

# Agenda

# Council

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## Summons

A meeting of the City Council will be held to transact the business set out below on

Date: **Monday 7 October 2024**

Time: **5.00 pm**

Place: **Council Chamber - Oxford Town Hall**

**Proper Officer**

**Members of the public can attend to observe this meeting and:**

- may register in advance to speak to the meeting in accordance with the [public speaking rules](#)
- may record all or part of the meeting in accordance with the Council's [protocol](#)

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**For further information** please contact:

Jonathan Malton, Committee and Member Services Manager, Committee and Member Services Officer

📞 01865 529117

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## **Membership of Council**

Councillors: Membership 48: Quorum 12.

**Lord Mayor** Councillor Mike Rowley

**Deputy Lord Mayor** Councillor Tiago Corais

**Sheriff** Councillor James Fry

<b>Members</b>	Councillor Asima Qayyum	Councillor Emily Kerr
	Councillor Mohammed Azad	Councillor Dr Amar Latif
	Councillor Theodore Jupp	Councillor Mark Lygo
	Councillor Dr Max Morris	Councillor Sajjad Malik
	Councillor Dianne Regisford	Councillor Katherine Miles
	Councillor Anne Stares	Councillor Lois Muddiman
	Councillor Ian Yeatman	Councillor Edward Mundy
	Councillor Judith Harley	Councillor Chewe Munkonge
	Councillor David Henwood	Councillor Susanna Pressel
	Councillor Kate Robinson	Councillor Anna Railton
	Councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan	Councillor Rosie Rawle
	Councillor Lubna Arshad	Councillor Ajaz Rehman
	Councillor Susan Brown	Councillor Jo Sandelson
	Councillor Nigel Chapman	Councillor Linda Smith
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Councillor Roz Smith
	Councillor Barbara Coyne	Councillor Dr Christopher Smowton
	Councillor Lizzy Diggins	Councillor Ed Turner
	Councillor Dr Hosnieh Djafari-Marbini	Councillor Louise Upton
	Councillor Laurence Fouweather	Councillor Naomi Waite
	Councillor Andrew Gant	Councillor Stephen Goddard
	Councillor Alex Hollingsworth	Councillor Simon Ottino
	Councillor Jemima Hunt	Councillor Alex Powell
	Councillor Chris Jarvis	

Apologies will be reported at the meeting.

# Agenda

The business to be transacted is set out below

	Pages
<b>PART 1 - PUBLIC BUSINESS</b>	
<b>1 Apologies for absence</b>	
<b>2 Declarations of interest</b>	
<b>3 Minutes</b>  Minutes of the ordinary meeting of Council held on 15 July 2024. <b>Council is asked to approve the minutes as a correct record.</b>	21 - 32
<b>4 Appointment to Committees</b>  The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report which notifies Council of the amendments made to the membership of Committees since the initial appointments made at Council on 16 May 2024. Recommendation: That Council resolves to: 1. <b>Agree</b> the appointments to Committees.	33 - 34
<b>5 Announcements</b>  Announcements by: 1. The Lord Mayor 2. The Sheriff 3. The Leader of the Council (who may with the permission of the Lord Mayor invite other councillors to make announcements) 4. The Chief Executive, Chief Finance Officer, Monitoring Officer	
<b>6 Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting</b>  Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda. Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three	

minutes for each question. Questions must be less than 200 words.

