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| To: | Council |
| Date: | 29 January 2018 |
| 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

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 17 January 2018, as amended by the proposers.

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

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

# Setting a target of zero rough sleeping in Oxford (proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

This Council has adopted many aspirational targets to demonstrate its long-term commitment to continuous improvement and desire to be recognised as “a world-class city”. For example, it has committed itself to zero waste to landfill, reducing carbon emissions to zero through compliance with the Paris Agreement and, most recently, to explore the introduction of a City Centre zero emissions zone.

These targets are challenging, will be difficult to achieve and will inevitably require new policies to be developed, new investment and a nationally favourable legislative framework. Nonetheless, they provide a clear direction of travel, demonstrate leadership and a clear statement of a measurable endpoint.

This Council believes that to help frame the ‘big conversation’ around the Council’s homelessness strategy refresh a similar bold commitment is required.

**This Council therefore agrees to adopt a target of zero rough sleeping on the streets of Oxford [1].**

*Note: As with other such commitments, this target will need to be further defined and refined, timings developed, and a work programme agreed as part of the strategy refresh.*

*[1] This target would preclude those who voluntarily elect to sleep rough.*

**Amendment (proposed by Councillor Rowley, seconded by Councillor Hayes): amending motion to read as below**

This Council has adopted many aspirational *social and environmental targets* to demonstrate its long-term commitment to continuous improvement and a desire to be recognised as "a world-class city".

~~For example, it has committed itself to zero waste to landfill, reducing carbon emissions to zero through compliance with the Paris Agreement and, most recently, to explore the introduction of a City Centre zero emissions zone. These targets are challenging, will be difficult to achieve and will inevitably require new policies to be developed, new investment and a nationally favourable legislative framework. Nonetheless, they provide a clear direction of travel, demonstrate leadership and a clear statement of a measurable endpoint.~~

*Meeting these targets is a challenge, requiring new policies to be developed, new investments to be made and a nationally favourable legislative framework to be in place.*

*Nonetheless, they provide a clear direction of travel, demonstrate leadership and a clear statement of a measurable endpoint.*

This Council believes that to help frame the ‘big conversation’ around the Council’s homelessness strategy refresh a similar bold commitment is required *concerning**rough sleeping.*

*The Housing and Homelessness Strategy sets the objective of "preventing and ending rough sleeping", and at last November's City Conversation we made a joint commitment with our partners to the principle that "no-one should be forced to sleep rough on the streets of Oxford."*

*This Council therefore agrees to formally reaffirm its target of zero rough sleeping on the streets of Oxford, excluding those who voluntarily elect to sleep rough. We also reaffirm that rough sleeping is gravely damaging to physical and mental health, has a dramatic impact on life expectancy, and we will continue to do our utmost to engage all rough sleepers with the services that can help them.*

*As with other such commitments, this target will need to be further defined and refined, timings developed, an action plan agreed and a monitoring process established.*

**Amendment (proposed by Councillor Wade): amending motion to read as below**

To add/remove the words in blue italics so that the motion would then read:

This Council has adopted many aspirational targets to demonstrate its long-term commitment to continuous improvement and desire to be recognised as “a world-class city*~~”.  For example, it has committed itself to zero waste to landfill, reducing carbon emissions to zero through compliance with the Paris Agreement and, most recently, to explore   the introduction of a City Centre zero emissions zone.~~*

These targets are challenging, will be difficult to achieve and will inevitably require new policies to be developed, new investment and a nationally favourable legislative framework. Nonetheless, they provide a clear direction of travel, demonstrate leadership and a clear statement of a measurable endpoint.

This Council believes that to help frame the ‘big conversation’ around the Council’s homelessness strategy *~~refresh~~* a similar bold commitment is required.

