

Minutes of a meeting of the COUNCIL on Monday 22 July 2019

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Councill members:

Councillor Simmons (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Altaf-Khan (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillor Goddard (Sheriff)	Councillor Arshad
Councillor Azad	Councillor Aziz
Councillor Bely-Summers	Councillor Brown
Councillor Chapman	Councillor Clarkson
Councillor Cook	Councillor Curran
Councillor Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Fry
Councillor Gant	Councillor Garden
Councillor Gotch	Councillor Haines
Councillor Harris	Councillor Hayes
Councillor Henwood	Councillor Hollingsworth
Councillor Howlett	Councillor Humberstone
Councillor Landell Mills	Councillor Lloyd-Shogbesan
Councillor McManners	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Rush	Councillor Simm
Councillor Linda Smith	Councillor Roz Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Tarver
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Tidball
Councillor Turner	Councillor Upton
Councillor Wade	Councillor Wolff

Apologies:

Councillors Corais, Donnelly, Iley-Williamson, Kennedy, Lygo and Malik sent apologies.

17. Declarations of interest

Minute 36 (d): Councillor Gant declared that he had a disclosable pecuniary interest in the motion as his wife was a member of HMG Natural Capital Committee, and he left the room and took no part in the debate or decision on this item.

Minute 36 (a) Councillor Turner left the room and took no part in the debate or decision on this item as it concerned matters relevant to his secondment to The Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

18. Minutes

Council agreed to approve as a true and correct record the minutes of:

1. the ordinary meeting on 29 April 2019
2. the annual meeting on 13 May 2019; and
3. subject to correction of spellings and republication, the special meeting on 17 July 2019.

19. Appointment to Committees

Council agreed to appoint Councillor Garden to replace Councillor Wade on the East Area Planning Committee.

20. Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced his main civic events since the Annual Council meeting including:

- The official visit to the city by Prince Harry
- D Day commemorations and the unveiling of a plaque at Normandy Crescent
- The Freedom of the City ceremony
- Events including the Oxford Festival of Arts, the Council of Faiths Friendship walk; and involving his chosen charities and the Council's twin cities
- The City Council team maintained their tradition of losing the annual Oxford-Abingdon inter-council bowls match.

The Lord Mayor asked the City Rector, Rev Anthony Buckley to introduce himself and his role. Rev Buckley said he was grateful for the kind welcome to the city, and that he saw his role as city rector as being available to councillors and staff and representing those who valued the council's work. He extended an open invitation to councillors to meet and talk with him.

The Sheriff announced the events he had attended including the Friendship walk, nursery visits, and the annual cattle roundup on Port Meadow followed by losing the Aunt Sally match to the Freeman.

The Leader of the Council announced that she had appointed Councillor Djafari-Marbini as the Council's Migrant Champion.

21. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There were no addresses or questions.

22. The future strategic direction for the Council's group of housing companies

Council considered a report of the Head of Housing submitted to Cabinet on 29 May 2019 proposing changes to the arrangements between the Council's group of Housing companies and the Council's Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing in response to recent government policy changes and recommending a review of future Oxford City Housing Limited (OCHL) development with a view to expanding activity and accelerating affordable housing delivery.

Councillor Rowley, the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to

- 1. increase the HRA capital programme by £45.303m so that adequate additional budgetary provision is made available for the acquisitions to take place as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- 2. approve a revised HRA budget and Business Plan that incorporates the new acquired dwellings that impacts on rental income, maintenance spend, interest payments, debt redemption activity and other matters as set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and**
- 3. approve the re-phasing of the loans from the General Fund Capital Programme in relation to the borrowing activity of OCHL over the MTFP period 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

23. Revolving Construction Loan to Low Carbon Hub IPS

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2019 seeking approval of a revolving loan facility for the Low Carbon Hub IPS (Industrial and Provident Society).

Councillor Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the report and answered questions. He moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to make budget provision of £2.3 million to enable the revolving loan facility to the Low Carbon Hub to be created.

24. OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour

Councillor McManners arrived during this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Community Services submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2019 highlighting the requirements of delivering the OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour in Oxfordshire over the next three years (2019, 2020 and 2021).

Councillor Upton, the Cabinet Member for Healthy Oxford, presented the report and answered questions. She moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to allocate a budget of £30,000 funded from reserves to pay the City Council's share of the costs of delivering the OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour in Oxfordshire for 2019.

25. Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control - Unmet Demand Survey

Council considered a report of the Head of Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety submitted to the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 14 May 2019 asking for consideration of the recommendations in the "Unmet Demand Survey" report (2018) and agree the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control.

Councillor Clarkson, the Chair of the Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. to note that there is currently no significant unmet demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles; and therefore**
- 2. to maintain the Council's Policy of Hackney Carriage Quantity Control and the current quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences; and**
- 3. that a further "Unmet Demand survey" be commissioned in 2021, subject to any changes to relevant legislation.**

26. Amendment to Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Council considered a report of the Head of Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety submitted to the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 8 July 2019 asking for consideration of the recommendations in the "Unmet Demand Survey" report (2018) and agree the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control.

Councillor Clarkson, the Chair of the Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to approve, as set out in the report, the amendment to the approved emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by this Authority.

27. Appointment of independent persons 2019

Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer asking for authorisation to extend the terms of office of the council's independent persons for a further three months to 31 October 2019.

Councillor Aziz, the Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the Council's Independent Persons for a further three months to 31 October 2019.

28. Constitution - Members' Briefings on Planning Matters

Council considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance recommending changes to paragraph 24.14 (Members' Informal Briefings) of Part 24 (The Planning Code of Conduct) of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Brown, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. approve the proposed amendments to Part 24 of the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report; and**
- 2. delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution in line with the changes approved by Council.**

29. Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meeting dates

Council considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance setting out meeting dates of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group.

Councillor Brown, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and a change to the date of agreement of the terms of reference, and answered questions. She clarified her decision that all of the Council's companies and joint ventures would report to a Shareholder and Joint Venture Group, comprising all members of Cabinet, which would meet quarterly on dates set out in the report..

Councillor Brown moved the recommendation, which was agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to note the meeting dates of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group and that the terms of reference would now be presented at the meeting on 25 September 2019.

30. Cabinet Minutes

Council had before it the minutes of Cabinet meetings of 29 May 2019; 12 June 2019; and 10 July 2019.

a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 29 May 2019 of Cabinet

There were no questions on these minutes.

b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 12 June 2019 of Cabinet

Minute 27 (Seacourt Park and Ride Extension)

Councillor Tanner asked when the work on this project would start and if it was affected by the delays to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project.

Councillor Hollingsworth replied that it was anticipated that the project would start and finish very close to the dates set out in the report accompanying that decision. The delay of the OFAS was not predicted to delay this project.

c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 10 July 2019 of Cabinet

Minute 42 (Q4 Integrated Performance Report)

Councillor Roz Smith asked who would carry out monitoring and research into the outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly and about plans to evaluate the recommendations of the Assembly.

Councillor Brown replied that these were not finalised but were part of the ongoing preparation for the Assembly which was overseen by a cross-party group.

31. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

38 written questions were asked of the Cabinet members and Leader, and these and written responses were published before the meeting.

These along with summaries of the 17 supplementary questions and responses asked and given at the meeting are set out in the [printed pack of these minutes](#).

32. Q4 Integrated Report 2018/19 - allocation of budgetary provision

With the agreement of Council the Lord Mayor took this item just before the break.

Councillor Bely-Summers arrived for the start of this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services submitted to the Cabinet on 10 July 2019 update Members on Finance, Risk and Performance as at the end of the financial year.

Councillor Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the report.

Councillor Brown answered questions about the proposals for the Citizens' Assembly.

Councillor Turner moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. agree the inclusion of an additional £1.53m budget within the Housing Revenue Account in 2019-20 for completion of the Tower Block refurbishment scheme; and**
- 2. agree the inclusion of £200k in 2019-20 in respect of costs to establish a citizens' assembly together with associated staffing costs for reporting and research.**

33. Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Councillor Haines left before the start of this item.

There were five addresses and three questions to Council.

1. Racky Wane gave an address asking for support to campaign for climate change to be added to the school curriculum.
2. Nuha Abdo of the Syrian Sisters Community Group gave an address about the experiences of Syrian refugees in the city and asking for support for English language teaching.
3. Nabeela Talib and Adam Khan gave an address about their experiences as a foster family and an asylum seeker in support of the City of Sanctuary motion (36b)
4. Geoffrey Sandford of the Oxford Men's Group asked a question about the Council's complaints process.
5. Artwell gave an address asking that the Council maintain the long-established rights of free speech and extend that unreservedly to groups with bookings at the Town Hall
6. Artwell asked a question about statements made in the press and asking for an apology for these.
7. Judith Harley gave an address about the responsibilities of councillors who were appointed to outside organisations, in particular appointments as Charity Trustees.
8. Judith Harley asked a question about the possibility of the Council making a compulsory purchase of William Morris Sports ground in Cowley.

Cabinet members responded to each speaker.

The full text of these speeches read as submitted; responses from the Cabinet members in writing before the meeting; and summaries of any verbal responses given at the meeting are set out in the [printed pack of these minutes](#).

There were three further submitted addresses or questions: these and written responses are included in the briefing note accompanying the agenda.

- *Question from Sue Brough – Action to help people likely to experience hate crime*
- *Question from Sarah Lazenby – Use of Roundup weedkiller*
- *Address by Alistair Morris, Marston Community Gardening - Lack of information/difficulty maintaining local group.*

34. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

Council had before it the report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services giving an update on the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Councillor Chapman introduced the report and answered questions.

Council noted the report

a) Oxford Safer Communities Partnership Update

Council had before it the report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services on the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Councillor Chapman introduced the report and answered questions.

Council noted the report.

35. Scrutiny Committee update report

Council had before it the Scrutiny Committee work plan for 2019/20 and the recommendation tracker as at July 2019.

Councillor Gant introduced the report and highlighted the forthcoming work of the committee and that the review groups would be established in September once the new Scrutiny Officer was in post.

He thanked the previous Scrutiny Officer Stefan Robinson who had served the committee and review groups with distinction.

Council noted the report.

36. Motions on notice 2019/20

Council had before it nine motions on notice submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules and reached decisions as set out below.

Council resolved to adopt the following motions as set out in these minutes:

- a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations
- b) A City of Sanctuary
- c) Making Oxford an Anti-racist City
- d) Natural Capital Census

The following motions were not taken as the time allocated for debate had elapsed:

- e) Car Free Day

- f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action
- g) Multilateral nuclear disarmament
- h) Tourism Management
- i) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds

a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations (cross party)

Councillor Turner left the meeting for the debate and decision on this motion.

Councillor Aziz, seconded by Councillor Harris, and supported by Councillor Simmons, proposed the submitted cross-party motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

This council supports the calls of Oxford's Sudanese community to hold the Transitional Military Council to account over the killings and abuses of protestors.

Since the fall of Omar al Bashir on 11th April 2019, Sudan's transition to democratic, civilian authority rule has been violently quashed and met by human rights violations carried out by the military authorities comprising of the Transitional Military Council (TMC). Rights violations include using rape and sexual abuse as a political weapon, enforced disappearances and imprisonment of protestors, the use of live ammunition and torture against unarmed protestors and attacks on hospitals and health facilities to further target the injured.