**The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the [Head of Law and Governance](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.**

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

*A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items. Responses are included in this time.*

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- |          |   |         |
|----------|---|---------|
| <b>7</b> | <b>Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy</b>   | 35 - 90 |
|          | <p>The Executive Director for Communities and People has submitted a report to agree the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy following public consultation.</p> <p>Councillor Katherine Miles, Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, will present the Committee's report and the recommendations.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> The Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee recommend that Council resolve to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Agree</b> the revised draft Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy following public consultation.</li></ol> |         |

## OFFICER REPORTS

- |          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| <b>8</b> | <b>Council Senior Management Structure</b>   | 91 - 116 |
|          | <p><i>This report contains exempt information pursuant to Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. To discuss this item, it will be necessary for the Council to pass a resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting (as set out at agenda item 14).</i></p> <p>The Chief Executive has submitted a report relating the proposed Senior Management Structure.</p> <p>Recommendation: Council is asked to <b>approve</b> the recommendations within the report.</p> |          |

## QUESTIONS

### 9 Questions on Cabinet minutes

*This item has a time limit of 15 minutes.*

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

#### 9a Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 11th September 2024

117 -  
122

### 10 Questions on Notice from Members of Council

Questions on notice from councillors received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.11(b).

Questions on notice may be asked of the Lord Mayor, a Member of the Cabinet or a Chair of a Committee. One supplementary question may be asked at the meeting.

The full text of questions must have been received by the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 1.00pm on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024

These, and written responses where available, will be published in the briefing note.

## PART 2 - PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCRUTINY

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

*This item will be taken at or shortly after 7.00pm*

Public addresses and questions to the Leader or other Cabinet member received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution and not relating to matters for decision in Part 1 of this agenda.

Up to five minutes is available for each public address and up to three minutes for each question. Questions must be less than 200 words.

**The request to speak accompanied by the full text of the address or question must be received by the [Head of Law and Governance](#) by 5.00 pm on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.**

The briefing note will contain the text of addresses and questions submitted by the deadline, and written responses where available.

*A total of 45 minutes is available for both public speaking items.  
Responses are included within the limit.*

## 12 Scrutiny Committee update report

123 -  
130

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

**Council is invited to comment on and note the report.**

### PART 3 - MOTIONS REPRESENTING THE CITY

## 13 Motions on notice October 2024

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

Motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with the rules in Section 11 of the Constitution by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024 are listed below.

Cross party motions are taken first. Motions will then be taken in turn from the *Liberal Democrat Group, Green Group, Independent Oxford Alliance, Oxford Community Independent Group, Oxford Independent Group, Real Independent Group, Labour Group* in that order.

Substantive amendments to these motions must be sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by no later than 10.00am on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 so that they may be circulated with the briefing note.

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

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

- a) Winter Fuel Payments (Proposed by Cllr. Chris Smowton, Seconded by Cllr. Lawrence Fouweather)
- b) Keep Campsfield Closed (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Powell, Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Hosnieh Djarafi Marbini)
- c) Zero Emission Zone (Proposed by Cllr. David Henwood, Seconded by Cllr. Ian Yeatman)
- d) Winter Fuel Payments (Proposed by Cllr. Ajaz Rehman, Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Amar Latif)
- e) Decent and Genuinely Affordable Housing for All (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Hollingsworth, Seconded by Cllr. Ed Turner)
- f) Protection of Carers from Exploitation (Proposed by Cllr. Jo

Sandelson, Seconded by Cllr. Theo Jupp)

- g) Bus travel for asylum seekers in Oxford (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Powell, Seconded by Cllr. Dianne Regisford)

**13a Winter Fuel Payments (Proposed by Cllr. Chris Snowton, Seconded by Cllr. Lawrence Fouweather)**

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

Council notes the recent resolution by the Labour Government to end universal winter fuel payments and restrict eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credits and other benefits.

Though many agree that universal Winter Fuel Payments are not necessary, Council is deeply concerned that many pensioners on lower incomes will now not receive the payments.

In Oxford the number of pensioners affected by the change in eligibility criteria is 15,285. That means 88.9% of pensioners currently eligible for winter fuel payments will no longer be able to claim the payment from this winter onwards.<sup>12</sup>

Council believes that a better, and cost-neutral, way to recover the cost of the universal payment would be to levy an appropriately sized tax on pensioners who either receive the highest incomes, have the greatest wealth, or both. This would mean the benefit is in effect withdrawn where there is positive evidence that they have the means to pay, rather than negative evidence drawn from non-registration for Pension Credit or other benefits.

