

Council

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Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 31 January 2022**

Time: **5.00 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.

For further information please contact:

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Briefing note

Information for councillors and additional papers to be considered.

		Pages	
PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS			
1	Apologies for absence		
2	Declarations of interest		
3	Minutes Recommendation: to approve the minutes of both the special and ordinary meetings of Council held on 29 November 2021 as a correct record.	Main agenda pack	
4	Appointment to Committees See main agenda frontsheet		
5	Announcements See main agenda frontsheet		
6	Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting None		
CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS			
7	Strategic Grants Review Cabinet Member Cllr Aziz will present the report and propose Cabinet's recommendations. Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to <ol style="list-style-type: none">Approve the establishment of a Community Impact Fund totalling £558,000;Approve the establishment of a commissioning fund totalling £475,000 for domestic abuse, and advice services;Approve the continued use of the £442,000 homelessness monies alongside the Government grant (paragraph 22);Agree to the savings shown in table one (at paragraph 79).		Main agenda pack

<p>8</p>	<p>Integrated Performance Report for Q2</p> <p>Cabinet Member Cllr Turner will present the report and propose Cabinet’s recommendation.</p> <p>Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to agree the addition of £2 million into the Homelessness budget, which will be fully funded by grant, as per paragraphs 9 and 10</p>	<p>Main agenda pack</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Decisions taken under Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution</p> <p>The Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) has submitted a report asking Cabinet and Council to note the decision taken by the Head of Paid Service using the urgency powers delegated in Part 9.3(b) of the Constitution.</p> <p>Recommendation: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to note the decision taken as set out in the report.</p>	<p>Main agenda pack</p>
<p>QUESTIONS</p>		
<p>10</p>	<p>Questions on Cabinet minutes: Draft minutes of the 15 December 2021 Cabinet meeting</p> <p><i>This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.</i></p> <p>Councillors may ask the Cabinet members questions about matters in these minutes.</p>	<p>Main agenda pack</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Questions on Notice from Members of Council</p> <p>39 questions on notice.</p> <p>The questioner may ask one supplementary question of the Cabinet Member who supplied the response, or the Leader in their absence.</p>	<p>5 - 38</p>
<p>PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY</p>		
<p>12</p>	<p>Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting</p> <p><i>This item will be taken at or shortly after 7.00pm</i></p> <p>2 public addresses and 1 question not relating to matters for decision.</p> <p>Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question. Questions must be less than 200 words.</p>	<p>39 - 46</p>

13 Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

No report has been submitted for this meeting.

14 Scrutiny Committee update report

47 - 62

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

15 Motions on notice 31 January 2022

63 - 76

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) John Radcliffe Hospital parking (proposer: Cllr Haines, seconder: Cllr Malik) [amendment, proposer Cllr Hollingsworth]
- b) Elections Bill (proposer: Cllr Djafari-Marbini) [amendment, proposer Cllr Djafari-Marbini]
- c) Lift the Ban for Asylum Seekers (proposer: Cllr Gant, seconder: Cllr R Smith)
- d) Opposition to the privatisation of the Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (proposer: Cllr Jarvis, seconder: Cllr Pegg)
- e) End Fire and Rehire (proposer: Cllr Mundy, seconder: Cllr Dunne)
- f) Setting up a Drug Consumption Room (proposer: Cllr Wade, seconder: Cllr Miles) [amendment, proposer Cllr Linda Smith, seconder Cllr Mundy]
- g) EU nationals deserve to be treated with respect (proposer: Cllr Corais, seconder: Cllr Bely-Summers)

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: 31 January 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader

Introduction

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

Questions and responses

Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Mitigating Coronavirus Spread During 2022 Peak Tourist Season

Question

What measures is the City Council putting in place to mitigate against the spread of coronavirus during the 2022 peak tourist season? Have plans been adapted following the emergence of the Omicron variant?

Written Response

May I point the member to the detailed answer provided to a similar question to him for the November Council meeting. In addition to the system-wide approach and many measures detailed in the answer provided to the November Council, we will be:

- Delivering a Community Vaccination Champions programme, with health and community/voluntary sector partners -

LU1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Upton – Mitigating Coronavirus Spread During 2022 Peak Tourist Season

	<p>supported by £485,000 grant funding the Council has secured - to help encourage the take up of vaccine among those communities and groups that have been more hesitant in getting vaccinated to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will also be extending our ongoing programme of support to rough sleepers in the city – using a separate £336,000 Protect and Vaccinate funding secured by the Council – to offer accommodation (even where individuals may not qualify under the normal homelessness funding arrangements) and vaccination. <p>As it has done throughout the pandemic the Council will respond in accordance with the advice and directions issued by the government and the Director of Public Health. Our ability to respond effectively and work with stakeholders and businesses to protect the public from coronavirus resulted in a national award from the government in 2021 and we anticipate that we will provide all the measures that will be required during the peak tourist season.</p> <p>Our plans have been adapted to the emergence of the Omicron variant, for example resuming weekend out of hours inspections of premises where COVID passes are required and we will amend our plans again with the announcement of the return to Plan A.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing, Housing Security and Housing the Homeless

DW1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Walcott – Afghan Refugee Rehousing

Question	Written Response
<p>How many Afghan refugees families have been rehoused in Oxford?</p>	<p>The City’s first Afghan family of six (through the ARAP scheme), were resettled in Oxford City on 22/12/2021. The 3 school aged children have already started school, the family are registered with their local GP and the family continue to be</p>

DW1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Walcott – Afghan Refugee Rehousing

supported by our welfare reform team.

Our 2nd ACRS household of 1 person is due to move into her accommodation 21/01/2022.

In addition, our first family of 4 under the UKRS scheme have been approved and process is underway to aid their resettlement.

An additional 7 properties are in the pipeline, although some will be later in the year.

DW2 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Walcott – Impact of Retrofit Already Completed on Leaseholders**Question**

The government has indicated that leaseholders will not have to pay for replacement tower block cladding and other fire safety measures. How will this impact on leaseholders in City Council owned tower blocks where work has already been completed?

Written Response

There will not be any impact at all. The costs of the cladding works to the five Tower blocks have not been charged to leaseholders. Under the terms of their leases they are only responsible for the costs of repairs not improvements. The recladding of Evenlode and Windrush was funded from the Government's Remediation Programme. The recladding of Hockmore is being funded by the contractor Fortem.

Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services**MR1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley – Gender Diversity among Council Officers****Question**

What workforce diversity data does the City Council routinely collect on its employees (e.g., male /female etc..) and in what format and frequency?

Written Response

Workforce diversity data is collected and reported internally every month.

Every year the Annual Workforce Equality Report, Gender Pay Gap Report, Ethnicity Pay Gap Report and Disability Pay Gap Report are presented to Scrutiny, Cabinet and then published.

The Workforce Equality Report reports on a range of protected characteristics including sex, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation and

MR1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Rowley – Gender Diversity among Council Officers

religious beliefs.

The data is examined for trends in the workforce profile. The data is also reviewed in the context of grades, employment types, recruitment, on-boarding and staff leavers.

MR2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – Pothole Demand and Funding Gap**Question**

What is the estimated funding gap between County provided funding for pothole filling and need for road pothole repair in the City?

Written Response

Every year the Council submits a bid for funding for highways work identified in the city. This year the bid was £11.7m. The funding allocated was £960k (revenue £400k, capital £560k). All councils typically have a gap between the desired work and the available funds. Next year we expect to get a similar amount although that hasn't been confirmed yet. These sums do not include the Section 42plus works and budgets.

MR3 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – Catering Services and Procurement of Catering Services Contracts**Question**

Can the Cabinet Member provide details of the catering services it provides and contracts for catering services it procures?

Written Response

The Council has one live contract for the provision of catering services which was procured in 2021 for the Town Hall (café and events).

Elegant Cuisine

Contract start date : 01/11/2021

Contract length: 3 years with the option to extend for 2 further years.

MR4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – Policies when Contracting Catering Services**Question**

When contracting catering services, does the Council have a policy on using providers who offer a significant number of plant-based options?

Written Response

There is no specific policy across the Council on using providers who offer a significant number of plant based options, however in the latest catering tender suppliers were asked to offer sustainable food choice and the following

MR4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Rowley – Policies when Contracting Catering Services

objectives were included:

- Minimise foods that have a negative social or environmental impact and promote foods and practices that have a positive impact
- Enhance consumer awareness
- Actively source locally grown produce and promote seasonal foods
- Review new sustainable food accreditation schemes and maintain existing sustainable food and animal welfare accreditations
- Minimise unsustainable products through the procurement process

There was no mention of including a significant number of plant based options, however for events, dialogue will take place between the customer and the supplier to tailor each individual booking.

Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Tourism

MC1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Clarkson – Broad Street Cycle Route

Question

When events are held on Broad Street, Oxford City's major east-west cycle route is routinely blocked. Does the city council commit to ensure that this major cycle route is retained when granting permission for events on Broad Street in the future?

Written Response

In summer 2021, our popular and successful temporary civic space, "Broad Meadow", demonstrated how Broad Street could be re-designed and repurposed so that many people could gather, dwell and attend events while still retaining an accessible through route for emergency vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists when the events were publicly funded.

Based on the success of Broad Meadow, the County Council is now committed to delivering public space enhancements in Broad Street in 2022, to help inform a future permanent scheme.

The City Council is actively contributing to the County's design feasibility, engagement and implementation work through officer resource in the first half of 2022. We have already highlighted to the County the importance of events (for the cultural vitality of the city centre and as a revenue-generator for both councils)

MC1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Clarkson – Broad Street Cycle Route

and accessible movement through Broad Street.

We believe it may be possible for the design of a public realm scheme on Broad Street in 2022 to work for all parties. However, it is also likely that compromises will be needed (whether events need to resize or relocate, or councils need to accept a reduction in revenue, or cyclists may need to walk their bikes through a stretch of St Michael's Street if Broad Street is assured to be open 365 days a year).

As a Council we will treat each case on its merits and work hard with others to do all we can to ensure that cyclists can still ride the length of Broad Street when events take place there.

MC2 From Jarvis to Cllr Clarkson – The Grapes on George Street**Question**

With the news that the tenants of The Grapes on George Street have vacated the premises, are officers taking a proactive approach to looking for a new tenant and are they taking the opportunity to approach local SMEs and social enterprises to see if they are interested?

Written Response

The Council is not responsible for a new letting of The Grapes. The tenant is in administration. The lease continues and the guarantor of the tenant (who is the previous tenant) will be liable for the rent and for performing the tenant covenants. If the lease is disclaimed by the administrator, the guarantor will be required to take a new lease of the property (rather than an unlet building reverting to the Council). Assuming that the previous tenant does not choose to trade from the premises, it will market the lease to find a new tenant. Where we have had interested parties approach us we have given details of the administrator so that prospective tenants can contact them direct.

MC3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Clarkson – Future Provision of Public Toilets**Question**

In May 2019, the Tourism Management Review Group, commissioned by the Scrutiny Committee, produced a report entitled 'Building a Vision for Tourism in Oxford'. Two recommendations concerned the availability of public toilets in the city centre :

Written Response

A detailed update on the recommendations from the Tourism Management Review Group was provided to Scrutiny on 8 September 2021. A link to the report is available [here](#).

It is agreed that toilets are an important

MC3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Clarkson – Future Provision of Public Toilets

Recommendation 15 : That the Council undertakes to revive the Community Toilet Scheme with local businesses, and that it is explicitly within the remit of the Council's new City Centre Management function.

Recommendation 16 : That the City Executive Board commissions an options report concerning the long term future provision of adequate public conveniences in the City Centre. This should be produced in consultation with Oxford Direct Services.

Good, clean and publicly accessible toilets are very important if our city centre is to be a place that is welcoming and inclusive to visitors, people with young children and many people who need ready access to such facilities. We are currently consulting on our City Centre Strategy but there is only a passing reference to public toilets in the document. Google Maps shows nine locations, one of which has never existed and another of which is permanently closed. I have not checked how adequate signage to these facilities is.

At the last Council a trans rights motion was almost unanimously passed which contained the following clauses :

The Council notes :

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.

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-

facility in the City Centre. The Community Toilet Scheme has been included as a suggestion in the City Centre Action Plan as part of the “Getting the Basics Right” workstream at page 101. The plan highlights that “Maintaining adequate public toilet provision helps to ensure that the city centre remains inclusive for all those who use it”.

If there is business interest and support for a community toilet scheme as part of the strategy consultation, it may be pursued as a project for the action plan.

In terms of recommendation 16 a members briefing was provided in October 2019 with a range of options reviewed. A budget to produce a specific report is not in place and whilst desirable this needs to be balanced against budget and resource constraints. Officers will continue to work closely with ODS colleagues and actively look at where opportunities for improvements to existing and new provision can be aligned with new developments across the city centre.

MC3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Clarkson – Future Provision of Public Toilets

binary people to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

Clearly the implications of this need to be considered in any report concerning the long term future provision of toilets. Has such a report been commissioned and/or completed? If not — why? will it be? and will it include examination of the gender-neutral implications of our motion?

MC4 From Cllr Roz Smith to Cllr Clarkson – Cancelled Bookings for Swimming Lessons

Question

Is the Cabinet aware that many school children are missing swimming lessons as Fusion have cancelled bookings?

Written Response

We have been working hard with Fusion to help them to recruit more swimming teachers which is the reason that they are unable to offer a full range of swimming lessons currently.