Since December 2018 a mass peaceful protest uniting citizens across class and regional lines over the cost of living has developed into a representative protest movement calling for peaceful democratic change supported by Sudan's independent trade unions, professional associations and opposition political parties.

Doctors, teachers, lawyers, journalists, students and workers are among people who have taken strike action and joined the democracy movement. Many of these individuals are related to or are friends of Oxford residents of Sudanese heritage or Sudanese people who are residents of Oxford.

This council acknowledges the brave and principled work of Oxford's Sudanese community and wider diaspora to push for accountability over the many decades of human rights violations and crimes against the Sudanese people by the regime.

This council believes the people of Sudan have the right to protest and organise without fear of violence and abuse.

This council condemns the British government for being complicit in the violence through its cooperation with the Saudi campaign in Yemen (where Sudanese militias are deployed) and through funding Sudanese militias indirectly through EU border policy (the Khartoum process/Rome Declaration 2014).

This council acknowledges and thanks Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP for demanding the UK government applies pressure on the Sudanese authorities to end the killings and abuses and ensure there is a democratic transition of power.

In support of the local Sudanese community, this Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the relevant U.K. Government Ministers in the Home Office and Foreign Office, and to the city's MPs, asking:

- 1. that the UK government to condemn the use of violence, rape and sexual violence against protesters, cease all forms of security cooperation with the TMC, and look into imposing sanctions on individuals connected to the regime and figures in the TMC;**
- 2. that the Home Office provide sanctuary to Sudanese people seeking safety from the regime and its allies; and**
- 3. the city's MPs to also write appropriate letters to the Home Office and Foreign Office representing the demands set out in this motion.**

b) A City of Sanctuary (cross party)

Councillor Turner re-joined the meeting at the start of the debate on this motion.

Councillor Djafari-Marbini, seconded by Councillor Wolff, and supported by Councillor Garden, proposed the submitted cross-party motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

This Council reaffirms its commitment to being a City of Sanctuary. We uphold the principles of dignity and respect for all, welcome the paper "Oxford's Commitment to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants" and ask the Leader of the Council to sign it on the Council's behalf.

This is an age of growing xenophobia with the globalisation of the far right from Trump to Orban. Here, Hostile Environment policies have blurred the distinction between service provision and immigration enforcement with the most vulnerable having no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and being left destitute.

This Council also commits to:

1. Flying the "City of Sanctuary" flag on World Refugee Day.
2. Encouraging our residents to exercise their existing rights in conjunction with organisations such as Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource, Sanctuary Hosting and our advice centres, ensuring routine access to interpreters and immigration advice.
3. Working with existing community networks, such as the Syrian Sisters and African Families in the UK to place lived experiences at the centre of service provision.
4. Encouraging councillors to sign up to a "place of safety" pledge. Both our Oxford MPs have signed the "MPs not border guards" pledge. We are proud to have no

embedded UK Visa and Immigration staff in our frontline services. The “place of safety pledge” will communicate our commitment to not being part of immigration enforcement, ensuring all are able to seek confidential advice and representation without fear.

5. Encourage the Council’s partners to not be part of the ‘Hostile Environment’ by for example providing data to the Home Office to be used for detention and deportation.
6. Working towards all residents being able to access voluntary and statutory services to meet their basic healthcare, housing, and income needs. The Council has successfully secured funding to further support vulnerable groups by investigating rogue landlords; and helping European Economic Area migrant rough sleepers access accommodation and support services.
7. Improving access to employment. We have funded four work-based English as a Second Language courses helping migrants to access employment opportunities. We will continue this via implementation of the equalities action plan. This committed the Council to improving understanding of the career paths available, and focused advice for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates. Coordinated action with higher education colleges can ensure all our residents benefit equally from the available opportunities.

And asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary asking the government to:

1. Implement the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into detention, end the shameful practice of “indefinite detention” and work towards the closure of all detention centres.
2. Honour its commitment to the “Dubs amendment”; Britain will provide sanctuary to 10,000 child refugees over the next ten years (3-5 per local authority).
3. End NRPF policies and reverse attacks on access to the NHS.
4. Extend the equal right to vote to all UK residents, regardless of citizenship and grant asylum seekers the right to take paid work while their application is being determined.

c) Making Oxford an Anti-racist City

Councillor Aziz, seconded by Councillor Rowley, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

This council notes the following.

- The increase in racism and hate crime as well as increased incidents by far-right/Nazi groups in Britain.
- The visit of the UN special rapporteur on racism to England earlier this year who highlighted the:
- The increase in hate crimes and incidents across the UK after the referendum to leave the EU.

- The growth in volume and acceptability of xenophobic discourses on migration, and on foreign nationals including refugees in social and print media.
- The gross human rights violations and indignities that African-Caribbean British citizens referred to as the 'Windrush generation' have had to endure as a result of the so-called 'hostile environment' policy.
- The criminalisation of young people from ethnic minorities, especially young black men and British Muslim men. Black men are over-represented in police stop and searches and are over-represented in the prison system.
- Structural racism is still an everyday reality for people from Black, Asian and other minority and refugee communities.
- Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia is on the rise and is being mainstreamed through our political and public discourse.
- The increase in incidents in Oxford. In 2018, there were 188 racist or racially aggravated crimes reported to the police, an increase of 40% compared to 2017.

This council believes that:

- Operation Prevent, the government's counter-terrorism strategy, should be suspended while officials conduct a comprehensive audit of its impact on racial equality;
- urgent action is required to make Oxford a truly anti-racist city and develop a long term strategy to put into action anti racism work.

This Council therefore

- 1. pledges to make Oxford an Anti-racist city;**
- 2. will work with and listen to people experiencing racism;**
- 3. and will work with local authorities, trade unions and community groups to achieve this; and**
- 4. asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Office seeking the suspension of the Prevent programme.**

d) Natural Capital Census

Councillor Tidball left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Gant, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the meeting for the debate and decision on this motion.

With Council's agreement the Lord Mayor extended the time for debating motions to the end of this debate and vote.

Councillor Goddard, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

Long-term thinking is key to safeguarding our environment. The creation and introduction of the government's 25-year environmental plan in 2018 was a welcome step.

Key to the success of the plan is the collection of reliable, consistent data across a range of indicators, from air quality to water quality to urban vegetation, in order to produce a baseline against which progress can be measured. Although vast amounts of data are being collected and analysed, the challenge is to make sure that this is done in a joined-up way using the same methodology and spatial and temporal resolution, at a single point in time, in order to allow meaningful comparison and analysis of variations over time.

In its Sixth Annual Report, the government's Natural Capital Committee recommends that a comprehensive review of progress against the baseline assets and associated 25-Year Plan goals should be undertaken on a 5-yearly basis to determine direction of change in England's environment. An Environmental Census will provide the framework and data necessary to ensure that this happens. It will also bring together and harmonise existing datasets to (i) ensure geographical referencing of all records using standard OS grid (ii) ensure date stamping of all records (iii) facilitate open-access. The NCC proposes that the first Environmental Census is undertaken in 2020 to follow the UK's 'Year of Green Actions'.

Crucially, mass data collection of this kind cannot be undertaken only by scientists and politicians. The Census will involve the use of novel and emerging technologies (e.g. GIS and Landsat imagery, smart phone apps) and will encourage as wide as participation as possible in collecting data, including citizen scientists, individual landowners and school children.

We believe that Oxford should lead on this vital initiative. Our city can draw a huge resource of commitment and expertise from all its citizens, particularly young people. This Council is uniquely placed to coordinate activity among the many stakeholders in our city who will want to take part. We should set the standard by undertaking now to be part of the Census in 2020. In addition, we should go further by offering to undertake a pilot study.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive:

- 1. To maintain contacts with HMG and the NCC and proactively make clear Oxford City Council's willingness to act as the lead in the proposed Census in our region;**
- 2. To offer additionally to conduct a pilot in advance of the main Census;**
- 3. To open discussions with neighbouring authorities about how best to coordinate action at a regional level.**

e) Car Free Day

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

g) Multilateral Nuclear disarmament

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

h) Tourism Management

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

i) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 7 October 2019

To: Council
Date: 22 July 2019
Title of Report: Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Cabinet Members and Leader-republished to include supplementary questions and answers given at the meeting

Introduction

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

Questions and responses

Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing

1. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Rowley – 100 years of council housing

Question	Written Response
National celebrations marking 70 years of the NHS took place last year. 2019 is the chance for us to celebrate 100 years of council housing as we know it; the 1919 Housing Act was the first step in the nationwide provision of good-quality council homes - in the words of Lloyd George 'homes fit for heroes'.	I'd like to thank Cllr Roz Smith for the suggestion of finding some way to celebrate the centenary of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act 1919 (known as the Addison Act) which set out the first nationwide Council house building scheme in the aftermath of the First World War (although some Councils had built homes before the passage of the Act). We're pulling together a communications plan to do just that. Christopher Addison, the Liberal Minister for Housing who introduced the 1919 Act, is also worthy of celebration for his commitment and integrity in campaigning for decent and affordable housing over many decades. The Act itself provided for 500,000

<p>What arrangements to celebrate 100 years of council housing have the City Council organised?</p>	<p>new homes, but the programme was cancelled in 1921 by the then Liberal-Conservative coalition government when only 200,000 had been built. Addison resigned and wrote <i>The Betrayal of the Slums</i>, a powerful indictment of that government's breach of faith with their promise of "Homes Fit For Heroes". He subsequently served as a Labour Minister under Clement Attlee, and lived to see Nye Bevan's Ministry of Housing carry out his programme and more.</p> <p>I'm very proud that Oxford City Council has kept its Council housing and is now building new secure, decent homes for local people. This administration completed the first new Oxford Council housing for more than 20 years in Rose Hill and Littlemore by working with another dedicated housing minister, John Healey; the first Council tenants have moved into their new homes in Barton; and now we have set up Oxford City Homes to make sure our programme can continue even if national policy changes yet again. Making and keeping Oxford an affordable place to live will always be at the top of this administration's priorities.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Who will be involved in the celebration and in setting out the communications plan? Will there be cross-party involvement in these?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>The communications team will be preparing and carrying out the communications plan on behalf of the Council, and members will be kept informed through this.</p>

2. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Rowley – Affordable housing completions

<p>Question</p> <p>How many homes does the City Council and the City Housing Company anticipate completing in this and the next financial year?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>We are aiming to complete 144 homes by the end of the next financial year split as follows:</p> <p>Rose Hill – 43 ; Harts Close – 2 Elsfield Hall – 26; Cumberlege Close – 9 Between Towns Road – 38 Edgecombe Road – 7 Warren Crescent – 10 Bracegirdle, Mortimer & Broad Oak – 8 Pauling Road – 1</p> <p>As with all development there is potential for slippage and the sites that are at the highest risk of slipping into the following year are Elsfield, Between Towns Road and Edgecombe all of which are programmed to complete in the last quarter of the 20/21 financial year.</p>
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Cabinet Member for Culture and City Centre

3. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Clarkson – Cowley Road carnival