Council is also concerned by the low take up of pension credit with only 63% of those eligible nationwide receiving them — and over 880,000 pensioners not doing so.<sup>3</sup> Council recognises the role we have to play to increase awareness of benefits such as Pension Credit to ensure people are aware of the support they are entitled to.

Council further notes that the Energy Price Cap is due to rise by 10% in October, which combined by the removal of Winter Fuel Payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

*Council resolves to request that the Leader of the Council write to:*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/winter-fuel-payment-statistics-for-winter-2022-to-2023>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/dwp-benefits-statistics-february-2023>, (on Stat-Xplore), table "Pension Credit - Data from May 2018"

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-financial-year-ending-2022/income-related-benefits-estimates-of-take-up-financial-year-ending-2022>

- the Chancellor of the Exchequer calling for the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt to be revised, attaching a copy of this motion, and both Oxford MPs requesting their support regarding the same.

**13b Keep Campsfield Closed (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Powell, Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Hosnieh Djarafi Marbini)**

Green Group Motion

**Council Notes:**

1. In November 2022, this council debated and passed a motion in response to reports that the then government was seeking to re-open Campsfield House for use as an immigration removal centre.<sup>4</sup>
2. The motion passed in 2022 condemned the proposed re-opening of the centre and called for the city to be a safe space for refugees.
3. On 21 August 2024, the Home Secretary Yvette Cooper confirmed the current government's plans to re-open Campsfield House.<sup>5</sup>
4. Cooper's announcement has been heavily criticised by numerous migrants' rights groups including Asylum Welcome,<sup>6</sup> Detention Action,<sup>7</sup> The Refugee Council,<sup>8</sup> and Amnesty International UK.<sup>9</sup>
5. Summer 2024 saw violence and intimidation from far-right activists, some of which targeted - or threatened to target - organisations supporting refugees and asylum seekers - including those within Oxford.
6. Both Oxford City Council<sup>10</sup> and Oxfordshire County Council<sup>11</sup> have committed themselves to the values of the City of Sanctuary programme, pledging to work for the creation of a

<sup>4</sup> <https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/g7379/Public%20minutes%20Monday%2028-Nov-2022%2017.00%20Council.pdf?T=11>

<sup>5</sup> <https://news.sky.com/story/immigration-detention-centres-to-re-open-in-removals-drive-13200380>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/labour-campsfield/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-detention-migrant-b2599540.html>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/home-office-immigration-detention-migrant-b2599540.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/politics/james-cleverly-yvette-cooper-home-secretary-government-amnesty-international-b1177697.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/183/oxford-city-council-makes-commitment-to-city-of-sanctuary-status>

<sup>11</sup> <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-is-a-county-of-sanctuary/#:~:text=Migrants%2C%20including%20refugees%20and%20asylum,as%20a%20place%20of%20sanctuary>



safe and welcoming environment for those seeking sanctuary.

**Council Believes:**

1. Oxford and this council have a proud history of supporting and welcoming refugees and opposing detention. Maintaining our opposition to the re-opening of Campsfield House is an important part of this.
2. The recent steps to end the cruel Rwanda Plan and stop the state of permanent limbo<sup>12</sup> created by the Illegal Migration Act 2023 are to be welcomed,<sup>13</sup> but do not go far enough in restoring the legal right to asylum.
3. Expanding detention and increasing deportations represents a worrying indication as to the government's intended direction of travel, one which is incompatible with the promise this city has made to stand up for the rights of those seeking sanctuary.
4. The UK's asylum system needs major overhaul, including through the opening of safe and legal routes for people to claim asylum.
5. It has been extensively documented that immigration removal centers are sites of violence which have no place in a democratic, rights respecting, society.<sup>14</sup>
6. As such, Campsfield House should not be re-opened, and the government should be moving to shrink, not expand, the UK's detention estate.
7. Rhetoric and policies that demonise and stigmatise asylum seekers have a contributory role in driving division in our society and fuel the far-right.

