

Agenda

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Council

Date: **Monday 3 February 2014**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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The meeting will also be available via a webcast. This means that people may choose to watch all or part of the meeting over the internet rather than attend in person. The webcast will be available to view on the City Council's website after the meeting.

Council

Membership

Lord Mayor

Councillor Dee Sinclair

Deputy Lord Mayor

Councillor Tony Brett

Sheriff

Councillor Mohammed Abbasi

Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan

Councillor Laurence Baxter

Councillor Elise Benjamin

Councillor Susan Brown

Councillor Jim Campbell

Councillor Anne-Marie Canning

Councillor Bev Clack

Councillor Mary Clarkson

Councillor Colin Cook

Councillor Van Coulter

Councillor Steven Curran

Councillor Roy Darke

Councillor Jean Fooks

Councillor James Fry

Councillor John Goddard

Councillor Michael Gotch

Councillor Mick Haines

Councillor Sam Hollick

Councillor Rae Humberstone

Councillor Graham Jones

Councillor Pat Kennedy

Councillor Shah Khan

Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan

Councillor Mark Lygo

Councillor Sajjad Malik

Councillor Stuart McCready

Councillor Mark Mills

Councillor Helen O'Hara

Councillor Michele Paule

Councillor Susanna Pressel

Councillor Bob Price

Councillor Mike Rowley

Councillor Gwynneth Royce

Councillor David Rundle

Councillor Gill Sanders

Councillor Scott Seamons

Councillor Craig Simmons

Councillor Val Smith

Councillor John Tanner

Councillor Ed Turner

Councillor Louise Upton

Councillor Oscar Van Nooijen

Councillor Ruth Wilkinson

Councillor David Williams

Councillor Dick Wolff

HOW TO OBTAIN AGENDA

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SUMMONS

A meeting of the City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, on Monday 3 February 2014 at 5.00 pm to transact the business set out below.

Peter Sloman

Proper Officer

AGENDA

	Pages
1 APOLOGIES	
2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3 MINUTES	1 - 30
Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 25 th November 2013.	
4 APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES	
5 ANNOUNCEMENTS	
Announcements by:	
(1) The Lord Mayor	
(2) The Sheriff	
(3) The Leader of the Council	
(4) The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer	
<u>PART 1 - ITEMS FOR DECISION</u>	
6 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO	

MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING

Public addresses and questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10 and 11.11. The full text of any address or question must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00pm on Tuesday 28th January 2014.

Full details of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline will be provided separately prior to the meeting.

7 ELECTIONS STAFF FEES AND THE OXFORD LIVING WAGE 31 - 32

The Returning Officer has submitted a report which seeks an amendment to the delegated authority for the Returning Officer to approve the scale of fees for elections held in the City.

Council is asked to agree to amend the delegated power of the Returning Officer to agree election fees to allow him to alter those fees where any payment to an individual would fall below the prevailing Oxford Living Wage.

8 CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES 33 - 52

(1) Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2013.

(2) Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2014.

9 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Questions on notice under Council Procedure Rule 11.9(b) may be asked of Lord Mayor, a Member of the City Executive Board or the Chair of Committee.

Questions on notice must, by the Constitution be notified to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Monday 27th January 2014.

Full details of any questions and responses will be provided separately prior to the meeting.

PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

10 PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS COUNCIL MEETING

Public addresses and questions received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.10 and 11.11. The full text of any address or question must be received by the Head of Law and Governance by 5.00pm on Tuesday 28th January 2014.

Full details of the addresses and questions submitted by the deadline will be

provided separately prior to the meeting.

11 PETITIONS

None submitted for consideration.

12 OUTSIDE ORGANISATION/COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

53 - 58

- (a) Members who are Council representatives on external bodies or Chairs of Council Committees who consider that a significant decision or event has taken place, will give notice to the Head of Law and Governance by 1.00 pm on Thursday 30th January 2014 to present a written or oral report on the event or the significant decision and how it may influence future events.
- (b) Each ordinary meeting of Council shall receive a written report concerning the work of one of the partnerships on which the Council is represented.

Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report on behalf of Councillor Pat Kennedy, Board Member, Education, Crime and Community Safety, which informs Members of the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Council is asked to comment on and note the report.

13 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

59 - 60

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has submitted a report which updates Council on the activities of scrutiny and other non-executive Councillors since the last meeting of Council.

Council is asked to comment on and note the report.

PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

14 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

61 - 66

Council Procedure Rule 11.16 refers.

Motions received by the Head of Law and Governance by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday 22nd January 2014 are attached to this agenda.

15 MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

If Council wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding agenda items it will be necessary for Council to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

(The Access to Information Procedure Rules – Section 15 of the Council’s Constitution – sets out the conditions under which the public can be excluded from meetings of the Council

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed "Declarations of Interest" or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licences for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member "must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself" and that "you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned". What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

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COUNCIL

Monday 25 November 2013

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Sinclair (Lord Mayor), Abbasi (Sheriff), Brett (Deputy Lord Mayor), Altaf-Khan, Baxter, Benjamin, Brown, Campbell, Canning, Clarkson, Cook, Coulter, Curran, Darke, Fooks, Goddard, Gotch, Haines, Hollick, Humberstone, Kennedy, Khan, Lloyd-Shogbesan, Lygo, Malik, McCready, Mills, O'Hara, Paule, Pressel, Price, Rowley, Royce, Rundle, Sanders, Seamons, Smith, Tanner, Turner, Upton, Van Nooijen, Williams and Wolff.

54. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beverley Clack, James Fry, Graham Jones, Stuart McCready, Craig Simmons, and Ruth Wilkinson.

55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

56. MINUTES

Council agreed to approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 30th September 2013.

57. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Council noted that following the previous meeting of Council (minute 33 of that meeting), the Head of Law and Governance had been informed of the following appointments/changes to the membership of Committees:

Councillor John Goddard had been appointed to the Planning Review Committee

Councillor Mike Gotch had been appointed to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

Councillors Jean Fooks and Ruth Wilkinson would no longer serve on the Disciplinary Committee for Directors and Heads of Service.

58. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Dee Sinclair made the following announcement:

- (1) Council Officers had been proactive following the Philippines typhoon disaster by contacting the Philippine community representatives in the City. The Council had offered to provide storage facilities for items collected. She added that there had been a collection and there was also a link on the Council's website, should people wish to donate.

Councillor Mary Clarkson added that the Overseas Director for CAFOD said that the best way to donate was in cash rather than in goods.

The Sheriff, Councillor Mohammed Niaz Abbasi made the following announcements:

- (1) The Sheriffs' Association had held their recent conference in Nottingham which he had been pleased to attend representing Oxford. The next conference would be held in Canterbury.
- (2) The Port Meadow Drive had taken place on the morning of 14th October 2013. The Lord Mayor, Councillors and members of the Commoners Association attended. 120 cows had been rounded up and had been on the Meadow legally.
- (3) A Freeman of Oxford ceremony had taken place on 20th November 2013 with three people being made Freeman of the City.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Bob Price made the following announcement:

- (1) The Christmas Lights Festival had taken place over the previous weekend and had proved a great success. Over 100,000 people had attended during the three days of the Festival. He thanked the sponsors for their support and Council staff who ensured that the event was such a success. Plans were now underway for Christmas Lights 2014.

Councillor Jim Campbell on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group endorsed the comments made by Councillor Price.

59. PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THIS MEETING

No addresses or questions had been submitted by members of the public which related to matters for decision at this meeting.

60. WESTGATE - PROVISION OF TEMPORARY CAR AND COACH PARKING DURING CONSTRUCTION

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Housing and Property which had also been submitted to the City Executive Board on 9th October 2013. The report detailed a request for approval in the Council's capital programme of a scheme to provide temporary car and coach parking during the redevelopment of the Westgate.
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 9th October 2013.

Councillor Ed Turner moved and spoke to the report.

Council agreed to approve the inclusion of £3.3 million funded from an earmarked reserve in the Council's capital programme for the scheme as detailed in the report, relating to the provision of temporary car and coach parking during redevelopment of the Westgate, together with approval to transfer funding from the Council's Park and Ride works budget, if required.

61. COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER - LANHAM WAY, LITTLEMORE, OXFORD

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Head of Housing and Property which had also been submitted to the City Executive Board on 9th October 2013. The report concerned compulsory purchase proceedings in relation to a long term empty property in Lanham Way, Littlemore, Oxford.
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 9th October 2013.

Councillor Scott Seamons moved and spoke to the report.

Council agreed to approve that provision be made in the 2013/2014 budget for the compulsory purchase of the property as detailed in the confidential appendices to the report.

62. OXFORD SUPER CONNECTED CITIES PROJECT

Council had before it the following (previously circulated, now appended):

- (1) Report of the Executive Director, Housing and Regeneration which had also been submitted to the City Executive Board on 9th October 2013. The report provided an update on the successful bid to Government for funding of £4.83 million from the Urban Broadband Fund (Phase 2) Super Connected Cities Programme, and requested that Council officers now be authorised to deliver the project with the support of a specialist organisation using the funding secured plus the previously agreed £300,000 capital commitment and £25,000 start-up costs.
- (2) Extract from the minutes of the City Executive Board held on 9th October 2013.

Councillor Bob Price moved and spoke to the report.

Council agreed to approve an additional £4.83 million within the Council's General Fund Capital Programme in 2014/15 to be funded by Government Grant.

63. SETTING OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE 2014-15

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought delegated authority for the Executive Director of Organisational Development and Corporate Services to approve the setting of the Council Tax Base for 2014/15 as required by Section 33 of The Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 2012.

Councillor Ed Turner moved and spoke to the report.

Council agreed:

- (a) To delegate the setting of the 2014/15 Council Tax Base for the City Council's area as a whole and for the individual parishes to the Executive Director of Organisational Development and Corporate Services and to the Audit and Governance Committee for subsequent financial years;
- (b) For 2015/16 onwards that details of the Council Tax Base should also be circulated to all Members of Council prior to the Audit and Governance Committee setting the Council Tax Base for the City Council's area as a whole and for the individual parishes.

64. COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which set out a revised programme of Council and Committee meetings for May – July 2014 in consequence of the change in the date of the European and Local Government elections to 22nd May 2014.

Councillor Bob Price moved and spoke to the report and asked that Council consider the rescheduling of the Scrutiny Committee dates from a Tuesday to a Monday.

Council agreed to approve the revised programme of Council and Committee meetings for the Council Year 2014/15 subject to further discussion between Officers and Group Leaders on the scheduling of the Scrutiny Committee.

65. CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Council had before it minutes of the City Executive Board as follows:

- (a) 9th October 2013
- (b) 13th November 2013

City Executive Board – 13th November 2013

- (a) Minute 94 – Oxpens Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document – Councillor Jean Fooks said that the Masterplan was a missed opportunity. The Action Plan for the area had been drawn up before the recent announcement of the redevelopment of the station. She said that what was needed was good quality community housing in the city centre and that the Liberal Democrat Group felt strongly on this issue.

In response Councillor Colin Cook said that Council was aware of what was being proposed. There needed to be an appropriate balance and the Supplementary Planning Document provided this. Councillor Ed Turner further added that the Administration had an unwavering commitment to retaining the Ice Rink in Oxpens.

- (b) Minute 95 – Waste and Recycling Strategy – Councillor Mark Mills said that he would like to see the costing for the diversion of recyclables from household waste, which the City Executive Board had not accepted as part of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations. In response Councillor John Tanner said that he had found the Working Party and Scrutiny very helpful. However the smaller the amount of waste the less economical it was to use a mechanical system and so it was not justified.

66. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

(1) Question to the Board Member, Benefits and Customer Services (Councillor Susan Brown) from Councillor Jean Fooks

Accessing Council services

The latest edition of Tenants in Touch says that “the recent Council survey showed us that less than half of our readers have access to the internet”. What is the Council doing to make sure that tenants can access all council services on paper or by phone and are not disadvantaged by not having internet access?

Response: It is important to understand that the articles in Tenants in Touch which related to Computers, Communication and Learning were designed to encourage digital inclusion where tenants do not have access to the internet at home. Details of basic training opportunities were highlighted as were locations where the internet can be accessed in the community for free. Use of the internet to access Council services is complementary to the use of face to face, phone or written contact.

Through the work of the Customer First Programme, the Council has made great improvements to ensure the customer service we provide is enabling as many customers as possible to access our services. We have also actively sought customer feedback to inform service delivery:

The Council has had a one number single point of telephone contact since 2011. This telephone number is widely publicised and over 270,000 calls are received by telephone each year to the Contact Centre Team. Staff, are trained in a wide range of services and over 90% of the calls received are dealt with by the team at that first point of contact without passing to the back office. There is also a 24 hour seven days a week automated payment telephone line, and an out of hours duty officer service, which handles urgent customer enquiries.