Question	Written Response
<p>Will the portfolio holder join me in thanking the organisers of yet another successful Cowley Road Carnival and thank the outgoing Director, Micaela Tuckwell, for her contribution?</p>	<p>I attended Cowley Road Carnival and was very impressed with the improvements Micaela and team have made this year. The festival parade was more varied and inclusive with a stronger music programme and more people got involved. Around 49,000 people attended (5,000 more people than last year) and funding came from a wide range of sources.</p> <p>It was great to see further improvements that made the festival more welcoming to everyone. A new Planet Inclusion space was introduced where people could go for some quiet time. The new space was devised and programmed by the Roarsomes – the disabled-led youth group that meet at Ark-T. There were also more artists and performers with impairments than ever before including the new Sol Samba Youth Group, Deaf Rave, the Carnival’s newly commissioned dance performance between Parasol, BodyPolitic and Arcadia, and local favourites Handy Voices to name but a few. As a result, the Carnival has been awarded the <i>Attitude is Everything</i> Bronze Level Charter of Best Practice for becoming the first carnival in the country to achieve this.</p>

4. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Clarkson – Tourism Management Review

Question	Written Response
<p>This year, the council’s Tourism Management Review Panel held discussions with 27 external guests with expertise in the field and produced a 40 page report containing 21 recommendations to Cabinet.</p> <p>The first recommendation proposed developing a shared vision for tourism with our partners, and recommended a starting point of four general vision principles. The member’s response was that we should enter discussions with no principles or vision of our own (on tourism), despite stating that the purpose of the discussions would be to procure support for the Oxford Economic and City Centre Vision & Plan.</p> <p>a) Does our existing Economic and City Centre Vision & Plan not deal with tourism, despite the visitor economy accounting for over 12%</p>	<p>The Council is currently out to tender for both an Oxford Economic Growth Strategy & Action Plan and a City Centre Vision & Action Plan.</p> <p>We expect to appoint a consultant team in September 2019. This team will then work with officers, members and stakeholders to develop the reports. Tourism will form a key part of both these documents and the expectation is that the</p>

<p>of employment?</p> <p>b) If not, why not?</p> <p>c) If it does, what is the vision?</p> <p>Recommendation 10 concerned the need to research the number of tourist coaches driving into central Oxford, their movements etc. The member’s response was that “this will be discussed with Experience Oxfordshire and Oxon County Council to ascertain what information already exists, and what more is needed.”</p> <p>The Tourism Management Panel, having interviewed Experience Oxfordshire and a senior County Highways officer amongst others, had already ascertained that there was no current information available other than a one-off spot survey of drop-offs in St Giles undertaken by local residents in the north of Oxford.</p> <p>d) Have these further discussions managed to unearth any other data?</p> <p>Notwithstanding the lack of any data on tourist coach numbers and movement, the response to Recommendation 8 (p.42) advised us that “Oxford City and Oxfordshire County are currently reviewing the wider policy on (tourist) coaches.”</p> <p>e) What estimated numbers were assumed, and have any conclusions been reached?</p> <p>As regards Recommendation 9 we were advised by the member that “Layover information is currently being reviewed and will be issued to coach drivers imminently.”</p> <p>f) Has this happened, and what, in general, is the advice?</p> <p>g) How will it be communicated to coach drivers?</p>	<p>Council’s vision for tourism, along with other key sectors, will be developed and articulated through this process.</p> <p>As stated in the original Cabinet response to the Tourism Management Scrutiny Review Group, it would be premature to develop a tourism vision in advance of this process.</p> <p>The specific recommendations relating to coach journeys and coach parking are included with the work programme of the recently appointed City Centre Manager. Work has begun on these actions, but at this early stage there are no substantive outcomes to report. An update on progress is expected in September this year.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>The Council should be using the Scrutiny Committee’s thorough review as the basis to develop its vision for tourism? How much will this consultant team cost and why is it duplicating the scrutiny review group’s work?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>Tourism – and the scrutiny review group’s report and recommendations - will form a part of this much wider review of the city centre economy and vision. Consultants will be appointed as there is not capacity in-house to undertake this work.</p>

5. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Clarkson – Tourism Zone bid

<p>Question</p> <p>a) Will the portfolio holder join me in welcoming the government’s recent announcement of a tourism sector deal, inviting bids for up to 5 tourism zones.</p> <p>b) Will the portfolio holder commit to act on its response to recommendation 2 in the recent scrutiny review into tourism, and work closely with Experience Oxfordshire, neighbouring authorities, the LEP and others to make a bid for our region?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>I welcome the recent announcement of a Tourism Sector Deal and the Tourism Zones, which together represent a fantastic opportunity for Oxford and Oxfordshire’s tourism sector.</p> <p>The City Council is committed to supporting the tourism sector in the city and the Tourism Zones initiative provides the opportunity for an exciting place specific response to further boost the productivity of this key sector. To this end, the City Council will work closely with Experience Oxfordshire, neighbouring authorities, the LEP and others, to submit a bid.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>What does Experience Oxfordshire want us to offer in support and to put into the bid?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>Work on the bid is still ongoing so this is difficult to answer here. The Council will do all it can to support the process and the final bid</p>

6. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Clarkson – Oxford International Links

<p>Question</p> <p>At Council on 23 April 2019 Councillor Clarkson referred to ongoing discussions with the Oxford International Links Team about the effective use of their resources.</p> <p>Would she now update Council on where these discussions have reached and, in particular, whether additional funding and staff have been allocated to make the eight twinning links successful?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Resources have been allocated to fund:</p> <p>a) a full time permanent grade 6 International Links Officer post</p> <p>b) to update all the twin city signs into the city</p> <p>c) to launch and develop relations with all our twin cities</p> <p>The budget has been increased from £6,200 per year to £23,000 in 2019-20 (to accommodate launch costs) and £17,000 per annum thereafter. The new International Links Officer has been appointed and will start in post this month. The postholder has a strong background in working in local government including running twinning activities. Also, she has had a second career in the film industry and I am sure her wide range of experience, skills and contacts will be very beneficial to the development of our twin city activities and relationships.</p>
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<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>How many hours each week can the Council put into improving and sustaining the twinning links and how much time are the universities and colleges giving to these?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>The Council post is full-time, so 37 hours per week. The universities help support the links with Padua and Perm. The volunteer twinning associations contribute valuable support and time to improving our links. There is considerable value to the whole city in these links, not just to the university sector.</p>
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7. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Clarkson – Grenoble

<p>Question</p> <p>In view of the reported ban by our twin city of Grenoble on women wearing burkinis in the city's swimming pools, does the portfolio holder agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • issues of personal dress are largely matters of personal freedom of choice for the individual; and • this includes a decision by a woman to wear a burkini to go swimming; <p>and, if so, will she write to the city leader of Grenoble conveying this view?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>I believe that issues of personal dress are matters of personal freedom of choice for the individual and I am aware that the local community have made their feelings known. I will monitor the issue so I can assess whether I believe a letter could help to resolve the situation.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>I am concerned about this ban. We twin with cities because we share each other's values and surely we should uphold these – does this not merit a response?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>Grenoble is a tolerant and open city. Burkinis are one item on a long list of clothing items banned from swimming pools for hygiene reasons across France. I want to be sure of the reasons for the ban, and will look into this further before deciding whether to express concerns..</p>

Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management; non-statutory Deputy Leader

8. From Councillor Cook to Councillor Turner – Lord Mayor's fundraising

<p>Question</p> <p>Can Cllr Turner tell me how much last year's Lord Mayor raised for his two good causes?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>When the Head of Finance eventually managed to get through the security and gained access to the bank account, he identified that the Lord Mayor, Councillor Cook, had collected an amount of</p>
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	£10,322 which was duly paid out in equal proportions to Oxford Samaritans and Oxford Nightline, i.e £5,161 each
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Oxford Samaritans and Oxford Nightline wished to thank the Town Hall staff for their hard work and support with fundraising events during my year as Lord Mayor. Will the Cabinet Member pass on their thanks, and also thank the charities for the work they do?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>I will happily pass on their thanks to Town Hall staff, and also thank the charities for their work in the city.</p>

9. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Turner – 1-5 George Street

<p>Question</p> <p>It has been announced that plans for 1-5 George Street have been “shelved”.</p> <p>a) Can the Cabinet member confirm the total costs to the council of work on the various iterations of this scheme?</p> <p>b) Why was this decision not communicated fully to members?</p> <p>c) Why was a press release not issued?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>Following feasibility work, officers are no longer proposing to continue with the option of an office-led redevelopment because it is unviable. However, other options will now be explored, including interim uses. When a preferred option has been identified, a complete report will be prepared for consideration by members.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of finalising the total cost of the feasibility work undertaken to date. The cumulative cost could amount to approximately £650K. Unfortunately sometimes detailed work, rather than desktop work, is necessary to ascertain scheme viability and this was the case here.</p> <p>A press release has not been issued because officers are still working on the project.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Given the outcome and the cost to the Council are you content with all aspects of the management and supervision of this project?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>The cost of the feasibility work for a scheme of this value is reasonable, and the redevelopment could not progress without going through this work. Yes I regret spending money on work on a scheme that did not proceed: but I would do the same for another proposed project. There is a review of the capital programme management process to further improve this.</p>

10. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Upton – Promoting bio-diversity on vacant plots

Question	Written Response
<p>Could City Council owned areas deemed unviable for housing projects or development be considered for community orchards or tree/shrub planting to promote environmental awareness and/or community gardens to further promote green corridors and biodiversity within the city?</p>	<p>We are currently reviewing how we can increase biodiversity in all of our green spaces. I thank Cllr Henwood for this excellent idea and we will certainly consider it. I hope we can create more community orchards along the lines of the excellent one in Marston recently developed on a corner of unused parish council land.</p>

11. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Upton – Urban Tree Challenge Fund bid

Question	Written Response
<p>The Government’s Urban Tree Challenge Fund has been developed in response to the Autumn Budget Announcement that £10 million would be made available over 2019-21 for the planting of trees in urban and semi-urban areas.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Member confirm that an ‘Expression of Interest’ has been or will be filed by 28 July 2019 with the Forestry Commission for the year 2020-21, when smaller grants to local organisations and community groups will be available?</p>	<p>Yes, we will be filing an expression of interest with the Forestry Commission. The City Council is actively looking for ways to enhance biodiversity in our green spaces as well as places to plant more trees to help fight climate change.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Will an expression of interest be filed by the end of the month?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>Yes – I will check that this was done.</p>

Cabinet Member for Planning and Sustainable Transport

12. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hollingsworth – Local Plan inspection initial view

Question	Written Response
<p>Oxford’s planning inspector has publicly raised a number of initial questions about the fundamental basis of the draft local plan, including: the housing figures are “old”; include “double counting”; need is “significantly lower than..2014 SHMA” which affects allocations to neighbouring LAs and Green Belt; comments on employment policies, parking and much else.</p> <p>The Council has committed to replying to the inspector robustly and fully.</p> <p>Will the portfolio holder commit to informing members promptly when that response is issued?</p>	<p>Yes. The responses have already been published at www.oxford.gov.uk/localplanexamination</p>

13. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hollingsworth – reassessing the Local Plan

Question	Written Response
<p>The Planning Inspectors’ ‘Initial Questions and Comments’ on our Local Plan submission, published on 10 June, strongly suggest that they consider the Plan sufficiently unsound and undeliverable as to prevent them setting a hearing date.</p> <p>They challenge our housing need figures as being excessive, want more evidence for our housing land supply calculations, press us (as they did before) to allow expansion of private colleges and schools, and object to some of our land use intensification proposals and our already less-than-ambitious proposed energy standards for new builds.</p> <p>Their concerns seem to reflect the National Planning Policy Framework’s ‘growth’ agenda despite their professed concern for the Green Belt.</p> <p>With the Oxfordshire 2050 collaborative planning process now under way (and</p>	<p>The Planning Inspectors’ ‘Initial Questions and Comments’ are an entirely normal part of a Local Plan examination process to assist in understanding the plan and the evidence base. This is clearly set out in the Planning Inspectorate’s procedural guidance.</p> <p>The NPPF forms the basis of the planning system, and it sets out the rules, requirements for making a Local Plan and both local authorities and the Planning Inspectorate work according to those requirements. The NPPF also highlights the legal requirement for local planning authorities to maintain up to date local plans and that policies in local plans and spatial development strategies to be reviewed to assess whether they need updating at least once every five years. It is important that we get an up to date Local Plan in place.</p> <p>The NPPF has recently undergone review</p>