**Council Resolves:**

1. To reiterate this council's opposition to the re-opening of Campsfield House.
2. To request that the Leader of the Council write to the Home Secretary calling on her to:
3. Abandon plans to re-open Campsfield House.
4. Outline plans to reduce, rather than increase, the number of people held in detention.
5. Begin to introduce a more humane migration policy -

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<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ippr.org/media-office/home-office-chaos-leaves-up-to-55-500-asylum-seekers-stuck-in-perma-backlog>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2024/815/made>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/04-05-2022-immigration-detention-is-harmful-to-health---alternatives-to-detention-should-be-used>; <https://www.rainbowmigration.org.uk/news/lgbtqi-people-still-at-serious-risk-of-harm-in-immigration-detention/>

including through the establishment of safe and legal routes for people to claim asylum.

**13c Zero Emission Zone (Proposed by Cllr. David Henwood, Seconded by Cllr. Ian Yeatman)**

Independent Oxford Alliance Group Motion

In February 2024, Oxfordshire County Council committed to spending £5.2m<sup>15</sup> developing plans to expand Oxford's existing Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ). Although previously agreed in principle as part of the Central Oxfordshire Travel Plan<sup>16</sup>, Oxfordshire County Council has not yet committed to proceeding with the ZEZ expansion.<sup>17</sup>

Each year, Oxford City Council produces an Air Quality Annual Status Report (AQASR)<sup>18</sup>. The report includes a detailed account of NO2 pollution levels, across numerous monitoring stations in Oxford and surrounding areas in the preceding year. The report also includes a commentary and analysis of themes relating to NO2 pollution in Oxford, such as the impact of the current ZEZ and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods on NO2 pollution levels.

Given the current development work taking place by Oxfordshire County Council in relation to the planned ZEZ expansion, it could be useful to draw on the insights collected as part of the AQASR publication process to produce an in-depth analysis of NO2 pollution levels in the planned ZEZ expansion zone.

Oxford City Council's policy on NO2 pollution is that the local annual mean NO2 target for Oxford should be 30 µg/m<sup>3</sup> by 2025<sup>19</sup>, which reflects "step two" of the WHO's updated interim target for NO2.

Oxford City Council notes that Oxford is currently in the process of taking delivery of numerous new electric buses, which have the potential to significantly reduce pollution in and around Oxford city centre<sup>20</sup>.

**The Council:**

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<sup>15</sup>

<https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/documents/s70023/Section%205.4%20Capital%20Programme%20Council%20Feb%2024.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> <https://mycouncil.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=26981>

<sup>17</sup> [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/city-centre-zez#:~:text=A%20small%20pilot%20ZEZ%20became,assessments%2C%20engagement%20and%20formal%20consultation](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/connecting-oxfordshire/city-centre-zez#:~:text=A%20small%20pilot%20ZEZ%20became,assessments%2C%20engagement%20and%20formal%20consultation)

<sup>18</sup> [www.oxford.gov.uk/air-quality-data/air-quality-annual-status-reports](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/air-quality-data/air-quality-annual-status-reports)

<sup>19</sup> [www.oxford.gov.uk/air-quality-management/air-quality-action-plan](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/air-quality-management/air-quality-action-plan)

<sup>20</sup> [www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1394/oxford-launches-major-all-electric-city-bus-fleet](http://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1394/oxford-launches-major-all-electric-city-bus-fleet)

- Believes it would be useful for Oxford City Council to publish a (non-statutory) supplement to its already-published 2023 AQASR. This supplement would help provide the public with the council's baseline analysis of NO2 pollution levels in the planned ZEZ expansion zone, reusing existing data.
- Further believes that subsequent AQASRs should also include an in-depth analysis of NO2 pollution levels in the planned ZEZ expansion zone.
- Collectively, these analyses would assist Oxford City Council in deciding whether – in the council's view – the ZEZ expansion remains objectively justified as a policy that the City Council should continue to endorse.