A combination of factors, in particular, the pandemic and Brexit have placed significant challenges on leisure centre staffing for certain roles such as swimming teachers across the leisure industry. This has been compounded by staffing challenges in sectors such as hospitality.

Swimming instructors need to have a minimum Level 2 Award in Teaching Swimming, alongside a National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification. There is a cost for training and a significant time commitment involved. Furthermore, a qualified swimming teacher is required to maintain occupational competency by undertaking regular continuing professional development (CPD).

A summary of the areas being worked on includes:

1. Advertised both national and locally to recruit via agency, local community facilities and organisations, and social media
2. Contacted previous team members who may be interested in coming back to work
3. Offered free training for current Fusion team members to become qualified as a swim teacher (course cost £775)
4. Looking to offer a programme of training to

MC4 From Cllr Roz Smith to Cllr Clarkson – Cancelled Bookings for Swimming Lessons

non-employees to become qualified swim teachers (with little or no cost)

5. Multiple recruitment days, with more days planned – two swimming teachers have just been recruited
6. Training current Fusion team members to be “up-skilled” in Swim Teaching
7. Fusion are attending an Oxford-wide recruitment day in March 2022
8. Reviewing swim teacher’s pay to help with the recruitment process
9. We have put Fusion in contact with partners including the Job Centre, the Welfare Reform Team, Advice Centres and Job Clubs
10. We are continuing to work with both Universities but in short, they are also really struggling with recruitment but remain keen to work with us on options
11. We are linking and creating opportunities for employment through our Youth Ambition work. While this is looking positive, especially the link with the DWP work hub at Rose Hill, and through the Life Chances Project (the social impact bond initiative), this work will take a while to have an impact.
12. Fusion are interviewing three external applicants for their vacant Oxford Swimming and Children's Activity Coordinator (F/T). This includes an increase in salary by c£9k to attract a wider range of applicants
13. We are promoting all roles through our networks
14. We have engaged Fusion on a potential partnership with other city stakeholders, to submit a funding proposal for the provision of services for a pilot Adult Traineeships programme
15. We are investigating opportunities for engaging with volunteers
16. Feasibility work is taking place to offer practical dry land sessions to schools, including principles of water safety. Alongside, identifying opportunity for water

MC4 From Cllr Roz Smith to Cllr Clarkson – Cancelled Bookings for Swimming Lessons

based provision that may safely be offered, whilst qualified recruitment to posts is progressed.

There is a lot of national work underway. Recruitment was on the agenda of the recent Local Government Physical Activity Partnership (a subgroup led by the CEO of Community Leisure UK solely focussed on this challenge).

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

ET1 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Turner – Payment Only Permitted by Direct Debit

Question

The Age UK website, referring to the Equality Act, says 'Public bodies must consider the needs of people with protected characteristics, including older people, when planning or carrying out their public duties or services.'

Does the Cabinet Member agree that it is unreasonably restrictive to oblige residents, in particular older people, to use direct debit to pay for a service, in this case garden waste collection, with no exceptions permitted? And will the Cabinet Member consider making exceptions to the direct debit rule in response to a resident's reasonable request?

Written Response

The number of UK adults with a bank account is now estimated at 96%. The pandemic has forced many businesses to re-evaluate how they transact. This relates to the cost and speed of processing and taking cash and cheques, and the impact of the exchange of cash on COVID 19 infection rates. It has seen moves towards electronic means of payment. A large number of business have changed to processing by such means and no longer accept other methods of payment. The cost of processing a cheque or cash is significantly more than an electronic transaction. The City Council is no different in undertaking this evaluation. Staff are predominantly working from home and extensive home working is likely to continue, which makes cash handling difficult. In addition, the major impact of COVID means savings are necessary to balance the budget.

Importantly, however, for most city council services cash payments are still possible through Paypoints, which are available in many locations across the city. In respect of garden waste the issues are more challenging still with

ET1 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Turner – Payment Only Permitted by Direct Debit

the added difficulty of trying to chase relatively small amounts of money being particularly costly (estimated at around £50k per annum) and time consuming, and therefore we will take payment only by direct debit. Whilst the City Council are always willing to consider individual circumstances, if this budget saving is to be delivered it is important those taking up this service switch to direct debit. The City Council also supports various advice centres who could assist someone without a bank account to obtain one. The alternative would be to find alternative savings in the budget.

Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford; Deputy Leader of the Council

TH1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – Air Quality in Cowley/Temple Cowley**Question**

There has not been enough work pre LTN's to collect baseline data on traffic counts and pollution figures. There is little to no evidence of any traffic counts taking place during the trial, and there is limited data available on pollution/air quality filters.

Many local people have asked me for this information, which to date I have been unable to obtain. Please can you release information/data from the air quality filters in Cowley/Temple Cowley.

Written Response

When Oxfordshire County Council first announced its plans for the Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, Oxford City Council acted quickly to install additional air quality monitors and encouraged the County Council to utilise data to help inform its evaluations of the schemes. The County Council is currently making a preliminary evaluation of the Cowley LTNs, which includes assessing the impact of LTNs on air quality, on displaced vehicle traffic and on active travel modes. The assessment will also try to estimate the specific contribution of the pandemic to air quality and traffic levels in these areas and during the period of interest, so that the impacts caused by LTNs alone can be isolated and properly quantified. The results of this evaluation are expected to be shared with everyone as soon as the report is published by the County Council, which is expected towards the end of February. The scheme's final evaluation – again being conducted by the County Council with input from the City Council,

TH1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – Air Quality in Cowley/Temple Cowley

	is expected to be out towards the back end of the summer.
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TH2 From Cllr Wade to Cllr Hayes – The Seacourt Extension**Question**

At the last Full Council meeting on 29 November 2021 the Cabinet Member agreed to provide the following information on 31 January 2022:

1. on how many days was the extension open as a car park between 29 November 2021 and 31 January 2022 i.e. over the Christmas and post-Christmas sales period?
2. on how many occasions during that time was it closed due to high water levels?
3. what was the amount of revenue taken on those days when the extension was open in comparison to days when only the main car park was open?

Can that information now be provided?

Written Response

The car park extension currently remains closed. The original car park is able to cope with current demand, which remains reduced due to the pandemic.

This continues to be kept under review. The extension can be opened quickly once required.

The extension has not been closed due to a flooding event to date.

The answers are therefore:

1: 0;

2: 0; and

3: N/A.

TH3 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Domestic Air Pollution**Question**

During the winter there is a high level of coal and wood burning by residents in houses and houseboats in North Oxford and throughout the wider city. What steps are the city council taking to engage with residents, including houseboat residents, to combat air pollution from wood and coal burning stoves in the city?

Written Response

Oxford City Council has a strong track record in taking action on air quality to protect the health of residents and visitors. In January 2021 we were the first Local Authority in the UK to establish its own local annual mean target for NO₂, the tightest in the country, set at 30ug/m³, which is 25% lower than the current UK legal limit value. This was developed as part of the city's new Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2025 and adopted by Council.

On 22 September 2021 the World Health Organisation (WHO) published new Global Air Quality Guidelines which recommends much stricter values for the legal limits of air pollutants. These new guidelines have been updated following the analysis of the last 15 years of scientific studies and latest data that now provide clear evidence of

TH3 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Domestic Air Pollution

the damage that air pollution inflicts on human health at concentrations below the current legal values. On 23 September 2021 we wrote to Government requesting them to consider the development of new national air quality standards in line with this latest scientific evidence provided by WHO. We are at the moment still waiting for an official response from the Right Hon. George Eustice MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on this matter.

With regards to the specific issue of domestic air pollution - there is not a high level of coal and wood burning by residents in Oxford. Gas and electric remain the main forms of heating in the city although wood burning stoves have become more popular in recent years. As long as these stoves are DEFRA approved for smoke control areas and are installed by a competent person the Council cannot control their use.

[As we announced in March last year](#), Oxford City Council has been awarded an air quality DEFRA grant worth £45k to deliver a city-wide raising awareness campaign on wood and coal burning.

In late January 2022 we are holding a campaign workshop with our local partners Friends of the Earth and the Canal & River Trust, both of which have experience delivering similar schemes in some of the London boroughs (specifically focusing on wood emissions from canal boats). The workshop will be led by an experienced team of communication/design consultants, who will help us define the campaign's identity and campaign materials.

This campaign will be city-wide but it will have a number of targeted messages – some for boat users, others for residents, current owners of wood stoves, but also for people who are at the moment considering to buy these technologies

The messages will highlight the negative impacts to human health of being exposed to wood and coal smoke emissions, and will also be focusing on sharing best practice: i.e. what people can do to minimise particulate emissions from these heating sources. It is planned that the campaign launches in February.

In the meantime, and from an operational

TH3 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Domestic Air Pollution

perspective, it is also important to highlight that Oxford City Council officers respond to service requests regarding smoke pollution and will follow up where there appears to be a potential breach of smoke control legislation or a wood burner has not been installed in accordance with building regulations.

TH4 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Air Pollution from Licensed Premises

Question

Due to the COVID pandemic, there has been an increased use of outside space for drinking and dining and a trend towards using firepits to provide warmth and ambience for customers at licensed premises. This is resulting in air pollution negatively impacting Oxford residents. What actions are the city council taking to reduce air pollution through fire burning from licensed premises?

Written Response

Overall, air pollution levels in the city have not been increasing over the last few years, rather we have seen a steady improvement linked to actions we have been taking, for example to help clean up our bus fleet. They then improved by a further 30% in 2020 due to the pandemic – which means that for the first time since we started monitoring air quality across the city all locations have registered air pollutant concentrations below the current legal limit values.

The COVID Secure Team has visited every pub in the city during the pandemic, with many premises being visited numerous times. There has only been one report of a firepit being used which was followed up and the use was ceased. As such there is no evidence that air pollution is being caused by fire burning from licensed premises.

Throughout the pandemic, both the City and County Councils have actively worked together towards the fast implementation of several active travel measures and opportunities to support businesses and to improve air quality in the city and which included for example pedestrianisation trials, allocation of road space for outdoor drinking and dining, free park and ride, etc. – and hence reducing road space for traffic – which continues to be the main source of harmful pollutants in the city.

At the moment traffic levels are at 80% of pre-pandemic times, and the transport sector still represents 68% of the local emissions of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) in the city. In February 2022 we will be introducing the ZEZ pilot to address dirty air arising from transportation, and we have a list of [30 air pollution measures](#) that we intend to implement in the city during the period 2021-2025 to support

TH4 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Air Pollution from Licensed Premises

	<p>the ZEZ work and the decarbonisation of the domestic and transport sectors (e.g. introduction of e-cargo bikes at the covered market, working with County and bus operators on the ZEBRA scheme for the electrification of the city's entire bus fleet, etc.).</p>
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TH5 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hayes – Licensed Taxi Cycle Rack Provision

Question	Written Response
<p>In Denmark taxis are required to carry a bike rack, and passengers can bring a bicycle on a taxi for a small fee to enable mix mode transportation. As the Taxi Licencing Authority, and in light of the city's commitment to active travel, is the City Council willing to introduce a similar requirement for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle operators it licences in the city?</p>	<p>All Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Oxford are able to carry a single bicycle as they are all wheelchair accessible vehicles.</p> <p>Larger Private Hire Vehicles (which are available in Oxford) are also able to accommodate a bicycle and this should be requested at the point of booking, to ensure a suitable vehicle arrives, in a similar way to booking a vehicle for carrying pushchairs or other large items.</p> <p>As suitable provision for cyclists already exists within the taxi and private hire vehicle market in Oxford there is no need to introduce a further requirement for all vehicles to carry a bike rack. This is reflected in the statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards recently reissued by the government in 2020 which does not include this as a requirement.</p>

TH6 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Hayes – Turning Broad Street into a Vibrant and Successful Public Space

Question	Written Response
<p>In its current budget proposals, Oxfordshire County Council is recommending the removal of parking in Broad Street. As the authority responsible for public realm, will this Council play its full part in taking the opportunity to turn Broad Street into a vibrant and successful public space for all stakeholders, including fully maintaining active travel routes</p>	<p>The City Council has provided an example of a beautiful car-free space in Broad Street, in the heart of the city centre. With Broad Meadow, we have piloted a wildflower meadow which has received overwhelming support from the majority of respondents in a consultation.</p> <p>The City Council has repeatedly called for the creation of a permanent whole-street car-free space which preserves cycling access, privately in meetings with colleagues at the County Council and publicly, such as on 17 November and via a motion to council unanimously passed (I amended</p>

TH6 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Hayes – Turning Broad Street into a Vibrant and Successful Public Space

at all times?

the motion to provide for this and a timetable for action that includes further consultation and implementation of permanent pedestrianisation in time for the summer of 2022).

Following the successful conclusion of the public consultation into the City Council’s “Broad Meadow” temporary project in 2021 (where 87% of more than 1,000 respondents reported it had had a positive impact on the city centre), the County Council has agreed to pick up the baton.

The City Council has sought to have this treated as a joint project similar to that of Connecting Oxford and Zero Emission Zone and included within our shared project coordination/collaboration. We have offered officer resource at no additional cost to deliver design feasibility, engagement, and implementation, thereby helping to save the County Council time and money by using existing knowledge and experience.

Now is the time for the County Council to implement the will of this Council as we expressed it through our motion.

TH7 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – City Council Scientific Advisor

Question

Does the city council have scientific advisor?

