

Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 20 March 2023**

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

Briefing note

Information for councillors and additional papers to be considered.

		Pages
PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS		
1	Apologies for absence	
2	Declarations of interest	
3	Minutes Minutes of the special and ordinary meetings of Council held on 30 January 2023 and of the Budget Council meeting held on 16 February 2023. Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.	Main agenda pack
4	Appointment to Committees See main agenda frontsheet. Any proposed changes will be circulated with the briefing note or notified at the meeting.	
5	Announcements See main agenda frontsheet.	
6	Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting None.	
CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS		
7	Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 The Executive Director (Communities and People) submitted a report to Cabinet on 15 March 2023 seeking approval of the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 with associated	Main agenda pack

appendices.

The Cabinet minutes are available at item 12b.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing will present the report and present Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **Adopt** the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 and its associated appendices;
2. **Adopt** of the Strategy's Action Plan for 23-24; and
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to update the Action Plan when required.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

8 **Street Trading Policy and amendment to Constitution Part 5.7(b)**

The Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety has submitted a report requesting Council adopt the Street Trading Policy following the review, public consultation process and recommendation from the General Purposes Licensing Committee and to agree a concurrent amendment to the Council's Constitution Part 5.7(b).

Councillor Edward Mundy, Chair of the General Purposes Licensing Committee will present the report and propose the Committee's recommendations.

Recommendations: That Council resolves to:

1. **Adopt** the Street Trading Policy at Appendix B with effect from 01 April 2023.
2. **Amend** Part 5.7(b) of the Constitution as set out at Appendix C with effect from 01 April 2023.

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OFFICER REPORTS

9 **Pay Policy Statement 2023**

The Head of Business Improvement has submitted a report requesting Council approve the Annual Pay Policy Statement.

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focussed Services will present the report and propose the recommendation.

Recommendation: that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023/24 as attached at

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10 Constitution Review 2022/23

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report requesting Council approve the recommended changes to the Council's Constitution following an annual review of the Constitution overseen by a Cross-Party Constitution Review Working Group.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships will present the report and propose the recommendations.

Recommendations: that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** the list of proposed amendments to the Council's Constitution listed in Appendix A with effect from 17 May 2023;
2. **Delegate** authority to the Head of Law and Governance to amend any further wording and/or numbering that is identified as being inconsistent with the changes approved by Council.

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11 Designation of Interim Monitoring Officer, and Appointment of Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer

The Head of Paid Services has submitted a report to Council seeking approval to designate the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer and to appoint a Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council will present the report and propose the recommendations.

Recommendations: That Council resolves to:

1. **Designate** the newly appointed Interim Head of Law & Governance, Rhian Davies, as the Council's Interim Monitoring Officer with effect from 03 April 2023;
2. **Appoint** Caroline Green, Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, as the Council's Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer with effect from 03 April 2023.

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QUESTIONS

12 Questions on Cabinet minutes

This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.

Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in these minutes:

<p>12a Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 8 February 2023</p>	<p>Main agenda pack</p>
<p>12b Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 15 March 2023</p>	<p>11 - 19</p>
<p>13 Questions on Notice from Members of Council</p> <p>24 questions on notice.</p> <p>The questioner may ask one supplementary question of the Cabinet Member who submitted the response, or the Leader in their absence.</p>	<p>21 - 37</p>
<p>PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY</p>	
<p>14 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>4 public addresses and 1 question not relating to matters for decision at the meeting.</p> <p>Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question.</p> <p>A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items.</p> <p>Responses are included within this limit.</p>	<p>39 - 48</p>
<p>15 Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules - Save Tumbling Bay</p> <p>The petition organiser may address Council upon the petition for up to 5 minutes at the start of this item.</p> <p>Council is asked to consider a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme.</p> <p>The full text of the petition is contained in the accompanying report of the Head of Law and Governance.</p> <p>No substantive motions in respect of the petition have been submitted.</p>	<p>Main agenda pack</p>

16 Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

16a The Oxford Strategic Partnership

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council will present the report which notes the annual update on the Oxford Strategic Partnership.

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

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16b Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships, will present the report which provides members with an update on the work of Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP).

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

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16c Health & Wellbeing Board/Health Improvement Board

Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport, will present the report which provides the annual report on the work of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing/Health Improvement Board.

Council are invited to comment on and note the report.

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16d Scrutiny Committee update report

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates Council on the activities of scrutiny and the implementation of recommendations since the last meeting of Council.

Council is invited to comment on and note the report.

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PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

17 Motions on notice 20 March 2023

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.

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Council is asked to consider the following motions:

- a) Four Day Week (proposed by Cllr Kerr, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Arshad]
- b) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)
- c) Use Car Parking Sites for Solar Farms (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Miles) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth]
- d) Consultation on the Sale of Council Art Works (proposed by Cllr Miles, seconded by Cllr Smowton) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Diggins]

18 Matters exempt or part exempt from publication and exclusion of the public

See main agenda frontsheet.

18a Additional Loan Finance for Oxford West End Developments (OxWED LLP)

Appendix 1 to this item includes exempt information pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If Council wishes to discuss matters relating to the information set out in Appendix 1 to the report, it will be necessary for the Council to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting (as set out at agenda item 18).

The Executive Director (Development) submitted a report to Cabinet on 08 February 2023 seeking approval to secure a budget to allow the City Council to lend OxWED up to £750,000 to support continuing work on the Oxpens project and in particular preparing (and subject to LLP Member approval and planning permission) implementing the Delivery Strategy for the Oxpens development.

The Cabinet minutes are available at item 12a.

Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, and Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery will present the report and proposed the recommendations.

Recommendation: That Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **Agree** to include £750,000 in its capital budget to allow the City Council to loan these funds to OxWED to continue work on the Oxpens project in accordance with the LLP Members agreement, and in particular preparation and (if planning

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permission is granted) implementation of the Delivery Strategy.

18b Delivery of Affordable Housing

Appendices 1-4 to this item include exempt information pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. If Council wishes to discuss matters relating to the information set out in Appendices 1-4 to the report, it will be necessary for the Council to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting (as set out at agenda item 18).

The Executive Director (Development) submitted a report to Cabinet on 15 March 2023 seeking further project approvals and delegations to enable the continued delivery of more affordable housing in Oxford.

The Cabinet minutes are available at item 12b.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery and Councillor Ed Turner, Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management will present the report and present Cabinet's recommendations.

Recommendations: Cabinet recommends that Council resolves to:

1. **Approve** a revision to the HRA capital budget of an additional £825,000, with the realignment of budgets and schemes within the HRA new build programme, in order for the schemes listed below to be delivered within the capital programme funded predominantly from borrowing. This additional spend to be profiled into 2024/25.
 - a) Increase Northfield Hostel budget by £3.25m (see paragraph 52)
 - b) Increase Lanham Way budget by £361k (see paragraph 53)
 - c) Reduce East Oxford Community Centre budget by £700k (see paragraph 54)
 - d) Close Juniper Close scheme (see paragraph 55).

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

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Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 15 March 2023



Cabinet members present:

Councillor Brown	Councillor Turner
Councillor Aziz	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Railton	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Upton	Councillor Walcott

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

Emma Lund, Committee and Member Services Officer
Tom Bridgman, Executive Director (Development)
Stephen Gabriel, Executive Director (Communities and People)
Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy
Nerys Parry, Head of Housing
Amie Rickatson, Strategy & Service Development Manager
Christopher Wood, Property Manager
Richard Wood, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager
Dave Scholes, Affordable Housing Supply Corporate Lead
Tristan Carlyle, Ecology and Biodiversity Officer
Marcia Ecclestone, Legal Services Manager
Emma Gubbins, Senior Estates Surveyor
Jane Winfield, Head of Corporate Property
Richard Doney, Scrutiny Officer

Also present:

Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton, Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Chair of Scrutiny
Councillor Jemima Hunt, Chair of the Climate & Environment Panel

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

123.Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

124.Councillor Addresses on any item for decision on the Cabinet agenda

None.

125.Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

126.Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

127.Scrutiny reports

Councillor Dr Smowton, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, presented the reports and recommendations of Scrutiny Committee which had met on 6 March; the Climate & Environment Panel which had met on 9 March; and the Housing & Homelessness Panel which had met on 13 March.

The Scrutiny Committee had made three recommendations in relation to the Corporate Business Plan 2023, which were all accepted. These related to including higher level key performance indicators; monitoring of progress and implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy; and including explicit reference to working with Thames Water in seeking to improve the situation with water in the City.

The Scrutiny Committee had made five recommendations in relation to the Integrated Care Strategy Draft Strategy Update, which had been mostly accepted. These included recommending that the Council should use its influence via the Integrated Care Board and Strategy action plan to: ensure that the risks and dangers of vaping were emphasised; seek to combat vaccine hesitancy and misinformation; and broaden work on air quality, including indoor air quality and indoor sources of pollutants. There had also been a recommendation that specific attention should be paid to the relevant needs of particular demographic groups (including LGBT communities and minority ethnic communities) and the impact of certain strategies and factors on those groups in particular.

The Scrutiny Committee had made one recommendation in relation to the Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 3. This had related to including the specific categories of work which were proposed to be suspended and the associated financial implications in paragraph 10 of the report. This had been accepted.

The Housing & Homelessness Panel had made one recommendation in relation to the Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy. This related to working with OX Place to consider how it might move towards having a higher percentage of new homes let at social rent level than a simple majority. The recommendation had been partially accepted, for the reasons set out in the Cabinet Member's response within the scrutiny report supplement. The Cabinet Member provided clarification, in relation to the figures provided, that the Local Plan 2016 – 2036 stipulated that any new development over 10 units was required to have 50% affordable units, of which 80% must be social rented. Following changes to the National Planning Practice Guidance, this requirement was amended to 70% Social Housing, 25% First Homes and 5% Intermediate. This policy requirement for social rented units was one of the highest in the country, demonstrating the priority to provide more homes at social rent.

