloped centre. The Council is very much committed to this and continuing our work with community groups on the governance solutions and this is planned to re-commence once the centre has re-opened.

The project is also providing 26 much needed affordable housing for the residents of Oxford. The units adjacent to the community centre will offer 12 flats at social rent, c.40% of current open market rent, and it is through the provision of housing that funding for the refurbishment and extension to the community centre is possible. Providing housing is not a loss to the community but strengthens a community by enabling future generations to continue to live in their city and access the vibrant facilities in their neighbourhood.

Unfortunately with any large development of this scale there is a need to temporarily move community users and community tenants from the buildings whilst building work is ongoing. It is not safe for the building to remain operational during the build. We are currently talking to the various community tenants to understand their search for temporary accommodation and of course we would be more than happy to talk to EOCA again to offer our support where we can, if you or any of the other groups are having any issues with this.

This project is a significant investment by the council in East Oxford that will provide both new and existing community users with modern, sustainable, state of the art facilities fit for the 21 century for all the community to enjoy.

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To: Council
Date: 29 November 2021
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council

Introduction

1. Questions submitted by members of Council to the Cabinet Members 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 Cabinet Member 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 a Safer, Healthier Oxford

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19

Question

With Covid-19 cases still high across the country and in Oxford and Covid patients putting increasing strain on our hospitals, what specific steps is the City Council taking to limit the spread of the virus within the city?

Written Response

Oxford City Council has been a very active partner working in a systemwide and countywide structure to tackle COVID-19 in the city and Oxfordshire for the past 20 months. This includes regular meetings that make strategic and tactical decisions on actions and interventions to limit the spread of the virus in the City, which are attended variously by the Council Leader, Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Strategy, Head of Communities, Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety and other officers.

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19

This systemwide approach means that, for example, measures to encourage the take-up of third vaccinations by the over-40s, are framed by the NHS and County Public Health teams, communicated by County and City Communications teams, and promoted by our Communities teams working out of Locality Hubs.

A snapshot of some of the other current activities to limit the spread of COVID include:

- Our Regulatory Services and Community Safety teams hold weekly strategic and operational meetings with the Police and both Universities to co-ordinate the response and address any concerns raised regarding particular premises, business sectors or other public places and behaviour including student behaviour.
- Our Environmental Health team operates an out of hours service from 9pm to 3am on Wednesday evenings which is the busiest student night of the week to monitor and give advice to the hospitality sector. The team examines NHS/public health data reports on case clusters and where these highlight specific premises, officers follow up with checks and advice.
- Our Events Team works with the Environmental Health team regarding preventive measures for large scale events
- Advice and support for businesses from our Business Regulation team on ensuring well-ventilated workplaces and hospitality venues
- Liaison with diverse communities and distribution of translated materials on vaccination by our Localities team
- Provision of emergency temporary single room accommodation for rough sleepers by our Homelessness team
- Distribution of £270,000 funding to support residents who are struggling to make ends meet this winter by our Communities teams.
- Development of a new delivery model for our Hubs going forwards being developed by our Communities team to ensure better insight into changing community needs, more cost effective better joined up services, closer engagement with those most vulnerable communities and those not engaging, continued learning and improvement. Funded by £200,000 of Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) money.

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19

- Procurement of additional vehicles to support deliveries from Hubs for those in need. Funded by £60,000 of COMF money.
- Additional data analyst in our Policy and Partnerships team to support the development of mapping and monitoring of cross-council service demand particularly in Communities, Housing and Customer Services.

LU2 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Covid-19 Workplace support**Question**

What advice and support is the City Council giving to workplaces in Oxford to enable them to take measures such as improving air quality in order to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Written Response

The primary advice and support that is being delivered to businesses from the Council is with regard to ventilation in workplaces. This is in line with guidance issued by the government and the HSE. Our officers helped develop a ventilation project involving CO2 monitors and we are working with the countywide Covid Secure Team to directly promote the service to a variety of business sectors in the City. This includes a number of University of Oxford colleges, Oxford Brookes University and several places of worship which have been visited and ventilation assessments made to supplement their existing knowledge, with resulting recommendations and actions.

The out of hours service that operates on Wednesday evenings from 9pm to 3am visits hospitality premises and advises on issues such as queue management and reports back to the Licensing & Business Regulation Teams for any necessary follow ups.

Officers also attend business forums such as Pubwatch to advise on the latest information, trends, best practice and answer questions.

The City Council has renewed pavement licences for 80 hospitality businesses to enable them to continue minimising Covid19 transmission.

Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security, and Housing the Homeless

DB1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Blackings – Council housing waiting list numbers

DB1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Blackings – Council housing waiting list numbers**Question**

According to the City Council website, we had 2355 families on the waiting list for desperately-needed new council housing a year ago (2nd Oct 2020). More recently I have heard a figure of "nearly 3000" mentioned, which would represent an annual increase of 27%. What is the current figure, and if the "nearly 3000" figure is correct, what might be the reason for the dramatic increase?

Written Response

The demand for housing is higher than ever following the pandemic with more people seeking to move to more affordable & secure housing.

There are currently 2660 households on the Housing Register.

From 1/4/21 to date, 282 properties owned by OCC and the Registered Providers of Social Housing we work with, have been allocated to those in housing need on the housing register.

In addition to this, 63 customers been offered a property and are currently waiting to view &/or sign up & move into their new home, with a further 46 properties advertised and in the process of being allocated.

To help meet this demand OCC and our partners continue to build properties in the City where possible to help meet this demand and supply as many new affordable homes as possible.

We are well aware that #OxfordNeedsHomes and are also working with our neighbouring councils who are also building homes for Oxford's unmet housing need which was based on the need for affordable housing.

Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services**MR1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – HGV damage to street furniture and residential properties?****Question**

In the past year, on how many occasions has street furniture been damaged by heavy vehicles (e.g. HGVs and coaches) using residential streets in Oxford? Where have these incidents taken place?

Written Response

We looked back over the last 12 months. As far as we are aware, the bus shelter on Henley Avenue was hit by a third party vehicle. We do not have records of any other incidents.

MR2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley – City Council app

Question

What is the annual number of downloads of the Oxford City Council app for the last 12 months? Does the City Council track the number of active users of the app, if so what is the number of active users? Within the Report It function of the app, what is the breakdown of number of reports submitted by each category (e.g. graffiti, litter etc.) for the last 12 months?

Written Response

There is limited functionality around what is recorded in relation to the Oxford City Council app and so we do not record total annual download numbers. However, we know that around 11,000 households have signed up to receive notifications of bin collections each week. In addition, the Report It function is tracked and the data for the past year shows there were 419 reports including 158 linked to littering, 129 on fly-tipping, 14 on graffiti and 30 on dog fouling. We are also currently looking at alternative options that we may use to replace the existing app that will help extend and increase our digital engagement of citizens. The Council and ODS now use the govdelivery platform to send regular email newsletters to residents and this includes functionality that would enable people to sign up for alerts and information around a range of council services as well as highlighting channels to feedback. Currently we have 9,856 subscribers on govdelivery – and our ambition is to seek to sign up as many Oxford tenants and residents as possible. In addition, ODS is considering use of the Fixmystreet system to gather input from residents around issues with roads and street infrastructure.

MR3 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Rowley – QL payments and accounting system

Question

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the rollout of the QL payments and accounting system? What is the current state of service delivery? What is the cumulative effect of delays and changes to process? Do we have an estimate of the cost of the issues experienced, not just in cash terms but in terms of officer time?

Written Response

The current status is repairs are being undertaken, suppliers are being paid, and rental income is being collected, although there are currently constraints on the production of financial management and performance information.

Progress has been made with stability, governance and operational assurance with significant senior officer oversight, cross organisational Business assurance team and project team involving staff energy and involvement, the system is currently working efficiently including 'workarounds' which allow for financial transactions to be processed outside of the main QL system.

A comprehensive plan is in place and being managed under close oversight to; remove the operational workarounds, bring additional functions into play and to target the resolution of the financial information, meanwhile proxy information being developed for

MR3 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Rowley – QL payments and accounting system

	<p>reporting.</p> <p>There is good progress toward the position to reverse the operational workarounds with key upgrades being planned, which will enable the benefits of reversing these workarounds, along with new functionality and improvements to processes that drive efficiencies in many of our areas of business.</p> <p>Significant effort has been applied to addressing the issues that have arisen since the system went live in May with a multi-disciplinary team of officers from Oxford City Council and Oxford Direct Services. It should be recognised that the progress had been achieved through hard work of staff working as a single strong multidisciplinary team.</p> <p>In terms of cost over and above the original implementation this is currently estimated at around £280k to get the system to 'steady state'. It is difficult to estimate the opportunity cost of officer time but it is acknowledged that this will have been significant.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism

MC1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Clarkson – Menorah lighting on Broad Street

Question	Written Response
<p>Why, after almost 20 years, is the Council now refusing to support the Jewish community's menorah lighting on Broad Street which is held annually in memory of former Oxford City Councillor Dr Mike Woodin who tragically died aged 38 whilst still a serving Councillor?</p>	<p>The Council is fully supportive of the Jewish Community's menorah lighting on Broad Street. The City centre councillors have agreed to cover these costs from their ward members budgets for this year, and spoken to Rabbi Eli Brackman.</p>

Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; Deputy Leader of the Council

ET1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Turner – Commercial property purchase expenditure

Question

Against the advice of Scrutiny Committee, Council set aside £20 million at the last budget for the purchase of commercial property to rent out. Can the portfolio holder update Council on how much has been spent on commercial property since the budget, whether this expenditure is on-track, and the revenue generated?

Written Response

I think the councillor is alluding to the purchase of commercial assets for regeneration and then to deliver an income stream. At present there has been no capital spend from the £20 million set aside. The Council has bid unsuccessfully on an asset at the science park and is currently awaiting the response on another regeneration asset. It is also considering 2 further opportunities. We will continue to evaluate opportunities but will only bid when we are very confident that it is in the interests of Oxford City Council to do so. The councillor will be glad to hear that the Council is very active in regenerating property which it already owns or in which it has an interest, for instance with the Cave Street scheme recently agreed in cabinet, and the development of the former Boswells store, both of which will deliver financial contributions to the City Council, as well as wider economic benefits to our city.

ET2 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Turner – Cost of Broad Meadow

Question

A grant of £150,000 was made by the Outbreak Management Fund towards the cost of Broad Meadow. This has covered the fees of external consultants LDA Designs (£24,800), the artist's fees, and ODS. I understand that there may be further costs for infrastructure, operational and project management costs. Could the Cabinet Member please confirm the total expenditure?

Written Response provided by Cllr Hayes, Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford

The final Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) budget allocation for the temporary scheme on Broad Street ("Broad Meadow") was £250,000, which will be reported separately to the County Council to support Oxfordshire's claim for the central Government COMF grant.

Design, infrastructure, implementation, project management and operating costs associated with Broad Meadow to date totals £222,500. Broad Meadow was open from 1 July 2021 to 11 October 2021 for residents and visitors to meet friends and family throughout the summer. Over 100,000 people used the facility during this time.

This use of public funds was an urgent investment in the city centre in order to encourage a safe return of footfall to support local businesses. Broad Street businesses have reported that the scheme made a difference to the amount of people on Broad Street and how much time they spent there.

ET2 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Turner – Cost of Broad Meadow

	<p>The scheme was a great success (87% of 1,039 respondents to our public consultation said that Broad Meadow had a positive impact; 80% of respondents said they back permanent pedestrianisation of the whole of Broad Street). And on 17th November the County Council committed to delivering public space enhancements in Broad Street in 2022, in large part due to the “great work that has been done with this initial pilot”.</p> <p>Delivery of the scheme was made possible through partnership working by a range of stakeholders including bus service providers ODS, the colleges and businesses located in the area, the emergency services and Oxfordshire County Council. Broad Meadow benefitted from proactive input by key local groups, including: Oxford Civic Society, Oxford Pedestrians Association, Cyclox, Unlimited Oxfordshire and the City Council’s Inclusive Transport and Movement Focus Group.</p> <p>And even though Broad Meadow had to be a temporary scheme in 2021, detailed consideration was given to the reuse of the different elements involved. On 6th October we announced that none of the constituent parts of Broad Meadow would end up in landfill after the scheme closed in October. We subsequently donated all the structures, seating, plants, trees and turf to six local charities and organisations and charities: Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground, Cowley Children’s Allotment, Marston Community Garden, Oxford Urban Wildlife Group, St Ebbe’s Primary School and St Mary Magdalen Church.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford; Deputy Leader of the Council

TH1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – ZEZ: expected air quality improvements

<p>Question</p> <p>Given that the so-called zero emission zone being piloted in 2022 will not prevent any vehicle from entering the area covered by the ZEZ, is only in place</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Three things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It’s not a so-called Zero Emission Zone, it’s a Zero Emission Zone. By comparison, the Leader of Brighton City Council is a so-called Green because he flew to COP26 instead of using (as I
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TH1 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – ZEZ: expected air quality improvements

7am to 7pm, and that of the streets covered all are either already restricted or dead ends, what air quality improvements are expected?

did) more environmentally-friendly rail travel and allowed weeks of rubbish to pile up in the streets by devaluing our unions and public sector workers.

- The ZEZ pilot covers the commercial heart of the city which has high footfall and poor air quality. The pilot will be operating during the very hours of highest footfall, so that they are protected against air pollution and its harmful health effects created by fossil fuel vehicles. Ongoing air quality monitoring will demonstrate the impacts.
- The pilot is accompanied by the toughest environmental standards on the taxi trade in the country and the requirement on our bus service providers to run cleaner buses across a large geography, including Oxford's most air-polluted road—St Clement's.

TH2 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – ZEZ: classic cars

Question

Why are classic cars - which have some of the most polluting engines - exempt from the ZEZ charge?

Written Response

Just like CAZs of Liberal Democrat-led Bath and Labour-led Birmingham, and the ULEZ of Labour-led London, historic tax vehicles are exempt. They are impossible to retrofit with exhaust treatment, replacing them defeats the point of having them, and they will be present in such tiny numbers as to be completely irrelevant to air quality considerations. We saw no reason not to follow other schemes in exempting them. Moreover, the classic cars of the future (today's fossil fuel cars) are not going to be allowed into the ZEZ and nor will they be in the future.

TH3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Implications of London's ULEZ for Oxford's air quality plans

TH3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Implications of London’s ULEZ for Oxford’s air quality plans

Question

Does the recent evidence on the limited impact on air quality of the London ultra-low emission zone affect the plans for Oxford's air quality plans?

Written Response

No.

TH4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Hayes – Safety of cyclists in relation to motorcycle and moped food delivery drivers

Question

Has the Council had any dialogue with food delivery companies in relation to danger to cyclists caused by the irresponsible driving of some of their delivery drivers using motorcycles or mopeds?

Written Response provided by Cllr Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford

The Police are the enforcing authority and any reports of dangerous driving should be made to Thames Valley Police on 101 (non-emergency) or 999 (emergency). The Police can report rider behaviour directly to the company they are operating under. Oxford City Council, Thames Valley Police and Oxfordshire County Council are currently jointly working together to address a range of issues created by food delivery riders in the city centre. This has involved engaging with the food delivery companies in relation to irresponsible driving as well as breaches of traffic orders and anti social behaviour.

TH5 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Hayes – Seacourt Park & Ride Extension

Question

At last Full Council you responded that usage levels remained low in the main Seacourt car park and that was why the extension had been fenced off. Can you now advise when the extension is scheduled to open? When will the final accounts for the capital scheme be

Written Response

We are reviewing car park usage, which of course is currently difficult to predict and will announce a date when it is possible to have a clear analysis of likely usage. The barriers can easily be removed to allow access at short notice should the usage increase over the Christmas period.

It is intended that the footpath will be opened and lit from 1st December in order to facilitate access for pedestrians and cyclists.