Written Response

Indeed, the City Council does have a scientific adviser, [as announced in 2020](#), Professor Nick Eyre, Professor of Energy and Climate Policy, University of Oxford. Professor Eyre leads the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions, which is the main UK university research programme on energy use. He is also a Co-Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Integrating Renewable Energy. He has advised both Government and the United Nations on climate change and appropriate responses.

Professor Eyre has provided input and advice on the Council’s plan to reach Net Zero, in particular in the drafting of the Zero Carbon Oxford Roadmap and Action Plan, and the development of the “scenarios” section. This section provided the basis for the decarbonisation pathway for the city to identify near, medium and long-term actions.

TH7 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – City Council Scientific Advisor

Professor Eyre’s advice also resulted in the Council’s updated definition of “Net Zero” as set out in the December 2021 Cabinet Paper. He advised that the priority actions should be arranged in a hierarchy – firstly through emissions reduction by the Council from its own activities; secondly ‘insetting’ (i.e. support for emissions reduction by others in Oxford); and only thirdly by offsetting actions outside the city, including the purchase of green gas credits.

TH8 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – Pollution Levels on Hollow Way

Question

See photos attached at Annex 1.

What happens if pollution levels become consistently illegal on Hollow Way following the introduction of these measures. Because that’s what started to happen in September and October.

Legal limit is 40. It was below on Hollow Way before the pandemic.

Written Response

I would like to thank Cllr Malik for his concern about air quality.

There is a strong seasonality effect on air pollution levels in the city. NO2 emissions tend to be much lower from May to July, due to the warmer temperatures, and start constantly increasing from there onwards, reaching their peak during the months of December/January, where the cold and still weather often tends to favour poor dispersion and pollutant entrapment. This is the main reason why the current long term legal limit value for this pollutant appears under the form of an annual mean (so that this seasonality effect can be taken into account) and the main reason why air pollution monthly mean values should not be compared.

It is very difficult to make any robust assumptions of air quality levels in any given place just by comparing the results of two consecutive months – as the differences observed are much more likely to be attributed to weather than to anything else.

Another factor that needs to be taken into account is that the results available for comparison in Annex 1 correspond to the diffusion tube raw data from the lab – these datasets still need to be corrected for bias – in the same way we correct all of the raw data we receive. Bias represents the overall tendency of the diffusion tubes to under or over-read relative to the reference chemiluminescence analyser. These monitoring results are therefore still preliminary and as such should not be considered.

TH8 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – Pollution Levels on Hollow Way

	<p>As detailed in the response to Question TH1, Oxfordshire County Council is making a preliminary evaluation of the Cowley LTNs, which includes assessing the impact of LTNs on air quality, on displaced vehicle traffic and on active travel modes. The assessment will also try to estimate the specific contribution of the pandemic to air quality and traffic levels in these areas - including Hollow Way - and during the period of interest, so that the impacts caused by LTNs alone can be isolated and properly quantified.</p> <p>As Cllr Malik will be aware we will also be introducing in February 2022 a ZEZ pilot for the city centre, with the view of extending it to other areas of the city within the next 12-18 months, which I hope he will be pleased to welcome as a further important step in our actions to improve air quality across the city.</p> <p>At the same time, we continue to work with the County Council and with bus operators to clean up the emissions from Oxford's entire bus fleet, with a proposal having been recently submitted to Government under the ZEBRA scheme for the electrification of all the buses in the city, which would also positively impact areas with high density of bus routes, such as the Cowley Rd.</p>
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TH9 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Public Bicycle Pump Maintenance

Question	Written Response
<p>The public bicycle pump on Cowley Road (opposite Tesco) has been broken for some time. How are these being maintained?</p>	<p>While there is a routine inspection schedule for the bike pumps by ODS Streetscene team, to date the defective bike pump on Cowley Road hadn't previously been picked up, and so I'm grateful for the Councillor raising this to our attention.</p> <p>Now we are aware, ODS will attend the site and make the repair as soon as possible.</p>

TH10 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Implications of the Zero Emissions Zone Trial for Disabled People

Question	Written Response
<p>Whilst exemptions from the</p>	<p>I would like to thank Cllr Wolff for raising this</p>

TH10 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Implications of the Zero Emissions Zone Trial for Disabled People

rules restricting the bringing of polluting vehicles into the ZEZ attach to the vehicle itself, exemptions for disabled people attach to the disabled person themselves by means of the Blue Badge — not to the vehicle in which they travel. This inevitably creates a difficulty. Our ZEZ trial recognises this and attempts to resolve it by allowing a Blue Badge holder to register two vehicles, 10 days in advance. However, many disabled people are either unable to drive or own no car, relying on a 'pool' of more than two friends to drive them about. Disabled visitors to the city will often not be able to satisfy the 10-day notice conditions.

In the long term, a greater proportion of vehicles will be zero emission, but in the closer future this will become a significantly more important issue once the ZEZ is extended.

How might we learn what the implications of the ZEZ trial have been for disabled people? Are there mechanisms in prospect that might overcome this difficulty?

specific issue, and also raising the wider point about how the ZEZ Pilot will help us to learn lessons before the scheme is scaled up to a larger area.

On the specific example, City Council and County Council officers have received a question along these lines from a member of the City Council's Inclusive Transport & Movement Focus Group. Officers have arrived at a proportionate adaptation and improvement of the back-office setup, so that any registered Blue Badge Holder (BBH) will be able to swap the details of the specific vehicle they will be travelling in straight away via a phone call to the County Council's Customer Service Centre.

The initial registration of a BBH on the County Council's Zero Emission Zone system will take up to 10 days, as this is an annual process which will enable officers to validate the 100% discount on charges. Both councils continue to work hard to publicise the start of the ZEZ Pilot and the process for applying for discounts and exemptions, so we hope through our publicity and wider networks that the message will reach visitors as well as residents in Oxford.

On the wider issue of learning from the ZEZ Pilot, we are actively seeking feedback on how the ZEZ Pilot is working from now on, including how we can improve things such as the ease of transfer of BBH details among vehicles, before any enlargement of the ZEZ area. There will also be another widespread consultation on the plans for a wider zone in due course, before a formal decision is taken by councillors to go ahead.

TH11 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Pivot Power-led Oxford Energy Superhub

Question

Can the PH update Council on

Written Response

Contracts are in place with Pivot Power, which is

TH11 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hayes – Pivot Power-led Oxford Energy Superhub

progress of the Pivot Power-led Oxford Energy Superhub that has benefitted from UK government Industrial Strategy Challenge Funding?

providing the grid connections to the Redbridge site, and the three Electric Vehicle Charging Operators – Tesla, Gamma and FastNed. The ESO hub is under construction, with solar canopies and a High Voltage substation now in situ. The remainder of the work is on course for completion by May 2022.

Cabinet Member for Parks and Waste Reduction**LA1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Arshad – Temple Cowley LTN Consultation Results****Question**

It is clear from the consultation results that the majority of respondents from the Temple Cowley area have clearly rejected the LTN trial. Will Cllr Lubna Arshad show her support to residents and oppose the LTN trial in Temple Cowley?

If not – why not?

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

Cabinet Members answer questions on their portfolio not ward matters, so this question has been assigned to relevant portfolio holder which in this case is Cllr Hayes as the Cabinet Member for Transport.

Oxfordshire County Council implemented a low traffic neighbourhood in Temple Cowley in March 2021 under an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). We believe the consultation to which Cllr Malik refers is the “follow-up perception survey” which closed on 25 November 2021. We have made it very clear that we think it is important that the County Council listens to the views shared by residents during the ETRO period, not just because it is a legal obligation, but also because transport projects need to work in the here and now for those directly affected by them.

It is important to note that a clear majority of residents in the affected areas supported the initial introduction of the LTNs in Cowley, the latest survey results demonstrate a dissatisfaction with the current approach rather than an objection to the principle of LTNs.

The proper course of action for the County Council in light of the November 2021 feedback is to adapt and improve the implementation of the Cowley

LA1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Arshad – Temple Cowley LTN Consultation Results

	<p>LTNs, much as other local authorities have done in the months and years after delivering LTNs in their areas.</p> <p>The Leader and I have already written to the Leader of the County Council on 10 December 2021 in order to request a pause of further implementations of LTNs until wider, more strategic measures are introduced. Unfortunately, the decision was taken to proceed by the County Council without delay. However, as we stated in our response on 16 December to the decision it remains this Council's view that LTNs – implemented properly alongside strategic interventions that reduce traffic on Oxford's roads, and with fulsome public and stakeholder engagement – are a positive intervention in Oxford.</p>
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LA2 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Arshad – Bulky Item Refuge Charges

Question	Written Response
<p>Will this administration abolish the bulky item refuge charges in the next budget?</p>	<p>The option of reducing or removing the charges for collection of bulky waste were considered and rejected as part of the Budget proposals preparation.</p> <p>This is because of the very significant cost impact on the Council of more than £100,000 per annum; and because data gathered by ODS suggests that while there has been a reduction in the number of bulky waste collections, there has not been an increase in fly tipping within the city, as it would appear more people are taking things to Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre themselves.</p> <p>Between April 2021 and mid-January 2022 there were 3563 bulky waste collections, involving 5,548 items collected. Those on qualifying benefits, paying at the discounted rate constituted c16% of total collections.</p> <p>Collections are likely to be around 5,000 for the full year generating an income of c£100,000. If the bulky waste charge were removed we could also expect an increase in the number of collection requests, which would add to operational costs.</p> <p>This programme is not yet one year in and it is working well operationally. We should at least allow a full year to complete and then review.</p>

LA3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Arshad – Tree Protection Orders

Question

When works are required to trees that are subject to Tree Protection Orders, ward Councillors are automatically notified via the weekly tree lists. Works to trees not subject to TPOs do not require such prior notification.

A primary purpose of Conservation Area Status is to protect views of the locality from the public realm, and trees frequently form a very significant element of the street view. There have been a couple of recent incidents of large trees in (or very close to) a Conservation Area being felled without notification, causing considerable public anger. Retrospectively, when challenged, it has been claimed that the trees in question were diseased and not subject to TPOs, but the public's sense of violation remains, and there is often scepticism about such claims, made after the event.

The presence of a TPO does not prevent work to, or even felling of, significant trees, but it does mean that the public (through its Councillors) is given prior notification, thus preserving the sense of the Council's accountability to the general public. Would the cabinet member support a proposal that all mature trees in, or viewable from, Conservation Areas and on public land should automatically be subject to

Written Response

The question would appear to conflate two parts of the councils functions.

As a Local Planning Authority we publish works to trees that are subject to Tree Preservation Orders, and, works to trees in conservation areas on the weekly tree lists. It is not correct to say that works to trees that are not subject to TPOs do not require prior notification, because such notification is also required for works to trees in conservation areas. Hence they are also included on the weekly lists.

The question makes reference to a couple of incidents of large trees being felled in (or close to) a conservation area. It is not clear which incidents are being referred to specifically, but it is noted in the last sentence that reference is made to where this relates to public land. There has been a recent case where a street tree was removed by the council in Iffley Road which we presume is being referred to here. In any case it is important to note that the Council has the responsibility to maintain trees on public land and this is handled by Oxford direct Services. They are exempt from having to submit prior notification application for works to trees in conservation areas. Notwithstanding this, we understand that there was a Tree Management Policy in place with ODS which said that ward councillors would be notified of works being undertaken to trees on public land in advance of these works so that they would be notified. We are aware that such notification was undertaken with respect to the tree on the Iffley Road prior to its removal. However if this is no longer happening, then the tree management policy should be refreshed.

The suggestion that all mature trees in, or viewable from, conservation areas and on public land should automatically be subject to a TPO would not be practical. Firstly all trees within conservation areas are protected where they have a trunk / stem diameter of greater than 75mm as measured at 1.5m from ground level. Therefore a TPO is unnecessary. Furthermore where they are on public land, there is an exemption for the local authority to have to provide prior notification. With

LA3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Arshad – Tree Protection Orders

TPOs?

respect to making a TPO for all mature trees viewable from a conservation area, this would be an onerous requirement as a judgement would need to be made in each case as to whether they were worthy of a TPO being made.

LA4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Arshad – Crowdfunding for Tree Planting

Question

Can local people crowdfund the planting of a tree in a specific location, if the land is owned by the Council?

Written Response

The City Council already works with community groups and other organisations to support tree-planting in the city. An example are the two Tiny Forests planted at Meadow Lane Nature Reserve and Foxwell Drive last year containing 600 trees each, where the Council provided the land and others sourced the funding.

Residents can contribute towards the planting of a tree in their local area. The location of the tree will need to be agreed with the Council and ODS because checks such as utility searches and driver sight lines need to be carried out first to determine if a location is viable.

The City Council has already planted 420 trees in the current financial year, and some 10,000 new trees on its green spaces in the last ten years. It should be noted there is now limited space left available to plant further multiple trees on open land in the city.

In the coming years focus there will be a greater focus on planting along streets and highways to help tackle climate change and improve air quality and urban settings. Creating the pits for street trees is complex and expensive because of the need to create a viable root space in areas of tarmac/underground services etc. Council officers are currently examining a number of potential external sources of funding, and local crowdfunding would be very much welcomed.

Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery

AH1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Hollingsworth – Introduction of Local Plan Policies to Protect Biodiversity

Question

Will the Cabinet Member include policies in the next review of the Local Plan to disincentivise the paving over of front gardens for car parking, in order to reduce damage to biodiversity and the drainage ability of gardens?