<p>committed to developing a new evidence base to support regional planning), with significant political changes in other districts and an increasingly fractured, unstable and insecure central Government there is a certain fluidity in the development of planning policy. With escalating concerns about the climate crisis taking the form of legally binding commitments there must be increasing uncertainty about the growth assumptions built into the National Planning Policy Framework, and therefore its own sustainability.</p> <p>Does the Cabinet member consider that this hiatus provides an opportunity to ‘sit back’ and reassess our Plan in conjunction with partners in surrounding districts, or are our commitments under the expansionist ‘Growth Deal’ sufficiently ‘set in stone’ — and sufficiently supported by his own administration — as to demand a rapid response to the inspectors’ comments?</p>	<p>and a new version published. The claim that there is a “certain fluidity in the development of planning policy” is quite false, as is the suggestion that there is a “hiatus” of some sort. If the NPPF changes again in the future this will be addressed through the review of the Local Plan and aligned to any policy directions agreed with our partners through the Oxfordshire Plan 2050. There is no evidence that the current Local Plan, which contains important strategic and non-strategic policies on a range of matters should be stalled. The Local Plan was signed off for examination by full Council. The Local Plan is now being examined and therefore we need to respond to queries as they arise.</p> <p>Since the submission of the Local Plan to the Secretary of State in March officers have been continuing to work on clarifying evidence supporting the plan, including responding to the initial questions. The procedural guidance from the Planning Inspectorate highlights that “typically, the examination of a full local plan containing both strategic and non-strategic policies will tend to last around a year, and sometimes longer”. There is nothing to suggest that our examination is moving forward any differently to normal procedure and timescales.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>How will the planning policy officers interpret the Inspectors questions and requests for evidence?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>All policies must be justified by evidence so the council can be asked to provide additional information. I have concerns about the requests, but we must produce robust evidence to make the strongest possible case for our policies.</p>

14. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Hollingsworth – Sustainable transport plans

Question	Written Response
<p>Does the portfolio holder agree with the principle that developers and site operators have a responsibility to ensure that their customers and staff can travel to and from their site in a sustainable manner - that does not pollute the city or contribute to global warming?</p>	<p>Yes. That is why a Sustainable Travel Plan has been a requirement for all major developments for many years.</p>

15. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Hollingsworth – Sustainable transport plans to discharge planning conditions

Question	Written Response
<p>a) Does the portfolio holder believe that the city guidance and requirements for transport plans are fit for purpose?</p> <p>b) What changes, if any, do they plan to make?</p> <p>c) What requirement is there for sustainable transport plans or their equivalent for all medium and major developments as part of their planning application, and how does the city council interpret these planning applications and enforce the standards set out in them?</p>	<p>Yes, I believe that they are fit for purpose. Travel Plans are required by the NPPF as an appropriate means to secure sustainable transport objectives alongside other mitigation measures e.g. junctions improvements identified in a transport assessment. Moreover, Travel Plans have also formed part of Local Plan policy for many years, and the policy is carried forward in the proposed Local Plan 2036 which has been submitted to the Secretary of State in advance of the Public Inquiry later this year. The requirements for all major developments can be found in the current Local Plan, and it is against this that all planning applications are considered on their merits. The requirements of any Travel Plan are secured through planning obligation or conditions and enforcement of the Travel Plans is managed by Oxfordshire County Council.</p>

16. From Councillor Gotch to Councillor Hollingsworth – John Radcliffe car parking

Question	Written Response
<p>a) Will the City lead negotiations with the medical authorities, the county council and a bus company, for the setting up of dedicated park and ride facilities, preferably on brown field sites to the north, west and east of Headington and Barton, for staff and patients and emergency cases, to be carried to the John Radcliffe hospital via its rear entrances — thus reducing Headley Way’s notorious traffic jams?</p> <p>b) Will these negotiations also include the expansion of Thornhill Park & Ride for the same purpose?</p>	<p>The City Council has been in discussion for some time with the OUH Trust about the Trust’s ‘masterplan’ for the development of their various sites in Headington, which has of course included transport issues. While the primary responsibility for developing a transport strategy that supports the ambitions that the Trust has for its sites lies with the Trust itself, the City and County Councils are involved in discussing a range of different potential approaches. Any preferred option is likely to involve a number of different elements, of which expanding park and ride capacity, the provision of more and better public transport routes, prioritisation of the finite number of parking spaces,</p>

	more efficient organisation of those parking spaces, and consideration of the allocation of facilities between Trust sites will form a part.
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17. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Hollingsworth – Car free days

Question	Written Response
Would the portfolio holder support the adoption of a programme of car free days on a regular basis as a means of encouraging more sustainable transport in and around the city?	A well planned and delivered programme of that sort would be beneficial, and one that I am sure this Council would support. However as the Highways Authority the relevant powers and responsibilities lie with the County Council. Informal discussions with the County Council about a car-free day have begun, and all councillors will be kept in touch with any developments.

18. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Hollingsworth – Sustainable building standards

Question	Written Response
Given the greater power Local Planning Authorities now have over building development - what standards are the city council asking developers to adopt to make development more sustainable?	These standards form part of the current Local Plan and the proposed Local Plan 2036, and have been the subject of discussion and debate at previous Council meetings in the last 12 months. The Councillor is invited to refer to the relevant documents.

19. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth – Priory, Littlemore – Enforcement/ repossession update

Question	Written Response
<p>Occupied since 1445, the Priory in Littlemore has remained derelict for the past 13 years, and is now considered to be at 'risk'.</p> <p>The site is owned by Oxford City Council and leased to Firoka, former Oxford United owner Firoz Kassam's company who also own Ozone and the Oxford United Stadium.</p> <p>As part of the original planning application, a condition was incorporated</p>	With regards to the enforcement actions, the latest position with the Priory is that the tenant's planning agents have now submitted an external condition survey to the council, as required by the planning condition. This is currently being reviewed by the Design and Heritage Team in the Planning Service to assess the works outlined in the report and the methods for repair. The outcome of this review will determine the actions taken next by the Council regarding the Priory,

<p>into the planning application that the applicant repair the Grade II listed building. Last year Oxford City Council, sought enforcement action to make Firoka honour the agreement.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder update council on the status of the enforcement action, and whether city council will consider repossessing the site?</p>	<p>one of which could be to consider repossession of the lease.</p>
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20. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth – Community Orchard at the Priory (Priory 2)

Question	Written Response
<p>Men and women living in relatively deprived areas can expect to live shorter lives, these areas of deprivation include Littlemore and the Leys, The Priory sits on this border in Littlemore where child poverty rates are over 40% (Indices of Deprivation 2015).</p> <p>If the city council is now reluctant to take enforcement action, could a recommendation be considered by both Firoka and the Oxford City Council for the grounds of the Priory to be used to develop a community orchard, to help mitigate food poverty in Littlemore, and promote an environmental corridor in this area of future potential development?</p>	<p>An orchard does not require planning permission, and so there is nothing in planning terms to prevent the current or any future tenant or land owner from planting the site accordingly. The building is listed building, subject to the usual restrictions for such a heritage asset. The archaeological aspects of the site would need to be taken on board as well, given the importance of the historic assets that are under the ground, and the need to avoid disturbing those unnecessarily.</p>

21. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Hollingsworth – Oxford to Cowley Railway

Question	Written Response
<p>a) Does Councillor Hayes agree that one of the most effective ways of reducing Oxford's carbon-footprint would be re-opening the Oxford to Cowley Railway line to passenger traffic?</p> <p>b) What progress has the</p>	<p>Improved public transport options to encourage modal shift from car-based journeys will make a positive impact on the city's carbon footprint, although not as great a positive impact as shifts to active modes such as walking and cycling. As the Local Plan, and the County Council's Transport Strategy (LPT4) make clear, the Cowley Branch line is an important new public transport corridor to enable modal shift and sustainable development in the South-East of the city. There are also significant potential benefits for new rail services such as East-West rail and any new local</p>

<p>Council made in getting the Oxford to Cowley line re-opened since this was first adopted as part of the Council's carbon reduction strategy?</p>	<p>services in Oxfordshire, through the provision of new turn-around and layover options south of Oxford Station.</p> <p>The City and County Council have been working with Network Rail and others on the Oxfordshire Rail Connectivity Study, which includes a specific piece of work looking at detailed options for the Cowley Branch Line. The Study is funded by DfT and other partners including the Oxfordshire Growth board (using Housing and Growth Deal funding), East West Rail consortium and England's Economic Heartland (the report to the Growth Board can be found on the City Council website). The first part of the study, including the Cowley Branch line Study is due to report back to the Oxfordshire Growth Board in September this year.</p>
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22. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Hollingsworth – Oxford to Bletchley rail services

<p>Question</p> <p>Does the Council support the re-introduction of rail services from Oxford to Bletchley/Milton Keynes as part of its strategy to reduce car traffic in Oxford, and if so what steps is it taking to make sure this long-promised reintroduction actually happens soon?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The City Council has supported the reintroduction of east-west rail services for many years, and took a very active role in lobbying successive governments to provide the necessary funding and regulation for such an introduction to take place. The first phase from Oxford to Bicester has of course been open for some years now, and the second phase from Bicester to Bedford is under construction, with enabling works happening now and major construction beginning later this year. The East-West Rail Company says that the first services are planned for 2023. The final connection between Bedford and Cambridge was subject to a route options consultation earlier this year, and the company is considering the responses before selecting a preferred route.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Where are these enabling works?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>All of these are on the track bed at the moment.</p>

Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services

23.From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Chapman - Public awareness of scams

Question	Written Response
<p>Every year, Citizens Advice Oxford takes part in a national campaign to raise public awareness of scams. This July will see Citizens Advice Oxford work with Trading Standards and other local public and private sector partners to empower locals to be able to stop, report and talk about scams.</p> <p>Citizens Advice research shows that nearly three-quarters of people have been targeted by scammers in the past two years. The impact of the scams can be hugely detrimental. This can range from losing all of your life savings, being scammed out of your pensions and the impact goes beyond the financial. We have seen, and it has been proven that being the victim of a scam can have a severe impact on your physical and mental health.</p> <p>Will the Council be working with Citizens Advice Oxford to generate awareness within the local community about scams?</p> <p>What form will this joint working take?</p>	<p>The national fraud body Action Fraud warns that scams and online fraud are on the increase.</p> <p>In June, we issued our own press release and social media warning residents about council tax scams. We are currently working with Citizens Advice Oxford to raise awareness during their scam awareness month. We are promoting their social media campaign by retweeting their <i>#scamaware</i> content, and have agreed to issue a joint press release around the Universal Credit scams that have been reported by the BBC and other media.</p> <p>Oxford City Council provides around £190,000 of funding to Citizens Advice Oxford each year.</p>