The extension does not have a separate operational

TH5 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Hayes – Seacourt Park & Ride Extension

available, and are any costs currently being incurred in the operational budget for the extension?

budget this is part of the budget for operation of park and rides as a whole.

The total approved budget was £5.372m. We are awaiting some final transactions to be settled for example we will pay the final balance to ODS once the defect period expires. These are expected to be resolved this financial year so the final accounts can be reported within the annual full statement of accounts next year.

Officers expect that we will be on if not slightly under the approved budget.

TH6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – OCC representation at COP26

Question

How many representatives of, and who, attended the COP26 conference in Glasgow on behalf of Oxford City Council and for what purposes? What were the top three practical insights and learning gained from this participation that will be applied to inform action on climate change by Oxford City Council?

Written Response

I attended COP26 as the climate and transport lead and a Deputy Leader of Oxford City Council to represent the views of the Council, citizens, and partners; learn from others; share our own best practice; and highlight Oxford as a city which is doing a large number of widely recognised climate projects and seeks to do much more to achieve our ambition to be zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

The top three practical insights gleaned were:

1. Boot Boris Johnson and his crowd of charlatans and cowards out of No 10
2. Help the people and parties that typically facilitate Tory Government (either indirectly or in Coalition) to get smart and get out of the way.
3. Put Keir Starmer into No 10 as soon as possible to implement climate action in a way which promotes high-paying green jobs and meets ambitious targets.

Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities

SA1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Aziz – East Oxford Community Centre

Question

Since the Council took back control of East Oxford

Written Response

In 2015 Oxford City Council took on the running of EOCC after concerns were raised to us about financial

SA1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Aziz – East Oxford Community Centre

Community Centre from the Community Association, how have the number of bookings changed? Does the Council have an assessment of whether there are groups which have ceased using the space since the takeover?

irregularities. During the transfer, we worked hard to keep all existing tenants and community groups, and we froze prices to support this. Since this point, the centre has generally been well used and broadly comparable with our other centres in the City and in line with national averages. We did not notice a trend of groups leaving, and the year before the pandemic, we had 62,869 users and 163 different unique hirers.

Clearly, the pandemic has had an impact, with the centre needing to close at some stages in line with government requirements and also on when and how some community groups and individuals are returning to the site once open. As business and groups recover, we are welcoming back more and more of our hirers and tenants and are excited about the prospect of a redeveloped centre soon.

Cabinet Member for Parks and Waste Reduction**LA1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Tree felling in Donnington Ward****Question**

How many trees have been felled or otherwise removed in Donnington Ward per year for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to date?

Written Response

2019: 0

2020: 7

- Iffley road – Lime Tree x2 (decayed)
- HRA Property Freeland's road – Ash x 3 (self-seeded trees)
- HRA Property Swinbourne road – Ash x 2 (self-seeded trees)

2021 to date: 2

- Iffley Road – Beech (diseased)
- George Moore Close – Robinia (dead)

There have been 5 trees planted as well as the tiny forest that was planted last year in Meadow Lane Nature Reserve.

LA2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Use of glyphosate

Question

Can the public access information about where the Council, ODS and its contractors are using glyphosate? If so, where can they access this information?

Written Response

The public are able to read previous Council [meeting minutes](#) which will show answers to glyphosate questions on several occasions, including at the 23 July 2018 Council meeting (see below). We are happy to provide the public with information on request.

We treat roads, car parks and garage areas within our remit, along with the Council's HRA stock (flat sites and tower blocks), three times a year.

We do not use glyphosate products in parks and green spaces.

Previous response provided at the 23 July 2018 Council meeting:

ODS (via a specialist contractor, Charlton Environmental) applies glyphosate in accordance with manufacturers and industry standards to all street pavements and associated hard surface areas two to three times annually throughout the city (approximately 320 litres used in total). This is carried out as a pedestrian operation and is a spot treatment only, meaning only visible weeds are targeted. We do this using controlled droplet applicators (CDA), and so very little visible residue is left behind on the street surface. This helps to minimise the volume of pesticide being applied, and is the safest method of application available for our operators and for the public. This method of application uses far less product, down from 200L per hectare through conventional knapsack sprayers, to between 15L and 40L per hectare using CDA machines. The products themselves have also changed, so that formulations are now safer to the public, operatives and wildlife, and most are 'clean label' and do not now even carry an irritant warning.

In recent years we have also applied glyphosate around the bases of all trees, so that the need for strimming throughout the season is minimised. This was brought in due to concerns surrounding the strimming causing damage to the trees across Oxford, and is usually a one off treatment in April, or in line with the first cut of the season.

We continue to monitor any debate about the future licencing of this product and we will only continue to use it whilst it is licenced.

LA3 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Arshad – Cutteslowe Park

Question

Many users and local residents to Cutteslowe Park are concerned that the presence of the ODS depot in the middle of the park, and in particular the regular traffic of large vehicles along routes inside the park and out through the well-used entrance to Harbord Rd, a road shared by pedestrians and vehicles, is unsatisfactory. Does the cabinet member agree?

Written Response

Cutteslowe Depot has been operational for several decades and traffic has always passed through Harbord Road. The traffic in and out of the park is not solely ODS', there are residential dwellings as well as organisations such as the miniature railway, the café and greenhouses all which have deliveries. Furthermore, the public car park has c40 spaces and is well utilised by members of the public.

From an ODS perspective the traffic to and from the depot is mainly Monday – Friday at 7am and 3pm for 10 minutes when the grounds staff are arriving and departing from work. The ODS vehicle movements outside of this time is intermittent and negligible.

From the Harbord Road entrance there is a designated walkway into the park and within the last year we have installed a hoggin path around the gate to ensure there is a hard surface for wheelchair users to use when the gate is closed. In the past 6 months an automatic gate has been installed to keep vehicles entering the park to a minimum during non-operation hours e.g. during the weekends. There is also a speed limit of 10mph in the park. This area also has a public car park and provides c60 spaces and is well utilised.

I am pleased to report that there have been no incidents within the park involving pedestrians and ODS vehicles for at least the last seven years, although possibly much longer.

LA4 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Arshad – Biodiversity Net Gain

Question

As Cabinet member for Parks, what is your view of the arrangements for BNG from Oxford North?

Written Response

I'm confident we are moving in the right direction in seeking to deliver Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) linked to the Oxford North development in Cutteslowe Park. The principles of BNG recognise that, particularly in a city, there are limitations on what can be achieved around boosting biodiversity on a site that is being developed. With Oxford North, the offsetting scheme in question was designed in a collaborative process involving the City Council Ecology and Parks teams and the Friends of Cutteslowe Park *before* the Oxford North application was determined. It was subsequently signed off by Oxford City Council Planners as part of the Section106 process after the application was approved.

LA4 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Arshad – Biodiversity Net Gain

The scheme is the restoration of a wildflower meadow from 3ha of grassland in the lower level of Cutteslowe Park, an aspiration referred to in the 2018-2022 Cutteslowe & Sunnymead Park Management Plan and specifically referred to in the Oxford City Council Green Spaces Biodiversity Review, last updated in February 2020, as being funded through the offsetting scheme (see paragraph 10.1 'Top 12 Priority Projects' of that report).

The Cutteslowe scheme has ensured our S106 requirement that there is a 5% net gain in biodiversity (underpinned by Policy G2 of the Oxford Local Plan) is achieved. However, the position will change following the Environment Act 2021 receiving Royal Assent a week ago and which will increase that requirement to 10% in future.

The Local Government Association advises that Mandatory biodiversity net gain as set out in the [Environment Act](#) applies in England only by amending the Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA) and is likely to become law in 2023. Oxford City Council cannot bring in the measure unilaterally. The Act sets out the following key components to mandatory BNG:

- Minimum 10% gain required calculated using Biodiversity Metric & approval of net gain plan
- Habitat secured for at least 30 years via obligations/conservation covenant
- Habitat can be delivered on-site, off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits
- There will be a national register for net gain delivery sites
- The mitigation hierarchy still applies of avoidance, mitigation and compensation for biodiversity loss
- Will also apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)
- Does not apply to marine development
- Does not change existing legal environmental and wildlife protections

Clearly we will have a lot of work to do to ensure we are prepared for the new BNG regime within planning as it is implemented in due course.

AH1 From Cllr Bely-Summers to Cllr Hollingsworth – Littlemore Ward infrastructure

Question	Written Response
<p>Littlemore ward has 6.400 residents, no GPs practice, no dentist, only two bus services not running on Sundays nor Bank Holidays. Littlemore is among the 20% most deprived areas in England and experiences multiple levels of deprivation: low skills, low income and relatively high levels of crime. The life expectancy there is 15 years less than in Summertown ward.</p> <p>In the next few years Oxford City council will build 1000 new accommodations in Littlemore with no plans to deliver comprehensive infrastructure. This will put pressure on local schools, already stretched GPs and dentist practice in surrounding wards. We want to attract NHS workers in these new developments but no provision for direct route to hospitals.</p> <p>Is there not a duty on this council to provide adequate infrastructure and amenities in areas of deprivation such as Littlemore firstly to redress social/economic/health inequalities between have and have not wards but also more importantly</p>	<p>While there is significant development in Littlemore at present, the correct figures are a little lower. Since 2013 some 418 new homes have received planning permission in Littlemore, and there are currently a further 170 that are the subject of live planning applications which may, or may not, be approved. There is one further significant site allocated in the Local Plan which is partially in Littlemore and partially in Blackbird Leys which has a site allocation of 150 units, for which there is no current planning process underway. Only two of these sites, both current planning applications and totally 74 units, are being built by Oxford City Council or its housing company OCHL. The remaining sites belong to other organisations.</p> <p>When the City Council, or any planning authority, draws up a Local Plan, it is reliant on the relevant statutory bodies to provide it with the relevant requirements for investment in infrastructure. The County Council will provide requirements for school places, highways infrastructure and public transport provision, Thames Water for water and sewage infrastructure and so forth, and the relevant bodies in the NHS will provide requirements for medical provision. This is a vitally important part of the process, because without an evidence of need, the City Council cannot require a developer to make a financial contribution to meet that need.</p> <p>For example, for two of the sites in Littlemore the County Council identified a need for financial support for highways infrastructure and support for public transport, and so those developments made contributions for those requirements – a s.106 agreement that included £214,650 for public transport improvements in one instance, and the creation of new bus stops and highways infrastructure via a s.278 agreement with the County Council in the other.</p> <p>However the relevant NHS bodies for primary care and dental services have not identified any such need. In a recent letter, the CCG stated that all of the GP practices that current serve Littlemore have capacity to take on</p>

AH1 From Cllr Bely-Summers to Cllr Hollingsworth – Littlemore Ward infrastructure

because the Council intent to exert even more pressure on what is already lacking.

more patients, and are doing so. The NHS body responsible for dental services stated that there is currently greater provision of dental services in the relevant area of Oxford than is required by them. With official statements like these from the statutory bodies that additional resources are not required, it is impossible for the City Council to then pursue a s106 agreement from a developer.

Nonetheless the City Council, like all the local planning authorities in Oxfordshire, is seeking closer engagement with the soon to be abolished CCG and its successor body, so as to better identify where new, expanded and replacement primary care facilities should go. The CCG has produced a useful starting point - the Oxfordshire Primary Care Estates Strategy 2020-2025 – which sets out the current situation for each surgery and PCN across Oxfordshire and proposes an approach to prioritisation. It’s now important for the proposed ‘next steps’ in that document to be brought forward, so that detailed plans for primary care requirements can inform Oxford’s Local Plan 2040 and the other Local Plans across the county. The Primary Care Estates Strategy also makes clear the CCG’s preference for large primary care ‘hubs’, and lack of enthusiasm for small or satellite surgeries, describing them as “no longer clinically or financially viable”.

Link: <https://www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/key-occg-publications/oxfordshire-primary-care-estates-strategy-2020-2025/151176>

AH2 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Diamond Place

Question

Is the Council supportive of the proposal from the local community in North Oxford that there should be a joint working party of the City, Oxford University Developments, and the community, to co-design a master plan for Diamond Place?

Written Response

The City Council has already discussed and agreed with Oxford University Developments how best to jointly pursue the different aspirations for the Diamond Place site and both parties believe that working on a joint approach to masterplanning principles with the local community is the right way forward. This is a complex site, with significant physical and financial constraints, and the best outcomes for all parties will be achieved by an ongoing process of developing partnership. It is important to note that because both landowners see the benefits of working together, this necessarily

AH2 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Diamond Place

requires moving at the pace of the slower – OUD has a number of prior schemes which it needs to bring forward in order to vacate the buildings on its site at Diamond Place, and this means that their timescales form the critical path for the scheme.

AH3 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Master Planning for Diamond Place**Question**

Given the expressed willingness of Oxford University Developments to join in a master planning exercise for Diamond Place, and the urgency of providing a new health centre for the expanding residential areas in North Oxford and the need for new social housing, is the Council supportive of starting a master planning exercise for Diamond Place now?

Written Response

The City Council has already discussed and agreed with Oxford University Developments how best to jointly pursue the different aspirations for the Diamond Place site and both parties believe that working on a joint approach to masterplanning principles with the local community is the right way forward. This is a complex site, with significant physical and financial constraints, and the best outcomes for all parties will be achieved by an ongoing process of developing partnership. It is important to note that because both landowners see the benefits of working together, this necessarily requires moving at the pace of the slower – OUD has a number of prior schemes which it needs to bring forward in order to vacate the buildings on its site at Diamond Place, and this means that their timescales form the critical path for the scheme. It is important to be clear that although a new Medical Centre is a high priority, it is not currently a requirement for the site and it is reliant on the Clinical Commissioning Group and its successor body, and the relevant NHS funding bodies, supporting the scheme not just verbally but financially and throughout detailed and committed engagement with the specification of the site.

AH4 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Health Centre at Diamond Place**Question**

In view of the severely inadequate accommodation for GPs and patients at the two GP surgeries in Summertown, what is the council doing to

Written Response

The City Council has heard from the local GP surgeries their clear issues with the current premises. We have reached out to the CCG through several channels over the years, including the Local Plan, and have recently had contact from them. We need the NHS to make clear their requirements for any new surgery or medical centre, and their financial commitment to it. At present

AH4 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Hollingsworth – Health Centre at Diamond Place

progress the development of a new health centre for the north of Oxford at Diamond Place?

it is probably fair to say that so far the degree of detail in terms of floor space and other building specifications that have been forthcoming has been rather limited, but as the Diamond Place site come closer to development the Council looks forward to a fuller engagement process to allow these details to be more fully developed.

AH5 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Hollingsworth – Active travel route from North Oxford to Parkway

Question

The CDC LPPR site PR6a, being brought forward by the site owners, has the opportunity to provide a key active travel route from North Oxford to Parkway station and beyond, something which clearly should have been delivered when the station opened. NCR51 crosses the A40 by the footbridge from Wren Rd to the entrance to Cutteslowe Park. There is clearly therefore a challenge in joining this route legibly and safely to routes through and/or adjacent to PR6a and the Croudace site at Frideswide Farm. Would the Cabinet Member join me in calling for this to be done in a way which provides a safe and convenient route for cyclists and at the same time respects the needs of local residents and all other stakeholders?

Written Response

Yes, and City Council officers have already raised these issues of connectivity for active transport modes with colleagues at Cherwell District Council. The specific link referred to would be a significant benefit. I particularly intend to make such a call to the County Council's cycling champion, whom I believe has a keen interest in and understanding of the issues, and hope to have his support in lobbying his County Cabinet colleagues.

Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery, and Partnerships

SB1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Brown – Vacancy rate for City Centre retail units

Question

How does the vacancy rate for retail units in the City Centre including the

Written Response

Oxford City Council's most recent vacant units audit undertaken by the City Centre Management team was in August 2021, and the picture will have changed

SB1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Brown – Vacancy rate for City Centre retail units

Covered Market compare with the situation prior to the tripling in size of the Westgate Shopping Centre?

since then. This audit assesses core city centre ground floor retail, hospitality and service providers e.g. hairdressers, barbers, beauty salons etc. including the Westgate.