Written Response

Under current national planning rules creating a parking space on a front garden, as long as permeable paving is used, is a Permitted Development Right. In other words, no planning permission from the local council is required in order to do it. This is highly regrettable, and officers have not been able to identify any precedents for an Article 4 Direction to remove or to limit that Permitted Development Right, which suggests such an attempt would be unsuccessful. More broadly the review of the Local Plan will allow further work on policies relating to both drainage and biodiversity, and these will form an important part of the new Plan, and officers will explore what options we have available to us that will pass the required tests of soundness (NPPF para. 35) for a Local Plan policy.

AH2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Hollingsworth – Next Local Plan Review

Question

When will the process of creating the next Local Plan review begin?

Written Response

Work on Local Plan 2040 began last year, following the adoption of our Local Development Scheme 2021-26 in March 2021 (the LDS sets out timescales for the preparation and revision of documents in Oxford City Council's Local Plan and other planning policy documents). An Early Stage Issues Consultation was carried in August and September via a survey delivered to all households in the city, and consultation on an Issues Paper carried out at the same time. The next round of full consultation is likely to be held in mid-2022.

AH3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hollingsworth – Next Local Plan Review ('Doughnut Economics')

Question

In response to a question from Green Councillors (July 2020) urging use of 'Doughnut Economics' in framing the next iteration of the Local Plan, Cllr Hollingsworth 'welcomed' the idea.

Written Response

Officers working on the Local Plan 2040 are aware of the conceptual framework of 'Doughnut Economics' and will aim to take it into account in the development of the

AH3 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hollingsworth – Next Local Plan Review ('Doughnut Economics')

Has any progress been made?	policies in the Plan.
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AH4 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hollingsworth – Green Belt Protection

Question

A primary purpose of Green Belt is to prevent settlements merging into one another in order to protect their unique identity and prevent urban sprawl. Already plans are in place to merge Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke with new development in the Green Belt, and the possibility has been recently reported of Oxford United building a new and larger stadium on Stratfield Brake, which sits in the crucial Water Eaton corridor between Oxford and Kidlington. I believe university developments are also being considered on North Oxford Golf Course immediately to the south of this. With Oxford Parkway station car park already occupying several acres to the east, and a new housing development planned for St Frideswides Farm to the north of Cutteslowe it is looking as if within a decade Kidlington will be completely connected to Oxford by building development, much of it including large and prominent buildings.

Although the land in question lies within Cherwell District, Oxford City must have a view about the threatened loss of this important undeveloped corridor. Does the portfolio holder agree that such developments represent a fundamental breach of Green Belt protection in a crucial inter-settlement corridor, and will the Council be making strong objections to the proposals?

Written Response

Oxfordshire's five local planning authorities have worked collaboratively on the issue of Green Belt and continue to so. In 2015 a joint Oxford Green Belt Study was produced and each of the districts and the City used this evidence to inform their own Local Plans.

Cherwell District Council used the joint study when developing their Local Plan, and all but one of sites in question were allocated for development in the Cherwell Local Plan 'Partial Review to Meet Oxford's Unmet Housing Need' which was adopted by Cherwell District Council last year.

The exception is the proposed site for Oxford United's new stadium at Stratfield Brake. It will be for Cherwell District Council to decide on any planning application received for that site, based on their own planning policies as well as national guidance. The City Council is likely to be consulted on any planning application, and will respond taking into account national and local planning policies in place at that time.

AH5 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hollingsworth – Planning Legislation and Definitions in Relation to Climate Change and the Local Plan

Question

Our Local Plan defines 'brownfield land' as follows:

Written Response

The definitions of Brownfield Land are established at a national level,

AH5 From Cllr Wolff to Cllr Hollingsworth – Planning Legislation and Definitions in Relation to Climate Change and the Local Plan

Both land and premises are included in this term, which refers to a site that has previously been used or developed and is not currently fully in use, although it may be partially occupied or utilised. It may also be vacant, derelict or contaminated. This excludes open spaces and land where the remains of previous use have blended into the landscape, or have been overtaken by nature conservation value or amenity use and cannot be regarded as requiring development.

A debate is arising in the wider county which has implications for Oxford City concerning solar farms (and by implication wind turbines). Much agricultural land, though not considered 'brownfield' in planning terms (presumably because it is 'open'), has been heavily treated with artificial fertilisers, pesticides etc for generations. It has suffered catastrophic loss of biodiversity and its soil structure is severely damaged. Solar farms, which have an 'industrial' appearance, could be considered temporary structures which, apart from overshadowing the land beneath, arguably have far less impact on the environment — indeed may help land recover to some extent quite apart from their primary purpose of producing renewable energy. The debate is about the relative priority given to 'aesthetic appearance pleasing to humans' and 'value in preserving the viability of continuing human existence on the planet'. This debate also has implications for the retrofitting of heritage buildings and policies on Conservation Areas.

Does the portfolio holder consider that current planning legislation and its associated definitions are 'fit for purpose' in the context of climate change, and what discretion might the City Council have to embed new thinking when we come to review our Local Plan?

and are not subject to redefinition by local planning authorities. Agriculture is not currently considered to be development in that legal context. While I can see the point the question makes, I think there are very likely to be serious consequences from redefining agriculture as development that both the Councillor and I would profoundly regret. A similar issue might arise from allowing temporary structures on undeveloped land – not all temporary structures would be as beneficial as solar farms, and given the payback periods for any major investment in such a structure there might well be conflicts between the meaning of 'temporary' in a planning context – usually no more than five years – and the length of time that a solar farm or similar installation would need to exist to be a worthwhile investment. This is an issue best resolved by carefully considered amendments to national planning guidance.

AH6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton – Healthcare Centre in Summertown

AH6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton – Healthcare Centre in Summertown

Question

Summertown residents are suffering from insufficient healthcare facilities to meet the level of demand. What actions is the council taking to address the shortage of capacity of primary health care provision for North Oxford residents?

Written Response

As the Councillor will know from the briefings on Diamond Place that we have attended, the City Council is in discussion with both the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the two current GP practices in the Summertown area about the potential for Diamond Place to include a replacement building for the two current buildings, which are both poorly laid out for a modern GP practice and on leases that run out later this decade.

The CCG's Primary Care Estates Strategy 2020 – 2025, published in December 2020, identifies where plans for new facilities may need to be drawn up by the CCG's successor body, the Integrated Care System for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire (ICS-BOB). This includes Oxford and the Primary Care Network that includes the two Summertown practices and the two associated satellite facilities in Wolvercote and Kendall Crescent. This work needs to be done urgently, so that the City Council as the local planning authority can take into account when developing the Oxford Local Plan 2040, and so that Oxfordshire County Council as the co-ordinator of work on the Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy can properly take into account the scale of investment needed in Summertown and across the County as a whole.

The lack of such detailed requirements from the CCG before now has been a concern for both the City Council and the other District Councils in Oxfordshire. We welcome the new focus on this urgent priority from the NHS, and are working closely with the CCG (and will do so with its successor body from April onwards) to ensure that this work is fully and quickly carried out. As highlighted in the emerging Oxfordshire Infrastructure Strategy (OXIS) Stage 1 reports, the NHS needs to identify what facilities it needs and where, so that planning authorities like Oxford can try to identify suitable locations for them in their Local Plans and the investment required identified in OXIS.

[for transparency I am a registered patient at one of the practices mentioned in this answer but do not regard that as an interest which would preclude me from answering the question]

SB1 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Brown – Cowley LTN Consultation Results

Question

A recent Freedom of Information request relating to the Cowley LTN consultation results was published on social media on 23rd December 2021.

1537 respondents in total object to the LTN's (63.17%). Additionally 264 respondents also had Concerns (10.85%). Only 627 respondents were in support (25.77%). This shows a clear majority of respondents are not in favour of them.

After nearly a year of LTNs, the figures broken down into the three areas show that the people of Cowley & Oxford clearly do not want the LTN's & they have failed.

- 537 respondents against Temple Cowley LTNs (66.87%)
- 398 respondents against Florence Park LTNs (54%)
- 602 respondents against Church Cowley (67.41%)

Considering this information, it is paramount that a democratic decision is made, considering what the results of the consultation. People do not want the LTN's.

Would the leader of the Council write to the County Council and abolish the LTN trial in Cowley?

If not – why not?

Written Response

I refer the councillors to the answer given by Cllr Hayes to his question on the same topic.

It remains this Council's view that LTNs – implemented properly alongside strategic interventions that reduce traffic on Oxford's roads and with proper public and stakeholder engagement – are a positive intervention in Oxford.

As Cllr Malik will be aware, Cllr Hayes and I wrote to the County Council to ask them to delay any implementation so that it was brought in alongside more strategic interventions that reduce traffic congestion on Oxford's roads, including improvements to bus services. This was set out in the letter from Cllr Hayes and me on 10 December and the follow up on 16 December.

SB2 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Brown – Oxford LTN Trial

Question

Before the last May elections council Cllr Susan Brown was pictured and quoted that Labour will support the LTN trial. In December (?), Cllr

Written Response

The Councillor notes that Cllr Hayes and I wrote to the County Council on its decision to press ahead with the East Oxford LTN against City Council advice, but he doesn't appear to have read what we

SB2 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Brown – Oxford LTN Trial

Brown wrote to the County Council requesting the East Oxford LTN decision was deferred. Was she buying time until the next elections, trying to gain popularity to secure votes at the next election, or has she changed her mind about the LTN scheme?

said in those letters.

[On 10 December](#) Cllr Hayes and I were clear that Oxford City Council strongly supports Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs), but were concerned with implementation of the East Oxford LTNs in early 2022. We asked for this decision to be deferred.

For LTNs to be truly successful, they need to be brought forward as part of an integrated and strategic approach to transport planning in our city, not piecemeal. Central to this should be bus prioritisation on key roads, which would support a shift to a faster and more efficient bus network, alongside enhanced cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Our shared plans, called Connecting Oxford, deliver this and need to be prioritised and delivered before additional LTNs.

[On 16 December](#), in response to the County Cabinet decision to proceed with the East Oxford LTN, I restated the Council's continued support for Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as important tools of traffic management, but reiterated it should be implemented alongside the broader set of measures to reduce traffic on Oxford's roads under the Connecting Oxford plans.

SB3 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Brown – Policy on Babies in the Council Chamber

Question

There is a need to reduce the barriers for mothers with young infants and children to participate in elected office. With this in mind and given the recent situation in Parliament where a female MP was reprimanded for taking her young son into the chamber, what is Oxford City Council's policy for allowing councillors' babies into the council chamber for council meetings?

Written Response

I would like to assure the councillor that we will be delighted to welcome her baby into the council chamber and to attend council meetings. Both of my (now adult) daughters attended many meetings as babies here and were welcomed and have been many other babies (and children) who have been brought by their parents to meetings over the years. We all recognise that sometimes this is the best or only option for both parents and children, particularly for breastfeeding mothers. Let's hope that one day the House of Commons will catch up with what has been accepted practice in Labour Oxford City Council for at least 30 years.

SB4 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Brown – Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment

Question

At its meeting on 23 November 2021, the Future Oxfordshire Partnership was asked by the Scrutiny Panel to initiate a peer review of the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment. This document forms part of the suite of documents supporting the emerging Oxfordshire 2050 Plan, and sets out a variety of scenarios for projected growth in the county. The scenario adopted by councils is of absolutely crucial importance in planning the future of our county, and many stakeholders have asked for an independent review of this kind. The Partnership replied that it would not initiate such a review, partly in order to wait for a report on the results of the Regulation 18 part 2 consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan, partly because “The Future Oxfordshire Partnership cannot itself commission a peer review of the OGNA, as decision making powers relating to the Oxfordshire Plan lie with the city and district councils”. The report on the consultation feedback was reported to be expected “in the New Year”. Does the administration of this council support a peer review of the OGNA?

Written Response

The OGNA was produced for a partnership of all the councils in Oxfordshire to feed into the work to develop the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. The partner authorities were all involved in the development of that work and have confidence in it. We do not see that a peer review is required at this stage. It was published alongside the consultation on the Oxfordshire Plan in the Summer. As work continues on the Oxfordshire Plan partners will continue to work on the evidence base, supplementing and refining as appropriate to ensure that the next stage consultation document is informed and supported by the best available evidence. Eventually the entire evidence base will be before the Planning Inspector for the Oxfordshire Plan and will be charged with determining whether the policies of the plan are based on sound evidence.

The question refers to the consultation feedback on the Oxfordshire Plan; the intention is for a report on this to come to the City’s Scrutiny Committee in February and Cabinet in March. At the same time it will go before the equivalent committees of the other Oxfordshire partners.

SB5 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Brown – Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Question

Can the Leader confirm that the final text of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 to go to Regulation 19 consultation, including a decision on which of the growth scenarios in the OGNA to adopt, will be decided by a vote at each of the five planning authority councils in Oxfordshire? Can she also confirm the timescales for that document to come to Scrutiny,

Written Response

At each major stage of work on the Oxfordshire Plan all of the partner authorities will individually consider and approve draft plan documents (in a co-ordinated manner) as the decision makers in the process. Draft consultation documents will always be reported to Scrutiny Committee and the report and their recommendations go onto Cabinet, and at the final stage of work approval of Council will be required in addition.

The timescales for future stages of work are currently under review however they will be set

SB5 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Brown – Oxfordshire Plan 2050

Cabinet and Full Council in the City? Can she also confirm that, as always, Scrutiny has full freedom to scrutinise the text and make recommendations to the City Cabinet, notwithstanding that the same process will be happening concurrently in the other councils?

out in future reviews of the Local Development Scheme and advertised on the Forward Plan and Scrutiny Work Plan as is standard practice.