Cabinet Member for Supporting Local Communities

No questions

24. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Hayes – Greening main roads

<p>Question</p> <p>What plans does the city have to green and beautify the main transport routes into Oxford - in particular for the Botley, Cowley and Iffley Roads?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The main highway is managed by Oxfordshire County Council, they are likewise responsible for transport schemes which could deliver greening of the mentioned corridors.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>May we extend our brief to cover areas where the County Council is not acting?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>No</p>

25. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Audit of carbon footprint reduction

<p>Question</p> <p>a) Could the cabinet member confirm that the Internal Audit Plan for 2019-20 has been amended (as requested by the Audit & Governance Committee) to include an audit of the Council's performance in pursuit of one of its key objectives, namely carbon footprint reduction?</p> <p>b) Will this necessarily require a similar audit by our external auditors, and if so will this be included in their commissioned programme of work?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>The Terms of Reference for the carbon footprint audit are currently being drafted, although it has been suggested that these may be better informed following the Citizens Assembly. At that point discussions will be held with the Councils internal auditors BDO and Audit and Governance Committee on how and when this will be accommodated within the Councils Internal Audit Plan for 2019-20.</p> <p>The Council employs its external auditors, Ernst and Young (EY) to undertake the audit of the Councils Statement of Accounts. It is not within the brief of the external auditors to undertake such work as is suggested on carbon footprint reduction. There are therefore no plans to engage them on the audit of this activity.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>I understand EY may be able to help with this audit. Can we integrate this with the audit plan or commission this from EY?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>This is for senior officers to decide after considering whether this is the best use of public money and resources.</p>

26. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Hayes – Euro 6 emission standards

Question What steps if any is the Council taking to require heavy goods vehicles entering Oxford to meet Euro 6 emission standards?	Written Response The Council is working in partnership with Oxfordshire County Council to introduce a Zero Emission Zone in the city. Emissions from heavy goods vehicles are being considered as part of these proposals. The latest on the proposals can be viewed on the City Council's website: https://www.oxford.gov.uk/zez
Supplementary Question Can we have a low emission zone for heavy goods vehicles now?	Verbal Response We will be including HGVs in the low emission zone as Euro 6 HGVs are widely available.

27. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Hayes – Emissions monitoring

Question Will the additional emissions monitoring announced last month include additional monitoring of diesel particulates?	Written Response The City Council has secured funding for a partnership project called OxAir which will deploy and test NOx and Particulate Matter (PM) sensing technology across the city. The equipment will be able to monitor diesel particulates as well as particulates from other sources.
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28. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Hayes – Vehicle emissions

Question Which specific scientific studies or advice is the Council relying on for its recent announcement that there is no safe limit for vehicle emissions?	Written Response Several studies have now been conducted which confirms that harm is caused to the human body at levels of air pollution below current legal limits. The Council's recently published Air Quality Annual Status Report has reference to a number of these studies. The annual status report can be accessed via the Council's website.
Supplementary Question Is there definitive evidence that there is no safe limit above zero pollution, or is this assumed from the evidence?	Verbal Response There are a range of studies that do show there is no safe limit of air pollution.

29. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Linda Smith – Rough sleepers 1

Question	Written Response
<p>The council's own figures show a 30% increase in rough sleepers since March — attributed to the closure of Winter beds.</p> <p>What is being done to address this in advance of the opening of Floyd's Row?</p>	<p>Winter provision is a temporary addition to the spaces in the adult homeless pathway which is available all year round. We continue to ensure that the adult homeless pathway (up to 219 bed spaces) runs effectively and efficiently by working with a range of partners to provide the accommodation and support that is needed to achieve this, and to see people move on and not return to the streets. The opening of Matilda House (September 2019) will further enhance services available all year round.</p>

30. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Linda Smith – Rough Sleepers 2

Question	Written Response
<p>An Office for National Statistics report in Feb 2019 estimated that Oxford had the second highest number of homeless deaths per head of population in the UK (in 2013-2017).</p> <p>What actions are being taken to address this humanitarian crisis?</p>	<p>The ONS statistics quoted use an experimental methodology which is still in the testing phase and not yet fully developed.</p> <p>Oxford has a homelessness problem and we know that the human cost of homelessness is severe. We have acknowledged and regret that there have been a number of deaths in supported accommodation and on our streets recently.</p> <p>It is a key priority for the Council and we have increased the number of beds available for people experiencing homelessness and sought government funding to deliver new and innovative projects. In 2019/20 Oxford's homelessness organisations will receive £1.75m from the Council to deliver a wide range of support services. We have committed an extra £1.3 million in new funding – including more than £950,000 from the Rapid Rehousing Pathway programme and Public Health England – to help deliver better support for people to move from the streets into sustainable housing.</p>

31. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Linda Smith – ‘Rough Sleeper Support Service’

Question	Written Response
<p>The Government is apparently trialling a ‘Rough Sleeper Support Service’ (led by the lead officer for previous immigration enforcement operations) which, according to a Home Office official reported in the Guardian “provides a single point of contact for local authorities to receive rapid immigration status checks on non-UK national rough sleepers”. The intention seems to be to bypass EU General Data Protection Regulation on the grounds that it would be “vulnerable to individuals withdrawing consent”.</p> <p>In the same article, a London mayoral spokesperson is quoted as saying: “Heavy-handed enforcement is not the solution to rough sleeping and our services will have no part in it. We have made absolutely clear to the Home Office that we do not support their approach or any other that victimises people sleeping rough.”</p> <p>Would the Cabinet member be willing to give a similar assurance to those rough sleepers who use the new Floyds Row facility, and those agencies who work with them?</p>	<p>Currently people can become stuck on the street when they have unresolved or complex migration issues. We would welcome any initiative that can resolve a person’s migration status, unlocking entitlement to benefits and public services. This would help them to move off the street where they are at risk of harm. However, supportive services in Oxford operate through consent and no information would ever be shared or action taken without the service users informed agreement.</p>

Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Partnerships

32. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – Citizens’ Assembly progress

Question	Written Response
<p>Could the Leader please update Council on the process and timescale for developing our Citizens’ Assembly on climate crisis measures?</p>	<p>Oxford City Council issued a press statement setting out the process and timetable for developing the Citizens Assembly on 10 July – available here. Councillor Wolff is a member of the Advisory Body that agreed the approach being taken – along with representatives of other political parties, academics, community groups and others.</p>

33. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Brown – Structure of the Citizens’ Assembly

Question	Written Response
<p>In a recent press release from Oxford City Council, we have been informed that the structure of the Citizens Assembly, will be chaired by the city council leader Cllr Susan Brown, and include cross-party political representation, environmental experts and industry representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Can the portfolio holder explain how citizens will be represented? b) Will there be a selection process for citizen membership to the citizens’ assembly? c) How can citizens apply? d) Will Independent councillors with no political affiliation be invited, or is it necessary that councillors represent a party? e) The portfolio holder in a recent article* explained that an Independent advisory group chaired by Cllr Susan Brown would advise the Citizens Assembly. Will Cllr Brown also be chair of the Citizen’s assembly? f) Wouldn’t it be better practice that the independent “specialist” advisers remain independent of the Citizen’s Assembly, and the Citizens assembly have an elected chair, in line with a democratic process? g) What is the structural relationship between the independent advisers and the Citizen’s Assembly? <p>*(https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/17619753.oxford-citizens-assembly-on-climate-change-to-have-advisory-body/)</p>	<p>It is the Advisory Group, not the Citizens Assembly itself, that is chaired by the City Council Leader and includes cross-party political representation, environmental experts, community groups and industry.</p> <p>The structure of the Citizens Assembly itself will broadly follow guidelines set out by the leading public participation charity Involve. 50 Oxford city residents will be selected through a stratified random process, creating a ‘mini-public’ broadly representative of the demographics of the population. Residents cannot apply to become an Assembly member but all local residents have the potential to be invited to participate. The size of the Assembly will enable citizens with diverse backgrounds and perspectives to come together in detailed discussion on a common issue.</p> <p>While the Citizens Assembly sessions will not be open to the general public, in line with Involve guidelines, there will be a small number of spaces for observers. Opportunities to observe the sessions will be advertised nearer the time. All presentations made by speakers at the Assembly will be videoed and published, along with other materials shared with participants.</p> <p>The Citizens Assembly will be facilitated, not chaired. Independent facilitation will be provided by Ipsos MORI.</p>

34. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Citizens’ Assembly expenditure

<p>Question</p> <p>The Q4 Integrated Performance Report includes a recommendation to Council to allocate £200K to support the establishment of the Citizens’ Assembly.</p> <p>A breakdown of that figure has helpfully been supplied to members. That breakdown appears to confirm that spending commitments in the form of a contract with consultants, venue hire and other matters had already been entered into, before Cabinet and Council had discussed the recommendation, and before the Advisory Group on the Citizens’ Assembly had met.</p> <p>a) Can the Cabinet member confirm who authorised that expenditure?</p> <p>b) Can he also give his assessment of additional costs of the Assembly in terms of officer time and resource, both to date and going forward?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>£200,000 is a budget allocation, not a precise plan of expenditure, that covers expected additional costs associated with the City Council’s response to the climate emergency in the current financial year, and follows the unanimous Council vote in January.</p> <p>Around half of the budget allocation will support detailed planning work on how the Council’s own carbon footprint - and that of the Oxford itself - can be reduced to net zero. The balance will be spent on hosting, facilitation and expenses for participants attending the Assembly - the costs are broadly in line with those involved in running citizens assemblies elsewhere. Final contract agreements with third parties are subject to approval of the Finance Report by Council. Expenditure will be authorised by Executive Director, Tim Sadler.</p>
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35. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown - Oxford-Cambridge Expressway

<p>Question</p> <p>On 25 June the BBC ran a news report stating that councils had been asked to sign a secret non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Highways England to prevent certain details of discussions around the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway being made public.</p> <p>Can the Leader give us any information about this?</p>	<p>Written Response</p> <p>As we confirmed to the BBC at the time, Oxford City Council has not signed any non-disclosure agreement with Highways England regarding the expressway. We also confirmed that as yet the Council has not received a formal request to sign such an agreement.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>The Vale of White Horse District Council signed an NDA and it is suggested that at least one Council had been asked and refused to sign such an agreement. Do you have any information as to which councils have been asked to sign; who has signed; and why.</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>This Council has neither been asked to sign, nor signed, such a NDA. We are aware Vale of White Horse District Council have signed, and others may have signed a NDA.</p>

36. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – Oxfordshire LEP meetings

Question	Written Response
<p>Will the Leader join me in welcoming the fact that meetings of the Oxfordshire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) will now be held in public, increasing opportunities for oversight and accountability of important documents like the Local Industrial Strategy?</p>	<p>Yes, I welcome the fact that the Oxfordshire LEP meetings will be held in public. This will support greater transparency in decision making and help showcase the valuable work the partnership undertakes. It is something that I - and other leaders - have raised regularly in my time on the LEP as good practice that we would like to see.</p>

37. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown – Impact of Brexit on service and retail sector

