

## Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 27 November 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.

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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
<b>8 Appointments to Council Committees 2023/2024</b>	5 - 14
<p>The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report for Council to appoint committees and the members serving on those committees for the remainder of the Council year 2023-24.</p> <p><b>Recommendation(s): Council is recommended to:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Note</b> the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining political representation on committees as outlined in the report and shown in Appendix 2: Political proportionalities on Council committees 2023-24;</li><li>2. <b>Appoint</b> to committee seats in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality and (where received and detailed in Appendix 3) in line with the nominations made by political groups, as shown in Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2023-24;</li><li>3. <b>Appoint</b> a member of the Independent Group to the General Purposes Licensing and Licensing and Gambling Acts Committees as no nomination has been received from the party. In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the nomination must therefore be made by Council.</li></ol>	
<b>14 Questions on Notice from Members of Council</b>	15 - 30
<p>30 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>	
<b>15 Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting</b>	31 - 36
<p><b><i>This item will be taken at or shortly after 7.00pm</i></b></p> <p>4 public addresses not relating to matters for decision at this meeting.</p> <p>Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question.</p> <p><i>A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included within this limit.</i></p>	

## 17 Motions on notice 27 November 2023

37 - 54

**This item has a time limit of 60 minutes.**

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

**Council is asked to consider the following motions:**

- a) Rent Controls (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]
- b) Motion to call for a ceasefire in Gaza (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Lucy Pegg]
- c) Back Oxford communities, Oxfam, and Oxford based medical workers, demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire (proposed by Cllr Shaista Aziz, seconded by Cllr Amar Latif).
- d) Peace in Israel and Palestine (proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Ed Turner)
- e) Housing Management System problems and resultant accounts issues at Oxford City Council and ODS (proposed by Cllr Christopher Smowton, seconded by Cllr Laurence Fouweather) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Nigel Chapman, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown]
- f) A Ban on Disposable Vapes (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Rosie Rawle)
- g) School Streets Initiative (proposed by Cllr Katherine Miles, seconded by Cllr Andrew Gant)

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

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 27 November 2023  
**Report of:** Head of Law and Governance  
**Title of Report:** Appointment of Committees for the Council Year 2023/24

Summary and recommendations	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	For Council to appoint committees and the members serving on those committees for the remainder of the Council year 2023-24
<b>Legislation:</b>	Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15)
<b>Recommendation(s): Council is recommended to:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Note</b> the methods, calculations and conventions used in determining political representation on committees as outlined in the report and shown in <i>Appendix 2: Political proportionalities on Council committees 2023-24</i>;</li> <li>2. <b>Appoint</b> to committee seats in accordance with the requirements of political proportionality and (where received and detailed in Appendix 3) in line with the nominations made by political groups, as shown in <i>Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2023-24</i>;</li> <li>3. <b>Appoint</b> a member of the Independent Group to the General Purposes Licensing and Licensing and Gambling Acts Committees as no nomination has been received from the party. In accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 the nomination must therefore be made by Council.</li> </ol>	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Committee Structure 2023/24
Appendix 2	Political Proportionalities on Committees 2023/24
Appendix 3	Committee Nominations 2023/24

## **Introduction and background**

1. This report invites Council to review the political proportionality and appointments to the committee of council following changes to the political make up of the Council in line with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Constitution.
2. The Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (Section 15) ("The Act") provides a statutory basis for the allocation of committee seats to political groups based on principles of political proportionality. To enable this the Council has to provide for:
  - a. Political Groups to be formed and Group Leaders elected.
  - b. Seats on committees to be allocated to political groups in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
3. The political balance of the Council and its committees has been reviewed in accordance with the provisions of the Act. Appendix 2 shows the political proportionalities on the committees the Council is asked to appoint to.
4. Appendix 3 shows the nominations to the seats on committees.
5. The report and appendix proposes allocations in line with the requirements of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. This means no ungrouped members have been allocated a seat and that the seats are allocated to the groups based on the entitlement resulting from the calculation. Council must either:
  - a. Approve the recommendations of this report; or
  - b. In the event that it wishes to approve alternative arrangements, they must be approved with no member of the Council voting against in order to waive the political proportionality requirements under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

## **Political Groups**

6. Individual members are required to indicate a wish to be a member of a particular political group (or cease to be a member of a political group). Political groups comprise two or more members who have indicated that they wish to be a member of that group by signing a notice to the proper officer, the Head of Law and Governance. The Group Secretaries of established groups will normally hold and co-ordinate these notices (commonly known as political group forms). The notice must include the name of the Group Leader and may include the name of the Deputy Group Leader.
7. Once political groups have been formed, changes to the membership and leadership of groups can be made by notice to the Head of Law and Governance. A change of group leader must be notified by a majority of group members.

## **Political balance calculations**

8. Council has a duty to appoint to most committees using the principles of political proportionality set out in the Act. These principles should be read hierarchically:
  - Where there is more than one political group, all seats must not be allocated to the same group.
  - The majority of seats must be allocated to the group with the majority on the Council.

- When considering all seats available for allocation the total of those given to each group should match their representation on the Council overall.
  - The number of seats on each individual committee allocated to groups should match their representation on the Council overall.
9. Applying these principles may not result in a precise mathematical allocation of seats. In these cases the allocations will rounded up at 0.5 and above.
  10. In the event that achieving political proportionality on all committees results in an overall over-allocation of seats to a particular group, the group with the over-allocation will be asked which seat(s) they wish to relinquish. Any such seats will then be reallocated to group(s) with an overall under-allocation of seats. This process may involve some discussion between political groups.
  11. Non-grouped independent members are not treated as political groups but do affect overall proportionality. As such they should be offered any seats that remain unallocated once all groups have received their full proportional allocation of seats.
  12. Where nominations are not made to a seat allocated to a political group within the statutory time limits the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 then provides that such seats shall be allocated to by Council.
  13. Appendix 2 shows the numbers of committee seats allocated to political groups for the 2024/24 council year on the basis of the methods, calculations and conventions described in paragraphs 8-11. A total of 85 committee seats are included in political balance calculations.

### **Appointments to Council Committees**

14. Appendix 3 shows the nominations to committee seats made by political groups, in accordance with the seat allocations shown in Appendix 2. Council is recommended to appoint the nominated members to committees as set out in Appendix 3.
15. There will be a standing item on Council agendas to enable political groups to propose any changes to their committee appointments, should they wish to do so.

### **Appointments to Scrutiny Panels and Review Groups**

16. The Scrutiny Committee may establish informal standing panels or review groups (otherwise known as 'task and finish' groups) and appoint members to them in accordance with 'operating principals' agreed by the Committee. Membership of these bodies will be cross-party and can be drawn from all non-executive members but the principles of political proportionality do not strictly apply. Nominations to these bodies will be handled separately, once those bodies have been established by the Scrutiny Committee.

### **Financial issues**

17. There are no financial issues to consider. The recommendations in this report do not have any financial impacts.

### **Legal issues**

18. The legal issues including the Council's duty to appoint to committees in accordance with the provisions of S15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 are contained within the report. Alternative arrangements may be approved by

Council but it can only be done with no member present voting against such arrangements. Otherwise, proportionality must be followed.

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<b>Background Papers:</b> None
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## Committee structure 2023/24

**Table 1: Committee structure**

<b>Body</b>	<b>Number of seats</b>	<b>In political balance calculation?</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Council	48	No	Formed by election.
Cabinet	10	No	Appointed by the Leader of the Council. Must have 3-10 members including the Leader and Deputy Leader(s).
Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee	15	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Political groups are invited to nominate the same members to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and the General Purposes Licensing Committee.
General Purposes Licensing Committee	15	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Political groups are invited to nominate the same members to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee and the General Purposes Licensing Committee.
Appointments Committee	5	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Must include a member of Cabinet.
Audit and Governance Committee	7	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Chair must not be a member of Cabinet.
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	4	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Must include a member of Cabinet.
Planning Committee	11	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Council may not appoint a member to more than one planning Committee.
Planning Review Committee	9	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Council may not appoint a member to more than one planning Committee.
Scrutiny Committee	12	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b> Cabinet members cannot be members of the Scrutiny Committee.
Standards Committee	7	Yes	<b>For appointment by Council</b>

**85 seats included in political balance calculation**

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## Appendix 2: Political proportionalities on Council committees 2023-24

The allocation of seats to political groups has been reviewed based on the political composition of the Council following changes in political grouping in October and November 2023. The allocations are shown in Table A below.

Labour: 22

Liberal Dem: 9

Green: 6

Oxford Socialist Independents: 6

Independent Group: 3

Non-grouped independent: 2

**Table A: Committees subject to proportionality rules**

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>OSI</b>	<b>Ind Group</b>	<b>Non-Group</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Balance</b>
General Purposes Licensing Committee	15	7	3	2	2	1		15	0
Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee	15	7	3	2	2	1		15	0
Appointments Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0		5	0
Audit and Governance Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0		6	-1
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee	4	2	1	0	1	0		4	0
Planning Committee	11	5	2	1	1	1		10	-1
Planning Review Committee	9	4	2	1	1	1		9	0
Scrutiny Committee	12	6	2	2	1	1		12	0
Standards Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0		6	-1
<b>Total seats allocated</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>82</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rounded entitlement</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5.31</b>			
<b>Real entitlement</b>		<b>38.96</b>	<b>15.94</b>	<b>10.63</b>	<b>10.63</b>	<b>5</b>			
<b>Percentage of seats allocated</b>		<b>(33.15)</b>	<b>(13.6)</b>	<b>(9.35)</b>	<b>(9.35)</b>	<b>(4.25)</b>			

Notes on the allocation of seats to political groups:

- There are vacant seats on Planning, Standards and Audit and Governance Committees.
- All other Committees had the correct number of councillors except for Scrutiny and Investigations and Disciplinary Committees, which had an over-allocation of one.
- To resolve these issues the following steps were followed:
  - As the Green Group and Oxford Socialist Independent Group have the same number of Committee seats, both groups were asked which Committee they wanted to attend, Green decided to nominate two members on Scrutiny, whereas the Oxford Socialist Independent nominated one member.
  - The Oxford Socialist Independent Group decided to have the seat on Investigations and Disciplinary Committee.