128. Delivery of Affordable Housing

The Executive Director (Development) had submitted a report to seek further project approvals and delegations to enable the continued delivery of more affordable housing in Oxford.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Linda Smith, highlighted that the proposal (subject to the necessary planning consents) concerned the purchase of 111 new affordable homes within the Oxford North development and 16 affordable homes at an adjacent site at Goose Green (owned by the Council and with access to be improved as part of the Oxford North development). Approval was also sought for the purchase of 32 affordable homes at Meadow Lane (subject to planning consent) and the adjustment of the HRA capital budgets for a number of other schemes. The latter included increasing the available budgets for the planned developments at Northfield Hostel, Lanham Way; reducing the budget for East Oxford Community Centre, and closing the Juniper Close scheme.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Give project approval** for the acquisition of affordable dwellings developed by Oxford City Homes Ltd (OCHL) for which budgetary provision has been made in the Council's Housing Revenue Account in respect of:
 - a) Oxford North (referenced in paragraphs 9 to 18 of the report), and
 - b) Goose Green, Wolvercote (referenced in paragraphs 19 to 34 of the report), and
 - c) Meadow Lane, Iffley (referenced in paragraphs 35 to 49 of the report);
2. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Development), in consultation with the Executive Director (Communities and People); the Cabinet Member for Housing; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, to finalise the scheme design and financial appraisals and enter into agreements and contracts to facilitate the agreed purchase by the Council of the affordable housing (to be held in the HRA) and any associated land, within the identified budget, for the provision of the affordable housing (111 affordable homes) on the Oxford North development, within the project approval;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery; the Cabinet Member for Housing; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer and the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer to finalise the scheme design and financial appraisals and enter into agreements and contracts to facilitate the purchase by the Council of the social rent and shared ownership homes (to be held in the HRA) and any associated land, within the identified budget and within this project approval for Goose Green, Wolvercote (16 affordable homes);
4. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Development), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, to approve the final terms and enter into the transfer in relation to Goose Green from the General Fund to OCHL;

5. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Development), in consultation with the Executive Director (Communities and People); the Cabinet Member for Housing; the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer; and the Head of Law and Governance/Monitoring Officer, to finalise the scheme design and financial appraisals and enter into agreements and contracts to facilitate the agreed purchase by the Council of the affordable housing (to be held in the HRA) and any associated land, from OCHL, for the provision of the affordable housing on the Meadow Lane, Iffley development (32 affordable homes), and within the identified budget and this project approval; and
6. **Recommend to Council** that it approves a revision to the HRA capital budget of an additional £825,000, with the realignment of budgets and schemes within the HRA new build programme, in order for the schemes listed below to be delivered within the capital programme funded predominantly from borrowing. This additional spend to be profiled into 2024/25.
 - a) Increase Northfield Hostel budget by £3.25m (see report paragraph 52)
 - b) Increase Lanham Way budget by £361k (see report paragraph 53)
 - c) Reduce East Oxford Community Centre budget by £700k (see report paragraph 54)
 - d) Close Juniper Close scheme (see report paragraph 55).

129. Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

The Executive Director (Communities & People) had submitted a report to seek approval for the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28.

The Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Linda Smith, reported that the Strategy had been subject to a comprehensive consultation. 107 responses had been received, and 60 individuals representing 27 organisations had attended the two workshops which had been held. The responses had been broadly positive: those issues which had been raised had largely related to things over which the Council had little or no direct control, such as private sector rents or support for those without recourse to public funds. The Strategy had been updated following the consultation to explain this.

Councillor Smith highlighted that the action plan accompanying the strategy would be updated annually, and would enable progress to be monitored.

In discussion, it was questioned whether there were ways in which strategic engagement with registered housing providers across the city might be improved. The Executive Director (Communities and People) undertook to give consideration to this, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the progress made to develop the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan for Oxford following feedback from the statutory public consultation;
2. **Recommend to Council** the adoption of the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 and its associated appendices;
3. **Recommend to Council** the adoption of the Strategy's Action Plan for 23-24; and

4. **Recommend to Council** that authority be delegated to the Executive Director (Communities and People), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing, to update the Action Plan when required.

130. Commercial Tenant Rent Arrears Write-Offs

The Head of Corporate Property had submitted a report to seek approval for the write-off of commercial rent arrears above the limit which officers could approve under the Scheme of Delegation.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Asset Management, Councillor Ed Turner, drew attention to recent difficult trading conditions, including the pandemic, which had affected businesses. Two of the traders owing arrears to the Council had entered liquidation: there was therefore no prospect of the Council being able to recover these debts. In other cases, agreements had been reached with businesses regarding their commercial rent arrears. The Cabinet Member highlighted that whilst the Council sought to maximise income from its commercial properties, there was also a need to balance future income streams, minimise void periods, and maintain a broad offer of businesses in the city centre. It was also noted that the Commercial Rent (Coronavirus) Act 2022 had provided a six month window in which a referral to the statutory arbitration scheme could be made. During this period landlords were prevented from using certain remedies in relation to protected rent debts, and the Council had therefore been obliged to enter into negotiations with its commercial tenant debtors.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the write-off of arrears relating to Edinburgh Woollen Mill (141 High Street) as detailed in the report;
2. **Approve** the write-off of arrears relating to Nosebag Restaurants Limited (6 St Michaels Street & 6-8 St Michaels Street) as detailed in the report; and
3. **Approve** the write-off of arrears relating to the properties identified in the exempt Appendix 1.

131. Integrated Care System Draft Strategy Update

The Head of Corporate Strategy had submitted a report to present information on the production of a new Integrated Care Strategy by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Transport, Councillor Louise Upton, reported that newly created Integrated Care Boards had replaced Clinical Commissioning Groups as the NHS bodies which received government funding to plan and buy services. The ICB had been mandated to work in partnership with local authorities, GPs and voluntary groups to create an integrated care strategy focused on ensuring that everyone is able to get a good start in life and to live and age well, with support when needed.

Councillor Upton outlined the five key principles underpinning the strategy, which included Preventing Ill Health and Tackling Health Inequalities. The Strategy would be delivered through a series of priorities, in some of which the Council had a role and in others it did not.

The Head of Corporate Strategy reported that a Health and Wellbeing Strategy was also being developed for Oxfordshire this year, to come into effect at the start of 2024.

In discussion it was noted that representation on a number of bodies, as well as effective co-ordination and links, would be key to translating the strategies into a meaningful plan for Oxfordshire. These included the Place Space Partnership and the Oxfordshire Systems Leaders' Partnership (which involved leaders of local authorities as well as leaders in the health service). There were also discussions at district council leaders' and chief executives' group meetings and with the Local Enterprise Partnership as well as work by the Active Communities Team.

In response to a question the Head of Corporate Strategy confirmed that the draft document had been approved by the Integrated Care Partnership on 27 February 2023; however the final strategy document had not yet been issued.

Cabinet Members welcomed the strategy and endorsed its principles; however, it was considered that it would only be once actions and measurable outcomes were delivered that its value could be assessed.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the contents of the report for information.

132. Development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford

The Head of Corporate Strategy had submitted a report to present Cabinet with a proposed approach to the development of a Biodiversity Strategy for Oxford.

Councillor Jemima Hunt, Chair of the Climate and Environment Panel, presented the seven recommendations of the Panel relating to the Biodiversity Strategy Development report, and a recommendation arising from a report on fleet decarbonisation which the Panel had also considered. Four recommendations were accepted, and four were partially accepted. One recommendation had related to ensuring that the Council prioritised the protection of mature trees, wherever possible. The Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, Councillor Anna Railton, responded that there was a balance which needed to be reached in preserving mature trees whilst still being able to deliver on the Council's priority to provide more, affordable housing: it was the role of the planning process and the planning committee to determine where that balance was.

Councillor Railton summarised that the first key step in developing the strategy would be to establish a steering group involving stakeholders, and noting the recommendation of scrutiny to include Oxford University's Biodiversity Network and Healthy Ecosystem Restoration in Oxfordshire (HERO). There would then need to be an exercise to evaluate a baseline and identify the most pressing issues. The report set out suggested key areas of focus, which included maximising the biodiversity value of land under the Council's control; supporting other organisations to do the same; and improving public access to nature within the city. Work would also include auditing the eight sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) and 66 other sites protected by various local designations.

Cabinet heard that the intention was for the strategy to become an inspiring vision for the city as a whole which would go beyond the Council's own land ownership to include other landowners and their biodiversity aspirations for their land.

In discussion it was suggested that biodiversity of waterways; tree planting strategies and the planting of trees providing food; and the implementation, maintenance and monitoring of biodiversity net gain sites might also be included within the work. Correction was also provided in respect of paragraph 11, which erroneously referred to glyphosate as a pesticide rather than a herbicide. In response to a question as to how information about improving biodiversity in domestic settings might be provided to residents, the Head of Corporate Strategy reported that the Council participated in the Climate Action Oxfordshire website, which could provide a mechanism for an organised programme of pro-active communications.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the report and the proposed establishment of steering group in connection with the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy.

133. Annual Update of the Council's Business Plan

The Head of Corporate Strategy had submitted a report to approve Oxford City Council's Corporate Business Plan priorities for 2023/24.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships highlighted some of the significant progress which had been made in delivery of the current year's business plan. This had included: adding social value to the procurement process; becoming a signatory to the Inclusive Economy Charter; securing planning permission for the re-provision of affordable work space at Standingford House on Cave Street; securing a funding package for the Cowley Branch Line; increasing the supply of affordable housing and delivering the greenest council homes to date; commencement of the citywide selective licensing scheme; and use of Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding to reduce the carbon impact of Oxford's leisure centres and seasonal outdoor pool.

The Leader reported that this was the final year of the Council Strategy 2020-24; a report would be brought to Cabinet later in the year setting out the process for work on a strategy to cover the next four years.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Agree** the draft Oxford City Council Corporate Business Plan priorities 2023/24, which set out the Council's priority work for the next financial year;
2. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Corporate Strategy in consultation with the Council Leader to make further minor amendments to the draft Business Plan priorities before implementation; and
3. **Note** the progress made in delivery against the actions set out in the current year's Corporate Business Plan 2022/23.

134. Integrated Performance Report for Q3 2022/23

The Head of Financial Services had submitted a report to update Cabinet on finance, risk and corporate performance matters as at 31 December 2022.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Asset Management, Councillor Ed Turner, clarified that the areas of suspended work referred to in paragraph 10 related to pre-painting joinery works.