**The Council therefore request that Cabinet ask** those officers responsible for producing the Oxford City Council's AQASR to:

- Publish a supplement to 2023 AQASR (within three months of the date of this motion), which includes a detailed data table setting out the verified average NO2 pollution levels between 2019 and 2023, for each pollution monitoring station within the proposed ZEZ expansion zone.
- To provide equivalent data in the 2024 AQASR, and in future years.
- To ensure this data is accompanied by a detailed analysis of recent NO2 pollution trends within the planned ZEZ expansion zone, where reasonably possible, including an analysis of whether NO2 pollution within the proposed ZEZ expansion zone have yet fallen to Oxford City Council's 30µg/m<sup>3</sup> by 2025 target.

Council also asks Cabinet to consider not taking any decision about revenue and cost sharing arrangements with Oxfordshire County Council beyond the one agreed for the pilot (should they come forward) until the initial ZEZ pollution analysis has been completed.

**13d Winter Fuel Payments (Proposed by Cllr. Ajaz Rehman, Seconded by Cllr. Dr. Amar Latif)**

Oxford Independent Group Motion

This council is shocked and angered a Labour government would even contemplate a financial attack on pensioners just as we approach winter. The cost-of-living payments also ending this will have a devastating on some of most vulnerable in our society. Those who have given service their whole lives to this country, are being abandoned at the time of need.

This council writes to the Prime minister and Home secretary requesting the winter fuel payment to be re instated.

**13e Decent and Genuinely Affordable Housing for All (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Hollingsworth, Seconded by Cllr. Ed Turner)**

Labour Group Motion

The last fourteen years of Conservative Government, with chronic underinvestment in affordable and social housing and retreat in the face of opposition to housebuilding have left this country in the grip of a housing crisis.

Across the UK the shortage of housing and uncontrolled increases in private sector rents have led to ballooning costs for temporary accommodation.<sup>21</sup> Those costs are so large that they are not just a threat to other council services, which will have to be cut to meet the bill, but they are putting the very existence of some local authorities in doubt.

In Oxford, despite the best efforts of our officers, costs for temporary accommodation have risen five-fold to over £4m, out of a total Council budget of £28.6m.

The watering down of Local Plan housing targets by Rishi Sunak, under pressure from wealthy NIMBY interest groups, means that far too many councils have been able to dodge their responsibility both to those in need now and to future generations by failing to plan for the homes that are so desperately needed.

Pressures on the budgets of housing associations and cuts to housing budgets in the name of ‘austerity’ mean that developers are finding it increasingly difficult to find buyers for the affordable homes they are supposed to build, meaning the developments simply aren’t starting.<sup>22</sup>

- This Council therefore asks that the Leader of the Council writes to the Government to convey that:
- This Council believes that decent and affordable housing for all, where you want to live, is a right and not a privilege.
- This Council therefore applauds the new Government for its immediate reversal of cuts to housing numbers in Local Plans, and welcomes the return of strategic level planning to ensure that those Plans are delivered, particularly in

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<sup>21</sup> <https://www.local.gov.uk/about/news/councils-budget-set-aside-homelessness-has-more-tripled-last-eight-years-lga-warns>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.savills.co.uk/blog/article/365538/residential-property/why-falling-demand-for-section-106-homes-is-a-barrier-to-wider-housing-delivery.aspx>

Oxfordshire

- This Council welcomes the Government's approval of the long-overdue reservoir near Abingdon, something necessary to support the provision of new homes.
- This Council further welcomes the Government's commitment to the ending of Section 21 'no fault' evictions, which are a primary cause of the current levels of homelessness.
- This Council calls on the Government to implement as soon as possible powers to control and regulate the short-term let sector to prevent the shift of landlords from the private rented sector to the short term let sector
- This Council calls on the Government to continue to take action to ensure that investment in power, water and sewerage that has already been paid for by customers is delivered with immediate effect
- This Council calls on the Government to review the funding and borrowing rules as they apply to social housing, to ensure that this city, and this country, sees the expansion of social housing construction as soon as possible