### Appendix 3: Committee nominations 2023-24

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Labour Group</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat Group</b>	<b>Green Group</b>	<b>Oxford Socialist Independents</b>	<b>Independent Group</b>	<b>Non-grouped</b>
General Purposes Licensing Committee (15)  And  Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee (15)	1. Mary Clarkson 2. Rae Humberstone 3. Jemima Hunt 4. Mark Lygo 5. Louise Upton 6. Naomi Waite 7. Diko Walcott	1. Chris Smowton 2. Katherine Miles 3. Jo Sandelson	1. Lois Muddiman 2. Rosie Rawle	1. Ed Mundy 2. Imogen Thomas	Vacant (No appointment has been made to this seat, Council, as per the recommendations is required to nominate one of the following Councillors: Shaista Aziz Amar Latif Ajaz Rehman)	
Appointments Committee (5)	1. Susan Brown 2. Chewe Munkonge	1. Andrew Gant	1. Alistair Morris	1. Imogen Thomas		
Audit and Governance Committee (7)	1. Tiago Corais 2. James Fry 3. Anna Railton	1. Roz Smith	1. Chris Jarvis	1. Duncan Hall		
Investigation and Disciplinary Committee (4)	1. Susan Brown 2. Chewe Munkonge	1. Andrew Gant		1. Jabu Nala-Hartley		
Planning Committee (11)	1. Nigel Chapman 2. Mary Clarkson 3. Alex Hollingsworth 4. Anna Railton 5. Louise Upton	1. Mohammed Altaf Khan 2. Laurence Fouweather	1. Emily Kerr	1. Ed Mundy	1. Ajaz Rehman	
Planning Review	1. James Fry	1. Steve Goddard	1. Lucy Pegg	1. Hosnieh	1. Amar Latif	

Committee (9)	2. Mark Lygo 3. Mike Rowley 4. Naomi Waite	2. Roz Smith		Djafari-Marbini		
Scrutiny Committee (12)	1. Lubna Arshad 2. Tiago Corais 3. Lizzy Diggins 4. Sandy Douglas 5. James Fry 6. Mike Rowley	1. Chris Smowton 2. Roz Smith	1. Chris Jarvis 2. Lucy Pegg	1. Imogen Thomas	1. Shaista Aziz	
Standards Committee (7)	1. Rae Humberstone 2. Mark Lygo 3. Susanna Pressel	1. Chris Smowton	1. Alistair Morris	1. Imogen Thomas		

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 27 November 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 Cllr 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 Malik to Cllr Brown – Calling for a ceasefire in Gaza**

#### **Question**

Could the Leader of the council write to both Oxford MPs calling for the ceasefire in Gaza?

#### **Written Response**

I will write to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary urging them to call for a ceasefire.

### **SB2 From Cllr Malik to Cllr Brown – Lowering the flag in solidarity with**

<b>Palestine</b>	
<b>Question</b> <p>This city flew the flag half-mast in solidarity with Israel. Ramallah, our twin city in Palestine, has not been honoured in the same way. After the killing of over 8,000 Palestinians, when will the city council lower the flag in solidarity with Palestine?</p>	<b>Written Response</b> <p>We have been unable to access the main flagpole since 31 October for safety reasons.</p>

<b>SB3 From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Brown – Child Poverty Strategy</b>	
<b>Question</b> <p>Within Northfield Brook child poverty rates are sadly stagnant. This council agreed unanimously on oct 3rd to submit a report to Cabinet with options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Implement the Socio-economic Duty within all Council policies over the next eighteen months; and</li> <li>b. Encourage partnership institutions, including Oxford University, to adopt the Socio-economic Duty.</li> </ul> <p>Request that the Head of Communities submit a report to Cabinet with options to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop a Child Poverty Strategy (noting the work done at the Scrutiny Committee) over the next eighteen months informed by the voices of young people affected.</li> <li>b. Implement more immediate actions such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Donation of devices to Getting Oxfordshire Online</li> <li>ii. Considering how parents and carers in or at risk of destitution (including those with no recourse to public funds) can access support via "food first" and "cash first" approaches.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<b>Written Response</b> <p><b>Part one - A &amp; B</b></p> <p>Officers have undertaken work assessing the potential implementation of the Socio-economic Duty into Oxford City Council policymaking. An options paper will be brought to Cabinet on this matter.</p> <p><b>Part two</b></p> <p>A)</p> <p>Child poverty response</p> <p>Cabinet took the decision not to develop a separate Child Poverty Strategy because it felt that this was intrinsic to our Thriving Communities Strategy.</p> <p>B i)</p> <p>In relation to laptops, officers have worked with partners such as Aspire to provide refurbishing old laptops to young people in the ward who are digitally excluded.</p> <p>B ii)</p> <p>The Council supplied food parcels and food vouchers as part of its response to the pandemic. As the pandemic began to ease the Council working with and listening to the community food system refocused its support towards better empowering the community food system (such as food banks, food larders etc). The funding that was secured from government was used to help enable</p>



Will above deadlines as agreed unanimously by council be met and what progress has taken place thus far?	better sustainability within the system through training, wrap around support, funding a community van, funding of fridges/fridge freezers and more healthy and nutritious food etc. We have similarly been using the Household Support Fund to fund community groups, advice centres and some individuals. The funding to individuals is currently through vouchers rather than cash which enables the Council to accurately manage what the vouchers are spent on and meet its reporting requirements to government.
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<b>SB4 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Brown – Gender neutral toilets in public buildings</b>	
<b>Question</b>  Can the portfolio holder set out what steps if any have been taken to introduce gender neutral toilets in public buildings owned by the city council since November 2021?	<b>Written Response</b>  There have been no gender neutral toilets provided in existing public buildings. In new schemes in the control of the council gender neutral toilets will be provided where possible.

<b>SB5 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Brown – Motion on period products</b>	
<b>Question</b>  Since the motion on period products at council in July 2022 what steps has cabinet taken to implement the motion as voted in favour of at the meeting?	<b>Written Response</b>  We have provided free products in the toilets of most of our community centres since August 2022. The products are displayed in the toilets alongside a poster that has information about who to contact if someone needs more products. Staff in our community centres will check when products need replacing and contact a distributor when they need more products. We haven't managed to reach all of the community centres as yet, but there is a plan in place to get products into these locations as soon as possible.  To fund the project, Oxford City Council used a combination of facilities budget, contribution from the Federation of Oxford Community Associations and the Household Support Fund. Oxford City Council also work in partnership with a number of partners and organisations to

	<p>distribute products across the city in community centres as well as to community groups. We share a donation box in one of our local Tesco stores with the Wings project. The Wings Project is a part of the Young Women's Music Project - you can find out more about the Wings project <a href="#">here</a>. We also take opened products which Wings are unable to use to reduce waste.</p> <p>Since the project began, we have had really positive feedback from members of the public such as "I didn't know you did this, what a great initiative" and "I'm really pleased to see this". The products are well used, and people are reaching out if they are in need.</p>
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**Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; Deputy Leader of the Council**

<b>ET1 From Cllr Rawle to Cllr Turner – Meadow Lane car park</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>When will a decision be made on future management of the Meadow Lane car park?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The City Council has received objections from a statutory consultee to all 4 options tabled – further work is being undertaken to understand the options available to the Council. Stakeholders are being kept up to date with the changes in timescale.</p>

<b>ET2 From Cllr Gant to Cllr Turner – Rent Relief/Holidays for Tenants</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm if it is looking at further rent relief and/or rent holidays for tenants of its buildings in the voluntary and community sector, given the huge challenges around availability of grant funding, maintenance costs, and increasing need for the kind of services they provide?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Asset Management strategy was refreshed and approved by Cabinet in 2021. The strategy sets out the approach to rents relating to buildings occupied by community and volunteer groups.</p> <p>Any funding provided to support community and volunteer groups should be through the Council's grants</p>

	programme rather than rent concessions or relief. Groups are also able to apply for grants from third parties if required.
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**Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks; Deputy Leader of the Council**

**CM1 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Munkonge – The Quarry Sports Building**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
How many community groups currently hire the Quarry sports building in Margaret Road Park?	There are three different groups that use the pavilion in line with questions CM1 and CM2. Quarry Rovers FC are the main user.

**CM2 From Cllr R Smith to Cllr Munkonge – The Quarry Sports Building**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
How many commercial groups currently hire the Quarry sports building in Margaret Road Park?	We would highlight that all groups pay a general fee to use the facilities and that there is no separate 'commercial or community fee level'.

**CM3 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Munkonge – Additional public spaces for growing food?**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Could the portfolio holder outline what the council is currently doing to identify additional public spaces for growing food?	There are a number of different pressures on space within the City. This makes identifying additional public growing spaces more challenging. As part of the City Food Action Plan and Food Action Working group, the City Council in partnership with Good Food Oxfordshire and other public bodies will be looking to build on existing mapping of biodiversity and green space to explore this. It should also be noted that in a recent survey (2021) Oxford was seventh in a list of cities in the country with the most allotments.

