

## MOTIONS ON NOTICE

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

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

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

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

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

Council therefore calls on The City Executive Board:

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

(2) **Supermarket Levy – (Proposed by Councillor Craig Simmons, seconded Councillor Dick Wolff)**

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

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

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

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

To this end, Oxford City Council resolves to:

1. Continue to offer FAIRTRADE Marked food and drink options internally and make them available for internal meetings.
2. Promote the FAIRTRADE Mark using Fairtrade Foundation materials in refreshment areas and promoting the Fairtrade Towns initiative in internal and communications and external newsletters.
3. Use its influence to urge local retailers to provide Fairtrade options for residents.

4. Engage in a media campaign to publicise the recertification of Oxford as a Fairtrade Towns initiative.
5. Nominate a council representative to sit on the Fairtrade Steering Group.
6. Support on-going work to promote Fairtrade.
7. Continue to organise events and publicity during national Fairtrade Fortnight – the annual national campaign to promote sales of products with the FAIRTRADE Mark.

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

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

**(5) Abolishing the right to buy in Oxford- (Prosed by Councillor Sam Hollick)**

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

This council notes:

- That good quality, affordable housing is in short supply in Oxford.
- That the 'Right to Buy' poses a risk to the council's ability to provide such housing for those in need, as a significant value from right to buy sales is kept by national government [1] and there is a shortage of sites to replace those council houses that are lost in this way.

- That the Sustainable Communities Act gives councils the power to make proposals to the government for assistance that would promote the sustainability of local communities.

This council believes:

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

This council requests the City Executive Board:

- To consult and try to reach agreement with a representative citizens' panel on the following proposal: "The government should stop the right to buy or remove discounts for any eligible properties in Oxford"
- Following from any agreement, to submit a proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act.

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

**(6) City Council Champion of mental health issues – (Proposed by Councillor Ed Turner)**

Labour Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

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

Liberal Democrat Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

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

(8) **Impartiality of Planning Process- (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)**

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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

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

**(9) Proposed closure of Children's Centre (Proposed by Councillor David Williams, seconded by Councillor Elise Benjamin)**

Green Group Member - Motion on Notice

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

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

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