There are two modern walk in customer service centres providing access to officers via appointment or “drop in” alongside self-service facilities. Between them these centres resolve queries for over 16,000 customers

each year. The customer service centre is also available for partner surgeries and is being effectively used by Carers Oxfordshire and Shelter to introduce a one-stop-shop of local services.

We recently took part in a mystery shopping exercise which tested both our face to face and telephone service. The feedback was really positive and is now being used to help shape services further.

In addition, the Tenant Mystery Shopping Group has helped test our new telephone system options to ensure they are user friendly and comprehensive. The feedback on this exercise was really positive and they were satisfied with the changes we have made.

Over the next couple of months, we will be carrying out consultation with our customers to inform the next iteration of the Customer Contact Strategy. As part of the consultation we are engaging with customers to understand how they wish to access services and what we can do to improve access to services. This will cover all methods of contact including face to face, telephone and the website.

In addition, there is a specific questionnaire for tenants which as well as asking the same questions on accessibility, also asks them about their thoughts on the online reporting of repairs. This will enable us to develop this service in line with customer need and preferences.

We will also be identifying opportunities to further increase partnership working with those organisations who our customers may go to for advice, so giving additional "one-stop shop" style support as part of our service.

The objective is to enable and encourage customers to access our services using the most cost effective channels for them, giving us more time to spend serving customers who are not able to use electronic means.

Councillor Fooks in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member was aware of a recent survey where people had answered that online consultation was ineffective. In response Councillor Brown said that ways to improve the Council's website were being looked at with the aim to make it more effective and to allow for greater online contact with residents etc. She further added that officers were consulting with people to find out how they wanted to access the services provided by the Council.

(2) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Craig Simmons

St. Clement's Car Park

As predicted, traders are suffering due to inadequate alternative parking provision during the St Clements Car Park redevelopment. The Council made a significant sum from the sale of the land - a price which local traders are now paying for with their livelihoods. What is the City Council doing to compensate traders for loss of revenue during the construction period and what more will the Council now do?

Response: The Council has provided an additional car park, a 10 minute walk away, and, has worked with traders and local Councillors on a campaign to promote St Clements during the work. If traders feel they are suffering in the interim they can apply for business rates reductions if trading turnover is lower.

(3) Question to the Board Member, City Development (Councillor Colin Cook) from Councillor Jim Campbell

Planning: Consultation of Neighbours

Following a complaint about inadequate consultation in relation to a planning application in my ward, a Case Review was set up. The subsequent, excellent, report written by Clare Golden stated that a “number of important lessons had been identified”. In particular that:

We must ensure that we provide more than one notice for applications which affect properties to the rear or on sides which happen to be located in different roads;

We must ensure that all reports cover all relevant issues....The impact of developments on the garden area of dwellings must not be overlooked in terms of our assessment.

Recommended actions for the Planning Department included “the writing and adoption of a (new) site notice protocol” and the “provision of further training for all officers responsible for reviewing/clearing planning applications.”

Can the Portfolio Holder tell us whether these lessons *have* been learnt and whether the recommended actions *have been* carried out?

Response: The answer is yes. Protocol, training and practice all in place as per the report.

Councillor Campbell in a supplementary question asked if the Board Member would agree that had such a protocol been in place two years ago, a particular development might have been different. In response Councillor Cook said that the independent person who had been brought in to review a recent planning application was better placed to reply.

(4) Question to the Board Member, Youth and Communities (Councillor Steven Curran) from Councillor David Williams

Possible closure of Children’s Centres

Could the Portfolio holder outline the steps he has taken to persuade the County Council not to close the 15 Children’s Centres that they are proposing to close as a part of their cuts package.

Response: Local government has been forced to make some very difficult decisions, but we must not lose sight of the value of the services that are delivered. We do not believe that closing children’s centres where they are

really needed is an acceptable course of action. These concerns have been made clear to county colleagues in an appropriate manner.

I would like to thank the Green Party for their concern over a Labour Party flagship policy. I personally have made my concerns clear to the Portfolio Holder on the County and clearly this administration is opposed to cutting Children's Centres as we are in cutting other services to young people such as early intervention hubs. We recognise that difficult decisions need to be made by The County Council but cutting these services are not the right decision. I understand that hard and fast decisions have not yet been made and that the position of the Independents and the Green Party will be crucial to this issue.

(5) Question to the Board Member, Education, Crime and Community Safety (Councillor Pat Kennedy) from Councillor Dick Wolff

Alcohol Free Zones

Can you please explain how Oxford's Alcohol Free Zones are being policed?

Response: The whole of the city within the local authority boundary is covered by the Designated Places Order. That covers all public areas where there is an implied right of access to the public, even if they have to pay. But it is not an alcohol free zone. Police officers have discretionary powers which they are able to use if they think that alcohol may cause anti-social behaviour.

Police officers can confiscate the alcohol, opened or unopened, and failure to comply can lead to arrest.

Licensed areas are covered by the Licensing Act 2003.

Councillor Wolff in a supplementary question said that while he understood the policy it was still unclear how it was to be interpreted as there had been confusion and problems were being experienced on the ground through inconsistencies. In response Councillor Kennedy re-iterated her previous response. Councillor Price further added that there was discretion on the part of the Police Officer or Police Community Support Officer depending on the circumstances.

(6) Question to the Board Member, Leisure Services (Councillor Mike Rowley) from Councillor Sam Hollick

Policy on restricting use of City leisure facilities

What is the Council policy on banning members of the public from those City leisure facilities managed by Fusion?

Can the portfolio holder tell me how many people are currently banned?

Are any banned people prominent members of the Save Temple Cowley Pool campaign?

Response: Fusion Lifestyle, as the managers of our leisure facilities, are responsible for any decision not to allow particular individuals to enter leisure premises. They have the right to do this if the activities of an individual are spoiling the leisure experience for other users. We would expect such decisions to be taken only as a last resort and in a reasonable manner. At present there are six people restricted from using the leisure centres, all of these are on a temporary basis.

I would not comment on any particular case because the Board Member does not influence, and should not give the appearance of influencing, individual decisions. However, from the point of view of policy oversight, I have no reason to believe that Fusion have acted unreasonably at any time.

Councillor Hollick in a supplementary question asked the Board Member if he was confident that the procedures were robust. In response Councillor Rowley said yes and that this action was only taken as a last resort.

(7) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Greener Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Elise Benjamin

Recycling Rates in 2012/13

Can the portfolio holder tell us the latest 2012/13 recycling rates in the City and how they compare to past years?

Response: The recycling rate for 2012/13 was 44.92%. The recycling rate for 2011/12 was 44.88%.

This shows an increase year on year of 0.04%. It should be borne in mind, that due to recent changes in national legislation we are no longer able to include street sweepings in our recycling calculation and from March 2013 these are no longer included in our recycling figures. As a result Council agreed to a reduction in our original recycling target of 50% to 44%. Our current year's performance is 44.82%, which of course does not include sweeping arisings. At the same period last year our recycling rate was 45.64%, so in "like for like" terms, the recycling rate is still increasing. The main reason for this is that dry recycle continues to increase. The figure currently stands at 29.38% compared to 29.29% at the same point last year. This is thanks in part to the educational campaigns that have taken place across the city. Our garden waste service continues to grow and as a consequence composting tonnages have risen also adding to the recycling rate, although these obviously fluctuate seasonally and are weather dependent.

(8) Question to the Board Member, Cleaner, Green Oxford (Councillor John Tanner) from Councillor Elise Benjamin

Carbon emissions

Can the portfolio holder tell us why the Council's carbon emissions have increased this year and what is he doing to tackle the issue?

Response: This issue was discussed in the Greenhouse Gas emissions report that the council prepares for Department of Energy and Climate Change each summer, and is available on the Council's web site.

The Council exceeded its 5% year on year reduction in *calculated* carbon emissions by implementing a range of carbon reduction measures in the year. The carbon savings from these measures are calculated according to industry good practice for an average weather year, and exceeded the 5% target for the year.

In fact last year was not an average weather year. The harsher and longer winter in 2012/13 was far more severe than in 2011/12. When comparing, "heating degree days" for 2012/13 were 37% higher than 2011/12. The effect of this is that more energy was used for heating than the previous year resulting in more carbon emissions.

A higher increase in emissions would have been observed under the conditions experienced during 2012/13 without an established and successful energy/carbon management plan in place.

The council's carbon management programme has avoided wasted energy and reduced energy bills compared to what they would have been in the long harsh winter of 2012/13.

(9) Question to the Board Member, Finance, Efficiency and Strategic Asset Management (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Craig Simmons

Treasury Management

Can the portfolio holder say why he does not agree with raising the non-specified investment limit set out in the Treasury Management Report which will enable the Council to benefit from much higher rates of return from its savings (6% rather than less than 1%).

Response: Specified investments are investments in sterling with counterparties which would be not more than one-year maturity, with rated institutions that meet the Council's minimum credit rating. These are considered low risk assets where the possibility of loss of principal or investment income is small.

Non specified investments are any other type of investment, i.e. longer than 364 days, variable rates, unrated building societies and property funds. These types of investment are more risky in nature and although are likely to attract higher returns, can carry a potential for loss of principal.

The current Treasury Management Strategy, which is agreed by Council and so can be amended by councillors, allows for the Council to invest up to 25% of its current investment portfolio in non-specified investments, with limits on different types of investment ranging between 10% and 20%. It is a matter of judgement on the level of risk which an authority should carry dependant on a number of factors including the level of reserves and balances and the risk appetite of the Council. In a number of authorities

against which the Council has benchmarked, the level of non-specified investments ranges from 0% to 25%.

In Oxford City the current limit of 25% has been set taking the above factors into account and following consultation with the Councils advisors, Sector, and is considered to be prudent.

When considering non-specified investments the Council is also required to consider the level of 'its core cash', or the amount of cash that will not be required in the short to medium term for cash flow purposes, since non-specified investments are generally long term in nature.

The Council does currently have £3 million in Property Funds together with £9 million in unrated building societies. Officers are currently looking to increase the amounts in Property Funds in favour of building societies but will continue to work within the confines of core cash and the 25% limit. Obviously these levels can be reviewed as part of the Treasury Management Strategy.

(10) Question to the Board Member, Finance, Efficiency and Strategic Asset Management (Councillor Ed Turner) from Councillor Craig Simmons

Blacklisting of workers

Will the board member join me in expressing their support for the GMB Union's campaign that is calling on Councils to blacklist companies that have been guilty of blacklisting workers? Will they ensure that the Council follows the lead of Tower Hamlets in adopting a procurement policy to empower the Council to reject such companies?

Response: I absolutely support the GMB's campaign, and am happy to state that the, Council's Procurement Section has checked the Council's payment records against the organisations identified as having blacklisted, and can confirm that none of the listed organisations are Council suppliers.

Tower Hamlets includes a specific question in their Pre-Qualification Questionnaire requiring any supplier who proposes to tender for a contract to agree to prohibit the use of systematic compilation of information on trade unionists and their use to discriminate against those individuals because of their trade union membership or because of their involvement in trade union activity in compliance with The Employment Relations Act 1999 (Blacklists) Regulations 2010. I propose that we do the same thing here in Oxford.

(11) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Jim Campbell

Remembrance Day Ceremony

I appreciate that this is more a County than a City issue but the presence of buses stuck at the entrance to Little Clarendon Street slightly detracted from what was otherwise a moving and important ceremony. Could you find out what notices were posted in Woodstock Road on the morning of

Sunday November 10th to warn traffic coming towards the City Centre that they would need to take a diversion, as St Giles, would be closed?

Response: The Remembrance Day ceremony and service was, on the whole, well organised and certainly provided a fitting focus for the citizens of Oxford to pay their respects to all those who have lost their lives in armed conflict. A sign at the junction of Woodstock Road and St Margaret's Road would, however, have been useful in notifying vehicles of the road closure and diversion and will be provided in future.

Councillor Campbell welcomed the response from Councillor Price.

(12) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Jim Campbell

Remembrance Day and International Links

This year there was a representative from Oxford's twin city of Perm attending the ceremony. Why was the wreath which had been requested not available, and what steps have been taken to apologise to him, and to the City of Perm, for this omission?

Response: A wreath had been ordered but was not delivered. Unfortunately, this was not noticed until shortly before the ceremony was due to start. The relevant officer has already written to the Perm representative apologising for the absence of the wreath on the day.

Councillor Campbell in a supplementary question asked if the Leader was as concerned as he was that an overstretching of the Twinning/Events Team had led to incidents such as this. In response Councillor Price said that he shared the concerns of Councillor Campbell. The combining of the Twinning and Events Teams, while bold, had not worked and this was now being reviewed.

(13) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Ruth Wilkinson

Workforce Travel Plan

How is the new Workforce Travel Plan being monitored?