**CM4 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Munkonge – Cutteslowe Greenhouse project's lease****Question**

Can the portfolio holder explain the current situation with regards to the Cutteslowe Greenhouse project's lease?

**Written Response**

The current leaseholder is not in occupation and the Council is aware they would like to surrender their lease. The Council is in negotiations with an alternative community group to take a new lease of the premises. The new group do not intend to change the use of the premises.

**CM5 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Munkonge – Large scale firework display at South Park****Question**

What assessment has the City Council done as to the suitability of South Park as a venue for large scale fireworks displays following the substantial damage done to the park this year?

**Written Response**

South Park has been used as a venue for large scale fireworks events for over 50 years and this is a very popular event which also raises money for charity. This year, there was a storm a few days before the event which meant that the park was muddier than usual. A thorough review is being undertaken to consider all options to mitigate this in future while safeguarding this important event.

**CM6 From Cllr Sandelson to Cllr Munkonge – South Park's annual fire display****Question**

What future plans does the council have to prevent South Park, during the annual fireworks display, from being made into an inaccessible mud bath for many months?

**Written Response**

A thorough review is being undertaken to consider all options to mitigate this in future while safeguarding this important event.

**Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities**

<b>LU1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton – Cycle parking process</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>What is the city council's official process steps for approving and installing bike stands on pavements and land owned by the city council?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>If the land is within city council ownership, once a request for a cycle rack is received the council then undertake any stakeholder engagement required. If the location is suitable, it can be added to the list for funding through our Cycling Infrastructure Fund, and if that site is prioritised ODS are instructed to install the racks</p> <p>If funding is available from, for example, a ward member's CIL fund, then the racks can be installed by ODS immediately.</p> <p>The council is also actively seeking suitable sites to install racks and is working with third party landowners through our Park That Bike scheme.</p>

<b>LU2 From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Upton – Seacourt Park and Ride</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Since the extension to the Seacourt Park and Ride was opened how many times has it had to be closed because of flooding?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The extension has been closed four times as a result of flood events - January 2023, April 2023, October 2023 and November 2023.</p>

<b>LU3 From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Upton – Seacourt Park and Ride</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>For each time the Seacourt Park and Ride extension has been closed due to flooding how much has the Council paid ODS to clean up the car park so that it is available for parking again?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The cost per clean-up is £750.</p>

<b>LU4 From Cllr Morris to Cllr Upton – Marston cycle path</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Can the portfolio holder set out what</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p>

correspondence the City Council has had with the County Council over lighting the main Marston cycle path behind Purcell Rd?	This cycle path is not owned by the City Council and therefore no correspondence has been exchanged by council officers, but city councillors particularly Cllr Mary Clarkson, have raised this on many occasions. It has been referred to County to investigate the possibility of lighting. The adjoining land owner, Hertford College, is also considering lighting as part of a forthcoming works programme to update their site.
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#### **LU5 From Cllr Pegg to Cllr Upton – Retrofit Air Source Heat Pumps**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Is the cabinet member concerned by the noise requirements residents looking to retrofit their homes with air source heat pumps are being asked to meet?	Residents looking to fit an air source heat pump (ASHP) can either choose one which complies with nationally set limits and conditions and can then install it without further regulations (known as a Permitted Development (PD) right) or they must apply for Planning Permission. The limits and conditions relating to PD rights include siting, heating capacity and other restrictions, which in part limit the noise impact of an ASHP on their neighbours. Because all ASHPs emit noise, which has the potential to harm people's health and wellbeing, the Council's current approach to planning applications which include an ASHP is therefore to require them to submit sufficient information to demonstrate that the noise is not likely to cause problems for those in the locality. Similar requirements apply in most local authority areas and officers are working to use best practice in providing guidance and advice to applicants.

#### **LU6 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton – Electric charging points for street traders**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
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What is the progress that has been made on providing electric street charging points for street traders?	The importance of finding alternative power sources for street trading was recognised by the General Purposes Licensing Committee and as Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities, Councillor Upton has taken a lead role. Discussions with County about the role of the ZEZ expansion in controlling the problem have been initiated by Councillor Upton who has also engaged with City Council officers to explore the possibility of using commercially-provided rechargeable batteries.
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### Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services

<b>NC1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Chapman – Bin storage arrangements for terraces without front gardens</b>	
<b>Question</b>  What is the council's formal policy for alternative options for bin storage for streets like (e.g. Mayfield Road) where houses do not have front gardens and where the multiple bins are permanently being stored on the narrow pavement blocking pedestrian access of this infrastructure?	<b>Written Response</b>  Properties that cannot store bins off-street are provided with <a href="#">lilac sacks for waste and clear sacks for recycling</a> . These are provided twice a year currently and collected on the same schedule as wheeled bins.  Where residents request wheelie bins for storage in rear gardens these are provided. The bins would typically need to be brought through the property and left on the pavement on collection day. Wheelie bins should not be stored on the public highway.  It should be noted that these arrangements operate successfully in a number of areas across the city, in particular within Jericho and Osney Island. Nonetheless, where appropriate we can arrange for the ODS recycling team to door knock and advise residents, and they can sticker and label bins and provide sacks - if the occupants do not have them.  An ODS team visited Mayfield Road on Monday 20 November and reported that there were no

	<p>sacks or bins left out on the street.</p> <p>If there were such a recurrent problem in any specific area, then the Community Response Team would need to address this as they have environmental enforcement powers.</p>
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## NC2 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Chapman – ODS response times

### Question

The report page <https://image-house.co.uk/occ/ti-annualreport2023/oxford-direct-services/> shows ODS' response time for certain trades that resolved repairs to city council properties in under 9 days on average. Which trades, executed via ODS, performed repairs to city council properties in greater than 9 days, and what were their average response times?

### Written Response

The measurement of repair 'End to End' times is an important measure, which enables us to understand the service we deliver in 'customer terms' and it is used in conjunction with other measures which help us understand repair demand, first time fix and customer satisfaction.

The measurement of 'end to end' times is calculated from the order raised date, to the date the order is completed – which would include any time required for follow on visits or no access issues. There is a direct correlation between customer satisfaction and how long jobs take to complete and it is important to understand that this varies by trade.

Significant progress has been made in reducing 'end to end' times for repairs, with a +50% reduction since March 2020.

Core Trades	End to End Times
Plumbing	6 days
Electrical	5 days
Heating	3 days
Carpentry	8 days
Glazing	16 days
Drainage	3 days
Roofing	28 days
Brickwork/Groundwork	26 days
Painting and Decorating	17 days
Plastering	32 days

**Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice**



AR1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Railton – Town hall window boxes	
<b>Question</b> <p>What are the plans to use the window boxes on the town hall to promote biodiversity in the city centre?</p>	<b>Written Response</b> <p>The window boxes are no longer able to be used due to their condition, when they are watered, they leak, and the water ingress goes into the basement which includes the newly developed Museum of Oxford. Options for repair are currently being looked at to be able to re-instate them next year.</p>

AR2 From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Railton – Solar Panels in car parks	
<b>Question</b> <p>Given the opening of yet another solar carport in Plymouth, is the Councillor yet able to give the promised report on the feasibility of using Oxford City Council's car parks in the same way?</p>	<b>Written Response</b> <p>No commitment was made to produce a report on this matter, rather that Members should be updated – which this response does. The Council remains fully committed to supporting the installation of solar PV within Oxford and indeed across Oxfordshire, to meet the target of 1,900 MW installed as set out in the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy. The majority of that installed capacity could only be met through the large-scale ground mounted solar, which is also the most cost-effective format.</p> <p>Roof-mounted solar capacity is likely to provide the next largest contribution. The proposed Local Plan 2040 seeks to support this stating: <i>'the use of large roofscapes for solar panels or green roofs will be encouraged'</i>, and requiring that opportunities should be explored within new developments to <i>'orient layout/roof tops to maximise solar gain on photovoltaics solar panels for renewable energy generation.'</i> Proposed Local Plan 2040 policies also support retrofitting existing buildings using a whole building approach, which may include the installation of solar PV.</p> <p>In respect of the Council's own general fund and HRA buildings, as part of</p>

	<p>planned roof replacements we will be ensuring that, where possible, roofs are made suitable for future installation of solar panels.</p> <p>Solar canopies over car parks present another opportunity, albeit at a smaller scale. Officers will be initiating a review of potential development options at Council owned park and ride sites, the first of which will be a review at Redbridge. Once this work is completed it will provide greater clarity on where it may make sense to install PV canopies, which would require a significant timeframe for payback on capital investment. However, it should be noted that there are many associated issues that would need to be addressed in each case, including the availability of grid capacity locally, offtake for energy generated, planning and other potential uses for the land.</p> <p>Therefore, it should be recognised that there are many other live workstreams, such as the Council's involvement in <a href="#">Project LEO-N</a>, and - if our bid is successful - Project FOx, that are also essential building blocks in supporting the uptake of solar PV.</p>
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<b>AR3 From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Railton – Climate Emergency Centre</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>Please can the Cabinet Member for zero carbon and climate justice and/or the cabinet member for finance and asset management update Council as to what actions have been taken towards the goal of establishing a Climate Emergency Centre as approved in the motion at the meeting of Council on the 2 October 2023?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Council already provides many inclusive and accessible spaces where residents and groups meet to share and gain information about how to respond to the climate and ecological emergencies - not least our Town Hall. If groups come forward with proposals to establish an additional centre within the city to facilitate such information sharing, then we will provide officer support as appropriate.</p> <p>In the meantime, we have provided</p>