It showed that since 15th September 2020, 25 businesses had either opened or announced plans to open in vacant city centre units. This includes some major national brand names. The majority (60%) were independents; just over half are retail.

The August update also showed the number of empty and available units in Oxford city centre to be 28 - 4.6% of the 604 units total. This figure includes those vacated by national brands e.g. Debenhams, Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Cath Kidston, TM Lewin, Oasis which closed the majority if not all their stores. This is below the British average. The British Retail Consortium reported the vacancy rate in Britain to be 14.5% in July 2021 (available here). The changes in retail and the impact of the pandemic have clearly had the biggest impact on the retail picture in the city centre over the last few years.

When people look around they may think the number is higher but:

- 29 units that may appear vacant were, when reviewed, listed as under offer or let awaiting occupation.
- 20 units are being refurbished or redeveloped or are part of redevelopment sites, and so are not available. For example some of these include, units within the Clarendon Centre that have been cleared ahead of redevelopment, North Bailey House (former Argos) and 1-3 George Street which are both under construction.
- 4 were in 'meanwhile' short term use.

The City Centre Management team does not hold comparable data from before the redeveloped Westgate Centre was opened in 2017.

SB2 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Brown – Support for Cave Street small businesses**Question**

What support is the Council giving small businesses forced to relocate during the development works at Cave Street?

Written Response

As set out within the November report to Cabinet tenants have already been consulted on the intention to redevelop and the requirement of the Council to achieve vacant possession. Further engagement is underway including one to one discussion with tenants. The Council will continue to work with tenants to help them source alternative accommodation during redevelopment including sourcing specialist accommodation where required. This includes both accommodation within Council premises and/ or other commercial space. It should be noted however that there are a number of similar projects being undertaken and office space within the city is limited. Tenants will be given the opportunity to return to the building once the new units are completed if they wish.

SB3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Brown – Cave Street**Question**

How many of the businesses are planning to return to Cave Street after the works are complete? How does that affect the business plan used to justify the redevelopment?

Written Response

We do not know how many businesses intend to return at this point in time. The business plan does not rely on existing businesses returning.

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To: Council

Date: 29 November 2021

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council that do not relate to matters for decision at this meeting, are below. Any available written responses provided by Cabinet Members are also included.
2. The text reproduces that sent in by the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. Their addresses are 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 Hannah Massie – Motion 23a: Becoming a trans inclusive Council
2. Address by insert Bethia Thomas – Motion 23d: speaking against the reopening of Oxford Greyhound Stadium
3. Address by Kaddy Beck – The Save Bertie Park Campaign
4. Address by Safieh Kabir on behalf of ACORN – prefabricated housing

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

1. Address by Hannah Massie – Motion 23a: Becoming a trans inclusive Council

Ladies, Gentlemen and Enbees

In 2016 some far right evangelical Christian groups declared being transgender went against their ideological beliefs and started a campaign to, and I quote from their strategy document, remove the rights of transgender folks, their access to healthcare and their ability to serve in public office; To eradicate them from society.

Using the same tactics such groups have deployed over centuries, including in Germany during the 1930's-40's, they set about pushing propaganda and misinformation through receptive mainstream media that demonised transgender folks and their allies as dangerous activists whose existence, demands and rights posed a threat to and silenced women, children and ordinary folks. They set up and funded organisations that claimed to be working for the good of particular groups but whose real purpose has been to stir up anti transgender sentiment and to split and isolate transgender folks from their support and mainstream society. They have funded expensive legal cases to challenge trans rights, access to healthcare and support from public bodies. They have claimed being transgender is a dangerous false ideology.

Now, let me make it clear. Gender is biological. Gender is neurological and gender is genetically determined. Though you may not be aware of it, each and every one of you has a unique gender identity that tells you who you are and where you belong, hardwired into your brain by your biology, by your genes. This you are born with and it is not something you can change. And your gender identities, indeed all of our identities exist across a spectrum that we, as a society, choose to divide into two, just as we do the spectrum of sex characteristics. But that division is flawed: There is no only male or female, and more enlightened societies divide differently – many into three but some up to five.

Because for some of us the gender we are assigned at birth based on our sex characteristics does not match the gender biology has given us. We are transgender. This is not an ideology. It is what we are. Biologically. It is not something we choose, nor could or would ever choose. It is not something we can be coerced into being nor cured nor converted from being. It is an extraordinarily challenging condition, that leads to frighteningly high levels of mental illness, self-harm and suicidality, and is hugely difficult and time consuming to deal with.

But does that make us a demanding dangerous threat to society? No of course not. I have two degrees, have run my own business for many years, have children who think I'm awesome and have set up, run and been involved numerous community groups over the years, including the church. My trans friends, both male, female and non-binary are lawyers, doctors, scientists, airline pilots, counsellors, academics, nurses, builders, and so on. Ordinary people who want to be able to live ordinary lives, true to themselves, just as you do. And are my rights as a woman threatened by my rights as someone who is transgender? I can tell you the answer is, unequivocally, no. And I should know.

As a small diverse community, with enough to deal with as it is, we have struggled to counter this evil and harmful campaign. So, I come here to ask for your support, because we need support and help. And that support needs to come from this chamber and chambers like this everywhere. Please educate yourselves, and help us to

challenge the claims being made against us and expose their falsehood, to call out the misinformation and those promoting it.

If you believe racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia is wrong, if you believe segregation and discrimination based skin colour, sex characteristics, disability and neuro diversity, or sexuality is wrong then I would hope you would support this motion, as there is no difference between these and transphobia, being gender critical and wanting segregation and discrimination based on biological gender. And if you think otherwise or believe the propaganda then I will leave with the words of Oliver Cromwell, 'I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, to think it possible you may be mistaken'. On behalf of all the trans folks in Oxford, thank you for your time and thank you for your support.

Verbal response to be provided by Cllr Upton, Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford

2. Address by insert Bethia Thomas – Motion 23d: speaking against the reopening of Oxford Greyhound Stadium

Thank you so much for letting me speak today. When I heard about the proposal to reopen the stadium I was rocked to my core; so then, when this opportunity came up with the motion proposed to council later this evening, I felt determined to come here and address you.

Obviously, I feel a little cheeky addressing you as I have not lived in the city for many years. When I did live here, I was not a dog owner, and having brought my dog Baz in to see you at your last meeting, I think I know why - it is probably not that easy to be a dog owner here in the city.

But being a dog lover is another thing.

I have always been told Britain is a nation of dog lovers, or, talking more generally, a nation of animal lovers. Many of us would abhor cruelty to animals in most forms but what we are talking about today is just that – cruelty.

My doggos are lovely, gentle, soppy creatures. They are both rehomed ex-racers, and while they are happy and healthy now, living the life of luxury on my sofa like your average cockapoo or labradoodle, they have not always had it that way - the journey to the sofa has been a long one, and they are the lucky ones.

You see; greyhounds seem to be special and not for a good reason. Unlike cockapoos or labradoodles, people think that if they can train greyhounds to run fast, and win races, they can make a little money from them. But when this stops what happens? After years of exploitation and deprivation, they are cast aside at the end of their 'careers'. They are worthless, and if lucky, will end up in a dog's home to eventually be rehomed. If not, well - I have heard many horrible stories of which I will not express here.

But isn't 'dog racing' regulated? Well it is. But horse racing is too, and we have all heard stories about that industry - haven't we. According to the League Against Cruel Sports; an average of nine racing greyhounds are injured each day, at least 200 greyhounds died trackside in 2020 and thousands of dogs remain kennelled even after they are retired. This is not a dog's life – it is much worse.

Greyhound racing in Oxford was a thing of the past, and the past is where it should stay. Reopening the stadium would represent a step back in time, and by supporting it you would be endorsing the legalised abuse of dogs - "man's best friend" - where even the lucky ones have to struggle to have a normal well-adjusted life after they have stopped racing. If they were another breed; the labradoodle or the cockapoo, would this be acceptable?

Now, I am not speaking to you today as a politician. As I am sure some of you know I am a county councillor and a district councillor a little further down the road. If I was to do that, coming in, telling you what to do with your land and facilities, it would be real cheek. But I am not doing that today. I am here to appeal to your sense of compassion and kindness, where all sentient living beings should be able to live a life free from financial exploitation, where dogs should just be dogs and have a comfy life on the sofa, running when they want to, and where we are not making money out of what is legalised cruelty and abuse.

Please – support the motion to oppose reopening the Oxford stadium this evening – stop greyhound racing, it is the right thing to do, and Baz would thank you if he could.

Written response provided by Cllr Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Growth, Economic Recovery and Partnerships

The council has taken a position for some years now that it wishes to maintain community use on the site of the Oxford Stadium. Oxford has great housing needs but we have always sought to ensure that housing is supported with living communities which means shops, community and leisure space within easy access of homes.

The council therefore was delighted that we were able to argue successfully at our Local Plan hearings that this site was a community asset and needed to be retained for community use. This was the end of a 15 year campaign. The community use includes a wide range of leisure uses for which it already has planning permission (planning being the only area in which the city council does have jurisdiction) such as speedway, go karts, a dance studio - as well as greyhound racing.

It is important to state that this council has NO jurisdiction on whether or not greyhound racing takes place at Oxford Stadium. The new owner of the lease would be able to do all of the things I previously mentioned, including greyhound racing, without needing planning permission. Greyhound racing is regulated not by the City Council but by the national body, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB).

People will have different personal views about greyhound racing but that is what they are – personal views. Our personal views will have no influence one way or another on whether greyhound racing returns to Oxford Stadium.

I was very pleased, as were many other people in Oxford, to see that the owner is planning to bring Speedway back to Oxford Stadium and is working hard to bring the stadium back into proper community use for the benefit of local people.

3. Address by Kaddy Beck – The Save Bertie Park Campaign

The Save Bertie Park campaign is trying to save a recreation ground in South Oxford which is threatened with development. We have no real dialogue with the council. We make our points. The council makes the same formulaic comments. The plans may or may not be altered, and the consultation can be kicked down the road.

Alex Hollingsworth says that the council has the twin goals of making sure that our children have places to play AND the hope of being able to live in Oxford.

The problem is that we are being asked to choose between precisely these two goals.

We have been told that Bertie Park has been allocated for development in local plans for years. Why would anybody judge our recreation ground to be surplus to requirements? The answer is that somebody noticed that there was a vacant site adjoining Bertie Park that was, itself, unsuitable for development. The original intention was not to destroy a recreation ground, but move it. All of the local plans have therefore included the very important proviso that planning permission will only be given if the recreation ground is re-provided on the vacant site.

It is council policy that recreation grounds should be surrounded by a buffer zone, but the current proposal is that the playground and multi use games area should be squeezed into the housing development with the MUGA under kitchen windows and not a blade of grass to be seen. The only thing that will be “moved” onto the vacant site is the green space.

The council aims to re-provide this as a nature reserve.

Our understanding is that this nature reserve will not be created from scratch. It has long had its access restricted in order to combat anti-social behaviour. So. The deal is that the council will improve access by repairing or upgrading the bridge and improving the existing path around the nature reserve.

The last time the council asked the police (unless the council manages to get them to change their advice) it was not considered safe for unaccompanied children. And we have a list of the activities that currently take place on our green space that could not take place on a nature reserve.

Alex says the current plans “strike a good balance between the demands of past, current and future generations”. Our recreation ground is a community resource which caters for young people of all ages. It is wrong to pit the needs of our young people against the housing needs of future generations.

Alex says that it would not be fair to ask other councils in Oxfordshire to allocate sites for housing, and to not do the same ourselves. We hear discussion of many possible sites for housing around the park, but all of this would make Bertie Park more, not less necessary. There is nowhere else so central, bisected by a major cycle route. When talking to Sport England, they commented on the potential of the site and said that they would have looked favourably on an application for a grant for installation of a trim trail and some extra benches. If the council builds on this land it is gone forever.

Alex has said many times that there was extensive consultation on this plan. But when they carried out their extensive consultation, which questions did they ask?

- When they asked the police whether the vacant site was appropriate for a recreation ground, the answer was no.
- Did they ask if we wanted a new housing development squeezed into our recreation ground? This was never even in the plan!

Alex has also said “I don’t see how not building any affordable homes at all does anything but make the existing problem worse”. We are not asking the council to stop

building homes. We would like the council to build its way out of Oxford's housing shortage by building the right homes in the right places.

Bertie park just is not, and never was, the right place.

Written response provided by Cllr Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery

This site has been allocated for development in successive Local Plans dating back nearly 20 years. The process of making that allocation involved assessment of the site and repeated rounds of public consultation. The current detailed design for the development has already been subject to consultation and further rounds of consultation will happen as the scheme moves into the formal planning application process.

The address uses my words extensively and with familiarity, and profoundly disagrees with them. I on the other hand continue to stand by them absolutely.

4. Address by Safieh Kabir on behalf of ACORN – prefabricated housing

The post-war prefabricated houses are testament to the dream of post war council housing, both the good and the bad. The prefabs were positive as a mass council housing project in their time, but they were only ever meant to be temporary. Currently the houses leak heat and let in cold drafts through thin walls, misfitting windows and doors. Residents are shelling out large amounts of precious income on heating bills during a national energy crisis. Walls and ceilings are structurally unsound, meaning small changes can result in breakages, or issues like boiler leaks can mean a ceiling caves in. Residents chase repairs with long delays, emailing and calling on either side of intensive work-days and childcare responsibilities – often without response for months.

Working class people built those houses, built this city and keep it going day to day. Working class people deserve to live in safety, comfort and dignity: to know that home is a place worth living in. Residents of these houses have come together through our community union, ACORN, and have a vision and demands of what our homes and estates should look like. This is an opportunity to reshape the city according to the needs of those whom it belongs to. Through this community vision, we can begin to take climate action that serves working class people rather than bypassing us.

Rather than them getting demolished, these houses should be renovated and retrofitted to be among the best quality homes in Oxford. We propose that the Howard Houses receive investment to become a landmark of housing. We need to make good on the promise of post-WWII housing and repair them to the best condition possible, and give them top of the line retrofitting.

Will the Council commit to a programme of retrofitting and repairing these houses according to the priorities of the residents they serve? Will the Council ensure adequate support to working class inhabitants of these poorly insulated houses through a cold winter?

Written response provided by Cllr Blackings, Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless

The Council fully recognises the need for investment in its housing stock to ensure that it provides good quality accommodation for current and future residents. The Council has allocated a significant budget supplemented by bids for Government funding to support the retrofit of property which will reduce energy bills for tenants as well as deliver on the City's carbon reduction pledges. The Council has set a target of having all of its' stock at an EPC rating of C and above by 2030 and has started a programme of improvements during 21/22 starting with worst first in terms of energy performance. The Council is working on pulling together a long term programme for all of its property types including system built ones like Howards. The Council is committed to working with and engaging with residents and representative groups such as Acorn as it draws up its plans.

To: Council
Date: November 2021
Report of: Chief Executive
Title of Report: The Oxford Strategic Partnership

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To note the annual update on the Oxford Strategic Partnership
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member with responsibility:	Councillor Brown, Leader
Corporate Priority:	All Council Strategy priorities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation(s): That Council resolves to:	
1. Note the annual update report on the work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership.	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	OSP Membership
Appendix 2	Terms of Reference

Introduction and background

1. The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) was founded in 2003 and brings together senior representatives within Oxford from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors. The OSP helps to provide strategic input to help inform decision-making for the city's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns. This partnership for the city promotes collaboration and openness and provides opportunities to access funding and share resources more easily.
2. The OSP is an influencer, not an operational entity. It brings organisations together to work in partnership, identifying strategic city challenges that will benefit from collaboration, and prioritising them based on where the partnership can add most value. Its remit is determined by its chair with input from its members.

OSP Vision

3. The OSP seeks to facilitate, through effective collaboration between local agencies and partners, a thriving city and surrounding area where everyone enjoys a good quality of life - environmentally, economically and socially, and where long standing inequalities are addressed.

