

Council



Briefing note and supplementary papers

Date: **Monday 15 July 2024**

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
6 Leisure Investment Program	9 - 10
<p>Appendix A: Leisure Investment Program has been amended at point 3.06. The amended appendix has been attached.</p>	
10 Questions on Cabinet minutes	
<p><i>This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.</i></p> <p>Councillors may ask the Cabinet Members questions about matters in these minutes:</p>	
10c Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 10th July 2024	
11 Questions on Notice from Members of Council	21 - 48
<p>33 questions on notice</p> <p>The questioner may ask one supplementary question of the Cabinet Member who submitted the response, of the Leader in their absence.</p>	
12 Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting	49 - 56
<p><i>This item will be taken at or shortly after 7.00pm</i></p> <p>5 public addresses and 1 question 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 time limit.</i></p>	
13 Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions	

13a Outside Organisation Report: Oxford Strategic Partnership

The Head of Corporate Strategy has submitted a report to Council on 15 July 2024 which notes the annual update on the Oxford Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Brown, Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working, will present the report.

Recommendation: That the Committee resolves to:

1. Note the annual update report on the work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership.

13b Outside Organisation Report: Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing / Health Improvement Board

The Head of Corporate Strategy has submitted a report to Council on 15 July 2024 which notes the annual update on the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing / Health Improvement Board.

Councillor Munkonge, Cabinet Member for a Healthy Oxford, will present the report.

Recommendation: That the Committee resolves to:

1. Note the annual update report of the work the City Council does to support the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Board

15 Motions on notice July 2024

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) Oxford United Stadium (Proposed by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino)
- b) Motion of No Confidence in Thames Water and development of

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an Oxford city river action plan (proposed by Cllr Jo Sandelson, seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles) [Amendment by Cllr Simon Ottino, seconded by Cllr Jemima Hunt] [Amendment by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Alex Powell]

- c) Making Oxford a Truly Walkable City (proposed by Cllr Max Morris, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr) [Amendment by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton]
- d) Scrap the Two-Child Benefit Cap (proposed by Cllr Theodore Jupp, seconded by Cllr Chris Smowton) [Amendment by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown] [Amendment by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Max Morris]
- e) Bus travel for asylum seekers in Oxford (proposed by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Dianne Regisford)

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

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Appendix 1

Capital Works Programme

Date: June
2024

Task #	TASK	Projected Cost	Task Owner	Comments and further detail	Date To be Completed
1.0	Hinksey				
1.01	Pool Inflatable at Hinksey, Barton, Ferry and Leys Leisure Centre	£50,000	CK	To provide positive activities for families children and young people across the swimming pools.	31 July 2024
2.0	Barton				
2.01	Gym Refurbishment + new gym kit	£166,000	JT	Brand new flooring, Cardio-vascular suite and upgraded / extended weights offering. Boditrax to be installed, (Boditrax is a body composition tool that measures 20 different key metrics related to your body and how healthy it really is). This will be scheduled as number 3 of 3 of the gym refurb with a target completion of 31st Aug-24	31 August 2024
2.02	Spin BiKes	£24,000	JT	16 spin bikes purchased for virtual and instructor lead classes	31 August 2024
2.03	Studio Conversion	£35,000	JF/SC	Reconfiguration of the internal areas which include the staff room becoming a spin class offering, the office to become the staff room and studio cupboard redesigned as an office with some storage.	31 August 2024
3.0	Ferry				
3.01	Gym Refurbishment + Kit	£285,000	JT	Brand new flooring, CV suite and upgraded / extended weights offering. This will be scheduled as number 1 of 3 refurb with a target completion of 15 Aug-24	15 August 2024
3.02	E-Gym	£100,000	JT	E-Gym x 8 piece with onboarding hub for tracker fitness progress	15 August 2024
3.03	Spin BiKes	£31,000	JT	21 spin bikes purchased for virtual and instructor lead classes	15 August 2024
3.04	Refurbishment of two squash courts	£47,000	JT	We are proposing that we retain the 2 x squash courts that are being used and refurbish them to a high standard.	15 August 2024
3.05	Café furniture and equipment	£30,000	MR	This is complete	30 March 2024

3.06	Improvements to changing rooms, vanity areas and conversion of one disused squash court to a studio	£540,000	JF/SC	The condition of these changing and showering areas has been one that has attracted a high number of complaints and it is proposed that there is a focus to address these areas within the budget proposed. There are three squash courts, with one of these courts disused/used for storage, we are looking at converting the disused court into a studio and refurbishing the remaining two as highlighted above.	31 March 2025
3.07	Robot cleaner	£19,000	CK	Will enable cleaning out of hours, helping to improve the experience of centre users.	01 August 2024
4.0	Leys				
4.01	Gym Refurbishment + Kit + Spin Bikes	£256,500	JT	Brand new flooring, CV suite and upgraded / extended weights offering. This will be scheduled as number 2 of 3 refurbishments with a target completion of 24 Aug-24	24 August 2024
4.02	E-Gym	£48,000	JT	E-Gym x 3 piece with onboarding hub for tracker fitness progress	24 August 2024
4.03	AI powered drowning prevention	£90,000	GM	Install technology that will support lifeguards in their roles to help prevent the risk of drowning.	30 September 2024
4.04	Café furniture	£20,000	MR	Completed.	30 March 2024
4.05	Half Sports hall conversion (Tag Active/Soft Play)	£950,000	JF/SC	Recognising local needs, under utilised space and the drive to attract more families we are looking to convert half the sports hall to tag active (a structure of interconnected areas that test strategy, agility, speed and awareness) and soft play. We will be looking to consult on this in June/July. The delivery of this project will need to align with the existing development works with the Youth Hub.	TBC
4.06	Robot Cleaner	£19,000	CK	Will enable cleaning out of hours, helping to improve the experience of centre users.	01 August 2024
	Total	£2,710,500			
	Contingency	£329,500	JF/SC	It is proposed that any contingency remaining in consultation with the Council is invested back into the facilities.	by March 2025 (tbc)
	Total	£3,040,000			

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on Wednesday 10 July 2024

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Cabinet members present:

Councillor Brown (Chair)	Councillor Turner
Councillor Arshad	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Railton	Councillor Linda Smith
Councillor Upton	

Officers present for all or part of the meeting:

James Baughan, Leisure and Active Wellbeing Manager
Helen Bishop, Head of Business Improvement
Kieran Edmunds, Rapid Rehousing Manager
Vicki Galvin, Senior Programme Manager for Customer Experience
Caroline Green, Chief Executive
Emma Jackman, Head of Law and Governance
Clare Keen, Policy and Partnerships Officer
Nigel Kennedy, Head of Financial Services
Hagan Lewisman, Active Communities Manager
Emma Lund, Committee and Member Services Officer
Nerys Parry, Head of Housing Services
Malcolm Peek, Property Services Manager
William Sparling, Team Leader Planning Policy
Alexander Sutton, Planner (Planning Policy)
Mish Tullar, Head of Corporate Strategy
Richard Wood, Housing Strategy and Needs Manager

Also present:

Councillor Katherine Miles, Chair of Scrutiny

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

16. Addresses and Questions by Members of the Public

None.

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

None.

18. Councillor Addresses on Neighbourhood Issues

None.

19. Items raised by Cabinet Members

None.

20. Scrutiny Reports

The Scrutiny Committee had met on 2 July 2024 and the Housing and Homelessness Panel had met on 3 July 2024.

The Scrutiny Committee had made recommendations relating to the following items:

- Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy 2024-28
- Update of Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces (report to Council)
- Leisure Investment Programme

Scrutiny had also considered but had not made recommendations in relation to: the Citizen Experience Strategy Progress Report; the Annual Review of the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy; Temporary Accommodation Demand and Mitigations; and 2024/25 Capital Programmes (HRA Delegations).

All of the recommendations, together with Cabinet Members' responses, were included in the separately published supplement to the agenda.

Three recommendations had been made in relation to the Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy 2024-28. These had related to including a priority within the strategy to have an age and child friendly city; including specific reference to the work of the Child Poverty Review Group and adoption of the Socio-Economic Duty; and making more specific reference within the strategy to activity which is funded versus activity which is dependent on securing funding, and referencing prioritisation processes.

In responding to the recommendations Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council, commented that whilst the 'Agree?' column in the published supplement stated that all three recommendations had been agreed, it was in fact not possible to summarise the responses in such a binary way due to their nuanced nature. Full consideration of the recommendations and acceptance level was set out in the narrative response.

Two recommendations had been made in relation to the Update of Byelaws for Parks and Open Spaces. These had related to including a speed restriction within the byelaws relating to cycling; and displaying information for the public in parks on how to report anti-social behaviour. Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for A Healthy Oxford, responded that the first recommendation had been accepted in part, and the second recommendation had been fully accepted, as set out in the narrative responses.

Two recommendations had been made in relation to the Leisure Investment Programme. These had related to undertaking a thorough analysis of the Leys Leisure

Centre sports hall usage during all opening times; and publishing high-level information on the Leisure Investment Programme and progress on delivery on the Council's website. Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for A Healthy Oxford, responded that the second recommendation was fully accepted, and the need to monitor the performance of the Council's leisure provider was well recognised. The first recommendation was also accepted.

21. Leisure Investment Programme

The Executive Director (Communities and People) and the Head of Financial Services had submitted a report to seek approval for a programme of improvements at the Council's leisure facilities.

Councillor Chewe Munkonge, Cabinet Member for A Healthy Oxford, reported that the transfer to the new leisure contract with Serco Leisure ('More Leisure') had now been successfully completed. The report before Cabinet sought approval for an additional capital budget of £1.04 million, above the £2 million already agreed in the capital programme, in order to improve facilities across Ferry Leisure Centre, Leys Leisure Centre, Barton Leisure Centre and Hinksey Outdoor Pool. These improvements would ensure that the Council's facilities would remain sustainable and meet customer demand in the long term; would enable the aims of the contract to be met and a return on investment to be achieved; and would help to reduce health inequalities, for example by the provision of concessionary access.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Grant project approval** for the Leisure Investment Programme at Appendix 1;
2. **Recommend to Council** the approval of an additional capital budget of £1.04 million, above the £2million already agreed in the capital programme necessary to deliver the Leisure Investment Programme;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for A Healthy Oxford; the Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management; the Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and the Head of Law and Governance to agree the terms of the legal agreement with Serco Leisure ("More Leisure) to govern payment of the monies for the Leisure Investment Programme; and
4. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for A Healthy Oxford; the Deputy Leader (Statutory) - Finance and Asset Management and the Head of Financial Services/Section 151 Officer to determine any additional opportunities to reinvest the funds if any monies remain following delivery of the Leisure Investment Programme, whilst ensuring no detrimental impact to the Council's return on investment.

22. Redesignation of the Neighbourhood Forums for Wolvercote and Summertown & St. Margaret's

The Executive Director (Development) had submitted a report to consider redesignation of the Neighbourhood Forums for Wolvercote and Summertown & St. Margaret's.

Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning, reported that the Localism Act 2011 had provided for the establishment of Neighbourhood Forums, allowing interested local communities to become directly involved in planning for their areas. Neighbourhood Forums were able to produce Neighbourhood Plans which, if adopted, became part of the statutory development plan, and therefore an important consideration when making decisions on planning applications.

However, legislation set out that designation of a neighbourhood forum ceased to have effect five years after the date of designation. Cabinet was therefore asked to consider approving the redesignation of Wolvercote and Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forums. Neighbourhood forum applications were required to link to a designated area: the proposed areas for both Forums were identical to those as originally designated.

Officers confirmed that consultation feedback for both neighbourhood forum redesignations had been very positive.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the redesignation of Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum in respect of the originally designated neighbourhood area to which it related; and
2. **Approve** the redesignation of Summertown & St. Margaret's Forum in respect of the originally designated neighbourhood area to which it related.

23. Homelessness Temporary Accommodation Demand and Mitigations

The Executive Director (Communities and People) had submitted a report to (i) seek authorisation to establish an Emergency Temporary Accommodation Framework for the procurement of emergency temporary accommodation; and (ii) update Cabinet on increasing levels of homelessness use of temporary accommodation and mitigations in Oxford.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing & Communities, reported that unprecedented numbers of people were now presenting to the Council as homelessness. Within that, there was an unprecedented number of people whom the Council had a statutory duty to house. Of these, many were in temporary accommodation whilst a permanent home for them to move to was sought. The report before Cabinet set out the scale of the situation.

Councillor Smith highlighted that, in addition to the detrimental effects on the individuals affected, the use of temporary accommodation was expensive for the Council. Whilst much work had already been done to seek to reduce the costs wherever possible and keep the numbers of those in temporary accommodation as low as possible (as set out in the report), further initiatives to increase temporary accommodation supply, prevent homelessness and increase the supply of move on accommodation were being pursued. The report also proposed the establishment of an Emergency Temporary Accommodation Framework for the procurement of emergency temporary accommodation.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the establishment of a framework under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for the Procurement of Emergency Temporary Accommodation;

2. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) to agree the final structure of the Emergency Temporary Accommodation Framework and appoint successful suppliers to all lots on the Framework;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People) to procure and award individual contracts through the Emergency Temporary Accommodation Framework in excess of £1 million;
4. **Note the implementation of** a new Private Sector Leasing Scheme to increase Temporary Accommodation supply and note that leases will be negotiated with Housing Associations where appropriate to release additional units;
5. **Note** the development of further mitigations, including the de-designation of certain housing stock for use as Temporary Accommodation; longer-term capital investment to increase supply of Temporary Accommodation; and work with Ox Place to increase the supply of move on accommodation.

24. Annual Review of the Housing, Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28

The Executive Director (Communities and People) had submitted a report to provide an update on the progress made in Year 1 of the Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-28 and to seek approval for the implementation of the Year 2 action plan.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, presented the report and outlined the progress which had been made against the five strategy priorities over the year. Officers commented that one of the more significant updates to the Year 2 action plan had been to try to capture the risks and challenges of rising homelessness levels and transformation of rough sleeping services, and the cost inflation associated with the growing demand. Other challenges included competing demands for investment in housing stock, and growing expectations from tenants and central government.

A Cabinet Member highlighted the achievements of the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, and agreements with the three District Councils on the allocation of social housing for Oxford's Unmet Need, in delivering affordable homes. It was suggested that the action plan should seek to continue to publicise this as a priority.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the progress made in Year 1 to implement the Housing, Homelessness, and Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan and the emerging risks and challenges for delivery over next year and beyond;
2. **Approve** the adoption of the new strategy Action Plan for 24-25; and
3. **Delegate authority** to the Executive Director (Communities and People), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to update the Action Plan when required.

25. 2024/25 HRA Capital Programmes and Delegations

The Executive Director (Communities and People) had submitted a report to seek (i) approval for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Programmes for 2024/25; (ii) authority to commence procurement procedures to deliver the programmes; and (iii) delegated authority for officers to enter into the necessary contracts.

Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, highlighted that the report sought authority for the spending of £12.5 million already in the HRA budget for three programmes of work to improve provision for residents. These were internal works, external works and communal works. Whilst the report before Cabinet was an interim programme relating to works for the current year, a five year programme of works informed by a stock condition survey was also being developed, in order to give greater clarity over the longer term. This would enable the details of the programme to be shared with residents and ward councillors.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Council's HRA capital programmes for 2024/25 as set out in the report with the total value of £12,500,000 (twelve million and five hundred thousand pounds);
2. **Approve** the commencement of the appropriate procurement processes to undertake the works and provide the services necessary to deliver the capital programmes approved under recommendation 1; and
3. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Head of Financial Services; the Head of Law and Governance; and the Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities, to enter into all contracts required in order to deliver the HRA Capital Programmes subject to the proper procurement process being followed, with all spend falling within the budget of £12.5m.

26. Citizen Experience Strategy Progress Report

The Executive Director (Corporate Resources) had submitted a report to provide a comprehensive update on the delivery of the first year of the Citizen Experience (CEX) Strategy.

Councillor Nigel Chapman, Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies, reported that much positive progress had been made and commented that the feedback received from independent examiners on the customer experience continued to be very good. One of the particularly notable achievements over the past year had been the launch of a new website, making it easier and quicker for citizens to find the service and support they need. Other areas of key progress across the strategy workstrands were set out fully in the report.