*This Council has recognised the enormity of homelessness, which faces many of our fellow citizens, and takes into account that, if Local Authorities do not focus urgently on this crisis, rough sleeping is forecast to rise by 76% in the next decade [2].*

**This Council therefore agrees to adopt a target of zero rough sleeping on the streets of Oxford [1***] and in pursuit of that target will:*

1. *Explore flexible options to accommodate or support the homeless*
2. *Call for a national strategy to support those who fall outside the safety net of ‘local connection’.*
3. *Draw up a list of minimum requirements to meet the needs of rough sleepers e.g. showers, storage facilities, provision of clothing.*
4. *Ensure adequate sleeping accommodation to include the winter months as well as ‘severe weather’ provision.*
5. *Establish criteria upon which, in an extreme situation, a Community Protection Notice could be issued. This to require written authorisation by the Legal Department and by the Head of Service.*

*Note: As with other such commitments, this target will need to be further defined and refined, timings developed, and a work programme agreed as part of the strategy refresh.*

*[1] This target would preclude those who voluntarily elect to sleep rough.*

*[2] Heriot-Watt University : https://www.hw.ac.uk/about/news/rough-sleeping-could-rise-by-three-quarters.htm*

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# Public services must be run for the public benefit, not private profit (proposed by Councillor Iley-Williamson)

Labour member motion

The collapse of Carillion has left their workforce fearful of their jobs, wages, and pensions. It has also left the provision of vital services on the brink, with the absurdity of firefighters in Oxfordshire having to be on standby to ensure schoolchildren are fed.

It follows recent press reports of Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire Council, and the Vale of White Horse Council pulling out of outsourcing deals because of poor service delivery.

Another recent case of the dangers of outsourcing is that of Capita, which provides outsourced services in many parts of local government. It has recently announced that it will be closing its defined benefit pension scheme in its Life and Pensions Regulated Services division. This will substantially reduce its employees' expected pensions.

This Council believes that any organisations which provide services on behalf of the council should reflect the values of the Council, including the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum term of employment and excellent pensions.

**Therefore the Council resolves to:**

* ask the Head of Financial Services to ensure the Council’s procurement process is such that the Council could not undertake any contracts in future with organisations that cannot demonstrate that they treat their employees in line with the Councils aims and values, as Capita’s current practice would not be able to demonstrate,
* ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Board and Oxfordshire County Council to urge them to use this opportunity to bring and keep outsourced services back in-house and commit to moving staff to the Oxford Living Wage as a minimum, and
* ask the Leader of the Council to write to Oxford’s MPs asking them to lend their support to this motion.

**Amendment (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Thomas)**

Add to the end of bullet point 3

**‘***and asking them to back the campaign to get the NHS Reinstatement Bill back before Parliament and support other efforts to renationalise those services that impact directly on the people of Oxford such as rail and bus transport provision and the supply of energy and water.’*

# Fair employment: voluntary charter “Dying to Work” (proposed by Councillor Wilkinson)

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council seeks to provide support and guidance to all its employees. In its Fair Employment Statement published in October 2016, the Rights and Responsibilities section makes it clear that:

“Every employee and potential employee has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and not to be discriminated against, victimised, bullied or harassed or to be treated less favourably than any other on any basis of any protected characteristic.”

It is acknowledged that unforeseen events can affect the lives of council workers, and that it is important that the Council does all that it can to maintain the dignity of staff who have been diagnosed with a terminal illness.

Council notes that the TUC’s Dying to Work campaign includes a voluntary charter for employers to sign which sets out an agreed way in which their employees will be supported, protected and guided through their employment, following a terminal diagnosis.

The charter states the following:

* We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.
* Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that, safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.
* We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.

Council notes that a significant number of other city councils have signed up to this charter including Birmingham, Leicester, Liverpool and Sheffield.

This Council supports the TUC’s Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind.