The Cabinet Member for Finance & Asset Management highlighted a number of key points arising from the report. It was noted that the outturn position forecast an adverse variance of £0.718 million against the net budget agreed by Council in February 2022, after a £2 million transfer from the COVID reserve. The financial climate remained challenging. There were some adverse variances in the HRA and this had led to some works being paused: there had also been an increase in fencing work due to storm damage. Options for the future approach towards these works would need to be further looked at.

There had been some slippage on the capital programme: this was in part linked to the unprecedented level of construction cost inflation which had meant that a number of schemes had had to be paused in order for costs to be re-assessed. This was a national and international issue, and was not unique to this Council.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the projected financial outturn for 2022-23 as well as the current position on risk and performance as at 31 December 2022; and
2. **Note** the change in timing of the insurance contract procurement exercise for the new contract to commence from 1st January 2024 as outlined in paragraph 18.

135. Flag Flying and Bell Ringing Arrangements

The Head of Law and Governance had submitted a report to seek agreement of the lists of annual flag flying and bell ringing commitments and approval for a minor amendment to the Oxford City Council Protocol for Flag Flying and Bell Ringing.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Agree** the List of Annual Flag Flying Commitments attached at Appendix A to the report;
2. **Agree** the List of Annual Bell Ringing Commitments attached at Appendix B to the report; and
3. **Approve** the minor amendment to the Oxford City Council Protocol for Flag Flying and Bell Ringing set out in Appendix C to the report.

136. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 as a true and accurate record.

137. Dates of Future Meetings

19 April 2023

14 June 2023

12 July 2023

9 August 2023

13 September 2023

18 October 2023

All meetings start at 6pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.33 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 19 April 2023

When decisions take effect:

Cabinet: after the call-in and review period has expired

*Planning Committees: after the call-in and review period has expired and the formal
decision notice is issued*

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

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To: Council
Date: 20 March 2023
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 Inclusive Economy and Partnerships; Leader of the Council

SB1 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Brown – City Centre Action Plan	
Question	Written Response
How are the measurable Key Performance Indicators and Budgets listed in the council's City Centre Action Plan performing in practice?	<p>The City Council is overseeing and tracking the plan on behalf of multiple stakeholders – it is important to note that the City Centre Action Plan has been created by the Council on behalf of the whole city centre.</p> <p>Regarding Key Performance Indicators, these have been listed as a project outcome against each project with</p>

SB1 From Cllr Landell Mills to Cllr Brown – City Centre Action Plan

	<p>project start timelines noted.</p> <p>An overall governance approach has been set up to monitor and assist the delivery of the projects in the Plan. The Plan is tracked by an overarching monitoring document and each project has an assigned project lead and defined actions. If a project is underway, the lead is asked for regular updates. Additionally, each quarter, officers from across the Council meet to discuss the Plan and support/add input to projects in hand. As new opportunities arise for the City, these projects are noted so that consideration, through the governance process, can be given to their addition. All of the projects due to start in 2022 have started, with some already delivered.</p> <p>Regarding budget, there was no assigned budget for the majority of projects, and the aim is to have them close to ready so that funding opportunities can be applied for as they arise. Some projects don't require funding, just time resources and those resources are allocated as time allows.</p>
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SB2 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Brown – County Boundary Review

Question	Written Response
<p>Is the City Council intending to create its own cross party working group to look at the County boundary review?</p>	<p>Staff in Law and Governance will be setting up a cross party County Boundary Working Group. This follows the procedure that the Council has followed for the last few decades for boundary reviews that have covered Oxford. It will be politically balanced (three Labour, one Liberal Democrat and one Green Member) and will consider whether a scheme can be recommended and put to Council for approval.</p> <p>Each political group has already been asked to put forward its nominees.</p>

ET1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Turner – ESG Policy for Investments

Question

What is the council's environment, social and governance (ESG) policy for its investments in shares or bonds?

Written Response

The Council is not investing in shares or bonds and has no plans to do so. Treasury investments in shares is not permitted in the currently approved credit and counterparty list which was approved by Council at its meeting on 16th February 2023. The investment in bonds is permitted in line with the strategy, however no investments are held or are planned. That being said, if there were to be any investments in bonds then the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Policy approved as part of the treasury strategy would apply. In accordance with the policy, ESG risks are considered to be an important overlay to the investment process, thereby improving future sustainability of investments. The Council, when holding meetings with counterparties, always has ESG as an agenda item and uses its investment capabilities to persuade and pressurise counterparties to improve their policies and deliverables in respect of ESG.

ET2 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Turner – Companies' Dividends

Question

Could you please list the (number and value of) dividends paid by the council's companies to the council since they were founded?

Written Response

ODS has delivered 2 dividend amounts since incorporation in 2018, one in respect of 2018-19 in the amount of £1.247 million and one for £600k in respect of 2020-21. Their business, like most businesses, was severely affected by the impact of the COVID pandemic. The 2021-22 statement of accounts is still subject to external audit and no dividend has been declared in respect of this year although I understand that one will be, once the accounts have been

	<p>signed off. It should be noted that in addition to the dividend return which is derived from surpluses and efficiencies from company operations, ODS pays the Council for support services provided, interest on vehicles purchased and depot rentals, which over the 6 year period of the contract are estimated to be around £30 million.</p> <p>OX Place have yet to achieve a surplus since their incorporation in 2016 although they are forecast to do so in 2022-23. The expectation of dividends from the company from surpluses in the next 4 years is estimated at £13.4 million and it is worth noting that up to 31-3-2023 accrued interest margin (i.e. the difference between the rate at which the Council borrows to the rate at which it lends to OX Place) is estimated at around £2.6 million. There are significant advantages to receiving income in this way.</p>
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ET3 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Turner – Jericho Wharf	
<p>Question</p> <p>What lessons does the council take away from the planning committee having been overturned at appeal regarding the housing and community centre at Jericho Wharf [20/01276/FUL]? The result has been years of dereliction and then finally a permission granted with zero affordable housing – how can we avoid similar outcomes in future?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The application in question was not solely providing housing and a community centre at the former boatyard site. In accordance with the allocation policy, this was a mixed-use scheme that was seeking to provide residential uses, community centre, boatyard, public realm, and works to the canal. The range of uses within the mixed-use scheme make this a complex site in terms of delivery.</p> <p>Although the site has been derelict for some years, it is important to note that planning permissions for redevelopment have been granted in the past but none of these have been delivered.</p> <p>Any proposal for the site must be considered against National and Local Planning Policy unless material considerations state otherwise. The provision of affordable housing is a key</p>

	<p>objective for the Council, and the policies in the Local Plan set out what is required from qualifying sites such as this. However, as per paragraph 58 of the NPPF and Policy H2 in the Local Plan, where it can be robustly demonstrated through a viability appraisal that it is not possible to provide affordable housing within the scheme we have to consider these matters.</p> <p>In determining the application, officers felt it was sufficiently demonstrated through the viability appraisals that the scheme could not afford to deliver affordable housing along with all the other important uses that are being sought on the site, specifically the boatyard, new community centre, public space, bridge, public realm. It was on that basis that the application was put to committee with a recommendation to approve the application along with a review mechanism that would look to capture any additional value not envisaged in the viability work as a financial contribution towards affordable housing. The committee was not persuaded by the viability report conclusions and refused the application.</p> <p>Through defending the appeal, the Council commissioned a further review of the viability work submitted by the applicant and found it only to be marginally viable, albeit to a greater degree than the conclusions of the previous viability report. The Inspector however was not persuaded by this work and has allowed the appeal. The review mechanism has been retained which will secure affordable housing contributions in the event that the scheme achieves a greater value than envisaged in the viability work.</p> <p>In many respects this is how the planning system is meant to work, officers present a recommendation to Planning Committee, which then undertook a thorough and robust decision-making process and based its decision on a sound planning basis. The viability report</p>
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	challenges some of the assumptions held regarding the profitability of development when there are multiple other requirements such as community centre, boat yards and so forth. However, as explained above, this is a unique site with unique challenges clearly not replicated on other sites.
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Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks; Deputy Leader of the Council

CM1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Munkonge – Public Water Fountain Provision	
<p>Question</p> <p>How many public drinking water fountains are there in the city on city owned parks or land? Of the total number, how many are disused, and how many are functioning? Given the potential for extreme temperatures this summer and in future years, what plans does the council have to renovate or install additional public water fountains?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>There are three drinking water fountains in the city owned parks (at Florence, Bury Knowle and Cutteslowe Parks). The one at Cutteslowe is currently out of order, but we are working to get this back working as soon as possible. There are no additional funds identified at present to install further fountains.</p> <p>Several the city's parks also have kiosks or nearby facilities such as leisure or community centres where people can access free drinking water. The city installed the drinking fountains as part of the 'Refill' campaign, which aimed to advertise places and spaces in which free drinking water could be accessed; this included restaurants and shops.</p>

CM2 From Cllr Roz Smith to Cllr Munkonge – Children's Scooter Parking	
<p>Question</p> <p>How many children's scooter parking stands are currently installed in City Council owned parks and what is their capacity?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>We do not currently have specific children's scooter parking stands and have not seen any increased demand from our communities for these at this time. We do however have cycle parking at our parks that can sometimes be used for this purpose.</p>

SA1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Aziz – Gender Neutral Toilet Provision

Question

Can the portfolio holder provide an update as to what steps have been taken to introduce gender neutral toilets in Council buildings following the passing of the 'Becoming a trans inclusive Council' motion in November 2021?

Written Response

Officers would consider this when we are undertaking any development works and a budget is identified.

In our main Council building, the Oxford Town Hall, officers will review options of if and how gender neutral toilets can be included in the next phase of development works.

For private events at the Town Hall when they are outside normal opening hours, we have been able to change the use of the current toilets for that event into gender neutral toilets, which were important for the success of the event.

SA2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Aziz – Asylum Seekers at Kassam Stadium

Question

Can the portfolio holder provide an update on the welfare of asylum seekers housed at the Kassam Stadium by the Home Office and the support being provided to them by the Council?

