



**To:** Council

**Date:** 6 February 2017

**Title of Report:** **Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17**

**Recommendation:** Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motions and amendment listed below in accordance with the Council's rules for debate.

The Constitution permits an hour for debate of these motions.

## Introduction

This document sets out motions received by the Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 25 January 2017, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance before the publication of the briefing note are also included below.

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

**Motions will be taken in turn from the Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green groups in that order.**

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## **1. Support the Paris Climate Change Agreement (proposed by Councillor Tanner)**

### **Labour member motion**

This Council is deeply concerned by the reported views of the president of the United States about climate change. We welcome the conclusion of the United Nations climate change conference in Marrakesh that the Paris Agreement should be implemented in full.

For the sake of Oxford's children and grandchildren we again commit this city to playing its full part in tackling climate change. We will continue to work to reduce CO2 and other climate warning gases in Oxford. We will continue to embrace a low carbon future for the benefit of the people of Oxford and the wider world.

We congratulate the residents of Oxford on making big reductions in their carbon footprints at home, travelling and at work. We continue to support the aim of reducing Oxford's carbon footprint by 40% by 2020, compared to levels in 2005. In line with the Paris Agreement target, we pledge to work in partnership with others to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across Oxford within the second half of the century. As part of this commitment we also pledge that the Council will, by 2050, use only 100% renewable energy. We ask the City Executive Board to set appropriate interim targets to ensure that these pledges are achieved.

Oxford City Council will carry-on reducing its own carbon footprint by at least 5% a year every year. We will continue to work with Low Carbon Oxford, the Low Carbon Hub, the Covenant of Mayors, Climate Alliance and others to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Oxford city.

We call on our MPs and MEPs to do all they can to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We call on the other councils of Oxfordshire, our twin cities and everyone in Oxford to redouble their efforts to prevent the over-heating of our planet

### **Amendments proposed by Councillor Simmons**

Replace 'Covenant of Mayors' with '*Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy*'

[Note: the Compact of Mayors and Covenant of Mayors recently merged to form the 'Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy']

Add after penultimate paragraph

*We will also continue to explore, as part of our ethical investment strategy, how we might invest in helping others to reduce their carbon emissions as well as divesting from funds and organisations which promote or otherwise support the use of fossil fuels.*

### **Motion 1 as amended then reads:**

This Council is deeply concerned by the reported views of the president of the United States about climate change. We welcome the conclusion of the United Nations climate change conference in Marrakesh that the Paris Agreement should be implemented in full.

For the sake of Oxford's children and grandchildren we again commit this city to playing its full part in tackling climate change. We will continue to work to reduce CO2 and

other climate warning gases in Oxford. We will continue to embrace a low carbon future for the benefit of the people of Oxford and the wider world.

We congratulate the residents of Oxford on making big reductions in their carbon footprints at home, travelling and at work. We continue to support the aim of reducing Oxford's carbon footprint by 40% by 2020, compared to levels in 2005. In line with the Paris Agreement target, we pledge to work in partnership with others to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions across Oxford within the second half of the century. As part of this commitment we also pledge that the Council will, by 2050, use only 100% renewable energy. We ask the City Executive Board to set appropriate interim targets to ensure that these pledges are achieved.

Oxford City Council will carry-on reducing its own carbon footprint by at least 5% a year every year. We will continue to work with Low Carbon Oxford, the Low Carbon Hub, the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*, Climate Alliance and others to reduce carbon emissions across the whole of Oxford city.

*We will also continue to explore, as part of our ethical investment strategy, how we might invest in helping others to reduce their carbon emissions as well as divesting from funds and organisations which promote or otherwise support the use of fossil fuels.*

We call on our MPs and MEPs to do all they can to support the Paris Climate Change Agreement. We call on the other councils of Oxfordshire, our twin cities and everyone in Oxford to redouble their efforts to prevent the over-heating of our planet.

## **2. Waiver of fees for interments of stillborns, babies and children (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Wade)**

### **Liberal Democrat member motion**

Council is sympathetic to the suffering of families in Oxford who experience the loss of stillborns, babies and children and wishes to support grieving parents as much as it can.

Council notes that the number of interments of stillborns, babies and children in Oxford during the financial year 2015/2016 was as follows:

Botley Cemetery – 7	Headington Cemetery – 2	Wolvercote Cemetery – 6
Total – 15		

Council further notes that the average number of such interments between 1998 and 2016 has been 18 per year, with a peak of 23 in financial year 2007/2008.

Income for fees and charges for 2015/16 interments of stillborns, babies and children in Oxford totalled £5,100.

Council notes the debate on baby loss in the House of Commons on 13 October 2016 and the excellent support given by Sands Stillborn and Neonatal death charity, and understands that some local authorities do not make a charge in these circumstances.

Council therefore requests the Chief Executive to investigate whether a mechanism for waiving fees charged by the Council for the burial of children or stillborns of Oxford residents might be introduced.

