

## 18. QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

### (b) Questions notified by the deadline in the Constitution (replies to be given orally at Council)

(Note: responses to questions 1-17 were given on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012)

#### (18) **Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor James Fry**

##### Sustrans – Oxford Canal Towpath improvements

I am sure that all of us on the Council support the work by Sustrans to extend the cycle network in the City, including the proposed upgrading of the Oxford Canal towpath northwards from Walton Well Road to Elizabeth Jennings Way. It is shocking to learn that, because some sections of the extension would be restricted to 1.8 metres in width (rather than the desired minimum width of 2.0 metres) to accommodate water voles, Sustrans is stating that it will withdraw its financial support from the project.

Would the Leader of the Council convey to Sustrans our deep distress at its statement and ask it to reconsider this decision very urgently for the benefit of the large number of cyclists and other users of the towpath.

#### (19) **Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Sam Hollick**

##### Ethical Care Charter

UNISON are calling on councils to sign up to their ethical care charter for the commissioning of home care services. This charter seeks to strengthen minimum standards of care through protecting and improving the working conditions of care workers.

While noting that this council does not directly commission care services, what is this council doing to improve standards of care and working conditions for carers in Oxford? And will we be signing the charter?

#### (20) **Question to the Leader of Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Tony Brett**

##### Your Oxford – re-print

Would the leader assure council that he properly understands the proposed Universal Credit system and that Child Benefit is not included in it. Will he further give a detailed breakdown of how much his previous

ignorance cost Oxford's taxpayers including reprinting 65,000 copies of four pages of the current "Your Oxford", staff costs for re-drafting and re-assembling the document, legal staff costs of checking the re-drafting, delivery costs and any other costs the council incurred including reassuring worried residents, removing erroneous copies from Libraries and other public buildings and other media and communications costs? Will he give an indication as to when all Oxford Residents might expect to receive the corrected copies?

**(21) Question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Bob Price) from Councillor Graham Jones**

Improving ESOL provision in Oxford

Very nearly 30% of Oxford people were born outside the UK according to the newly released Census figures. Will the Executive Member responsible please say how the Administration plans to ensure that this council does its part in improving English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision in Oxford?