

MOTIONS ON NOTICE – Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green

(1) **Privatisation of the Probation Service** – (proposed by Councillor John Tanner).

Labour Group Member – Motion on Notice

Oxford City Council considers the planned privatisation of 70% of the Probation Service as reckless, dangerous and costly. It is likely to increase re-offending in Oxford, could compromise the safety of local residents and ignores the expertise of the local probation service.

Coming hard on the heels of the savage cuts in Legal Aid this attack on the Probation Service underlines the Coalition's lack of interest in tackling crime. We call on the Government to withdraw its proposals and negotiate with the National Association of Probation officers for a sensible way forward.

(2) **Low Carbon Economy** (proposed by Councillor Jean Fooks).

Liberal Democrat Group Member – Motion on Notice

Council notes the progress so far made to develop Oxfordshire's Low Carbon Economy, worth more than £1.15bn pa in sales, employing nearly 9000 people in more than 570 businesses.

It welcomes the award for Oxford's Community energy work, including the innovative loan of £2.3m to the Low Carbon Hub for solar panels on schools.

Council believes that Oxford can do more to develop the Low Carbon Economy, to the benefit of its citizens. It therefore asks the Executive Board to work with the LEP to:

- Investigate sources of funding for supporting researchers in winning grants from EU and UK research councils.
- Prioritise training for skilled jobs in the low carbon building sector.
- Develop the business case for investment in the Smart City concept.
- Focus support on growth sectors such as alternative fuelled vehicles.
- Appoint a 'champion' to co-ordinate all the strands necessary for success.

(3) **The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and its possible effect on local service provision**(proposed by Councillor Sam Hollick, seconded by Councillor Ruthi Brandt).

Green Group Member – Motion on Notice

Proposals under the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) to govern trade relations between the EU and USA are currently being negotiated in secret.

UNISON believes TTIP is: “a profound threat to public services, which will not only lead to further liberalisation but will make it harder for government to regulate private companies providing public services. It could effectively prevent a future government bringing those services back in-house.”

and that it “threatens to restrict the ability of local authorities and other public bodies to source and employ locally. This undermines their ability to use public money to achieve social and environmental outcomes through their supply chain and employment practices.”

The TTIP will open up local authority procurement processes (already under scrutiny from EU Regulation) to US corporations meaning that contracts for some services could be challenged by US companies in such a way so as to undermine local democracy, threaten staff pay, the Council’s commitment to a living wage and employment conditions.

Amongst its provisions, the TTIP includes an Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism which allows multinational corporate investors to challenge government actions which they perceive as threatening to their investment. The cost to the Council of fighting any such legal action, were they to be challenged, could be immense.

Council therefore RESOLVES to call upon the leader of the council and the leaders of the two opposition groups to write to Oxford’s MPs and MEPs, and to the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, asking them to reject the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

(4) Proposed by Councillor Bev Clack, seconded by Councillor Tom Hayes.

Labour Group Member – Motion on Notice

While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. This council asks the UK government to listen to the strength of public feeling and to act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK.

(5) Municipal bonds (proposed by Councillor Jean Fooks).

Liberal Democrat Group Member – Motion on Notice

Council notes:

- that local authorities across the country and across political parties want to have more powers to raise their own funds. This is particularly relevant at present as Governments of all complexions are likely to be reducing central grant as local demand for services increases

- that the Local Government Association believes that having a council-owned agency could save local authorities over £1bn in borrowing cost compared to the Public Loans Board
- that by July 2014 22 councils of all kinds had pledged almost £3m towards the setting up of a municipal bonds agency.

Council further notes that although the City Council is not looking to borrow at present, there could be big gains in the future from being able to access funds for capital investment in such ‘invest-to-save’ projects as renewable energy installation and specialist housing.

Council therefore asks the Executive Board to investigate the opportunities offered by joining the agency now rather than wait and be left behind.

(6) Making Oxford a Social Enterprise City(Proposed by Cllr Dick Wolff, seconded by Cllr David Thomas)

Green Group Member – Motion on Notice

This Council welcomes the announcement that Oxfordshire has become the UK’s first Social Enterprise County and congratulates the Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership (OSEP), an innovative new partnership set up by Oxford Brookes University, the University of Oxford and Student Hubs to foster and support social enterprise locally.

This Council recognises the value of Social Enterprises to the Council and the local economy and aspires to join other cities in becoming one of the UK’s first Social Enterprise Cities.

This would require, amongst other things, that the Council:

- Establish business rate policies which support long-term and sustainable social and economic value creation.
- Explore the possibility of creating “Meanwhile Enterprise Zones” and “Social Enterprise Zones”.
- Review its policies to ensure that it is commissioning, procuring and buying goods and services in a manner which maximises social value (under the Social Value Act).
- Provide funding support for social innovations and social enterprises
- Look at ways and means of stimulating and supporting social enterprise in the area

Council therefore asks CEB to instruct officers to draw up a draft Social Enterprise Strategy for Oxford City.

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