Written Response

The Council leads the multi-agency response and holds fortnightly meetings with partners and the management of the hotel, which is directed by the Home Office. There are currently no issues of concern regarding the welfare of the asylum seekers and the Council continues to work with local organisations, community groups and charities to provide education, advice, clothing and social activities, we extend our thanks and gratitude to everyone for their work. The Council is committed to its values of working towards Oxford being a city of sanctuary and a city where asylum seekers and refugees are welcome.

SA3 From Cllr Rawle to Cllr Aziz – Household Support Fund**Question**

In light of new guidance for the Household Support Fund that states cash grants can be used as part of support, will the council be issuing cash grants, as was advised by many organisations that gave evidence to the Child Poverty Review Group?

Written Response

We are constantly reviewing how we distribute the Household Support Fund with the County and neighbouring districts. We believe that our blended approach of using the City's advice centre network as well as direct support through our locality teams is performing well. We provide support through energy vouchers, food vouchers, essential items purchasing and other essentials covered by the criteria which minimises the need for cash payments.

Cabinet Member for Housing**LS1 From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Linda Smith – Rental Property Licensing****Question**

Under the new Selective Licensing Scheme introduced in September 2022, what proportion of relevant properties in Oxford are now licensed by the Council? How many licences have been issued and how many applications have been rejected? What is the proportion of privately rented properties inspected and how many licences have been revoked as a result of inspection?

Written Response

We predicted we would receive 10,000 applications within the first year and we have already received 94% of the applications predicted (9,467 valid applications). Of those applications received, 560 final licences and 1,067 draft licences have been issued which is 17% of the total received. Once a valid application has been made, the application must be granted or refused (unless the applicant subsequently withdraws). We have issued 1 intention to refuse.

Since the scheme commenced, we have inspected 66 properties where housing health and safety rating system assessments have been made. No licences have been revoked as a result of these inspections as that has not been necessary, however we have taken enforcement action in 19 properties and served 29 notices under the Housing Act 2004.

LS2 From Cllr Rawle to Cllr Linda Smith – Selective Licensing Energy Efficiency**Question**

Following the introduction of the Selective Licensing Scheme, how many private landlords have improved the energy efficiency of their properties following advice or recommendations from officers?

Written Response

Since the scheme began, investigations have commenced into 49 properties with regards to energy efficiency concerns and of these 23 have now taken action that improved the energy efficiency of the property. Of the remaining properties, 8 have been found to be exempt from the minimum energy efficiency regulations and investigations are continuing into the others. Grant funding for energy efficiency upgrades in the private sector will continue to be promoted to landlords.

LS3 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Linda Smith – Homes for Ukraine Scheme**Question**

Can the portfolio holder provide an update on the Homes for Ukraine scheme in Oxford?

Written Response

As of 03 March 2023, approximately 397 Ukraine individuals have arrived to Oxford under the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) scheme and there are currently 213 households in hosting arrangements. Re-matching is seen as a key approach to supporting guests to stay housed across the whole County and to avoid the pressures of homelessness within respective Districts. To date in Oxford, we have re-matched 43 households into a new hosting arrangement and moved 5 into alternative accommodation, with only one current case in emergency temporary accommodation under the HfU scheme. Our current key focus is to increase the supply of private rented tenancies. To support this work and ensure successful outcomes, we have secured additional resources to bolster capacity including 3 re-matching officers hosted by the City working across the County (as well as a prevention officer and 2 project officers).

AH1 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Hollingsworth – Loss of Social Housing

Question

Is the council content with government figures showing that the number of social houses in Oxford went down by 132 over the last ten years? What is the breakdown of the 140 social housing units demolished and 532 sold over that time (e.g. lost to Right To Buy, demolished for replacement by residential development, demolished for replacement by non-residential development, etc)?

Written Response

The figures quoted in the question, which appear to be taken from media coverage of a press release issued by Shelter that related to England overall, do not match data provided to the Government by Oxford City Council, or figures in the Government data tables cited by the press release.

Figures provided by Oxford City Council to the Government, and included in Table 116 of the Government's tables of housing data, show that the overall number of Local Authority owned social housing units was 7,624 in 2013, and 7,613 in 2022, a net decline of 11 units. Within those figures the biggest decline was 73 net units in 2014 and the biggest increase was 107 net units in 2022.

Table 691b of the Government's data set on housing shows that over the same ten year period from 2012-13 to 2021-22 a total of 292 homes were sold under Right to Buy. Three further properties were sold by the Council because they were uneconomic to repair.

There are two demolitions during this period: Bradlands (2014), when 30 units were demolished and replaced by 49 units, and Cumberlege House (2016) when 15 unsuitable sheltered accommodation flats were replaced with 9 houses as part of the linked scheme with the Elsfield Way site.

Table 115 of the Government data set relates to returns from Registered Providers (Housing Associations) and shows the total combined figure for homes and bed spaces. Over the same ten year period as Table 116 there is a net reduction of 622 units/bedspaces. This seems to be almost entirely related

AH1 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Hollingsworth – Loss of Social Housing

	<p>to a single change in the return from A2/Dominion between 2015 and 2016, when 548 general needs bedspaces were dropped from their annual report, as part of an overall reduction in units/bedspaces in that year of 749. Officers believe that this was most likely to be due to a change in reporting methodology for Housing Associations, as there is no closure or demolition that appears to relate to a change of that magnitude, and are investigating further.</p> <p>The current Council Four Year Plan targets for the period from 2022/23 to 2025/26 are to deliver 1,600 affordable homes of all tenures, of which 850 will be at social rents. While the figures are provisional because we are not yet at the year end and schemes are counted at practical completion stage and some schemes are under the control of Registered Providers rather than the Council, we currently believe that the outcome for this financial year will be around 400 new units of affordable housing, and around 200 new units of social housing.</p>
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AH2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Hollingsworth – Car Free Developments

Question	Written Response
Despite the County Council's parking standards, why is the City Council still proposing the development of 'nearly car free' developments rather than 'car free' developments by council owned housing companies? What steps has the council taken to obtain lessons learned about car free developments in the UK and in Europe (e.g. in Utrecht in the Netherlands)?	<p>Parking standards are set by Local Plans, in Oxford and elsewhere in Oxfordshire. In Oxford, the policy is set out clearly in the Oxford Local Plan 2036, policy M3, which says that developments should be zero car where there is a CPZ and specified facilities are within particular distances of the development. For developments where these two tests are not met, the parking standard is specified in Appendix 7.3 of the Local Plan.</p> <p>At the time of the drafting and adoption of the Local Plan 2036, these standards</p>

	<p>were significantly more advanced than those set down in the County Council's parking standard document. However since then the County Council has adopted a new parking standard, which now has the same tests for car free development as the City Council's Local Plan. These are set out in paragraph 4.12 of the County Council document, and are identical to the existing Oxford Local Plan policy M3.</p> <p>Furthermore, the newly adopted County Council parking standard then includes the entirety of the City Council's Local Plan parking standard as Section 5 of their document. In other words, the new County Council parking has come into line with, and has not altered, the City Council's Local Plan policies on parking.</p> <p>The City Council and OX Place have taken extensive advice on the delivery of car free and low car developments, and the impacts of those on values and on desirability for tenants. While there is substantial evidence supporting city and district centre zero car developments, there is considerably less relating to edge of town developments. Both the Council and the housing company will continue to monitor best practice and experience both within and outside the UK.</p>
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AH3 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Hollingsworth – Improved Amenities in Marston	
Question	Written Response
Does the portfolio holder agree that given the desirability of 15 minute neighbourhoods, Marston would benefit substantially from improved amenities, such as a doctor's surgery, dentist and community centre? What steps are the Council taking to improve the proximity of key amenities to residents in Marston?	<p>The fifteen minute neighbourhood concept, which has been at the heart of good planning for at least a century, is being used as part of the Local Plan 2040 process to identify where particular amenities might be under-provided for across the city. While not wanting to pre-empt that work, Marston may well be one of the areas where particular amenities are further away than is desirable from people's home.</p> <p>It is important to bear in mind that the</p>

	<p>Local Plan is only one part of the process, and that for many facilities we are reliant on organisations outside the City Council to support both in principle and sometimes with funding the provision of a new amenity.</p> <p>For example, the NHS – through the Integrated Care Board – would need to give its support for the provision of a doctors’ surgery and ensure that GPs and other health staff were ready to occupy it. The City Council is in close contact with the ICB and has made clear to it the importance of a clear strategy for primary health care facilities in Oxford and Oxfordshire so that we – and the other planning authorities in the county – can include appropriate site designations in our Local Plans.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services

NC1 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Chapman – Tree Removal	
<p>Question</p> <p>Can the cabinet member set out the process taken by the tree team and other officers when a tree is to be removed, including when the local members and residents may be consulted?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The below is taken from the Oxford City Council Tree Management Policy. Tree works and the associated notifications are undertaken by ODS:</p> <p><i>“The Council will inform Ward Councillors and appropriate ‘Friends Groups’ of any major tree works such as pollarding or felling <u>before</u> any works are carried out in their ward/park. This gives councillors the opportunity to raise concerns about the proposed works. If there are a large number of trees to fell in one location, the Council may also erect notices to inform the public of the proposed works.</i></p> <p><i>In the event of <u>emergency safety work</u> that must be carried out immediately (e.g. storm damage), the Council will notify Ward Councillors retrospectively.”</i></p> <p>Felling is the last resort and will only be</p>

	carried out when deemed necessary by the Tree Team. However, public safety is paramount and for this reason it is sometimes necessary to act quickly and inform councillors and the public after the event.
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NC2 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Chapman – Town Hall Toilet Facilities

Question	Written Response
Will the works planned on the Town Hall include the introduction of gender neutral toilet facilities?	Phase Two of the Town Hall project is currently being scoped and we will consider the introduction of gender neutral toilets within this. A Member workshop on future options for the Town Hall will be held in due course.

