

**Officer report to:** Council  
**Date:** 27 November 2017  
**Report of:** Head of Law and Governance  
**Title of Report:** Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules – Oxford City Council must fix the blue hole they have created

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To set before Council a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council’s petitions scheme.
<b>Decision required:</b>	Yes
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	
1.	That Council in line with the procedure for large petitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hears the head petitioner for the petition;</li> <li>• debates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the proposal contained within the petition; or</li> <li>○ relevant motions submitted by councillors by the deadline ; and</li> </ul> </li> <li>• decides the action it wishes to take.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The petition proposes:</b></p> <p><i>Oxford City Council must fix the blue hole they have created. We the undersigned call on Oxford City Council to address the loss of health, fitness and exercise facilities in the ‘blue hole’ caused by the Labour-led City Council’s closure of Temple Cowley Pool in December 2014, and extended for five years in the Leisure and Wellbeing strategy 2015-2020 adopted in September 2015.</i></p>	

<b>Executive Board Member responsible :</b>	Councillor Smith, Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport
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## **The petition**

1. A paper petition was received by the Acting Head of Law and Governance on 22 September 2017 with 1,558 valid signatures plus a number of signatures not containing sufficient address details.
2. The petition states in full:

*Oxford City Council must fix the blue hole they have created. We the undersigned call on Oxford City Council to address the loss of health, fitness and exercise facilities in the 'blue hole' caused by the Labour-led City Council's closure of Temple Cowley Pool in December 2014, and extended for five years in the Leisure and Wellbeing strategy 2015-2020 adopted in September 2015.*
3. The signatures have been validated and checked as unique as far as possible. Signatories come from a range of postcodes, including a number from outside the city but within the county.
4. As over 1500 signatures are provided with a name and full address or street number and postcode, the petition meets the criteria for debate at Council.
5. The organisers have requested a debate at Council.

## **Actions for Council**

6. Actions open to Council include:
  - noting the petition
  - taking the action the petition requests
  - not taking the action the petition requests
  - commissioning a further review
  - where the matter falls to the Executive to make the final decision, decide whether to make recommendations to the Executive to inform that decision.
7. The Head of Community Services and the Executive Board Member for Leisure, Parks and Sport have been invited to comment on the petition and their comments will be circulated in the briefing note to Council.

## **Constitution rules and procedure**

8. The Council's scheme for handling petitions is set out in the Constitution. The scheme specifies that petitions requesting action within the Council's powers and containing over 1,500 signatures will be debated by Full Council if a debate is requested.
9. The Constitution states that there is a limit of 15 minutes for dealing with each petition.
10. The scheme also specifies that the petition organiser can address Council for up to five minutes at the start of the debate in order to present the petition. Should the lead petitioner speak for 5 minutes this then allows 10 minutes for debate and decision.
11. The motion for debate is the one set out above in paragraph 2.

12. An alternative substantive motion can be proposed if councillors wish to take any action other than adopting the action in the petition; not adopting the action in the petition; or deferring, referring or noting the issues raised by the petition.
13. If a Councillor wishes to put an alternative substantive motion on a petition then they must send this to Committee and Members' Services by 10.00am on the working day before the full Council meeting. These are then published in the Council briefing note.

Any amendments to these must be sent to Committee and Members' Services by 11.00am on the day of the meeting.

### **Financial implications**

14. The implications of this report will depend on Council's recommendations, if any, and Council should be mindful of the possible costs in formulating its recommendations.

### **Legal issues**

15. The implications will depend on Council's recommendations, if any. Any recommendations will be considered in detail by the City Executive Board, before returning to Council should this be necessary.

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<b>Background Papers:</b>	
1	Paper petition available for inspection.

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