	<p>detailed information to all Council Members to share with residents on the £millions of grant funding currently available to support the installation of energy efficiency measures in homes that would save energy, improve comfort, reduce fuel poverty, help achieve net zero and facilitate the transition away from gas. We are also waiting on the outcome of the £5 million consortium FOx bid that will involve multiple workstreams including a trial of salary sacrifice scheme to support retrofit uptake and the development of a robust platform for <a href="#">Area-Based Insetting</a>, which could drive significant corporate and institutional funding towards local carbon-reduction projects.</p> <p>It is essential that we can engage the widest number of people as possible in taking action. This includes, in particular, those with limited financial resources who don't have the available capital to invest in home retrofit. It also includes those who don't currently perceive taking action as a priority and may be unlikely to attend a Climate Emergency Centre, or the many other existing gatherings of people around the city of people already motivated to act on climate change.</p>
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## Cabinet Member for Culture and Events

<b>JH1 From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Hunt – How is the ban on single use plastics for street traders being enforced?</b>	
<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Can the portfolio holder outline how the council is currently enforcing the ban on single use plastics for street traders?	Following a similar question on this topic, tabled by Cllr Miles at the 2 <sup>nd</sup> October Council meeting, Cllr Hunt reported on steps to engage individually with street traders in person, to advise on the single use plastic restrictions introduced in April

	<p>with the revised Street Trading Policy. Any non-compliant traders identified were warned of potential consequences for their Consent to trade, should they continue not to comply. With effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, national legislation enforced by the County Council's Trading Standards Service, has taken effect. For street traders the new Regulations introduce no requirements beyond those already included in their current Consents, but they do introduce additional legal and financial penalties for non-compliance. Council officers are now working in liaison with Trading Standards colleagues so that street traders are made aware of the new Regulations and, conversely, that information about non-compliant street traders is shared with officers in that service. Advisory letters are being sent out and re-inspections will take place in due course.</p>
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## Cabinet Member for Housing

<b>LS1 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Smith – Collins Street redevelopment 1</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>The building on the Games Hall site on Colin's Street has stalled. When will the building works restart and what is the reason for the delay?</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The housing developments on the Collins Street and the Princes Street sites are on programme. Demolition works are complete and contracts for the main build contract are being signed in November, for a start on site date in March 2024.</p>

<b>LS2 From Cllr Miles to Cllr Smith – Collins Street redevelopment 2</b>	
<p><b>Question</b></p> <p>What are the plans for the public realm improvement outside the East Oxford Games Hall on Colin's Street to improve the area for residents and children travelling to school at East Oxford</p>	<p><b>Written Response</b></p> <p>The Collins Street development delivers much needed affordable housing within the site plan and does not impinge on the public realm or highway. There will no longer be car parking bays provided,</p>

Primary School?	which along with the new use and improved visual surveillance from the building, should improve pedestrian safety and reduce the potential for anti-social behaviour.
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### **LS3 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Smith – Housing Report / Warm Home Discount**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>The annual housing report says that the council "Advised 113 tenants of their eligibility for the £150 Warm Home Discount, saving £16,950". Do we know that they were able to apply for and receive the discount, or only that they were advised they could? Similarly, WaterSure and other schemes where the report describes advice given, not outcomes.</p>	<p>When WHD was operated by the energy companies, Energy Advice Officers were able to help tenants directly on calls or online applications, where decisions were immediate and those figures were reported.</p> <p>WHD changed last year and became automated and run by government rather than by energy companies, through the .Gov site and Energy Officers had to instead talk people through the automated process. The application outcomes were not immediate and letters are sent out to tenants by the government later in the year. The figures provided are based on the number of tenants that were talked through the automated process, rather than outcomes.</p> <p>Similarly, we used to have a direct referral pathway into Thames Water so we could see outcomes, however Thames Water removed our access to the pathway and do not get feedback on successful applications</p>

### **LS4 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Smith – Valentia Road rec**

<b>Question</b> <p>I note that Valentia Road Rec no longer appears in the Local Plan. Is it the Council's intention to continue to pursue development at that site?</p>	<b>Written Response</b> <p>The current Local Plan (Site Policy 61) allocates a site of 0.76 hectares for a minimum of 12 homes. The delivery of 12 homes is no longer considered achievable. This site is unlikely to be able to deliver more than 10 homes. This is below the threshold considered appropriate for a site allocation in the draft Local Plan 2040. The Council could still seek to enable a smaller development, on a smaller part of the site, in the future. An allocation policy would not be required to deliver homes on this site.</p>
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<b>LS5 From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Smith – Housing Report/Tenancies</b>															
<b>Question</b> <p><a href="https://image-house.co.uk/occ/ti-annualreport2023/tenancy-management/">https://image-house.co.uk/occ/ti-annualreport2023/tenancy-management/</a> notes that 650 tenancies were commenced, but then the subcategories (general register, transfer register, ...) only account for 296 of them. What was the source of the remaining 354 tenancies?</p>	<b>Written Response</b> <p>When the data for the Annual Report was collated, some data was incomplete. The full data is now available and the Annual Report will be updated:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>General Register</td><td>393</td></tr> <tr> <td>Homeless Register</td><td>79</td></tr> <tr> <td>Transfer Register</td><td>194</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Sub Total</b></td><td><b>666</b></td></tr> <tr> <td>Mutual Exchanges</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>Succession</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>722</b></td></tr> </table>	General Register	393	Homeless Register	79	Transfer Register	194	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>666</b>	Mutual Exchanges	28	Succession	28	<b>Total</b>	<b>722</b>
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**To:** Council

**Date:** 27 November 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 from Professor Nick Maynard
2. Address from Rachel Schiller
3. Address from Maryam Ahmed
4. Address from Chaka Artwell – Ethnic Traders and Shoppers of Oxford Cowley Road

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

### 1. Address from Professor Nick Maynard

I am a Consultant Surgeon in Oxford and have been travelling to Gaza for nearly 15 years to teach medical students and more recently to teach and carry out major cancer surgery in Gazan hospitals. Gaza has been occupied by Israel since 1967 and has been blockaded for 16 years. What this means is that Gaza is a large prison, effectively closed off from the outside world with the vast majority of the population imprisoned and unable to ever leave the country. Gaza with its population of >2.2 million, is the

most densely populated country on earth. By any definition of apartheid, the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are living under an Apartheid system.

In my multiple visits, there has never been an occasion when I have not witnessed bombardments from the IDF. The economy is largely disabled by Israeli control, there is extreme poverty and unemployment, and permanent food, water, and fuel insecurity. The frequent power cuts mean that often the sanitation plants cannot work leading to poor water quality and increased risks of infectious diseases. There is a chronic shortage of drugs, medicines, and surgical equipment. After the 2014 military assault by Israel on Gaza when over 2000 Palestinians were killed, it is estimated that nearly 400 000 children were in need of psycho-social aid to deal with mental health problems caused by war trauma.

This is essential background to current events.

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Hamas militants inflicted a horrific attack on Israel, killing more than 1200 people and abducting more than 200 Israeli citizens.

Since October 7<sup>th</sup> the Israeli retaliation has led to a humanitarian catastrophe. As of 20<sup>th</sup> November, in 6 weeks 11 078 Gazans have been killed, 4506 children have been killed, 1.6 million Gazan citizens have been displaced from their homes and more than 200 healthcare workers have been killed. Water, food, and electricity have been cut off. To provide some context, in the 18 months since Russia invaded Ukraine, the UN estimates that 9701 Ukrainian civilians have been killed. The rate of killing in Gaza is 15 times greater than that in Ukraine.

I and my colleagues have been talking to our medical friends in Gaza daily. They are in a living hell. I will read out some of their quotes to me:

- *we don't want the aid coming in – it is useless without a ceasefire. All we want is a ceasefire*
- *we want to be treated as humans*
- *we have been deserted by the rest of the world*
- *I am calling from Gaza, this could be the last message I send. The situation is beyond description, Israeli forces have bombed many Gaza hospitals, and still want to bomb hospitals more. Many of my colleague doctors and health care workers have been killed, also we are being starved, food and water are decreasing in amount, civilians are killed in the hundreds each day in cold blood. We call upon the British government to force the Israelis to ceasefire now, lift the siege on Gaza, and let us live and breathe (young doctor I taught as a medical student)*



When I mentioned the proposed humanitarian pause to one of my friends, this is the response I got:

- *do they just want to give us food and water before they kill us*

The Gazan people are a beautiful, beautiful people. My wife and I have a Gazan daughter who managed to leave Gaza 6 years ago, and to whom we have tried to be adoptive parents in the absence of her real parents who are stuck in Gaza. Her cousins, including small children, have been killed but so far miraculously her immediate family are alive. She goes days without talking to them, not knowing whether they are dead or alive. They are my family too, I have eaten with them in their home in Gaza, I have laughed and cried with them. I have hugged and kissed and played with their small children.

I would also like to tell you about Maisara. Maisara was a doctor in Gaza, recently married, his wife pregnant with their first child. I have eaten with his family in Gaza. He stayed in my home in Oxford, ate with my family. He was killed the other day by an Israeli bomb, with his parents and two sisters. His brothers were searching in the rubble for him, when another bomb killed them. His wife and unborn baby are the only surviving members of the family.