Question	Written Response
<p>It now appears likely that the UK will leave the European Union on 1 November. The impact of Brexit is already being felt around the UK.</p> <p>Can the Leader advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) How many restaurant, catering and retail industry staff have left Oxford since 2016? b) How many more do we estimate will leave in the next two years? c) What plans have we put in place to remedy this? 	<p>a) No I cannot as this information is not recorded.</p> <p>b) See above. We do not have estimates. However, national level research has suggested 60% of hospitality industry companies expect leaving the EU will affect their ability to hire workers in manual and elementary roles.</p> <p>c) Officers continue to monitor the impacts of the UK's decision to leave the EU as part of ongoing discussions with local employers. We are working to make sure that we continue to make our city as welcoming as possible to overseas citizens but are also looking to increase the take up of skills and employability programmes provided locally by our partners.</p>
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response
<p>At its next meeting could Council receive a report on the likely effect of Brexit on the city and the council?</p>	<p>It would not be feasible to bring this given the level of uncertainty around the effects. We are limited in what we can do and how much reliable information we have.</p>

38. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown – Preparation for Brexit

Question	Written Response
<p>Will the City take the lead in establishing a Brexit committee to assess and prepare for the impacts of Brexit on businesses, the universities and the tourism?</p>	<p>The Oxford Economic Growth Board, a sub-group of the Oxford Strategic Partnership, is monitoring the impact on investment and employers.</p> <p>The Universities have their own planning for</p>

	<p>Brexit.</p> <p>Oxfordshire County Council takes the lead on Emergency Planning and we participate in a group that works on this topic.</p> <p>There is genuine uncertainty on what to plan for which is made worse by the current Conservative Leadership contest. We have from the outset also taken a lead on initiating discussions locally with larger employers on the issue, notably BMW, offering support where required.</p>
<p>Supplementary Question</p> <p>Could councils have a report commissioned by the Oxfordshire Growth Board on Brexit preparations around the county?</p>	<p>Verbal Response</p> <p>The Growth Board would not be the appropriate body. I will suggest this to Oxfordshire County Council as they are co-ordinating the county-wide work on Brexit:</p>

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To: Council

Date: 22 July 2019

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

Republished to include verbal answers given at the meeting.

Introduction

1. Addresses made by members of the public to the Council, and questions put to the Cabinet members or Leader, registered by the deadline in the Constitution, are below. Any written responses available are also below.
2. The text reproduces that sent in the speakers and represents the views of the speakers. This is not to be taken as statements by or on behalf of the Council.
3. Paragraphs 11.12 and 11.13 of the Constitution set out the rules for public speaking. Speakers can give one address and/or ask one question. Priority will be given to those who have not spoken at Council in the last 12 months.
4. This report has been republished after the Council meeting as part of the minutes pack. This lists the full text of speeches delivered as submitted, summaries of speeches delivered which differ significantly from those submitted, and any further responses.

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

1. Address by Racky Wane – climate change curriculum
2. Address by Nuha Abdo, Syrian Sisters Community Group
3. Address by Nabeela Talib and Adam Khan - City of Sanctuary
4. Question from Geoffrey Sandford, Oxford Men's Group
5. Address by Artwell – Allowing free speech in the Town Hall
6. Question from Artwell – Apology for mis-statements
7. Address by Judith Harley – CHARITIES APPOINTMENTS
8. Question from Judith Harley – WILLIAM MORRIS SPORTS GROUND

The following addresses and questions were submitted and written responses given. The speakers did not address the Council meeting.

9. Question from Sue Brough – Action to help people likely to experience hate crime
10. Address by Alistair Morris, Marston Community Gardening - Lack of information/difficulty maintaining local group.
11. Question from Sarah Lazenby – Use of Roundup weedkiller

1. Address by Racky Wane – climate change curriculum

Hello, my name is Racky Wane. I'm a student at St Gregory the Great School. I'm sure that many have come to you on the issue of climate change. But I'm here with something different. I'm here to talk about schools, and our participation in the climate change crisis.

Firstly, we need a climate change curriculum. We should bring awareness to the fact that civilisation as we know it may perish, to those who it will affect the most, our generation. We should be able to benefit our future without sacrificing our education. We ask you to contact OFSTED, to ask for an education on what may wipe us out if we don't act now. With a climate change curriculum we can introduce ways that both students and parents can reduce our carbon emissions.

Most importantly, we need to address the fact that schools across Oxford want a say in upcoming discussions concerning proposals in becoming carbon neutral. We are leading in a developing student summit held at St Gregory's and other schools. We record our thoughts and will submit them to the "citizens" assembly, because we demand a say in our future.

Lastly, please support the independent motion to avoid penalising those who are protesting, those who know that there is no use in studying for a future we'll never have.

We want your help as City Councillors to lobby your MP's to introduce a new curriculum, support the student summit, and overall, letting us rewrite our future. Thank you.

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford, Councillor Hayes

On behalf of Oxford City Council, I want to thank you for calling for more thorough teaching of climate change in school. As you highlight we are facing a climate catastrophe and we must ensure that the young people who will live far into this future are equipped with the knowledge needed to fight, mitigate and hopefully avoid such catastrophe.

The Council takes climate change very serious and this is why I have written to the Secretary of State for Education to ask for a review of the National Curriculum and the inclusion of education on climate change.

We all have a role to play in combatting climate change and we must all do what we can to raise awareness of this important issue. This is why your City Council strive to take an active role in tackling climate change; we have supported climate strikes in the city, supported the petition started by a group of Cheney School pupils calling for compulsory lessons on climate change and on Clean Air Day we worked with school children to bring the important message of the harm of air pollution to our streets. As you highlight the City Council will be running the country's first true citizens' assembly on climate change in September and October. The purpose of this is to collect a representation of the city's viewpoints, so that we can develop a zero carbon strategy as quickly as possible but also one that has the democratic consent of the city. Hearing from our younger generation though the assembly is important to us and we are committed to have the voice of children and young people heard at the assembly.

Summary of verbal response from the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford, Councillor Hayes

Thank you for your address and for calling for more teaching on climate change. I have written to the government's education minister asking for this to happen, and our MPs asking for their support. We want to see significant changes in the way we reduce and mitigate climate change: we want to include young people in our work; support their campaigning; and seek their input.

2. Address by Nuha Abdo, Syrian Sisters Community Group

Hello,

My name is Nuha Abdo and I am the founder and coordinator of the Syrian Sisters Community Group. I came to Oxford from Syria in 2016 and I am here today to talk to you about the Syrian Community in Oxford and our experiences of resettling here.

As you may know, Oxford has taken more than 40 families through the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme. This is a government-funded programme that has brought 20,000 people to the UK from the refugee camps in countries around Syria. Families came to Oxford from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. Others have made their own way here and together we are a community of approximately 300 people.

Oxford is an amazingly welcoming and friendly city and, without exception, the Syrian families who have come here have felt welcomed and safe. We are happy to see our children in schools, we are trying hard to learn English and we all want to get jobs to support our families. In a recent study of the resettlement of the Syrian Community in Oxford by the Refugee Studies Centre, the overwhelming response from participants was that they felt safe, welcome and happy to be here.

I welcome the initiatives in the motion before you today, especially the practical help offered to refugees. But resettlement in a new country is a long process for refugees and there are always difficulties along the way. Finding your place in a new country when you don't speak the language, rebuilding your life when you don't have work and helping your children plan for their futures when you don't fully understand your new environment are all challenging. I would like to talk about one of these difficulties and one of the things that helps.

Learning a new language as an adult is not easy, as some of you may know. Learning a new language with a new script, when you may or may not have been able to read and write in your own language is considerably harder! In 2017 the government allocated £10 million to support refugees arriving on the Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme and issued guidance that this should in part be used to ensure that all refugees receive a minimum of 8 hours English Language teaching per week, starting within a month of arrival. Whilst most of the Syrian arrivals in Oxford are attending English classes, mainly at EMBS (*community college*) in Cowley or at the City of Oxford College, I know of none who receive 8 hours a week. Most get 4 hours, a few get 7. Those with young children and babies get none, as nowhere offers language learning and childcare. A recent report by Refugee Action has highlighted the shortfall in language provision for refugees and we certainly feel the effects of this in our community. Without enough English, our daily lives are difficult. We might be able to navigate the bus system after a bit of practice, but when a letter arrives from the council or we receive an email from the tax office we are stuck. Looking for work is obviously difficult and lack of language is the biggest barrier to getting employment for most of our community. Worse still, when we need medical help, have to go for hospital treatment or need to call an ambulance we are really in trouble. One lady in our community gave birth alone in her bathroom because she was unable to call an ambulance when she went into sudden labour last year. The consequences of not receiving enough English language lessons are real and serious, and I would urge the Council to prioritise this in making Oxford a real City of Sanctuary.

So what helps? Organisations like Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource and Connection Support all assist us in navigating our way in our new country. Arrivals on the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Programme receive 2 years of support to help us get up and running with housing, schooling and employment. Without these services we would really struggle with the practicalities of resettlement. But rebuilding

our lives also involves rebuilding our relationships, building new friendships, making new connections, and here it is our own community that we depend on most. My group, the Syrian Sisters, enables women in our community to meet each week. We share our difficulties and successes, we share advice and suggestions and we provide each other emotional support through what are sometimes difficult times. We have all been through similar experiences and understand when someone just needs to cry, or wants a hug.

Oxford City Council has been extremely supportive of our group and this year is covering the rental of a room in Rose Hill Community Centre for our weekly meetings. We have also received funding from the Oxfordshire Community Fund to help run the group, the University has supported us to organise events and with St Michael and All Saint's Church has funded us to run a holiday activity camp for our children. Each small grant enables us to do a bit more, but it is hard work constantly looking for funding and applying for grants. Support for community organisations is crucial, and, as the Refugee Studies Centre report suggested, it needs to be more systematically built into the resettlement program.

So, I hope I have given you a sense of our experience of coming to Oxford. We certainly all feel lucky and happy to be in this wonderful city and we hope we can make a real contribution. With enough opportunity to learn English and support for our grassroots community organisations, we will certainly be able to do this.

Thank you.

Summary of verbal response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Thank you for coming to speak to us. Thank you for raising some very serious issues which we will consider and see how we can help. I have appointed Councillor Djafari-Marbini as the Council's Migrant Champion to support officers in their work helping migrant communities to integrate and settle into the city.

3. Address by Nabeela Talib and Adam Khan - City of Sanctuary

Adam's speech

Hello ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Adam Khan I'm from Afghanistan.

I came to Oxford in 2007, at the age of 12 as an asylum seeker.

I was passed on to Oxfordshire social services and through them I was given to a foster family. The kind of support I got from social services, they put me in Oxford Spire School and gave me all the support I needed. They used to come and check on me every 3 to 6 months to see how I was progressing and helped me with anything I needed.

I was also supported by the organisation Children's Society, which has now shut down, they helped me with my education they were always there whenever I needed them, they used to hold social activities every week to bring everyone together.

I had the privilege that I was given to such a wonderful foster family where they supported with everything, helped me grow as a person looked after me and pushed me to achieve my best in life. After a lot of struggle I was given refugee status and now I am on my way to getting British citizenship. I work in London and feel settled in this country, like I belong. This would not have been possible if it wasn't for the support I got from Oxford.

As we can see nowadays some youngsters don't have the support they need, they struggle to find youth clubs and groups to keep them engaged and end up taking the wrong path getting involved in drugs and other crime. They might also suffer from mental distress, because being in the asylum system without support can be a very difficult experience. It's very important to have a mentor and the mentor can be the foster family, social worker, teachers, youth club workers, anyone that can guide you to the right path, support you and push to achieve good in life.

I'm sure you all see the benefits of making Oxford a welcoming city for asylum seekers and refugees, and I hope that we can work together to make this happen.

