

**Motion not to be published during the County Council pre-election period to comply with the pre-election 'purdah' rules**

**Opposing the Better Oxfordshire Proposals**

**proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff**

**Green member motion**

This Council notes the results of recent surveys and petitions which show that:

- 67 per cent felt decisions about services that are currently managed at district level should be made at a district/city level (IPSO Mori survey commissioned by Oxford City Council)
- More than 15,000 residents have signed petitions started by Oxford City Council, Cherwell and West Oxfordshire wanting to safeguard the local delivery of services
- 66 per cent directly opposed the One Oxfordshire proposals (County Council's own online survey)

Despite this, Oxfordshire County Council have submitted its proposals (backed by the leaders of the three largest political groups on the County), with limited concessions to public opinion and a branding change to 'Better Oxfordshire', to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 23rd March 2017.

This Council has previously expressed its opposition to 'One Oxfordshire' and does not believe that these amended proposals address its fundamental concerns.

**Council therefore agrees to:**

- **Formally state our opposition to the 'Better Oxfordshire' proposals and write accordingly to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and our MPs;**
- **Ask Scrutiny Committee to consider re-convening the Devolution Working Group to determine the best way of responding to, and monitoring, the progress of these proposals.**

Note: the film and minutes of the debate on this motion will not be published until after the election.

**Reason for non-publication of this motion: regulations and agreement on pre-election publicity**

*In accordance with the Local Government Act 1986, the Code of Practice on local authority publicity, and LGA guidance, councils must 'ensure that any published information by them during the Purdah period should not contain controversial material that might form part of political campaigning during the pre-election period.'*

*And in particular, with relevance to the current debate about structures in Oxfordshire, the guidance says:*

*'Do not publish any publicity on controversial issues or report views on proposals in a way which identifies them with individual councillors or groups of councillors.'*

*'You should **not** produce publicity on matters which are politically controversial'*