Response: The new workforce travel plan is owned by the Head of Human Resources and Facilities and it was recently endorsed by the Carbon & Natural Resources Members Board. Most of the actions in the Workforce travel Plan have already been achieved. The remaining items are reviewed on a monthly basis by the Head of Human Resources and Facilities (such as use of pool cars, reduction in grey mileage, etc.). An update report will go back to the Carbon and Natural Resources Members Board at the end of the financial year.

67. PUBLIC ADDRESSES AND QUESTIONS THAT DO NOT RELATE TO MATTERS FOR DECISION AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

The following public addresses and questions that did not relate to matters for decision at the meeting were made and asked at Council. The texts of the addresses are appended to these minutes. Responses 'where applicable' to the addresses from Board Members and responses to questions are set out below.

Addresses

(1) Elaine Bennett – Declining standards of sewerage and drainage provision

Following the address, Councillor Colin Cook, Board Member, City Development gave the following response:

The City Council was very far from complacent. Thames Water and The Environment Agency remain statutory consultees on all relevant planning applications. I believe it is reasonable to expect developers to pay for the infrastructure necessary to address the sewerage and drainage requirements of their development. This is exactly what we have done with the new Barton Park development. I don't think it's reasonable to expect developers to pay the full costs for the remediation of existing problems. That responsibility sadly sits with the privatised water companies such as Thames Water where the profit margin for shareholders appears to be more important than the reinvestment of capital in the infrastructure. That having been said we will certainly work with Thames Water to try and address the problems in Marston and Northway and to which end I understand that DEFRA, working through the Environment Agency have committed just over £900k to a £1.8M scheme to address the contaminated surface water problems in Northway. The City Council is keen to work with the County Council to close that funding gap and although initial approaches to the County Council have been luke warm we will continue to press them for further funding for this scheme. I understand that the Scrutiny Committee has set up a panel to look at this very issue and I look forward to their report.

Wards Councillors for Headington Hill and Northway

Councillor Roy Darke agreed with the response from Councillor Cook and said that the Council needed fundamental responses from Thames Water on its investment plans.

Councillor Altaf-Khan said that he had previously invited the Chief Executive and the Executive Directors to see the issues on the ground in the area. He added that residents in the past raised issues at the Area Committees and heard updates, but these no longer existed. He further added that many people did not have access to the internet and so again did not receive/know about updates.

Ward Councillors for Marston

Councillor Mick Haines raised concerns on flooding and sewerage problems being faced by residents in Marston.

Councillor Mary Clarkson said that residents had said to her that the flooding issues had not been so much a problem this year as in the past.

She added regarding planning notifications, that she always wrote a letter to the residents who were the immediate neighbours to a proposed development.

(2) Chaka Artwell – I Free Campaign

(3) Jane Alexander – The Reality of Temple Cowley Pools

Councillor Mike Rowley, Board Member, Leisure Services provided the following response prior to the meeting:

All of the points made in this address have been responded to before. The main areas of confusion in the address are that it compares maintenance costs alone at Temple Cowley with the total running cost for the new pool. It also understates the carbon emissions at Temple Cowley by approximately 600 tonnes (in 2012-13 the carbon omissions at Temple Cowley were 780 tonnes of CO₂).

The truth of the matter is clearly set out in the information gathered from various experts in their field on the Council's website. The Council has been open from the beginning about the costs and benefits of the various alternatives and the choices it has made.

Questions

(1) Question to the Board Member, Leisure Services (Councillor Mike Rowley) from Jane Alexander

Restricting use of City leisure facilities

Why has the Council agreed to allow Fusion Lifestyle to ban a disabled woman from access to her essential exercise at Temple Cowley Pools and other fitness centres for over 7 weeks and why has the council not answered written requests for information about this and other complaints about Fusion Lifestyle?

Response: Fusion Lifestyle, as the managers of our leisure facilities, are responsible for any decision not to allow particular individuals to enter leisure premises. They have the right to do this if the activities of an individual are spoiling the leisure experience for other users. We would expect such decisions to be taken only as a last resort and in a reasonable manor. At present there are six people restricted from using the leisure centres, all of these are on a temporary basis. I would not comment on any particular case because the Board Member does not influence, and should not give the appearance of influencing, individual decisions. However, from the point of view of policy oversight, I have no reason to believe that Fusion have acted unreasonably at any time.

68. PETITIONS

No petitions had been previously submitted for consideration at this meeting.

69. OUTSIDE ORGANISATION REPORTS AND QUESTIONS

(a) Health and Well Being Board (including Health Improvement Board, Adult and Social Care Board and Children and Young People Board)

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed Council of the work of the Health and Well Being Board.

Councillor Ed Turner introduced the report.

Councillor Jean Fooks felt that it was a useful report and highlighted the need to look at the pockets of deprivation in the City. However she was concerned at the small mention of mental health which had been squeezed with end of life care.

Councillor Turner endorsed the comments by Councillor Fooks and said that mental health should have a higher profile.

Councillor Altaf-Khan also welcomed the report and said that he had spoken at the County Council on narrowing the gap. He said that on the Board there was no one representing ethnic minorities. He called on Councillor Turner to take this issue back to the Board and press its importance. He further added that initiatives needed to support diversity and not just be there to tick a box.

Councillor Turner acknowledged there was an issue with the make-up of the Board and valued all of the comments from Councillors which he would take back to the Board.

70. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which updated Council on the activities of Scrutiny and other non-Executive Councillors since the previous meeting of Council.

Councillor Mark Mills moved the report.

Councillor Bob Price with regard to paragraph 8 of the report (on-going flooding issues) said that it was not clear what aspects were being reviewed by Scrutiny. In response Councillor Mills said that this work was being conducted via a meeting between interested Councillors and Officers, and he would be happy to provide Councillor Price with more information. Councillor Price said that it was important to have a proper dialogue with Thames Water. Councillor Darke added that a Panel had been established and had held its first meeting. He agreed that there needed to be an intense discussion with Thames Water on their investment plans for the City. Councillor Rundle added that where issues of Thames Water and sewerage were concerned, having the Environment Agency involved was beneficial.

Council agreed to note the report.

71. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

Council had before it nine Motions on notice and reached decisions as follows.

(1) **The Covered Market – (Proposed by Councillor Jim Campbell seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)**

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Council: noting that the latest edition of *Your Oxford* has a full page advertising “Oxford's Amazing Christmas Markets”, which highlights new arrangements at Gloucester Green but makes no mention whatsoever of the Covered Market;

noting further no provision has been made during the Three Day Winter Light Festival to include the Covered Market in its programme;

regretting the lack of trust that has developed between the Council, as Landlord, and the Traders, as tenants;

welcoming the excellent report of the Retail Group, its analysis of the reasons behind the current underperformance of the Covered Market, and its proposals for how it can once again be a key part of Oxford's Retail Offer;

hoping that the residents of Oxford will respond, in numbers and in depth, to the four week public consultation on the report;

supporting the Council's already stated intention to appoint an interim Market Manager.

Council therefore calls on the City Executive Board:

- to recognise that, in recent years, there has been a lack of effective management by the Council and that this has been a significant contributory factor to the poor performance of the market;
- to consider thoroughly the findings of the public consultation on the future of the market;
- to ensure that the Covered Market has a key role in future City Centre events;
- to respond positively to the short term proposals put forward by the Retail Group;
- to examine in detail the long term proposals made by the Retail Group, and to draw up, by November 2014, a full report of how it will respond to these proposals.

Councillor Bob Price seconded by Councillor Colin Cook moved the following amendment:

To delete the first three paragraphs after 'Council' and the first bullet point.

The mover of the substantive Motion (Councillor Jim Campbell) did not accept the amendment by Councillor Bob Price and following a debate Council voted and the amendment was adopted.

Following a further vote the Motion as amended by Councillor Bob Price was adopted as follows:

Council: welcoming the excellent report of the Retail Group, its analysis of the reasons behind the current underperformance of the Covered Market, and its proposals for how it can once again be a key part of Oxford's Retail Offer;

hoping that the residents of Oxford will respond, in numbers and in depth, to the four week public consultation on the report;

supporting the Council's already stated intention to appoint an interim Market Manager.

Council therefore calls on The City Executive Board:

- to consider thoroughly the findings of the Public Consultation on the future of the market;
- to ensure that the Covered Market has a key role in future City Centre events;
- to respond positively to the short term proposals put forward by the Retail Group;
- to examine in detail the long term proposals made by the Retail Group, and to draw up, by November 2014, a full report of how it will respond to these proposals.

(2) Supermarket Levy – (Proposed by Councillor Dick Wolff, seconded by Councillor Sam Hollick)

Green Group Member – Motion on Notice

The City Council notes the national Local Works campaign to introduce a Supermarket Levy as a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act.

The proposals from Local Works is that the Secretary of State:

- (a) Gives Local Authorities the power to introduce a local levy of 8.5% of the rate on large retail outlets in their area with a rateable annual value not less than £500,000; and
- (b) Requires that the revenue from this levy goes directly to the Local Authority in order to be used to improve local communities in their area by promoting local economic activity, local services and facilities, social and community wellbeing and environmental protection.

This Council backs the Local Works proposal and asked officers to prepare a report to the City Executive Board setting out ways that the Council can move forward with the idea of a Supermarket Levy.

Following a debate, Council voted and the Motion was adopted.

(3) Fairtrade Mark – (Proposed by Councillor Van Coulter, seconded by Councillor John Tanner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council, as an important consumer and opinion leader, should continue to support and facilitate the promotion and purchase of foods with the FAIRTRADE Mark as part of its commitment to the pursuit of sustainable development and to give marginalised producers a fair deal.

Oxford City Council resolves to continue to contribute to the campaign to increase sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark by supporting the campaign to achieve the recertification of Fairtrade status for Oxford.

To this end, Oxford City Council resolves to:

1. Continue to offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options internally and make them available for internal meetings.
2. Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Towns initiative in internal communications and external newsletters.
3. Use its influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents.
4. Engage in a media campaign to publicise the recertification of Oxford as a Fairtrade Towns initiative.
5. Nominate a Council representative to sit on the Fairtrade Steering Group.
6. Support on-going work to promote Fairtrade.
7. Continue to organise events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight – the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

Following a debate, Council voted and the Motion was adopted.

(4) A Message of Support and Solidarity to our Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender (LGBT) friends in Perm, Russia – (Proposed by Councillor Tony Brett, seconded by Councillor Mary Clarkson)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council notes with horror the appalling human rights abuses happening in Russia that are denying LGBT people their basic rights to be themselves, to express themselves freely and to live in relationships with whoever they choose, free from government and police persecution.

This Council notes that Oxford enjoys a twinning arrangement with the City of Perm and, while a strong supporter of all human rights the world over, is concerned particularly about the plight of LGBT people in that city. This Council, further notes that some cities have chosen to sever twinning relationships with Russian cities because of Russian's LGBT human rights actions but considers this may be a disproportionate response in the case of Oxford and Perm as the abuses come from Russian central government, not from Perm local government.

As a more appropriate action for this situation, this Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders to write a letter to Perm expressing Oxford's concern for Perm's LGBT people and their human rights situation, offering our solidarity and friendship to them in any way they feel able to request.

Following a debate, Council voted and the Motion was adopted.

(5) Abolishing the Right to Buy in Oxford - (Proposed by Councillor Sam Hollick)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This council notes:

- That good quality, affordable housing is in short supply in Oxford.
- That the 'Right to Buy' poses a risk to the council's ability to provide such housing for those in need, as a significant value from right to buy sales is kept by national government [1] and there is a shortage of sites to replace those council houses that are lost in this way.
- That the Sustainable Communities Act gives councils the power to make proposals to the government for assistance that would promote the sustainability of local communities.

This Council believes:

- That an end to the Right to Buy in Oxford would promote the sustainability of communities in Oxford by protecting the supply of council housing, allowing more people to access quality affordable housing.

This council requests the City Executive Board:

- To consult and try to reach agreement with a representative citizens' panel on the following proposal: "The government should stop the right to buy or remove discounts for any eligible properties in Oxford"

- Following from any agreement, to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act.

[1] Only 25% of sale price is kept by the Council from the first 9 sales each year, 100% of the value is kept from any further sales.

Councillor Scott Seamons seconded by Councillor Sajjid Malik moved the following amendment:

To delete all words after the first bullet point and replace with:

Good quality, affordable housing is in short supply in Oxford and there is a shortage of available sites for new build. The Government's extension of the 'right to buy' policy has exasperated this problem, with the introduction of discounts of up to £75,000 the Council's housing stock has moved from seeing 3 sales in the year 2012-13 to 23 thus far in 2013-14 with an expectation of 40 set in the business plan. The council believes that this extension of the 'right to buy' will and demonstrably is reducing the availability of affordable housing in the city and this threatens our ability to build/maintain sustainable diverse communities.

The Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Housing stating the Council's position that the extended 'right to buy' is leading to a considerable loss in council stock. Additionally noting that a lack of sites for new build, makes it difficult to achieve one for one replacement within the authority, and that this is a desirable goal. The Council also asks that the letter notes that the Council would support a move to locally set 'right to buy' discounts so that the set discount does not damage the provision of affordable housing in the city.