Aid going into Gaza cannot help unless there is a ceasefire to allow full access for this humanitarian aid. Medical Aid for Palestinians, a UK based charity, with whom I travel into Gaza, has a list of volunteer medics and nurses, including some of us from Oxford, who will go into Gaza with other agencies such as WHO, MSF and ICRC as part of first category 1 wave.

In order for this to happen there must be an immediate ceasefire and I stand here today to request in the strongest possible terms that the Council Leader writes to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Annaliese Dodds demanding they call for an immediate ceasefire.

## **2. Address from Rachel Schiller**

My name is Rachel, I am an Israeli-British citizen living in Abingdon.

I came here today to share my view in the hope that it will help you make up your own mind about the conflict in Israel and Gaza.

As an Israeli I suffer.

I constantly worry for my family and friends, and grief for the many broken families. I grief with my husband's family, who lost loved ones during last month's massacre, and for Ofra Keidar, my husband's 70 years old relative, a grandmother, who is being kept as a hostage for over 50 days.

I am hunted by this old familiar fear day and night. A fear of terror. A fear that resides inside me since I can remember myself. A fear that affected every aspect of my life and made me raise my family away from my own country.

Like most people, all I want is to live my life in peace. Life brings with it enough obstacles in our private sphere - we don't need anything on top of that.

As someone sick of violence, I ask myself - are all military actions avoidable?

Hamas's actions - the massacre on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October, wiping out whole villages, taking more than 200 civilian hostages, including children, women and elderly that are still in Gaza today, firing thousands and thousands of rockets that are still being shot every day indiscriminately on a civilian population in Israel. These actions lie so far outside what is 'acceptable', even in war, even in the middle east.

This left me, and many others in Israel, to believe that a military action is needed until the release of the hostages and the removal of Hamas – a recognized terrorist group - from ruling Gaza. A ceasefire means that Hamas lives to murder another day as they have publicly stated that they wish to carry out more genocide.

The sad reality is that this might be an horrendous conflict, but it is only one of many. To break this cycle, we must think about the long term, and as much as it sounds crazy in these days – we need to remain hopeful and act for peace. To live a quiet safe life without fear for civilians at both sides. Sometimes things get worse before they get better and for sake of our children's future, we must work to make a change.

Britain, with its rich history in this area and its current good diplomatic relationship with both sides, is in the right position to make a real, long-term, difference. Better than any other country. And it is Oxford, with its multi-cultural community, that shows us that our similarities are greater than our differences. You, our leaders in Oxford, have our support and power to end the suffering of all civilians and bring a lasting change. A ceasefire is not enough, we need peace. I urge you to adopt Councillor Susan Brown's motion for Peace and for a free two-state solution.

I wanted to close with a beautiful prayer that my friend, a devout Christian, sent me to help me with my worries –

Psalm 122

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; may they prosper who love you.

May peace be within your walls, and prosperity within your palaces.

For the sake of my brothers and my friends, I will now say, 'May peace be within you'.

### 3. Address from Maryam Ahmed

Dear Councillors,

My name is Maryam Ahmed, I am representative of helptheworldoxford a Muslim female led youth group that focuses on activism and community projects. I am speaking here today to urgently appeal for a ceasefire in Gaza. As of today 13300 people have been killed in Gaza. Most of these being women and children.

As of now, according to Amnesty International Israel has stopped vital access to services within the Gaza strip. This under the Geneva convention Article 33 constitutes as collective punishment of citizens. Which under international law is a war crime.

Women in Gaza are having c-sections without anaesthetic, they are having several layers of tissue cut through without pain relief. Women are having to chemically suppress their periods as well risk infertility if they are with child. This is a cruel and inhumane form of period poverty.

Why is that the Palestinian people must publicly show their pain and suffering for us to listen. Genocide scholars around the world comment that states can neutralise their actions and war crime by dehumanising populations and establishing them as the "other." Benjamin Netanyahu tweeted that "This is a struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between humanity and the law of the jungle." A dangerous and harmful rhetoric that children can be differentiated, and children can be dehumanised.

I am distraught and disheartened by the vote against a ceasefire. Democracy must be citizen-led and right now I as well many other members of the public feel disheartened and appalled at the lack of intervention by the U.K as well as the international community. I appeal to your humanity. So many times we have said "never again" and yet here we are.

I am frustrated that rather than taking action to stop the killings of innocent civilians we are debating the meanings of trivial terms.

Oxford a city that prides itself as the hub of free thought, intellectualism, and academia. It is an injustice to stay silent whilst the Palestinian people are suffering. It is an injustice to pay lip service to decolonial theories, and ideas whilst allowing the extermination of a population.

As a Muslim female, I feel targeted, belittled, and I have had my livelihood put on the line because I am standing up against genocide. I am disillusioned by the actions of this government to vote against a ceasefire. This is a stark reminder for the BAME community in the U.K that our lives are not precious, and the human rights are hierarchal. To vote against a ceasefire, is to vote against peace. A vote against ceasefire is to allow the indiscriminate bombing of a civilian population.

We have the power to do something, we have the power to stop the massacre of innocent civilians and by staying silent each one of us is complicit.

#### **4. Address from Chaka Artwell – Ethnic Traders and Shoppers of Oxford Cowley Road**

Would Oxford City Council's Elected Councillors, and Executive Officers, using the auspices and authority of Oxford Council's Ethnic Disparity Policy, assist the Ethnic Traders and shoppers of Oxford Cowley Road, who have been disproportionately harmed by the implementation of the County Council's anti-car, and East Oxford Road block policies?

As Oxford City Council is aware, Cowley Road's Ethnic Traders and Shoppers, of Asian, Arabic, and African-heritage, have been disproportionately disadvantaged, and harmed by the Liberal, Labour, and Green influenced County Council's Road block policies in Oxford East: policies that has made purchasing ethnic foods on the Cowley Road extremely difficult for Oxford's Ethnic population.

The disproportional impact on Oxford's Ethnic Traders and shoppers; ethnic shoppers who specifically purchase from Cowley Road's ethnic range of halal foods; spices and clothing, must be addressed and corrected by Oxford City's Elected Councillors, and Executive Officers.

If the County Council's 15-minute neighbourhood policies are implemented, the disparity against Ethnic Traders and Shoppers will be racially unjust, skin-colour discriminatory, and financially ruinous for Cowley Road's Ethnic Traders.

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 27 November 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 15 November 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, Oxford Social Independents, Independent Group, Labour, Liberal Democrat groups in that order.**

## Introduction

- a) Rent Controls (Proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)  
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]
- b) Motion to call for a ceasefire in Gaza (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Lucy Pegg]
- c) Back Oxford communities, Oxfam, and Oxford based medical workers, demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire (proposed by Cllr Shaista Aziz, seconded by Cllr Amar Latif).
- d) Peace in Israel and Palestine (proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton)
- e) Housing Management System problems and resultant accounts issues at Oxford City Council and ODS (proposed by Cllr Christopher Smowton, seconded by Cllr Laurence Fouweather) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Nigel Chapman, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown]
- f) A Ban on Disposable Vapes (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Rosie Rawle)

g) School Streets Initiative (proposed by Cllr Katherine Miles, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr)

**a) Rent Controls (Proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)  
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]**

Green Member Motion

**This council notes:**

1. According to the 2021 census, almost a third of all households in Oxford are private renters (32.2 per cent).<sup>1</sup> This has increased from 28.3 per cent at the point of the 2011 census, and is substantially higher than the national average of 20.3 per cent.<sup>2</sup>
2. In the year to September 2023, tenants in the South East of England experienced rent increases of more than 5 per cent on average.<sup>3</sup>
3. Studies have shown that Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK to live in<sup>4</sup>, with housing costs being the single biggest contributor to this.<sup>5</sup>
4. A growing number of local authorities and leaders are calling for powers to introduce rent controls in the private rented sector, including Mayor of London Sadiq Khan<sup>6</sup> and Bristol City Council.<sup>7</sup>
5. The Scottish Government has introduced temporary rent controls, which will be in place until 2024.<sup>8</sup> Following this, the Scottish Government has stated it intends to introduce a new housing bill that would implement long-term rent controls.<sup>9</sup>

**This council believes:**

1. Oxford's spiralling housing costs are central to the cost of living crisis in our city, with private renters being among the hardest hit. Without making renting more affordable, thousands of residents in the city will continue to face staggering costs, be plunged further into economic hardship and be priced out.
2. Rent controls are far from a panacea - they will not fix the housing crisis alone or overnight. However, they are a necessary tool to transition to a housing system which puts people before profit.

**This council resolves:**

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1

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingenglandandwales/census2021>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23235132.census-shows-people-renting-privately-oxford/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/indexofprivatehousingrentalprices/september2023#measuring-the-data>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23476851.unaffordable-places-live-uk--oxford-ranked-8th/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing\\_in\\_oxford](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing_in_oxford)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayors-longstanding-call-rent-controls-more-urgent-ever-private-rents-london-forecast-surpass-ps2700>

<sup>7</sup> <https://westenglandbylines.co.uk/features/brokenbritain/rent-control-motion-passes-the-bristol-city-council/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-parliament-approves-final-extension-of-tenant-protections/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23769220.scottish-government-confirms-plans-rent-controls/>

1. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council publicly campaign for local authorities - including Oxford City Council - to be given powers to introduce rent controls.
  2. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's position and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.
- 

### Labour Group Amendment

This Council notes:

6. That the trend of landlords moving properties from private lets to short term and holiday lets nationally is one that is impacting on large parts of Oxford as well, reducing the number of homes available for rent to families and house-sharers.
7. That this trend is driven largely by the fact that even with the current very high levels of rent in the private rented sector it is possible to generate the same levels of income from a few days rental as a short term let as from a month as a privately rented property.<sup>10</sup>
8. That the Government has consistently failed to come close to delivering the number of new homes required each year, with the most recent quarterly figures for planning permissions for new homes been the lowest since records began. Of even greater concern, the same report shows that the number of social housing units – the only genuinely affordable form of affordable housing – given planning permission has fallen by 24% since the previous year.<sup>11</sup>

This Council believes:

3. That the introduction of rent controls without the simultaneous introduction of powers to restrict the numbers of short-term lets is likely to increase the shift of privately rented homes to short term lets, further worsening the shortage of homes in Oxford.”
4. The only real sustainable and equitable long-term solution to rising housing costs and increasing shortages of homes is a massive and sustained investment in new social housing, to provide genuinely affordable homes in all the cities, towns and villages where people want to live.