**Council therefore asks that the Interim CEO signs the Dying to Work voluntary charter on behalf of Oxford City Council to show its on-going commitment to supporting rights and responsibilities towards its staff.**

**It further requests that the Interim CEO of the City Council informs Oxfordshire County Council and the other district councils in Oxfordshire of its actions so that they may consider whether to follow its example.**

**References:**

<http://www.dyingtowork.co.uk/voluntary-charter/>

<http://www.dyingtowork.co.uk/charter-signatories/>

# Opposing expansion of Oxford Airport and proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway road (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

Council notes the well-attended meeting on climate change held on 12th January 2018 at the Wesley Memorial Church organised by local campaigning groups and addressed by, amongst others, Oxford’s two MPs.

Council notes the concern expressed by one of the expert speakers, and in public questions, over the planned Oxford-Cambridge Expressway road, as well as the proposed expansion of the Oxford Airport, both incompatible with achieving climate change goals.

This Council believes that the planned Oxford/Cambridge corridor housing can, and must, be built sustainably including the provision of local facilities and public transport without encouraging car dependency. With respect to the airport, the capacity increases this will deliver, including the encouraging of disproportionately damaging short trips by air, will only lead to a net increase in transport emissions.

This Council has stated its commitment to climate change reduction on several occasions and recognises that all levels of Government must play their part in tackling climate change.

**This Council therefore wishes to state its opposition to the Oxford Cambridge Expressway road plans and the expansion of Oxford airport and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the relevant ministers and Oxford’s MPs informing them of these views.**

# Sexual Harassment at Work (proposed by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Pressel)

Labour member motion

Sexual Harassment at work is a problem in every kind of workplace from Hollywood Movie Studios to places a lot closer to home. A 2016 report by the TUC in association with the everyday sexism project found that more than half (fifty two per cent) of all women polled have experienced some form of sexual harassment at work and four out of five women did not report the sexual harassment to their employer.

Just because sexual harassment in the workplace has proven to be a tough nut to crack, it does not mean it is an intractable problem. Action by employers, backed up by stronger legal protections for workers, better access to justice, and strong unions, are all part of the solution.

The TUC report *'Still just a bit of banter?*' makes the following recommendations for employers, and as an employer we commit to following these principles when it comes to our own workforce. We also ask officers to devise procedures for encouraging our partners and contractors to abide by this best practice.

**Decent jobs**

Given the particular vulnerability of workers on casualised contracts, employers should aim to employ staff on permanent, secure contracts which offer decent hours and decent pay (ideally the Oxford Living Wage). Temporary contracts, zero-hours contracts, casual contracts and agency workers, should only be used by employers to respond to genuine peaks and troughs in demand or to match short-term skill needs.

**Training**

HR and all levels of management should receive training on sexual harassment, what constitutes sexual harassment, stalking and online harassment, relevant law and workplace policies, and how to respond to complaints of sexual harassment.

**Clear policies**

Employers should have a clear zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment. Use of social media and workplace equipment should be taken into consideration when formulating policies on sexual harassment. All employees should be made aware of these policies, reporting procedures and their rights and responsibilities regarding workplace sexual harassment. Where there is a recognised union, seeking input from union reps into the development of a sexual harassment policy is recommended. Employers should ensure that everyone working within their organisations can use grievance procedures to raise concerns about discrimination and harassment at work, including those on zero hours or casual contracts, agency workers and contractors who may be employed by another organisation. Policies should make specific provision to ensure that employees are protected from experiencing adverse outcomes after reporting workplace sexual harassment.

The report also makes a number of recommendations for government.

**Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to our local members of parliament to ask them to work in parliament towards:**

* Reinstatement of third party harassment legislation
* Reinstatement of employment tribunal powers to make wider recommendations
* Reinstatement of Statutory Equality Questionnaire
* Recognition and facility time for union equality reps
* Extending the full range of statutory employment rights to all workers, regardless of employment status or type of contract.

# Phasing out unnecessary single-use plastics (proposed by Councillor Brandt, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

**This Council resolves to:**

Request the Executive Director for Sustainable City brings a report to CEB on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in Oxford, to:

1. enable Oxford City Council to become a full signatory of the ‘Plastic Free Pledge’, by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all City Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the Council’s supply chain;
2. encourage the city’s businesses, organisations and residents to go ‘plastic free,’ working with best practice partners in the city to explore the creation of a ‘plastic free network,’ that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;
3. provide feasible options to incentivise traders on Council land to sell re-usable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening the existing conditions and guidance circulated to exhibitors and traders.