The mover of the substantive Motion (Councillor Sam Hollick) did not accept the amendment by Councillor Scott Seamons and following a debate, Council voted and the amendment was adopted.

Following a further vote the Motion as amended by Councillor Scott Seamons was adopted as follows:

This Council notes that good quality, affordable housing is in short supply in Oxford, and there is a shortage of available sites for new build. The Government's extension of the 'right to buy' policy has exacerbated this problem, with the introduction of discounts of up to £75,000 the Council's housing stock has moved from seeing 3 sales in the year 2012-13 to 23 thus far in 2013-14 with an expectation of 40 set in the business plan. The council believes that this extension of the 'right to buy' will and demonstrably is reducing the availability of affordable housing in the city and this threatens our ability to build/maintain sustainable diverse communities.

The Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Housing stating the Council's position that the extended 'right to buy' is leading to a considerable loss in council stock. Additionally noting, that a lack of sites for new build makes it difficult to achieve one for one replacement within the authority and that this is a desirable goal. The

Council also asks that the letter notes that the Council would support a move to locally set 'right to buy' discounts so that the set discount does not damage the provision of affordable housing in the city.

(6) City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues – (Proposed by Councillor Ed Turner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council supports the work of MIND and the Mental Health Foundation and asks the City Executive Board to consider appointing a member of council to be a champion of mental health issues in much the same way as we have an older people's champion.

Council acknowledges it is not directly responsible for healthcare provision but believes it nonetheless has an important role to play. Council requests the City Executive Board to play a full role in the Health and Well Being Board and other partnership forums to maximise support for mental health work, and also to ensure its work providing and funding advice services is accessible to people with mental health problems.

Council believes councillors can support the wellbeing of people in their areas through both casework and their strategic role within the council. Council welcomes the practical steps set out by Mind and the Mental Health Foundation, whose new report, *Building Resilient Communities*, can be taken to promote wellbeing, build resilience and help to prevent mental health problems – including steps that can be taken by councillors.

Councillor Ed Turner's Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed for Motions on Notice by the Constitution had lapsed.

(7) Saving Community Pubs – (Proposed by Councillor Tony Brett)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council notes the possibility of submitting the following proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

'That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.'

This Council notes that if this power was acquired it would allow the council to determine if pubs should be demolished or converted into other uses and could save many valued community pubs.

This Council resolves to ask City Executive Board to consider and submit the proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act and to work together with Local Works and the Campaign for Real Ale to gain support for the proposal from other councils in the region and across the country.

Councillor Tony Brett's Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed for Motions on Notice by the Constitution had lapsed.

(8) Impartiality of Planning Process - (Proposed by Councillor David Williams)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council believes that both Councillors and officers must act, and be seen to act, in an impartial and objective way if public faith in the planning process is to be enhanced.

There is already a requirement under the Employee Code of Conduct for each Service Area to maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality, but members of the public are unable to easily access this information.

Council therefore resolves that, in the interest of openness and transparency:

- (1) All Service Area Registers of Gifts and Hospitality should be made readily available to Councillors and members of the public via a link on the Council website; and
- (2) Planning applications should include reference to any related disclosures.

Councillor David Williams' Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed by the Constitution had lapsed.

(9) Proposed closure of Children's Centre (Proposed by Councillor David Williams)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council is disturbed by the recent suggestion proposed by the Oxfordshire County Council as a part of its budget reductions for 2014-2015 that it will close 15 of its 22 Children's Centres throughout the County.

Children's Centres are direct front line services, the closure of which will have a severe impact on many families in the City not only meaning restricting employment opportunities for parents but also denying many children the benefits of organised play and education in a safe and caring environment.

The City Council calls on the County Council to reconsider this aspect of their programme and maintain all of the present Children's Centres and consequently the services they provide.

Councillor Elise Benjamin's Motion on Notice was not considered as the time allowed for Motions on Notice by the Constitution had lapsed.

72. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Not required.

**73. WESTGATE TEMPORARY CAR AND COACH PARKING -
CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX**

Council received and noted the contents of a not for publication appendix (previously circulated, now appended) to the report at agenda item 7 (Westgate temporary car and coach parking) (minute 60 refers).

**74. COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER - LANHAM WAY, LITTLEMORE,
OXFORD - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX**

Council received and noted the contents of a not for publication appendix (previously circulated, now appended) to the report at agenda item 8 (Compulsory purchase order – Lanham Way, Littlemore, Oxford) (minute 61 refers).

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

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Address to Council by Elaine Bennett

The declining standards of Sewerage and Drainage Provision since the Government introduced Localism and Decentralisation and passed their Control over to Oxford City Councillors to hold the Statutory responsibility for considering proposals for Development.

Good evening Oxford City Councillors. My name is Elaine Bennett. I was born and still reside in Marston.

Oxford benefits from being vibrant and multicultural. It is popular because of its worldwide reputation as a seat of Learning and new discoveries. It is a beautiful City and close to London. Therefore everyone wants to invest and develop here.

Oxford is prone to flooding and requires open spaces near its waterways to accommodate excess water. This means that there are only a few areas available for development. Proposed plans must be carefully considered so that each build and alteration is positive and will balance and enhance its local community. It is only fair that the people who wish to change our neighbourhoods, whether the change is a small extension or large development, must bear the full cost of providing and installing underground drainage and paying towards the upgrades necessary for their connection into the sewerage network.

This will not cause hardship or stop builds because all development reaps huge profits through the sale or rental of every property in Oxford.

The Government introduced Localism and Decentralisation so that Oxford City Councillors have a statutory responsibility for considering proposals for development. Councillors have a duty to their Constituents.

In the Oxford Mail on 1st November 2013 Cllr Roy Darke (Chairman of East Oxford Area Planning Committee) admitted that Thames Waters network system is antiquated and past its sell by date, causing flooding in the streets and in peoples gardens.

Huge development has exceeded the demand for service provision. Oxford City Council has known about this for a long time. Their complacency is not acceptable

Councillors were provided with the power to impose additional planning conditions on every planning application, so that service provision kept pace with the increases in demand.

If Councillors had worries and concerns regarding a lack of control they held regarding service provision. Then they had plenty of opportunity to liaise with other planning authorities, and also involve the public. So that Government Ministers could be approached and encouraged to strengthen the legislation conditions to ensure the continuing health and wellbeing of their Constituents.

Why did EOAPC Councillors allow Thames Water to install inferior provision at Marston and Northway to cope with the expansion they had agreed?

This includes student accommodation, School expansions, JR Hospital extensions,

Many excessive builds on small pieces of land, this includes selling Council owned facilities and garages for private development, home extensions or rebuilds to create flats.

Thames Waters underground sewerage storage tanks that were installed are not fit for purpose. They are designed to pump sewerage to Sandford to be treated, when the sewers are quiet. However the tanks are not maintained. They regularly break down and need to be emptied so are effectively cess pits. They cannot be suitable for long term use, as a replacement for new sewers and more treatment facilities. Solutions need to be found now to fix Thames Water and the Environment Agencies underdeveloped services.

Common sense should dictate that both underground drainage and ponds and swales are necessary for flash flooding and prolonged periods of rainfall in our densely populated areas.

Since decentralisation, Democracy has been lost. Each Planning Application is treated in isolation and so the impact of many developments in a community, are not taken into account. Local knowledge is not valued. Community Hub Meetings were stopped when Locals raised concerns over flooding, sewerage, development, traffic and the Friar.

Constituents have no information regarding local planning applications. Yellow A4 sheets are mainly ignored. They are difficult to understand. The original sheets are often replaced with new details after a build has started! So something which may originally have been refused has now been passed and happens anyway!

Planning information online is often unavailable and people don't have endless free time or access to search and keep up with the details of new proposals. Most builds are not monitored or inspected by Council Officers. Constituents become disillusioned.

I believe the shortcomings I have raised need to be investigated and resolved. Shortages should not be occurring especially in a popular affluent influential City like Oxford.

An increasing population also means more money for services. I am concerned about the Future for our Children

Address to Council by Chaka Artwell

The "I Free Campaign"

I Free to the Treasury is a simple demand. I Free simple means Interest Free. The I Free campaign is seeking the support of the Councillors of Oxford City. I Free is asking the Bank of England and all other Banks who lend money to the National Treasury continue to borrow money, but Interest Free to the National Treasury. It is a simple demand, but the financial benefit to the people of Britain, and for the Councillors of Oxford City Council would be enormous and economically liberating for the heavily taxed people of this economically hard pressed land.

The Bank were in great distress of their own making in 2007, but we the British people were forced to "bail them out" and now the National and Local Governments of Britain are in great financial distress because of the need to reduce Public Expenditure in order to have sufficient funds to pay the daily £120.000.000 Interest. In 2007, to "bailout" the four High Street Banks, the people of this nation borrowed £500 Billion pounds and gifted this sum Interest Free to the Banks. In like manner, I Free is demanding that all money Loaned or Borrowed to the British Treasury must be given Interest Free from the Bank of England and other Banks because the nation is now in great distress as a result of "bailing out" the bankers at Interest.

I Free is needed because the people of England were forced to accept the debts of the four High Street Banks, who were facing Bankruptcy in 2007. There was real fear among politicians of the damaged that would occur, if these four popular high street banks were allowed to financially fail. The British Treasury needed to borrow £500 Billion in order to "bailout" the four High Street Banks in October 2007. £500 Billion was borrowed at Interest in 2007 by the Chancellor Mr Darling. It has been calculated that the amount borrowed is the equivalent of £17.000 each for the Tax payer of British for a decade to follow.

The Interest Charges are really damaging for the nation. Mr Osborne the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in 2011 that the daily Interest was £120 million pounds a day. That is a colossal sum of money that is leaving the economy on a daily basis. Mr Osborne liken the sum the Treasury pays in Interest to be the equivalent of the Arms Forces budget.

This is an enormous Peace Time debt that will affect the entire nation for the next decade to follow. Given that we, the ordinary people of the land have been forced by our elected Parliamentarians, to accept and take responsibility for the debts of the Bankers, the British Treasury should not be charged Interest on money annually given to the National Treasury on the first of April. I Free is demanding that all monies given to the Treasury of this Nation must be given Interest Free from all Banks.

I would like to re-state this fact again. The British Tax Payer according to the current Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr George Osborne, in his Public Spending Review of October 2010 said we the Tax Payer of the land, are giving £120.000.000 in Interest alone, to the Bank of England. In order to meet this daily sum, public funded services like Libraries, Social Services, Meal on wheels, Youth Services and so on are being reduced, or privatised.

George Osborne compared the amount of money being spent in Interest Charges as being the equivalent of the Armed Forces budget. That is enormous. In percentage terms it is about a third of the annual budget of the nation disappearing in Interest Charges. When one considers that V.A.T goes to fund our unelected masters and law makers in the European Union, it is understandable that Britain's growth rate rarely reaches 3 percent annually. The real wealth of the British nation is taken largely by Interest charges which disappears into the hands of the Rothschild controlled, Bank of England: a fact that largely goes unmentioned in the media and educational courses and by V.A.T monies which goes to the EU.

I Free demands that all Banks who loan money to the Treasury of the nation State of Britain must be given Interest Free for many reasons: Primarily, because the Tax Payer came to the aid of the Banks in their time of great economic distress in 2007 and this money was loaned to the Treasury at Interest, even though the money was needed to save the Banks!!! The Bank of England and other Banks are profiteering from the help the Tax Payers are giving the Banks in the form of the "Bailout." This is wrong. It is immoral. It is profiteering of the British Empire era! I Free is calling for the end to Interest charges on money Borrowed or Loaned to British Treasury. The Banks are disabling the health and well-being of Britain by the application of Interest. The Banks need and benefits from a well ordered and ethical Nation with functioning Services like: Roads, Education, Healthcare and so on. All these Publicly Funded Services are put at enormous risk due to the immoral Interest Charges. The reason Oxford City Council lack the funds is because an ever greater amount of money now goes to the Banks in the form of Interest Charges. I Free to the Treasury is simply calling for an end to the application of Interest Charges to all monies loaned to the Treasury.

Oxford City Council is funded by Council Taxes to provide Services. However, Oxford City Council provides fewer Services, because the funds are diverted to pay the Interest Charges and there is nothing left for Libraries, Youth Services and Senior Citizens Day Care needs and using Parking Charges and Control Zones as a means of financial gain so on. Oxford City Council has privatised many of the Services which were formally provided and funded by the local authority. All this is a symptom of the Treasury having to pay such huge amounts of money in Interest Charges primarily to the Bank of England. If the Interest Charges to the Treasury could be ended, the nation as a whole would benefit greatly. I am calling on Oxford City Councillors to support this petition calling for the installation of I Free to the Treasury. Please support Interest Free to the National Treasury.