OSP Aims

4. The OSP's aims are;
 - a. identify current major issues and concerns that will benefit from collective intervention
 - b. Identify and engage relevant partners, and facilitate their working together to develop and implement collaborative interventions
 - c. Empower partners and communities to take action
 - d. Evaluate outcomes to inform future issues and concerns

OSP Steering Group

5. OSP Steering group members are drawn from the statutory services (Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Health and Police), businesses, universities and colleges and community groups. A list of members is set out in Appendix 1
6. Baroness Royall (Jan Royall) Principal of Somerville College, Oxford, took on the role of Chair in October 2018. Jan stepped down in July 2021 and the post is currently vacant but being actively recruited to. Caroline Green is the interim Chair.

OSP Sub-Groups

7. Since its inception in 2003 the OSP's emphasis on different themes varies over time, guided by the Chair and the interests of members. To support its breadth of focus, it established four sub-groups working on: Economic Growth and Regeneration; Stronger Communities; Low Carbon City; and Safer Communities. All of these have been active over the past year.

Economic Growth Steering Board (EGSB) sub-group

- A city region focus to deliver the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan and feed into, and support, the OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) SEP (Strategic Economic Plan) and Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) delivery. Chaired by Peter Nolan, Chairman of OcQuila Therapeutics Ltd.
- Continue to drive and co-ordinate business engagement through the EGSB's business engagement framework.

Stronger Communities sub-group

- Brings together key organisations that contribute towards the development of stronger communities through addressing inequality and poverty, and increasingly focuses on issues of Health and Wellbeing. Chaired by David Munday, Consultant in Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council

Low Carbon Oxford sub-group

- This sub-group is being transitioned to the new Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership <https://zerocarbonoxford.com/> that was launched following the Zero Carbon Oxford Summit in February 2021. It is chaired by Cllr Tom Hayes, Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford.

Safer Communities sub-group

- Led by the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) that was established in 1998 it works to address local community safety concerns and ensure that all partners tackle those crimes that affect our community. Chaired by Superintendent Bruce Riddell, Commander for the Oxford Local Policing Area.

Activity and achievements over last 12 months:

Economic Growth Steering Board -

8. This group provided guidance and oversight for the development of a new Oxford Economic Strategy now out for consultation (November 2021). The strategy, which has been in preparation since before the COVID pandemic, has been adjusted to ensure alignment with the Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan, which is coordinated by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership
9. There has also been continued focus on promotion of the Oxford Living Wage with a more than doubling of the number of certified employers in the city - from 20 to 55 - paying their employees over £10 per hour.

Stronger Communities

10. The main focus of the sub-group has been the work delivered by the County's Health & Wellbeing Partnerships (H&WBP). There are 5 localities which have an H&WB partnership in some format. These are Barton, Rose Hill, Wood Farm, the Leys (includes both Blackbird Leys and Greater Leys (Northfield Brook)) and Littlemore. Northway doesn't have a H&WB Partnership, but has a Community Partnership and H&WB is part of the agenda. The partnerships are focused on specific wards, whereas the Council's Locality Hub delivery model works across ward boundaries.
11. In 2021 the sub-group undertook a review of the various partnerships across the localities to align with the City Council's continuation of the Hub model across the localities, set up originally as a response to COVID. The sub-group has met with each Hub lead and there has also been consultation with members of the Health & Wellbeing partnerships and the Community Partnerships as to how they prefer the structure of the partnerships ongoing;
 - Barton: will continue with separate H&WB and Community partnership groups
 - Rose Hill: the H&WB partnership now includes the Community partnership and there is a separate resident led Community Network-,
 - Wood Farm: will continue with 2 separate groups,
 - The Leys- the H&WB partnership members have expressed a preference to remain as a separate group. The Community partnership members are being consulted.
 - Littlemore: this was 2 groups, but H&WB is now incorporated in the Community Partnership. The group is currently planning to increase partner membership and develop H&WB priorities
12. Each partnership has identified the H&WB priorities to take forward within their area. These are based on the data that we have for certain health indicators, but also on local stakeholder insight of opportunities, issues and needs. The partnerships work

on an asset-based approach, building on what's happening in the area and collectively adding value. The partnerships are each currently taking 2 priorities and setting up task and finish sub groups with members volunteering to participate in the sub groups in order to take forward some identified actions.

Low Carbon Oxford / Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership

13. The Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership (ZCOP) was launched in February 2021 and brings together universities, hospitals, councils, and large businesses and third sector organisations to support the city in its journey to net zero carbon emissions. ZCOP partners have signed the Zero Carbon Oxford charter which commits to working collaboratively with the ambition of achieving a net zero Oxford by 2040.
14. A Zero Carbon Oxford Roadmap and Action Plan was commissioned from the Carbon Trust which forms a science-based report, approved by the partnership, which outlines the actions required for the decarbonisation of commercial and residential buildings, industry and transport to enable Oxford to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040, ten years ahead of the UK's Government's legal targets.
15. Following the timelines identified in the science-based roadmap it is predicted that by 2040, action will have reduced Oxford's carbon emissions by 88% from 2018 levels. If any residual emissions remain in 2040, they would be offset to meet the net zero target.
16. The roadmap outlines key milestones for each sector and maps a timeline of 'what needs to happen, and by when' for Oxford to stay on-track to achieve net-zero by 2040.
17. The Strategic Net-Zero Roadmap diagram below looks at the city's emissions as a whole. There are five subsequent roadmaps which divide the city's emissions into sectors, in line with guidance from the Government Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy. Those sectors are: Domestic, Commercial, Industrial, Institutional, and Transport.

Safer Communities

18. The Safer Communities sub-group has been focused primarily on the response to the COVID pandemic, enforcement of lockdown restrictions while these were in place and then subsequently, providing support and assurance to businesses and communities around adaptation to the lifting of those restrictions.
19. In particular Thames Valley Police has reported a significant increase in violent crime - including knife crime - over recent months. Police intelligence points to many being linked to drugs gang-related activities, many involving young people. As a result, the Oxford Police Commander authorised additional stop and search powers in the city on a number of occasions. The Police has also run knife amnesties as part of Operation Sceptre.

Current OSP theme - Inclusive Economy

20. The former chair of the OSP, Baroness Royall introduced an overarching theme for the OSP focused on achieving a more inclusive economy which the partnership has developed and promoted over the past few years through a number of work streams.
21. The OSP hosted an [Inclusive Economy Seminar Series](#) across autumn 2019 – spring 2020, with the support of the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

(OxLEP). While the COVID pandemic created a hiatus in the work being taken forwards, a report was published with findings and recommended actions from the seminar (report is [here](#)) and a report was taken to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (formerly Oxfordshire Growth Board) to consider next steps. As a result a new Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership was established in March 2021. This is a countywide partnership of over 100 organisations from the public, private and community & voluntary sectors which have come together to develop an inclusive economy agenda countywide. It is co-chaired by Baroness Royall and Jeremy Long, Chair of OxLEP, and is supported by Clayton Lavallin, Principal Regeneration & Economic Development Officer with oversight from Future Oxfordshire Partnership (Formerly the Oxfordshire Growth Board).

22. The partnership has developed an Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter and Pledge scheme to mobilise awareness and action on an inclusive economy alongside the formation of a series of interrelated inclusive economy projects all aligned within a wider programme working to achieve the shared outcome of embedding a countywide Oxfordshire inclusive economy initiative through 4x working groups:

The 4 working groups are led by the following representatives:

- **Educational Attainment**, led by Jeremy Long of OxLEP and Bernard Grenville-Jones of Activate College, focusing on attainment of GCSE English and Maths as this can create a barrier to moving forward into the next level (Level 3) of skills development.
- **Social value and procurement**, led by Rick Mower of RAW Workshop and Grant Hayward of OSEP focusing on spending money locally, initially from public sector organisations like our councils and our universities, to put money back into the local economy and creates opportunities for local businesses – we are looking at how we can grow the amount of money that is spent within our county, for our county. We are also looking at how the businesses that benefit from this are investing into our local communities, through jobs, training or improving our environment.
- **Place based initiatives**, led by Rosie Rowe of Public Health Oxfordshire County Council and Sara Fernandez of Oxford Hub and focusing on targeted investments into the areas of the county that need it most. The group feels that communities need to be part of our work to ensure that money spent in our county helps address some of our biggest challenges – health, environment, housing – we need to ensure that we can answer the questions of- what are the benefits that can be created for local people? How are the benefits of development shared locally?
- **Inclusive Employers**, led by Mark Beard of Beard Construction and Phil Southall of Oxford Bus Company Working with employers to be accessible and inclusive. How companies recruit, looking at what's in it for employees? How can we help people to understand the opportunities and how can we prepare them for work? Confidence and skills. Matching people to employment through: Apprenticeships, Work placements and work on Recruitment policies within companies.

23. The Partnership is proposing to become a work stream of the **Future Oxfordshire Partnership** and the timeline of the Partnership is to launch the Educational Attainment and Social value and procurement working groups in 2021, followed by the Place based initiatives, Inclusive Employers and the formal launch of the Charter and Pledge Scheme in 2022.

Current OSP theme – educational attainment gap

24. Linked to its focus on establishing a more inclusive economy, the OSP has also been focused on the issue of the significant gap in educational attainment experienced among disadvantaged households in the city. In October 2020, the OSP held an Oxford [Education Summit](#), which involved over 40 senior representatives involved in education in Oxfordshire at a local, regional and indeed national level. It considered how to add value to educational attainment work across the city and set out a number of actions and work streams.

25. Educational attainment challenges in Oxford includes;

- Underperformance, with some of the city's schools rated as inadequate - despite the improving trend in overall education standards in Oxfordshire over the past three years.
- Growing attainment gap among disadvantaged children – those in receipt of free school meals, those with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and Black Asian and minority ethnic children. With the closure of schools for several months due to COVID19 there is some evidence that this will have further widened the attainment gap and the need for action more pressing.
- An increasingly centralised education system, accountability is fragmented and remote. Oxfordshire County Council, the local education authority, has stepped in to offer more support to struggling schools in the city, but it has neither the authority nor the means to make significant interventions in academy trust schools, which most state schools in Oxford are.

26. Those involved in the Education Summit included Oxfordshire County Council education officers, Anne-Marie Canning, Chair Bradford Education Opportunity Area, Dame Kate Dethridge, Regional Schools Commissioner, MAT leaders and head teachers, and other senior people involved in the universities, further education, skills and apprenticeships, and early years settings.

27. At the summit the following actions were discussed:

1. Develop a lobby for an Education Opportunity Area in the city
2. Look at learnings from Bradford and other Opportunity Areas to see if there are measures that could be run anyway
3. Extended the programme of computers for schools and wider community
4. Improve the Oxford University Access programme – through wider promotion, linking with Trinity College; and extend the Somerville College/New College initiatives to twin with schools and children in the city
5. Expand skills training and mentoring for teaching staff and seek to pool expertise across Oxford Brookes, Oxford University, Oxfordshire Teaching Schools and Oxfordshire County Council. With potential to create a bigger funding pot to help meet costs of backfill in schools.

6. Expand involvement in Community Impact Zone in east of the city
 7. Set up a working group comprising a manageable number, and of the most effective participants to map more of what is going on, but then looking at how to better communicate this, and tackle whatever emerges as critical gaps.
28. Some of the above actions – 2, 3, 4 and 7 – have already been implemented. The last of these has seen the creation of a sub-group of the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership, the OIEP Educational Attainment Working Group to ensure a longer term strategic approach to narrowing the attainment and skills gaps that remain within the city among disadvantaged households. It is co-chaired by Jeremy Long and Bernard Grenville-Jones, Executive Director, Activate Learning.
29. The OIEP Educational Attainment Working Group’s remit is to pursue *‘more targeted investment in better educational attainment, skills-based training, and access to jobs in the new economy’* – talent development and the ability to empower local residents to gain the skills needed to compete and access new forms of employment are critical to opening up opportunities. This should include support at every stage of learning, including early education interventions, with an effective pathway into employment requires a more dynamic skills and education system with more engaged business leadership. There is a challenge to develop awareness of opportunities in new sectors for young people – whether that be technology or services, and targeted initiatives to help people excluded from the workforce to overcome barriers to jobs are being considered.
30. The OIEP Educational Attainment Working Group is working on the following potential priorities:
- Close literacy and numeracy gap in early years
 - Use evidence and research to remove barriers to learning
 - Close the aspiration gap
 - Close attainment gaps in schools - every 16 year old should be level 3 ready
31. The OSP will consider how it can continue to support the work of the OIEP and the Educational Attainment Working Group.

Other OSP activities

32. Other areas covered by the OSP over the last 12 months include:
- Input into the development of the Economic Development Strategy and City Centre Action Plan
 - Input into the Covid recovery plan for the city
 - Review of the Thames Valley Police action to tackle crime in Oxford

Resources

33. The work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group is supported by the Policy & Partnerships Team.
34. The four sub-groups are supported by a Champion and City Council Officer as shown below.

- Economic Growth and Regeneration Champion Cllr Susan Brown, Oxford City Council. City Council Officer Lead Matt Peachey, Economic Development
- Safer Communities Champion Superintendent Bruce Riddell, Thames Valley Police. City Council Officer Lead, Richard Adams, Community Safety
- Stronger Communities Champion David Munday, Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council. City Council Officer Lead Dani Granito, Policy and Partnership Team Manager
- Low Carbon City Champion Cllr Tom Hayes, Oxford City Council. City Council Officer Lead Mish Tullar, Head of Strategy (Environmental Sustainability)

Financial implications

35. The OSP is funded by Oxford City Council.

Legal issues

36. There are no legal implications.

Level of risk

37. Not applicable.

Equalities impact

38. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not applicable. However, the structure and membership of the OSP reflects a common commitment among participating organisations to equality. And the areas of focus of the OSP are very much focused on tackling inequality and building inclusivity.

Conclusion

39. Over the past three years under Baroness Royall’s chair, the Oxford Strategic Partnership has been energetic in working to reduce inequalities in the city and has created important new bodies to take forward work at countywide level on a more inclusive economy and on narrowing the educational attainment gap. A new Chair is being sought to take forward the OSP with a refreshed agenda and an active programme of work in the new year. It is intended the OSP should continue to provide an important focus for the City Council’s strategic work with statutory, private and third-sector partners.

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Background Papers: None

Appendix 1 - Current OSP Members

Caroline Green, Chief Executive, Oxford City Council (Acting Chair)

Gillian Aitken, Registrar, University of Oxford

Cllr Susan Brown, Leader, Oxford City Council

Sharon Barrington, Programme Manager Planned Care, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Rebecca Cullen, Director of Strategy, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Ian Green, Chairman, Oxford Civic Society

Brendan Hattam, General Manager of Westgate and Castle Quarter, Land Securities

Lydia Igweh, Director of Enterprise Support, Oxford Brookes University

Jeremy Long, Chair, OxLEP

Tom McCulloch/Emily Lewis-Edwards, Co-director, Community First Oxfordshire

David Munday, Consultant in Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council

Frank Nigriello, Director of Corporate Affairs, Unipart Group

Peter Nolan, Chairman of OcQuila Therapeutics Ltd

Cllr Glynis Phillips, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Oxfordshire County Council

Superintendent Bruce Riddell, Area Commander, Thames Valley Police

Phil Southall, Managing Director, Oxford Bus Company

Claire Taylor, Corporate Director Customers and Organisational Development, Oxfordshire County Council

Richard Venables, Director, VSL and Partners

Stuart Wilkinson, Head, Knowledge Exchange and Impact Team, The University of Oxford

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Oxford Strategic Partnership Terms of Reference

What is the Oxford Strategic Partnership?

The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) was founded in 2003 and brings together senior representatives from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors. The OSP helps to provide direction for the city's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns. This partnership for the city promotes collaboration and openness and provides opportunities to access funding and share resources more easily.