**13f Protection of Carers from Exploitation (Proposed by Cllr. Jo Sandelson, Seconded by Cllr. Theo Jupp)**

Liberal Democrats Group Motion

This council has no confidence in the employee protection offered to migrant care workers in Oxfordshire and in the UK, and believe that visa design is driving exploitation.<sup>23</sup> Sponsorship agencies have been able to get away with exploiting these carers by demanding large sums of money (often thousands of pounds) in exchange for arranging the carers' journey to the UK, housing them (often in disgraceful conditions) and arranging work. Carers often find they are not given the number of hours work promised and are forced to use food banks to survive.<sup>24</sup> Many migrant carers have borrowed large sums from loan companies in their own country in order to pay the sponsorship fees, and are then trapped in the UK as they cannot return home without paying the money back. When migrants raise their concerns and needs with their sponsors they are threatened with being returned to their countries.<sup>25</sup>

The consequences are many. Migrant carers doing much needed work are forced to live in poverty with very stressful working conditions causing bad health and inability to work.<sup>26</sup> For example, one Oxfordshire family with disabilities reported that their carer X from Ghana needed to arrive for work at a client's (rural) home at 6am. Public transport was not available but sponsors refused to pay for a taxi, so he spent all his wages paying for

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<sup>23</sup> CAB; Restrictive Visas 11/03/24

<sup>24</sup> Citizens Advice Benefits and Work 11/03/2024

<sup>25</sup> Citizens Advice 2024

<sup>26</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation 26/07/2024

one himself.

Carers' clients are also affected, if carers become ill and are unable to work. This means their client either has no carer or numerous different cover carers to be instructed in the client's individual care needs. It can lead to clients' families being unable to cope so the client must go into residential care, at great emotional cost to the client and their family, and at great financial cost to Social Services. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that "despite need for care far outstripping current provision, care providers are losing business due to ongoing staff shortages. [A Care England study<sup>27</sup>](#) found in 2023 that 44% of providers surveyed had turned down new admissions and 18% had to close services altogether due to ongoing staff shortages."<sup>28</sup>

Council believes the following steps should be taken to improve migrant carers' situation.

- 1. Simplify visa applications:** The 60-day time limit needs to be extended so that carers don't lose their visa if they haven't found a new sponsor.
- 2. Grant access to public funds:** Introduce a safety net whereby care workers can access public funds.
- 3. Provide flexible work visas:** Support migrant care workers with work visas that are simply amendable to reflect changing work situations. Currently the UK's labour market enforcement system is complicated, confusing and in dire need of reform.

*Council resolves to request that Cabinet Member Cllr Chewe Munkonge write to Wes Streeting, Secretary of State for Social Care, calling on him to drive these actions forward promptly.*

### **13g Bus travel for asylum seekers in Oxford (Proposed by Cllr. Alex Powell, Seconded by Cllr. Dianne Regisford)**

#### Green Group Motion

There are an increasing number of asylum seekers being accommodated within the city, particularly in a hotel near to the Kassam Stadium.<sup>29</sup>

Those asylum claimants who are in receipt of statutory support according to section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 receive average weekly financial support equating to just £8.86 per week for those in

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www.careengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Care-England-End-to-End-Workforce-Solution.pdf>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/care/our-acceptance-of-low-pay-in-social-care-costs-us-more-than-we-think#:~:text=Despite%20need%20for%20care%20far,due%20to%20ongoing%20staff%20shortages>.