Address to Council by Nigel Gibson & Jane Alexander

The Reality of Temple Cowley Pools – Nigel Gibson and Jane Alexander

It is now four years since the Campaign to Save Temple Cowley Pools was started, in response to the Council's stated aim of closing it. Well, two years after you wanted it shut, it's still there, providing facilities that people want and need, in a place where they want and need them. And with the seventh petition close to its target number of signatures, it is clear that the people of Oxford still want you to do what you know is right – keep Temple Cowley Pools open.

And throughout the Campaign, we have been faced with a wall of propaganda, misinformation that comes from the Council purporting to be the truth about the state of Temple Cowley Pools. And despite real information being exposed time and again by the Campaign, it's disappointing that even now, when the Campaign is supposed to be over, that Labour councillors continue to repeat things that they must know are untrue.

For example, at the One World Fair a couple of Saturdays ago, a Labour councillor refused to sign the petition, repeating yet again that Temple Cowley Pools is "shabby, expensive and has high carbon emissions". And this is what's at the heart of things; you choose, either through ignorance or knowingly, to repeat information that you know, because we've told you often enough, is a combination of misleading, inaccurate, incomplete and untrue.

Let's examine what that councillor said. Shabby? Well, yes, undoubtedly Temple Cowley Pools needs cleaning and maintaining. Whose responsibility is that? Well, yours – the Council. You have a duty to maintain public facilities in good order, whether or not they are going to close. You have failed to do that at Temple Cowley Pools, deliberately running the facilities down in an attempt to reduce public support for keeping it open. You've succeeded in running it down; it needs proper cleaning and maintenance. You should have repaired the diving pool, the only public one in the whole of Oxfordshire, but you've chosen not to. You should have repaired the air conditioning system when it failed two years ago – it would cost £5,000. What have you done? Instead, last summer, you installed two apparently 'temporary' air cooling units at a rental cost of £300 a week. They are still there, not providing real air conditioning, and at a total cost now approaching the £5,000 that would fix it properly! A complete waste of our, the public's, money.

Expensive? The maintenance cost for the whole centre is under £100,000 a year. This is to provide for the 25m competition swimming pool, the learner pool, the diving pool, the sauna and steam room, the exercise studio and the gym. I call that value for money – particularly when compared to the new, apparently more efficient and cost-effective swimming pool in Blackbird Leys, that will cost us £150,000 a year. There are other costs – water and utilities that we pay wherever these facilities are, and then the burden of the contract with Fusion, which was deliberately constructed to show a higher cost at Temple Cowley than any other leisure centre. Again, in a vain attempt to justify a closure that the public simply don't want. So based on the

facts, and comparing like with like, the evidence demonstrates yet again that Temple Cowley Pools continues to deliver value for money services for the people of Oxford.

And Carbon Emissions? The total carbon emissions, measured in tonnes of CO2 equivalent, is certainly high, but that reflects the energy usage and the variety of services being delivered. You have refused to install rigid pool covers that would save warm water evaporation (and save heating costs, and reduce the chlorine corrosion in the air handling units). You have an electric powered sauna and a steam room sited against two external walls, sucking out heat. But despite this profligate energy usage, when we compared Temple Cowley with Barton and Ferry leisure centres using your figures it still had the lowest emissions per square metre, the most efficient in Oxford. So it could be even more efficient if you decided to put cost-effective energy saving measures in place – and you still have time to do that and save money and carbon emissions, even if you were to be successful in closing Temple Cowley Pools in January 2015 as you've said you want to. More revealing still is the like for like comparison. You have trumpeted how green your new, only 25m and not bigger than Temple Cowley, non-Olympic pool in Blackbird Leys will be. You have admitted that the forecast emissions will be 300 tonnes CO2 a year. The equivalent at Temple Cowley Pools is in comparison 180 tonnes CO2.

So the councillor was wrong. Wrong to accuse Temple Cowley Pools of being shabby without taking responsibility for proper cleaning, wrong to say it is expensive without taking responsibility for the Fusion contract, and wrong to accuse the most energy efficient leisure centre of high carbon emissions when it's supposedly green replacement has even higher emissions.

But fundamentally it is time that Oxford City Council recognised that the new pool it is building in Blackbird Leys is only a replacement for the existing pool there, not Temple Cowley Pools, and is only built because that's what the Swimming Club wants. And time you recognised that the majority of users, past and present, the public in East Oxford and across the city, and the many users from outside the city still want it kept open. I ask you again to rethink your decision, recognise what is possible, and start working with the Campaign to keep Temple Cowley Pools open.

To: Full Council

Date: 3rd February 2014

Item No:

Report of: Returning Officer

Title of Report: Elections Staff Fees and the Oxford Living Wage

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To seek an amendment to the delegated authority for the Returning Officer to approve the scale of fees for elections held in the City.

Key decision: No

Executive lead member: Councillor Bob Price

Report Approved by:

Finance: Nigel Kennedy (Head of Finance)

Legal: Jeremy Thomas (Head of Law and Governance/Returning Officer)

Policy Framework: No

Recommendation(s): Council is asked to agree to amend the delegated power of the Returning Officer to agree election fees to allow him to alter those fees where any payment to an individual at would fall below the prevailing Oxford Living Wage.

Background

1. Council has previously given the Returning Officer the delegated power to adopt the scale of fees for elections approved and issued by Oxfordshire County Council, so long as he does so unchanged.
2. Following the adoption by the Council of the Oxford Living Wage checks have been carried out to see whether the election fees comply. Currently one fee does not satisfy the Living Wage criteria.
3. To enable the Returning Officer to ensure compliance Council is asked to continue the delegation to him to approve the County Council agreed

scale of fees but to allow him to alter those fees where any payment to an individual would fall below the prevailing Oxford Living Wage.

4. This decision would apply to all City Council and parish elections and those other elections where the Returning Officer has a power to vary any fee, for example national elections. This decision would not cover elections to Oxfordshire County Council where the fees are set by the County's Returning Officer.

Risk Implications

5. There are no risk implications relating to this report.

Financial Implications

6. There is a small increased cost arising from the change (£1118 in 14/15) but it is relatively small and can be contained within existing budgets.

Legal implications

7. There are no legal implications.

Name and contact details of author:

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Tel: 01865 252518
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Background papers: No

Version number: 1

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 11 December 2013

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Turner (Deputy Leader), Brown, Cook, Curran, Kennedy, Rowley, Seamons and Tanner.

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Lygo.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Brown declared an interest in minute 109 (Jericho Canalside Supplementary Planning Document – Adoption) and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was discussed (*minute to be amplified later*).

101. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

102. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following reports from Scrutiny were submitted (now appended):-

- Treasury Management – Mid Term Review 2013/14
- Housing Action Plan – Refresh

The reports were taken with the related reports elsewhere on the agenda (minutes 105 and 111 refer).

The Board also received an oral report on scrutiny consideration of the report at minute 110 (Community Engagement Plan 2014-2017 – Draft for Consultation).

103. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON ANY ITEM FOR DECISION ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA

With the agreement of the Chair, Councillor Campbell addressed the Board on the subject of minute 110 (Community Engagement Plan 2014-2017 – Draft for Consultation). A summary of the addresses is contained in minute 110.

104. FINANCE, PERFORMANCE AND RISK - QUARTER 2 PROGRESS 2012/13

The Head of Finance and the Head of Business Improvement and Technology submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to note:-

- (1) The financial position and performance of the Council for the second quarter of 2013/14 and also the position of risks outstanding as at 30th September 2013;
- (2) Note a virement, approved by the Head of Finance under delegated authority, being the introduction into the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme of a £0.250 million budget for “Green Energy”, and further funding associated with the project being included in the 2014/15 Budget consultation;
- (2) That it would be a priority to transfer at year-end the reported £2.262m General Fund projected surplus, together with the £0.800m previously transferred from the in-year risk contingency budget, to a specific Earmarked Reserve to fund the Capital Programme in the absence of further planned capital receipts.

105. TREASURY MANAGEMENT - MID-TERM REVIEW 2013/14

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). The Board also had before it a Scrutiny report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To note:-
 - (a) The half year performance to the end of September 2013;
 - (b) The Council’s Investment Strategy for the remainder of the current financial year;
- (2) In relation to the Scrutiny recommendations:-
 - (a) To note advice given by the Head of Finance that the Council would, all things being equal, seek to retender its banking requirements in April 2015;
 - (b) That ethical standards should be part of the specifications in a retender invitation;
 - (c) To ask the Head of Finance in six months time to provide to Scrutiny a review of performance of the Council’s non-specified investments considering in particular diversity and mix and a benchmark across the public sector for the percentage of funds allocated to this type of investment.

106. BUDGET AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2014/15 TO 2017/18 AND 2014/15 BUDGET

The Head of Finance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

The Board Member, Finance, Efficiency and Asset Management referred to some aspects of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement that might affect local authority budgets, namely employer national insurance contributions, New Homes Bonus and business rate concessions.

The Leader and the Chief Executive thanked Finance staff for their work in preparing the draft consultation Budget.

Resolved to approve for consultation the draft Budget for the financial year 2014/15 and the Medium Term Financial Plan for the period 2015/16 to 2017/18 and in particular to approve:-

- (1) The Council's General Fund Budget Requirement of £23.471 million for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report and an increase in the Band D Council Tax of 1.99% or £5.34 per annum representing a Band D Council Tax of £273.53 per annum;
- (2) The continuance of the Council's Council Tax Support scheme (formerly Council Tax Benefit) as referred to in paragraph 25 of the report;
- (3) The Housing Revenue Account budget for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 4 to the report and an increase in average dwelling rent of 5.42% or £5.25 per week an annual average rent of £102.08 as set out in Appendix 5
- (4) The Capital Programme for 2014/15 -2017/18 as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;
- (5) The fees and charges schedule as set out in Appendix 7 to the report;
- (6) The proposed level of exemptions and discounts on empty homes and unoccupied properties as outlined in paragraph 44 of the report.

107. CORPORATE PLAN 2014-18 - CONSULTATION

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved to approve for consultation the draft Corporate Plan for 2014 – 2018.

108. AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN - CONSULTATION OUTCOME AND ADOPTION

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

In response to questions concerning enforcement of the Low Emission Zone once it came into effect in January 2014, the Head of Environmental Development explained that the Council held a database of compliant PSVs that operated in the area of the LEZ. Vehicles not on the database, that were registered with the Traffic Commissioner as UK law required (vehicles bearing foreign number plates were not so required) and which were not compliant with

LEZ requirements would be reported to the Traffic Commissioner who had the power to take action.

Resolved:-

- (1) to adopt the Air Quality Action Plan as contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) to ask the Head of Environmental Development to discuss with County Council colleagues and the Traffic Commissioner a system of checking for compliance and taking action in cases of non-compliance.

109. JERICHO CANALSIDE SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT - ADOPTION

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) (a) To adopt the Jericho Canalside Supplementary Planning Document as contained in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (b) To authorise the Head of City Development, after consultation with the Board Member for City Development to make editorial corrections to the Document prior to final publication;
- (2) To endorse the strategic environmental assessment screening report and the equalities impact assessment relating to the Supplementary Planning Document.

(Note: Councillor Brown declared an interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting whilst the matter was discussed). Note to be amplified later.

110. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2014-2017 - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

The Head of Policy, Culture and Communications submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

With the Chair's agreement Councillor Campbell addressed the meeting. Councillor Campbell suggested that in the context of the consultation on the Plan, Council officers should develop a list of key stakeholders with whom the Council would consult as a matter of course.

The Board Member, Youth and Communities referred to the Scrutiny discussion of the report and commented upon the recommendations that flowed from it. The recommendations were all adopted by the Board in the terms set out in resolution (2) below.

Resolved:-

- (1) Subject to the Board's decisions in resolution (2) below on the outcome of the Scrutiny deliberations, to issue the draft Community Engagement Plan for consultation;
- (2) In relation to the Scrutiny recommendations:-
 - (a) That a clear statement be provided in the Plan, supported by guidance to Service Areas, of the need for all engagement activity to link together in order to deliver the overall aims of the Plan;
 - (b) To ask the Head of Policy, Culture and Communications to ensure that the guidance and toolkit were fit for purpose for the diverse groups with whom the Council was seeking to engage;
 - (c) To ask that the Plan reflected the role played by councillors and how this was supported through advice and training and was linked to democratic processes;
 - (d) To ask officers:-
 - (i) In the context of the consultation on the Plan, to develop a list of key stakeholders with whom the Council would consult as a matter of course;
 - (ii) In the context of consultation, to ask that a questionnaire be issued, built around the main areas upon which consultation feedback on the Plan was wanted;
 - (iii) To report back on examples of good and poor engagement activities;
 - (e) To ask the Head of Policy, Culture and Communications to emphasise and give more weight in the Plan to seeking and encouraging engagement at a very local level to ensure communities can help shape decisions and issues that affect them;
 - (f) That the Plan and toolkit should recognise the importance of defining as broadly as possible and on a case by case basis what might constitute a 'hard to reach' group.