Nabeela's Speech

My family started fostering when I was in year 9. Adam was the first child that came to our house and absolutely transformed our lives. Of course, we didn't know this was going to happen when we first started out. I got the opportunity to learn whilst growing up with Adam about the struggles of navigating the asylum system as a child, going through adolescence whilst being in limbo and not being able to be excited about your future as other young people were, because your status in this country had not yet been approved. He grew resilient and I have always admired his ability to be positive through the toughest of times.

Interacting with social workers, refugee support workers, education professionals, all through Adam, gave me a unique outlook into the world of an unaccompanied asylum seeking child. It made me more curious about refugee rights and ultimately lead me to study social work, qualify and now teach at Oxford Brookes University as a lecturer in social work.

The work that many organisations in Oxford (like Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource, Oxfordshire County Council) do never fails to amaze me when I compare our small but mighty city with others across the country.

I've done work and research within immigration detention and the area of work with people who have 'No Recourse to Public Funds'. I've seen the immense amount of struggle and distress that people face in a system that fails to provide for them on the basis of their immigration status. As a country, we uphold values of social justice, equality and inclusivity - yet we continue to detain people indefinitely. We welcomed the shutting down of Campsfield House and continue to push for the end of indefinite detention all together.

Oxford committing to becoming a City of Sanctuary for asylum seekers and refugees shows our commitment to upholding human rights and social justice for all. Adam being welcomed into Oxford not only had an impact on his life, but also inspired my own life trajectory and would, in turn, have an effect on the life of the people I teach and work with. We are therefore a good example of how the simple act of receiving the support of a city can create the ripples of transforming entire communities for the better.

Summary of verbal response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Thank you for coming to speak to us and sharing your inspiring story. Thank you for your contribution to the city and the message you bring us.

4. Question from Geoffrey Sandford, Oxford Men's Group

Why has the Head of Community Services, who is part of the Senior Management Team at Oxford City Council, failed to respond to our earlier complaint, in which we politely requested a sensible explanation for the banning of an Oxford Men's Group public lecture?

Written response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Unfortunately there was a delay with our mail system so the Head of Community Services has only recently received the letter you posted. I am aware that a reply has now been sent out that includes an offer to meet with you to talk this through.

Summary of verbal response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Our refusal to host your group for this lecture was in no way unlawful. I apologise for the delay in responding to you due to delays in our internal post system, and I understand you now have a response from us.

5. Address by Artwell – Allowing free speech in the Town Hall

The action of the City Council banning the Rev Dr Jules Gomes who on 12 June 2019 had been invited to give an address titled '*Feminism was women's greatest enemy - until transgenderism came along*' to the Oxford Men's Group meeting at the Town Hall, is in my opinion an unacceptable level of City Council intolerance and unwarranted interference which must be challenged and resisted by all who honour England's legal tradition for having a Free Speech culture.

In the light of the latest Court of Appeal Judgement below, the Council's behaviour in my view certainly constitutes a violation for the Free Expression traditions of England's Common Law, which the Court of Appeal has recently upheld.

For these reasons, I am asking the City Council; together with the Labour leader of the City Council, to offer an unexpurgated apology to all the people of Oxford: specifically to Oxford's Men's Group, for banning their speaker and to Constitutionally adopt a policy pledge to uphold England's tradition for Free Speech on all City Council controlled property, in line with the latest Court of Appeal ruling.

The case of (*R (Ngole) v University of Sheffield [2019] EWCA Civ 1127*) concerned the expression of religious views on Public Social Media platform, disapproving of homosexual acts, by a student, enrolled on a two-year MA social work course at the University of Sheffield. At the heart of the case was whether the expression of such views was a legitimate expression of freedom of speech, or incompatible with being a registered social worker. The Court of Appeal found that Sheffield University behaved illegally by punishing this student for sharing on Facebook his "disapproval of homosexual acts," and the Appeal Court has counselled the University to review its expulsion decision and reform how students who use Social Media to share their opinions are treated.

With the City Council banning Oxford's Men's Group speakers, this is in my view clear evidence of Oxford City Council being unduly influenced by Left-wing dogma; which has resulted with the Executive Officer for Communities banning the Oxford Men's Group speaker: in my opinion the City Council's decision reveals the degree to which Left-wing ideology has replaced and superseded the impartial application of England's Common Law and traditions by Public Servants.

I trust the City Council will repent of what in my view are its present and past Public Service failures to protect England's tradition for free critical speech and debate.

In my view the people of Oxford desire a future whereby people are free to share their thoughts and views in writing; or on Social Media and on Oxford City Council administered Public Spaces, without censure or banning by representatives of the City Council or elected City Councillors.

For these reasons, I am asking the City Council; together with the Labour leader of the City Council, to offer an unexpurgated apology to all the people of Oxford: specifically to Oxford's Men's Group, for banning their speaker and to Constitutionally adopt a policy pledge to uphold England's tradition for Free Speech on all City Council controlled property, in line with the latest Court of Appeal ruling.

Written response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Cancelling the event booking for the talk Dr Gomes planned to give did not breach his freedom of expression.

We did not ban him from expressing his views. The right to freedom of expression does not mean someone has to be able to express their views in one of our buildings and we are not obliged to provide a platform for this to take place.

The right to freedom of expression does not mean people can fail to respect other people's rights. Oxford City Council members have consistently voted to stand up for those groups with protected characteristics – be that to do with sex, gender reassignment, religious belief or any other characteristics protected by legislation. We apply these values within our event booking terms and conditions.

When we investigated complaints about the talk Dr Gomes proposed to give - "Feminism was women's great enemy until transgenderism came along" - we considered that the rights and freedoms of women and LGBTQIA+ people would not be protected if it went ahead. We agreed that the talk would breach section 5.3 of our booking terms and conditions for this reason.

The Leader, Councillor Brown, read out the written response above.

6. Question from Artwell – Apology for mis-statements

Oxford City Council's Councillor Shaista Aziz, a national equalities campaigner working on hate crime, is reported in the Oxford Mail on the 15th January 2019 said in relation to an alleged incident of racism that *"This is absolutely disgraceful and my thoughts go out to the family who must be shaken - and more so because young children witnessed this racial abuse."*

"The bus company should investigate this matter thoroughly, provide a full, transparent response (and) review how it trains staff."

She continued: *"Racism and bigotry is manifesting more openly due to the political climate and everyday people going about their lives are feeling the consequences. I applaud the family for reporting this and going public because we as a community and society need to urgently address racism."*

"It is not enough for anyone to say that these incidents are one off - they aren't."

Following this allegation a member of staff using racist language to abuse a passenger, Oxford Mail reported on the investigation of this allegation 29th April 2019 that: *"Thames Travel has concluded an investigation and said that its Revenue Protection Official, who was working on the X38 service on January 9, has no case to answer."*

This is the strongest language the investigation can use signifying the whole "hate" incident was, in my opinion, fabricated by the accuser and her supporters, possibly for their Left-wing political agenda.

In the light of the Elected Councillor for Rosehill continuing campaign against "hate" it is vitally important for Oxford City Council to apologise on behalf of the Councillor for Rosehill, for the distress her support for this "hate" accusation could well have caused to Thames Valley's Revenue Protection Official's profession; his family and his social standing?

Will the City Council apologise for the additional distress caused by the Council's Elected Councillor's support has caused to this innocent employee of Thames Valley Transport?

Written response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Unfortunately we are in a situation where there has been a big increase in the number of reported hate crimes and racist abuse. It is important for those of us who are elected representatives to support those who have experienced abuse, to call it out when we see it and to ensure allegations are properly investigated.

Summary of verbal responses

There was no further response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Councillor Aziz, having been named in the address, exercised her right to reply.

7. Address by Judith Harley – CHARITIES APPOINTMENTS

Lord Mayor, Councillors,

I am addressing you about your responsibilities as charity trustees in general and about council policy, not about a specific charity.

Last month I had cause to address the Cabinet about the City Council's appointments to Outside Bodies, in particular their appointments of Charity Trustees. In response to my address Councillor Brown explained that:

“ the Council's policy was now that all appointments to these bodies are filled by elected Councillors to fulfil the role as a contact between the body and the Council.”

Following the Cabinet meeting I enquired of Council Officers as to when this policy decision was taken, and where I might find reference to or documentary evidence for this. Officers replied that this

“ is not a formal policy position. It is rather the approach that the Council has taken over the last few years in order to promote stronger links between the Outside Body and the Council.”

I would have expected that such a change of approach must have been discussed, and the approach formally decided and documented somewhere, and sent for authorisation to the Charity Commission, but further enquiry to Officers prompted the reply

“ I don't believe that this is supported by any documentary evidence other than the annual lists of individual appointments which Cabinet approves in May or June each year.”

There are several things wrong with this. First, the role of a Trustee is not to act as a contact or promote stronger links between the Outside Body and the Council, but to run the Charity. Second, Charity Trustees are answerable to the Charity Commission before they are answerable to the City Council, and their appointments are governed by Charity Commission regulations. Third, has the City Council notified the Charity Commission of their change of policy in appointing Charity Trustees?

The Charity Commission's guidance for Trustees states that

“ all trustees, regardless of how they are appointed, must act solely in the interests of the charity; it's not their role to act on behalf of any particular group.”
And ***“ when running your charity you must carry out your charity's purposes for the public benefit.”***

Some Councillors nominated as Trustees by the Council are most conscientious, and attend meetings on a regular basis. Other are less so, and some do not attend a single meeting during their appointment as a Trustee. Even conscientious Trustees have commented to me recently that, as Council appointees, they weren't "proper Trustees". Oh, yes, you are!

I would respectfully remind all Councillors who have been appointed as Trustees by the City Council that you ARE proper Trustees, with an important role to undertake for the Charity to which you have been appointed, and that your attendance and input at meetings are not optional. Your obligations to the Charity are over and above, and separate and distinct from, your obligations to the Council. I would also respectfully ask the Council to consider its position with their appointment policy and to consider, and comply with, Charity Commission requirements when making such policy changes.

Thank you.

Written response from the Leader, Councillor Brown

I note that we have already had this debate via correspondence and that you have already raised this at Cabinet.

May I remind you that the Council has met its obligations in regard to appointments to the Elder Stubbs Charity which are to appoint 6 nominated trustees, each appointment for a term of 4 years, and that those nominated trustees represent or are resident in the “preferred area” as set out in the Charity scheme.

Provided these requirements are met (which are more onerous and precise than any other body to which the council appoints) then the Council’s approach to appointing the nominated trustees is a matter for the Council and does not require authorisation from the Charity Commission or the charity.

All Councillors who volunteer to serve as Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities to the charity to which they have been appointed.

We have on more than one occasion said that it might be sensible for Elder Stubbs Charity to reduce the number of trustees it seeks from the council and if it still feels the need to appoint more trustees to appoint them from elsewhere in the community.

Summary of verbal from the Leader, Councillor Brown

Provided that in nominating trustees to a charity the council meets any requirements for that nomination, it is not for the charity to then query the nomination. All councillors are aware of their responsibilities to support the charity both as representatives of the council and as trustees, and they can do this effectively in their dual role. It is up to each charity to decide whether it wishes to ask the council to nominate a councillor to act as trustee, and we expect that the charity has its own good reasons for making the request. We won’t be changing our approach.

Thank you for raising these issues with us.