#### [Reference](#)

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2016-10-13/debates/721CDF48-A721-4408-AA94-BE694FA1E7FC/BabyLoss>

### **3. Avoiding a 'Hard Brexit' (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Brandt)**

#### **Green member motion**

This Council notes the recent Supreme Court decision which will force the Government to consult Parliament on the triggering of Article 50.

This Council has previously opposed leaving the EU, as have the majority of the City's electorate (despite the many EU nationals that reside in the City being prevented from voting in the referendum). Groups such as 'Oxford for Europe' continue to enjoy high levels of support as witnessed by the recent sell-out public meeting.

This Council has also previously noted the benefits of EU of EU membership to Oxford and the local economy including the retention of common product and environmental standards and the free movement of people.

This Council is deeply concerned at the recent announcement that this Government, if it wins a Parliamentary vote on Article 50, is committed to negotiating a 'hard Brexit' which goes directly against the wishes of this Council and the people it represents. Announcements by Ministers strongly suggest that, to trade competitively outside of the EU trading bloc, they would be willing to turn the UK into a low tax - low spend - low regulation economy which will mean further austerity cuts, weakening social and environmental standards and diminished worker's rights. All of which will impact directly on this Council and the services we deliver.

An increasing number of progressive MPs are recognising that the only way to prevent a 'hard Brexit' is to try and amend any motion on Article 50 presented to Parliament to ensure that a 'hard Brexit' is no longer the UK's primary negotiating position and, if that fails, to vote against triggering Article 50.

This Council asks the leader to write to our local MPs, on behalf of the elected members of this Council, asking them to join this group of progressive MPs with the aim of preventing a 'hard Brexit'.

References: Council motions on  
18 April 2016 Oxford City Council support EU membership  
<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=3476&Ver=4>  
5 December 2016 Oxford's future within the EU - motion including amendment  
<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=4108>

#### **4. Secondary School Funding and Pupil Places in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Tidball, seconded by Councillor Price)**

##### **Labour member motion**

Continuing its decimation of funding for our children's education, the Tory Government's Fairer Funding proposals will hit disadvantaged children hardest and will leave 98% of schools facing a real terms cut in per-pupil funding.. That's an average cut to secondary schools of -£405,611 and an average loss per secondary school pupil of -£477. In Oxford, schools such as the Oxford Academy will face a damaging - £414,208 cut in its funding by 2019 and a -£616 cut per pupil.

This reform will place more pressure on the shortage of secondary school places in Oxford. The way in which school location and catchment areas have worked has meant that several areas of the city have been unable to count any one school as the school for their local community. Parental choice has simply not been operating effectively. As a result, children have been scattered across many different schools when they go into year 7, leading to the break up of friendships and local peer groups and long bus and cycle journeys across the city. It also causes huge amounts of stress for children with Special Educational Needs. By 2019, there will not be enough places in Oxford secondaries for all the children who are moving up in that year. The proposals for a new free school on the Meadowbrook site are controversial and have been delayed. An interim solution involving temporary buildings on the Cherwell School site, allowing time for a satisfactory long term alternative (possibly on Osney Mead) is being developed. It is vital that measures are put in place within the next few months to meet the 2019/20 'bulge'; and that time is given to find the best long term solution to meet the expected pattern of population growth across the city.

Council calls on our local MPs to support the City Council in opposing these funding reductions and calls on the City Executive Board to work with the University, the River Academy Trust and the City Council's planning team, and to consult with Oxfordshire County Council, to find a satisfactory long term solution to the capacity problems of Oxford's secondary schools.

#### **5. City Council's response to One Oxfordshire (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)**

##### **Green member motion**

This Council notes the One Oxfordshire proposals recently published by Oxfordshire County Council which make the case for a single, countywide unitary authority. This will involve the abolition of Oxford City Council.

This Council has just completed its own cross-party scrutiny review (Devolution Working Group) which looked at both local government reorganisation and devolution.

All these scrutiny recommendations have since been accepted by the City Executive Board.

This Council believes that the recommendations from the scrutiny review group remain relevant and should form the basis of a robust response from the City Council opposing the One Oxfordshire proposals.

## **Amendment to motion 5 proposed by Councillor Gant**

First paragraph:

*Change “Oxford City Council” to “Oxfordshire County Council and the five district councils within Oxfordshire, and provides a detailed scheme for replacing their functions and powers”.*

last paragraph:

add full-stop after “remain relevant”. Delete rest of last paragraph, and add:

*Council notes that the review group report very specifically does not recommend supporting or opposing any particular model of reorganisation, and that it does specifically state that reorganisation will need to be looked at at some point, without offering a view of when that point might be reached*

*Council notes that there have been significant developments even since the report was issued, including the appearance of the One Oxfordshire proposal*

*Council notes that, like all other proposals, the One Oxfordshire document leaves important areas to be addressed in more detail, including, but not limited to, the level of democratic accountability, genuine guarantees that area boards will have real substantive authority in their localities and be directly responsive to their electorate, and a binding assurance that regional variations of approach to important things like ownership of housing stock, approach to new social housing and management of direct services will be respected*