The OSP is an influencer, not an operational organisation. It brings organisations together to work in partnership, identifying strategic city challenges that will benefit from collaboration, and prioritising them based on where the partnership can add most value.

OSP Vision and Mission

The OSP seeks to facilitate, through effective collaboration between local agencies and partners, a thriving city and surrounding area where everyone enjoys a good quality of life - environmentally, economically and socially, and where long standing inequalities are addressed.

OSP Aims

- Identify current major issues and concerns that will benefit from collective intervention
- Identify and engage relevant partners, and facilitate their working together to develop and implement collaborative interventions
- Empower partners and communities to take action
- Evaluate outcomes to inform future issues and concerns

How the OSP will achieve its aims

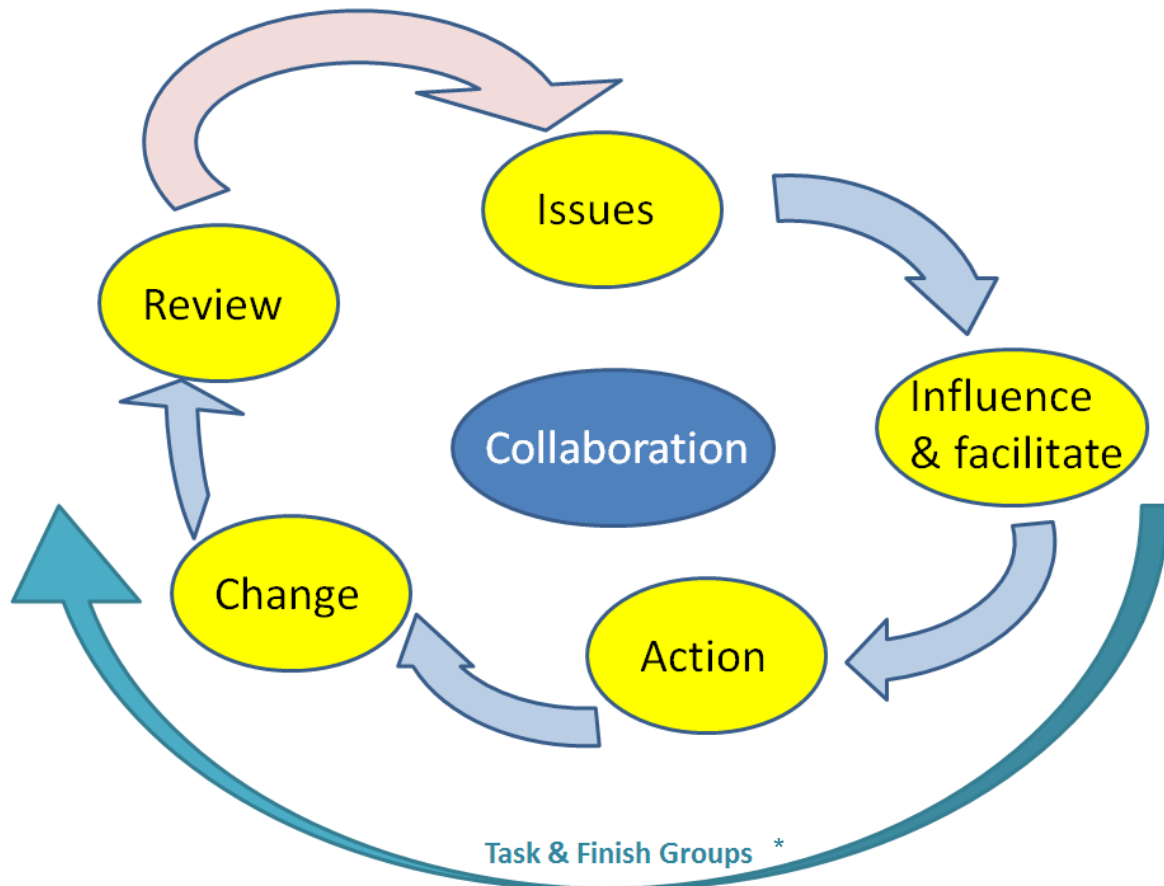
At the heart of the Partnership is the concept, and the reality, of collaboration.

Around this, the Partnership will operate a cyclical process where the OSP:

- (i) highlights issues it has identified to a wider audience
- (ii) exerts influence to facilitate change through collaboration
- (iii) prompts actions as a result of (ii)
- (iv) reviews outcomes of changes made and progress against original objectives

Through this model the OSP will aim to ensure that the right issues are prioritised and that actions taken are results-oriented.

The following diagram summarises the approach.



* Task and Finish Groups would be led by an appropriate person / organisation, with the knowledge, expertise and networks to make things happen. This may be through the public sector, linked directly to an existing area of responsibility and work, or through the private sector, linked to an area of expertise and/or interest. (See Appendix C)

Steering Group

In this context, the OSP works through a series of meetings, with Partnership members represented around the table. This 'Steering Group' gives direction and supports key work streams, by making decisions on priorities and determining where and how to influence/facilitate allocation of resources and specific areas of work.

The role of the Steering Group is to:

- steer the direction of OSP, ensuring that a strategic approach is taken to focusing attention and resources on areas of concern;

- identify and agree priorities, informed by the ability of the partnership, through its influence, to make a tangible difference;
- set objectives for specific areas of work;
- maintain oversight of the work of the sub-groups responsible for the strategic themes (see Appendix B), and receive regular reports on progress, outcomes and challenges;
- establish Task and Finish Groups (see Appendix C) to undertake specific projects within agreed (short-medium term) timescales;
- recruit the right people from within relevant organisations to be members of the Task and Finish Groups;
- review outcomes and assess impact;
- develop a rolling 3-year plan, clearly articulating OSP priorities;
- review and revise the plan on an annual basis;
- raise the visibility of the work of OSP, highlighting progress and outcomes, in order to facilitate and deliver wider engagement.

In support of these specific tasks, the Steering Group will:

- develop and promote open and accountable partnership working with a city-wide perspective, encompassing the city of Oxford and its environs;
- ensure relevant links to county-wide thematic partnerships and other groups;
- promote an inclusive approach which benefits all citizens, residents, and workers; addressing inequalities of access and outcomes;
- apply the principles of sustainability, and the need to balance environmental, social and economic concerns, to achieve long-term improvements in quality of life.

The Steering Group has adopted a set of principles - based on the Nolan principles for public life - to guide its actions, and promote public confidence in its actions. These are shown in Appendix A.

Steering Group meetings

There will be six meetings per year, one of which will be the longer Annual Planning and Review meeting. Operational arrangements are outlined in Appendix E.

Role of Steering Group members

- To act as champions for the work of OSP, including the four strategic themes, specific priority areas, and the work of the Task and Finish groups.
- To provide senior level representation of their organisation on the Partnership.
- To ensure implementation/delivery of partnership priorities, where appropriate, within and through their organisation.

- To represent and promote the wider interests of the city at a county, regional, national, and international level.
- To exert influence across a range of organisations and sectors to shape resource planning and deliver agreed outcomes in partnership with the community.
- To provide a co-ordinated route for channelling new funding and development opportunities into the city.

Membership of the OSP

Organisations in the Partnership are key players in the Oxford community.

Partner organisations will have a representative on the Steering Group. In the case of councils, there will be two members – a councillor and an officer. In addition, given that the focus of the Partnership is on the City of Oxford, the leader of the opposition at Oxford City Council will be invited to attend as an observer – welcome to contribute to the debate, but not holding a vote on the rare occasions that voting may be necessary.

Representatives will be sufficiently senior to represent their organisation’s views, to contribute to decisions, to make commitments, and to secure engagement of their organisation as appropriate. Most importantly, they will be sufficiently senior to influence and guide their organisation’s actions to support OSP objectives.

Each partner organisation will identify a single person to be their lead representative, reflecting the requirements above. It is expected that this person will attend most meetings. However, where attendance is not possible, or where a senior colleague may be better placed to contribute to a specific agenda, they may choose to send an appropriately qualified alternate.

In addition, members can invite additional guests from their organisation for specific agenda items, where this will add value to the discussion.

Criteria for membership

All partner organisations are selected on the basis of their being able to contribute directly to delivery of OSP’s vision and mission, and achievement of its aims.

Partner organisations will come from three categories and meet the following criteria:

- Public sector:
 - Statutory body with responsibility for things impacting on the quality of life in Oxford
- Private sector:

- Located in Oxford
- Having a significant impact on the City and/or its environs
- Having networking and influencing capacity
- Representative organisations (including community and voluntary sectors):
 - Wide reach – i.e. representing many organisations/individuals
 - A focus on issues directly impacting on the City and its environs
 - An Oxford base

The Chair of OSP will be selected from the organisations that have membership. Tenure will normally be for 3 years, and it is expected that this role will move around the organisations in the Partnership.

A Deputy Chair will be selected on the same principles, also with a 3-year tenure. Ideally the chair and deputy chair will not change at the same time – i.e. their start dates will be staggered – to facilitate effective handover and continuity.

A list of members is given at Appendix D.

Oxford Strategic Partnership Guiding Principles

The Partnership Steering Group have adopted a set of principles - based on the Nolan principles for public life - to guide its actions, and promote public confidence in its actions.

These principles apply to all partners when acting on behalf of the Partnership or while on Partnership business.

- 1. Selflessness.** Partners should take decisions and serve only in the public interest and not for private gain.
- 2. Integrity & Honesty.** Partners should not place themselves in any situation where their integrity may be questioned, or place themselves under improper influence in the course of their duties. This includes the declaration of relevant private interests.
- 3. Objectivity.** Partners should make decisions based solely on merit.
- 4. Accountability.** Partners should be accountable to the public for their actions, decisions, and the manner in which they carry out their partnership duties. They should co-operate fully with any scrutiny appropriate to their role in the Partnership.
- 5. Transparency & Accessibility.** Partners will ensure that information relating to their work with the Partnership is available to the public, and will work to make this information as accessible as possible.
- 6. Openness & Personal Judgement.** Partners should be prepared to be as open as possible whilst taking into account the wider public interest. They should also have the freedom to make and justify personal judgements based on available evidence.
- 7. Respect & Equality.** Partners should actively promote equality and act in a non-discriminatory manner.
- 8. Stewardship.** Partners should nurture and promote the successful development of the Partnership, ensuring that it applies its resources appropriately and operates in accordance with the law.
- 9. Leadership.** Partners should promote and support these principles by example, and act in a way that preserves public confidence.

OSP Strategic Themes

Since its inception in 2003 the OSP has established four sub-groups working on: Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration; Stronger Communities; Low Carbon City; and Safer Communities

As a result of the OSP Review in 2017, it was agreed that these four existing priority work areas are all still relevant, and should be consolidated as 'business as usual'.

Economic Development, Growth and Regeneration

The OSP's Economic Growth Steering Group (EGSG) leads on:

- city region focus to deliver the Oxford Economic Growth Strategy Action Plan and feed into, and support, the OxLEP (Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership) SEP (Strategic Economic Plan) delivery
- oversee and support the work of Smart Oxford
- continue to drive and co-ordinate business engagement through the EGSG's business engagement framework.

Stronger Communities

The Stronger Communities Steering Group brings together key organisations that contribute towards the development of stronger communities through addressing inequality and poverty, and increasingly focuses on issues of Health and Wellbeing.

Low Carbon City – being taken forward by Low Carbon Oxford.

Low Carbon Oxford is a network of organisations with a shared vision of Oxford as a low carbon city. Over 40 diverse organisations are working together to achieve the city's very ambitious target of reducing emissions in Oxford by 40% by 2020.

Safer Communities – being taken forward by Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP)

Oxford Safer Communities Partnership (OSCP) was established in 1998 and works to address local community safety concerns and ensure that all partners tackle those crimes that affect our community.

OSP maintains oversight of these themes through regular reporting to OSP meetings. This ensures that the OSP can give a strategic steer, identify areas of common interest and initiate further collaboration, as appropriate, whilst also giving the theme leads the ability to flag concerns and identify blocks to progress which the OSP may be able to address.

Each theme reports to the Partnership twice per year, using a short template designed to focus on the key issues of progress and challenge. This:

- keeps the Steering Group updated on their work;
- enables opportunities for collaboration between the themes to be identified;
- provides the opportunity to consider potential areas for Task and Finish Group projects;
- highlights challenges that could be addressed by the Steering Group to unblock barriers and/or facilitate greater progress; and
- enables the Steering Group to champion the work of priority areas to a wider audience at key points in time.

Task and Finish Groups

From January 2018 the Partnership uses a “task and finish” philosophy to research and identify solutions to key challenges (issues).

This way of working provides the catalyst to take the circle from influence to review (see diagram on page 2).

The Task and Finish Groups bring together appropriate individuals, with the knowledge and passion to engage the right partners in pursuit of creative solutions.

The Task and Finish groups ensure that there is follow up, by taking responsibility for identifying and reviewing outcomes. This in turn contributes to an updated understanding of the situation and, in some instances, may lead to new or related issues being identified for inclusion in the list of issues being considered for future work – thus feeding back in to the OSP’s rolling programme.

Modus operandi

The main challenge is producing an exact definition of the problem to be addressed, and this process can take some time. However, that investment of time is valuable because, once the definition is understood, work can proceed quickly.

For any particular project, the right people have to be identified as members of the Group. These may come from within OSP partner organisations or from organisations sitting outside the Partnership. The key thing in making the model effective is to engage the right people with the right knowledge and skills.

Each T&F Group will determine its own working arrangements, with a clear project end date and regular reporting to the Partnership.

Regardless of who chairs the Group, its connection to the Partnership will usually be assured through an existing OSP Steering Group member, who will maintain regular contact.

Oxford Strategic Partnership Steering Group meetings

There will be four meetings per year, one of which may be extended for annual planning and review or arranged separately.

Regular quarterly meetings will operate as follows:

- 10:30 – 13:00. Refreshments from 10:15 and with a light lunch until 13:30.
- 2 major agenda items
- Bi-annual updates from the 4 strategic themes – based on a template, with the objectives of monitoring progress, addressing issues and identifying areas of commonality in order to deliver the benefits of collaboration. 1/2 themes may be requested to present their update depending on interest from the partnership.
- Reports from Task and Finish Groups, as appropriate. At key points, including conclusion, these may form one of the two major agenda items.

Annual planning and review meeting (to be confirmed):

- Purpose: to produce the first formal 3-year plan
- Annual Planning and Review meeting in November each year
Purpose: to review progress and outcomes; refresh priorities; and revise the 3-year plan accordingly
- 9.30 – 2.00pm, with morning and lunch breaks

Location:

Meetings will normally be hosted by member organisations on their premises, and it is incumbent upon members to be proactive in offering to lead on this. When an alternative 'partner venue' cannot be arranged, Oxford Town Hall will be used.

To: Council

Date: 29 November 2021

Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Title of Report: Scrutiny briefing to Council

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To update Council on the activities of the Scrutiny function
Corporate Priority:	All
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation:	That Council resolves to note the update report.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Table of Cabinet responses to Scrutiny recommendations from the reporting period.

Introduction

1. Owing to the delivery of the Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21 at the last Council meeting, no update was provided from Scrutiny to October Council. As such, this report is relatively lengthy, covering the period from 14 July 2021 to 19 November 2021.