Councillor Chapman highlighted that areas of focus for the next year were expected to include increasing the opportunity for payments to be made online and services such as garden waste collection to be arranged online. It was hoped that this would also enable the delivery of efficiency savings.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the positive progress which has been made; and
2. **Agree** the revised action plan (Appendix 2).

27. DLUHC Productivity Return

The Executive Director (Corporate Resources) had submitted a report to seek approval for an Oxford City Council Productivity Plan for return to the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and for publishing on the Council's website. The requirement for all councils to produce a productivity plan had been announced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, and the Minister for Local Government had written to local authority chief executives on 16 April 2024 requiring submission by 19 July 2024.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** the Oxford City Council Productivity Plan (at Appendix 2) for return to DLUHC; and
2. **Approve** this Oxford City Council Productivity Plan (at Appendix 2) for publication on the Council's website for public consumption.

28. Oxford City Council Corporate Strategy 2024-2028

The Head of Corporate Strategy had submitted a report which provided the feedback from the public and stakeholder consultation on the Council Strategy 2024 to 2028 and which sought approval for the Strategy.

Councillor Susan Brown, Leader, highlighted that the Strategy had previously been brought to Cabinet in draft, and had been subject to an extensive and thorough consultation process. It had also been considered by the Scrutiny Committee and the Parish Councils' Forum.

Councillor Brown summarised that many of the overarching priorities remained similar to previous years, for example: having good affordable homes; a strong and fair economy; thriving communities; zero carbon oxford; and a well-run council. It was noted that the Strategy would be accompanied by an annual business plan; a separate report was also due to be brought to a future Cabinet meeting on Corporate Key Performance Indicators.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft Council Strategy 2024 to 2028;
2. **Agree** the revisions made to the draft Council Strategy 2024 to 2028 in response to the consultation;
3. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Corporate Strategy in consultation with the Council Leader to make further minor amendments before adoption by Council; and
4. **Recommend to Council** to:
 - A. **Adopt** the Council Strategy 2024 to 2028 as attached as Appendix 1 to the report; and
 - B. **Delegate authority** to the Head of Corporate Strategy in consultation with the Council Leader to make any further amendments to the Council Strategy 2024

to 2028 before implementation and publication, provided that such amendments do not materially affect the substance of the Council Strategy 2024 to 2028.

29. Financial Outturn Report 2023/24

The Head of Financial Services had submitted a report to update Members on the financial outturn for the year ending 31 March 2024.

Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) – Finance and Asset Management, highlighted that the General Fund Outturn showed a favourable variance of £3.903 million which was recommended for transfer into the risk reserve. However, the general fund variations had included a dividend payment from ODS of £4 million in respect of prior years and this had served to mask underlying pressures in the budget. One such pressure was the demand for temporary accommodation as highlighted in a previous agenda item. There were also service pressures around the contact centre and an adverse variance arising from local cost of benefits.

Councillor Turner also drew attention to slippage within the capital programme, which included unavoidable slippage. Provision had been made for an optimism bias going forward to correct optimism bias on programmed spend.

The HRA also showed a slight favourable variance. However, within this there were also some pressures, most notably relating to repairs.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Note** the financial outturn and performance of the Council for the year 2023/24 and the recommended transfer of £3.903 million to the risk reserve; and
2. **Agree** the carry forward requests in respect of the General Fund of £0.064 million in accordance with paragraph 2.

30. Appointments to Outside Bodies 2024/25

The Head of Law and Governance had submitted a report to agree appointments to Outside Bodies for the 2024/25 Council Year.

Cabinet resolved to:

1. **Approve** appointments to charities, trusts, community associations and other organisations as shown in Appendices 1A – 1D; and note the appointments to partnerships as detailed in Appendix 1E;
2. **Note** the guidance for appointees as detailed in Appendix 2; and
3. **Delegate authority to** the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, and where appropriate with other group leaders, to make any changes to appointments to Outside Bodies as may be required during the course of the Council year 2024/25.

31. Minutes

Cabinet resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2024 as a true and accurate record.

32. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings are scheduled for the following dates:

14 August 2024
11 September 2024
16 October 2024
13 November 2024
11 December 2024
22 January 2025

All meetings start at 6.00pm.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.27 pm

Chair

Date: Wednesday 14 August 2024

When decisions take effect:

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

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

All other committees: immediately.

Details are in the Council's Constitution.

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To: Council
Date: 15 July 2024
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 Partnership Working; Leader of the Council

SB1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Brown – Vision Zero Commitment

Question

Does this council formally commit to partnership working on Vision Zero in Oxford to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on our roads, in line with the county council's ambition to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Oxfordshire's roads to zero by 2050?

Written Response

The Council has been engaged on partnership working in support of Vision Zero for some time. Last year [Cabinet approved the CLOCS \(Construction, Logistics and Community Safety\) Standard](#) for construction vehicles. This

	<p>requires developers of large construction sites to plan the movement of their HGVs to keep them away from busy or high-risk areas, such as school gates during drop-off times, as well as setting minimum safety standards for their fleet. This is currently waiting for further input from the County Council.</p>
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SB2: From Cllr Sandelson to Cllr Brown – Peace Initiative	
<p>Question</p> <p>Can we invite both Hamze Awarde and Magen Inon from ‘Together for Humanity’ and Talking Peace to speak to Council about their thoughts on how to effect a lasting peace in Israel and Gaza?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>I support anyone who is working for peace which is why we hosted a “Together for Humanity” event at the Town Hall in January this year which saw hundreds of people from all faiths and none come together to build unity and call for peace. We continue to engage with our Faith, Community and Civic leaders, most recently through the interfaith walk last month. I don’t see how asking Mr Awarde and Mr Inon to speak to Oxford City Council about their views on this will influence those who can effect the resolution of the conflict in Israel and Gaza.</p>

SB3: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Brown – Action plan for reduction in Child Poverty	
<p>Question</p> <p>The paper on voluntary adaption of the socio-economic duty was agreed at cabinet in March 2024 after the Scrutiny Committee carried out a review of child poverty and this council agreed a motion to take steps to try and reduce the number of children living in poverty in our city. What is the timeline for the publication of the detailed implementation and action plan?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Cabinet committed to full implementation of the socio-economic duty (SED) within the 2024/25 Council year, and this is on track.</p> <p>While officers are still finalising the comprehensive Action Plan, individual actions, initiatives, and programmes are already delivering a commitment towards the SED. This is because the Council’s strategic approach to policy already had significant regard to promoting inclusion</p>

	and tackling economic inequalities; and because the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process is already in place.
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SB4: From Cllr Kerr to Cllr Brown – Motion on Four Day Work Week	
<p>Question In March 2023, this council passed a motion on the Four Day Week. That motion:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Requested that the Leader and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships continues to discuss with the LEP (of which she is a director) and with South Cambridgeshire District Council (whose leader she meets with regularly) any relevant learnings from their involvement in running the four-day week trial. 7. Requested that the Leader as part of her work on the Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) finds out if there are any other employers in Oxford considering trialling a four-day week for their own employees, particularly any with a large directly employed customer service workforce. <p>Can the portfolio holder update us as to how the conversation has moved forwards with South Cambridgeshire council who have implemented this full-time, how the trial is working for OxLEP, and any other relevant updates from conversations that have been had?</p>	<p>Written Response As Council will be aware, the previous Conservative government made it clear that it would take steps to prevent other councils adopting a 4 day week. As I said in response to a previous question on this matter, I believe this should be a matter for councils to decide dependent on their individual circumstances. As was reported in the press earlier this month, the pilot in South Cambs has had positive results in terms of productivity, and retention and recruitment of staff. OxLEP has extended its pilot scheme until September 2024 to gain a further understanding as to how effective the working arrangement is for staff and its stakeholders.</p> <p>I am not aware of any other major employers currently exploring this in Oxfordshire.</p>

ET1: From Cllr Malik to Cllr Turner – Incentives to Westgate businesses

Question

Has John Lewis and other businesses been given business rates free or reduced to encourage them to stay at the Westgate shopping centre?

Written Response

No reductions in business rates have been given to John Lewis or other businesses at the Westgate, and so far as I am aware none have been applied for. There are policies in place to govern both nationally-mandated and local business rate reductions and any applications would be determined in line with those. Decisions on business rates are not made by this authority but by the Valuations Office Agency.

ET2: From Cllr Jarvis to Cllr Turner – Lobbying efforts to end austerity policies impacting local governments

Question

Can the portfolio holder outline whether plans are in place to lobby the new government - particularly the Secretary of State for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities - to deliver long term financial sustainability for local authorities - including Oxford City Council - and to bring an end to the more than a decade of austerity local government has faced since 2010?

Written Response

Yes, plans are in place to lobby the incoming Government on a range of matters of critical importance to Oxford and other councils. These include the need for a more sustainable basis for funding the delivery of new affordable housing into the future, more support to meet the rising costs of temporary accommodation provision, the need for better alignment of the national planning policy framework and building standards with net zero delivery, support for council housing, and the significant economic growth that targeted infrastructure investment in Oxford can help unlock.

I would encourage Cllr Jarvis to bear in mind the enormous scale of the challenges that the new government faces, as a result of the legacy of the contemptuous treatment of local

	government by successive Conservative-led administrations, and very poor economic decision-making.
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AR1: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton – Pollution levels inside the ZEZ expansion zone

Question

As a prelude to considering ZEZ expansion, will council now share best practice to include a thorough analysis of current pollution levels inside the (trail) ZEZ expansion zone.

Written Response

Oxford City Council is a local authority with probably the most extensive air quality monitoring network within its jurisdiction. We currently monitor air quality levels at almost 130 locations across the city.

The locations where currently NO2 levels are being monitored can also be found in our new AQ website OXONAIR: <https://www.oxonair.uk/>, and they cover all the areas where ZEZ is expected to expand

Oxford City Council has the statutory duty (given by Env Protection Act 1995) of reporting on an annual basis on the status of air pollution in the city every year in June. Air Quality levels (including the ones at the sites covered by the ZEZ expansion) will continue to be reported on an annual basis, as part of this statutory duty and the air pollution levels will also continue to be uploaded onto the new OXONair website.

Oxford City Council will also continue to provide support to Oxfordshire County Council on the assessment of the specific air quality impacts of any current and future transport schemes delivered.

AR2: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton – City Council’s NO2 targets

Question

Does the city council still subscribe to the "local annual mean NO2 target of 30 µg/m3 by 2025 (30 by 25) - or has it now shifted to an ambitious target?

Written Response

As far as we are aware, Oxford City Council is the only UK local authority in the country to set its own local annual mean Target of NO2 -30ug/m3 - one that is much more stringent than the current

	<p>UK annual mean legal target of 40ug/m3.</p> <p>In its Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2021-2025 the Council has committed to achieve this target across the city by December 2025, and is on track to do so.</p> <p>A new AQAP will need to be prepared in 2025 with a fresh set of air quality measures which will need to be agreed between the Council and its partners, to continue to reduce air pollution levels in the city for the new period 2026-2030.</p> <p>Any future decision on a potential new local annual mean NO2 target for the city will form part of this process.</p>
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<p>AR3: From Cllr Henwood to Cllr Railton – Income and expenditure from the ZEZ expansion</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>How much annual income, and expenditure, (separately) does the city council anticipate generating / spending from the zez expansion each year, until 2030, as part of its planned agreement with Oxfordshire County Council?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The planned Income sharing agreement that Cabinet approved in April 2024 is only applicable to the ZEZ PILOT and is only valid until the moment the ZEZ expansion is launched. Please refer to cabinet report for further clarifications on this matter :</p> <p>Link to report (Item 153)</p>

<p>AR4: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Railton – Measures to reduce air pollution in the City Centre</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>When the Botley Road reopens and the bus gates are installed, Botley Road will be the route most used for visitors driving to the Westgate Centre Car Park. After almost 2 years of cleaner air, the pollution around Botley Road at weekends is likely to be worse than ever. Would the council consider deploying some capacity to research the feasibility of introducing a compulsory pre booking system for city Centre car parks (with exemptions for Blue badge holders)?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>City Centre car park ownership includes the City Council (Gloucester Green), OxWED, Nuffield College, Network Rail, Westgate and the County Council (on street). A system is unlikely to be successful unless all parties agree to implement, it would require significant resource to undertake an initial assessment and likely significant ongoing resource to enforce. City Centre car parks managed and operated by the City Council will reduce in the coming years</p>

	<p>with the removal of Worcester Street and Oxpens as they come forward for development. Given the council's financial situation we would not be able to justify spending revenue funding to explore this on behalf of other car park owners. We would consider that the most appropriate body to explore this would be the County Council as part of considering supporting measures for their scheme.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Citizen Focused Services and Council Companies

NC1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Chapman - Cornmarket waste rubbish	
<p>Question</p> <p>What timings does the council stipulate businesses on Cornmarket are allowed to put out their rubbish for waste collection and what are the requirements as to where they place this to ensure the pavement is not blocked for pedestrians in the evenings? What actions has the council taken to enforce the correct timings and location of waste to be removed from businesses on cornmarket in the late evenings/ early mornings?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Businesses and organisations are able to place their waste for collection after 18:00 hours. This can be collected up to 10:00 hours in Cornmarket Street.</p> <p>There is no specific requirement as to where they exactly place their waste, but it is broadly in agreement with their waste collection provider. It is in practice normally placed in front of their business.</p> <p>Waste receptacles are not used on Cornmarket Street as waste bags once collected mean the street is clear, allowing free access for pedestrians and there are no bins left to cause problems or a security issue.</p> <p>Council officers visit businesses, advise on how to present waste in the correct bags or as recyclable side waste and issue legal notices for non-compliance.</p>

NC2: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Chapman - Waste management enforcement of city centre food retail businesses	
<p>Question</p> <p>What actions has the city council taken to work with city centre food retail shops, cafes and restaurants to reduce the amount of daily food packaging waste being placed in piles of bin bags on the city's pavements impacting the public amenity in the evenings, as well as impacting the environment?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>As in response NC1, Council officers will visit premises if issues come to light about their waste management. We start by giving verbal advice and warnings, and then if they are ignored issue legal notices to how the waste is stored and presented.</p> <p>The Council served 51 Section 47 notices on businesses who do not present their waste in an appropriate way in Oxford between January 1st 2023 to</p>

	<p>date.</p> <p>With regard to the type of waste presented, the Council's Street Trading Policy has a licence condition for street traders which does not allow single use plastic packaging. The Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc and Polystyrene Containers etc) (England) Regulations 2023 are enforced by Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards. Should concerns about the use of single use plastic packaging by street traders arise, licensing officers will, in the first instance, refer complaints to the County's Trading Standards team.</p>
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AH1 - From Cllr Powell to Cllr Hollingworth – Damage to Southpark following the 2023 firework display

Question

Following the damage caused to Southpark by the 2023 firework display, Council Leader Susan Brown said that there were 'lessons to be learned'. Can the portfolio holder please advise on what lessons have been learned and how a repeat of the damage which we saw last November will be avoided?

Written Response

Lessons have been learnt following the unfortunate situation that arose from the 2023 display. A core lesson relates to the event application process, which we have amended to include the compulsory submission of an inclement weather/cancellation plan for all event bookings.

CM1: From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Munkonge - Serco Leisure and group bookings (1)

Question

Are you satisfied with our new leisure contractor more than doubling the cost for groups to book out Barton Leisure Centre's pool?

Written Response

General fees and charges within the leisure contract must be approved by Council in line with the leisure contract.

There are 3 groups who were on historic agreements with the former operator for bookings of the whole pool, for charges outside of the general fees and charges framework and these were overdue for review.

The three groups have been consulted with to discuss their options and agree next steps. It is important that the leisure centres strike the right balance between concessions, fairness across all users and the future sustainability of the centre.

CM2: From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Munkonge - Serco Leisure and group bookings (2)

Question

Is there anything in our agreement with the new contractor restricting the maximum price for such group bookings, or the maximum price increase for existing bookings?

Written Response

General fees and charges within the leisure contract must be approved by Council in line with the leisure contract. There are a few charges linked to whole facility hire that fall outside of this.

We do, however, expect the operator to be reasonable and to discuss significant changes with us and to consult with users who might be impacted. Which to date has been happening.