NC3 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Chapman – Bike Access for Recycling

Question	Written Response
What provision does the city council make for residents to access the city council recycling centres by bike?	<p>Oxford City Council provides a comprehensive kerbside collection recycling service, a bulky items collection service and a garden waste service all delivered through ODS. We would encourage residents to use these services in the first instance for recycling.</p> <p>However, there may be occasions where residents may want to take some items for recycling to the Redbridge Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) – which is operated by Oxfordshire County Council. Pedestrian access is not permitted onto any of Oxfordshire's HWRCs as there are currently no segregated walkways to enable pedestrians to safely enter and exit the sites. However, the County Council does not state any restrictions on access by cycle.</p> <p>Oxford City Council also currently operates a number of Community Recycling Centres or bring banks across the city, typically in car parks or on other council land. All are accessible by cycle. However, the Council is planned to</p>

	remove the majority of these as we have expanded the range of items that can be collected from people's homes, and some of these bring banks have become focal points for fly-tipping.
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Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice

AR1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Railton – Grass Verge Damage by Vehicles

Question	Written Response
On Morrell Avenue, vehicle owners accessing their repurposed front gardens as car parking are currently driving over the verges and destroying the grass and new spring bulbs. What steps are being taken by the City Council to prevent the destruction of its grass verges?	<p>In general, maintenance of the carriageway, pavements and verges, together with parking and other highway enforcement activities are the responsibility of the Local Transport Authority – Oxfordshire County Council.</p> <p>The County Council procures ODS and other operators to undertake works – which in some areas of the city, eg. Marsh Lane, have included the installation of kick rails to protect verges from people parking vehicles.</p>

AR2 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Railton – Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Question	Written Response
Can the portfolio holder provide an update on the Council's involvement with developing a Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and when we can expect such a strategy to be published?	It is expected that Oxfordshire County Council will be appointed local lead for the development of a LNRS by Government. We are working closely with them in the preparation for this and have in partnership with the other Oxfordshire local authorities developed a Nature Recovery Network which will form a key part of a future LNRS.

AR3 From Cllr Kerr to Cllr Railton – Oxford's Smoke Control Areas

Question	Written Response
<p>We know that PM 2.5 caused by wood burning is a huge health issue in Oxford, as highlighted in the City's autumn Do You Fuel Good campaign. Is there currently any further detail on the plans for extending Oxford's Smoke Control Areas, as referenced in the Air Quality Action Plan?</p>	<p>Oxford City Council has committed, under measure 22 of its current Air Quality Action Plan to "Review of Smoke Controlled Zones and implement revised government legislation for smoke nuisance". With updated legislation on SCAs very recently published by government we are currently in the process of assessing how the new powers can assist us in reaching our targets of reduced particulate matter.</p>

Cabinet Member for Health and Transport

LU1 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Upton – Encouraging Walking and Cycling on Botley Road	
Question	Written Response
<p>What plans does the council have to encourage more residents to walk and/or cycle on the Botley Road, whilst it is closed at the train station?</p>	<p>During the periods of closure of Botley Road at the train station, pedestrians and cyclists will continue to be able to pass under the railway. Therefore, walking and cycling will automatically be even more attractive options.</p> <p>The City Council has continually encouraged Network Rail and the County Council (the organisations responsible for the railway and highway works) to produce as robust a set of mitigation measures as possible. Network Rail have promised to provide marshals to ensure that people walking and wheeling interact smoothly as they pass under the bridge.</p> <p>The periods where access under the bridge is restricted will be particularly disruptive for those with disabilities. The City Council's Inclusive Transport & Movement Focus Group continues to engage with Network Rail, the bus operators and both councils in order to mitigate the impacts of this period of works on those with impairments.</p> <p>One piece of good news is that the King George's Field Active Travel route, just to</p>

	<p>the south of Botley Road, is due to open the week before the Botley Road closure begins. The new path, designed for both pedestrians and cyclists, will provide a direct, convenient and visually pleasing off-road connection between Botley and the city centre.</p> <p>King George's Playing Field Cycle Improvements King George's Playing Field Cycle Improvements Oxford City Council</p>
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LU2 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Upton – Local, Sustainable and Resilient Food Production

Question	Written Response
<p>What is the City Council currently doing to encourage more local, sustainable and resilient food production, such as through helping residents to set up food growing schemes, supporting street food growing, and community gardening groups in public spaces and allotment sites? Does the Council plan to further develop its support in this area?</p>	<p>Oxford City Council has signed up to the Oxfordshire Food Strategy. We are an integral part of the Food Action Working Group for Oxford (I chair it, and several city officers attend) which is developing the Action Plan to underlie the Food Strategy for the city.</p> <p>Fellow Cabinet Members Cllrs Aziz and Munkonge and I are working with the Communities team to produce some ambitious and achievable actions that we can put into the Food Action Plan to be produced later this year.</p> <p>I would like to thank Cllr Morris for the fantastic work he has done with Marston Community Gardening to develop community allotments – this is an excellent example of the kind of thing we will look at supporting.</p>

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To: Council

Date: 20 March 2023

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

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 Nicola Smith – Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming
2. Address by Ian Middleton – Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming
3. Address by Judith Harley - ODS Vandalism in Cowley Marsh Park
4. Address by Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Oxford Flood and Environment Group – Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme
5. Question from Judith Harley – New Park Bench Installation in Cowley Marsh Park

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

1. Address by Nicola Smith – Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming

I am Dr Nicola Smith, I have been working as a Paediatrician in the NHS since 2013, and I would like to support the proposal on Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming.

Animal agriculture is a major driver of the climate and ecological crises which are also directly impacting human health. It is clear that a global shift to plant-based diet is necessary to avert the looming catastrophe. The Eat Lancet Commission's Planetary

Health Plate, designed to keep the food system within planetary boundaries, is 87% plant-based, with animal-derived foods are being strictly optional.

But aside from the significant impact of diet on climate change, and the subsequent consequences of this for human health, there is also substantial evidence that a plant-based diet can benefit individual health.

Poor diet is now the number one cause of death and disability in the UK, resulting in a rising burden of obesity, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and cancer. A whole food plant-based diet has been shown to reduce the risk of these diseases, improving health and longevity, as well as reducing the burden on our health services.

A whole food plant-based diet is one consisting of fruits, vegetable, whole grains, legumes, nuts, and seeds, with few or no animal products. Following such a diet has been shown to lead to a 30% reduction in cardiovascular mortality, a 15% reduction in the incidence of cancer, and a 60% reduced risk of type 2 diabetes. The Eat Lancet Commission estimated that a whole food plant-based diet could prevent 11 million deaths annually.

Plant-based diets promote health via a number of mechanisms. These foods are mostly low calorie yet have a high nutrient content; including fibre, polyphenols, unsaturated fats, and anti- inflammatory and antioxidant compounds. Plant-based foods are often low in saturated fat and have a high fibre content, and plant-based diets are associated with healthier gut microbiome and lower levels of inflammation.

According to the British Dietetic Association, well-planned plant-based diets can support healthy living at every age and life-stage. If a wide variety of healthy whole foods are included, this diet can be both balanced and sustainable.

The Oxford City Council has the opportunity to model best-practice for the local population. By demonstrating that plant-based eating can be delicious, nutritious, and the new standard, there is the potential to improve the health of the community, move towards a more sustainable future, and inspire widespread change.

Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Health and Transport will provide a verbal response at the meeting

2. Address by Ian Middleton – Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on Cllr Dunne's motion.

The motion references the County Council's adoption of a similar policy and as the proposer of the motion that led to that, I've since been contacted by other local authorities and organisations asking for help and advice on how to do the same. So I hope it may be useful for me to offer some insights here.

Avoiding meat and dairy is the single biggest way to reduce your personal environmental impact and could cut individual carbon output by as much as 50%. That was the conclusion of a comprehensive analysis of the global impact of farming recently published in the journal 'Science', which assessed the full effects of meat and dairy production on land use, climate change emissions and water and air pollution.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme, meat production alone accounts for 18-25 per cent of the world's Greenhouse Gas emissions. If left unchecked, animal agriculture is predicted to account for 70 per cent of all global emissions by 2050.

Analysis shows that while meat and dairy provide just 18% of calories and 37% of protein, it uses 83% of farmland and produces 60% of agriculture's greenhouse gas emissions. Even the very lowest impact meat and dairy products still cause much more environmental harm than the least sustainable vegetable and cereal alternatives.

There have been suggestions that encouraging a plant-based diet is anti-farmer, but that's very far from the truth with both my motion and Cllr Dunne's including specific references to supporting local farmers and food producers.

The vast majority of the meat and dairy consumed in the UK is not locally produced, often not even UK produced. Instead it comes from intensive factory farms, both in terms of the livestock itself and the growing of feedstock, often in areas that have been cleared in some of the most environmentally sensitive regions on the planet. Cheap imported meat and dairy products from countries with far worse human and animal welfare standards than the UK also make up a considerable proportion of our average daily diet.

Whilst intensive farming can have damaging environmental consequences, smaller local farms can be part of the solution. Not only as a vital link in a more sustainable food chain, but also as stewards of the rural landscape we all need and love.

In Oxfordshire we already have roughly twice as much farmland devoted to arable compared to livestock, and growing fruit and vegetables is by far the most efficient use of land. But whilst market gardens are one of the fastest growing and profitable forms of agriculture, fruit growers are struggling to survive and need support.

I have no doubt that local farmers will continue to produce meat and dairy for the foreseeable future and no one is seeking to change that in the short term. But to make small scale farming a commercial proposition, consumers have to be prepared to pay a fair price for their produce.

By reducing our consumption of cheap, intensively farmed foods and eating less but better quality, locally produced alternatives, we can support farmers and ensure they can continue to make a living.

There have also been claims that adopting a plant-based only policy is an assault on freedom of choice. But again this is a mischaracterisation.

Neither the county council policy nor Cllr Dunne's motion seeks to restrict what people eat in their daily lives - that will always remain their personal choice. Equally it's every

councillor's choice to eat what they want. The only difference is that the councils will not be actively offering non-plant-based options.

Instead they will be setting an example by showing that even a small reduction in the consumption of meat and dairy can have a big impact on climate change public health without sacrificing our enjoyment of food.

Most of us will eat roughly 21 main meals a week. If every member of this council removed meat and dairy from just one of those meals that would be the equivalent of 16 people going fully plant-based.