Scrutiny Committee

2. Since the last Scrutiny update to Council the Scrutiny Committee has met three times, on 08 September, 05 October and 02 November 2021. In addition, Scrutiny's meeting of 14 July was not included in the previous report owing to its proximity to the Council meeting, meaning it too is reported on below:

14 July

3. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:

- Oxfordshire Plan Consultation (no recommendations)
 - Electric Vehicle Strategy (four recommendations, one agreed, three not agreed)
4. The Oxfordshire Plan is a document which sets out a vision and planning framework for the County for the period until 2050, but crucially does not stray into determining areas that fall within each district's Local Plan. As the document was being considered by multiple Councils near-simultaneously, scope did not exist for Scrutiny to make recommendation to Cabinet for changes. Instead, valuable discussion was held with Scrutiny able to raise its questions, issues and concerns for awareness by officers and members leading the project for when suitable opportunities to address them might arise. The primary topics considered included traveller sites, green belt access, play spaces, jobs paying sufficiently for people to afford new houses, and the benefits of 'blue spaces'.
 5. The report considered by Scrutiny regarding the Electric Vehicle (EV) Strategy was primarily concerned with the commissioning of an EV Strategy, rather than the strategy itself. Consequently, the Committee raised fairly far-reaching issues concerning how it would wish to see journey numbers reduced, and those journeys made being by electric vehicles, not petrol or diesel. Issues raised by Scrutiny included the degree of commitment by the Council to Connecting Oxford, and seeking that the Council's ethical investment principles were extended to cover different aspects of the EV Strategy. These recommendations were not deemed appropriate by Cabinet, with the latter being suggested as better dealt with under the forthcoming changes to the Council's procurement policy. Scrutiny's recommendation that there should be preparation for the impact of the anticipated success of the EV Strategy on other transport-related strategies, such as the Zero Emissions Zone, was agreed.

08 September

6. Three substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Urban Forest Strategy (three recommendations, two agreed and one in part)
 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme (no recommendations)
 - Tourism Management Review Group Update (report delayed)
7. General support for the Council's aims to extend tree cover within the City through its Urban Forest Strategy was strengthened by confirmation within the report that there is a strong inverse correlation between tree cover and affluence across the City. News that the Council would not be seeking to address this issue unilaterally, and its recognition of the need for a 'right tree, right place' policy was also welcomed. The areas of Scrutiny's recommendations were twofold. Firstly, trying to ensure that there were not unwanted interactions between this policy and other policies, such as the emerging electric vehicle strategy. There was concern that demand for off-street charging points might make gardens liable to be made into driveways. This was accepted in part by Cabinet, who recognised the trade-offs associated with decarbonisation, but also referenced the list of mitigations that would prevent this situation being realised. The other key area for recommendations was concerning the fact that the public have strong views on trees, both positive and negative. As a consequence, it would be necessary to

prioritise consultation to deliver 'the right tree in the right place'. Likewise, when there were issues, elected members were unsure who to approach to get the issue dealt with, so the Council should make available this information to members. Both suggestions were accepted by Cabinet.

8. Recognising that the Council Tax Reduction Scheme report was only a consultation and not settled proposals, a lot of the Committee's focus of discussion was on how the consultation itself was being delivered and how different groups would access it. A number of the consultation questions were also queried for clarity. Overall, however, the Committee was very supportive of the work undertaken by the Revenues and Benefits team, and made no recommendations.
9. Owing to an oversight the Tourism Management Review Group Update report has not been officially responded to by Cabinet and will be reported on at the next Scrutiny update to Council.

05 October

10. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Air Quality Status Report (report delayed)
 - Development of Land at South Oxfordshire Science Village (four recommendations, all agreed)
11. Although the Air Quality Status report was heard in October and the report to Cabinet signed off by the Committee in November, the relevant Cabinet member was not available to make a response at the meeting. It was decided, therefore, to delay submission to Cabinet until December. Consequently, this item will be reported on in the next update to Council.
12. The report concerning the Development of Land at South Oxfordshire Science Village was held in confidential session, meaning many of the details of the discussion are withheld. However, the Committee did make four recommendations which were not commercially sensitive. These recommendations, all agreed by Cabinet stressed the need to advance environmental concerns as far as possible without undermining other project aims, and the need to plan for higher environmental standards, to ensure social value is maximised in the building of the development, and minor amendments over delegation arrangements.

02 November

13. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Anti-social Behaviour Policy (two multi-part recommendations, of which all elements agreed)
 - East Oxford Community Centre (four recommendations, three agreed and one agreed in part)
14. Anti-social behaviour is an issue not recently considered by Scrutiny, but one which has serious impacts for residents who encounter it. The three-yearly refresh of the policy, therefore, was welcomed by the Committee as an opportunity to scrutinise it in detail. In its consideration, the Committee recognised that the proposed policy

and procedure played a balanced, positive and humane role for all residents who had involvement with ASB, whether as victims or perpetrators. Its recommendations focused on amendments to the policy and procedure document, identifying areas where the Council delivers to higher standards than it suggests in the documentation (the removal of racist graffiti within 24 hours being a good example), and identifying possible areas of difficulty or challenge such as invasive evidence gathering; the negative consequences of eviction; and the particular challenges faced by those with complex mental health issues.

15. Divergent and strongly-held views by different stakeholders have required lengthy consultation and negotiation to bring a suitable plan forward for the East Oxford Community Centre. Given the diversity of opinion amongst members of the public the proposals had been of interest to Scrutiny for a long time. The opportunity to explore and share its views were therefore valued. In addition to discussion around stakeholder management, plans for supporting existing users during the development, and how the Council aimed to ensure it would become a community hub when reopened, the main concerns of the Committee were over sustainability and governance. The Committee made two recommendations concerning the first of these, suggesting that the cost-effectiveness of the carbon-reduction measures employed on the community centre should be monitored and evaluated, and that waste materials should be recycled as much as possible. Cabinet agreed with the first, and partially agreed to the second, noting budgetary concerns but agreeing to a recycling plan. The recommendation made concerning governance arose from a recognition of the importance of having a suitable and stable form of governance for the Community Centre, and that a timetable for achieving that would be beneficial. Cabinet agreed to have implemented the Council's preferred governance option within three years of the centre opening. A further recommendation, also agreed by Cabinet concerned adding further risks to the risk register.

Housing and Homelessness Panel

16. The Housing and Homelessness Panel has met three times during the reporting period, on 02 September, 06 October and 04 November.
17. An innovation agreed this year by the Panel is to have one subject considered from a number of different aspects over the course of multiple meetings, in effect similar to a mini Scrutiny Review Group. The topic chosen for consideration is 'Tenant Engagement and Empowerment,' a timely topic owing to significant post-Grenfell changes announced by central government and the merging of some Housing and Communities functions internally. To aid the members in this the Panel has invited the Council's Tenant Ambassadors, who represent tenants across a number of different Council functions, to each meeting. No recommendations to Cabinet are being made at present, but a full report will be written up at the end of the civic year for Cabinet to consider.

02 September

18. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Housing Performance Q1 (one recommendation, agreed by Cabinet)

- Introducing Tenant Engagement (no recommendations)
19. With a new membership for the new civic year the Panel heard the Housing Performance Q1 report largely as an introduction to the breadth of activity the Housing directorate is responsible for. Arising from the discussion was a request for a Housing Performance Dashboard to be presented as a standing item at each Housing and Homelessness Panel meeting. To date this has not been possible, owing to the challenges of getting reliable data following the challenges of the migration to the new QL system. It is hoped, however, that the Panel will be able to get regular updates which are close (if not quite identical) to the ones required to be produced by the Social Housing White Paper. The recommendation which arose, agreed to by Cabinet, focused on resuming good practice which had had to be paused because of lockdown, specifically relating to involving the Lived Experience Advisory Forum in the design of services.
 20. As referenced above, Tenant Engagement and Empowerment is a topic the Panel is looking at over the duration of the year. The first presentation given was by the Tenant Engagement Team, with the Council's Tenant Ambassadors giving details of the different ways in which they contribute to the working of the Council. These include evaluation of tenders, involvement in interviews, the Great Estates project, environmental improvements, and involvement with complaints and the Housing Ombudsman's Residents Panel. As mentioned, recommendations will be agreed later on in the process and a report submitted to Cabinet later on in the civic year.

06 October

21. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Housing and Carbon Reduction (report delayed)
 - Social Housing White Paper Update (no recommendations)
22. Whilst the Housing and Carbon Reduction paper was heard and passed through Scrutiny, it was agreed to delay sending it to Cabinet owing to the absence of the Cabinet member. As a result, this item will be reported back in the next Scrutiny update to Council.
23. The Panel's second Tenant Engagement and Empowerment report provided an update on the wide-ranging changes the government plans to introduce to improve social housing, largely following the Grenfell tragedy. The proposals clearly have a large focus on safety, but putting tenant experience at the centre of housing provision is a thread which runs throughout and will require widespread changes for all social housing providers, including the Council. The Panel were introduced to the details of the government's proposed seven themes, that it is the right of a tenant: to be safe in their homes, to know how their landlord is performing, to have complaints dealt with fairly and promptly, to be treated with respect, to be heard by their landlord, to live in a good quality home and neighbourhood, and to be supported by the landlord into home ownership. The Panel will be revisiting the Council's own actions in response to this later in the year.

04 November

24. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:

- Discretionary Housing Payment Policy (1 recommendation, agreed)
 - Empty Homes (yet to be signed off by Scrutiny)
25. Discretionary Housing Payment is a payment made by a local authority to an applicant who is struggling with their housing costs. It is an extremely important benefit because the recipients tend to be individuals with few other options available – single parent families and/or families subjected to the benefits cap. Whilst central government pays a grant to the Council for this benefit, the grant for next year is to be cut by almost a quarter, despite the end of a number of Covid-related financial supports and the cost of living crisis. The Council is permitted to spend more than the government grant, but it must bear the full cost. Last year it did so by approximately £100k. The Panel heard the report, which dealt primarily with the Council's mitigation strategies for the impacts of spending beyond the government grant. It recognised the sensible approach taken in seeking to reduce the financial impact of overspend, and supported the Council's commitment to continue paying to those in need. The one recommendation arose from a lack of clarity at the Panel meeting itself, where it was uncertain whether there would be a line in the HRA budget for next year which specified anticipated overspends on Council tenants. Recognition in the budget was felt to be important as a matter of transparency over spending expected to be in the region of £50k. At Cabinet it was confirmed that the draft budget for 2022/32 does indeed include such a line.
26. The report on Empty Homes is yet to go to Scrutiny for sign-off, meaning it will be reported on in the next update.

Finance and Performance Panel

27. The Finance and Performance Panel convened on two occasions during this period, on 02 August and 06 September 2021

02 August

28. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
- Social Value in Procurement (two recommendations, both agreed)
 - Aareon QL Implementation Update (two recommendations, both agreed)
29. Social Value in Procurement is an issue Scrutiny has shown a lot of interest in recently. The idea being how the Council ensures that social goods accrue not only from what is procured, but also from choosing companies that operate in a way as to cultivate social value when undertaking their work. This ambition is reflected in a weighting given to each company's proposal relating to the level of social value it would deliver through the contract. The Panel heard an update on the activity the Council had taken to move this agenda forward, the key legislative changes and the Council's proposed responses. In a key metric, spending money locally, the Council has outperformed central government's target by almost 100%. The view of the Panel was that to develop this concept further, the Council must work with other partners to develop a shared local approach. This was a recommendation, which was accepted by Cabinet. Building on that, it was also felt that though the Council was clearly a leader amongst councils, councils may not necessarily be the best performers and there may be value in learning about the performance of those from

other sectors. It was recommended and accepted by Cabinet, that the Council should seek benchmarking data from a wider pool of comparators, and not only local authorities.

30. The Aareon QL system is a recently-implemented system primarily supporting the Council's Housing directorate. However, it is also closely aligned with Finance and Oxford Direct Services, meaning the challenges experienced in the implementation have been wide-ranging. The precise details of the Panel's update on those challenges were held in confidential session and are not reported. The recommendations made, however, are not confidential. These, both agreed by Cabinet, focused firstly on the extraordinary commitment shown by many Council staff in mitigating the challenges faced and ensuring that they were not inadvertently punished by the Council's HR policies for doing so. The second recommendation was a simple one about the Council ensuring that the indirect costs, such as staff time, would be included in a future lessons learnt exercise.
31. In addition to the substantive reports, the Panel selected the suite of key performance indicators it wishes to keep sight of over the course of the year to ensure particularly important targets are being met.

06 September

32. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Integrated Performance Report Q1 (no recommendations)
 - Treasury Management (no recommendations)
33. The Cabinet considers a quarterly report detailing the Council's delivery concerning finances, risk and performance each quarter. This report looked at the year-end performance. Although no recommendations were made in response to the report it was discussed in detail, with time devoted particularly to the Council's financial performance, with car parking, community centre and commercial property rental income streams all being discussed.
34. In straightened financial circumstances, as experienced by the Council following Covid, the performance of the Council's investments is vital. The Council's income had fallen short of budgeted expectations, but on the other hand had outperformed most similar councils. Those which performed better than the Council were local authorities with risk profiles and tolerances beyond which is felt to be prudent for this Council. No recommendations were made, but discussion was devoted to future returns, and also exploration of the Council's ethical investment policy.

Companies Panel

35. There have been two meetings of the Companies Scrutiny Panel, on 20 July and 18 October 2021. As referenced in the last update to Council from Scrutiny, the governance of the Council's companies has been changed in response to recommendations made by the Council's auditors. The first meeting, 20 July, took place under the previous regimen. The Panel received updates from all four of the Council's companies and joint ventures, but made no recommendations. The meeting of 18 October took place under the new arrangements, whereby Panel members are also invited to attend the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group

meetings. The meeting of the Panel, and the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meeting, were to discuss changes to the OxWED joint venture structure. Discussions on this were held in confidential session and are not detailed here, but following discussion the Companies Scrutiny Panel agreed to raise issue of timeliness, cost transparency and the protection of the Council's interests under the proposed restructure at the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group.

36. A meeting of the Companies Panel is scheduled for 24 November 2021 which, although prior to the meeting of Council, falls too closely to it to be reported on here.

Review Groups

37. The Scrutiny Committee has agreed the topic for its annual Scrutiny Review Group, which is to be on Child Poverty. Normally, this would have begun at this point. However, it is the wish of the Committee that the Council try to work with the County Council on a joint review owing to the County Council's important role in addressing this issue. The County Council is currently undergoing a change to its Scrutiny function, which has caused a delay. However, it is expected this review will commence in January 2022.

38. Also commencing in January 2022 will be Scrutiny's review of the Council's proposed budget. The Budget Review Group will meet on 04, 06 and 10 January to hear from Heads of Service about the changes to their budgets, and to raise questions on the proposals.

Councillor Liz Wade– Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Email: clrlwade@oxford.gov.uk;

Tom Hudson – Scrutiny Officer

Email: thudson@oxford.gov.uk; Tel: 01865 252191

July Cabinet

No reports were responded to at this Cabinet meeting.