CM3: From Cllr Smowton to Cllr Munkonge - Serco Leisure and group bookings (3)

Question

Can you assure groups with existing

Written Response

We have regular communication with the

<p>regular pool sessions that you will intervene with the contractor to ensure they are able to continue at a reasonable cost?</p>	<p>operator and would expect them to discuss any significant changes with us in the first instance.</p> <p>If there are any particular sports clubs or community groups who are concerned about any proposed changes with fees and charges, we would urge them to talk to More Leisure in the first instance and the Council's Leisure services would similarly be happy to support groups with those conversations.</p>
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<p>CM4: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Munkonge - School swimming class size limits</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>Can you ensure that Serco understand that class sizes for school swimming in Oxford pools need to be matched to the actual class size rather than their arbitrary limit of 28? If the actual class size is higher (as most are) then the school will be unable to offer swimming as a class activity.</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>More Leisure are following national guidance from Swim England, on teacher to pupil ratios. However, we strongly believe that all pupils in the City should be able to leave primary school being able to swim 25 metres and agree that swimming lessons must be delivered to class actual sizes. This in practice means increasing the number of qualified teachers from 2 to 3. Unfortunately there is a national shortage of qualified swimming teachers across the country.</p> <p>There is also a requirement within Oxfordshire County Council's policy that states at least 2 trained staff members should be present during school swimming lessons, however this isn't always the case unfortunately in the City.</p> <p>However, to try and address this, and cut through some of the barriers particularly with busy schools, we have been working with More Leisure on a programme to actively seek to train additional swim teachers, More Leisure are also happy to offer some free training to school staff members and we are in the process of engaging schools around this.</p> <p>In the interim More Leisure have been trying to cover the necessary ratios where possible and where it has not been possible that in the interim they</p>

	have been splitting school swimming classes into two 30 mins slots within an hour booking to enable all pupils to participate.
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CM5: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Munkonge – Reductions in free swimming sessions

Question	Written Response
<p>A laudable aim stated within the thriving communities strategies has been to “reduce the number of children leaving primary school who cannot swim 25 meters from four to two in ten over the lifetime of this strategy”. Since the Serco takeover the children free swimming availability has been dramatically reduced. How will the aim be achieved when in the leys for example the free sessions weekday are now in the evening 6.30-7.30pm and ONLY in the small pool?</p>	<p>Swimming is a key life skill and the council is working closely with More Leisure to support children and young people to swim competently. While the free under 17s swim offer has changed with the new operator, we have 25 sessions each week (totalling 34 hours a week) across our facilities. This offer includes weekend sessions at the Leys that happen in both pools.</p> <p>We have the free swimming programme item as a regular item for discussion with More Leisure and we will review the usage at these sessions and also the community feedback to explore changes where necessary.</p> <p>It is also noteworthy that it’s unusual for councils to offer free swimming and we’re proud to have maintained an accessible offer for the City.</p>

CM6: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Munkonge – Repair to Tumbling Bay Bathing space (1)

Question	Written Response
<p>The friends of Tumbling Bay addressed this council and were warmly received and encouraged to explore options to repair Tumbling Bay Bathing space with officers.</p> <p>Their preferred option is for the concrete wall to be replaced with steel piling, in keeping with other parts of the pool.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder explain the following:</p>	<p>The gabion basket design was determined as the most appropriate solution from the surveys that were carried out two years ago by the design team. After the continuous wet weather, officers have asked consultants to carry out a further structural survey. The inspection has found that degradation is worse than expected, partly due to the prolonged high river levels that have been experienced in recent months.</p>

<p>Why the council still intends to go ahead using gabion baskets to repair the wall?</p>	<p>Given this decline in condition, officers have requested a re-evaluation of options, including an option to incorporate Tumbling Bay Preservation Society's desired option of sheet piling.</p>
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CM7: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Munkonge – Repair to Tumbling Bay Bathing space (2)

Question	Written Response
<p>The friends of Tumbling Bay addressed this council and were warmly received and encouraged to explore options to repair Tumbling Bay Bathing space with officers.</p> <p>Their preferred option is for the concrete wall to be replaced with steel piling, in keeping with other parts of the pool.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder explain the following:</p> <p>Why the council will not make a commitment to use Steel piling, so that the Friends of Tumbling Bay can confidently fundraise for the difference in costs?</p>	<p>As above, sheet piling is being considered as part of an updated options assessment.</p> <p>Considering this, officers will hold a drop-in session for the Tumbling Bay Preservation Society to discuss sheet piling and other potential areas where community fundraising may be welcome.</p>

CM8: From Cllr Muddiman to Cllr Munkonge – Repair to Tumbling Bay Bathing space (3)

Question	Written Response
<p>The friends of Tumbling Bay addressed this council and were warmly received and encouraged to explore options to repair Tumbling Bay Bathing space with officers.</p> <p>Their preferred option is for the concrete wall to be replaced with steel piling, in keeping with other parts of the pool.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder explain the following:</p>	<p>The two sites in question have different needs for repair and reinstatement. These have been evaluated on an individual basis by a team of specialist engineers, who have provided the recommended solutions to the individual issues. Gabions were the most appropriate solution with the information previously available, and sheet piling will now also be considered as an option for Tumbling Bay.</p>

<p>Why the council is planning to repair Longbridges with steel piling, yet still plans to repair Tumbling Bay with Gabion baskets?</p>	
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Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities

LS1: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Smith - Community Centre Cost

Question

What is the annual recurrent cost to the Council of the Rose Hill Community Centre? Including staff costs at the Centre and within the Council?

Written Response

Rose Hill Community Centre is a large complex facility that is operated by paid Council staff.

The net spend/cost for 23/24 was £149k, this reduces next financial year to a target of £99k and a vision ultimately of breaking even.

LS2: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Smith – Housing quality issues in Green Square run properties on Kingfisher Green

Question

We as the city council work in partnership with our housing associations. Many residents in my ward are unhappy with the conditions in their homes at times including health and safety issues such as mould and broken lifts which affect disabled residents. Can the housing member raise the issue of poor cleaning in Green square run properties on Kingfisher Green - this has been an ongoing issue despite multiple enquiries to the customer care team. If the issue has been raised with no resolution would the council take steps to sanction the housing issue for falling foul of the partnership agreement or in the absence of that action as a rogue landlord?

Written Response

All Registered Providers of social housing, including Peabody, GreenSquare and OCC, are expected to comply with the new consumer standards set out in the Social Housing Regulation Act which came into force on 1/4/24, and monitored by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Consumer standards make clear Registered Providers are expected to work closely with their tenants and to take prompt action to deal with disrepair issues, including issues around damp and mould and in communal areas – particularly where this is impacting on disabled and other vulnerable tenants.

Where a social housing tenant is dissatisfied with the response of their landlord regarding a disrepair issue they can submit a complaint following that landlord's complaints procedure. If they remain dissatisfied with the response, they can raise it with the Housing Ombudsman. The Housing Ombudsman may take action against the landlord if the complaint is upheld, including requests to take appropriate action to

	<p>resolve, reviewing existing processes and asking the landlord to award compensation to the tenant. The Regulator of Social Housing is also notified of decisions by the Housing Ombudsman regarding any complaints which are upheld.</p> <p>Regarding serious disrepair causing significant hazards under the Housing Act 2004 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, the Council's Residential Regulation Team can also investigate reports from Registered Provider tenants regarding disrepair in individual properties and be contacted on rrt@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252211. There are a couple of existing cases open which are being looked into. Where significant hazards exist, the Council can request repair works and may be able to use enforcement powers where landlord does not complete repairs. However, reports of poor cleanliness in common parts, uncut gardens or boarded up doors would not fall under the Housing Act 2004 powers.</p>
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<p>LS3: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Smith – Housing quality issues in Peabody run flats in Acacia Avenue</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>We as the city council work in partnership with our housing associations. Many residents in my ward are unhappy with the conditions in their homes at times including health and safety issues such as mould and broken lifts which affect disabled residents. Can the housing member raise the issue of damp and mould in Peabody run flats in Acacia Avenue - this has been an ongoing issue despite multiple enquiries to the customer care team. If the issue has been raised with no resolution would the council take steps to sanction the housing issue for falling foul of the partnership agreement or in the absence</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>All Registered Providers of social housing, including Peabody, GreenSquare and OCC, are expected to comply with the new consumer standards set out in the Social Housing Regulation Act which came into force on 1/4/24, and monitored by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Consumer standards make clear Registered Providers are expected to work closely with their tenants and to take prompt action to deal with disrepair issues, including issues around damp and mould and in communal areas – particularly where this is impacting on disabled and other vulnerable tenants.</p>

<p>of that action as a rogue landlord?</p>	<p>Where a social housing tenant is dissatisfied with the response of their landlord regarding a disrepair issue they can submit a complaint following that landlord's complaints procedure. If they remain dissatisfied with the response, they can raise it with the Housing Ombudsman. The Housing Ombudsman may take action against the landlord if the complaint is upheld, including requests to take appropriate action to resolve, reviewing existing processes and asking the landlord to award compensation to the tenant. The Regulator of Social Housing is also notified of decisions by the Housing Ombudsman regarding any complaints which are upheld.</p> <p>Regarding serious disrepair causing significant hazards under the Housing Act 2004 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, the Council's Residential Regulation Team can also investigate reports from Registered Provider tenants regarding disrepair in individual properties and be contacted on rrt@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252211. There are a couple of existing cases open which are being looked into. Where significant hazards exist, the Council can request repair works and may be able to use enforcement powers where landlord does not complete repairs. However, reports of poor cleanliness in common parts, uncut gardens or boarded up doors would not fall under the Housing Act 2004 powers.</p>
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<p>LS4: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Smith – Housing quality issues in Green Square run flats in Jane Seaman Court</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>We as the city council work in partnership with our housing associations. Many residents in my ward are unhappy with the conditions in their homes at times including health and</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>All Registered Providers of social housing, including Peabody, GreenSquare and OCC, are expected to comply with the new consumer standards set out in the Social Housing Regulation</p>

safety issues such as mould and broken lifts which affect disabled residents. Can the housing member raise the issue of uncut grass and boarded up front door of flats in Green Square run Jane Seaman court - this has been an ongoing issue despite residents paying a maintenance charge. If the issue has been raised with no resolution would the council take steps to sanction the housing issue for falling foul of the partnership agreement or in the absence of that action as a rogue landlord?

Act which came into force on 1/4/24, and monitored by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Consumer standards make clear Registered Providers are expected to work closely with their tenants and to take prompt action to deal with disrepair issues, including issues around damp and mould and in communal areas – particularly where this is impacting on disabled and other vulnerable tenants.

Where a social housing tenant is dissatisfied with the response of their landlord regarding a disrepair issue they can submit a complaint following that landlord's complaints procedure. If they remain dissatisfied with the response, they can raise it with the Housing Ombudsman. The Housing Ombudsman may take action against the landlord if the complaint is upheld, including requests to take appropriate action to resolve, reviewing existing processes and asking the landlord to award compensation to the tenant. The Regulator of Social Housing is also notified of decisions by the Housing Ombudsman regarding any complaints which are upheld.

Regarding serious disrepair causing significant hazards under the Housing Act 2004 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, the Council's Residential Regulation Team can also investigate reports from Registered Provider tenants regarding disrepair in individual properties and be contacted on rrt@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252211. There are a couple of existing cases open which are being looked into. Where significant hazards exist, the Council can request repair works and may be able to use enforcement powers where landlord does not complete repairs. However, reports of poor cleanliness in common parts, uncut gardens or boarded up doors would not fall under the Housing Act 2004 powers.

LS5: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Smith – Housing quality issues in Peabody run property in Facon Close

Question

We as the city council work in partnership with our housing associations. Many residents in my ward are unhappy with the conditions in their homes at times including health and safety issues such as mould and broken lifts which affect disabled residents. Can the housing member raise the issue of mould in a Peabody run property in Facon Close - this has been an ongoing issue despite multiple enquiries to the customer care team. If the issue has been raised with no resolution would the council take steps to sanction the housing issue for falling foul of the of the partnership agreement or in the absence of that action as a rogue landlord?

Written Response

All Registered Providers of social housing, including Peabody, GreenSquare and OCC, are expected to comply with the new consumer standards set out in the Social Housing Regulation Act which came into force on 1/4/24, and monitored by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Consumer standards make clear Registered Providers are expected to work closely with their tenants and to take prompt action to deal with disrepair issues, including issues around damp and mould and in communal areas – particularly where this is impacting on disabled and other vulnerable tenants.

Where a social housing tenant is dissatisfied with the response of their landlord regarding a disrepair issue they can submit a complaint following that landlord's complaints procedure. If they remain dissatisfied with the response, they can raise it with the Housing Ombudsman. The Housing Ombudsman may take action against the landlord if the complaint is upheld, including requests to take appropriate action to resolve, reviewing existing processes and asking the landlord to award compensation to the tenant. The Regulator of Social Housing is also notified of decisions by the Housing Ombudsman regarding any complaints which are upheld.

Regarding serious disrepair causing significant hazards under the Housing Act 2004 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, the Council's Residential Regulation Team can also investigate reports from Registered Provider tenants regarding disrepair in individual properties and be contacted on

	<p>rrt@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252211.</p> <p>There are a couple of existing cases open which are being looked into. Where significant hazards exist, the Council can request repair works and may be able to use enforcement powers where landlord does not complete repairs. However, reports of poor cleanliness in common parts, uncut gardens or boarded up doors would not fall under the Housing Act 2004 powers.</p>
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LS6: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Smith – Housing quality issues in Peabody run property on Celandine Place

Question	Written Response
<p>We as the city council work in partnership with our housing associations. Many residents in my ward are unhappy with the conditions in their homes at times including health and safety issues such as mould and broken lifts which affect disabled residents. Can the housing member raise the issue of unfinished loft and roof tiles in a Peabody run property on Celandine place – this has been an ongoing issue despite multiple enquiries to the customer care team. If the issue has been raised with no resolution would the council take steps to sanction the housing issue for falling foul of the of the partnership agreement or in the absence of that action as a rogue landlord?</p>	<p>All Registered Providers of social housing, including Peabody, GreenSquare and OCC, are expected to comply with the new consumer standards set out in the Social Housing Regulation Act which came into force on 1/4/24, and monitored by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Consumer standards make clear Registered Providers are expected to work closely with their tenants and to take prompt action to deal with disrepair issues, including issues around damp and mould and in communal areas – particularly where this is impacting on disabled and other vulnerable tenants.</p> <p>Where a social housing tenant is dissatisfied with the response of their landlord regarding a disrepair issue they can submit a complaint following that landlord’s complaints procedure. If they remain dissatisfied with the response, they can raise it with the Housing Ombudsman. The Housing Ombudsman may take action against the landlord if the complaint is upheld, including requests to take appropriate action to resolve, reviewing existing processes and asking the landlord to award compensation to the tenant. The Regulator of Social Housing is also</p>

	<p>notified of decisions by the Housing Ombudsman regarding any complaints which are upheld.</p> <p>Regarding serious disrepair causing significant hazards under the Housing Act 2004 Housing, Health and Safety Rating System, the Council's Residential Regulation Team can also investigate reports from Registered Provider tenants regarding disrepair in individual properties and be contacted on rrt@oxford.gov.uk or call 01865 252211. There are a couple of existing cases open which are being looked into. Where significant hazards exist, the Council can request repair works and may be able to use enforcement powers where landlord does not complete repairs. However, reports of poor cleanliness in common parts, uncut gardens or boarded up doors would not fall under the Housing Act 2004 powers.</p>
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<p>LS7: From Cllr Fouweather to Cllr Smith – Delay in processing housing applications</p>	
<p>Question</p> <p>Applicants to join the housing register are being told that there is a 4-6 month delay before any application will be considered. Can the Cabinet Member tell the Council what steps are being taken to address and reduce the backlog?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>There is currently a backlog in assessments to join the housing register. Temporary additional staffing has been put in place in the team to increase assessment capacity in order to clear the backlog. We also implemented a new online general register form in the Spring and made other changes to the assessment process to make the assessment process more efficient. Currently the team are prioritising those applications in greatest housing need and have cleared the backlog for band 1 and 2 applications, and are making good progress on band 3. Officers will monitor the impact of these changes over the coming months, ensuring assessment times come down to an acceptable level, and will make further changes if required.</p>

