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| To: | Council |
| Date: | 2 October 2017 |
| Title of Report: | Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 |
|  | 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

1. This document sets out motions received by the Acting Head of Law and Governance in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.17 by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday 20 September, as amended by the proposers.
2. All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Acting Head of Law and Governance by publication of the briefing note are also included below. Minor technical amendments may be submitted during the meeting but must be written down and circulated.
3. Motions will be taken in turn from members of the Labour, Liberal Democrat, and Green groups in that order. Cross party motions are taken first.
4. Council is asked to consider the following motions:

Contents

[Introduction 1](#_Toc493860479)

[a) Cross party motion - Removal of Freedom of the City from Aung San Suu Kyi 2](#_Toc493860480)

[b) Against modern slavery 2](#_Toc493860481)

[c) Benefits of EU membership 3](#_Toc493860482)

[d) Promoting Cycling Safety in Oxford 4](#_Toc493860483)

[e) Fair treatment for homeless people 4](#_Toc493860484)

# Cross party motion - Removal of Freedom of the City from Aung San Suu Kyi

Proposed by **Councillor Clarkson**, seconded by **Councillor** **Altaf Khan**, seconded also by **Councillor Thomas**

Cross party motion

This Council believes the residents of Oxford are deeply concerned about the dreadful attacks on the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar (Burma) and the flight of refugees into Bangladesh. The City Council has written to Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor of Myanmar, to ask her to speak out and to do whatever she can to stop the ethnic cleansing in her country.

It was right to give the Freedom of the City to Aung Suu Kyi in 1997 in recognition of her long struggle for democracy and her personal links to Oxford. However, in the absence of a helpful response from her and with deep regret, Council believes it is no longer appropriate for Aung San Suu Kyi to hold the Freedom of the City.

**Oxford City Council resolves to remove the Freedom of the City of Oxford from Aung San Suu Kyi.**

# Against modern slavery

Proposed by Councillor Hayes

Labour member motion

Imagine you lost everything. Would 45 days be long enough to get your life back on track?

It takes victims of modern slavery longer than 45 days to start putting their lives back together, having gone through the most horrific things that anyone can experience in their lifetimes. The Government spends millions of pounds each year to find victims and provide them with shelter and safety for their first 45 days of recovery in England and Wales. However, the Government then formally ends all crucial support on Day 46.

Vulnerable people can be abruptly ejected from safe houses exactly at the point of being formally recognised as victims. Victims might be required to make their own way before agencies can put decent pathways to secure housing and support in place. People can slip through the net, potentially to be tragically abused and exploited all over again. The modern slavery support system must put the needs of vulnerable people at its heart.

This Council and Thames Valley Police believe that the ending of modern-day slavery is a priority focus and work in partnership to that end. Front-line workers do their very best to meet the needs of vulnerable people, but struggle within this system. Shortcomings that are plain to see in the Modern Slavery Act years on from its introduction desperately need correcting.

This Council calls on the Prime Minister to increase support for victims of modern slavery from 45 days to one year. This Council asks the Leader to write to the Prime Minister and Oxford’s two MPs with the request to back a decent pathway for recovery for victims based on the following:

—all confirmed victims of modern slavery in England and Wales be given a year’s leave to remain, following 45 days of reflection and recovery as called for by the Co-operative Party in its latest campaign.

—all confirmed victims of modern slavery in England and Wales should not be required to leave safe house accommodation until a plan for their ongoing support has been implemented.

— all confirmed victims of modern slavery remaining in England and Wales should be supported into work, housing, and education.

Modern-day slavery is one of the greatest human rights issues of our time. It’s a problem that’s getting worse and urgently needs tackling.

Last year in the UK 3,805 vulnerable people were identified as potentially trafficked—an increase of 17%. 700 to 900 Modern Slavery victims are in the Thames Valley Police Area, making up 7% of the UK estimate, according to latest estimates. A total of160 modern slavery victim identification checks have been completed, according to a service funded by the Office of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner.

This figure will be the tip of the iceberg. Victims are hiding in plain sight.

On 18 October, the country will mark Anti-Slavery Day 2017.

This motion reflects this council’s recognition of the importance of raising awareness of modern slavery and putting Britain at the forefront of defeating this evil.

Until the Government creates a caring system and puts the right support in place, victims will struggle to start their recovery.

**This Council calls for a change in the law, so that victims can finally get the support they deserve.**

# Benefits of EU membership

Proposed by Councillor Gant, seconded by Councillor Goddard

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that:

* On 18 April 2016 this council voted almost unanimously to affirm its commitment to the benefits of membership of the EU. Among many other benefits to the people of Oxford, Council specifically identified membership of the single market. Council asked the Leader to write to Oxford’s MPs setting out its views.
* On 1 February 2017 the House of Commons voted to give the Prime Minister the authority to trigger Article 50. However, despite the fact that the Bill made no attempt to safeguard the benefits identified by this Council by bringing the eventual deal back to parliament or the country, both of Oxford’s then MPs, Nicola Blackwood and Rt Hon Andrew Smith, voted with the government. (Among those voting against were Liberal Democrat and Green MPs and the Labour MP for Cambridge, which faces many of the same issues from Brexit as Oxford).
* On 29 June 2017 the House of Commons debated an amendment to the Queen’s Speech guaranteeing UK membership of the single market after Brexit, clearly reflecting the views of this council in its motion of April 2016, that leaving the single market and ending freedom of movement would be particularly harmful to thousands of citizens of EU27 states living, studying, and working in Oxford, to their family members, and indeed to the community at large. Anneliese Dodds MP voted against the amendment. Layla Moran MP voted for the amendment.

**Council therefore:**

* **asks the Leader of the council to publish to members the correspondence with MPs resulting from the motion of 18 April 2016, including their replies;**
* **reaffirms its wholehearted commitment to the spirit and letter of its motion of 18 April 2016, bearing in mind the changed context since the referendum;**
* **asks the Leader to write to Oxford’s MPs repeating the views of this Council, reminding them of the strong “Remain” vote in Oxford, and asking them to commit publicly to argue for continued access to the benefits and freedoms of the EU for the people of Oxford as far as possible at every stage of the withdrawal process, and vote accordingly.**

# Promoting Cycling Safety in Oxford

Proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Upton

Green member motion

Council notes with great sadness of death of cyclist Claudia Comberti on Oxford’s roads earlier this year.

In response to this tragic event, Claudia’s friends, colleagues and local cycling campaign groups have come together to create “The Claudia Charter for Safer Cycling in Oxford”. The desire of those producing the Charter is to see it adopted by organisations and individuals right across the city, and in so doing help drive forward and focus efforts to significantly improve cycling safety.

Council recognises and welcomes this initiative.

**This motion therefore calls on Council:**

1. **to become the Charter's first signatory and to formally adopt the Charter, and**
2. **to refer this motion and the Charter to the relevant officers and Scrutiny Committee so that it may inform future policy and action and that delivery against the Charter can be effectively monitored.**

*The Charter is attached.*