Some may find they prefer to do more than that, or already do. But the aim is not to force people to make drastic changes to their diet. The point is that, in demonstrating and highlighting alternative dietary options that are already widely available, we start a conversation with people and help promote a positive behavioural shift that will have significant impacts on both health and climate change, not to mention animal welfare. A plant-based diet is also cheaper than one that has meat in every meal, something that is now hugely important for everyone, especially local authorities.

So I hope members will agree that such a lot of benefit for such a small change has to be worth doing and will support Cllr Dunne's motion, fully adopt its recommendations, and join the many other authorities who have already enacted similar policies or are likely to do so in the near future.

Councillor Anna Railton, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice will provide a verbal response at the meeting

3. Address by Judith Harley - ODS Vandalism in Cowley Marsh Park

Lord Mayor, Councillors,

Some four weeks ago Oxford Direct Services (ODS) began constructing a new cycle route through Cowley Marsh Park. In addition to “upgrading” footpaths, forcing pedestrians to share their paths with more cyclists, which is always bad for pedestrians, the new route includes the creation of two new cycle access points within the designated Nature Park section at the rear of Cowley Marsh Park. Both of these access points are completely un-necessary as they are each just feet away from existing cycle paths and accesses.

An online consultation was held on these cycleway proposals by ODS last December, which stated that ODS did not require planning permission for this, but could essentially do what they liked under permitted development. It seems that this, like many Council consultations, was a token “tick-box” gesture only. I completed the consultation and objected to these plans on the grounds that not only were these cycle routes a danger for pedestrians, but the new access points were quite un-necessary and would damage and harm the flora and fauna in the Nature Park. There was no feedback and no response to my comments, which were clearly ignored.

The construction of the new access points has damaged tree roots and branches in both sections and obliterated wild crocus plants which are found only in this area of the Nature Park. I had understood that it was contrary to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to damage wild crocus plants – and they have been destroyed to create a cycle access through a hole in the boundary fence used by pedestrians. ODS should just repair the hole as it is merely a few feet from this to the existing main cycle access point from the Park onto the adjoining Bridle path and cycleway which runs alongside the ODS depot.

For the past four weeks, since work on these cycleways began, I have been in e-mail correspondence about this with ODS Highways, Cllr Chewe Munkonge as Cabinet member for Parks, and my ward councillors. I have sent them photos of the damage and destruction and tried to get this un-necessary work halted. I have asked each of them to meet me in the Park to see how un-necessary are these additional cycle access points. To no avail. ODS claim that they will dig up the crocus bulbs to plant elsewhere. As this is the only spot where they flourish I doubt if they will survive elsewhere. I have asked ODS if they have a licence to do this, but have received no reply. Tree roots have been damaged and broken. Some tree branches have been cut, and I expect that more will be deemed to be in the way of cyclists. I regard this as vandalism by ODS as in my opinion there is no justification for any part of this work, and I would like to hear the Council’s justification for this.

I am inviting each and any of you City councillors to meet me in Cowley Marsh Park to see for yourselves how un-necessary are these access points. The damaging construction has continued despite my requests to ODS and councillors to halt this until I could address Full Council on this matter. Who on the Council authorised this work in the first place, and did they understand the area that was being proposed for damage and destruction?

I am asking the Council to halt this work and get ODS to undo the damage they have done already, which is to restore the Nature Park to its previous state, to repair the hole in the boundary fence on the Bridle path, and to return the wild crocus bulbs to their original habitat.

Written Response from the Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks

This track is designed to provide an important off-road, all weather surface link between Cowley/Oxford Road and the Barracks Lane cycle route network - it does not run parallel with another cycle route. Questions were raised about ecology issues and potential impacts on tree roots, planning officers contacted ODS to clarify the specifications for the works, once they were satisfied the works continued and the project will shortly be completed.

4. Address by Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Oxford Flood and Environment Group – Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Councillors and Officers, thank you for the opportunity to address you about the re-application by the Environment Agency for its Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme.

I'm Professor Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, an Oxford resident badly flooded in 2007, and I speak for a residents' forum, the Oxford Flood and Environment Group.

We share the consensus that Oxford needs a flood scheme, and, like 91% of local residents who responded to the first consultation, we accept around 85% of the proposed measures such as embankments, bunds and new flood gates, but, like that 91% of residents, we object to serious problems remaining with the scheme's most expensive and destructive element. This is the proposed 5-kilometre channel (up to 250 yards wide) from Seacourt to the Old Abingdon Road will destroy Oxford's wildlife corridor in the green belt, devastate habitat for protected species, give poor and uncertain value for money, and cause loss of the nationally rare MG4a grassland in Hinkley Meadows: all this without fully addressing flood risks. The channel has been strongly criticized by independent expert hydrologists, botanists, environmental specialists and planners, and is intensely opposed by residents.

The EA's re-application has not adequately addressed the key issues: examples are:

1. Major flaws in the hydrological modelling. This would undermine the basis for the scheme at a planning inquiry.
2. Failure to heed advice from both the City and County council's ecologists (and wildlife groups and independent experts) that Hinkley Meadows' MG4a grassland is irreplaceable (more so than Port Meadow's). Thanks to earlier objections the EA now admits to a -1% biodiversity loss (not the legally required 10% net gain on-site that it previously claimed for substituting flood meadows with a smaller area of wetlands). It now offers no mitigation for MG4a, because there is none.
3. Failure to consider alternatives to the 5km channel, and therefore to comply with the mitigation hierarchy for endangered exceptional sites. The scheme can avoid destroying Hinkley Meadows by the alternative of having a shorter channel or even no channel. Both alternatives are shown by the EA's own figures as securing very nearly equivalent flood-risk alleviation as having the 'conceptually flawed' full channel would – but without the destruction. The other 85% of the scheme does the work.
4. Failure to comply with ten current National Planning Policy Framework directives.
5. Failure to consider the council's local plan directives about green infrastructure, and natural methods of flood prevention (OxLEP 2040 Preferred Options, ch. 4, G1,4, 5, 6; ch. 5, Set R2, for instance).

We contend that the failures in the EA's re-application will lead to

- A damaging flood alleviation scheme built on flawed hydrological modelling at enormous expense and bio-diversity cost, without being future proof, and with no fully defined or secured plan for maintenance.
- Potential reputational damage for all involved, including Oxford City Council, especially through the destruction of the irreplaceable one thousand-year-old Hinkley Meadows (a loss already internationally protested). Reputational damage will increase as recent NPPF revisions designed to lower pressure on the green belt and emphasise the priority of placemaking and beauty go forward, and as the EA pursues its twenty-first-century campaigns for flood meadow and whole-catchment solutions without channels in areas other than Oxford.

- There will also be much anger when residents who have not had time to read the application's 450 documents realize that they are losing access and amenity for up to 5 years across a vast area of greenfield and greenbelt (Schoolchildren and workers already, for instance, have to go round congested Botley Rd during Willow Walk's temporary closure- but – for years?). Already worried about bio-diversity loss across the city, residents will see 5 kilometres of hedgerows and 2,000+ mature trees destroyed along with the meadows, the collapse of the West Oxford wildlife corridor, the loss of iconic riverine Oxfordshire landscapes, and the removal of 700,000 tons of embodied carbon as the scheme area is dug up for the channel. They will suffer a permanent reduction to their greenfield space. For mitigation, they will have some partly fenced wetland (a bio-diversity loss compared with flood meadow), and – if they wait a couple of decades- some offsite saplings on land the EA has not yet secured, under a maintenance plan not yet detailed or clearly funded.
- Residents will also get some 240 HGV summer movements per day over 3-5 years carrying spoil onto the A34, entailing speed restrictions there.
- This is a poor use of £174 million of public funds, but the most destructive effects can be avoided and costs lowered with a no-channel scheme.

We ask: Does the council really want to support an expensive, flawed scheme based on faulty modelling and data that will only marginally reduce the flood risk for a tiny minority of homes at the expense of some of Oxford's greatest biodiversity treasures?

We ask you to say 'YES to the flood scheme, NO to the channel'.

Written Response from the Councillor Alex Hollingsworth, Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery

Oxford has a long history of flooding. Significant floods in recent decades have caused damage to homes and businesses and closed the railway and major roads into the city. With the effects of climate change, this is only expected to get worse, with thousands more properties potentially at risk within 50 years. Oxford City Council believes therefore that a flood alleviation scheme is urgently required.

The Environment Agency (EA) and their designers have considered more than 100 combinations of options to reduce flood risk from the River Thames in Oxford. Extensive consultation has been undertaken by the EA to ensure that the proposed scheme acknowledges and addresses concerns raised by the public. The EA have considered the alternative ideas being put forward by both individuals and groups in the community, and they are confident that the design and consultation process has resulted in the best scheme for Oxford; as a partner the City Council supports this approach.

Full environmental assessment has been undertaken by the EA, and will be subject to scrutiny from consultees and regulatory bodies through the formal planning process. The City Council will provide a response to the consultation as a Local Planning Authority, but it will be the responsibility of Oxfordshire County Council as the determining body to decide whether or not the proposals are acceptable in planning terms.

As with all development proposals there will be impacts; and mitigation, compensation, and enhancement measures to address those impacts are proposed. With regards to grassland habitat, the EA recognises the importance and scarcity of the floodplain meadow habitat present in Hinksey Meadow. The impact to the existing meadow will be

minimised, with the scheme resulting in the loss of 1.33ha, with 17.8ha of lowland meadow habitat creation proposed in the surrounding landscape as compensation.

Impacts on biodiversity are being taken very seriously by the EA. Detailed surveys have been undertaken for protected species and habitats in the scheme area, and impacts of biodiversity are also being assessed through use of a DEFRA metric. OFAS will be delivering a minimum of 10% net gain, and aiming for further enhancements beyond this. The biodiversity net gain will be secured by Oxfordshire County Council as part of any planning permission granted. This approach is proposed in order to avoid loss of biodiversity, and provide betterment as a result of the scheme.

The construction process has also been considered by the EA, and measures taken to reduce disruption where possible. A haul road will be built specifically for construction traffic within the scheme area to reduce the need for lorries to drive on local roads to access different areas of the site, and a second planning application will be submitted to run alongside the main scheme application to transport excavated material from the construction site by rail.