LU1: From Cllr Miles to Cllr Upton - Enforcement action: Single use plastic for street trading

Question	Written Response
<p>What enforcement action has been taken against street traders for using non recycled packaging and plastic packaging since the introduction of the updated street trading policy?</p>	<p>Advice is given as part of licensing visits but, to date, no enforcement action has been taken.</p> <p>Ahead of The Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc and Polystyrene Containers etc) (England) Regulations 2023 coming into force, licensing offices agreed that street traders could use up existing stocks. Increasingly, these stocks are running out and wholesale food business suppliers no longer sell non-compliant packaging.</p> <p>Note that whilst not using single-use plastics is an Oxford City Council licence condition, The Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc and Polystyrene Containers etc) (England) Regulations 2023 are enforced by Oxfordshire County Council Trading Standards. Should concerns about the use of single use plastic packaging by street traders arise, licensing officers will, in the first instance, refer complaints to Trading Standards.</p>

LU2: From Cllr Snowton to Cllr Upton – School Street Signage

Question	Written Response
<p>Will you join me in requesting the new Secretary of State for Transport to permit the use of illuminated school street signage in England (it is already permitted in Scotland), in order to improve school street signage prominence?</p>	<p>Street signs are a matter for the County Council, so perhaps Cllr Snowton would like to have a word with his colleagues... but if there is evidence that illumination improves the efficacy of a school street sign then I will happily support Cllr Snowton’s request, both to government for permission to use them and to the</p>

	County Council to fund their installation.
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LU3: From Cllr Djafari-Marbini to Cllr Upton – Lack of compliance with traffic management plan at Spindleberry Close	
<p>Question</p> <p>Despite reassurances from Hills there is continuing use of the road side parking and in fact pavements by workers from the regeneration at Spindleberry Close. Regeneration Council planning Ref no: 23/00405/OUTFUL - Planning Conditions 22 & 71 Traffic Management lays out a clear outline of what is expected from Hills. Can the cabinet member clarify steps taken to ensure compliance as this is not occurring at the moment?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Conditions 22 & 71 required the production of a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) which predominantly covers the movement of vehicles into and out of the site, not the parking of workers' vehicles. Where cars are parked appropriately on side roads there is no recourse to planning enforcement. Where cars are parked inappropriately and/or in breach of parking restrictions, such as on pavements, this should be reported to the County Council who have the appropriate powers to fine drivers.</p> <p>The City Council has raised these concerns with their development partner Peabody, who in turn hold the build contract with Hill Group. Peabody have raised the issue with Hill Group who have said they will monitor the situation and follow up with their staff and sub-contractors to remind them not only to park considerately but providing them with the information in the CTMP regarding parking, public transport options and car sharing. To reduce the number of cars being parked near Spindleberry Close, Hill Group have also reached an arrangement with the Kassam Stadium for staff and sub-contractors to obtain permits to park at the Stadium. Hill are also exploring options for off-street parking in other locations around the area.</p>

LU4: From Cllr Kerr to Cllr Upton – Oxford’s 10 View Cones

Question

Oxford’s 10 view cones surrounding the city considerably limit the potential to build housing inside the city as they limit the height of residential buildings. Can the portfolio holder provide an estimate for how many more homes could be built if the planning regulations around some of the less important cones were relaxed and has this been considered given Oxford’s desperate shortage of housing?

Written Response

Whilst the City Council’s key objective for the Local Plan is to deliver new housing, there are a number of important considerations in determining the capacity of Oxford to accommodate this. It is essential that the Local Plan process explores all of these considerations and strikes an appropriate balance. The City Council, through national policy, also has a duty to protect and enhance the historic environment through the Local Plan. Protections for the historic environment are not about preventing development from taking place, instead the focus is on managing change so it happens in the right way, so we preserve the historic environment for benefit of future generations.

It is important to recognise that the relevant policy of the emerging Local Plan 2040 (Policy HD9) states that proposals located within the View Cones should be designed carefully, be based on an understanding of the roofscape in the area, and that they contribute positively to and enhance views. Although it states: “planning permission will not be granted for development proposed within a View Cone or the setting of a View Cone if it would harm the special significance of the view”, this policy does not rule out development, or prohibit high buildings. Instead, it seeks to ensure that careful design helps maintain and enhance the views which Oxford is world renowned for. The City Council is confident that this is the right policy approach to take and will make that case to the Local Plan Inspector.

We already allow, and positively encourage, far higher housing densities within the city than our surrounding

	districts to maximise the number of homes built in the city.
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LU5: From Cllr Rawle to Cllr Upton – Bike parking availability in the city	
Question	Written Response
<p>How is the council monitoring the need for bike parking across the city and are there areas that have been identified as high priority/need, how is this being addressed?</p>	<p>There is a general need for bike parking across Oxford. The Council works closely with the County Council, the transport authority, to identify areas where there are opportunities for implementation of additional bike parking on the highway, where there is sufficient space. The Council also responds to requests from the public and ward councillors</p> <p>Through Community Infrastructure Levy funding, the Council delivered 152 public bike parking spaces in the 2022-24 financial years (in addition to 210 spaces on publicly-accessible land belonging to businesses and organisations provided via the Park That Bike scheme) and has just committed to deliver another 150 public spaces later in 2024 in Brasenose Lane, Ship Street, Queen’s Lane, Leopold Street, Broad Street, Observatory Street and South Parade. We are also working on our prioritisation strategy, in order to target remaining funding towards areas of highest need.</p>

To: Council

Date: 15 July 2024

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 Sushila Dhall, Chair, Oxford Pedestrians Association – Make Oxford a Truly Walkable City Motion
2. Question from Chaka Artwell – Cabinet Decision for the Request for Exceptional Circumstances Relief from the Community Infrastructure Levy
3. Address from Paul Peros, OxVox Chairman, Oxford United Supporters Trust – Oxford United Stadium Motion
4. Address from Chaka Artwell – Glyphosate
5. Address from Ashley Smith, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution – Support for Motion of No Confidence in Thames Water and development of an Oxford City River Action Plan
6. Address from Dan Glazebrook, Friends of Grandpont Nature Park – Oxpens River Bridge Scheme

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

1. Address from Sushila Dhall, Chair, Oxford Pedestrians Association – Make Oxford a Truly Walkable City Motion

My name is Sushila Dhall, Chair of Oxford Pedestrians Association. OxPA has been lobbying for pedestrians and wheelchair use as forms of urban transport since the mid-1990's, almost 30 years ago, and yet progress has been slow, despite pedestrians having been declared top of the road users' hierarchy. We are good at policy-making when it comes to pedestrians, but not good at action. We are all pedestrians, even if we only walk to our bike, car or bus. To look at pavements you would think that we are just smaller, thinner cars, as walking and wheelchair use are provided for as if we move at a uniform pace, usually in single file. But pedestrian space is public space, and pedestrians move at varying speeds, may need to hold hands or an arm, want to talk to the people we are with without shouting over our shoulders. We need to pass people going more slowly than us, and in the other direction. There needs to be space for wheelchair users to pass one another in comfort and dignity. But pavements are usually too narrow, and obstructed by car parking, scooter and cycle parking, posts and poles, A boards, bins, overhanging vegetation and signs for road works and cars. Pavements are not level but sloped at entrances to prioritise motorised vehicles. Crossings take a long time to respond and then give a short time to cross. Routes are often broken up and crossings often indirect. Hythe Bridge St, the main station to city centre route suffers from all of the above, and pedestrians are forced frequently onto the road - whilst a recent survey of OxPA members showed that wheelchair users often cannot make it into town due to the challenges of getting there by wheelchair. Air pollution, noise and danger are everyday issues pedestrians put up with. So OxPA welcomes this motion, and I speak to support it - we need pavements 2-3m wide, level, unobstructed, and clean. We need responsive crossings on desire lines, raised to the level of the pavement, and pavement extensions across all side roads. Please support this motion for a future of happier and healthier urban walkers and wheelers in Oxford.

2. Question from Chaka Artwell – Cabinet Decision for the Request for Exceptional Circumstances Relief from the Community Infrastructure Levy

Concern and disquiet have been publicly expressed, following Cabinet Member Councillor Louise Upton's astonishing decision, revealed at the last Full Council meeting, to use her public office, to waive and not pursue BMW's £800,000 levy.

Are Oxford City Council Councillors concerned at the pusillanimous public behaviour of Cllr Upton, in creating a precedent by waving BMW's £800,000 levy; a precedent and policy, which is more galling considering BMW's \$54b valuation?

Will Oxford City Council's elected Councillors support Cllr Upton displaying the same consideration to Oxford's small and independent ethnic retail businesses on the Cowley Road, and the publicans; whose Local Authority Taxes, and Oxford City Council's support for anti-car policies, are pushing a significant number into insolvency?

3. Address from Paul Peros, OxVox Chairman, Oxford United Supporters Trust – Oxford United Stadium Motion

Good afternoon.

My name is Paul Peros and I am chairman of the independent supporters trust OxVox.

Oxford United have a hundred and thirty year history in this County. We are known the world over as a club that grew from humble beginnings in a Headington pub to reach the highest division, in the most renowned and watched league in the world.

A club that won the league cup and qualified to play against the elite of Europe.

A club that turned Wembley yellow and blue once again this year and have been promoted to the Championship.

The club is an integral part of the county's identity, but we face being homeless within years.

The club however, now have owners with the vision, resources and experience to develop, not only a home for the club, but a hub for the whole county. One that reflects Oxfordshire's international standing and articulates our desire to be one of the greenest counties on the planet.

- We can move from an outdated unsustainable stadium, to a community hub that plans to provide up to 15% positive net carbon gain by partnering with progressive local companies to pioneer the latest green technologies.
- We can move from a stadium with little public transport that relies on 90% car usage, to a stadium with superb public transport links, with a projected car usage of just 10%.
- We can move from a three sided stadium, desperately in need of crippling expensive renovations and closed off to the community, to a stadium that will benefit the whole county.
- We can move from a stadium that is the second furthest in all the leagues from a train station, to one that would be second nearest. OxVox have provided a petition of support signed by well over 5,000 locals.

Every local sports club connected to Stratfield Brake actively supports this project and their members alone number in the thousands.

Asking how the club intend to safeguard the greenbelt, protect the environment and ensure traffic and parking are mitigated is completely understandable. These questions are being answered in planning and the club is laying out its vision to revitalise an unloved area of contaminated scrubland.

The local community deserve the chance to see a project undertaken that would provide infrastructure, jobs, and vitality to the area. A community hub that would not only free up brownfield space elsewhere in the county for much needed housing, but form part of a strengthened green belt around Kidlington.

The club have committed its vision to public scrutiny so that informed decisions can be made. The sea of happy faces filling the centre of Oxford for the parade gave witness to how many people care about this club. Our world renowned city prides itself on being at the forefront of technology, innovation and green thinking. This project offers the chance to reflect and advance those principals and make a positive contribution to the whole county. We can't let the vocal minority rob us of that chance.

Thank you for your time.

4. Address from Chaka Artwell – Glyphosate

Elected Councillors, this is the second time I have addressed Oxford City Council, calling for an immediate ban being levy against Oxford Direct Services, for spraying the herbicidal carcinogen glyphosate on Oxford's "roads, streets, hard surfaces, parks and play areas," in considerable quantities; even during the winter months.

Glyphosate harmful impact on human health is recognised in the judicial jurisdictions of many western nations, including the World Health Organisation.

For this reason, I am addressing Oxford City Council once again, as I believe within a decade, when our youth are suffering from various form of cancerous lymphoma, the source will be traced to Oxford City Council's wanton spraying-even during the winter months, of the herbicide Glyphosate.

A University of Washington review of numerous studies determined that glyphosate exposure may increase the risk of non-Hodgkin lymphoma by up to 41% on 24th Jun 2024.

A similar scenario occurred with thalidomide in the 1960's, which was traced to a prescribed morning sickness pill.

A similar scenario occurred with the recent inflective blood scandal; whereby patients, many of whom were children, were injected with imported blood products from the U.S. contaminated with hepatitis and HIV: which had been taken from high-risk drug users, and sexual minorities.

Secondly, Glyphosate has the quality of being toxic, long after its application at the stem of the city's wild flowers.

Glyphosate poses an additional great threat to human health, as trace elements from even safely deposited Glyphosate, is washed into drains, and then into reservoirs, before re-entering the human drinking system.

This tragic reality is compounded by the fact Oxford is in a valley, which acts as a funnel attracting the "run-off" from the farmer's fields, and Glyphosate deposited in Oxford City.

Farmer report using in excess of five herbicides and pesticide during the growing season.

Trace elements from all those herbicides and pesticide create a cocktail of harmful chemicals as "run off" from the fields; which likewise seep into the drains, and eventually become part of the human drinking water.

This combined cocktail of herbicide and pesticide from field "run-off," together with ODS' year-round spraying of Glyphosate, needs to be given greater attention than air quality concerns.

Once again, I am calling on the Elected Oxford City Council, to place a moratorium on the spraying of Glyphosate within Oxford, by ODS.

5. Address from Ashley Smith, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution – Support for Motion of No Confidence in Thames Water and development of an Oxford City River Action Plan

WASP has been engaging with TW since 2017 up to CEO level.

Our lack of confidence is in the Leadership and owners of Thames Water, not its staff who have to work in a poorly funded environment where 'sweating the assets' is the business strategy.

At the same time as the company is in a financial crisis and demanding more money, leniency in fines and extra dividend values the Chief Finance Officer has just been paid £1.33mn for the 12 months to the end of March, including a £446,000 bonus. The latest CEO Chris Weston, who joined as chief executive in January, took a £195,000 bonus for the three months to the end of March, taking his total pay to £437,000

TW is in its precarious financial state due entirely to mismanagement and inappropriate extraction of funds by shareholders and senior execs over decades.

While engaging with councils over recent years the company claimed not have paid its shareholders dividends for the past 5 years. WASP established through Ofwat that this was a false claim with financial engineering disingenuously reporting these as 'no dividends to external shareholders'.

Ofwat disagreed and as it threatens to penalise Thames Water for wrongly paying out £37.5M, it is revealed that the company paid out £158M in March to keep failing subsidiary companies afloat.

In respect of delivery of promises, it failed to carry out around 108 fully funded remedial projects in the current spending period due to decisions taken at the top of the organisation.

It has allowed Sewage Works like Witney, Oxford and many more to fall way behind capacity and to frequently operate illegally despite knowing the reasons and solutions for these failures. Oxfordshire is littered with highly polluting illegally operating sewage works which get worse with every additional house added to them

The outstanding example is Oxford Sewage Works and the Environment Agency's landmark objection to planning on the grounds of lack of sewage treatment capacity – This followed similar capacity challenges by WODC and WASP for West Oxfordshire sewage works.

The degrading of the sewerage infrastructure has now created a block to sustainable housing giving planners the choice to create additional criminal pollution events and increase risk to public health, damage to biodiversity and the environment or to block needed housing.

The planning authorities will fear appeals from developers but have yet to learn the consequences of creating more illegal pollution and the liabilities in respect of public health risks which the recent Royal Academy of Engineering Report spell out with recommendations to 'rehabilitate' sewage works.

On 20 May WASP wrote to the Thames water CEO to call on him to show leadership and stop the company misleading planners and developers over capacity – he shirked his responsibility. We are sending a complaint to Ofwat about what we say is Mr Weston's dereliction of duty.

We have no confidence in the honesty and integrity of the Leadership of Thames Water and no confidence that it will deliver its statutory duties under the Water Industry Act 1991 – to provide water and waste water services. In many areas, it stopped doing that long ago.

6. Address from Dan Glazebrook, Friends of Grandpont Nature Park – Oxpens River Bridge Scheme

Councillors, thank you for the opportunity to address you on our concerns with the Oxpens River Bridge scheme. Our petition opposing the bridge has now reached over 1500 signatures.