This Council resolves:

2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing publicly support Shelter's campaign for a new programme for the mass building of social housing, both nationally and in Oxford and Oxfordshire.
  3. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing continue the Council's long-standing support for all measures to regulate and control the short-term let sector.
  - 2- 4. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's position<sup>s</sup>, and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.
- 

<sup>10</sup> Landlord Today: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (<https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2023/4/warning-to-landlords-that-switching-to-holiday-lets-wont-be-easy>)

<sup>11</sup> Glenigan: Housing pipeline report - Q2 2023 report - Published 7 September 2023 (<https://www.hbf.co.uk/news/housing-pipeline-report-q2-2023-report-published-september-2023/>)

If amended, the Motion would read:

**This council notes:**

1. According to the 2021 census, almost a third of all households in Oxford are private renters (32.2 per cent).<sup>12</sup> This has increased from 28.3 per cent at the point of the 2011 census, and is substantially higher than the national average of 20.3 per cent.<sup>13</sup>
2. In the year to September 2023, tenants in the South East of England experienced rent increases of more than 5 per cent on average.<sup>14</sup>
3. Studies have shown that Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK to live in<sup>15</sup>, with housing costs being the single biggest contributor to this.<sup>16</sup>
4. A growing number of local authorities and leaders are calling for powers to introduce rent controls in the private rented sector, including Mayor of London Sadiq Khan<sup>17</sup> and Bristol City Council.<sup>18</sup>
5. The Scottish Government has introduced temporary rent controls, which will be in place until 2024.<sup>19</sup> Following this, the Scottish Government has stated it intends to introduce a new housing bill that would implement long-term rent controls.<sup>20</sup>
6. That the trend of landlords moving properties from private lets to short term and holiday lets nationally is one that is impacting on large parts of Oxford as well, reducing the number of homes available for rent to families and house-sharers.
7. That this trend is driven largely by the fact that even with the current very high levels of rent in the private rented sector it is possible to generate the same levels of income from a few days rental as a short term let as from a month as a privately rented property.<sup>21</sup>
8. That the Government has consistently failed to come close to delivering the number of new homes required each year, with the most recent quarterly figures for planning permissions for new homes been the lowest since records began. Of even greater concern, the same report shows that the number of social housing units – the only genuinely affordable form of affordable housing – given planning permission has fallen by 24% since the previous year.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>12</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingenglandandwales/census2021>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23235132.census-shows-people-renting-privately-oxford/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/indexofprivatehousingrentalprices/september2023#measuring-the-data>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23476851.unaffordable-places-live-uk--oxford-ranked-8th/>

<sup>16</sup> [https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing\\_in\\_oxford](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing_in_oxford)

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayors-longstanding-call-rent-controls-more-urgent-ever-private-rents-london-forecast-surpass-ps2700>

<sup>18</sup> <https://westenglandbylines.co.uk/features/brokenbritain/rent-control-motion-passes-the-bristol-city-council/>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-parliament-approves-final-extension-of-tenant-protections/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23769220.scottish-government-confirms-plans-rent-controls/>

<sup>21</sup> Landlord Today: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 (<https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2023/4/warning-to-landlords-that-switching-to-holiday-lets-wont-be-easy>)

<sup>22</sup> Glenigan: Housing pipeline report - Q2 2023 report - Published 7 September 2023

(<https://www.hbf.co.uk/news/housing-pipeline-report-q2-2023-report-published-september-2023/>)



### **This council believes:**

1. Oxford's spiralling housing costs are central to the cost of living crisis in our city, with private renters being among the hardest hit. Without making renting more affordable, thousands of residents in the city will continue to face staggering costs, be plunged further into economic hardship and be priced out.
2. Rent controls are far from a panacea - they will not fix the housing crisis alone or overnight. However, they are a necessary tool to transition to a housing system which puts people before profit.
3. That the introduction of rent controls without the simultaneous introduction of powers to restrict the numbers of short-term lets is likely to increase the shift of privately rented homes to short term lets, further worsening the shortage of homes in Oxford."
4. The only real sustainable and equitable long-term solution to rising housing costs and increasing shortages of homes is a massive and sustained investment in new social housing, to provide genuinely affordable homes in all the cities, towns and villages where people want to live.

### **This council resolves:**

1. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council publicly campaign for local authorities - including Oxford City Council - to be given powers to introduce rent controls.
2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing publicly support Shelter's campaign for a new programme for the mass building of social housing, both nationally and in Oxford and Oxfordshire.
3. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing continue the Council's long-standing support for all measures to regulate and control the short-term let sector.
4. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's positions, and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.

**b) Motion to call for a ceasefire in Gaza (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Lucy Pegg]**

#### Oxford Socialist Independents Group Motion

This Council notes that:

- In response to the Hamas-led attacks on 7th October, the Israeli army has dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza<sup>23</sup> – one of the most densely populated places in

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<sup>23</sup> [Israel says 6,000 bombs dropped on Gaza... | Al Jazeera](#)

the world and home to 2.2 million Palestinians<sup>24</sup> (of whom almost half are children).<sup>25</sup>

- The scale of this assault in Gaza has been compared to the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 People were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.<sup>26</sup>
- As of 10 November 2023, over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced, 11,078 killed (4,506 of whom were children) and 27,490 injured.<sup>27</sup>
- Collective punishment<sup>28</sup> is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.<sup>29</sup>
- The Israeli government have cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.<sup>30</sup>
- There has been a 16 year illegal siege of Gaza<sup>31</sup>, an occupation including in our twin city of Ramallah with the deadliest year for Palestinians even before October 7th, and a system of apartheid as documented by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'tselem.<sup>32</sup>

This Council believes that:

- What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe with horrific escalations of violence.
- Loss of all civilian lives and atrocities committed against civilians in both the Hamas attacks and the ensuing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israel are horrific and must be condemned.
- Polls show those surveyed overwhelmingly support a humanitarian ceasefire<sup>33</sup>, which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, as well as Oxford's own Oxfam.
- Hundreds of Oxford residents have joined protests, written to MPs, or contacted their councillors backing these calls.<sup>34</sup>

This Council agrees to:

- Request that the Council Leader write to
  - a) the foreign secretary and ask them to:
    - call for an immediate ceasefire,
    - open humanitarian corridors into Gaza (to allow aid, not displace people),
    - provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention,

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<sup>24</sup> [Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory... | OCHA](#)

<sup>25</sup> [WHO pleads for immediate reversal of Gaza evacuation order... | WHO](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Thousands of Palestinians forced to flee northern Gaza in what critics call 'new Nakba' | The Independent](#)

<sup>27</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel... | OCHA](#)

<sup>28</sup> [UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment' | REUTERS](#)

<sup>29</sup> [The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law | Doctors Without Borders](#)

<sup>30</sup> [The Siege of Gaza and the Starvation War Crime | Just Security](#)

<sup>31</sup> [Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza | Amnesty International](#)

<sup>32</sup> [Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians... | Amnesty International](#)

<sup>33</sup> [Israel-Palestine war: UK poll finds 76 percent want an immediate ceasefire | Middle East Eye](#)

<sup>34</sup> [Oxford city centre sees hundreds of Palestine protesters | Oxford Mail](#)

- call for an arms embargo to be enacted by all involved in the conflict.
- b) local MPs to request that they too write to the foreign secretary as above.
- Confirm its position that all forms of racism and all hate crimes, including against Jewish or Muslim people, has no place in Oxford.

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### Green Group Amendment

This Council notes that:

- As of 10 November 2023, 11,078 Palestinians, 4,506 of whom were children, have been killed, 27,490 injured and more than 1 million displaced, by Israeli forces.
- ~~In response to~~ Following Hamas'-led attacks on 7th October, - killing 1,200 people and abducting more than 200 people including children, in contravention of the Geneva Conventions - ~~the Israeli forces~~ has dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza, one of the world's most densely populated places, ~~in the world and home to 2.2 million~~ trapped Palestinians (of whom almost half are children).
- UNRWA has described the situation as reminiscent of ~~The scale of this assault in Gaza has been compared to the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 people were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.~~
- ~~As of 10 November 2023, over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced, 11,078 killed (4,506 of whom were children) and 27,490 injured.~~
- Collective punishment is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.
- The Israeli government ~~have~~ has cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.
- There has been a 16-year illegal siege- ~~blockade~~ of Gaza, an occupation in the West Bank, including in our twin city of Ramallah with the deadliest year for Palestinians even before October 7th, and major NGOs say there is a system of apartheid. ~~as documented by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'tselem.~~
- Hamas' rocket and mortar attacks targeting civilians have been condemned by the UN and human rights organisations.