5. Question from Judith Harley – New Park Bench Installation in Cowley Marsh Park

Earlier this year a table, benches, and shelter were installed in Cowley Marsh Park. A press release described this as “pastel-coloured covered seating ... designed by ... teenage girls ... to understand their experiences of green spaces”. This is a tacky, garish, brightly-coloured intrusion which shows no respect for the green space whatsoever. I, and other walkers, regard this installation as an eyesore. There appears to have been no consultation amongst other park users over this design, location, or construction.

This covered installation – near the children’s play area – is a magnet for drinkers, smokers, and drug users. It provides a sheltered area with a table for their goods and benches for them to sit. There is no litter bin, so the ground by the installation is often strewn with unsightly rubbish – drinks cans, food packaging, and other items. Mud is often smeared over furniture and shelter. I have yet to see any girls use this space.

My question: Will the Council remove this unsightly drug / drink / smokers shelter, close to the children’s play area; or, if not, explain how they will monitor and restrict the misuse of this shelter and keep the area clean and litter-free?

Written Response from the Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks

The bench was designed by local young women as part of a project to better understand and overcome barriers stopping girls and young women using public green spaces. They feel that much of the current teen provision is designed for boys and want more of an input into design of facilities for themselves. It was always understood the bench would be a prototype and sadly we have had some vandalism, but we have not received complaints about any other anti-social behaviour. The parks team are though visiting the site this week and will monitor and take action as needed.

To: Council

Date: 20 March 2023

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 08 March 2023, as amended by the proposers.

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

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

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

Introduction

- a) Four Day Week (proposed by Cllr Kerr, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Arshad]
- b) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)
- c) Use Car Parking Sites for Solar Farms (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Miles) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth]
- d) Consultation on the Sale of Council Art Works (proposed by Cllr Miles, seconded by Cllr Smowton) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Diggins]

a) Four Day Week (proposed by Cllr Kerr, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Arshad]

Green member motion

Council notes

1. From June to December 2022, a sixth month pilot of a four day working week was carried out in the UK. This pilot saw 61 organisations with almost 3,000 workers trial the introduction of reducing working hours for staff while maintaining 100% of pay. This trial was the largest of its kind in the world to date, and saw companies introduce a 'meaningful' reduction of hours for staff up to the implementation of a four day week. It was carried out by Autonomy, the 4 Day Week Campaign and 4 Day Week Global.¹
2. Participating organisations in the trial spanned a wide range of sectors including marketing, charities, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, engineering and the arts.²
3. 92% of the organisations participating in the four day week trial have continued its implementation beyond the pilot period. 30% of the participating organisations have already decided to make the change in working hours permanent.
4. The trial found that 39% of workers were less stressed, 71% had lower levels of burnout, 60% said it was easier to balance paid work and care responsibilities, 62% found it easier to balance work and social life. The number of workers leaving participating companies decreased by 57% over the trial period.

Council believes

1. We should continue to take steps to improve the working conditions of our own staff, while maximising the quality of the services we deliver.
2. The Council has over many years played a significant role in improving pay and working conditions throughout Oxford, through using its considerable influence with initiatives such as the Oxford Living Wage.
3. The Council should continue, expand and extend its work driving improvements for workers across our city.

Council resolves

1. To request that the Chief Executive submits a report to Cabinet investigating the feasibility of trialling a four day week or similar reduction in working hours at no loss of pay within its own operations.
2. To request that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships begin a conversation with the organisations involved in running the four day week trial and employers in Oxford about the possibility of organisations in the city trialling a four day week for their own employees.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Arshad

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

¹ <https://autonomy.work/portfolio/uk4dwpilotresults/>

² Page 17: <https://autonomy.work/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/The-results-are-in-The-UKs-four-day-week-pilot.pdf>

[no changes to first part]

Council resolves

1. To request that the Chief Executive ~~submits a report to Cabinet investigating the feasibility of trialling a four day week or similar reduction in working hours at no loss of pay within its own operations.~~ **and other relevant officers continue to discuss with its trade unions ways of improving the retention and recruitment of its employees including discussing ways of working.**
 2. To request that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships ~~begin a conversation with the organisations involved~~ **continues to discuss with the LEP (of which she is a director) and with South Cambridgeshire District Council (whose leader she meets with regularly) any relevant learnings from their involvement** in running the four day week trial and
 3. [additional resolution point] **To request that the Leader as part of her work on the Oxfordshire Inclusive Employment Partnership (OIEP) finds out if there are any other employers in Oxford about the possibility of organisations in the city considering trialling a four day week for their own employees, particularly any with a large directly employed customer service workforce.**
-

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

Council notes

1. From June to December 2022, a sixth month pilot of a four day working week was carried out in the UK. This pilot saw 61 organisations with almost 3,000 workers trial the introduction of reducing working hours for staff while maintaining 100% of pay. This trial was the largest of its kind in the world to date, and saw companies introduce a 'meaningful' reduction of hours for staff up to the implementation of a four day week. It was carried out by Autonomy, the 4 Day Week Campaign and 4 Day Week Global.³
2. Participating organisations in the trial spanned a wide range of sectors including marketing, charities, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, construction, engineering and the arts.⁴
3. 92% of the organisations participating in the four day week trial have continued its implementation beyond the pilot period. 30% of the participating organisations have already decided to make the change in working hours permanent.
4. The trial found that 39% of workers were less stressed, 71% had lower levels of burnout, 60% said it was easier to balance paid work and care responsibilities, 62% found it easier to balance work and social life. The number of workers leaving participating companies decreased by 57% over the trial period.

Council believes

1. We should continue to take steps to improve the working conditions of our own staff, while maximising the quality of the services we deliver.

³ <https://autonomy.work/portfolio/uk4dwpilotresults/>

⁴ Page 17: <https://autonomy.work/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/The-results-are-in-The-UKs-four-day-week-pilot.pdf>

2. The Council has over many years played a significant role in improving pay and working conditions throughout Oxford, through using its considerable influence with initiatives such as the Oxford Living Wage.
3. The Council should continue, expand and extend its work driving improvements for workers across our city.

Council resolves

1. To request that the Chief Executive and other relevant officers continue to discuss with its trade unions ways of improving the retention and recruitment of its employees including discussing ways of working.
2. To request that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships continues to discuss with the LEP (of which she is a director) and with South Cambridgeshire District Council (whose leader she meets with regularly) any relevant learnings from their involvement in running the four day week trial.
3. To request that the Leader as part of her work on the Oxfordshire Inclusive Employment Partnership (OIEP) finds out if there are any other employers in Oxford considering trialling a four day week for their own employees, particularly any with a large directly employed customer service workforce.

b) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)

Labour member motion

Council notes that:

- The global scientific consensus is that humans have heated the climate at a rate that is unprecedented, and we are heading towards mass extinction not just for ourselves but of entire eco systems if we do not change our actions today.⁵
- Oxford City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.⁶
- We have a duty as leaders in the city to empower the local community to make changes that can mitigate climate catastrophe and help preserve the vitality of our planet for future generations.
- The UK's agriculture produces 10% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and makes up 70% of land use. Modern agricultural practices are a central driver for habitat and biodiversity loss and the UK is one of the world's most nature-depleted countries.⁷
- In the UK we eat twice as much meat and dairy as the global average which is not sustainable as there is not enough land in the world to meet this demand without destroying our natural world.⁸
- Plant-based sources of protein have much smaller carbon footprints than animal-based ones, even when comparing locally raised meat to imported plant foods.
- Farm animals across Europe are producing more emissions than cars and vans combined.⁹

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

⁶ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1705/council_outlines_how_it_aims_to_become_a_zero_carbon_council_by_2030_at_the_latest

⁷ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/state-of-nature-uk-report-2016.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/how-much-meat-should-i-be-eating/>

- Our relationship to food is still an overlooked factor to the climate crisis yet it is the quickest and cheapest step to help tackle the climate crisis if we reduce our meat intake.
- The necessary change to confront the climate crisis needs to tackle existing inequalities in society while acting urgently.
- To protect and enrich jobs in Oxford, we should work closely with local farmers and plant-based food organisations to move to more sustainable farming methods and local produce that promotes plant-based food.

Council agrees to:

- Request that the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport:
 - Works with local farmers to support, promote, and encourage their move to create more sustainable plant-based produce.
 - Recognises the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
- Request that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet with options to form a plant-based localised free food service by funding community groups who are already doing this work to transform Oxford into a more environmentally sustainable economy which will also tackle food poverty.
- Follow Oxfordshire County Council's lead by ensuring that food provided for internal councillor events are entirely plant-based and food provided at all council catered events and meetings include plant-based options, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.¹⁰
- Call on Cabinet to request that the Council's Climate Action Plan be updated to state that all catering provided at Council events and functions from April 2023 will have plant-based options.
- Call on the Shareholder group to work with all Council run companies to encourage moving to having plant-based catering options by April 2023.

c) Use Car Parking Sites for Solar Farms (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Miles) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth]

Liberal Democrat member motion

Oxford City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. Various initiatives have been proposed and the Council has made progress with the decarbonisation of Council owned social housing and leisure centres.

This proposal is that the case for installing solar panels over the car parks in the city is examined and a report prepared for Cabinet to consider at a future meeting.

A solar farm in this case would consist of solar panels mounted on a raised framework so that the majority of cars would be able to park underneath. Another benefit would be that cars would be protected from both bad weather and overheating due to sunshine.

⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/22/eu-farm-animals-produce-more-emissions-than-cars-and-vans-combined-greenpeace>

¹⁰ Oxford City Council stopped catering for council meetings a year ago so plant-based catering would be for the few remaining internal council events.

The French government has recently announced plans to mandate that all car parks in France must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced the installation of a solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 car spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it makes better use of non-productive land and demonstrates that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero. It would contribute to the targets for increased PV generation across the County as defined in the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy.

Two of the City-owned P+R¹¹ sites together total 2801 car spaces. This could generate at least 4.2 MW of power — enough for 600–800 average sized houses. If the other P+R sites are included then this rises to over 9MW. The Building Research Establishment estimates the capital cost per space at £900–£1400 /kWp.

There are other Council owned car parks which could be utilised in this way including those at leisure centres and public parks. Even a small car park could be a useful local source of PV energy and may be able to be implemented over a shorter timescale.