111. HOUSING ACTION PLAN- REFRESH

The Head of Housing and Property submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended). The Board also had before it a Scrutiny report (previously circulated, now appended)

Resolved to agree to the updated Housing Strategy Action Plan targets described in and set out in Appendix A to the report and to ask that the new Landlord and Lettings Agencies Accreditation Scheme be publicised as widely as possible to achieve greatest impact so that the number of landlords in the Scheme be maximised.

112. HOUSING STOCK - ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENT

The Head of Housing and Property submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

The Head of Housing and Property updated the Board on matters relating to the subject of the report in relation to the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, as follows:-

- the amount of total funding available had been diluted due to the first ECO programme being extended for two years to March 2017
- changes to funding streams meant a move towards funding the 25% most deprived areas
- there would be a reduced emphasis on solid wall insulation and an increased emphasis on cavity and loft insulation
- active support was required to mix green deal and ECO. Companies had indicated this required a mix of private and social housing on an area by area basis.

Energy companies remained keen to continue discussions with the Council on the initiative.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Grant project approval for the Council's involvement in the project to utilise Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding, in combination with funding supplied by the Council, to improve the energy efficiency of the Council's hard to heat housing;
- (2) Note the officer virement of £250k from the underspend in the 2013/14 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital programme and the inclusion of a further £250k in the draft 2014/15 HRA budget to fund the Council's contribution to the project;
- (3) Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director, Housing and Regeneration, to authorise the Council's entry into all appropriate contracts required to implement the project;
- (4) Agree that if ECO funding is not successful, alternative proposals for the work to proceed be brought back for consideration;
- (5) Ask that a report back on progress be brought to the Board's first meeting in the Council Year 2014/15.

113. LIVING WAGE - OXFORD

The Head of Human Resources and Facilities submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved:-

- (1) To agree Option 3 in the report as the basis for determining any increase in the Oxford Living Wage;

- (2) That any changes in the Oxford Living Wage be applied in April each year following notification in November each year of changes to the London Living Wage.

114. OUTSIDE BODIES - APPOINTMENTS

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended).

Resolved that:-

- (1) Mrs Elizabeth Wade be appointed to the Susan Kidd Charity for the period 13th December 2013 to 1st June 2015;
- (2) Councillor Graham Jones be appointed to the City of Oxford Charity for the period 13th December 2013 to 1st December 2017.

115. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

116. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2013 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 6.10 pm

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CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wednesday 22 January 2014

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillors Price (Leader), Brown, Cook, Curran, Kennedy, Lygo, Rowley and Tanner.

117. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Turner

118. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received

119. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Full written questions with answers were distributed at the start of the meeting. These are attached to the minutes as appendix one.

120. COUNCILLOR ADDRESSES ON ANY ITEM FOR DECISION ON THE BOARD'S AGENDA

It was noted that Councillor Jean Fooks would speak on agenda item 5 – Northern Gateway Area Action Plan

121. NORTHERN GATEWAY AREA ACTION PLAN - OPTIONS DOCUMENT

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan (AAP).

Councillor Colin Cook (Board Member for City Development) introduced the report and provided some background and context.

Councillor Jean Fooks addressed the Board, raising issues including traffic management, the importance of getting consultation right, and employment matters.

Rachel Williams (Principal Planning Officer) explained that this is the first stage in producing the AAP. There would be a 6 week period of consultation, involving workshops, exhibitions and leaflet drops. The consultation results are an important part of the next stage – producing the Draft Document; which would also be followed by a 6 week consultation period. The aim was to produce the Draft AAP in the summer, and send it to the Secretary of State in September/October; following which there would be a public examination of it. Therefore, there would be several opportunities for consultation with the public.

In answer to a question, Rachel Williams confirmed that the idea of a workplace parking levy was included in the AAP options document. There was awareness

of the wide traffic implications of the scheme that would necessitate close working with Oxfordshire County Council.

Officers recommended an amendment to the Options Document to include an additional option. An additional option would be included in the section on the Green Belt South of A40, to ensure that all options are considered.

The table on page 15 of the Options Document would be amended as follows (amendment in **bold**):-

Green Belt South of A40:

Option 1	Move the inner Green Belt boundary back to the track that runs along the AAP boundary so that there is no Green Belt to the east of the track but that the fields designated as a Site of Local Importance Nature Conservation and Public Open Space (Goose Green) are maintained within the Green Belt
Option 2	Move the inner Green Belt boundary back to the canal corridor so that there is no Green Belt to the east of the canal (although other designations would be retained; note: if this option is taken forward the AAP boundary would be amended to include this area)
Option 3	Maintain the inner Green Belt boundary at the current position so that this area continues to be within the Green Belt

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan Document for consultation, with amendment as shown above;
- (2) Approve the proposed amendment to the Local Development Scheme, and;
- (3) Authorise the Head of City Development, in consultation with the Executive Board Member, to make any necessary editorial corrections to the document and to agree the design version before publication.

122. NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM DESIGNATIONS

The Head of City Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning Neighbourhood Forum Designations for Wolvercote and Summertown/St Margaret's.

Councillor Colin Cook (Board Member for City Development) presented the report to the Board and explained the background.

Councillor Jean Fooks addressed the Board and confirmed her satisfaction with this suggestion.

Resolved to designate two Neighbourhood Forums for Wolvercote and Summertown/St Margaret's as detailed in the report.

123. 23-25 BROAD STREET - LETTING

The Regeneration and Major Projects Team Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the proposed letting of the retail premises at 23-25 Broad Street. Jane Winfield (Regeneration and Major Projects Manager) presented the report to the Board.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Approve the proposed letting of 23-25 Broad Street, Oxford on the terms as detailed in the Not for Publication confidential Appendix 4 of this report and otherwise on terms and conditions to be approved by the Service Manager, Regeneration and Major Projects.
- (2) Give authority to the Service Manager, Regeneration and Major Projects, to vary the proposed letting or tenant party as detailed herein provided the transaction continues to represent best consideration.

124. FUTURE ITEMS

Nothing was raised under this item.

125. MINUTES

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2013.

126. MATTERS EXEMPT FROM PUBLICATION

Resolved to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the items in the exempt from publication part of the agenda in accordance with the provisions in Paragraph 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2000 on the grounds that their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Summary of business transacted by the Board after passing the resolution contained in minute 123

The Board received and noted the contents of not for publication appendix to the reports at agenda item 7 (minute 123 refers).

127. 23-25 BROAD STREET OXFORD - LETTING

The Board received and noted the contents of a not for publication appendix (previously circulated, now appended) to the report at agenda item 7 (minute 123 refers)

The Board decided not to release the appendix from confidentiality because the information contained within it was, and remains, commercially sensitive.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.15 pm

CITY EXECUTIVE BOARD – 22 JANUARY 2014

Questions from members of the public

Agenda Item 5 (Northern Gateway Area Action Plan)

The questions suggest that there has been a misunderstanding about the role of the Northern Gateway Area Action Plan (AAP). Many of the questions are focussed on the decision to allocate the Northern Gateway site for development and the reasoning behind this. However, it was the Core Strategy that allocated the Northern Gateway site.

The Core Strategy was adopted after a lengthy production process, including public examination. It was through this process that issues relating to the housing and employment needs of the city and the balance between these uses were addressed, and this resulted in the Northern Gateway allocation.

The AAP will have a very specific role within the planning policy framework of the city. This will be to add a greater level of detail to the Core Strategy allocation, to set site-specific policies and to help facilitate delivery of this policy.

The production of an AAP to take forward the Core Strategy allocation is a proactive and plan-led approach to facilitating development in the city. The City Council has long preferred this approach to place making as opposed to the alternative, reactionary approach of simply waiting for planning applications to be submitted.

Agenda Item 5 (Northern Gateway Area Action Plan)

(Questions from Nigel Gibson)

- 1. The options being approved for consultation appear to be predicated around providing for approximately 8,000 jobs – how many of those are for existing Oxford citizens, and how many for people outside the city?**

Answer

The AAP Options Document does not use a figure of 8,000 jobs; an important function of this document is to explore and test a range of sizes of development. The number of jobs will be related to the overall size and the type of employment development, which are still under consideration and being tested through the AAP. The Options Document is clear that the employment created must be directly related to the knowledge economy of Oxford, this recognises that if that sector of the economy is to continue to make a significant contribution to the national, regional and local economy, there must be an opportunity for it to grow.

- 2. The options being approved for consultation appear to be predicated around providing for approximately 500 new homes – assuming that the Council gives in to the developers and does not enforce its own policy of 50% social housing, we can expect about 200 new dwellings. How many of these do you expect to be occupied by people on the Housing Register, and from which Bands?**

Answer

The AAP Options Document clearly sets out the City Council's policy approach to affordable housing - to require at least 50% of units to be provided as affordable. The City Council has a long standing commitment to maximising the delivery of affordable housing and reducing the length of the housing register. The allocation of housing will be in accordance with the Council's Housing Allocation Policy.

- 3. What concerns does the Council have that concreting over a huge green space and attracting 8,000 new jobs will fundamentally change the character of the City of Oxford? Why does the Council think this is a good idea?**

Answer

The AAP Options Document does not propose either of these suggestions. However, it does stress that the detailed design of the scheme will have to carefully address the character, historic environment, biodiversity and drainage considerations amongst others. The Options Document does propose that open space, landscaping and sustainable urban drainage features for example, must be included as part of the design.

- 4. How will creating approximately 8,000 new jobs and only (approximately) 500 new homes address what the Council tells us continually is already a major housing crisis within the City?**

Answer

It is the Core Strategy that allocated the Northern Gateway for employment-led development having addressed issues relating to the housing and employment needs of the city and the balance between these uses. In fact the AAP Options Document is seeking views on options to build a higher number of homes than set out in the Core Strategy.

- 5. If the Council is successful in creating the 8,000 jobs, what do you forecast will be the corresponding demand for housing within the City boundary? If the number is less than 8,000, where do you anticipate that these people will live and commute from and what discussions have you had with the relevant local authorities?**

Answer

It is the Core Strategy that allocated the Northern Gateway for development having addressed issues relating to the housing and employment needs of the city and the balance between these uses. Neighbouring authorities were party to the Core Strategy process that allocated this site, and continue to be regularly updated and consulted on this project.

- 6. A development of this size will undoubtedly create additional demand for leisure facilities; will the Council consider reversing its policy of reducing publicly funded leisure facilities, as evidenced by its determination to close Temple Cowley Pools Leisure Centre and the existing Blackbird Leys Swimming Pool, the only replacement being a 25m swimming pool and ancillary water?**

Answer

The questioner is mistaken there is no policy of reducing publicly funded leisure facilities. The council has continued to invest in leisure, with £4.6million pounds being invested on improving the council's leisure facilities since 2009. The new pool in Blackbird Leys is additional to this. The new pool not only includes an 8 lane competition standard pool, but a teaching pool and a splash pool. There will also be ancillary facilities such as a new soft play area a sauna. The council is also investing in sports pavilions (two new builds are underway), fitness trails, tennis courts, multi-use games area and activity programmes.

This Northern Gateway site has been identified for development for a number of years (having been safeguarded for future development in the Oxford Local Plan in 2005 and allocated in the Core Strategy in 2011) and so the City Council has been mindful of this in its' planning, programming and budgeting since then. Development of the Northern Gateway site will be liable for significant payments towards the provision of infrastructure in the city through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

- 7. Assuming that you give in to the developers and allow only 40% social housing in the 500 new houses, this still means that 200 families of varying sizes are unlikely to be able to afford to use privately run leisure facilities – how will the council fulfil their need for indoor leisure facilities?**

Answer

The AAP Options Document clearly sets out the City Council's policy approach to affordable housing, to require at least 50% of units to be provided as affordable. The City Council has a long standing commitment to making indoor sport accessible to all members of the community. This level of increased demand can easily be absorbed within the city's leisure offering which has continued to be improved over recent years.

- 8. The options report makes little reference to leisure facilities of any sort; what demand does the Council forecast, in terms of number of visits per year, that will be generated by the three options under consideration? Can you please explain in detail how you arrived at these figures?**

Answer

This site has been identified for development for a number of years (having been safeguarded for future development in the Oxford Local Plan in 2005 and allocated in the Core Strategy in 2011) and so the City Council has been mindful of this in its' planning, programming and budgeting since then. This

level of increased demand can easily be absorbed within the city's leisure offering which has continued to be improved over recent years.