This Council believes that:

- There must be an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- Neither the actions of the Israeli government or Hamas will contribute to a just peaceful resolution.
- ~~What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe with horrific escalations of violence. Loss of all civilian lives~~ The killing of all civilians and atrocities committed against civilians in both the Hamas attacks and the ensuing ongoing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israeli forces and the Hamas attacks are horrific and must be condemned.

- Polls show ~~these surveyed overwhelmingly~~ **over 70% of the British public surveyed** support a humanitarian ceasefire, which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, ~~as well as Oxford's own Oxfam,~~ **Layla Moran MP, and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques have also called for the leader of this council and the Oxford East MP to call for an immediate ceasefire.**
- ~~Hundreds of Oxford residents have joined protests, written to MPs, or contacted their councillors backing these calls.~~
- **There are major concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Ramallah.**
- **Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and hate crimes of all forms, including against Jewish and Muslim people, communities and places of worship, have no place in Oxford.**

~~This Council agrees to:~~

- ~~Request that the Council Leader write to~~  
~~a) the foreign secretary and ask them to:~~
    - ~~call for an immediate ceasefire,~~
    - ~~open humanitarian corridors into Gaza (to allow aid, not displace people),~~
    - ~~provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention,~~
    - ~~call for an arms embargo to be enacted by all involved in the conflict.~~~~b) local MPs to request that they too write to the foreign secretary as above.~~
  - ~~Confirm its position that all forms of racism and all hate crimes, including against Jewish or Muslim people, has no place in Oxford.~~
    - **Write to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Anneliese Dodds demanding they call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire**
    - **Write to the foreign secretary asking them to:**
      - **work to ensure full access for humanitarian aid is granted in Gaza**
      - **seek an immediate unconditional release of all hostages**
      - **call for Palestinians in arbitrary military detention to be given access to justice through an independent, non-military system**
      - **raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence in the West Bank**
    - **Write to express solidarity with Layla Moran and her family in Gaza**
    - **Invites the mayor of Ramallah to address full council to discuss the crisis in the West Bank**
    - **Seeks to convene a meeting of religious leaders, including Jewish and Muslim leaders, and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to better tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia**
- 

If amended, motion would read:

Council notes:

- As of 10 November 2023, 11,078 Palestinians, 4,506 of whom were children, have been killed, 27,490 injured and more than 1 million displaced, by Israeli forces.<sup>35</sup>
- Following Hamas' attacks on 7 October - killing 1,200 people and abducting more than 200 people including children, in contravention of the Geneva Conventions, Israeli forces dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza<sup>36</sup>, one of the world's most densely populated places, home to 2.2 million trapped Palestinians<sup>37</sup> (of whom almost half are children)<sup>38</sup>.
- UNRWA has described the situation as reminiscent of the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 people were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.<sup>39</sup>
- Collective punishment<sup>40</sup> is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.<sup>41</sup>
- The Israeli government has cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.<sup>42</sup>
- There has been a 16-year illegal blockade of Gaza,<sup>43</sup> an occupation in the West Bank, including in our twin city of Ramallah, and major NGOs say there is a system of apartheid.<sup>44</sup>
- Hamas' rocket and mortar attacks targeting civilians have been condemned by the UN and human rights organisations.<sup>45</sup>

Council believes:

- There must be an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- Neither the actions of the Israeli government or Hamas will contribute to a just peaceful resolution.
- The killing of all civilians and atrocities committed against civilians in both the ongoing bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces and the Hamas attacks are horrific and must be condemned.

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<sup>35</sup> [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel... | OCHA](#)

<sup>36</sup> [10 Israel says 6,000 bombs dropped on Gaza... | Al Jazeera](#)

<sup>37</sup> [Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory... | OCHA](#)

<sup>38</sup> [WHO pleads for immediate reversal of Gaza evacuation order... | WHO](#)

<sup>39</sup> [Thousands of Palestinians forced to flee northern Gaza in what critics call 'new Nakba' | The Independent](#)

<sup>40</sup> [UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment' | REUTERS](#)

<sup>41</sup> [The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law | Doctors Without Borders](#)

<sup>42</sup> [The Siege of Gaza and the Starvation War Crime | Just Security](#)

<sup>43</sup> [Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza | Amnesty International](#)

<sup>44</sup> [Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians... | Amnesty International](#)

<sup>45</sup> [Israel: Palestinian armed groups must be held accountable... | Amnesty International](#)

- Polls show over 70% of the British public surveyed support a ceasefire,<sup>46</sup> which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, Oxfam, Layla Moran MP, and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques have also called for the leader of this council and the Oxford East MP to call for an immediate ceasefire.
- There are major concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Ramallah.
- Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and hate crimes of all forms, including against Jewish and Muslim people, communities and places of worship, have no place in Oxford.

Council agrees to:

- Request the Council Leader
  - Write to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Anneliese Dodds demanding they call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire
  - Write to the foreign secretary asking them to:
    - work to ensure full access for humanitarian aid is granted in Gaza
    - seek an immediate unconditional release of all hostages
    - call for Palestinians in arbitrary military detention to be given access to justice through an independent, non-military system
    - raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence in the West Bank
  - Write to express solidarity with Layla Moran and her family in Gaza
  - Invite the mayor of Ramallah to address full council to discuss the crisis in the West Bank
  - Convene a meeting of religious leaders, including Jewish and Muslim leaders, and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to better tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia

**c) Back Oxford communities, Oxfam, and Oxford based medical workers, demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire (proposed by Cllr Shaista Aziz, seconded by Cllr Amar Latif).**

Independent Group Motion

This council notes the UN describes Gaza as a “graveyard for children”<sup>47</sup>, with almost 5,000 Palestinian children killed amongst more than 11,000 Palestinians in Israel's military onslaught on Gaza, including refugee camps, hospitals, medical centres, ambulances, Universities, and neighbourhoods bombed.

Save the Children say more children have been killed in Gaza than the entire number killed in global conflicts since 2019.<sup>48</sup>

<sup>46</sup> [Israel-Palestine war: UK poll finds 76 percent want an immediate ceasefire | Middle East Eye](#)

<sup>47</sup> [Gaza becoming ‘a graveyard for children’, says UN secretary general | Gaza | The Guardian](#)

<sup>48</sup> [Statement on children's deaths in Gaza | Save the Children](#)

Journalists, doctors, surgeons, nurses, paramedics and aid workers have been killed. The Committee to Protect Journalists say 39 Palestinian journalists have been killed since November 8th, the highest number of journalists killed in conflict since 1992.<sup>49</sup>

The UN says Palestinians in Gaza are surviving on two pieces of bread a day, water is rationed and people including pregnant women are drinking contaminated sea water.<sup>50</sup>

And yet Oxford City Council leader and Oxford East MP refuse to call for a ceasefire, in contrast to Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford and Abingdon West, Layla Moran and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques issued a statement calling for the leader of this council and Oxford East MP, to do so, and despite ten Labour councillors resigning over Labour leader Keir Starmer's dehumanising rhetoric on LBC Radio seemingly endorsing collective punishment of Palestinians.<sup>51</sup>

Polls show 70% of the British public surveyed want a ceasefire, like us they condemn Hamas for their atrocities in Israel and want hostages returned unharmed immediately.<sup>52</sup>

Oxfam, based in Cowley, is calling for a ceasefire.<sup>53</sup>

Oxford based surgeon Nick Maynard leads a teaching initiative in Gaza and says medics are "trying to treat patients despite knowing they may die as a result of hospitals being bombed and surrounded by Israeli soldiers."<sup>54</sup>

According to Gaza Medic Voices, more than 200 healthcare workers have been killed.<sup>55</sup>

This Council agrees that

1. The government, the Labour Party and local MPs should be calling for an immediate ceasefire;
2. It stands in solidarity with Layla Moran MP and her family in Gaza;
3. That it has concerns about the Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in Ramallah, twinned with Oxford
4. That the Council stands in solidarity with Ramallah
5. That the Council should seek to use its position and work with all faiths and relevant partners to seek to tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia.

As such the Council request that the Leader:

1. Write to Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer and Annelise Dodds, demanding they call for an immediate ceasefire.

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<sup>49</sup> [Israel-Hamas war is 'deadliest conflict for journalists' since at least 1992, CPJ says - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

<sup>50</sup> [The average Palestinian in Gaza is living on 2 pieces of bread a day, UN official says | AP News](#)

<sup>51</sup> [Sir Keir Starmer tries to clarify comments on Gaza-Israel siege after LBC interview... - LBC](#)

<sup>52</sup> [From what you've read and heard, do you think there should or should not be an immediate ceasefire in Israel and Palestine? | Daily Question \(yougov.co.uk\)](#)

<sup>53</sup> [Why a humanitarian pause or humanitarian corridors in Gaza are not the answer | Oxfam GB](#)

<sup>54</sup> [UK hospital workers protest outside No 10 against deaths of medics in Gaza | Israel-Hamas war | The Guardian](#)

<sup>55</sup> [In Gaza, doctors are among the many dead. Here are some of their stories : NPR](#)

2. Write to Layla Moran, MP, to express the Council's solidarity with and her family in Gaza
3. Write to the Foreign Secretary to raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in Ramallah, twinned with Oxford.
4. Invite the mayor of Ramallah to provide an address to full council meeting (via video link) to discuss the crisis in the West Bank, so we can express in person that the Council is in solidarity with Ramallah
5. Seek to convene an urgent meeting of religious leaders including Jewish and Muslim leaders and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia.