In addition I would flag that there is an additional opportunity for Scrutiny Committee to be involved in the Oxfordshire Plan work at their February meeting, when a report on the latest consultation and related matters will be on the agenda.

SB6 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Brown – Multi Faith Room at Oxford Town Hall

Question

Oxford is unique and historic city and Millions of visitors visit our beautiful city.

Oxford city council town hall where provides other facilities.

Would the Leader of the council agree with me the idea of having multi faith room at the town hall like the airports around UK?

Written Response

Options for a Faith Room have been looked into previously in liaison with some councillors. There was no permanent space available without losing essential office space or hireable rooms. The Town Hall is a lot smaller than an airport! While a permanent space was not found, the team will always allocate a suitable space for all hirers and their customers for this purpose on request. We also are able to provide prayer mats if required. For staff working within our SAC offices there is a Quiet Room that can be used for prayer.

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Annex 1 – Questions on Notice

The two photos below accompany Question TH8 from Cllr Malik to Cllr Hayes – Pollution on Hollow Way:

What happens if pollution levels become consistently illegal on Hollow Way following the introduction of these measures. Because that's what started to happen in September and October.

Legal limit is 40. It was below on Hollow Way before the pandemic.

Photo 1

SYAQS NITROGEN DIOXIDE MONITORING REPORT					
BATCH NUMBER	21411	From	1/9/21	to	29/09/21
Exposed by	OXFORD CITY COUNCIL				
	Tube No	Date On	Date Off	Exposure	Nitrogen Dioxide
		d/m/yy	d/m/yy	hrs	µg/m ³
St Ebbe's	1	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	14
St Ebbe's	2	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	12
St Ebbe's	3	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	14
Weirs Lne./Abingdon Rd. LP1	4	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	29
LP 52 Abingdon Rd.	5	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	30
Boundary Brook Rd/ Iffley Rd	6	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	30
Lenthall Rd Allotments	7	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	12
Holloway Road	8	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	45
Oxford Rd/ Between Towns Rd	9	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	35
Oxford Rd(Cowley) LP13	10	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	36
Cowley Rd/ Union Street	11	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	33
Cowley Rd./ James Street	12	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	24
St Clements 3	13	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	37
A44 Woodstock Rd.	14	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	34
70 Blackbird Leys Rd	15	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	19
Old Abingdon Rd.	16	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	24
Windmill Rd. W	17	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	37
London Rd./BHF	18	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	29
New Inn Hall St.	19	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	18
49 London Rd. /Latimer/Sandfield Rds	20	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	22
Marston Ferry Rd. Cherwell School	21	01/09/21	29/09/21	672.00	16

Photo 2

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SYAQS NITROGEN DIOXIDE MONITORING REPORT							
BATCH NUMBER	21462		From	29/9/21	to	04/11/21	
Exposed by	OXFORD CITY COUNCIL						
	Tube No	Date On	Date Off	Exposure	Nitrogen Dioxide	COMMENTS	Exposure
		d/m/yy	d/m/yy	hrs	µg/m ³		Calc.
St Ebbe's	1	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	10		864.00
St Ebbe's	2	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	10		864.00
St Ebbe's	3	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	10		864.00
Weirs Lne./Abingdon Rd. LP1	4	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	26		864.00
LP 52 Abingdon Rd.	5	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	35	WEB	864.00
Boundary Brook Rd/ Ifley Rd	6	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	30		864.00
Lenthall Rd Allotments	7	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	10	WEB	864.00
Holloway Road	8	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	43		864.00
Oxford Rd/ Between Towns Rd	9	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	36		864.00
Oxford Rd(Cowley) LP13	10	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	31		864.00
Cowley Rd/ Union Street	11	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	NR		864.00
Cowley Rd./ James Street	12	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	17		864.00
St Clements 3	13	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	26		864.00
A44 Woodstock Rd.	14	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	35		864.00
70 Blackbird Leys Rd	15	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	20		864.00
Old Abingdon Rd.	16	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	23		864.00
Windmill Rd. W	17	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	33		864.00
London Rd./BHF	18	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	24		864.00
New Inn Hall St.	19	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	19	WEB	864.00
49 London Rd. /Latimer/Sandfield Rds	20	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	22		864.00
Marston Ferry Rd. Cherwell School	21	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	15		864.00
The Roundway	22	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	25		864.00
Barton Lane LP2	23	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	23		864.00
St Michaels St	24	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	18		864.00
St Gilles	25	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	27		864.00
St Clements 2	26	29/09/21	04/11/21	864.00	NR		864.00

To: Council

Date: 31 January 2022

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

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

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council
3. This report will be republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This will list the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.

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

1. Address by Colin Aldridge – Drug Consumption Rooms
2. Address by Chaka Artwell, Secretary of Oxford African Caribbean Conversation (OACC) – Public Safety Women
3. Question from Chaka Artwell – Concentrated Wealth

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

1. Address by Colin Aldridge – Drug Consumption Rooms

I came here about 2 years ago talking of Drug Consumption Rooms. This time I am here to ask the councillors to try to gain permission for a DCR trial in Oxford.

Since the Defence of the Realm Act was introduced around the time of the First World War, we have had illegal drugs on our streets. This has now led to 4,561 deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales in 2020, up 3.8% from the previous year and the highest number since records began in 1993.

<https://news.sky.com/story/drug-related-deaths-hit-record-high-in-england-and-wales-after-rising-for-eighth-year-in-a-row-12371678>

Criminalising drug use is not working. There are many in our society who now realise this course of action needs to change to become a health challenge. Forcing people into rehab through the criminal justice system does not work for the majority as they are not willing participants. We can only improve the situation by having people wanting to change their actions.

On Wednesday 17 January 2018 there was a debate in parliament about Drug Consumption Rooms in which approximately 17 cross-party politicians spoke. A large majority were in favour but as yet nothing has happened.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2018-01-17/debates/1681A3C1-E6A4-4E10-8E38-8B4B240D5B67/DrugConsumptionRooms>

DCRs are used in many different countries around the world. In terms of the historical development of this intervention, the first supervised DCR was opened in Berne, Switzerland, in June 1986. Further facilities of this type were established in subsequent years in Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Norway, Luxembourg, Denmark, Greece, and France. A total of 78 official drug consumption facilities currently operates in these countries, following the opening of the first two drug consumption facilities in the framework of a 6-year trial in France in 2016. There are also 12 facilities in Switzerland with much success.

This is a big step to take, therefore we need to have a trial to discover for ourselves the benefits and pitfalls.

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/system/files/publications/2734/POD_Drug%20consumption%20rooms.pdf

Drug Consumption Rooms can introduce users to a healthier life and reduce the dangers of needles in our parks and streets. They also allow users to take their chosen poison in a controlled and safer environment.

Supplying drugs to users is illegal, which means our government is the only body able to debate and give permission for a trial. A precedent has been set with the trial of e-scooters in Oxford, which has just been extended.

In a recent email from the MP Layla Moran says “I understand that the Drug Deaths Taskforce, set up by the Scottish Government, supports the introduction of safer consumption facilities in Scotland. The Drugs Death Taskforce has recommended that the UK Government consider a legislative framework to support their introduction”.

I am here to ask all councillors to come together to write a cross-party letter to the government asking permission for a trial in Oxford City.

We have waited long enough – it’s time for action.

I am starting a petition asking parliament to debate this. I will send each of you a link which I hope you would be able to sign and share in whichever way you feel appropriate. Thank you for listening.

Written Response from Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for a Safer, Healthy Oxford

Drug deaths are preventable and if 4,561 people were being killed by any other illness, it would be considered as a public health issue and the Government would act accordingly.

Taking a public health approach to drug consumption aligns with the public health approach that is being taken to tackle a range of societal issues including serious violence because it's an approach that works. It is also an approach being advocated by the current government which makes their continued opposition to drug consumption rooms inconsistent and contradictory.

The experience of Bristol City Council, whose request to start a pilot project involving a drug consumption room was rejected by the government in September last year indicates that more work needs to be done in changing the views of the Home Office before agreeing to submit a request for permission to hold a trial. Evidence such as that from The Society for the Study of Addiction shows that the benefits of drug consumption rooms outweigh the disbenefits.

<https://www.addiction-ssa.org/in-the-news-call-for-drug-consumption-rooms-in-the-uk/>

We have some excellent charities working in this sector in Oxford. If there was a clear indication that the government's view had changed, then the Council would be willing to consider working with the relevant agencies to develop a proposal for Oxford.

2. Address by Chaka Artwell, Secretary of Oxford African Caribbean Conversation (OACC) – Public Safety Women

Oxford City Council's motion entitled "Becoming a Trans Inclusive Council" which was supported overwhelmingly by the Elected Councillors, must be rescinded; withdrawn and abandoned by Oxford City's Elected Councillors on the grounds that "Becoming a Trans Inclusive Council" foreseeably in my view places female pupils and women in real danger of intimidation from biological boys and men whilst in these traditional single-sex female spaces.

In the United States, a Loudoun County Judge found a boy guilty of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl, reported the Daily Mail on Tuesday, October 26th 2021¹. The transgendered appearing boy, who was wearing a skirt, invaded the girls' bathroom at Stone Bridge High School in the United States after the Education Board had also authorised boys to invade and disrespect traditional female single-sex places.

This frightful sexual assault could in my opinion easily occur in Oxford following the Elected City Council's December 2021 vote for Oxford to become a "Trans Inclusive Council."

In 2020, the Elected Oxfordshire County Councillors ignored I believe the general safety of female pupils and voted to authorise biological boys to access Oxfordshire Secondary School's traditional single-sex female toilets.

Oxfordshire County Council's vote to allow boys to access female pupils' toilets was successfully challenged by an unnamed thirteen-year-old pupil; who stated that puberty was difficult enough without having boys authorised by the unwise Elected Councillors invading their traditional single-sex female pupils' toilets.

In 2020, with enormous support from Oxfordshire's rank and file, this wise THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD girl crowd-funded to challenge the Elected Councillors decision at the High Court in a Judicial Review.

The Oxfordshire schoolgirl who brought the Judicial challenge won her just battle against Oxfordshire County Council's "Transgender Toolkit." – but she said Oxfordshire's Elected County Councillors "have not apologised or admitted (the transgendered Toolkit) was wrong."

It is shocking and unacceptable to me; especially of the "double-dipping" County Councillors, that no Elected Councillor spoke at Oxford's City Council meeting in support of protecting traditional single-sex public spaces used by girls and women.

In my view Oxford's Feminist Union believes that Oxford City Council assisted the passage of the "Trans inclusive Council" motion to frustrate and prevent the public from democratically challenging this potentially harmful and unwise motion². It is noticeable that public speakers at Full Council were direct Labour Supporters or Labour activists.

In my opinion there is ample and empirical evidence of the real and present dangers that biological males pose whilst in traditional female single-sex spaces. The Prison Service reports that biological-males in female prisons have raped numerous female prisoners and female Prison guards.

Oxford, with the historical abuse of young girls by men, ought to make the safeguarding of girls and women a priority. There was no call by City Councillors to protect girls and women from the clear and present threat the "Trans inclusion Council" policy presents to female pupils and women in my opinion.

¹ <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-10132015/Loudoun-County-judge-finds-boy-skirt-GUILTY-sexually-assaulting-female-student.html>

² <http://oxfordfeministunion.co.uk/2021/12/> 42

Women have every right to continue to expect Women's Refuge, Sports facilities, female changing rooms, female prisons and Rape Crisis Centres to be female only.

For these women in public office to support this "Trans Inclusive" policy is in my view ipso facto proof of the fallacy that having women or minorities does not lead to superior policies or wise adjudication.

That thirty-eight Elected City Councillors voted for the "Trans inclusive" policy causes in my view many Oxford voters' great shame and disappointment and concern for the public safety of their sisters; wives and mothers who Could be forced to use traditional female public spaces with biological men and boys. Oxford City Council has nothing to be proud about.

Chaka Artwell Secretary

OACC. OX3 8BW.

The Cabinet Member Councillor Aziz will provide a verbal response at the meeting

3. Question from Chaka Artwell – Concentrated Wealth

Elected Oxford City Councillors, Oxfam has released a report that has been reported by the BBC, that states the lockdown of small and independent businesses has assisted the “**world's 10 richest men (to) have more than doubled their collective fortunes since March 2020,**” Oxfam reveals.

For this reason, Councillors, the concentration of the wealth of Planet Earth into the hands and control of a dozen men poses the **greatest threat** to the continuation of human; plant and animal life on Planet Earth.

It comes as a shock that Oxford City Councillors do not even try to address the threat to life on Planet Earth from having over 80% of the wealth of Planet Earth under the control of the few.

Africa contributes least to “climate change,” but the Congo’s environment and children are exploited horribly to mine the coltan without which **electric car battery** production is not possible.

Do the Councillors understand its is easy for the wealthy to be Green; whilst it is almost impossible for the poorly paid? Do Councillors agree this level of concentrated wealth is the **greatest** threat to life on Planet Earth?

Oxford City & County Council Watch.