We believe the granting of planning permission for the project to be unlawful, and are confident that the judicial review we are bringing will prove this. You have all been emailed the documents outlining our case in detail but some of the reasons include:

1. The failure to conduct the legally required Environmental Impact Assessment due to the mischaracterisation of the bridge as a standalone development.
2. The failure to recognise and protect the intrinsic character and beauty of the woodland scheduled for destruction in the Nature Park, the only section of woodland on the main path through the Nature Park, and the urbanisation of this part of the Nature Park that will come about as a result of the destruction of the current footpath and its replacement by a 4.5m cycle highway, both of which are in breach of NPPF 15.
3. The failure to conduct a lifelong carbon assessment of the bridge, as required by local plan policy RE1
4. The failure to consult with a single residents group in Grandpont, not even the residents association of the Pegasus Grange retirement home, many of whom are dependent on the Nature Park as the only piece of countryside they can access, in breach of the public sector duty under the Equality Act due to the disproportionate impact on the elderly.
5. The Impossibility of a safe route to the bridge due to adjacent flooding on the site (under the existing railway bridge near the scheme - see image 1 in your pack).
6. We believe the use of money from the Housing and Growth Deal for the bridge to be an abuse of this fund, for two reasons:
 - a. "The Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal, in its own words, is supposed to "ensure that people can live in affordable homes." The specific part of the Growth Deal being used for the Oxpens River bridge is a pot designated for "infrastructure to unlock key housing sites."
 - Yet, the infrastructure the bridge will supposedly unlock is not a key housing site, but a new Oxford University Science and Business Park proposed for Osney Mead, with a tiny housing allocation of just 247 homes according to the local plan. The 4000 workers expected to be brought into this development will exacerbate pressure on the Oxford housing market, not relieve it, and the net effect will therefore be to make housing in the city less, not more, affordable.
 - b. Secondly, the Council's own planning officers stated repeatedly at the planning review committee on April 18th that the bridge is *not* required by the Osney Mead development in any case. If this is the case, it cannot also be argued that the bridge is needed to 'unlock' the Osney Mead development.
7. Council planning officers' made a number of untrue statements to the planning committee:
 - a. The officers report claimed that Grandpont Nature Park is an 'Area of Change' in the local plan, when their own policies map clearly shows it is not. This had the effect of convincing Councillors that the plan had a democratic mandate it did not actually have.
 - b. The officers' report claimed that a new bridge in this location was mandated by the local plan. In fact, nowhere in the local plan is there any reference to a new

bridge being needed between Grandpont Nature Park and Oxpens Meadow, the two sites that will be linked by the Oxpens River Bridge (for the obvious reason that such a bridge already exists). Rather, the local plan sets out that there should be a new connection between Osney Mead and the forthcoming Oxpens development. The Oxpens River Bridge, however, would not connect Osney and Oxpens - both of which are commercial developments on private land - but would instead use publicly-owned green space *adjacent* to each of those sites for the bridge.

- c. In the planning review committee, Councillors were wrongly informed that improving the gasworks bridge would not be any cheaper than building the Oxpens River Bridge, and were misinformed as to the conclusions of the viability study that was conducted on improving the gasworks bridge.
- d. Planning officers wrongly informed committee members that they were not allowed to meet with local residents opposed to the bridge as this would supposedly constitute 'lobbying.'
- e. Council officers claimed they did not need a Forestry Commission licence to clear fell the area without planning permission, when in fact they did - you have the details in your pack

More examples are in the documentation you have been emailed.

To continue to back this project in the face of all this would risk serious reputational damage to the City Council and we urge you to withdraw your support.

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To: Council
Date: 15 July 2024
Report of: Head of Corporate Strategy
Title of Report: The Oxford Strategic Partnership

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To note the annual update on the Oxford Strategic Partnership
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member with responsibility:	Councillor Brown, Leader and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working
Corporate Priority:	All Oxford City Council strategic priorities
Policy Framework:	Corporate Strategy 2020-2024
Recommendation(s): That the Committee resolves to:	
1. Note the annual update report on the work of the Oxford Strategic Partnership.	

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Oxford Strategic Partnership membership – June 2024
Appendix 2	Safer Communities Partnership Representatives

Introduction and background

1. The Oxford Strategic Partnership (OSP) founded in 2003 brings together senior representatives within Oxford from the public, business, community and third sector partners such as voluntary groups, which deliver services, help improve people’s wellbeing and contribute to economic growth.
2. This partnership for the city promotes collaboration and openness and provides opportunities to access funding and share resources more easily. [A list of members is set out in Appendix 1.](#)
3. The OSP helps provide strategic input to inform decision-making for the city's future, respond to local priorities and engage more effectively with local concerns.
4. The OSP is an influencer, not an operational entity. It brings organisations together to work in partnership, identifying strategic city challenges that will benefit from collaboration, and prioritising them based on where the partnership can add most value. Its remit is determined by its Chair with input from its members.

OSP Vision

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

OSP Aims

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

OSP Steering Group

7. The OSP meets quarterly, and steering group members are drawn from the statutory services, private sector and others (Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, health, police, businesses, universities and community groups), to review and discuss topics of strategic importance.
8. Paul James – Chief Executive, [River Learning Trust](#) took on the role of Chair in October 2022.
9. The work of the OSP steering group is supported by the Policy & Partnerships Team, Oxford City Council.

OSP Sub-Groups

10. Since its inception in 2003 the OSP's emphasis on different themes has varied over time, guided by the Chair and the interests of members. To support its breadth of focus, it established four sub-groups that generally meet quarterly and work on:
 - Economic Development
 - Stronger Communities
 - Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership
 - Safer Communities.

Economic Development Steering Board sub-group

11. The Economic Growth Steering Board (EGSB) is the OSP's key forum to steer Oxford's Economic Strategy and collaborate on economic and business issues in Oxford.

12. Led by, and representative of, the diverse sectors of Oxford's Business community, the EGSB is supported by Oxford City Council's Regeneration & Economy Service.
13. Oxford's Economic Strategy (2022-32) is setting a new standard for economic inclusion in the city. Building on the unique strengths of Oxford as an impactful global city economy, drawing on the assets of its historical and cultural assets, the strategy and delivery plan seek to guide an evolving city economy in a way which recognises environmental limits and harnesses the opportunity of net zero carbon.
14. The role and purpose of the EGSB is central to fulfilling the effective delivery of the Economic Strategy in its role to provide oversight and governance.
15. The EGSB needs to fulfil this role in a way that is both cognisant and supportive of the county-wide spatial and economic strategies led by Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP, the former Growth Board), OxLEP and others aware of Oxford's county-wide, regional, national and international economic inter-relationships.

Stronger Communities sub-group

16. The Stronger Communities Board brought together key organisations, such as Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Association, and the Department for Work and Pensions.
17. These organisations contribute towards the development of stronger communities by addressing inequality and poverty, with an increasing focus on issues of health and wellbeing.
18. The Stronger Communities sub-group was supported by the Head of Community Services, who left the Council in February 2024. The future purpose and work of the sub-group will need to be considered alongside the Community Services review, which is currently being undertaken and is due to conclude in March 2025.

Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership sub-group

19. The [Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership](#) (ZCOP)¹, brings together Oxford's most influential organisations including both universities, the health trusts, both the Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Councils and large businesses such as BMW, Lucy Group, LandSec, SSEN and Unipart.
20. The purpose of the partnership is to work together to support the city in its journey to net zero carbon emissions by 2040, ten years ahead of the UK's Government's legal targets.
21. Following its formation, the partnership developed a science-based [Roadmap and Action Plan](#) with the Carbon Trust. It sets out a comprehensive and ambitious pathway to net zero carbon emissions for the city, with 5-yearly carbon budgets, sectoral roadmaps and 25 cross cutting actions required over the short and mid-term.

¹ Oxford City Council, 'Zero Carbon Oxford Summit'. Available from: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20291/climate_emergency/1431/zero_carbon_oxford_summit

22. This work follows on from the mandate established by the Oxford Citizens Assembly on Climate Change held in 2019², and the Zero Carbon Oxford Summit in February 2021.
23. ZCOP is chaired by Cllr Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnership Working, and supported by the Council's, Environmental Sustainability Lead.

Safer Communities sub-group

24. [Oxford Safer Communities Partnership](#) (OSCP) was established in 1998 and is the Community Safety Partnership for Oxford, a statutory requirement of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended.
25. The Safer Communities sub-group is supported by the Council's Community Safety Service Manager and brings together organisations to make Oxford a safer place by reducing the fear of crime, minimising the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime and by addressing community safety concerns to improve the lives of our residents, businesses and visitors.
26. To support the work of all partners, the OSCP produces an [action plan](#) that highlights what has been achieved in the previous year and what priorities there are for the coming year.
27. The OSCP Board reviewed the 2023/24 priorities and will agree those for 2024/25 at its meeting in June 2024.

Activity and achievements over last 12 months:

Economic Development

28. This group continues to contribute to the delivery of the [Oxford Economic Strategy](#) which was updated and adopted by Council and published in summer 2022 following extensive consultation in 2021.
29. The strategy covers the next 10 years and updates are reported to both the Economic Growth Steering Board (EGSB) on a quarterly basis and OSP annually. A work plan outlining key roles and responsibilities for the Economic Strategy delivery is in place along with a dashboard of measures and KPIs.
30. The [Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership](#) (OIEP) was established in March 2021 as a countywide partnership of organisations from the public, private and community & voluntary sectors that have come together to develop an inclusive economy agenda countywide. The OIEP's creation followed a seminar series hosted by the OSP and OxLEP in 2019/2020 on inclusive growth. The OIEP reports to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership, is co-chaired by Baroness Royall and Jeremy Long, and is supported by an OIEP Manager.
31. The aim of the OIEP is to work together to create a more equal and sustainable region that creates opportunities and benefits for all people within Oxfordshire.

² https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20011/environment/1343/oxford_citizens_assembly_on_climate_change

32. There are 4 action focused working groups to deliver the OIEP vision – education, employment, social value and procurement and place shaping which are looking at working with projects across Oxfordshire that the partnership can support, grow or amplify their work as well as creating a repository of case studies, information and signposting related to the inclusive economy.

33. Delivery in 2023/2024 for focused working groups included:

Educational Attainment:

- Supported [ARCh – Assisted Reading for Children](#) to obtain grant funding to enable the recruitment of a volunteer coordinator so that they can reach more schools
- Continued to refer charter signees that pledge to support ARCh and promote through their networks
- Continued to work with health partners to identify funding for the school readiness programme, Growing Minds, to expand to Blackbird Leys.

Inclusive Employment:

Supporting Prison Leavers into Employment;

- Employers' day at Bullingdon Prison in September 2023, vacancies from attendees are now being placed with the prison employment hub
- Arranging a follow up employers' day at Bullingdon prison in the Autumn/Winter
- The OIEP Manager has been invited to be a representative on the Employment Advisory Board (EAB) at Bullingdon prison.

Supporting Refugees into Employment;

- Held the second HR Network seminar with speakers from Asylum Welcome, Aspire and the NHS
- Provided signposting to employment and advice organisations for Engaged with the Oxfordshire Hong Kongers
- Brought International Rescue Committee free online and in person job readiness training, for refugees and asylum seekers with the right to work, to Oxfordshire. Bringing together key stakeholders across the county to identify people who would benefit, and delivered the first in person training session 10th May.

Age friendly employers;

- Delivered an Age Without Limits communication campaign on LinkedIn week to link in with Age without Limits Day of action
- Implemented an [age friendly employer page](#) on the new [OIEP website](#) with links to resources/toolkits from the Centre for Ageing Better
- Future HR Network events will focus on military and military family and staff wellbeing
- Additional resources to develop this work have been provided to the OIEP by Oxfordshire County Council with 1 day a week of a graduate placement's time for 6 months.

Social Value and Procurement:

- An initial meeting delivered of Social Value and Procurement anchor sub-group, bringing together anchor organisations (the Council, ODS, Oxfordshire County Council, and University of Oxford) with the key aim is to deliver social value that meets local needs and supports the objectives of those organisations
- A communication campaign is currently being drafted to increase awareness and understanding of social value through procurement, as well as highlighted examples of best practice across the county.

Place-based:

- Developed a Theory of Change for the OIEP
- Successfully bid for Local Policy Lab researchers to look at the development of an evaluation plan to assess the impact of the work of the OIEP.

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter:

- It has been a year since the OIEP launched the [Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Charter](#), calling on organisations and individuals in Oxfordshire to pledge to make positive changes to tackle inequality.
- Since then, nearly 100 organisations have pledged their support, including [Oxford City Council](#). The OIEP continues to share their inspiring stories, and celebrate the work that is being delivered across Oxfordshire to make it a better place to live and work for everyone, as well as working to increase the number of charter signees.

Stronger Communities sub-group

34. The Council's [Thriving Communities Strategy, 2023/27](#) (TCS) was adopted as part of the Council's Policy Framework (January 2023).

35. This includes embedding the TCS principles across the Council's work and encouraging partners to do the same. Alongside, continuing to integrate the Council's services and seek out opportunities to better align its work with partner agencies, bringing partners and places together better to jointly grow and work.

36. An update on the TCS is due to be taken to the Cabinet in August 2024.

37. As mentioned in paragraph 19, the sub-group has not been meeting, and officers are currently reviewing the appropriate way forward for future working (i.e. purpose and Terms of Reference). In the meantime, the Council has continued to deliver a wide range of initiatives aligned with the sub-group's priority themes, which has involved many external partners.

38. Delivery in 2023/2024 included:

Provide support to children, young people and families:

- [You Move](#) funding has been confirmed to allow the project to be continued and for the expansion into early years support
- The Blackbird Leys Larder successfully moved to the Oxford Hub
- Work was completed with the John Henry Newman Foodbank to source period products from Superdrug

- Free open access youth clubs and sports sessions have been delivered for ages 11–19 in Blackbird Leys (Leys Youth Hub), Northway, Littlemore, Cowley, Barton, Rose Hill, and Wood Farm
- The Youth Ambition Team is engaging with secondary schools to build relationships with vulnerable young people who struggle in formal settings and encourage them to access youth sessions in the community
- Concessionary [leisure offers](#) have been maintained within the new leisure services contract.

39. Provide support to older people and vulnerable adults:

- [Move Together](#) funding has been confirmed for another year to allow the project to continue and to be extended to offer maternity support
- The [Health Walk programmes](#) continue to be expanded with further leaders trained and new walks developed
- Leisure concessions have been maintained in the new contract with the Council's leisure operator, with some plans to expand. These include discounted rates for over 65s, the Good Boost program at Barton Leisure Centre with plans to expand into the Ferry and Leys Leisure Centres, free memberships for people experiencing homelessness, and the Bonus Leisure Card.
- Support is being provided to help the Donnington Tenants and Residents Association and the 50+ group to sustain their activities, with help from health partners, and community gardening around the Donnington Community Centre.

40. Raise education attainment levels, increase access to training and access to employment:

- Live Well Oxfordshire [MECC training](#) (Making Every Contact Count), First Aid Briefings, Safeguarding Briefings and Physical Activity Awareness Training is offered to all volunteers
- In partnership with [CIMSPA](#) (Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity) a [Local Skills](#) Advisory Board is developing educational qualifications, inclusive recruitment and staff development and wellbeing within the Sport and Physical Activity sector (a new [leisure professional course](#) is starting in September 2024)
- A pilot scheme is in development to upskill leisure and community staff as well as community members to deliver mini health MoTs (height, weight, and blood pressure) as well as having associated Very Brief Advice (VBA) conversations for short, opportunistic interventions to support behavioural change/wellbeing/lifestyle choices, etc.
- The Council's new leisure operator has proactively linked with the City of Oxford College to offer free lifeguard training for all students both those enrolled on the new leisure course and those who are not.
- The Youth Ambition team are working in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions to help young people aged 16–24 who are Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET) through the Youth Employment Hub at Rose Hill Community Centre. Support from partners includes Oxford Job Centre, OxLEP, ODS, Activate Learning, the County NEET team, Serco, and others.