**d) Peace in Israel and Palestine (proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton)**

Labour Group Motion

The terrible loss of life in Israel and Gaza has shocked and appalled us all. We need peace.

The council condemns the terrorist attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel in the strongest possible terms. We call on Hamas to immediately release all hostages unharmed. We recognise Israel's right to take targeted action under international law to defend itself and rescue hostages.

We also recognise the terrible suffering of the people of Gaza - injured, displaced and killed. Women and children are being disproportionately harmed by the collapse of healthcare and other infrastructure in Gaza. This humanitarian crisis must be urgently addressed by the international community. The council echoes the calls of the UN Secretary General, the IRC and ICRC for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire by all parties in the conflict as well as the release of all hostages.

This council therefore calls on the Leader to write to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary to work towards an immediate cessation of hostilities, a release of hostages and to work towards a long-term peaceful two-state solution for all communities.

This council recognises that all Oxford's diverse faith and ethnic communities are continuing to work together to challenge hatred, racism, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia whenever it occurs and thanks them for continuing to promote cohesion and peace.

This council believes that our city is overwhelmingly a compassionate, welcoming diverse place to live, and we want everyone to feel safe and at home here.

**e) Housing Management System problems and resultant accounts issues at Oxford City Council and ODS (proposed by Cllr Christopher Smowton, seconded by Cllr Laurence Fouweather) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Nigel Chapman, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown]**

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of a new Housing Management System revealed serious shortcomings in this council's working practices and decision-making.

Council notes that as a result of these failures the budget for the project has had to be doubled to over £3 million.

Council also notes that this project still has not delivered the benefits promised and that it does not yet provide all the facilities needed by Council departments.

Council notes with concern that, as a result of these failures, Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 when they were due on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. Because of this ODS was fined every month for non-compliance. This non-compliance also harmed ODS's ability to tender for additional business.

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts for submission to Central Government.

Council notes that the more information about failures of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:-

Ask the Leader of the Council, as a matter of priority, to:

- 1) Request the publication of a minimally redacted version of the lessons learned report, in contrast to the brief summary published in June 2023.
  - 2) Ensure that action is taken as soon as possible to ensure the new Housing Management System is properly implemented in the Council and that all the benefits promised when the system was acquired are realised.
  - 3) Confirm that the deadline (October 2023) for reporting the certified Council accounts to Central Government has been met.
  - 4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the Cabinet has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation.
- 

#### Labour Group Amendment

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of ~~the~~ a new Housing Management System revealed serious historic shortcomings in this Council's working practices and decision-making in these areas.

Council notes that whilst the budget for the project has had to be increased to over £3 million, this has enabled the system to be properly implemented as per the consultant's report and provision made for extra functionality and support beyond the original scope of the project.

Council also notes that this project is delivering the vast majority of the benefits promised and that work is underway to ensure ~~it does not yet provide all~~ all the extra functionality facilities needed by the relevant Council departments and ODS is delivered.

Council notes ~~with concern that, as a result of these failures,~~ Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14th August 2023 when they were due on 31st December 2022. ODS expects its accounts for 22/23 to be filed by the end of the calendar year, therefore within the appropriate time frame. ~~Because of this ODS was fined every month for non-compliance.~~

~~This non-compliance also harmed ODS's ability to tender for Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX additional business.~~

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts. ~~for submission to Central Government.~~ These are now expected to be published by March 2024.

Council notes that the more information about issues ~~failures~~ of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can

benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:- Ask the Leader of the Council ~~as a matter of priority, to:~~

- 1) ~~Make available the summary of lessons learned to interested parties~~ Request the publication of a minimally redacted version of the lessons learned report, in contrast to the brief summary published in June 2023.
  - 2) Ensure that ~~the relevant officers continue to monitor the implementation of the~~ action is taken as soon as possible to ensure the new Housing Management System is properly implemented in the ~~so~~ Council and that all the benefits promised when the system was acquired are realised.
  - 3) Confirm that the ~~Council accounts are published as soon as is practicable~~ deadline (October 2023) for reporting the certified Council accounts to Central Government has been met.
  - 4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the ~~Council and its senior officers collectively~~ Cabinet has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation and continue to advise the Cabinet portfolio holder accordingly.
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If amended, the Motion would read:

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of the new Housing Management System revealed serious historic shortcomings in this Council's working practices and decision-making in these areas.

Council notes that whilst the budget for the project has had to be increased to over £3 million, this has enabled the system to be properly implemented as per the consultant's report and provision made for extra functionality and support beyond the original scope of the project.

Council also notes that this project is delivering the vast majority of the benefits promised and that work is underway to ensure all the extra functionality needed by the relevant Council departments and ODS is delivered.

Council notes that Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14th August 2023 when they were due on 31st December 2022. ODS expects its accounts for 22/23 to be filed by the end of the calendar year, therefore within the appropriate time frame.

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts. These are now expected to be published by March 2024.

Council notes that the more information about issues of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:- Ask the Leader of the Council to:

- 1) Make available the summary of lessons learned to interested parties
- 2) Ensure that the relevant officers continue to monitor the implementation of the Housing Management System so that all the benefits promised are realised.

- 3) Confirm that the Council accounts are published as soon as is practicable
- 4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the Council and its senior officers collectively has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation and continue to advise the Cabinet portfolio holder accordingly.

**f) A Ban on Disposable Vapes (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Rosie Rawle)**

Green Group Motion

Disposable vapes are creating an environmental and health crisis. Far from helping smokers to quit, with their attractive packaging and child-friendly flavours, disposable vapes are getting a new generation addicted to nicotine. Frequently littered and hard to recycle, disposable vapes are also causing damage to the natural environment and wasting critical materials.

**This council notes that:**

- There has been a fourfold increase in the number of disposable vapes being discarded over the past year, with 5 million vapes now being thrown away every week<sup>56</sup>
- Vapes contain critical raw materials, such as lithium and copper, which are vital for our transition to a greener society. The disposable vapes thrown away over the past year contain enough lithium to create 5,000 batteries for electric cars<sup>57</sup>
- 1 in 9 young people aged 11 to 18 have experimented with e-cigarettes, with 69% of these people choosing disposable vapes, according to research from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). There has been a 7-fold increase between 2020 and 2022 in the choice of disposables amongst this age group, alongside a 50% year on year increase in the proportion of children experimenting with vaping of all kinds.<sup>58</sup>
- Lithium ion batteries, like those used in vapes, caused 700 fires at waste sites in 2022 due to not being properly disposed of.<sup>59</sup>
- Prominent environmental and health organisations have called for a ban, including The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Marine Conservation Society, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Surfers Against Sewage.<sup>60</sup>
- Councils across the country have called for a UK ban on disposable vapes by 2024, and the Scottish Government has already agreed to carry out a consultation on banning disposable vapes<sup>61</sup>
- Whilst vaping can help smokers to quit, reusable vapes serve this same purpose

**This council resolves:**

- Request that the Leader of the Council will write jointly to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/08/call-for-uk-ban-on-single-use-vapes-as-more-than-5m-discarded-each-week>

<sup>57</sup> Ibid

<sup>58</sup> <https://ash.org.uk/uploads/Use-of-vapes-among-young-people-GB-2023.pdf?v=1690455394>

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.materialfocus.org.uk/press-releases/over-700-fires-in-bin-lorries-and-recycling-centres-are-caused-by-batteries-many-of-which-are-hidden-inside-electricals/>

<sup>60</sup> <https://green-alliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Letter-to-ministers-on-disposable-vapes.pdf>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-66718599>

and Rural Affairs, supporting a ban on disposable vapes by 2024 on environmental and child health grounds, as part of the package of measures to be introduced in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

- That the Leader requests that Officers discuss with Oxford Direct Services the provision of additional facilities for recycling disposable vapes and publicise the existing e-waste recycling services, which accepts vapes
- Request that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities investigate ways the council can encourage retailers selling disposable vapes in Oxford to provide recycling facilities for vapes in their stores

**g) School Streets Initiative (proposed by Cllr Katherine Miles, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr)**

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

1. Council notes that School Streets deliver a range of benefits, including:
  - Reducing car congestion around the school gate at the beginning and end of day, producing a safer and more welcoming environment for pupils, parents and staff.
  - Reduces overall traffic by encouraging parents not to drive and by preventing large numbers of cars trying to access restricted places at the same time.
  - Delivers opportunities for better physical and mental health, cognitive function, academic performance, resilience, independence, social and leisure activities and many other benefits to children as they grow through taking control of their own lives and accessing healthy and sustainable transport choices.
2. Council also notes that a key element of a School Street is the 'White List' of exempt vehicles maintained by the school(s) in partnership with the County Council, so that any journey which does need to be made to school by car is made easier.
3. Council also notes that:
  - Car traffic in Oxford has continued to increase and is now at crisis levels.
  - Many have observed that congestion increases during school term, and in particular during term for schools in urban Oxford whose pupils travel from both within the city and beyond.
  - Reducing congestion is an urgent priority and requirement for all, in particular buses, including school buses.
4. Council therefore requests that the Leader of the City Council write to the Leader of the County Council and Corporate Director for Environment and Place and urges the County Council, with the full and unequivocal support of this Council, to:
  - Develop proposals for a School Street in Cowley Place;
  - Continue to develop proposals for a School Street in Charlbury Road and the three access points via Belbroughton Road, Linton Road and Bardwell Road;
  - Bring forward proposals for any similar locations considered appropriate.

In all cases working with schools and with the explicit intention of implementation as soon as possible.