Agenda Item 5 (Northern Gateway Area Action Plan)

(Questions from Jane Alexander)

- 9 In the light of recent flooding in Oxford, which the City Council has openly spoken of causing expensive damage to many, what concerns does the Council have, that concreting over this immense a green space which borders the Oxford canal, flood zone areas 3 and 2 on one side, and being only 5,000 ft from the river Cherwell on the other, that if this were to go ahead, the consequences of future flooding would be raised to unacceptable levels?**

Answer

The principle for development on the Northern Gateway site was considered through the Core Strategy and resulted in an allocation. The site is located entirely in Flood Zone 1 which is land assessed as having a less than 1 in 1000 annual probability of river flooding in any year. The Options Document makes it clear that development will only be permitted where it has been shown through a Flood Risk Assessment that it will not increase flood risk either on the site or elsewhere.

- 10. If you were to permit this development, what provision have you made for what you refer to as 'leisure' and we call 'essential health and exercise' facilities in the area?**

Answer

The Options Document is clear that when planning for a new community it is important to plan for the necessary supporting amenities; there will be access to on-site public open space, new pedestrian and cycle links through to neighbouring areas and improved access to a whole range of services and facilities within reach of the site. The site is only about a mile away from Summertown District Centre which includes the Ferry Leisure Centre and pool. In addition, development of the Northern Gateway site will be liable for significant payments towards the provision of infrastructure in the city through the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Ferry Leisure centre has been expanded and improved over recent years and we are exploring ways to further improve the facility. The council have also fully modernised Cutteslowe Sport Pavilion and next financial year will be improving the second pavilion in Cutteslowe Park. The council are also working with a community association who have attained funding to install a fitness trail in the Cutteslowe and Sunnymead Park.

11. Will the Council consider reversing its policy of reducing publicly funded leisure facilities? Many people, who at present go to Temple Cowley Pools for their exercise, will find it more convenient to go to Ferry instead, not Blackbird Leys thereby pushing that facility to capacity. How will Ferry pool cope and is this something the people who already use Ferry have been made aware of?

Answer

The questioner is mistaken there is no policy of reducing publicly funded leisure facilities. Please refer to the consultation pages for the new pool on the City Council website at:
<http://www.oxford.gov.uk/PageRender/decLP/ConsultationonLeisureFacilities.htm>

12. With the lack of consultation and the Council not listening to the concerns of over 12,000 of the public through petitions what trust can the public have that you act in our best interest?

Answer

There will be no lack of consultation. Details of public involvement are set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report and the approach to consultation is set out in paragraphs 16 through to 19 of the report. There has already been significant consultation in the early stages of the AAP project. Subject to City Executive Board approval, a six-week period of public consultation will begin on the Options Document on 14th February. Results from that consultation will feed into the draft AAP which will itself be subject to further public consultation later in the year.

13. How does the Council intend to publicly tell the people of Oxford in particular those in Abingdon Road and Botley Road areas who were directly worst affected by recent flooding, of its plans to concrete over yet more rain-water-soak-up-mitigation-land areas (potential flood plain) thereby putting those recent victims and others at still greater risk in the future?

Answer

The site is located entirely in Flood Zone 1 and the Options Document makes it clear that development will only be permitted where it has been shown through a Flood Risk Assessment that it will not increase flood risk either on the site or elsewhere. Subject to City Executive Board approval, a six-week period of public consultation will begin on the Options Document on 14th February.

Questions from John Bleach, Chair of Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan)

14 We are very disappointed to hear that there was insufficient time for comments made by the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan Group, at the invitation of the Planning Department, to incorporate these comments into the draft options document (tabled at this meeting). Can the Council ensure that sufficient time will be given to allow the local

community to make a meaningful contribution to the Northern Gateway project?

Answer

Every effort is being made to fully involve the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan group in the production of the AAP. In November officers accepted an invitation to take part in a workshop organised by the Neighbourhood Plan group. The response from the group and the public more widely to this workshop was very positive. Following that workshop, officers wrote up a summary of the event and attended a meeting of the Steering Group to run through the outcomes, at that meeting (8th January 2014) the draft Options were also shared and comments noted. One of the changes requested was to include an additional option relating to the Green Belt south of the A40. An amendment will be tabled at the CEB meeting requesting this change.

To be clear, CEB are requested to approve the Options Document for public consultation, discussions with the Forum thus far have taken place in advance and in addition to the public consultation. Following CEB approval the document will be published for a six-week period of consultation. During this period a range of consultation methods will be used to reach as many people as possible, for example there will be a series of exhibitions, a summary leaflet and questionnaire will be delivered to each household in the area and a second workshop will be jointly hosted by the Neighbourhood Plan group and the City Council. Again the outcomes of the consultation will be reported, published and used to inform the next stage of the AAP.

- 15 The Core Strategy inspector stated in his report that: “To be acceptable, any development must show that the site can be developed in a sustainable manner, with priority given to non-car modes of access, and that the nearby road system can accommodate any additional traffic in an acceptable manner.” Can the Council explain how the diagram on page 14 of the agenda (under “Access and highways measures”) demonstrates the required strategy to give priority to pedestrians and cyclists, rather than to cars, thereby ensuring the complete integration of this development into the local neighbourhood?**

Answer

The City Council and its partner the County Council, both take the promotion of sustainable transport modes and integration very seriously. These are issues addressed in the Options Document. The diagram referred to is just one element of the proposed transport solution for the site. Bus, pedestrian and cycle priority measures and the issues of design and integration are discussed on pages 10 to 13 of the Options Document and reflected in the Preferred Strategy at pages 18 and 19.

Within the Options Document we need to identify and consult on the key strategic parameters for the transport solutions (e.g. key road junctions and new roads), but this will be developed in tandem with the details of public transport, cycle and pedestrian routes and measures.

Significant work is currently being progressed to develop the proposed transport strategy for the site (and indeed the wider area) and to produce the required evidence to support the AAP. The outcomes of this work will be reflected in the draft AAP which is programmed for Council consideration and an additional 6-week period of consultation in the Summer. The City Council is very aware of the parameters and measures of success set out in the Core Strategy for the Northern Gateway and will indeed be required to prove to an independent Planning Inspector through a public examination that the draft AAP complies with these.

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To: Council

Date: 3rd February 2014

Report of: Councillor Pat Kennedy, Board Member for Education, Crime and Community Safety

Title of Report: The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To inform members of the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Report approved by:

Executive lead member: Councillor Pat Kennedy

Policy Framework: The Corporate Plan

Recommendation:

1. Council is asked to comment on and note the contents of the report.

The role of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

1. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership is a statutory partnership of Responsible Authorities charged with identifying local community safety priorities in Oxford. The partnership set out their response to these challenges in an annually refreshed Rolling Plan. These requirements were originally set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and further amended by subsequent acts.
2. The Responsible Authorities are Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service and Thames Valley Police. Other organisations' representatives on the Board include Oxford Brookes University, Oxford University and Oxford University Student Union. A list of partnership board members can be found in Appendix 1.
3. The partnership is chaired by Oxford City Council's Director for Community Services and meets four times per year. Meetings split between business planning matters and a themed topic, where additional people are invited to hear more about the issues affecting our communities, the partnership's work in responding to these challenges and to explore what they can contribute to tackling the issues.

Further information on the partnership can be found in the link below.

<http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/index.html>

4. The partnership is allocated a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to support in the delivery of its Rolling Plan. These funds help to support officers within Oxford City Council's Community Safety Team, and the projects that they deliver. These posts are:
 - Data and Research Officer
 - Human Exploitation Coordinator
 - Violent Crime Reduction Coordinator
 - Anti-social Behaviour Prevention Project Coordinator

Oxford Safer Communities Rolling Plan

5. A key requirement of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership is to deliver its activities contained in the Rolling Plan. The plan contains only actions that add value through partnership working, not actions that are "business as usual" for members. The Rolling Plan is based upon the annual Strategic Intelligence Assessment (SIA) undertaking by the partnership.

The priorities

6. The priorities identified in the strategy have been informed by the Strategic Intelligence Assessment. The assessment uses partnership data, community feedback through the Oxford City Council Talkback Survey, and information from frontline practitioners. This last element is particularly important as some offences are under-reported and will not appear in datasets or community consultation processes. The priorities are:

Inter-personal abuse, including domestic and sexual abuse, human trafficking, sex working and child sexual exploitation.

Violent crime, including alcohol-related disorder, serious youth violence, hate crime and robbery.

Anti-social behaviour, including neighbourhood nuisance, environmental concerns, drug misuse and rough sleeping.

Priority theft offences, including burglary of people's homes, theft from cars and metal theft.

Delivery of the Rolling Plan 2013-14

7. The Rolling Plan groups the activities that the partnership undertake into:
 - tackling problems affecting the whole community;

- supporting victims or preventing a person from becoming a victim of crime or anti-social behaviour;
- target those who commit, or are at risk of committing, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Whole community activities

- Student participation in the partnership is effective. We are encouraging student participation in the NAGS and Community Forums in areas where students live in largish numbers. The annual Student Safety Plan continues to educate and thereby reduce the chances of students becoming victims of crime in the city, encourage their involvement in the communities they live within and reduce anti-social behaviour.
- We continue to support the Student Community Warden schemes at both Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford by providing training and information sharing.
- Implement the Language School Student Action Plan 2013 to target seasonal spikes in robbery, protect students and combat anti-social behaviour. Operation Buzzard took place over the summer period to reduce robbery, primarily of visiting language students.
- Operation Blanket disrupts potential child sexual exploitation in the city and Operation Staysafe protects vulnerable children and young people.
- Deliver test purchasing operations on premises suspected of selling alcohol to under-18s.
- We are implementing a new CCTV project in Rose Hill.
- The Cleaner, Greener Oxford neighbourhood campaigns took place in South Park, Rose Hill and the Cowley Road.
- NightSafe continues to deliver reductions in violent crime in the evening economy, supporting business and customers.

Supporting victims current focus

- The Independent Review of Oxford City Council's Safeguarding Self-Assessment Safeguarding Review was an extensive and wide ranging analysis of our approach to safeguarding. It picked out many good points and we are working to embed the recommendations suggested, for example, training for members in safeguarding. A more detailed report will be submitted to Council on this in March 2014.
- Neighbourhood Police Officers have been trained as Single Point of Contact (SPoC) for child sexual exploitation and sex worker issues.
- We wrote and delivered multi-agency training on behalf of the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board in child sexual exploitation.

- Continue the sanctuary scheme programme to improve the security of properties for people fleeing violence.
- Roll out multi-agency training on stalking and harassment.
- Worked with Thames Valley Police to improve their response to domestic abuse, stalking and harassment, and honour based violence following the roll out of the revised domestic abuse risk assessment process.
- Undertook a Domestic Homicide Review and developed pathways to share lessons learned from Domestic Homicide Reviews across the Thames Valley region to prevent further homicides.
- In partnership with the Probation Service, Thames Valley Police and the Oxford Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Centre, ran an educational campaign on sexual consent across the region.
- Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) continues to work with Colleges and sports societies to deliver sexual consent workshops for students at Oxford University; looking to enshrine this into their Freshers' Week induction programmes at the start of the next academic year.

Targeting offenders current focus

- Working with the County Council on the Thriving Families programme. A number of families in the City are in the scheme and that involves close liaison with Oxford City Council Housing, the Youth Ambition Programme, Early Intervention Hubs, the Community Safety and ASB teams, the police, probation and schools.
- Continued to deliver our Positive Futures Referral Programme across the city and implemented Operation Bonify, targeting young people at risk of gang-related activity.
- Developed our approach to prosecuting environmental crime and increased the number of enforcement actions year-on-year.
- The Community Response Team has been re-accredited with the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme powers by the Chief Constable. The team was the pilot for these powers which have now successfully concluded. The powers are now to be made available to other organisations within the Thames Valley.
- Between April and November 2013 the Community Response Team and Anti-Social Behaviour Investigation Team investigated over 1200 cases between them.
- Oxford City Council was the first agency to fully meet the new RESPECT standards for housing management in ASB and is currently working with the Home Office on implementation of the new ASB tools and powers being proposed under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill.

- The ASBIT team had two finalists in the Social Landlords Crime and Nuisance Group Practitioner Awards.
- Continue to run the “Risky Behaviours” course for young people in the city.

Measuring progress

8. A highlight report of progress measures and targets for Rolling Plan activities is provided to the Board at their quarterly meetings.

Future challenges for the Rolling Plan 2014-15

- Train hotels, guesthouses and bed and breakfast premises in spotting potential victims of trafficking and reporting processes.
- Run a trafficking conference to increase the understanding of tourist and transport organisations.
- Develop work with vulnerable adults who are victims of, or are at risk of offending.
- Enter negotiations with the Police on their proposed CCTV strategy.
- Refresh Oxford’s Neighbourhood Action Group model.
- Gain a better understanding of, and develop working practices to improve our response to people with mental health issues.

Name and contact details of author:-

Name:Richard Adams

Job title:Environmental Protection Service Manager

Service Area: Environmental Development

Tel: 01865 0 252283**e-mail:**rjadams@oxford.gov.uk

List of background papers:

Further information can be found on the web site link below.

