# **Council 2 October 2017 Agenda item 18c**

Amendments submitted by the proposer today to correct an inaccuracy in the text.

This motion, as amended, will be debated

1. **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~~ **abstained on 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.**