Written Response from Councillor Tom Hayes, Cabinet Member for Green Transport and Zero Carbon Oxford

The greatest threats to the continuation of human, plant and animal life on earth are climate change, habitat destruction, disease and war. If anyone was in any doubt about their severity then I would expect the global experience of the past couple of years will have changed that – with a global pandemic that has killed millions, record wildfires in the US, Greece and Siberia, a twelve-year record in Amazon deforestation and vicious conflict in Yemen, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Armenia.

Addressing inequality, as well as tackling climate change, boosting biodiversity, sustaining and protecting people through the pandemic, and helping to keep our citizens safe – are at the very heart of this Council’s work. I’m proud that Oxford is home to Oxfam, whose data you report. While working at Oxfam I led UK campaigning to tackle global inequality, including publishing the annual data reports which you mention. We agree on the need to end the rampant inequality we see in the world.

We in Oxford may be able to do little to deliver a redistribution of wealth from the world’s mega-rich, but of course all of us are able to make a difference when it comes to climate change and biodiversity. Just as every individual was able to make a difference when it came to controlling the spread of COVID. This is about behaviour change. Reuse is cheaper than replacement, vegetables are cheaper than meat, taking the bus is cheaper than running a car, insulating the loft is cheaper than paying your gas bill – indeed for many of our tenants, it is free. But as everyone knows as those New Year’s Resolutions begin to fade, behaviour change itself isn’t easy.

Oxford’s 2019 Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Change, which involved a representative group of residents of Oxford of all ages, means and different communities, was in clear agreement that the Council should work engage and empower *all* Oxford residents to make those changes that help achieve carbon reduction while *not* disadvantaging low-income households in the city. And that is what we are doing – with a list of some 60 actions set out in our Zero Carbon Action Plan. One of these relates to helping people

insulate and retrofit their homes. We are currently spending £1.6 million to upgrade 365 council homes in the city, and have secured a further £1.9 million to support low income home owners install insulation in their own homes. These actions will both cut household bills and reduce carbon impacts. This Council will continue to use our own processes, our partnerships and our work with Oxford's communities to ensure that as we cut carbon emissions in Oxford we take opportunities to enhance residents' standard of living, especially those who are most vulnerable and have low-incomes, through our climate action.

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To: Council

Date: 31 January 2022

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. This report covers the activity of Scrutiny during the period from 20 November 2021 to 29 January 2022. However, it also includes updates on a number of prior reports for which responses were not immediately available.

Scrutiny Committee

2. Since the last Scrutiny update to Council the Scrutiny Committee has met twice, on 08 December 2021, and 18 January 2022. This later meeting, however, did not consider any Cabinet reports, with the consequence that the reports arising from it are yet to be agreed and taken to Cabinet. They will, therefore, be included in the next update. As referenced above, the outcomes of two previously considered Scrutiny reports were not reported on in Scrutiny's previous update to Council and are included here.
3. Although the reports of the meeting of 18 January 2022 are not reported, it is worth mentioning that in light of rise of the Omicron variant, the members of the Scrutiny

Committee have agreed to meet informally online until March. This does not meet the requirements of a legally constituted committee meeting for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972, meaning the members are not legally meeting as the Scrutiny Committee. However, the Leader of the Council has agreed that any recommendations arising from these informal meetings will be treated in the normal way.

08 December

4. Three substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Annual Monitoring Report (no recommendations)
 - Workplace Equalities and Action Plan (six recommendations, all agreed)
 - Strategic Grants Review (two recommendations, both rejected)

5. From a Scrutiny perspective, the Annual Monitoring Report is largely a backwards looking report which provides an update on the Council's performance against its Local Plan targets. It tends towards a general discussion of strategic planning issues, and few recommendations arise. The Committee's consideration of this report was typical in this regard. Issues discussed at length included student accommodation provision in the City, how CIL monies are spent, sustainable transport concerns, and ways to ensure that land identified as being for development in the Local Plan is built out. No recommendations were made, but a number of clarificatory amendments were added to the report.

6. The Council's Workplace Equalities Report is its response to a statutory duty; its action plan is not, but explains what the Council plans to do in order to bring about a workforce more representative of the community it serves. Over the last year, the number of people changing jobs slowed with the pandemic. Fewer people changing jobs means fewer opportunities to address the Council's gender pay gap and its relative absence of individuals from minoritised communities amongst its senior staff. Pleasingly, the targets previously set for applicants from BAME communities had been exceeded, and the gender pay gap had decreased. The Committee's input spent a lot of time exploring whether a similar report could be made by the Council's companies, particularly ODS as the far-larger of the employers. Two recommendations to ensure this will take place were made and agreed by Cabinet. The Committee was also keen that the Council should promote the positive action it is already taking as a way of increasing applications from minoritised communities, that it more closely monitors the proportion of applicants from minoritised communities to different services areas, and that it takes steps to ensure the quality of the equality data of its staff is improved. All these also were agreed by Cabinet.

7. The Council's commitment to its local community as expressed by being one of a minority of Councils still providing voluntary sector grants is a source of pride. The financial impacts of Covid, which precipitated the worst decrease in economic output in over 400 years, are unavoidable however. To this end, the Council has had to reduce its grants, and the Strategic Grants Review explains how it intends to achieve a £200k reduction whilst mitigating the effects of that reduction. At the meeting, a number of non-City Centre advice centres presented, explaining the impacts of a proposed annual cut of £25k to their budgets. This was listened to by the Committee, but referred to the Budget Review Group to consider as part of its deliberations. The Committee's areas of discussion focused primarily on the

tension in the proposals between flexibility for the Council in adjusting the strategic priorities it wishes to fund, accessibility for groups to funding, and the benefits of long-term funding for some groups in terms of providing stability. On this issue, a recommendation was made to Cabinet that 3-year funded groups should be able to apply for a further three years after just one year, allowing the horizon for their funding to remain no less than two years ahead. This recommendation was considered by Cabinet but rejected on the basis that it would unduly tie up funding and prevent new groups from accessing it, and also that it would stymie the Council's flexibility to respond to new priorities. A further recommendation was made to support purchases of the Oxford lottery tickets, but whilst this was looked on favourably by the Cabinet there were legal reasons why it was not practicable.

Previous Reports

8. The following reports were considered by Scrutiny in the previous reporting period but not responded to and are therefore detailed below:
 - Air Quality Action Plan (five recommendations, none rejected)
 - Tourism Management Review Group Update (four recommendations, three agreed, one partially agreed)
9. Each year the Council publishes a report to the government on its air quality, and alongside that it makes a plan on how it will address the issues arising from it. The year 2020 was very atypical in terms of traffic, the main contributor in Oxford to poor air quality. Lockdowns meant few people used their cars, meaning the Council's readings were within all long term and short term legal limits for the first time since recording began. With absolute limits being less problematic, the Committee devoted significant discussion to wider issues such as i) understanding air quality impacts arising from Low Traffic Neighbourhood schemes ii) ways to work with other stakeholders – strategic and community - to improve air quality, and iii) suggested functionality for the upcoming air quality website, making five recommendations. The majority of these recommendations were already underway and none were rejected.
10. The Tourism Management Review Group Update was a Scrutiny-requested report, using the recommendations of the Tourism Management Review Group as a basis for looking at Tourism issues more generally, particularly in light of Covid. Discussion was broad-ranging, including issues such as the Waterways, city centre hotel provision and partnership working. The key issues identified as requiring recommendations, however, were four. Firstly, a strategic point that the Council should be focusing its efforts on attracting domestic tourists, who are more flexible and quicker to return than international tourists. This work is largely already being undertaken and was agreed, though it was noted that there is a huge degree of pent up demand from the USA in particular, which should not be overlooked. The Committee also felt that it was important that increased effort should be made to work with partners to encourage environmentally sustainable methods of getting to the City, another issue which is already underway and was agreed. The paucity of public toilets in the City Centre is an issue identified by the Committee as one in need of addressing, suggesting that the Council follow through on a previous agreement to reinstitute a partnership with city centre shops to provide toilets which

was halted by Covid. Finally, the Council has undertaken a lot of work to reposition its strategy in light of Covid, with the development of its Economic Strategy and City Centre Plan. The Committee suggested that because of the changing circumstances the Council should review and update its original responses to the Review Group recommendations in light of these new strategic documents. This recommendation was partially agreed; rather than the new documents informing new responses to the recommendations, the recommendations had informed the thinking of the new document.

Housing and Homelessness Panel

11. The Housing and Homelessness Panel has met once during the reporting period, on 16 December. The final of the reports held back from previous updates to Council, as mentioned in the introduction, is also reported here.

16 December

12. Two substantive reports were considered at this meeting:
 - Housing Performance Q2 (no recommendations)
 - STAR Tenant Satisfaction Survey (no recommendations)
13. Although Housing Performance reports provide a cross-service view of the activity of Housing, typically discussion is focused on a number of key areas. In this instance, much discussion was held over the suitability of the Council's KPIs around rough sleeping, a measure on which the Council has been failing to meet its targets. More information was requested on whether this meant that the target was too stretching, or the team was not performing. With an area such as rough sleeping, where outcomes are dependent on multiple agencies, it is difficult to disentangle the Council's own activity. The view of the Panel is that the Council is certainly undertaking sufficient efforts to meet this target, but that a target which is more directly attributable to the Council's work would be more effective. Such a target is under development and as such no recommendation was made.
14. The second report was based on the responses to the Council's first tenant satisfaction survey since 2015 and formed the penultimate part of the Panel's ongoing investigation into Tenant Engagement and Empowerment. Owing to the fact that the write up of this investigation will be made at its conclusion no recommendations were made. The results themselves were difficult to decipher. Few real comparator Councils have undertaken satisfaction surveys since the beginning of the pandemic; a number of housing associations have, and have seen precipitous falls in satisfaction levels. Given the Council's services to tenants, such as repairs, were curtailed during lockdowns, its overall satisfaction rate of 85% appears to be reasonable. However, the Panel did investigate a number of particular issues arising, including the level of dissatisfaction amongst younger tenants, which is far higher than average, tenant frustrations with outcomes arising from reports of anti-social behaviour, and planned improvements to the repairs service, which is the greatest contributor to both satisfaction and dissatisfaction amongst tenants.

Previous Reports

15. At its meeting on 06 October the Housing and Homelessness Panel heard a report on the contribution of the Housing service area to reduce carbon emissions. The principal contribution is through a plan to ensure that 95% of its housing stock is rated no less than a 'C' EPC rating by 2030. Its other major contribution is in the design of the homes it is building, which are to be delivered to a standard 70% more carbon efficient than current Building Regulations. The Panel's primary concern over this agenda was the potential impact on tenants; some energy efficiency measures are not seen or noticed at all, some (such as new doors or windows) have cosmetic impacts. Some, such as heatpumps or internal insulation impact the way the house is lived in. Three recommendations were made, seeking that the Council ensures that early engagement with tenants on changes is undertaken, and that special support be provided to tenants with disabilities, or whose upgrades may mean lifestyle or technology changes, to ensure that the benefits of these upgrades are realised. All recommendations were agreed by Cabinet.

Finance and Performance Panel

16. The Finance and Performance Panel convened on two occasions during this period, on 07 December 2021 and 24 January 2022. The latter meeting was held only to formalise the agreement to the draft of the Budget Review Group report to go on to Scrutiny for final sign off meaning there is little further to report.

07 December 2021

17. Three substantive reports were considered at this meeting:

- Integrated Performance Report Q2 (no recommendations)
- Treasury Management Mid-Year Report (no recommendation)
- Asset Management Strategy (one recommendation, agreed)

18. The Integrated Performance Report is one which the Panel regularly considers, detailing finance, performance and risk across the Council. Capital slippage and the reliability of the Council's predicted financial outturn figures were discussed, as well as the specific risks of Omicron. Concern was also raised over the Council's failure to meet its rough sleeping target, an issue which was referred to the Housing and Homelessness Panel for further discussion (details above). No recommendations were made.

19. The Treasury Management Mid-Year report looks at the performance of the Council's treasury investments. To date, the Council has complied with all its prudential indicators and its returns are exceeding budget forecasts by £211k. Issues investigated included the potential issues arising from changes to the Minimum Revenue Provision (a sum set aside to offset any potential losses from investments), and the social, ethical and governance policies of those companies the Council invests in. No recommendations were made.

20. The Asset Management Strategy is the Council's strategic document guiding how it will manage its non-HRA stock over the coming decade, which is scheduled to include a £20m investment in regeneration in Oxford. The Panel explored in detail different options for regenerative investments but made no recommendations in this area. However, a more prominent feature of the Strategy is how it will contribute to the Council's overall response to climate change. The Panel welcomed this, but did identify one area where a mismatch existed between aspiration and delivery, recommending to Cabinet that the Council should aim to phase out in the medium to long term the use of gas in its non-HRA stock as a strategic waymarker to responding to the climate emergency. This recommendation was accepted by Cabinet.

Companies Panel

21. There have been one meeting of the Companies Scrutiny Panel, on 24 November 2021, since the last update. Owing to the commercially sensitive nature of the discussions little detail is provided here, but two reports were considered. Firstly, following the request from the main Scrutiny Committee, the Panel heard a report from ODS on its tree management operation. No recommendations were made but discussion was held over service levels, tree ownership and responsibility, the costs of tree management, and staff capacity relative to future demands. The second report considered was an update report from ODS, which covered a wide-ranging discussion including the company's income and pipeline of work, efficiencies, its environmental standards, recruitment and retention, and physical and digital infrastructure. The key points, including suggested recommendations around environmental standards and key infrastructure were taken forward and presented to the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group, with both recommendations receiving positive responses.