<http://www.saferoxford.org.uk/index.html>

Version number: 1

Annex 1

OSCP Board members:

Chairman – Tim Sadler		Oxford City Council
Councillor Pat Kennedy	Board Member for Young People, Crime and Community Safety	Oxford City Council
Supt. Christian Bunt	Oxford City Police Commander	Thames Valley Police
David Heycock	Risk Manager	Fire and Rescue Service
Richard Adams	Environmental Protection Service Manager	Oxford City Council
Carys Alty-Smith	Safer Communities Unit Manager	Oxfordshire County Council
Paul Sullivan	Security Services Manager	Oxford University
Andrea Siret	Community Liaison Manager	Oxford Brookes University
Daniel Tomlinson	Vice President - Welfare	Oxford University Student Union
Tan Lea	Early Intervention Manager, Central (Youth Lead)	Oxfordshire County Council
Pasquale Brammer	Drug and Alcohol Action Team	Oxfordshire County Council
Duncan Hume	Senior Probation Officer	Thames Valley Probation Services
Sue Howarth	Youth Offending Manager	Oxfordshire County Council

To: Council

Date: 3rd. February 2014

Report of: Chair of the Scrutiny Committee.

Title of Report: Scrutiny Briefing

Purpose of report: To update Council on the activities of scrutiny and other non executive councillors since the Committee was appointed in May.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Committee has not met since the last meeting of Council so there has been no change in the standard performance data that I normally attach. I will update this for the Council meeting in April but if members have any questions in the meantime please contact Pat Jones using the details at the bottom of this report.
2. As elections approach I would like to remind members that if constituents raise issues of significance, one avenue for the review of these is by elected members through the scrutiny process. Scrutiny councillors are, and I'm sure will be, keen to focus on issues of importance to residents so I would encourage you to make suggestions when officers consult on the new programme in the next few months.

Current Activity

3. The recent flooding event caused misery for residents, significantly restricted access to our City Centre and affected businesses ability to trade and function. This has given impetus to the scrutiny panel work on flooding which is looking particularly at strategic issues around the performance of the Thames Water infrastructure. The Lead Member hopes to facilitate a meeting shortly between interested parties and Thames Water to explore shared priorities for investment and improvement. This Panel hopes that this will support the Council's focus on ensuring action in this area.

4. In December the Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget was publicised for consultation. During January the Finance Scrutiny Panel has reviewed the proposals in meetings with Directors and Heads of Service and is now completing its report for presentation to the City Executive Board on the 12th. February and then on to Council.
5. The Review considering the “empowerment” of a number of minority groups mentioned in my last report to Council has reported and the Scrutiny Committee has asked for some further work from officers considering if and how some of its recommendations can be implemented. Once this has been completed a further report will be made to the Scrutiny Committee. If any members are interested in the outcomes so far the report can be found on the web site or details can be provided by Pat Jones, contact details at the bottom of this report.
6. The Review Panel considering the Covered Market and its future will report to the Scrutiny Committee on the 4th. February and recommendations will be presented to the City Executive Board on the 12th. February to accompany the response to the Retail Group’s report.

Councillor Mark Mills – Chair of the Scrutiny Committee

Email: cllrmills@oxford.gov.uk

Tele: 07525751584

Contact detail Pat Jones – Principal Scrutiny Officer

Email: phjones@oxford.gov.uk

Tele: 01865 252191

MOTIONS ON NOTICE – Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green

(1) City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues – (Proposed by Councillor Ed Turner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council supports the work of MIND and the Mental Health Foundation and asks the City Executive Board to consider appointing a member of council to be a champion of mental health issues in much the same way as we have an older people's champion.

Council acknowledges it is not directly responsible for healthcare provision but believes it nonetheless has an important role to play. Council requests the City Executive Board to play a full role in the Health and Well Being Board and other partnership forums to maximise support for mental health work, and also to ensure its work providing and funding advice services is accessible to people with mental health problems.

Council believes councillors can support the wellbeing of people in their areas through both casework and their strategic role within the council. Council welcomes the practical steps set out by Mind and the Mental Health Foundation, whose new report, *Building Resilient Communities*, that can be taken to promote wellbeing, build resilience and help to prevent mental health problems – including steps that can be taken by Councillors.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Ruth Wilkison to the City Council Champion of Mental Health Issues – Motion (1):-

Councillor Ruth Wilkinson will propose an amendment to Motion 1 in the name of Councillor Ed Turner as follows:

(1) To add at the end of the Motion the following:

Furthermore, Council wishes to meet best employer practice regarding mental health, and to encourage a commitment from all front line contractors and existing and prospective employers to follow its lead. Council requests that the Chief Executive signs MIND's *Charter for Employers who are Positive About Mental Health* on behalf of Oxford City Council. It also requests that the Chief Executive writes to his counterparts at the County Council, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford to invite their organisations to follow the City Council's lead as a *Mindful Employer* to sign up to the *Charter* too.

The amended motion would read:

This Council supports the work of MIND and the Mental Health Foundation and asks the City Executive Board to consider appointing a member of Council to be a

Champion of Mental Health Issues in much the same way as we have an Older People's Champion.

Council acknowledges it is not directly responsible for healthcare provision but believes it nonetheless has an important role to play. Council requests the City Executive Board to play a full role in the Health and Well Being Board and other partnership forums to maximise support for mental health work, and also to ensure its work providing and funding advice services is accessible to people with mental health problems.

Council believes councillors can support the wellbeing of people in their areas through both casework and their strategic role within the council. Council welcomes the practical steps set out by Mind and the Mental Health Foundation, whose new report, Building Resilient Communities, that can be taken to promote wellbeing, build resilience and help to prevent mental health problems – including steps that can be taken by Councillors.

Furthermore, Council wishes to meet best employer practice regarding mental health, and to encourage a commitment from all front line contractors and existing and prospective employers to follow its lead. Council requests that the Chief Executive signs MIND's Charter for Employers who are Positive About Mental Health on behalf of Oxford City Council. It also requests that the Chief Executive writes to his counterparts at the County Council, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Oxford to invite their organisations to follow the City Council's lead as a Mindful Employer to sign up to the Charter too.

(2) Saving Community Pubs – (Proposed by Councillor Tony Brett, seconded by Councillor Mary Clarkson)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council notes the possibility of submitting the following proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act:

‘That the Secretary of State help protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished.’

This Council notes that if this power was acquired it would allow the council to determine if pubs should be demolished or converted into other uses and could save many valued community pubs.

This Council resolves to ask City Executive Board to consider and submit the proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act and to work together with Local Works and the Campaign for Real Ale to gain support for the proposal from other councils in the region and across the country.

(3) Protecting Immigrants' Access to Housing – (Proposed by Councillor Dick Wolff, seconded by Councillor Sam Hollick

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

Noting the Immigration Bill currently proceeding through Parliamentary Scrutiny, Oxford City Council:

- is proud of our international heritage and welcomes all people who live in our city
- notes that the Bill proposes making it compulsory for landlords and letting agents to check the immigration status of tenants,
- believes that many people living lawfully in the UK do not possess passports or other documents required to prove that entitlement,
- believes that many thousands of people living without Home Office permission in the UK (and therefore unable to produce such documents) have nonetheless applied for permission to remain, but their cases are either lost or held up in Home Office legal systems, in some cases for many years,
- notes that legal aid for such people has been terminated, making it impossible for them to pursue their applications or appeals,
- believes that each case concerning an undocumented migrant is different, and an unknown number have lived and worked in the UK, raising families born here and living as part of our communities,

and therefore:

- condemns the attempt by the Home Office to force landlords and letting agencies into policing an unjust immigration policy,
- believes that the impact of the policy will be to drive already-vulnerable people 'underground' or into destitution, overloading our support services for the homeless and vulnerable, breaking up families and creating significant knock-on effects for a variety of local services,
- resolves not to include the additional landlords' responsibilities as created under this Bill in its own conditions for licensing and accreditation of the rented sector,
- instructs the leader to write to the relevant minister and the city's two MPs expressing the council's opposition to these new requirements on landlords.

(4) Inadequate flooding prevention funding – (Proposed by Councillor John Tanner)

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council is appalled by the inadequate measures taken by the Coalition Government to help tackle Oxford's increasing flooding problems.

We call on Her Majesty's Government to allocate funding immediately for the Conveyance Channel so that floods bypass Oxford. We call on the Environment Agency and the County Council to work with the City Council to significantly improve protection for homes and to guarantee that main roads and the railway remain open even when there is flooding.

We congratulate the staff of the Environment Agency, the emergency services, and the County and City Councils, for their hard work in helping Oxford residents during the floods. We also congratulate Oxford residents for their positive outlook, co-operation and determination to keep going, during the latest floods.

(5) Control of residential lettings boards in the City – (Proposed by Councillor Ruth Wilkinson)

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

Council acknowledges that "To Let" and "Let by" signs are erected on some properties for months despite the properties being occupied. This creates visual clutter, community objection and planning enforcement complaints, highlights student-targeted areas, and police advice in other parts of the country has pointed to a strong correlation between crime levels and the properties displaying "To Let" boards.

Council notes that other authorities have tackled this issue by means of either a voluntary code or a mandatory code, and that mandatory codes have been introduced in Leeds, and also in Newcastle following a review of a previously agreed voluntary code. Council further notes the well-documented success of a mandatory code on the erection of residential lettings boards in Inner NW Leeds which led to a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour, and improved the appearance of two predominantly student areas in the City.

Council also notes that the majority of agencies involved in letting residential properties do ensure that boards are taken down when reminded.

Council asks the City Executive Board:

- (a) To require officers to introduce a code on the erection of residential lettings boards in Oxford
- (b) To carry out a formal consultation process on whether this code should be voluntary or mandatory

- (c) To work with landlords, estate agencies which operate lettings, lettings agencies, boards agents, Oxford City Council officers and the Universities on the content of the code, taking into account the relevant regulations and ensuring that there is an agreed and clear definition of the start date of a tenancy which triggers the board erection process.

(6) Flood Insurance and Mitigation – (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded by Councillor David Williams)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council notes that flooding incidents in Oxford are likely to increase as climate change worsens with serious effects on those whose homes and businesses are badly damaged and lives disrupted.

This Council also notes that the agreement between the UK Government and the insurance industry, the so-called 'Statement of Principles', which required members of the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to make insurance available for properties in areas at significant flood risk, expired last year. The outline of a new scheme, called 'Flood Re', has been agreed with the industry but this will not come into effect until at least 2015. Its terms, conditions and costs remain unclear.

In the interim, flood insurance is being provided on a voluntary basis with the risk that premiums and excesses will rise and new households where flooding is a risk will find getting a policy more and more difficult.

This Council therefore asks the relevant officer to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs expressing its concern on behalf of those at risk of flooding in the City and asks for details of any interim measures that will guarantee cover until the new arrangement are in place.

This Council also agrees to revisit its own policy on climate change adaptation working with other agencies to ensure that the City, its people and economy, are better prepared for more extreme weather events.

(7) Roger Dudman Way – (Proposed by Councillor Elise Benjamin, seconded by Councillor Dick Wolff)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council accepts the findings of the Independent Report into the flaws, errors and limitations in the planning processes around the approval given to the damaging and highly controversial Roger Dudman Way Oxford University graduate buildings, and resolves to work together with all bodies to ensure that the impacts on Port Meadow and William Lucy Way are reversed, and the views of the Grade 1 listed St Barnabas Tower and other views restored, for the benefit of current and future generations of residents, visitors and students in Oxford City and elsewhere.

(8) Improving Access to the Register of Gifts and Hospitality – (Proposed by Councillor David Williams seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This Council believes that both Councillors and officers must act, and be seen to act, in an impartial and objective way if public faith in Council processes are to be maintained and enhanced.

There is already a requirement under the Employee Code of Conduct for each Service Area to maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality, but members of the public are unable to easily access this information.

Council therefore resolves that, in the interest of openness and transparency:

- (1) All Service Area Registers of Gifts and Hospitality should be made readily available to Councillors and members of the public via a link on the Council website; and
- (2) Reports on planning applications, and other quasi-judicial documents, should include reference to any related disclosures.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Amendment in the name of Councillor Colin Cook to the Improving Access to the Register of Gifts and Hospitality – Motion (8):-

Councillor Colin Cook will propose an amendment to Motion 8 in the name of Councillor David Williams as follows:

To delete all of the words after “This Council believes that” and replace with the following words:

“the Councillors and Officers of this Council act in an impartial and objective way.

A new (intranet based) system for recording any gifts and/or hospitality went live for staff on 1st December 2013 and we will publish the details of any gifts accepted on the website from the start of this year. The list will be updated quarterly from then on”.

The amended Motion would read:

This Council believes that the Councillors and Officers of this Council act in an impartial and objective way.

A new (intranet based) system for recording any gifts and/or hospitality went live for staff on 1st December 2013 and we will publish the details of any gifts accepted on the website from the start of this year. The list will be updated quarterly from then on.