8. Question from Judith Harley – WILLIAM MORRIS SPORTS GROUND

Lord Mayor, Councillors,

Given the recent remarkable triumph of England’s Cricket Team, and the growing interest in women’s sport, including football, netball, and hockey, priority should be given to encourage everyone, especially schoolchildren, to embrace fitness and sport. Statistics show that fewer children these days take physical exercise, and physical exercise is proven to be good for both physical and mental well-being.

Almost two years ago, on behalf of the residents of Temple Cowley, I asked you, as our local authority, to make a compulsory purchase of the William Morris Sports Ground, in order to restore it as a sports ground available for public use. We believe that there is a compelling case that this should be done in the public interest, and that such a move will promote the social and environmental well-being of our area. At the time of my original request your reply was that you were not looking to expand your property portfolio. Two years on the site is still boarded, and I am asking you to reconsider, and bring this site back into beneficial public use. Since 2012 this space has been the subject of numerous planning applications for housing development, all of which have been opposed by residents and refused by the City Council because of the site’s Protected Open Space status. Two planning appeals against these refusals have been

dismissed for the same reason. The City Council has supported residents in all these cases. At this moment there is yet another planning application awaiting consideration. We know that the draft Local Plan 2036 suggests that this site is suitable for either housing or leisure, but residents and the residents' association (OTCRA) are opposing this and arguing that this site should remain as protected open space, allocated for leisure only. It is not too late for the Council to change the designation of this.

It is high time to break this deadlock and return the site to its original use. This is NOT a "redundant sports field and car park", as the owner tries to make out; it would still be available for formal and informal recreation had the present owner not fenced it off and rendered it publicly unusable. We appreciated the presence of this open space within what is a relatively densely developed area. It adjoins a primary school, and their children, as well as residents, would benefit from this open, safeguarded sports area. Who knows what future sports champions might be nurtured here?

Councillors – I am again asking YOU to make a compulsory purchase of the William Morris Sports Ground, in order to restore it as a sports facility for public use and to promote the social and environmental well-being of our area. With increasing housing development all around us we need increasing leisure facilities in Temple Cowley. I am sure that this move would be supported by our ward councillors and others. As Protected Open Space, with no planning permission for development, this site should be valued as allotments or agricultural land – as, indeed, was the valuation for the land for Barton Park – which is currently around £12000 - £15000 per acre in Oxford. This is quite affordable for the City Council. We believe that taking this land for sport and recreational use is absolutely necessary and that there is a "compelling case in the public interest". If this site is developed it will be gone for ever.

Will you step up to the plate and safeguard this as a sporting space for future generations by making a compulsory purchase order on this site? Thank you.

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management, Councillor Turner (also read out after the address)

I am afraid that the Council's position remains unchanged from the previous response and there are no plans to compulsory purchase the land at William Morris Close. The law around compulsory purchase is such that the City Council would stand little prospect of success, and funds are not available to support such a process.

The following addresses and questions were submitted and written responses given. The speakers did not address the Council meeting.

9. Question from Sue Brough – Action to help people likely to experience hate crime

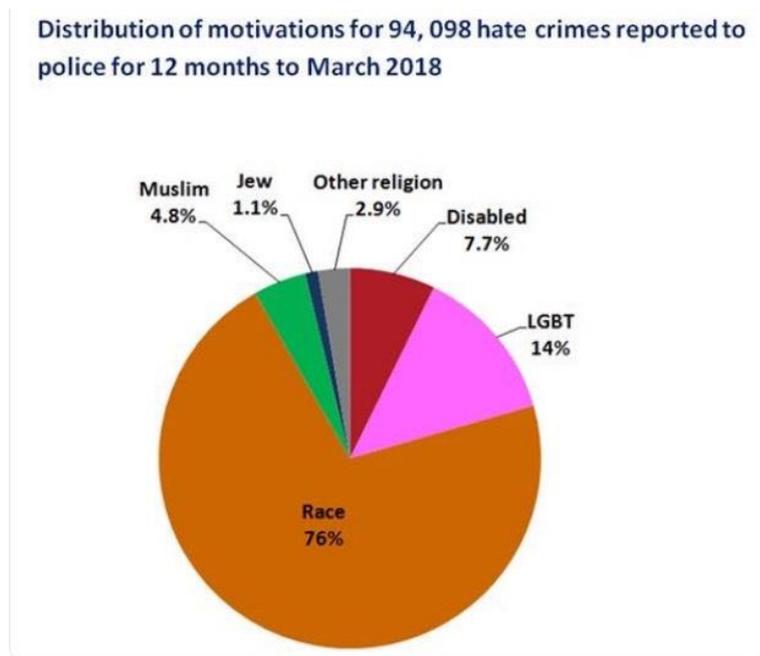
No one can doubt Oxford City Council’s well-publicised commitment to fight anti-Semitism and hate crimes against LGBT people.

However the pie chart (below) reveals that hate crimes motivated by race account for three quarters of the total.

Last week saw two inquests into violent deaths, whilst in the custody of Thames Valley Police, of two men of African heritage.

What action is Oxford City Council taking to help the people most likely to experience hate crime?

I believe the source of this data is the Home Office.



Written response from the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services, Councillor Chapman

Hate crime can be a particularly frightening experience because the victim has been targeted because of who they are, or who or what the attacker thinks they are, so the attack is very personal and specifically targeted. The effects of hate crime are not limited to the immediate victims and they can also affect others who learn of such events. As a result of hearing about hate crime the most common responses from the community affected are anger, anxiety and feelings of vulnerability.

Thames Valley Police recorded a slight increase in hate crime occurrences of 4% between 2018-19 compared to the year before, from 4,176 to 4,353.

Oxford City Council works with other agencies to deliver the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership's annual plan and one of the priorities for 2019-20 is responding to hate crimes by working with our communities and partner organisations to encourage reporting and delivering interventions.

A Partnership hate crime plan has been developed to support victims of hate crime and activities include a Hate crime awareness week, working with the police to promote reporting through their "Hidden harm" campaign and including a Hate crime page on the Council's website. The current Oxford Community Safety Partnership Hate Crime Action Plan is available on the Oxford City Council website.

All hate crime offences are reviewed by a specialist police officer and where necessary the Community Safety Service works closely with the Police on problem solving repeat hate crimes

10. Address by Alistair Morris, Marston Community Gardening - Lack of information/difficulty maintaining local group.

Hello, I spoke several months ago about the desperate need to plant many more trees.

Still don't know, what's going on? Is it happening? No evidence on the ground, as far as I can see, eg Marston Rd still has several dead trees and no new ones...The roadside verges remain just as sparse, although there has been some success with a recently planted community wood at Cutteslowe Park, and hopefully, another one being planted in New Marton Rec, in the autumn. I suppose my main complaint, apart from the lack of trees, would be lack of knowledge/information about what's going on and what's planned? Surely we need a council office/team/department tackling climate change and offering help, advice and support? We need more guidance and coordination from our local government...? Perhaps you could issue a pamphlet to every household in Oxford, with more information, advice and explanation as to what is happening, and how to find out more, what to do, and how to get involved? Relying on the media and individual councillors isn't comprehensive enough, it needs to be coordinated and centralised, ideally with a team dedicated to this purpose?

Top American universities are now saying we've only got 5 years to start getting this under control, Prince Charles says we have to do it in the next 18 months!!!! Sir David has said the end of civilisation is on the horizon! XR are down in London again this week, because not enough is being done, and it's all happening too slowly!

We ALL need to be doing this, and NOW....

- Providing more food and cover for our insects and bees.
- Planting many, many more trees.
- Growing substantially more of our food locally in our communities, and composting more of our own organic waste.
- Embracing renewables and energy efficiency much more earnestly and rapidly.

So, I would like to draw to your attention my second complaint which is lack of ongoing support and funding for local community groups trying to make a difference...

Marston Community Gardening has already planted a Community Orchard with the help of pupils from St Nicholas School in Marston.

We have planted thousands of bulbs and dozens of trees, throughout Marston.

Helped Mortimer Pre School with their Nature Garden.

We have organised and PAID for 2 outside taps to be installed at New Marston Primary School, for their Gardening club to use for watering the vegetable raised beds, and the recently planted mini wood copse, that we, MCG, have helped set up and support!!!

We are hoping to plant a Community Wood of over 200 trees in New Marston Rec this November.

We are still, after 2 years!!!, looking for a space in Marston for a Community shed, which we desperately need, to build vegetable boxes for the elderly and less able, and to store equipment, recycled garden furniture, tools, implements, containers and compost. Marston does not currently have anywhere like this for communal use of outdoor materials. How hard can this be? Plenty of potential locations, just need the full weight of support from the Council and the permission from the public, or church, landowner!!!

Next year we hope to have a Community allotment, BUT under the current rules, we are NOT allowed to rent a plot and grow food communally, as a community group.! You need to get that sorted!!!!?

Finally, our biggest challenge is to run a Community electric car sharing scheme...

I tell you all this, to show you our achievements and our ambitions, but also, to convince you of our desire, drive, commitment and determination to do our best to support local community and to tackle climate change..

For this to continue, we need your support and continuing funding, and as of yet, nothing is forthcoming from anyone this financial year, despite my best efforts? It's SO hard applying for grants, and demoralising when they don't come through..

I hope I have brought to your attention, the abilities and the potential of local groups to make a positive contribution to tackling the climate crisis, and have emphasized our frustrations at lack of knowledge/information, coordination and funding, so that you may be fully appreciative of our contribution, and will action these points as fast as is humanly possible...

Thank You,

Saving the Planet, one tree at a time.... :-)

There was no written response to this address

11. Question from Sarah Lazenby – Use of Roundup weedkiller

Monsanto's product Roundup (a branded weedkiller containing glyphosate) is the subject of an increasing number of class actions and judicial compensation claims. It is linked with being a carcinogen and a public health menace.

Will Oxford City Council review, as a matter of urgency, its continuing use of Roundup?

Written response from the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focussed Services, Councillor Chapman

This is an issue which divides opinion amongst international experts. Reviews by EU and other international health related institutions have led to the continued licensing of weedkiller products containing glyphosate.

We will continue to use the product in a controlled manner whilst it is still licenced. We will of course monitor the situation and if conclusive evidence were to emerge of harm to humans of exposure to these weedkiller products, we would urgently review our use of them. But so far that evidence is inconclusive and experts do not find it compelling or strong enough to ban products containing glyphosate.

ODS (via a specialist contractor, Charlton Environmental) applies glyphosate in accordance with manufacturers and industry standards to all street pavements and associated hard surface areas two to three times annually throughout the city (approximately 320 litres used in total). This is carried out as a pedestrian operation and is a spot treatment only, meaning only visible weeds are targeted. We do this using controlled droplet applicators (CDA), and so very little visible residue is left behind on the street surface. This helps to minimise the volume of pesticide being applied, and is the safest method of application available for our operators and for the public. This method of application uses far less product, down from 200L per hectare through conventional knapsack sprayers, to between 15L and 40L per hectare using CDA machines. The products themselves have also changed, so that formulations are now safer to the public, operatives and wildlife, and most are 'clean label' and do not now even carry an irritant warning.

In recent years we have also applied glyphosate around the bases of all trees, so that the need for strimming throughout the season is minimised. This was brought in due to concerns surrounding the strimming causing damage to the trees across Oxford, and is usually a one off treatment in April, or in line with the first cut of the season.

We continue to monitor any debate about the future licencing of this product and we will only continue to use it whilst it is licenced.

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