Review Groups

22. Scrutiny's annual review of the consultation budget has concluded, with the draft report to be signed off and submitted, with its recommendations, to Cabinet in February.
23. Scrutiny's other review, on Child Poverty, has met for its first meeting, with substantive meetings to be held from 09 February onwards.

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

December Cabinet

Workplace Equalities

53

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council considers a report providing similar details of the diversity profile of its companies, particularly ODS, and the actions being taken to ensure the workforces of these companies are reflective of the community they serve.	Yes	Scrutiny may wish to refer this to the Companies Scrutiny Panel, as a report on the diversity of the ODS workforce would be legally and administratively separate from the Council's Equalities Report. However, I'm happy to endorse the request; this wouldn't involve a lot of extra effort since ODS does monitor and does strive to diversify its workforce.
2) That the Council publishes as an appendix to next year's report the same statistics for the staff in its wholly-owned companies as it does for its own staff	Yes	It would make sense to do this for the sake of clarity and convenience, though as stated above, the reports would be prepared separately.
3) That the Council, in the next year's report, provides details of the positive action schemes undertaken by the Council – those started, those completed and those planned, and their results (where relevant) – and that that information is shared with those minoritised groups the Council is targeting as being particularly unrepresented within the Council workforce	Yes	
4) That the Council makes a renewed and determined effort to persuade managers to share the details of their protected characteristics, particularly ethnicity,	Yes	It isn't compulsory for any Council employee to do this, but we will once again make absolutely clear that there can be no negative consequence to identifying yourself as having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.

<p>to ensure a greater response rate next year</p>		
<p>5) That the Council continues to monitor the demographic profile of responses to adverts and short-listed candidates, and supports areas which are struggling to attract appropriately-qualified diverse candidates to do so.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>This work is ongoing, and considerable progress is being made as this year's report shows. Efforts will continue to broaden knowledge and appeal of Council job and apprenticeship opportunities among minoritised groups and across the full diversity of Oxford's community.</p>
<p>6) That the Council amends its report to clarify that the pay gaps referenced in the report are caused by differences in seniority and full time/part time working, rather than unequal pay for equal work.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	

Strategic Grants

55

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council permits (but does not oblige) organisations granted three-year grant funding to reapply for such funding on an annual basis.	No	<p>Whilst we understand that this would give security to organisations and their other funders, it goes against the review findings in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would enable a small group of organisations to hold onto the bulk of the available funding which would make it harder for new organisations to join therefore potentially reducing access, diversity and inclusion. <p>It would reduce the timetable to change the funding scheme, making it more difficult for the council to align the grants programme to future financial challenges</p>
2) That the Council makes available tickets for the Oxford Lottery at cash registers in the Town Hall, such as the museum shop and coffee shop.	No	<p>Whilst we hoped this would be possible in the Town Hall and for community centres in Oxford, when officers were looking into implementing it they discovered that there is a legal issue which prevents them from being able to do so.</p>

Asset Management Strategy

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1) That the Council includes within the Strategy a commitment to working towards phasing out the use of gas within its non-domestic properties over the medium to long term.	Yes	We will amend the report to include a high level target, with the caveat that how this can be achieved, and the pace at which progress can be made, will be dependent on government policy and funding decisions to a large degree

Air Quality

57

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
<p>1) That the Council reviews the location of its air quality monitoring equipment to support the monitoring of roads where there is the possibility of displacement traffic generated by LTNs, particularly around Hollow Way and the junction with Crescent Road, that the Council makes publicly available the findings as soon as possible if and when the Cowley, Headington and East Oxford LTNs are concluded, and that the information is also passed on to County Council colleagues.</p>		<p>This is already in progress. The effects of LTNs on Holloway road is currently being monitored in 2 locations: south, close to intersection with Garsington Road; and also to the north – Hollow Way road and The Slade area –here looking at potential traffic displacement in that area.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council is making a preliminary evaluation of the Cowley LTNs, and that the impact of LTNs on air quality, displaced vehicle traffic and active travel modes will be introduced in the evaluation. The assessment will also try to estimate the specific contribution of the pandemic to air quality and traffic levels in these areas and during the period of interest, so that the impacts caused by LTNs alone can be isolated and properly quantified –the results of this evaluation are expected to be shared with everyone. The air quality elements of the analysis will be provided by Oxford City Council to Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>Working with Oxfordshire County Council we will then review the location of air quality monitoring equipment in this area.</p>
<p>2) That the Council seeks to work with the County Council to ensure that sufficient concurrent data is collected and shared to enable contextualised analysis of the impacts of LTNs, with particular regard to identifying whether a displacement effect</p>		<p>This is already in progress. Oxford City Council’s air quality officer has been working with County Council Colleagues since early March 2021 on the development of monitoring plans that could assess the impacts of LTNs.</p> <p>LTN geographical areas were compared against the areas</p>

<p>is evident.</p>		<p>where air quality monitoring was currently being conducted by the City Council, to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Locations where OCCs current AQ monitoring network does not provide adequate coverage + where LTN impacts are expected to be greater. This included: · Locations inside LTN designated areas · Locations on the outskirts of LTN areas but with the potential to suffer from traffic displacement caused by LTNs <p>The analysis above has allowed to identify 16 black spots: i.e. extra locations that were not currently being covered by the city's air quality network and that were considered relevant to assess the impacts of LTNs and hence where air quality should start being monitored.</p> <p>Those locations were: <u>Prince St, East Oxford Primary, Morrel Avenue, Divinity Road, Quarry School, Gladstone Road, Wharton Road, Ruskin Hall, Woodlands Road, Latimer Road, Saint Christopher School, Howard Street, Quarry Road, Valentia Road, Hurst St, The Slade</u></p> <p>New diffusion tubes were installed and monitoring started at the end of March 2021 at these locations. Monitoring at this locations is still ongoing</p>
<p>3) That the Council works with the Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership to engage major local stakeholders, including the universities, in conversations with the Council about how they can incorporate air-quality positive measures into their</p>		<p>This is already in progress. There has been engagement with city centre colleges and businesses with regards to last mile deliveries, and also via the Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership. This partnership work will continue as ZEZ work progresses</p>

<p>strategic plans.</p>		
<p>4) That the Council makes available to all councillors all educational graphics developed by the Air Quality team for further sharing with community organisations.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Agreed. Meanwhile, useful air quality information (including access to latest air quality data, reports, air quality action plan, and access to air quality factsheets on air quality data interpretation, bonfires, idling, smoke control areas) , and some raising awareness projects such as STOP, anti-Idling campaign, etc can also be find directly in our website here: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20052/air_quality</p>
<p>5) That the Council builds a function into the new community Air Quality website to enable members of the public to subscribe to real time air quality alerts</p>		<p>Under consideration. This is already being considered by the project team</p>

Housing and Carbon Reduction

60

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Agree?</i>	<i>Comment</i>
<p>1) That the Council works with the Tenant Involvement Team to ensure tenant engagement is sought and incorporated into the Council’s work plans for improving the energy efficiency of its housing stock at the earliest stage. Areas of engagement to include both work with individual households and multi-household representatives for wider-ranging issues</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Housing Management have made a budget bid for two Customer Experience Officer roles in addition to the Energy Advice officer role currently in place. These Customer Experience roles will have a wide range of engagement activities which will include the carbon reduction projects</p>
<p>2) That the Council makes specific provision to support those with disabilities or mental health problems to engage in discussions about the most appropriate changes to their homes.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Through the engagement activities, officers will speak to those with disabilities or mental health problems about their individual needs, including any adjustments that might be needed. This will include identifying any unmet support needs and actively working with relevant support agencies throughout the whole process.</p>
<p>3) That the Council provides ongoing support to those with new technology fitted to their homes to understand and implement the changes those technologies require to realise their full benefits.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>We will continue to support residents with any changes to technology within their homes, including Contractor demonstrations on how to operate items such as Heating, hot water etc. on a one to one basis upon completion of any works.</p>

Tourism Review Update

61

Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council plans how it will work with those responsible for tourist travel to Oxford more environmentally sustainable	Yes	
2) That the Council revives its partnership with City Centre shops to provide a toilet scheme.	Yes	
3) That the Council, in its work with partners, pursues a renewed focus on attracting domestic tourists to Oxford	Yes	The Council has been doing so, with partners, for the last year. This being said, we are aware of a high degree of pent up demand to visit Oxford from overseas, particularly the USA.
4) That the Council reviews and updates its responses to the recommendations made by the Tourism Review Group in light of the changes of Covid and the proposed Oxford Economic Strategy and City Centre Action Plan.	Partially	

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To: Council
Date: 31 January 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: **Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18**

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

The Constitution permits an hour for debate of these motions.

Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 19 January 2022, 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 Independent, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green groups in that order.

Introduction

- a) John Radcliffe Hospital parking (proposed by Cllr Haines, seconded by Cllr Malik)
- b) Elections Bill (proposed by Cllr Djafari-Marbini)
- c) Lift the Ban for Asylum Seekers (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr R Smith)
- d) Opposition to the privatisation of the Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Pegg)
- e) End Fire and Rehire (proposed by Cllr Mundy, seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- f) Setting up a Drug Consumption Room (proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Miles)
- g) EU Nationals deserve to be treated with respect (proposed by Cllr Corais, seconded by Cllr Bely-Summers)

a) John Radcliffe Hospital parking (proposed by Cllr Haines, seconded by Cllr Malik)

Independent Group member motion

Council reaffirms its decision on 7 October 2019 where it agreed:

Council resolves to continue to work with the management of Oxford University Hospitals Trust as a matter of urgency to help them to undertake a review of the approach to sustainable transport at all the Trust's sites including the John Radcliffe hospital, including a review of the Trust's approach to the allocation of car parking capacity so as to allow for an increased proportion of parking at the sites for the disabled, patients and visitors, and for the operational needs of critical medical staff as part of a comprehensive masterplan for all the Trust's sites in Headington including the John Radcliffe hospital, to promote a sustainable approach to transport to those sites as part of the Local Transport Strategy 5.

Reason:

It is grossly unfair on people who are sick and the friends and family of those wanting to urgently visit people in hospital to allow the current situation to continue. A comprehensive shift to more sustainable transport approaches would:

- Reduce the congestion on local roads, freeing up the road network to other traffic including buses and ambulances;
- Reduce the pollution inhaled by cyclists, pedestrians and local residents from vehicles queuing with engines running;
- Reduce lost time and missed appointments which cost the health service a fortune;
- Make it easier for staff to access the hospital, helping to reduce staff shortages;
- In addition the hospital trust have taken away fifteen parking spaces and they continue to build on the site;
- Currently there are 743 parking spaces, 832 beds and the hospital serves roughly 655,000 people.

A petition: 'To build a multi-storey car park at the John Radcliffe hospital' circulating has now received nearly 5000 signatures on [change.org](https://www.change.org), with around 1300 on paper.

I hope this motion can be carried to allow us to resolve this long standing issue for now and in to the future, and to alleviate some of the problems that the public so clearly and desperately need resolving.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Hollingsworth

Add the words in bold italics and delete the words struck through:
[No changes to first part]

- ~~In addition the hospital trust have taken away fifteen parking spaces and they continue to build on the site;~~
- Currently there are 743 parking spaces, 832 beds and the hospital serves roughly 655,000 people.

While this Council notes that a petition: ‘To build a multi-storey car park at the John Radcliffe hospital’ circulating has now received nearly 5000 signatures on [change.org](https://www.change.org), with around 1300 on paper, ***this Council believes that evidence shows that increasing car parking makes traffic congestion worse rather than improving it, and urges the Trust to explore genuinely sustainable solutions to its transport challenges, such as improving the range of direct bus links to the site and introducing shuttle buses from remote parking sites for those able to use them, rather than schemes that can only make the situation worse.***

This Council urges that the Trust works with the City and County Councils ~~I hope this motion can be carried to allow us to~~ resolve this long standing issue for now and in to the future, and to alleviate some of the problems that the public so clearly and desperately need resolving.

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

Council reaffirms its decision on 7 October 2019 where it agreed:

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shuttle buses from remote parking sites for those able to use them, rather than schemes that can only make the situation worse.

This Council urges that the Trust works with the City and County Councils to resolve this long standing issue for now and in to the future, and to alleviate some of the problems that the public so clearly and desperately need resolving.

b) Elections Bill (proposed by Cllr Djafari-Marbini)

Labour Group member motion

Oxford City Council recognises the fundamental principles of a healthy democracy are rooted in ensuring elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

Oxford City Council notes with concern that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory photographic ID to vote. Currently 3.5 million people in the UK do not have any form of expensive photographic ID.

Council notes that the number of people convicted of voter fraud in 2017 was 1, while the number of mostly working class people struggling and living in poverty that are expected to be disenfranchised by the introduction of voter ID is 2 million.

Council notes that it is estimated that these changes will cost the taxpayer £180 million and will create unnecessary bureaucracy to Councils and people wishing to vote.

Council believes that at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier not harder for people to vote.

Council recognises that voter fraud is a problem that does not exist, and this government's attempts to raise the threshold to vote under the guise of combatting crime is taken straight out of the Trump playbook. They will provide significant barriers for people participating in our democracy and disproportionately disenfranchise the poorest and most marginalised.

In conjunction with the Immigration and Borders Bill, the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, and the Judicial Review Bill, the changes in the Elections Bill are taking the UK down a worryingly authoritarian path. Together, they aim to silence dissent and further disenfranchise the most marginalised, vulnerable and voiceless in society – in particular those from poorer communities, asylum seekers and those from minoritized communities.