September Cabinet

Urban Forest Strategy

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) <i>That the Council reviews the policy tensions between garden space and electric charging and develops a considered position on their interaction, and that it reviews its other climate-related strategies for similar unanticipated tensions.</i>	In part	There are many trade-offs associated with decarbonisation, at a household, city, national and international level. However, Oxford City Council is seeking to manage these through, <i>inter alia</i> , enabling on street EV charging through the GUL-e cable-gulley project, being developed jointly with ODS and Oxfordshire County Council. It is also seeking to increase tree cover across Oxford by encouraging planting where there is available land – most typically in residents <i>back</i> gardens, the grounds of colleges, businesses and other institutions, and where possible on streets and public land. The council will continue to monitor tree cover and biodiversity to see that the removal of front garden space by householders choosing to charge their vehicles, hasn't impacted these objectives.
2) <i>That the Council takes steps to ensure that with greater number of trees being planted, community engagement over proposals is treated as a matter of priority and local residents are given an opportunity</i>	Yes	

<i>to voice their views.</i>		
3) That the Council makes available to councillors and members of the public information on who is responsible for what within the Urban Forest Strategy, and help with understanding who to contact in different scenarios.	Yes	

Social Value in Procurement

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council works with other local authorities and institutions to develop a shared OxTOMs framework in the short term and a shared approach to social value in procurement locally in the longer term.	Agreed	
2) That the Council requests from its internal auditor data to allow it to benchmark the social value generated through its procurement against a wider pool of comparators	Agreed	

Aareon QL Implementation

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council in a future lessons learnt exercise, includes within its audit an estimate of the cost the indirect and opportunity costs arising from the implementation of the QL system on the Council and its companies</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We will of course thoroughly review all aspects of the QL changeover to make sure the same problems aren't experienced with future IT upgrades.</p>
<p>2) That the Council recognises the exemplary commitment of staff across multiple functions in managing and mitigating the challenges posed by the implementation and works with union representatives to find ways to ensure that those staff are not penalised for their commitment.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As far as we possibly can and of course always considering the preferences and well-being of individual staff members.</p> <p>I meet regularly with Unison and Unite as do members of CMT, and Union representatives are actively involved with current issues and future planning both within the Council and in ODS. Our offer in terms of pay, including overtime, and conditions is always negotiated seriously with the Unions. We're politically committed to this, but that aside, experience shows that public sector bodies can only move forward with the workforce "on board" in times of change and challenge.</p> <p>I've already thanked the Council and ODS staff members who have made sure our services and reputation are maintained, and I'd like to take this opportunity to put on public record our gratitude to everyone who has worked so hard on this. Our expectations of Council staff are informed by an understanding of how disrupted and stressful the past year and a half has been. Oxford is lucky to have dedicated public servants and despite difficult times, we want to make sure our relationship with the Council workforce reflects this and honours the dedication</p>

		Council workers bring to the job.
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October Cabinet

Science Village

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That, so far as is possible without compromising other key strategic objectives for the development, the Council affords the greatest possible weight to environmental standards and seeks that this importance is reflected at all stages of the development, including the agreement between partners and in the master developer agreement.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The Council will be one of three partners who will be promoting the development of the site and for the development to progress it will need to be commercially viable; as the report sets out, different partners have different objectives, and it will be essential to achieve consensus about the degree to which these are pursued, which may require that a balance be struck between desirable elements and the essential infrastructure required for the site such as schools and road improvements as well as much needed affordable housing. It is also worth pointing out that South Oxfordshire District Council, as the planning authority, may also have requirements that the scheme and the partners will need to meet. But, as set out in the answer to recommendation 2 below, pursuing the highest possible environmental standards while being conscious of these constraints is the best way to mitigate against both the risks of changes to environmental standards and more importantly, against the risks of climate change itself.</p>

<p>2) That the Council recognises the risk of national or local energy efficiency building standards rising over the course of the development, determines a risk-adjusted baseline for energy efficiency standard for buildings on the development, and seeks to encourage partners of the business case for adopting a standard beyond current South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan standards.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>The detailed analysis of the scheme does currently include in the risk assessment the likelihood that nationally or locally set environmental standards will change, and that the timetable for any such changes is currently uncertain. The partners are aware that South Oxfordshire District Council has started worked on a new Local Plan, and has made clear its aspirations to set the highest possible environmental standards in that Plan. At this early stage of course it is not certain what those standards will be and when any new Local Plan might be adopted. Nonetheless it is the Council's view as a partner in the project that the best way to mitigate this risk is pursue standards that are not just beyond those in the Building Regulations, but more importantly beyond the more rigorous standards that are a requirement of the current South Oxfordshire Local Plan.</p>
<p>3) That the Council works with partners to seek to optimise social value generation throughout all the stages of the project.</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>While pursuing additional measures that impact on costs and thus viability is subject to agreement and compromise between the partners, the pursuit of social value through the development is something that adds value rather than cost, and is something therefore that the Council will promote to its partners and in particular through the appointment of the Master Developer. This is a very significant development, with great opportunities for new jobs, training and skills for local people, and the City Council would like to see this sort of social value reflected not just in the outcome of the development, but as part of the criteria against which the appointment of the Master Developer is measured.</p>
<p>4) That the Council includes the Cabinet members for Planning and Housing Delivery and Finance and Asset Management as consultees to the delegations referred to in recommendations 1 – 3 the Cabinet</p>	<p>Agree</p>	<p>Consultation with both Cabinet members will be added to the delegation recommendations in the report; this was a drafting error in the report, and Scrutiny are thanked for spotting it.</p>

report		
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Housing Performance Q1

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That the Council, as Covid restrictions ease, increases the breadth and depth of its engagement with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum and other similar groups in shaping Council homelessness services.</p>	Yes	<p>Working with LEAF and others with lived experience to inform and help shape homelessness services is vitally important. The pandemic has made engagement more difficult, but has continued over the past year including: informing the specification for the new countywide rough sleeping and single homelessness service and Housing First support service, contributing to the developing Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and working with LEAF and King's College London to put together a team of peer assessors to conduct the qualitative evaluation of the Step-down housing service which is part of the Out of Hospital project.</p> <p>We are committed to continue to build on this engagement, including involving LEAF in the next stages of the development of the new Housing and Homelessness Strategy, and they will be a key component of the new countywide service with representation in the governance arrangements, and a partner in ensuring the voice of service users are heard in the ongoing monitoring and development of the services.</p>

November Cabinet

Anti-Social Behaviour

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council amends the Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-25 as follows:</p> <p>i) Principle three to read “Anti-social behaviour will be addressed firmly, fairly, proportionately and holistically”</p> <p>ii) That reference throughout the document to ‘customers’ is reworded around ‘citizens’</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	
<p>2) That the Council amends its Anti-Social Behaviour Procedure 2022-25 as follows:</p> <p>i) to include a paragraph on the diversionary activities the Council itself provides or in partnership to prevent anti-social behaviour</p> <p>ii) to address issues around invasive evidence gathering, and link to best practice guidance</p> <p>iii) to note negative impacts associated with anti-social behaviour-related evictions, and reference the Council’s commitment to using this power as a last resort</p> <p>iv) to alter s. 7.4 so it reads “All complex cases that involve homeless or vulnerably housed people”</p> <p>v) to reference the Council’s commitment to removing racist graffiti within 24 hours</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	

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Discretionary Housing Payment Policy

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council includes a line within the HRA section of its proposed 2022/23 budget for DHP expenditure beyond the government grant.	Yes	There is a relevant budget line within the proposed HRA budget.

East Oxford Community Centre

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council sets down plans for measuring and assessing the effectiveness of carbon-saving measures delivered on the East Oxford Community Centre development, and their cost efficiency in reducing carbon emissions.	Yes	
2) That the Council, where possible, recycles materials recovered from the demolition of the East Oxford Community Centre site, particularly steel and wood.	Partially	We would recommend an action for us to develop a waste and recycling plan for demolition and look to recycle in line with this. However we also need to be careful to balance this recognising how recyclable some materials are and that we need to avoid high costs that are unaffordable within the approved budget
3) That the Council implements within three years of the new community centre being opened the preferred option for its management and	Yes	

operation		
4) That the Council includes within the risk register for this project those external risks to land values referenced in paragraph 52 of the Cabinet report	Yes	

EV Strategy

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) <i>That the Council amends paragraph 16 of the report to remove reference to the Council already being committed to Connecting Oxford, and states instead that the council has agreed to further scheme and business case development.</i>	No	This Council supports the introduction of Connecting Oxford and on 9 September 2020, Scrutiny requested: <i>That the Council continues to employ its best endeavours in working with its partners to realise the plans for the Zero Emissions Zone and Connecting Oxford.</i>
2) <i>That the Council, in its planning for the adequacy of future EV charging infrastructure, ensures that the incentivising impact of other policies on demand for electric vehicles, such as the ZEZ, is taken into account</i>	Yes	The EV Strategy and Implementation Plan is being commissioned to help inform the Council on how rising demand for EV charging in Oxford could best cover the years up to 2030 by which point, Oxfordshire County Council's modelling suggests the clear majority of private vehicles in the city will be EV. Demand for EVs is being driven by a variety of factors including an increased focus by vehicle manufacturers, technology improvement, environmental awareness, and the looming deadline of 2030 after which no new petrol or diesel cars can be sold in the UK. Locally, the ZEZ may also be a factor, and this will be taken into account in the EV Strategy.

<p>3) That the Council investigates the practicability of not partnering with or commissioning organisations relating to the EV strategy in which it would be unable to invest because of its ethical investment policy</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4a) Electric vehicle charging is a rapidly growing market with different operators including both relatively small businesses and global corporations. The purpose of the EV strategy is to enable Oxford City Council to do more itself, in particular in the areas of the city which would typically be last in the queue to receive charging infrastructure—ours is an approach grounded in fairness and social justice.</p> <p>We also believe that engagement is key to shape partners' approaches because dialogue and the airing of differences can get us to a better place. It also ensures that citizens and communities do not lose out on the EV infrastructure that they are requesting in order to be part of a greener and fairer future. We all believe as local councillors that the City Council to which we are elected has an important voice to raise and we will continue to raise it to advance our values.</p>
<p>3b) That the Council amends its ethical investment policy to make explicit reference to exploitative mining practices and arms trading as proscribed activities.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>4b) This is not linked to the commissioning of an EV Strategy.</p>

To: Council
Date: 29 November 2021
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Motions on notice

Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 17 November 2021, 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 *Green, Independent, *Labour, Liberal Democrat* groups in that order.**

***No motions have been submitted by the Independent Group for this meeting.**

Order of motions

- a) Becoming a trans inclusive council (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Jarvis)
- b) Violence Against Women and Girls (proposer Cllr Abrishami, seconder Cllr Upton)
- c) Noise Nuisance from Licensed Premises (proposer Cllr Miles, seconder Cllr Landell Mills)
- d) Oxford Stadium (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Dunne) [amendment, proposer Cllr Turner]
- e) End Fire and Rehire (proposer Cllr Mundy, seconder Cllr Dunne)
- f) Speeding Enforcement (proposer Cllr Snowton) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Brown]
- g) Endorsing The Green Norrington Table and calls for Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation (proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Hollingsworth) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes]
- h) EU Nationals deserves to be treated with Respect (proposer Cllr Bely-Summers)
- i) Plant based eating and sustainable farming (proposer Cllr Dunne)

a) Becoming a trans inclusive council (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Jarvis)

Green member motion

This Council states that:

Trans women are women. Trans men are men. Non-binary people are non-binary. We believe in the dignity of all people, and their right to respect and equality of opportunity. We value the strength that comes with difference and the positive contribution diversity brings to our community. Our aspiration is for Oxford to be a safe, welcoming and inclusive city for everyone, no matter their gender identity.

The Council notes:

1. The concerning rise in transphobia in the UK, from individuals, politicians and the media, as well as the increasing severity of the threats faced by the trans community.
2. That transgender and non-binary people may require specific support to access services without facing discrimination. All council services must be equipped to provide appropriate service and good customer care to suit transgender and non-binary people.
3. That there are transgender and non-binary people in Oxford of all ages, and that the need for better understanding and acceptance of what it means to be transgender or non-binary is an intergenerational issue.
4. The vital work done by groups in Oxford to support local trans and non-binary people, as well as the wider LGBTQIA+ community. These groups include ArkT, Oxford Pride, TransOxford and Topaz.
5. That despite many positive initiatives there is always more to do to ensure we are a genuinely supportive, inclusive and welcoming city. The council will seek to better support transgender and non-binary people to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.
6. That transgender and non-binary people may face intersecting struggles due to factors like their race, religion, socio-economic background, gender or sexuality.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. **State publicly that trans rights are human rights and affirm the legal rights of all protected groups under the 2010 equality act.**
2. **Work with LGBTQIA+ groups and people to strongly encourage training for councillors and council staff to raise awareness of the difficulties transgender and non-binary people face and the support they can offer to this community.**
3. **Request that the Cabinet agrees to fly the transgender flag on International Trans Day of Visibility (March 31st), in addition to Trans Day of Remembrance (November 20th)**
4. **Request a review of all forms and documents created by the Council with a view to ensuring they are trans and non-binary inclusive where possible.**
5. **To encourage council staff and councillors to make small gestures that make it clear transgender and non-binary people are welcome. This could**

- include adding pronouns to email signatures and providing gender neutral toilets in Council buildings.
6. To work with partner organisations to ensure transgender and non-binary people are not discriminated against whilst accessing homelessness services.
 7. To work with healthcare providers and Oxfordshire County Council to remove barriers transgender and non-binary people face when accessing medical care.
 8. To review with a view to improving signposting to support services for transgender and non-binary people within Council communications, including a dedicated page on the Council's website.

b) Violence Against Women and Girls (proposer Cllr Abrishami, seconder Cllr Upton)

Labour member motion

Misogyny, harassment and violence towards women and girls (VAWG) is endemic in the UK.

A 2021 YouGov/ UN Women UK survey found that of women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed.

80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces. It is inevitable that many women and girls across our city are suffering harassment and abuse.

In 2020, the ONS reported that 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man.

In the year to March 2020, 1.4% of rape cases recorded by police resulted in a suspect being charged (or receiving a summons).

Studies show the intersectional nature of discrimination means women with protected characteristics, such as those from Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority, disabled or LGBT+ Communities, and specially trans women, are even more likely to experience harassment, discrimination and abuse. Women with insecure immigration status and refugee women are also additionally vulnerable.

The Council resolves:

- **To ensure Oxford City Council continues to do everything in its power to build a city free from misogyny and VAWG.**
- **To create a VAWG Taskforce. It is vital that women's and girl's voices are heard. The Council will create a process that proactively listens to women's voices across the city. This task force will be open to include and involve all women and self identifying women Councillors.**
- **To become a White Ribbon Accredited Organisation.**

c) Noise Nuisance from Licensed Premises (proposer Cllr Miles, seconder Cllr Landell Mills)

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council values the significant contribution of the hospitality sector to our residents, our community and our local economy in Oxford. However, this council regrets that many residents face a level of noise disturbance from licensed premises that interferes significantly with their right to enjoy their home. This council recognises that the disturbance is not limited to the weekends but also occurs mid-week. The issue has been exacerbated by the increased levels of outside drinking and entertainment due to the pandemic, as well as complacency by some license holders.

This council takes its responsibilities towards statutory noise nuisance from licensed premises seriously. Therefore, it seeks to strengthen noise reporting mechanisms for residents, improve awareness among residents of how to report noise issues and of the council's procedure for handling complaints, and build the capacity of license holders to control noise from licensed premises.

Specifically, this council commits to:

- **Review the start time of the out of hours noise service telephone line provision from 10pm to earlier to allow sufficient time for the reported noise to be investigated;**
- **Appraise increasing the number of days a week that the out of hours noise service is available;**
- **Strengthen the service level agreements of the out of hours noise service to ensure that callers to the service do not have to wait more than 5 minutes for their call to be answered;**
- **Increase the information on the City Council website about how it responds to noise complaints about a licensed premise, the powers the council have to stop a statutory nuisance and the powers residents have to take their own legal action against a licensed premise on the basis of noise;**
- **Produce a leaflet for residents to download from the council website with information about how to make a noise complaint and collect evidence to support a complaint; and**
- **Produce a leaflet to disseminate to licensed premises on controlling noise from their premises.**

Council requests that the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety brings a report to Cabinet with proposals to implement this motion.

d) Oxford Stadium (proposer Cllr Pegg, seconder Cllr Dunne) [amendment, proposer Cllr Turner]

Green member motion

Council notes plans by Kevin Boothby (reported in the Oxford Mail: 17th June 2021) to bring greyhound racing back to Oxford Stadium following the acquisition of a 10-year lease from owners Galliard Homes.

Council notes that the last greyhound racing took place in the Stadium in December 2012.

Council notes that Galliard Homes have previously (2013 - application number 13/00302/FUL) submitted a planning application to re-develop the site for housing but that this was never approved by the Council.

Council notes that there has been an informal assessment of the site by British Cycling who have stated it would be suitable as velodrome combined with a BMX and learn-to-ride facility with ample space for other community uses.

Council also notes that greyhound racing has been heavily criticised by animal welfare organisations such as the League Against Cruel Sports, Alliance Against Greyhound Racing, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) who believe that dogs should not suffer or die for entertainment or for the profit of the dog racing industry.

The Greyhound Board of Great Britain's (GBGB) own data confirms that in 2019 there were 4970 greyhound injuries & 710 deaths (14 per week).