41. Develop and deliver health improvement programmes:

- Move Together funding to support the expansion of Good Boost across the leisure centres to allow Move Together participants to access sessions at a discounted rate
- Active Lifestyles Commissioning Group to support the vision of Active Wellbeing Centres
- Continuous work with primary care and anchor organisations to deliver Health Promotion Events and Men's Health Workshops
- £25k of [grant funding awarded](#) to community groups in Barton, Rose Hill, Littlemore and the City Centre to support the recommendations from the [Community Insight Profiles](#)
- Receptionist video made to share the experiences of different communities and their relationships with Primary Care
- Vaccine engagement work extended to Shingles and MMR as well as supporting COVID-19 booster uptake.

42. Promote community engagement and public involvement in decisions that affect communities:

- Community consultation and focus groups held for all the Community Insight Profiles (The Leys, Barton, Rose Hill, Littlemore, City Centre, and Wood Farm)
- Regular stakeholder meetings with city clubs
- Focus groups held with a local primary school in Oxford city centre
- Continued good engagement with the Hinksey Outdoor Pool User Group and a plan to re-energise other leisure user groups or explore holding 'meet the manager' sessions as a way of involving leisure users and non-users
- Supporting regeneration colleagues to ensure meaningful community engagement, including youth voice and involvement, on projects such as the Cowley Branch Line and Blackbird Leys Community Centre Development.
- Teams are engaged in ongoing efforts with Cowley Road businesses, aiming to empower them to establish an association and a collective voice for addressing common issues moving forward.

Safer Communities

43. The OSCP work to address local community safety concerns and ensure that all partners tackle those crimes that affect the community. ([Appendix 2 Oxford Safer Communities Partnership representation](#))

44. Priorities for 2023-24 were:

[OSCP Rolling Plan 2023-24](#)

- Serious and organised crime, including county drug lines
- Alcohol-related violence
- Violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse
- Modern slavery

- Anti-social behaviour
- Neighbourhood crimes such as burglary, car crime and robbery.

Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership

45. Since its launch, ZCOP has delivered across numerous action areas by focusing on collaborative projects that accelerate city wide mitigation across sectors, businesses and communities.
46. Partners support progress in the city by championing and participating in a range of 'sprint groups' through contributions of time, expertise and funding.
47. A successful £265,000 bid from Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans (LIDP) will expand on the initial Zero Carbon Oxford roadmap to create an industry specific roadmap and action plan.
48. The Council is leading the project on behalf of the ZCOP, and is working closely with partners from BMW, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Greentech, and Unipart. The project is underway and will run till December 2024.
49. The [ZCOP Action Plan](#) provides a clear initial direction and series of steps for the ZCOP to follow to set Oxford on a path to net zero by 2040. The [full report](#) sets out more detail on the concept, funding sources, implementation steps, owners, costs, carbon savings, dependencies, and risks of the actions. The Action Plans Roadmap has target 2025 review date.
50. The ZCOP is currently expanding to become an Oxfordshire based partnership by the start of 2025

Other OSP activities

51. Other areas covered by the OSP over the last 12 months include:



(Note: [OSP Website](#))

Forward Planning

52. Future workshop agenda items may include:



Financial implications

53. The OSP is funded and facilitated by Oxford City Council with a 2024/ 2025 assigned budget of £8,320. The contribution facilitates secretariat responsibilities for the partnership, and the agreed priorities and set objectives for specific areas of work.

Legal issues

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

Level of risk

55. The report is simply providing an update to the Council on the work completed by the OSP and so it is not appropriate for an assessment of risk to be carried out.

Equalities impact

56. The structure and membership of the OSP and four sub-groups is intended to reflect a common commitment among participating organisations to equality. The areas of focus of the OSP and four sub-groups are very much focused on tackling inequality and building inclusivity.

Conclusion

57. It is intended that the OSP should continue to provide an important focus for Oxford City Council's strategic work with statutory, private and third sector partner's such as voluntary groups, support deliver services, help improve people's wellbeing and contribute to economic growth.

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Background Papers:
None

Appendix 1: Oxford Strategic Partnership Membership – June 2024

Paul James (Chair)	River Learning Trust
Cllr Susan Brown	Leader, Oxford City Council
Cllr Chris Smowton	Liberal Democrat Group Leader, Oxford City Council
Cllr Neil Fawcett	Oxfordshire County Council
Caroline Green	Chief Executive, Oxford City Council
Mish Tullar	Head of Corporate Strategy, Oxford City Council
Brendan Hattam	Chair of Town Team and General Manager of Westgate, Land Securities
Emily Lewis-Edwards	Co-Executive Officer, Community First Oxfordshire
Jeremy Long	Chair, OxLEP
Prof Simonetta Manfredi	Associate Dean for Research & Knowledge Exchange, Oxford Brookes University
David Munday	Deputy Director Public Health, Oxfordshire County Council
Vacant	Larger Business Representative
Bruce Riddell	Superintendent, Thames Valley Police
Peter Nolan	Chair and founder of OcQuila Therapeutics
Samantha Shepherd	Deputy Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Richard Venables	Senior Director, CBRE
Ian Green	Chair, Oxford Civic Society
Professor Alex Betts	University Local and Global Engagement Officer, Oxford University
Dr Olga Kozlova	Director - Innovation and Engagement, University of Oxford
Robin Rogers	Programme Director, Partnership and Delivery, Oxfordshire County Council
Lucy Cherry	Policy and Partnerships Officer, Oxford City Council

Appendix 2: Oxford Safer Communities Partnership representation

The Partnership comprises of representatives from

- Oxford City Council
- Thames Valley Police
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
- Oxford Brookes University
- Oxford University
- Adult Safeguarding Board
- Child Safeguarding Board
- Probation Services
- Oxford University Hospitals (NHS) Trust
- Integrated Care Board for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire
- Turning Point
- Oxfordshire County Council including:
 - Adult Social Care
 - Children's Social Care
 - Youth Justice and Exploitation Service
 - Fire and Rescue Service.

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To: Council
Date: 15 July 2024
Report of: Head of Corporate Strategy
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board/ Health Improvement Board Partnership Report

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To provide the annual report on the work of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing/ Health Improvement Board
Cabinet Member with responsibility:	CLlr Chewe Munkonge. Cabinet member for a Healthy Oxford
Recommendation:	That Council notes the annual update report of the work the City Council does to support the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Board

Introduction and background

1. The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (“the HAWB”) is a partnership between local government, the NHS and the people of Oxfordshire. It includes local GPs, councillors, representatives from Healthwatch Oxfordshire, and senior local government officers. The HAWB provides strategic leadership for health and wellbeing across Oxfordshire and ensures that plans, such as the [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(pdf format, 675 KB\)](#) (HWS), are in place and action is taken to realise those plans. The Council has been an active member of the HAWB since its inception in 2013.
2. The Health Improvement Partnership Board (“the HIB”) is a sub group of the HAWB and focuses on effective partnership working across Oxfordshire to meet people’s health and social care needs.
3. It aims to promote and use the [Prevention Framework \(pdf format, 2.3Mb\)](#) to deliver a range of initiatives that will PREVENT ill health, REDUCE the need for treatment and DELAY the need for care.
4. It aims to meet the performance measures agreed by the HAWB.

5. The Council last received a report on the activities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Board in March 2023.
6. Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for community health and wellbeing at Vale of the White Horse DC, took up the role as Chair for the HIB in September 2023 and Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers took up the role as vice Chair of the HIB in September 2023. These roles have officer support from the Council's Policy and Partnership Team Manager. As Chair and Vice Chair of the HIB, Councillor Pighills and Councillor Filipova-Rivers have automatically taken the member seats on the HAWB.
7. Building on the reorganisation of the last two years, which saw the establishment of the Integrated Care Board, and the establishing of the Integrated Care Partnership, the City Council has taken on a more formal role in health partnership work.

The role of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HAWB)

8. The HAWB has a single unifying vision for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents:
9. 'To work together in supporting and maintaining excellent health and wellbeing for all the residents of Oxfordshire'
10. 2023 saw the development of the HWS, with significant partner engagement over a period of months to ensure this was truly a joint strategy. The HWS was agreed by the HWB in December 2023, and further joint working to deliver the associated Action Plan took place Dec 2023-March 2024. The Action was agreed by HWB in March 2024

Health Improvement Partnership Board

11. The Health Improvement Partnership Board (HIB) has reviewed its 3 priorities to align with the HWS, with the following key topic areas to focus on;
12. Alcohol and Tobacco Control
13. Mental Wellbeing
14. Healthy Weight and Physical Activity
15. Action on these priority areas is supported by an approach which is focused on addressing health inequalities and taking a preventative approach in all that it does.

Oxford City Council's work on Health

Localities

16. The Council continues to implement its locality teams model, bringing together different service area staff to deliver solutions for better outcomes for residents through purposeful collaboration.
17. The locality managers coordinate and facilitate bimonthly meetings for each of the 4 quadrants to continue to improve collaboration between internal officers in providing holistic support for residents' needs.
18. Over the last year, £143k of Household Support Grants have been given out to support residents with energy, food and essential items, targeting

households that have families with children, pensioners, and people with disabilities.

19. The locality teams, through the Community Health Development Officers continue to attend and contribute to Health & Wellbeing Partnership meetings with stakeholders in key areas of tackling health inequalities.
20. The Council's Community Services continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council Public Health to address health inequalities identified in the following ward health profiles: Rose Hill, Barton, Littlemore, and City Centre, supporting the implementation of recommendations through our Community Health Development Officers.
21. Through the Youth Ambition programme, we continue to ensure that our settings are welcoming and safe for young people, which helps with their social wellbeing, offering physical activity at all the youth sessions as well as informal learning on healthy lifestyles, including health cooking, and providing resources to young people of other supported services they can use and access.
22. Our multisport session at the Leys Leisure Centre continues to be very popular, where we engage with 60–80 young people weekly.

Reducing inequalities and obesity through physical activity

Social Media and Campaigns

23. Over the last year the Active Communities and Sport & Physical Activity Team has embarked upon a variety of digital campaign work to encourage and motivate residents to become more physically active and as a result improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing. We have contributed to the new Oxford City Council website by updating our pages to ensure all information is accurate and up to date, including the GO Active Outdoors and GO Active Families pages.
24. Alongside the use of various webpages there have been social media campaigns to help raise awareness of the different work that we do as a team. We have worked with Active Oxfordshire and Fortitude Communications on a campaign to raise awareness of the fantastic work of Move Together across the County. Targeted posts and adverts have been utilised to advertise the Move Together and You Move pathways to those likely to be experiencing greater health inequalities and who would therefore benefit most from including more physical activity in their day. We have also used social media to advertise our community health days at Blackbird Leys and Littlemore, and the funding available to community groups via the Community Profile Grant Funds.

Physical Activity and Health pathways/support

25. Move Together has been successful in securing continued funding for 2024-25. This is due to the continued partnership working across District Councils and Active Oxfordshire as well as the continued impact of the pathway as demonstrated through both KPI's and Case Studies. Move Together is a behavioural change support pathway based around motivational interviewing, goal setting and signposting to support those living with one or more long term health conditions to become more active.

26. You Move has also been successful in securing continued funding for 2024-25. This is due to the continued partnership working across District Councils and Active Oxfordshire as well as the continued impact of the pathway as demonstrated through both KPI's and Case Studies. You Move provides low cost or free sporting activities, as well as support with access to these activities for families facing the biggest barriers to physical activity.
27. GO Active Outdoors continues to host our physical activity programmes, sessions and activities. This year we have stepped away from our affiliation with The Ramblers for the delivery of our Health Walks and have instead developed our own training and onboarding process. The ability to have a more bespoke training has been advantageous in the development of The Leys Health Walk and allows for a condensed leadership training for health professionals.
28. We now have four Community Health Development Officers in post covering Rose Hill, Littlemore, The Leys, Barton and the City Centre with a fifth to be recruited in the summer of 2024 to cover Wood Farm. As part of this programme, we have completed four Community Insight Profiles across the different areas and are currently in the process of awarding £25k of Grant Funding per area to local community groups and organisations. This funding will be used to support local initiatives and projects which are designed to support the outcomes of the Community Insight Profiles as well as working to support wider health inequalities in each area.
29. This year our Community Champions have been working with Anchor Organisations across the city and now have seven linked to the programme (three of which have been funded to implement practical healthcare solutions). They have also facilitated 7 covid vaccine pop up clinics across the County, arranged a Black History Month event and worked with Reading Council to support the replication of a Community Champions Model.
30. School support continues with both the delivery of Continued Professional Development sessions for teachers using our partnership with Create Development, delivering training for lunchtime activators and facilitating interschool competitions such as the Chairman's cup rugby festival and school's athletics competitions.

Leisure co-location

31. Active Lifestyles Commissioning Group continues to meet regularly to discuss and progress the reimagining of our leisure centres as well as supporting the continuing improving link between Health, Leisure and Physical Activity. Two Leisure to Wellbeing Workshops have been held during 2023-24 including partners from Leisure, the integrated Care Board (ICB), Public Health, Active Partnerships, District Councils, Local Primary Care networks (PCNs), Sport England, Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) Trust and sport national governing bodies (NGBs).
32. Several projects have been piloted throughout 2023-24 to look at the opportunity to co-locate appropriate health services in leisure centres, to put services in the heart of the community and in a positive lifestyle setting. These

include but are not limited to Ice Creates Health Checks and Smoking Cessation Services, Age UK Footcare, MSK Connect Health¹ and a Preventative Physical Activity Pathway in partnership with South East Oxford Health Alliance (SEOxHa) PCN (and subsequently developed to include Achieve Oxfordshire and Dr Kathryn Brown).

33. We appointed a Leisure and Wellbeing Support Officer to support this work amidst a challenging time in our Leisure Contract and this role has developed a Women's only physical activity session at The Leys, a Multi-Sports session for Asylum Seekers and Refugees at The Leys, the planning and execution of two Health Promotion Days (in partnership with the SEOxHa PCN) in The Leys and Littlemore, and the installation of roller blinds on the pool windows at The Leys to allow for privacy during Women's only swimming sessions.

New Leisure partnership

34. A major procurement project was undertaken in 2023 to appoint a new leisure provider ahead of the end of the Fusion Lifestyle contract in 2024. This was a once in ten year opportunity to transform leisure services.
35. Health improvement was central to the new contract, with an ambition to move from leisure centres to active wellbeing centres, joining up with health, wellbeing and voluntary sectors.
36. The health system was involved from the start, with discussions with the health system on creating systemic change through leisure services. This led to the creation of an Active Lifestyles Commissioning Group, including Public Health and the ICS, to create a vision for active wellbeing centres. Co-location pilots demonstrated the potential of this approach.
37. A new leisure provider, Serco Leisure, was appointed in February 2024 and took over management of leisure centres in April 2024. The Council and Serco Leisure will collaborate with the Oxfordshire health system to ensure the leisure facilities continue to support public health.

Parks Tennis

38. Our award winning and nationally recognised tennis programme, in partnership with Courtside (formerly Premier Tennis), is now attracting over 6,000 unique players to tennis in Oxford's parks. The programme generates significant social value at £336k p.a. including £89k improved health, £170k personal well-being and £77k community development.
39. Oxford's parks tennis courts draw people locally and from deprived areas, across both genders and all age groups; 85% of people do not play at any other tennis venue. 2023 saw the award of a new long term contract to Courtside with the aim to ensure sustainability and drive more participation.
40. More recently, we have worked closely with our partners at the Lawn Tennis Association and a number of other external funders to draw in over £1m of investment to resurface and improve the tennis courts in Botley and Hinksey Parks and a new community café and multi-use games area in Bury Knowle

¹ Connect Health is a leading community services healthcare provider and the UK's largest musculoskeletal (MSK) and pain independent healthcare provider.

Park. We are now looking to link in strongly with health partners and social prescribers.