There would also be opportunities to extend the existing EV charging in sites using the power generated locally. The space for physical equipment needed for connection to the local electricity grid will need consideration as would other potential uses such as power storage, freight consolidation or tourist coach parking.

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy submits a report to Cabinet by the end of 2023 which:-

- 1) Examines this proposal to assess the feasibility of installing solar panels in various Council owned car parking sites around Oxford including Park and Rides.
- 2) Considers what alternative uses of existing sites will need consideration when assessing sites for use as a solar farm.
- 3) Explores alternative possibilities for funding the installation costs.
- 4) Considers the feasibility of the Council being the operator of the solar farm(s) and thus selling the electricity generated to energy companies.
- 5) Assesses the potential income stream to the Council from the solar farms once installed.
- 6) Reports on discussions with the relevant County Council officers about their P+R sites being included in this scheme.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth

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

[no changes to first paragraph]

This proposal is that the case for installing solar panels over the car parks in the city is ~~examined and a report prepared for Cabinet to consider at a future meeting.~~ ***continues to be considered by officers and Cabinet.***

¹¹ Acronym - Park & Ride

~~A solar farm in this case would consist of solar panels mounted on a raised framework so that the majority of cars would be able to park underneath. Another benefit would be that cars would be protected from both bad weather and overheating due to sunshine.~~

The French government has recently announced plans to mandate that all car parks in France **more than 80 spaces** must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced the installation of a solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 car spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it ~~makes~~ **could make** better use of non-productive **available** land and **could further** demonstrates that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero. It would contribute to the targets for increased PV generation across the County as defined in the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, **which identifies a need for installed PV capacity in Oxfordshire to increase from 300MW to 1900MW. This Council therefore is supportive of exploring all possible opportunities for increasing that installed capacity, whether it is large strategic-scale installations like Botley West Solar Farm, or smaller and more tactical projects like the existing installation at Redbridge Park and Ride and Leys Pool and Leisure Centre.**

Two of the City-owned P+R¹² sites together total 2801 car spaces. This could generate at least 4.2 MW of power — enough for 600–800 average sized houses. ~~If the other P+R sites are included then this rises to over 9MW. The Building Research Establishment estimates the capital cost per space at £900–£1400 /kWp., but at a cost of £1800-2800 per space (£900-£1400/kWp)¹³, compared to £450/kWp for field solar¹⁴.~~

~~There are other Council owned car parks which could be utilised in this way including those at leisure centres and public parks. Even a small car park could be a useful local source of PV energy and may be able to be implemented over a shorter timescale.~~

~~There would also be opportunities to extend the existing EV charging in sites using the power generated locally. The space for physical equipment needed for connection to the local electricity grid will need consideration as would other potential uses such as power storage, freight consolidation or tourist coach parking. All such developments are also subject to Planning.~~

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy submits a report to Cabinet by the end of 2023 which: **continues to investigate the feasibility of extending solar installations on spaces in Oxford including Park and Rides, and that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice provide a verbal update at a Council meeting before the end of 2023.**

- ~~1) Examines this proposal to assess the feasibility of installing solar panels in various Council owned car parking sites around Oxford including Park and Rides.~~
- ~~2) Considers what alternative uses of existing sites will need consideration when assessing sites for use as a solar farm.~~
- ~~3) Explores alternative possibilities for funding the installation costs.~~
- ~~4) Considers the feasibility of the Council being the operator of the solar farm(s) and thus selling the electricity generated to energy companies.~~

¹² Acronym - Park & Ride

¹³ https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/nsc/Documents%20Library/NSC%20Publications/BRE_solar-carpark-guide.pdf (Building Research Establishment 2016)

¹⁴ Via Nick Eyre

- ~~5) Assesses the potential income stream to the Council from the solar farms once installed.~~
 - ~~6) Reports on discussions with the relevant County Council officers about their P+R sites being included in this scheme.~~
-

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

Oxford City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019. Various initiatives have been proposed and the Council has made progress with the decarbonisation of Council owned social housing and leisure centres.

This proposal is that the case for installing solar panels over the car parks in the city continues to be considered by officers and Cabinet.

The French government has recently announced plans to mandate that all car parks in France more than 80 spaces must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced the installation of a solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 car spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it could make better use of available land and could further demonstrate that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero. It would contribute to the targets for increased PV generation across the County as defined in the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, which identifies a need for installed PV capacity in Oxfordshire to increase from 300MW to 1900MW. This Council therefore is supportive of exploring all possible opportunities for increasing that installed capacity, whether it is large strategic-scale installations like Botley West Solar Farm, or smaller and more tactical projects like the existing installation at Redbridge Park and Ride and Leys Pool and Leisure Centre.

Two of the City-owned P+R¹⁵ sites together total 2801 car spaces. This could generate at least 4.2 MW of power — enough for 600–800 average sized houses, but at a cost of £1800-2800 per space (£900-£1400/kWp)¹⁶, compared to £450/kWp for field solar¹⁷.

The space for physical equipment needed for connection to the local electricity grid will need consideration as would other potential uses such as power storage, freight consolidation or tourist coach parking. All such developments are also subject to Planning.

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy continues to investigate the feasibility of extending solar installations on spaces in Oxford including Park and Rides, and that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice provide a verbal update at a Council meeting before the end of 2023.

¹⁵ Acronym - Park & Ride

¹⁶ https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/nsc/Documents%20Library/NSC%20Publications/BRE_solar-carpark-guide.pdf (Building Research Establishment 2016)

¹⁷ Via Nick Eyre

d) Consultation on the Sale of Council Art Works (proposed by Cllr Miles, seconded by Cllr Smowton) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Diggins]

Liberal Democrat member motion

Within Oxford City Council's art collection there are several items that are of no practical value to the city, do not have a clear link to Oxford, and depict themes that are inappropriate for a progressive public body that wants to lead by example: namely animal cruelty and gender-based violence. These include: the Morrell Trophy, featuring a fox hunting group, representing death and a huntsman holding a fox above hounds, which is not currently on public display; and two paintings: The Rape of the Sabines; and Salome and Head of John the Baptist.

This council agrees that there is a place for these artworks in art galleries or museums, but they are not appropriate for display at the town hall.

In their place, this Council believes there is a need to rebalance the lack of diversity in representation on public display in the artwork in the town hall. This is because of the 45 portraits showing people, there are 40 depicting males and only 3 of females (the remaining 2 show both males and females). Moreover, the currently displayed works do not represent Oxford's ethnic diversity.

This motion calls on the council to conduct a public consultation on a one-off sale of these select artworks from its collection. Therefore this Council calls on the Leader of the City Council and Cabinet to:-

- 1) Request a report to Cabinet setting out the cost, process and timeline for implementing a public consultation on the sale of select artworks; and
- 2) Request a report to Cabinet on the costs and feasible timelines of identifying, framing and hanging additional artworks in the council chamber and town hall to redress the existing lack of diversity within the current town hall portraits with the goal for implementation by the end of 2024.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Diggins

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

Title: ~~Consultation on the Sale of Council Art Works~~

~~Within Oxford City Council's art collection there are several items that are of no practical value to the city, do not have a clear link to~~ ***mostly comprises works of art and other items that were historically gifted to the City of Oxford.*** ~~Council has previously discussed this issue and agreed to form a small working party to progress putting some historical contextualisation around these gifts, some~~ ***of which*** ~~depict themes that are inappropriate~~ ***incongruous*** ~~for a progressive public body that wants to lead by example: namely animal cruelty and gender-based violence. These include: the Morrell Trophy, featuring a fox hunting group, representing death and a huntsman holding a fox above hounds, which is not currently on public display; and two~~ ***such as the*** ~~paintings: The Rape of the Sabines; and Salome and Head of John the Baptist.~~

This council agrees **acknowledges** that there is a place for these artworks in art galleries or museums, but they are not appropriate for display at the town hall **as part of the Town Hall's Grade 2 Listing, it is very difficult to remove these paintings.**

~~In their place~~**Instead**, this Council believes **has previously agreed that** there is a need to rebalance the lack of diversity in representation on public display in the artwork in the town hall. This is because of the 45 portraits showing people, there are 40 depicting males and only 3 of females (the remaining 2 show both males and females). Moreover, the currently displayed works do not represent Oxford's ethnic diversity.

~~This motion calls on~~ **reiterates the commitment made by** the council to ~~conduct a public consultation on a one-off sale of these select artworks from its collection.~~ **progress the display of new artwork and portraits that better represent the diversity of both the city of Oxford and its council.** Therefore this Council calls on the Leader of the City Council and Cabinet to:-

- ~~1) Request a report to Cabinet setting out the cost, process and timeline for implementing a public consultation on the sale of select artworks; and~~
- 2) Request a report **Report back** to Cabinet on **progress on** the costs and feasible timelines of identifying, framing and hanging additional artworks in the council chamber and town hall to redress the existing lack of diversity within the current town hall portraits with the goal for implementation by the end of 2024.

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

Title: Council Art Works

Oxford City Council's art collection mostly comprises works of art and other items that were historically gifted to the City of Oxford. Council has previously discussed this issue and agreed to form a small working party to progress putting some historical contextualisation around these gifts, some of which depict themes that are incongruous for a progressive public body such as the paintings: The Rape of the Sabines; and Salome and Head of John the Baptist.

This council acknowledges that as part of the Town Hall's Grade 2 Listing, it is very difficult to remove these paintings.

Instead, this Council has previously agreed that there is a need to rebalance the lack of diversity in representation on public display in the artwork in the town hall. This is because of the 45 portraits showing people, there are 40 depicting males and only 3 of females (the remaining 2 show both males and females). Moreover, the currently displayed works do not represent Oxford's ethnic diversity.

This motion reiterates the commitment made by the council to progress the display of new artwork and portraits that better represent the diversity of both the city of Oxford and its council. Therefore this Council calls on the Leader of the City Council to:-

- 1) Report back to Cabinet on progress on the costs and feasible timelines of identifying, framing and hanging additional artworks in the council chamber and town hall to redress the existing lack of diversity within the current town hall portraits with the goal for implementation by the end of 2024.