Despite Legislation aimed at improving the welfare of greyhounds, including the Animal Welfare Act (2006), The Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010, there is still ample evidence of the dangers to greyhounds bred for racing (see [1, 2]). The latter Government report into the effectiveness of the 2010 Regulations cast doubt on many aspects of the sport, making several important recommendations which have not been made law.

The Council considers itself to be a caring Council which seeks the highest standards of welfare for all animals. It therefore:

- **Agrees to publicly oppose the reintroduction of greyhound racing in Oxford.**
- **Asks Cabinet to request a report from the Executive Director (Development) which explores alternative uses for the site in collaboration with the site owner and operator.**
- **Should the greyhound racing go ahead and the operator is not licensed by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain, the Council agrees to consider using its powers to ensure the welfare and safety of racing dogs and agrees to consider developing a licensing policy on greyhound racing.**

[1] The State of greyhound racing in Great Britain: a mandate for change', League of Cruel Sports (2014)

Amendment proposed by Cllr Turner

To remove the words struck through:

- ~~Asks Cabinet to request a report from the Executive Director (Development) which explores alternative uses for the site in collaboration with the site owner and operator.~~
-

If the amendment is agreed, the amended motion would read:

Council notes plans by Kevin Boothby (reported in the Oxford Mail: 17th June 2021) to bring greyhound racing back to Oxford Stadium following the acquisition of a 10-year lease from owners Galliard Homes.

Council notes that the last greyhound racing took place in the Stadium in December 2012.

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[1] *The State of greyhound racing in Great Britain: a mandate for change*, League of Cruel Sports (2014)

[2] *'Greyhound Welfare'. Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFFRA) Committee (2016)*

e) End Fire and Rehire (proposer Cllr Mundy, seconder Cllr Dunne)

Labour member motion

This Council notes that:

The practice of Fire and Rehire, or dismissal and reengagement, has come to public attention in recent years. This involves an employer dismissing staff and reoffering their roles under inferior conditions, usually to effectively change the contract of employment. The currently legal practice has been increasingly threatened by employers. The prevalence and impact of Fire and Rehire has been researched by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).¹ Though not new, there is suggestion that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has spurred an increase in its use. Others have told Acas that the pandemic is being used “opportunistically as a smokescreen to diminish workers’ terms and conditions”. This has impacted a range of employees, many of whom have been key workers such as factory, utilities, and retail workers. These people have kept working and kept our country going during the pandemic and lockdowns.

According to TUC research² nearly 1 in 10 workers have been told to re-apply for their jobs on worse terms and conditions or face the sack. Working-class people (12%) are nearly twice as likely than those from higher socio-economic groups (7%) to face Fire and Rehire. For black and ethnic minority workers (15%) the rate is nearly twice the rate of white workers (8%).

Here, and across the country, Fire and Rehire is increasing the precariousness of work and financially and mentally compromising people who work hard to put food on the table and pay their bills. It is shackling our trade unions and making it impossible for them to fight for a fair deal for their members.

According to the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), our city’s own newspapers The Oxford Mail and The Oxford Times threatened to Fire and Rehire NUJ members over bank holiday pay. In August the NUJ agreed a deal to end the dispute, but they could not get Fire and Rehire taken off the table in negotiations with the newspapers’ owners Newsquest Media Group.³

¹ <https://www.acas.org.uk/fire-and-rehire-report/html>

² “Fire and rehire” tactics have become widespread during pandemic – warns TUC January 2021
<https://www.tuc.org.uk/news/fire-and-rehire-tactics-have-become-widespread-during-pandemic-warns-tuc>

³ <https://www.nuj.org.uk/resource/oxford-mail-and-times-use-fire-and-rehire-tactic-to-end-bank-holiday-working-payments.html>
<https://www.holdthefrontpage.co.uk/2021/news/daily-journalists-facing-fire-and-rehire-after-rejecting-pay-change-union-says/>

In Oxfordshire, workers at the Jacob Douwe Egberts coffee factory in Banbury were threatened with Fire and Rehire earlier this year. The profitable factory succeeded in settling an agreement with Unite the Union in August.⁴

Council resolves:

- **To publicly oppose any future use or threat of Fire and Rehire by employers in our City.**
- **For the review of future contracts, contract renewals and procurement to seek to include a commitment for employers to not use or threaten Fire and Rehire, as part of their social clause.**
- **For our City Council Leader to add the voice of the Council to that of our MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran in supporting national legislation to ban Fire and Rehire.**
- **For our City Council Leader to write to the Business Secretary on behalf of Council, urging him to reverse the current government position, support a ban of fire and rehire, and back the workers of our country.**

f) Speeding Enforcement (proposer Cllr Smowton) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Brown]

Liberal Democrat member motion

This council notes that while prevention of speeding in and around Oxford is both a frequently-raised complaint and a serious danger to vulnerable road users, Thames Valley Police action has been scant, with budget shortages often cited. Therefore this council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to work with local councils to address these problems, including by accepting targeted funding from those councils.

It is well documented that speed kills, both increasing the likelihood of an accident and resulting in more severe consequences when they happen. Further, the majority of people injured in road accidents are not drivers themselves, but vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. Even when accidents do not result, it is likely a perception of a dangerous road environment will discourage active travel, contrary to the council's air-quality and public health goals.

Oxfordshire County Council has and continues to work to improve safety in and around Oxford, for example by introducing urban 20mph zones. Similarly, many trunk roads around Oxford carry limits below the national speed limit for the safety of vulnerable road users and for air quality improvement. However, while both of these are welcome, they can only yield safety benefits if drivers stick to the limit, and speeding on both contexts remains common and unpunished.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Hayes (seconder Cllr Brown)

To add the words in bold italic to the first paragraph

⁴ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-58078221>

This council notes that while prevention of speeding in and around Oxford is both a frequently-raised complaint and a serious danger to vulnerable road users, Thames Valley Police action has been scant ***because of Coalition and Conservative Government cuts***, with budget shortages often cited. Therefore this council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to ***fund the action needed to address these problems***.

[no changes to following paragraphs]

If the amendment is agreed, the amended motion would read:

This council notes that while prevention of speeding in and around Oxford is both a frequently-raised complaint and a serious danger to vulnerable road users, Thames Valley Police action has been scant *because of Coalition and Conservative Government cuts*, with budget shortages often cited. Therefore this council calls on the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to *fund the action needed to address these problems*.

It is well documented that speed kills, both increasing the likelihood of an accident and resulting in more severe consequences when they happen. Further, the majority of people injured in road accidents are not drivers themselves, but vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. Even when accidents do not result, it is likely a perception of a dangerous road environment will discourage active travel, contrary to the council's air-quality and public health goals.

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g) Endorsing The Green Norrington Table and calls for Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation (proposer Cllr Hayes, seconder Cllr Hollingsworth) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hayes]

Labour member motion

This Council notes that:

- The progress of the Glasgow Climate Pact is real without being enough to meet the climate emergency.
- The Pact puts fossil fuel producers on notice and, despite watered-down language, mentions coal power (regrettably, in terms of “phase down” and “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies).
- It has declared a climate and ecological emergency and is taking steps to become a Zero Carbon Council by 2030 or sooner.

- It has established and chairs the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership, including both Universities, to build a Zero Carbon Oxford by 2040 or sooner.

This Council further notes that:

- The University of Oxford and its constituent colleges are anchored institutions (to use the language of community wealth building) and crucial to the journey to Zero Carbon and the creation of a fairer economy and stronger society.
- The large endowments of the Colleges give them a unique opportunity to repurpose funds to help achieve a sustainable planet.
- People employed and educated by the University Colleges sustain the work and life of those institutions, so that the climate and ecological concerns of such individuals should be reflected outwards at an organisational level.

This Council welcomes an initiative of the Oxford Climate Justice Campaign, Fossil Free Oxfordshire, the Oxford Student Union, and the Cambridge Student Union—the creation of the Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge (CLOC) or, as it is known, the Green Norrington Table.

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Heads of House and Bursars of each of the University’s constituent colleges to:

- Highlight the Green Norrington Table as a tool for prospective, current, and future students at Colleges, University faculty, College employees, and citizens, to scrutinise the climate-mitigating ambition of each College and understand their relative performance based on their ranking in the table.
- Encourage Colleges to engage with the Green Norrington Table, including responding to and, in future give consideration to shaping, the questionnaires used to evaluate climate-mitigating performance.
- Respond to climate concerns by urgently publishing plans to reach net zero.

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Vice-Chancellors of both Universities and the Heads of House and Bursars of each of the University of Oxford’s constituent colleges encouraging them to:

- Sever financial ties to the fossil fuel industry to stimulate an end to fossil fuel development, manage the decline of existing production, and encourage the shift to renewable energy sources through investments.

This Council endorses:

- The call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty backed by Sydney, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Vancouver, Toronto, and Cambridge.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to ask the Prime Minister to:

- Revisit and strengthen net zero goals and decarbonisation plans ahead of the return to global climate talks in 2022.

- Increase climate finance and adaptation funding to developing countries and galvanise fellow rich countries to do the same.
 - Work in partnership to end global fossil fuel use and invest in clean energy generation and storage.
-

Amendment proposed by Cllr Hayes

Add the words in bold italics and delete the words struck through:

[No changes to first part]

This Council ~~welcomes~~ **notes** an initiative of the Oxford Climate Justice Campaign, Fossil Free Oxfordshire, the Oxford Student Union, and the Cambridge Student Union—the creation of the Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge (CLOC) or, as it is known, the Green Norrington Table, ***which has created a ranking of colleges' performance on environmental sustainability, based on an assessment from a questionnaire sent to colleges.***

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Heads of House and Bursars of each of the University's constituent colleges to:

- Highlight the Green Norrington Table as a tool for prospective, current, and future students at Colleges, University faculty, College employees, and citizens, to scrutinise the climate-mitigating ambition of each College ~~and understand their relative performance based on their ranking in the table.~~
- Encourage Colleges to engage with the Green Norrington Table, including responding to and, in future give consideration to shaping, the questionnaires used to evaluate climate-mitigating performance.
- Respond to climate concerns by ~~urgently publishing~~ ***bringing forwards*** plans to reach net zero ***in line with the wider ambition of a Zero Carbon Oxford by 2040, already agreed by the University and Conference of Colleges.***

[No changes to last part]

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

This Council notes that:

- The progress of the Glasgow Climate Pact is real without being enough to meet the climate emergency.
- The Pact puts fossil fuel producers on notice and, despite watered-down language, mentions coal power (regrettably, in terms of “phase down” and “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies).

- It has declared a climate and ecological emergency and is taking steps to become a Zero Carbon Council by 2030 or sooner.
- It has established and chairs the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership, including both Universities, to build a Zero Carbon Oxford by 2040 or sooner.

This Council further notes that:

- The University of Oxford and its constituent colleges are anchored institutions (to use the language of community wealth building) and crucial to the journey to Zero Carbon and the creation of a fairer economy and stronger society.
- The large endowments of the Colleges give them a unique opportunity to repurpose funds to help achieve a sustainable planet.

People employed and educated by the University Colleges sustain the work and life of those institutions, so that the climate and ecological concerns of such individuals should be reflected outwards at an organisational level.

This Council notes an initiative of the Oxford Climate Justice Campaign, Fossil Free Oxfordshire, the Oxford Student Union, and the Cambridge Student Union— the creation of the Climate League of Oxford and Cambridge (CLOC) or, as it is known, the Green Norrington Table, which has created a ranking of colleges' performance on environmental sustainability, based on an assessment from a questionnaire sent to colleges.

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- Respond to climate concerns by bringing forwards plans to reach net zero in line with the wider ambition of a Zero Carbon Oxford by 2040, already agreed by the University and Conference of Colleges.

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Vice-Chancellors of both Universities and the Heads of House and Bursars of each of the University of Oxford's constituent colleges encouraging them to:

- Sever financial ties to the fossil fuel industry to stimulate an end to fossil fuel development, manage the decline of existing production, and encourage the shift to renewable energy sources through investments.

This Council endorses:

- The call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty backed by Sydney, Los Angeles, Barcelona, Vancouver, Toronto, and Cambridge.

This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to ask the Prime Minister to:

- Revisit and strengthen net zero goals and decarbonisation plans ahead of the return to global climate talks in 2022.
- Increase climate finance and adaptation funding to developing countries and galvanise fellow rich countries to do the same.
- Work in partnership to end global fossil fuel use and invest in clean energy generation and storage.

h) EU Nationals deserves to be treated with Respect (proposer Cllr Bely-Summers)

Labour member motion

Council notes:

- That following the UK's departure from the EU there are significant new entry restrictions for EU nationals seeking to come to the UK;
- That at the 2011 census, over 12,000 Oxford residents were born in an EU member state apart from Ireland and the UK;

Council believes:

- That nationals from EU member states are, along with many other migrant communities, an important part of Oxford's diverse and vibrant society;
- That EU nationals, their families, friends and visitors deserve to be treated with respect;
- That in law, EU nationals have the right to receive visitors, yet there is disturbing evidence of hostile treatment of such visitors at the UK border, and that this is causing great distress to those affected, and uncertainty amongst people in Oxford more widely;
- That this is further evidence of the government's discredited "hostile environment" policy [1] being continued.

Council resolves:

- **To ask the Council Leader to write to the Home Secretary urging a much more sensitive approach to those visiting the UK from EU countries at the UK border, and protesting at the poor treatment visitors have received since the start of 2021;**
- **To request this letter is shared with representative organisations in Oxford, relevant embassies, and through the Council's social media channels.**

i) Plant based eating and sustainable farming (proposer Cllr Dunne)

Labour member motion

This Council notes that:

- The global scientific consensus is that humans have heated the climate at a rate that is unprecedented, and we are heading towards mass extinction not just for ourselves but of entire eco systems if we do not change our actions today.⁵
- The climate crisis is not just an environmental issue but is a social justice issue as the people who are least responsible for the crisis in the global south are the same people who will be hit the hardest by its impacts.
- The UK's agricultural land use and associated agricultural practices are a central driver for habitat and biodiversity loss and the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries.⁶
- In the UK we eat twice as much meat and dairy as the global average which is not sustainable as there is not enough land in the world to meet this demand without destroying our natural world.⁷ Farm animals across Europe are producing more emissions than cars and vans combined.⁸
- There was no mention of meat at the COP26 event other than what was on the menu and very little time given to agriculture and factory farming to have any meaningful changes.
- Our relationship to food is still an overlooked factor to the climate crisis yet it is the quickest and cheapest step to help tackle the climate crisis if we reduce our meat intake.
- The necessary change to confront the climate crisis needs to tackle existing inequalities in society while acting urgently. One of the few ways of reducing emissions that potentially saves people money is by consuming less meat which can be done immediately.
- In January 2019, Oxford City Council declared a climate emergency, has been acting to prevent climate catastrophe, and seeks to do more locally in terms of agriculture and our relationship with meat.
- This year, the Council launched a zero carbon communities' approach at the start of COP26 which explicitly includes, among its action, dietary change and eating less meat.

This Council agrees to:

- **Call on the Government to provide funding to local governments for the nine concrete, radical changes of the Green New Deal to our current economic, social, and political model.⁹**

Council requests that the Head of Community Services brings a report to Cabinet with proposals to:

⁵ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf

⁶ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/state-of-nature-uk-report-2016.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/how-much-meat-should-i-be-eating/>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/22/eu-farm-animals-produce-more-emissions-than-cars-and-vans-combined-greenpeace>

⁹ <https://www.labourgnd.uk/gnd-explained>

- **Work closely with local farmers to support, promote, and encourage their move to create more sustainable plant-based produce in the lead up to the Oxford Farming Conference and beyond.¹⁰**
- **Form a plant-based localised free food service by funding community groups who are already doing this work to transform Oxford into a more environmentally sustainable economy which will also tackle food poverty and provide a framework for other councils to follow.**

¹⁰ <https://www.ofc.org.uk/conference/2022/programme>

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