Health Inequalities, Housing and homelessness

41. In 2023 the Council published its new Housing, Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This recognised the impact of poor quality housing on physical and mental health, and in particular the health impacts for people experiencing homelessness. The strategy outlined a commitment to prevent homelessness and adopt a rapid rehousing response.
42. The Out of Hospital Care (OOHC) Model has delivered significant results - at a system level and in terms of life-changing interventions for individuals:
 - Practically eliminating the practice of discharging to street - local authorities and homelessness services report that, whereas prior to OOHC it was usual for people to present unplanned from hospital, this now rarely happens.
 - Reducing emergency department attendances by 56% and emergency admissions by 26% over 12 months, for people using our Step Down service.
 - Breaking decades-long cycles of readmission to hospital - Mental Health inpatient teams report that patients discharged through OOHC do not return to hospital, which is not always the experience for those discharged to other types of accommodation.
 - 200 planned discharges from hospital; only one person returned to rough sleeping.
 - Over 100 people at imminent risk of losing their accommodation supported to maintain tenancies and avoid homelessness.
43. Our multidisciplinary approach has enabled us to meet multiple needs in an efficient, coordinated response - extracting the most value from opportunities to engage with people who may have experienced years of exclusion and developed a mistrust of services.
44. The programme has been evaluated by Kings College London (KCL) and London School of Economics (LSE). In one case alone, LSE established that our intervention had seen public spending reduce from £118,500 to £43,900 - a saving of £74,600 pa, with costs redistributed from Health, Care, Criminal Justice to Housing.
45. By taking our services to where they are needed - hospitals, outreach teams, hostels - we have been able to increase planned, elective interactions with mainstream services and reduced the number and frequency of crisis interventions, evictions and hospital admissions.
46. The OOHC team has led on measures to improve the management of complex cases and risk, at the heart of which has been our promotion of collective accountability and the sharing of information. We have been a key partner in refining the Homelessness Mortality Review process and are hosting the Making Every Adult Matter Coordinator - delivering key learning and recommendations to the Homelessness Directors Group.

47. In terms of the experience of the people using our service, the client evaluation carried out by KCL/LSE - with exit interviews conducted by people with lived experience - identified that:
- 100% reported being treated with dignity and respect
 - 95% reported being as involved in planning / decision making as they wanted to be
 - 95% reported improvement with their mobility
 - 90% reported improvement with their self care
 - 88% reported improvement in ability to carry out their usual activities
 - 83% reported improvement with their pain/discomfort
48. We are one of only three sites to have survived from the original OOHC project and ours is the only one to have scaled up significantly and effectively.
49. We are nation-leading in this field - our model was evaluated as being high performing and highly cost effective by KCL and LSE, and our work helped to shape the latest government discharge guidance and is cited in the recent Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan.
50. We have been chosen as lead partners to work with LSE in developing a new data management tool that will enable improved management of services and smarter commissioning of resources and which is generating national interest. We have also been chosen to work with KCL on a two-year project looking at the use of the Mental Capacity Act in homelessness settings - again, this will ultimately inform government guidance and national practice.

Home Improvement Agency

51. The Home Improvement Agency (HIA) has worked to improve the service it offers with an 'every visit counts' ethos. In addition to the Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) multiple types of assistance and options are continually updated, and a grant has been added to enable repairs to support hospital discharge or to enable a DFG eg. repairing dangerous wiring.
52. The HIA team won DFG Home Adaptations Service of the Year 2023 at the National Housing Awards. The judging panel agreed that the HIA delivered an exceptional DFG adaptations service that better the lives of many. Strategically, the team has worked hard to identify emerging needs of the Better Care Fund including innovative hospital discharge solutions, winter planning and reducing the risk of falls.
53. The team also received commendations of excellence in two other categories, for Sustainability in Home Adaptations and Housing Occupational Therapist of the Year.
54. The team has also harnessed technology to deliver its services, with a portal for social care colleagues to send adaptation and repair requests directly into the Case Manager system, and a further portal to enable partners and clients to also refer directly into Case Manager.
55. The team has also been active in key local partnerships including the Better Care Fund (BCF) Steering Group, and has taken a strategic role in these

meetings to agree the BCF priorities for spending. Insights from the BCF Falls Working Group has helped identify merging needs around hospital discharge, winter and planning and falls reduction.

56. Marketing and outreach is also essential to reaching clients. As well as local advertising campaigns, the team has attended faith meetings, community groups and foodbanks. Promotional material is prominent across local hospitals, and information sent via the hospital intranet reaches 30,000 health professionals. Clients, families and partner organisations can subscribe to an online newsletter for updates on the latest support.

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health

57. The Public Health England (PHE) Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health aims to facilitate local and national action around preventing mental health problems and promoting good mental health. It provides a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches.
58. Over the last year, due to the Council's involvement with the Mental Health Concordat Partnership, insight and opportunities from these meetings have been shared across the Council where they are relevant to their work.
59. The Community Champions and Community Health Development Officers are working with Anchor Organisations to develop a series of Men's Health Workshops to be held across the city for 2024-25.

Oxford City Council future focus

60. The Council is a delivery partner for the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the associated Action Plan, which have both been noted by Council. There is a key focus on active lives for physical and mental health, as well as taking forward work that delivers on the enablers of health, notably around housing and the local economy.
61. The City Council is actively engaged with the new Policy Lab initiative from the two universities and the County Council. Projects will be identified for university researchers to apply the expertise to Local Authority policy issues across the county, with health as a key focus.
62. Health inequalities have been given greater prioritisation as part of the Corporate Strategy 2024-28 and the Thriving Communities Strategy 2023-27, and work to deliver on these priorities will be taken forward by the Community Services team and others across the council.
63. Establishing the new leisure partnership in the first year of the contract, to move leisure centres towards becoming active lifestyle centres. This includes work to improve the centres themselves and the range of opportunities offered within them.
64. Young people's physical and mental health, through brand new state of the art Youth Hub at the Leys Pool and Leisure Centre which will be a one-stop shop for accessing positive activities, advice, and guidance to improve outcomes for young people in relation to mental and physical wellbeing and skills for life and work.

Financial implications

65. There are no financial implications for this report.

Legal issues

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

Conclusion

67. The Council has made a huge contribution to work related to health this past year across all service areas, in particular in shaping the county-wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy that gives strategic direction for health partnerships around prevention.

68. Teams within the Council have delivered outstanding results, with work being recognised by sector experts. The OOHC has been shown to deliver significant results and savings, and the work delivered by the HIA has been recognised in national awards. Physical activity programmes are delivering results and have secured further funding, and the investment secured for a Youth Hub at Blackbird Leys enables a new level of youth engagement and support.

69. The Council continues to play a key role in influencing through partnerships, focusing on prevention work and ensuring its services are aligned with those of other agencies around shared objectives.

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Background Papers: None

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To: Council
Date: 15 July 2024
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 3 July 2024, 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 Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, Independent Oxford Alliance, Oxford Community Independents, Oxford Independent Group, Real Independent groups in that order.

Introduction

- a) Oxford United Stadium (Proposed by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino)
- b) Motion of No Confidence in Thames Water and development of an Oxford city river action plan (proposed by Cllr Jo Sandelson, seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles) [Amendment by Cllr Simon Ottino, seconded by Cllr Jemima Hunt] [Amendment by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Alex Powell]
- c) Making Oxford a Truly Walkable City (proposed by Cllr Max Morris, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr) [Amendment by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton]
- d) Scrap the Two-Child Benefit Cap (proposed by Cllr Theodore Jupp, seconded by Cllr Chris Smowton) [Amendment by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown] [Amendment by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Max Morris]
- e) Bus travel for asylum seekers in Oxford (proposed by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Dianne Regisford)

a) Oxford United Stadium (Proposed by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Simon Ottino)

Labour Group Motion

This Council expresses its support for Oxford United's proposals for a new stadium at Stratfield Brake

b) Motion of No Confidence in Thames Water and development of an Oxford city river action plan (proposed by Cllr Jo Sandelson, seconded by Cllr Katherine Miles) [Amendment by Cllr Simon Ottino, seconded by Cllr Jemima Hunt] [Amendment by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Alex Powell]

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

This council has no confidence in the water company Thames Water, which provides services to households in Oxford. For too long now water company bosses have been able to get away with paying themselves millions of pounds in bonuses while dumping millions of tonnes of raw sewage into the River Thames and under-investing in infrastructure. Despite increasing public scrutiny and despair, dividends continue to be paid out to investors that form part of the company's complex corporate structure. At the same time, the company has been reneging on its commitments to invest in infrastructure investments.¹

The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated bathing water status in 2022.² But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.³

Thames Water is on the brink of collapse and has a mountain of debt estimated at £18bn which it may pass on to taxpayers if the company were to be nationalised.⁴ Furthermore, the current regulator Ofwat has demonstrated it is too weak to stand up to Thames Water.⁵

The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and transformed into public benefit companies⁶; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to the Local Charter for Rivers.⁷ This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.⁸

To this end the Council resolves:

That it has no confidence in Thames Water.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

³ <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/waterways/bathing-water> ;

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=ukj1402-11946>

⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/29/will-rising-debt-cause-thames-water-to-sink-under-a-labour-government>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

⁶ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66043763>

⁷ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

⁸ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOKwnEXtzke2oO-MWrmXnXxFNHV5KZhV/view>

That the Council requests the Leader:

- writes to the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government with responsibility for water companies to call to: replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps; and place Thames Water into Special Administration to ensure the company's debt does not fall on the Government.
 - commissions a cabinet report with an analysis of current actions and gaps in line with the Local River Charter, and recommendations for developing an Oxford City River Action Plan.⁹
-

Labour Group Amendment

This council has no confidence in the water company Thames Water, which provides services to households in Oxford. For too long now water company bosses have been able to get away with paying themselves millions of pounds in bonuses while dumping millions of tonnes of raw sewage into the River Thames and under-investing in infrastructure. Despite increasing public scrutiny and despair, dividends continue to be paid out to investors that form part of the company's complex corporate structure. At the same time, the company has been renegeing on its commitments to invest in infrastructure investments.¹⁰

The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated bathing water status in 2022.¹¹ But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.¹²

~~Thames Water is on the brink of collapse and has a mountain of debt estimated at £18bn which it may pass on to taxpayers if the company were to be nationalised.¹³ Furthermore, the~~ **The** current regulator Ofwat has demonstrated it is too weak to stand up to Thames Water.¹⁴

The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and **brought back into public ownership** ~~transformed into public benefit companies¹⁵~~; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to

⁹ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

¹⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

¹² <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/waterways/bathing-water> ;
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=ukj1402-11946>

¹³ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/29/will-rising-debt-cause-thames-water-to-sink-under-a-labour-government>

¹⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

¹⁵ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66043763>

the Local Charter for Rivers.¹⁶ This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.¹⁷

To this end the Council resolves:

That it has no confidence in Thames Water.

That the Council requests the Leader:

- writes to the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government with responsibility for water companies to call to: replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps; and place Thames Water into Special Administration to ensure the company's debt does not fall on the Government.
 - commissions a cabinet report with an analysis of current actions and gaps in line with the Local River Charter, and recommendations for developing an Oxford City River Action Plan.¹⁸
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If amended, the Motion would read:

This council has no confidence in the water company Thames Water, which provides services to households in Oxford. For too long now water company bosses have been able to get away with paying themselves millions of pounds in bonuses while dumping millions of tonnes of raw sewage into the River Thames and under-investing in infrastructure. Despite increasing public scrutiny and despair, dividends continue to be paid out to investors that form part of the company's complex corporate structure. At the same time, the company has been renegeing on its commitments to invest in infrastructure investments.¹⁹

The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated bathing water status in 2022.²⁰ But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.²¹

The current regulator Ofwat has demonstrated it is too weak to stand up to Thames Water.²²

The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and brought back into public ownership; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

¹⁶ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

¹⁷ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOKwnEXTzke2oO-MWrmXnXxFNHV5KZhV/view>

¹⁸ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

²⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

²¹ <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/waterways/bathing-water> ;
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=ukj1402-11946>

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At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to the Local Charter for Rivers.²³ This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.²⁴

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That the Council requests the Leader:

- writes to the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government with responsibility for water companies to call to: replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps; and place Thames Water into Special Administration to ensure the company's debt does not fall on the Government.
 - commissions a cabinet report with an analysis of current actions and gaps in line with the Local River Charter, and recommendations for developing an Oxford City River Action Plan.²⁵
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Green Group Amendment

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The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated bathing water status in 2022.²⁷ But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.²⁸

Thames Water is on the brink of collapse and has a mountain of debt estimated at £18bn which it may pass on to taxpayers if the company were to be nationalised.²⁹

²³ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

²⁴ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOKwnEXtzke2oO-MWrmXnXxFNHV5KZhV/view>

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²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

²⁸ <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/waterways/bathing-water> ;
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²⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/29/will-rising-debt-cause-thames-water-to-sink-under-a-labour-government>

Furthermore, the current regulator Ofwat has demonstrated it is too weak to stand up to Thames Water.³⁰

The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and transformed into public benefit companies³¹; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to the Local Charter for Rivers.³² This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.³³

To this end the Council resolves:

That it has no confidence in Thames Water.

That the Council requests the Leader:

- writes to the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government with responsibility for water companies to call to: replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps; and place Thames Water into Special Administration to ensure the company's debt does not fall on the Government.
 - commissions a cabinet report with an analysis of current actions and gaps in line with the Local River Charter, and recommendations for developing an Oxford City River Action Plan.³⁴
 - **To reiterate this council's view that the long-term solution to the problems in our water system is to take the water firms - including Thames Water - back into public ownership.**
-

If approved, the Motion would read:

This council has no confidence in the water company Thames Water, which provides services to households in Oxford. For too long now water company bosses have been able to get away with paying themselves millions of pounds in bonuses while dumping millions of tonnes of raw sewage into the River Thames and under-investing in infrastructure. Despite increasing public scrutiny and despair, dividends continue to be paid out to investors that form part of the company's complex corporate structure. At the same time, the company has been reneging on its commitments to invest in infrastructure investments.³⁵

The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated

³⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

³¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66043763>

³² <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

³³ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOKwnEXTzke2oO-MWrmXnXxFNHV5KZhV/view>

³⁴ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

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bathing water status in 2022.³⁶ But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.³⁷

Thames Water is on the brink of collapse and has a mountain of debt estimated at £18bn which it may pass on to taxpayers if the company were to be nationalised.³⁸ Furthermore, the current regulator Ofwat has demonstrated it is too weak to stand up to Thames Water.³⁹

The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and transformed into public benefit companies⁴⁰; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to the Local Charter for Rivers.⁴¹ This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.⁴²

To this end the Council resolves:

That it has no confidence in Thames Water.

That the Council requests the Leader:

- writes to the Secretary of State of His Majesty's Government with responsibility for water companies to call to: replace Ofwat with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps; and place Thames Water into Special Administration to ensure the company's debt does not fall on the Government.
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 - To reiterate this council's view that the long-term solution to the problems in our water system is to take the water firms - including Thames Water - back into public ownership.
-

If both amendments were approved, the Motion would read:

This council has no confidence in the water company Thames Water, which provides services to households in Oxford. For too long now water company bosses have been able to get away with paying themselves millions of pounds in bonuses while dumping

³⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

³⁷ <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/waterways/bathing-water> ;
<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwq/profiles/profile.html?site=ukj1402-11946>

³⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/29/will-rising-debt-cause-thames-water-to-sink-under-a-labour-government>

³⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/jun/28/thames-water-board-150m-dividend-payout-funding-u-turn>

⁴⁰ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-66043763>

⁴¹ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

⁴² <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hOKwnEXTzke2oO-MWrmXnXxFNHV5KZhV/view>

⁴³ <https://riveractionuk.com/local-charter-for-rivers/>

millions of tonnes of raw sewage into the River Thames and under-investing in infrastructure. Despite increasing public scrutiny and despair, dividends continue to be paid out to investors that form part of the company's complex corporate structure. At the same time, the company has been renegeing on its commitments to invest in infrastructure investments.⁴⁴

The consequences are many. Wildlife is disappearing and rivers are unfit to swim in. For example, Oxford has a long tradition of wild swimming in the River Thames at Port Meadow. The city celebrated when Wolvercote Mill Stream received designated bathing water status in 2022.⁴⁵ But the level of pollution caused by sewage means the Bathing site is currently classified as Poor and bathing is not advised.⁴⁶

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The Sewage Scandal must end to protect the River Thames. In response, this Council believes that water companies, including Thames Water, should be put into Special Administration and brought back into public ownership; and Ofwat should be replaced with a tough new regulator with new powers to prevent sewage dumps.