*Council notes that, subject to the guarantees above, the One Oxfordshire proposal provides a model which seeks to achieve the benefits of unitary governance which have been widely identified, including in the City Council's own commissioned report, by the leaders of other district councils, and by members of this council of all parties*

*Council notes that leaders of other district Council in Oxfordshire have publicly expressed a willingness to talk about reorganisation, and in the case of Vale of White Horse District Council have passed a unanimous resolution to that effect*

*Council believes that the voters of Oxfordshire want their leaders to engage constructively with each other about potential new models of government*

*Council therefore:*

*-welcomes the One Oxfordshire proposal as a genuine attempt to realise the benefits of re-organisation*

*-notes that the One Oxfordshire proposal has, at the time of writing this amendment [Jan 31], received the enthusiastic public backing of the Conservative, Liberal Democrat and Labour groups on the County Council*

*-calls upon Cllr Price to engage with colleagues in other councils and elsewhere about the One Oxfordshire proposal, without commitment.*

## **Motion 5 as amended then reads:**

This Council notes the One Oxfordshire proposals recently published by Oxfordshire County Council which make the case for a single, countywide unitary authority. This will involve the abolition of ~~Oxford City Council Oxfordshire County Council and the five district councils within Oxfordshire~~, and provides a detailed scheme for replacing their functions and powers.

This Council has just completed its own cross-party scrutiny review (Devolution Working Group) which looked at both local government reorganisation and devolution.

All these scrutiny recommendations have since been accepted by the City Executive Board.

This Council believes that the recommendations from the scrutiny review group remain relevant. ~~and should form the basis of a robust response from the City Council opposing the One Oxfordshire proposals.~~

*Council notes that the review group report very specifically does not recommend supporting or opposing any particular model of reorganisation, and that it does specifically state that reorganisation will need to be looked at at some point, without offering a view of when that point might be reached*

*Council notes that there have been significant developments even since the report was issued, including the appearance of the One Oxfordshire proposal*

*Council notes that, like all other proposals, the One Oxfordshire document leaves important areas to be addressed in more detail, including, but not limited to, the level of democratic accountability, genuine guarantees that area boards will have real substantive authority in their localities and be directly responsive to their electorate, and a binding assurance that regional variations of approach to important things like ownership of housing stock, approach to new social housing and management of direct services will be respected*

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*-calls upon Cllr Price to engage with colleagues in other councils and elsewhere about the One Oxfordshire proposal, without commitment.*

## **6. Supporting Local Social Enterprise (proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Hayes)**

### **Labour member motion**

Social enterprise is a business that trades for a social and/or environmental purpose. It will have a clear sense of its 'social mission': which means it will know what difference it is trying to make, who it aims to help, and how it plans to do it. It will bring in most or all of its income through selling goods or services. And it will also have clear rules about what it does with its profits, reinvesting these to further the 'social mission'.

Since 2014 Oxfordshire has been designated a 'social enterprise place' by Social Enterprise UK, this designation recognises the variety of local social enterprises on our doorstep and makes it easier to stay informed about what local social enterprises have to offer.

As a council we already recognise that our procurement power is a mechanism for delivering and realising tangible benefits for local communities. Over 50% of the Council's spend is local to Oxfordshire with approximately 27% of this being paid to Small and Medium Enterprises. Social Value is also a key consideration when high value contracts are let.

This Council asks the City Executive Board:

- to establish an officer group to identify any further actions to embed the social value act and its principles across the council and encourage the use of local social enterprise suppliers; and
- to recommend to the Board Member any changes to the Procurement Strategy or rules to achieve this.

### **Amendment proposed by Councillor Wolff**

Add additional bullet point at the end:

*"Look at what could be done regarding our business rate relief scheme to assist social enterprises"*

### **Motion 6 as amended then reads:**

Social enterprise is a business that trades for a social and/or environmental purpose. It will have a clear sense of its 'social mission': which means it will know what difference it is trying to make, who it aims to help, and how it plans to do it. It will bring in most or all of its income through selling goods or services. And it will also have clear rules about what it does with its profits, reinvesting these to further the 'social mission'.

Since 2014 Oxfordshire has been designated a 'social enterprise place' by Social Enterprise UK, this designation recognises the variety of local social enterprises on our doorstep and makes it easier to stay informed about what local social enterprises have to offer.

As a council we already recognise that our procurement power is a mechanism for delivering and realising tangible benefits for local communities. Over 50% of the Council's spend is local to Oxfordshire with approximately 27% of this being paid to



Small and Medium Enterprises. Social Value is also a key consideration when high value contracts are let.

This Council asks the City Executive Board:

- to establish an officer group to identify any further actions to embed the social value act and its principles across the council and encourage the use of local social enterprise suppliers; and
- to recommend to the Board Member any changes to the Procurement Strategy or rules to achieve this.
- *To Look at what could be done regarding our business rate relief scheme to assist social enterprises*

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