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23116955.kassam-stadium-hotel-used-house-refugee-sparking-row/>

accommodation.<sup>30</sup>

Oxford City Council has signed up to the values of the City of Sanctuary scheme undertaking a commitment to ensure that Oxford is a safe and supportive environment for sanctuary seekers.<sup>31</sup>

Oxfordshire County Council has also signalled its intention to become a County of Sanctuary, showcasing its own commitment to creating a safe and supportive environment for people seeking sanctuary.<sup>32</sup>

Numerous charities and organisations have drawn attention to the harms that hotel accommodation poses for asylum seekers: such as isolation from communities and resources.<sup>33</sup> This makes it even more important that support is accessible.

That the financial costs of travel within Oxford City make it more difficult for asylum seekers to access and engage with available sources of support.

That asylum seekers have recently made representations regarding the need for free bus passes to Oxfordshire County Council.<sup>34</sup>

#### **Council Believes:**

That Local Authorities, at both District and County Council level, have a moral and ethical duty, to the extent to which the law allows, to advocate for and protect all residents residing within their territorial area regardless of immigration status.

That access to support services should be open to all asylum seekers and should not be prohibited by transport costs.

As a City of Sanctuary, Oxford City Council has a responsibility to act in a manner that promotes the safety, security and well-being of sanctuary seekers.

As an aspiring County of Sanctuary, Oxfordshire County Council has a responsibility to act in a manner that promotes the safety, security and well-being of sanctuary seekers.

## **14 Matters exempt from publication and exclusion of the**

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/33/section/95>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/183/oxford-city-council-makes-commitment-to-city-of-sanctuary-status>

<sup>32</sup> <https://news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-is-a-county-of-sanctuary/#:~:text=Migrants%2C%20including%20refugees%20and%20asylum,as%20a%20place%20of%20sanctuary>

<sup>33</sup> [https://helenbamber.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Suffering%20and%20squalor\\_Final\\_June%202024.pdf](https://helenbamber.org/sites/default/files/2024-06/Suffering%20and%20squalor_Final_June%202024.pdf); <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Hostile-Accommodation-Refugee-Action-report.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx77z1d57ydo>



## **public**

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

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

## **Updates and additional information to supplement this agenda are published in the Council Briefing Note.**

Additional information, councillors’ questions, public addresses and amendments to motions are published in a supplementary briefing note. The agenda and briefing note should be read together.

The Briefing Note is published as a supplement to the agenda. It is available on the Friday before the meeting and can be accessed along with the agenda on the council’s website.



## **Information for those attending**

### **Recording and reporting on meetings held in public**

Members of public and press can record, or report in other ways, the parts of the meeting open to the public. You are not required to indicate in advance but it helps if you notify the Committee and Member Services Officer prior to the meeting so that they can inform the Chair and direct you to the best place to record.

The Council asks Councillors and members of the press and public recording the meeting:

- To follow the protocol which can be found on the Council's [website](#)
- Not to disturb or disrupt the meeting
- Not to edit the recording in a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes not editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule or show a lack of respect towards those being recorded.
- To avoid recording members of the public present, even inadvertently, unless they are addressing the meeting.

Please be aware that you may be recorded during your speech and any follow-up. If you are attending please be aware that recordings may take place and that you may be inadvertently included in these.

The Chair of the meeting has absolute discretion to suspend or terminate any activities that in his or her opinion are disruptive.

### **Councillors declaring interests**

#### **General duty**

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

#### **What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?**

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

#### **Declaring an interest**

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

#### **Members' Code of Conduct and public perception**

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

#### **Members Code – Other Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing\*\* of one of your Other Registrable Interests\*\*\* then you must declare an

interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

### **Members Code – Non Registrable Interests**

Where a matter arises at a meeting which ***directly relates*** to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests, then you must declare the interest.

You must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room, if you answer in the affirmative to this test:

“Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.”

Otherwise, you may stay in the room, take part in the discussion and vote.

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

\*\* Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person’s quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

\*\*\* Other Registrable Interests: a) any unpaid directorships b) any Body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority c) any Body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.