At a local level in response to the river water emergency, the City Council can demonstrate its commitment to support the restoration of river health, by signing up to the Local Charter for Rivers.⁴⁸ This sets out steps that councils can take to use their powers to restore our rivers to health at a local level.⁴⁹

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 - commissions a cabinet report with an analysis of current actions and gaps in line with the Local River Charter, and recommendations for developing an Oxford City River Action Plan.⁵⁰
 - To reiterate this council's view that the long-term solution to the problems in our water system is to take the water firms - including Thames Water - back into public ownership.
-

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⁴⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bathing-waters-list-of-designated-waters-in-england/list-of-current-bathing-waters>

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c) Making Oxford a Truly Walkable City (proposed by Cllr Max Morris, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr) [Amendment by Cllr Ed Turner, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton]

Green Group Motion

Council notes

1. Oxford was recently named as the UK's most walkable city, due to the small distances between key tourist attractions.⁵¹
2. The 2021 Census showed that 22% of Oxford residents walk to work, making walking the modal choice for more commuting residents than cycling at 17% or bus at 15%.⁵²
3. Studies show walking significantly improves both physical and mental health outcomes, and promotes longer and higher quality lives.⁵³
4. Research suggests lower income households - over-represented by 'female heads of house, children, young and older people, black and minority ethnic (BME) and disabled people' - rely on walking more often due to not owning a car.⁵⁴
5. There are inexpensive walking-related initiatives across Oxfordshire which have been successful, such as Oxford's health walks and Bicester Blue Lines.⁵⁵
6. Whilst some things which improve the pedestrian experience are County responsibilities there are others which the City Council has sole or joint responsibility for, such as new benches, water fountains, public toilets, and wayfinding.
7. The City Council could require residential dropped kerbs to be "Dutch style" entry kerbs, which keeps pavements flat and easier for wheelchair users.
8. Mapping work in London has provided councils with excellent dynamic local maps, allowing residents and visitors to walk more easily.⁵⁶
9. Pavement Parking is frequently named as one of the key issues facing pedestrians and wheelchair users. Government commissioned a report into this in 2020, and despite written questions and a debate, the results have not been published.⁵⁷
10. Lambeth has pioneered an innovative "Kerbside Strategy" which prioritises walking, street trees, benches, and local businesses and will reallocate 25% of kerbside space to people.⁵⁸

Council believes

⁵¹ <https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-uks-10-most-walkable-cities-have-been-revealed-052724#:~:text=Named%20the%20UK's%20most%20walkable,them%20in%20just%2022%20minutes.>

⁵² <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/883/majority-of-oxford-residents-commute-using-active-travel-or-public-transport-new-census-data-shows>

⁵³ <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/walking-for-health/>

⁵⁴ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c828f80ed915d07c9e363f7/future_of_mobility_access.pdf

⁵⁵ <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1154/health-routes-in-bicester>

⁵⁶ <https://footways.london/>

⁵⁷ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-13/debates/4479BB2C-49BD-47FD-9C76-5149A8A12DF7/PavementParking>

⁵⁸ <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/streets-roads-transport/lambeth-kerbside-strategy>

1. Despite Oxford being a relatively small city with strong walking potential, the experience of walking or wheeling around the city needs urgent improvement.
2. We could build on Oxford's small size and strong reputation for walking to have a cohesive strategy to improve the pedestrian experience for everyone - and this would be relatively inexpensive to do with enormous health and wellness benefits.

Council resolves:

1. To request the Cabinet Member for Healthy Oxford:
 - a. discuss with officers the designing of a plan for improving walking in Oxford, based on local knowledge and existing research.
 - b. Works with the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon and the Cabinet Member for Culture and officers to create a walkable map of Oxford for tourists and locals alike.
 - c. Writes to the new Transport Minister on behalf of Oxford City Council, urging rapid release of the 2020 pavement parking consultation
 - d. Proposes the idea of a "Kerbside Strategy for Oxford" to the County Council.
2. To request the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management reviews opportunities to invest in public infrastructure to improve the city's walkability, such as benches, water fountains, public toilets, signage, lighting, and trees.
3. To request the Cabinet Member for Planning reviews mandating Dutch entry kerbs for residential drop kerb conversions planning conditions and considers this through the Equality Act 2010.

Labour Group Amendment

Council notes

1. Oxford was recently named as the UK's most walkable city, due to the small distances between key tourist attractions.⁵⁹
2. The 2021 Census showed that 22% of Oxford residents walk to work, making walking the modal choice for more commuting residents than cycling at 17% or bus at 15%.⁶⁰
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4. Research suggests lower income households - over-represented by 'female heads of house, children, young and older people, black and minority ethnic (BME) and disabled people' - rely on walking more often due to not owning a car.⁶²

⁵⁹ <https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-uks-10-most-walkable-cities-have-been-revealed-052724#:~:text=Named%20the%20UK's%20most%20walkable,them%20in%20just%2022%20minutes.>

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6. Whilst some things which improve the pedestrian experience are County responsibilities there are others which the City Council has sole or joint responsibility for, such as new benches, water fountains, public toilets, and wayfinding.
7. The City Council could require residential dropped kerbs to be “Dutch style” entry kerbs, which keeps pavements flat and easier for wheelchair users.
8. Mapping work in London has provided councils with excellent dynamic local maps, allowing residents and visitors to walk more easily.⁶⁴
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10. Lambeth has pioneered an innovative “Kerbside Strategy” which prioritises walking, street trees, benches, and local businesses and will reallocate 25% of kerbside space to people.⁶⁶

Council believes

1. Despite Oxford being a relatively small city with strong walking potential, the experience of walking or wheeling around the city needs urgent improvement.
2. We could build on Oxford’s small size and strong reputation for walking to have a cohesive strategy to improve the pedestrian experience for everyone - and this would be relatively inexpensive to do with enormous health and wellness benefits.

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 - d. Proposes the idea of a “Kerbside Strategy for Oxford” to the County Council.
2. To request the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management reviews opportunities to invest in public infrastructure to improve the city’s walkability **to enable bids in the budget process**, ~~such as benches, water fountains, public toilets, signage, lighting, and trees.~~

⁶³ <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1154/health-routes-in-bicester>

⁶⁴ <https://footways.london/>

⁶⁵ <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-03-13/debates/4479BB2C-49BD-47FD-9C76-5149A8A12DF7/PavementParking>

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3. To request the Cabinet Member for Planning reviews mandating Dutch entry kerbs for residential drop kerb conversions planning conditions and considers this through the Equality Act 2010.
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If amended, the Motion would read:

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⁶⁷ <https://www.timeout.com/uk/news/the-uks-10-most-walkable-cities-have-been-revealed-052724#:~:text=Named%20the%20UK's%20most%20walkable,them%20in%20just%2022%20minutes.>

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⁷⁰ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c828f80ed915d07c9e363f7/future_of_mobility_access.pdf

⁷¹ <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1154/health-routes-in-bicester>

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Council believes

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Council resolves:

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 - d. Proposes the idea of a "Kerbside Strategy for Oxford" to the County Council.
2. To request the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management reviews opportunities to invest in public infrastructure to improve the city's walkability to enable bids in the budget process.
3. To request the Cabinet Member for Planning reviews mandating Dutch entry kerbs for residential drop kerb conversions planning conditions and considers this through the Equality Act 2010.

d) Scrap the Two-Child Benefit Cap (proposed by Cllr Theodore Jupp, seconded by Cllr Chris Smowton) [Amendment by Cllr Mary Clarkson, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown] [Amendment by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Max Morris]

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.⁷⁵
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.⁷⁶
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.⁷⁷
- In a country already struggling with fewer and fewer young people supporting an ageing population, it is not in any case in our interests to attempt to prevent or delay people from raising children through financial pressure.
- Despite initially pledging to repeal the policy in 2020,⁷⁸ Sir Keir Starmer backtracked and pledged to keep the Tory policy,⁷⁹ before eventually adopting a noncommittal stance on the issue.⁸⁰

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
 - Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.
-

Labour Group Amendment

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much

⁷⁵ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

⁷⁶ https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two_child_limit/

⁷⁷ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

⁷⁸ https://twitter.com/Keir_Starmer/status/1225465424092987393

⁷⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/16/labour-keep-two-child-benefit-cap-says-keir-starmer>

⁸⁰ <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-softens-stance-on-two-child-benefit-cap-amid-snp-attacks-ahead-of-by-election-12940684>

- higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.⁸¹
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.⁸²
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.⁸³
- In a country already struggling with fewer and fewer young people supporting an ageing population, it is not in any case in our interests to attempt to prevent or delay people from raising children through financial pressure.
- ~~Despite initially pledging to repeal the policy in 2020,⁸⁴ Sir Keir Starmer backtracked and pledged to keep the Tory policy,⁸⁵ before eventually adopting a noncommittal stance on the issue.⁸⁶~~

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
 - Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.
-

If amended, the Motion would read:

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.⁸⁷
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.⁸⁸
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.⁸⁹
- In a country already struggling with fewer and fewer young people supporting an ageing population, it is not in any case in our interests to

⁸¹ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

⁸² https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two_child_limit/

⁸³ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

⁸⁴ https://twitter.com/Keir_Starmer/status/1225465424092987393

⁸⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/16/labour-keep-two-child-benefit-cap-says-keir-starmer>

⁸⁶ <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-softens-stance-on-two-child-benefit-cap-amid-snp-attacks-ahead-of-by-election-12940684>

⁸⁷ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

⁸⁸ https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two_child_limit/

⁸⁹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

attempt to prevent or delay people from raising children through financial pressure.

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
 - Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.
-

Green Group Amendment

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.⁹⁰
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.⁹¹
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.⁹²
- ~~In a country already struggling with fewer and fewer young people supporting an ageing population, it is not in any case in our interests to attempt to prevent or delay people from raising children through financial pressure.~~
- **The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that 250,000 extra children per year are pushed into poverty by the Two Child Benefit Cap.[1] It is, therefore, urgent that government take proper action to address child poverty⁹³.**
- Despite initially pledging to repeal the policy in 2020,⁹⁴ Sir Keir Starmer backtracked and pledged to keep the Tory policy,⁹⁵ before eventually adopting a noncommittal stance on the issue.⁹⁶

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

⁹⁰ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

⁹¹ https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two_child_limit/

⁹² <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

⁹³ <https://ifs.org.uk/articles/two-child-limit-poverty-incentives-and-cost#:~:text=We%20estimate%20that%2050%2C000%20extra,one%20adult%20in%20paid%20work>

⁹⁴ https://twitter.com/Keir_Starmer/status/1225465424092987393

⁹⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/16/labour-keep-two-child-benefit-cap-says-keir-starmer>

⁹⁶ <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-softens-stance-on-two-child-benefit-cap-amid-snp-attacks-ahead-of-by-election-12940684>

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
 - Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.
-

If approved, the Motion would read:

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.
- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.⁹⁷
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.⁹⁸
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.⁹⁹
- The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that 250,000 extra children per year are pushed into poverty by the Two Child Benefit Cap.[1] It is, therefore, urgent that government take proper action to address child poverty¹⁰⁰.
- Despite initially pledging to repeal the policy in 2020,¹⁰¹ Sir Keir Starmer backtracked and pledged to keep the Tory policy,¹⁰² before eventually adopting a noncommittal stance on the issue.¹⁰³

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
 - Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.
-

If both amendments were approved, the Motion would read:

Council notes that:

- The two-child limit, introduced by the Conservative Government in

⁹⁷ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

⁹⁸ https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two_child_limit/

⁹⁹ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

¹⁰⁰ <https://ifs.org.uk/articles/two-child-limit-poverty-incentives-and-cost#:~:text=We%20estimate%20that%2050%2C000%20extra,one%20adult%20in%20paid%20work>

¹⁰¹ https://twitter.com/Keir_Starmer/status/1225465424092987393

¹⁰² <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2023/jul/16/labour-keep-two-child-benefit-cap-says-keir-starmer>

¹⁰³ <https://news.sky.com/story/starmer-softens-stance-on-two-child-benefit-cap-amid-snp-attacks-ahead-of-by-election-12940684>

2017, restricts support in Universal Credit and tax credits to two children in a family.

- The Child Poverty Action Group identified 4.2 million children living in poverty in the UK in 2021–22, with the prevalence of poverty much higher among Black and minority ethnic groups.¹⁰⁴
- Research by the End Child Poverty Coalition shows that scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty, and that the economic and societal effects of child poverty, including spending on public services, cost the UK £39 billion every year.¹⁰⁵
- A new report by the Commons Education Select Committee warns that cost-of-living pressures on families are driving missed education.¹⁰⁶
- The Institute for Fiscal Studies estimates that 250,000 extra children per year are pushed into poverty by the Two Child Benefit Cap.[1] It is, therefore, urgent that government take proper action to address child poverty¹⁰⁷.

Council resolves to request the Leader of the Council:

- Write to both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition expressing this council's strong support for a repeal of the two-child benefit cap.
- Write to Oxford's MPs requesting that they in turn pressure both Government and Opposition to abolish the cap.

¹⁰⁴ <https://cpag.org.uk/child-poverty/child-poverty-facts-and-figures>

¹⁰⁵ <https://endchildpoverty.org.uk/two-child-limit/>

¹⁰⁶ <https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/41590/documents/205047/default/> particularly para.148

¹⁰⁷ <https://ifs.org.uk/articles/two-child-limit-poverty-incentives-and-cost#:~:text=We%20estimate%20that%20250%2C000%20extra,one%20adult%20in%20paid%20work>

e) Bus travel for asylum seekers in Oxford (proposed by Cllr Alex Powell, seconded by Cllr Dianne Regisford)

Green Group Motion

Council Notes:

1. There are an increasing number of asylum seekers being accommodated within the city, particularly in a hotel near to the Kassam Stadium.¹⁰⁸
2. Those asylum claimants who are in receipt of statutory support according to section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 receive average weekly financial support equating to just £8.86 per week for those in accommodation.¹⁰⁹
3. Oxford City Council has signed up to the values of the City of Sanctuary scheme undertaking a commitment to ensure that Oxford is a safe and supportive environment for sanctuary seekers.¹¹⁰
4. Oxfordshire County Council has also signalled its intention to become a County of Sanctuary, showcasing its own commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for people seeking sanctuary.¹¹¹
5. Numerous charities and organisations have drawn attention to the harms that hotel accommodation poses for asylum seekers: such as isolation from communities and resources.¹¹² This makes it even more important that support is accessible.
6. That the financial costs of travel within Oxford City make it more difficult for asylum seekers to access and engage with available sources of support.
7. That asylum seekers have recently made representations regarding the need for free bus passes to Oxfordshire County Council.¹¹³

Council Believes:

1. That Local Authorities, at both District and County Council level, have a moral and ethical duty, to the extent to which the law allows, to advocate for and protect all residents residing within their territorial area regardless of immigration status.
2. That access to support services should be open to all asylum seekers and should not be prohibited by transport costs.
3. As a City of Sanctuary, Oxford City Council has a responsibility to act in a manner that promotes the safety, security and well-being of sanctuary seekers.
4. As an aspiring County of Sanctuary, Oxfordshire County Council has a responsibility to act in a manner that promotes the safety, security and well-being of sanctuary seekers.

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23116955.kassum-stadium-hotel-used-house-refugee-sparking-row/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/section/95>

¹¹⁰ <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/183/oxford-city-council-makes-commitment-to-city-of-sanctuary-status>

¹¹¹ <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-is-a-county-of-sanctuary/#:~:text=Migrants%2C%20including%20refugees%20and%20asylum,as%20a%20place%20of%20sanctuary>

¹¹² https://helenbamber.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Suffering%20and%20squalor_Final_June%202024.pdf; <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Hostile-Accommodation-Refugee-Action-report.pdf>

¹¹³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx77z1d57ydo>

Council Resolves:

1. To request that the Leader of Oxford City Council write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council asking for them to facilitate the use of all buses within the Oxford City area without cost for those seeking asylum.
2. To request that the Leader of Oxford City Council issue a public statement supporting the provision of free bus travel to all asylum seekers residing within the City limits.
3. To publicly record the Council's support for the provision of free bus travel to all asylum seekers within Oxford City for all asylum seekers residing within Oxford City.
4. To request that the Leader of Oxford City Council write to the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Transport for the United Kingdom requesting the provision of free bus passes be provided for all asylum seekers resident in England, noting that transport for other parts of the UK is a devolved matter.

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