These rights are not only the bedrocks of democracy but are the same rights which the Suffragettes and the Chartists used to win us our rights.

These draconian bills have been introduced at a worrying pace and during the unprecedented conditions of the pandemic. This has provided this government with the opportunity to avoid scrutiny and opposition as they water down our rights to hold the government and public institutions accountable, cut off public access to information, deprive people of citizenship without notice, and criminalise those fleeing persecution for seeking sanctuary.

Oxford City Council doesn't want to see people being turned away at the ballot box because of these changes and resolves to support the #HandsOffOurVote campaign by:

1. Requesting that the Leader writes to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2. Requesting that the Leader writes to Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP asking them to raise these concerns in Parliament.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Djafari-Marbini

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

This Council notes that current bills going through Parliament are taking the UK down a worryingly authoritarian path which would have the effect of silencing dissent, rolling back access to justice, and further disenfranchising the most vulnerable in society; those from poorer communities, asylum seekers, and those from minoritised communities. These bills include the Election Bill, the Policing Bill, the Nationality and Borders Bill, and the Judicial Review and Courts Bill.

This raft of oppressive legislation has been introduced at pace during an unprecedented pandemic and, if passed, would severely reduce our rights to hold the government and public institutions accountable, cut off public access to information, make it harder to challenge injustice in court, and create dangerous new powers to deprive people of citizenship without notice and criminalise those seeking sanctuary.

The Election Bill uses the pretext of voter fraud (despite a near total absence of evidence) to further silence those who suffer most, whilst the Policing Bill criminalises GRT communities, threatens the freedoms of assembly, association and expression, and shuts down routes for us all to hold the government to account (routes that the Chartists and the Suffragettes used to win us our right to universal suffrage, which was fiercely opposed by the Establishment for many decades).

These hard-won rights and freedoms form the bedrock of our democracy and must be defended.

In particular, Oxford City Council recognises the fundamental principles of a healthy democracy are rooted in ***supreme importance of*** ensuring ***that*** elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

~~The Oxford City Council notes with concern that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory ***and expensive*** photographic ID to vote. Currently 3.5 million people in the UK do not have any form of expensive photographic ID.~~

~~Council notes that the number of people convicted of voter fraud in 2017 was 1, while the number of mostly working class people struggling and living in poverty that are expected to be disenfranchised by the introduction of voter ID is 2 million.~~

~~Council notes that~~ It is estimated that these changes will cost the taxpayer £180 million and will create unnecessary bureaucracy ~~to~~ ***for*** Councils and people wishing to vote.

~~Council believes that at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier not harder for people to vote.~~

~~Council recognises that voter fraud is a problem that does not exist, and this government's attempts to raise the threshold to vote under the guise of combatting crime is taken straight out of the Trump playbook. They will provide significant barriers for people participating in our democracy and disproportionately disenfranchise the poorest and most marginalised.~~

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~~These rights are not only the bedrocks of democracy but are the same rights which the Suffragettes and the Chartists used to win us our rights.~~

~~These draconian bills have been introduced at a worrying pace and during the unprecedented conditions of the pandemic. This has provided this government with the opportunity to avoid scrutiny and opposition as they water down our rights to hold the government and public institutions accountable, cut off public access to information, deprive people of citizenship without notice, and criminalise those fleeing persecution for seeking sanctuary.~~

Oxford City Council believes that this change will function as a barrier to people voting and increase inequality in the electoral process. There are currently an estimated 3.5 million people in the UK who do not have any form of photographic ID. This includes at least two million people struggling in poverty. By contrast, out of 32 million votes cast in the last general election, there was just one person convicted of voter impersonation.

This Council believes that, at a time when voter turnout is declining, we should be doing all we can to make it easier not harder for people to vote.

Oxford City Council doesn't want to see people being turned away at the ballot box because of these changes and resolves to support the #HandsOffOurVote campaign by:

1. Requesting that the Leader writes to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2. Requesting that the Leader writes to Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP asking them to raise these concerns in Parliament.
3. ***Working with affected communities to amplify voices of protest and to mitigate, where possible, the effects of pernicious legislation.***

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

This Council notes that current bills going through Parliament are taking the UK down a worryingly authoritarian path which would have the effect of silencing dissent, rolling back access to justice, and further disenfranchising the most vulnerable in society; those from poorer communities, asylum seekers, and those from minoritised

communities. These bills include the Election Bill, the Policing Bill, the Nationality and Borders Bill, and the Judicial Review and Courts Bill.

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In particular, Oxford City Council recognises the supreme importance of ensuring that elections are fair and accessible for all voters.

The Council notes with concern that the Elections Bill is set to bring in major changes to national elections, including the introduction of compulsory and expensive photographic ID. It is estimated that these changes will cost the taxpayer £180 million and will create unnecessary bureaucracy for Councils and people wishing to vote.

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3. Working with affected communities to amplify voices of protest and to mitigate, where possible, the effects of pernicious legislation.

c) Lift the Ban for Asylum Seekers (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr R Smith)

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

Oxford City is rightly proud to welcome asylum seekers but currently those seeking asylum in the UK can only apply for the right to work only if they have been waiting for over a year – and even then only in a limited number of professions.

Allowing Asylum Seekers the right to work much sooner in their application process would generate over £100 million a year for the UK economy and allow Asylum Seekers to support themselves far more effectively than they currently can on £5.66 a day allowance.

Polling has shown that 71% of people are in favour of allowing Asylum Seekers the right to work.

This Council:

(a) notes that:

- (i) since 2002, people seeking asylum are only able to apply for the right to work after they have been waiting for a decision on their asylum claim for over a year, and only if they can be employed into one of the narrow, highly-skilled professions included on the Government's Shortage Occupation List;
- (ii) people seeking asylum are left to live on £5.66 per day, struggling to support themselves and their families, and left vulnerable to destitution, isolation, and exploitation;
- (iii) the potential foregone economic gain for the UK economy of allowing people to work is estimated to be £108.8 million a year via increased taxable income and reduced payments of accommodation/subsistence support;
- (iv) 71% of people polled agreed with the statement: "when people come to the UK seeking asylum it is important they integrate, learn English and get to know people. It would help integration if asylum-seekers were allowed to work if their claim takes more than six months to process";

(b) believes that:

- (i) people seeking asylum want to be able to work so that they can use their skills and make the most of their potential, integrate into their communities, and provide for themselves and their families;
- (ii) restrictions on right to work can lead to extremely poor mental health outcomes, and a waste of potentially invaluable talents and skills both for the economy of and the UK;
- (iii) allowing people seeking asylum the right to work would therefore lead to positive outcomes for those seeking asylum in and for the local and national economy;

(c) resolves to:

- (i) join the *Lift the Ban Coalition*, which is campaigning to restore the right to work for everyone waiting for more than 6 months for a decision on their asylum claim.
- (ii) Call on the UK Government to give people seeking asylum the right to work unconstrained by the shortage occupation list after they have waited six months for a decision on their initial asylum claim or further submission.
- (iii) Request the Leader writes to the Minister of Immigration with the Council's resolution.

Background:

[Lift the Ban – Refugee Action \(refugee-action.org.uk\)](http://refugee-action.org.uk)

d) Opposition to the privatisation of the Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Pegg)

Green Group member motion

Council notes:

- The Vaccine Manufacturing and Innovation Centre (VMIC), based at the Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire was established in 2018 as an institution that would develop vaccines and prepare for future pandemics.
- The VMIC was established by a consortium of universities - the University of Oxford, Imperial College and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. It now operates as a non-profit company in which the founding universities are shareholders.
- The VMIC is set to become operational in 2022, and would be the UK's first strategy vaccine development and advanced manufacturing facility.
- Reports from the *Financial Times*, *Observer* and *Independent* among others have indicated that government officials are currently reviewing bids from the private sector to manage the centre - including multinational biotechnology firms and healthcare manufacturers.
- Civil society groups including Keep Our NHS Public Oxfordshire and We Own It have publicly opposed any move to place the VMIC in the hands of the private sector.

Council believes:

- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, private involvement in the health sector has been hugely damaging, with companies prioritising profit above public health.
- Allowing the VMIC to pass into the hands of profit-driven private companies will reduce the efficacy of the centre, inhibit its ability to deliver proper preparedness for future pandemics and reduce the innovation in vaccine manufacturing the centre was designed to achieve.

Council resolves

- To oppose the privatisation of the VMIC.
- To request the Leader write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy expressing the Council's view that the VMIC should not be privatised.
- To request the Leader write to the three founding universities expressing the Council's view that the VMIC should not be privatised.

e) End Fire and Rehire (proposed by Cllr Mundy, seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Labour Group 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

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.**

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/>

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

f) Setting up a Drug Consumption Room (proposed by Cllr Wade, seconded by Cllr Miles)

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

One in five Local Authorities in England have cut budgets for addiction services and for support for drug users by more than half since 2015/16 and, with drug-related deaths at a record high, this Council believes that there needs to be greater commitment to setting up drug consumption rooms (DCRs).

These are units where drug users can take street drugs in a safe and clean environment, where antidotes are available for overdoses, and where users ready to move away from their drug habit can find support. The street homeless population is particularly vulnerable so this Council seeks to give them the protection of a DCR.

Drugs policy is currently the province of the Home Office, which since June 2018 has been resisting calls from the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council for leave to open the first heroin assisted-treatment facility in the city, which would allow addicts to use drugs in a regulated environment.

In 2006 the Joseph Rowntree Independent Working Group on DCRs concluded that 'well-designed and well-implemented DCRs would have an impact on some of the serious drug-related problems experienced in the UK' and proposed the setting up of pilot DCRs. Its recommendations have not been taken forward.

- This Council regrets the 2020 Home Office statement that it would not be decriminalising drug use.
- This Council proposes a public health evidence-based approach to drug use. Reliance on the criminal justice system has been at best ineffective, and at worst has driven drug dealers and users underground.
- Oxford City Council calls on the UK Government:
 1. To seek an explicit statement from the Home Office that the operation of DCRs is a matter for Local Authorities; specific rules can then be agreed by Police Forces, the CPS, Health Bodies and Local Authorities
 2. To make a ministerial commitment through the Home Secretary to protect the budgets of alcohol and drug partnerships
 3. To fund drug-testing services to be deployed at localities where there is a need, allowing 'at risk' users to find out what is in a substance and to offer advice on harm reduction.
 4. To allow the setting up of a pilot drug consumption room in Oxford City under an exemption from the 1971 UK Misuse of Drugs Act.

Oxford City Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Office and to Oxford's MPs to inform them of this Resolution and urge them to take appropriate action.

References:

1. Independent Working Group on DCRs (Joseph Rowntree Foundation 2006)
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/jrf/migrated/files/9781859354711.pdf>

2. Volteface: Are DCRs viable in the UK? (28.11.17)
<https://volteface.me/drug-consumption-rooms-viable-uk/>

3. Room for Improvement: How Drug Consumption Rooms save lives (01.04.19)
<https://www.adamsmith.org/research/room-for-improvement-how-drug-consumption-rooms-save-lives>

4. HIV Scotland 'Charity backs plans for unofficial DCRs' (07.03.20)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-51782882>

5. British Medical Journal (5.08.21)

Scotland intends to set up safe spaces for drug users in defiance of UK Govt.

<https://www.bmj.com/content/374/bmj.n1957>

6. Safer drug consumption facilities: Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=38604&p=0>

7. Mobilizing DCRs

<http://www.sfu.ca/~emccann/HealthPlace%20DCRs.pdf>

8. A critical analysis of UK news media representations of proposals (Liverpool John Moores University)

<http://researchonline.ljmu.ac.uk/id/eprint/10656/>

9. Review of Drugs Pt 2: prevention, treatment and recovery (Dame Carol Black, 2.08.21)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-drugs-phase-two-report/review-of-drugs-part-two-prevention-treatment-and-recovery#contents>

Amendment proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Mundy

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

[No changes to first paragraph]

These are units where drug users can take street drugs in a safe and clean environment, where antidotes are available for overdoses, and where users ready to move away from their drug habit can find support. The street homeless population is particularly vulnerable so this Council ~~seeks to give~~ **would consider giving** them the protection of a DCR **if other local health providers such as Turning Point were supportive**.

[No changes to last part]

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

One in five Local Authorities in England have cut budgets for addiction services and for support for drug users by more than half since 2015/16 and, with drug-related deaths at a record high, this Council believes that there needs to be greater commitment to setting up drug consumption rooms (DCRs).

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5. British Medical Journal (5.08.21)
Scotland intends to set up safe spaces for drug users in defiance of UK Govt.
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6. Safer drug consumption facilities: Glasgow Health & Social Care Partnership
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=38604&p=0>
7. Mobilizing DCRs
<http://www.sfu.ca/~emccann/HealthPlace%20DCRs.pdf>
8. A critical analysis of UK news media representations of proposals (Liverpool John Moores University)
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9. Review of Drugs Pt 2: prevention, treatment and recovery (Dame Carol Black, 2.08.21)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-drugs-phase-two-report/review-of-drugs-part-two-prevention-treatment-and-recovery#contents>

g) EU Nationals deserve to be treated with respect (proposed by Cllr Corais, seconded by Cllr Bely-Summers)

Labour Group 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 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.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/speech-by-home-secretary-on-second-reading-of-immigration-bill>

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/theresa-may-interview-going-give-illegal-migrants-really-hostile/>