*Supporting Information*

*There is a need to be aware of the damaging impact that Single Use Plastics (SUP) have on both our environment and public health, recognising that Oxford City Council has a key role to play in reducing plastic waste.*

*(1) Unnecessary (i.e. excluding medical items) Single-Use Plastics (SUP) used once before disposal e.g. bottles, cups and straws, are not widely recycled. SUPs can take up to 600 years to degrade, breaking into fragments that cause damage to the environment and permeate the food chain. A recent* study *[summarised and referenced in https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/sep/06/plastic-fibres-found-tap-water-around-world-study-reveals] found that 72% of U.K tap water samples were contaminated with plastic fibres, and a third of all fish caught off the British coast contained plastic.*

*(2) The Plastic Free Pledge encourages organisations and individuals to reduce SUP waste https://plasticfreepledge.com/ A petition calling on the Government to reduce and end SUPs here: http://bit.ly/2xSFLhs*

*(3) Several trailblazing businesses and organisations in and around the Country have already implemented plastic free alternatives*

**Amendment (proposed by Councillor Tanner)**

After ‘This Council resolves to’ delete the first paragraph and replace with; ‘bring an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in Oxford. In particular this Council:’.

Under a) delete ‘enable Oxford City Council to’ and replace with ‘will’

Under b) delete ‘encourage’ and insert ‘encourages’

Under c) delete ‘provide feasible options to incentivise traders on Council land’ and replace with ‘encourages all traders in Oxford’, then continue as before.

**Motion as amended would then read:**

**This Council resolves to:**

~~Request the Executive Director for Sustainable City brings a report to CEB on the options for bringing an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in Oxford,~~

*Bring an end to the use of unnecessary Single Use Plastics (SUP) in Oxford. In particular this Council:*

1. ~~enable Oxford City Council to~~ *will* become a full signatory of the ‘Plastic Free Pledge’, by phasing out the use of unnecessary SUPs in all City Council buildings, and working with commissioning partners to end the purchase and procurement of SUPs through the Council’s supply chain;
2. encourage**s** the city’s businesses, organisations and residents to go ‘plastic free,’ working with best practice partners in the city to explore the creation of a ‘plastic free network,’ that could provide business support, practical guidelines and advice to help local businesses transition from SUPs to sustainable alternatives;
3. ~~provide feasible options to incentivise traders on Council land~~ *encourages all traders in Oxford* to sell re-usable containers and invite customers to bring their own, with the aim of phasing out SUPs; including investigating the possibility of requiring food and drink vendors to avoid SUPs as a condition of their event permission, strengthening the existing conditions and guidance circulated to exhibitors and traders.

# Call on Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

This Council is committed to improving air quality within the city, which currently breaches EU limits in some areas (the annual mean Air Quality Strategy objective for NO2 was breached at two out of three of the continuously monitored sites and 24% of the diffusion tube sites [Source: Oxford City Council 2016 Air Quality Annual Status Report; July 2017]). It recognises the need to take local action but also acknowledges that this can only take place within a supportive, national legal framework.

Currently, this is inadequate and lacking in many respects which is making the work of this Council in tackling poor air quality more challenging. This Council therefore calls upon the UK Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act which should include consideration of the following:

1. **Enshrine the right to breathe in UK law**. Ensure the UK becomes a world leader in the new technologies and industries that will help us clean up our air.
2. **Expand ‘Clean Air Zones’**: It should expand and strengthen the network of Clean Air Zones across the country - limiting the most polluting vehicles, including cars, from entering air pollution hot-spots - creating funding for local authorities to invest in walking, cycling and clean public transport. These should be strong enough to ensure legal compliance on NO2 by the end of 2018.
3. **Increase VED**: It should increase the first year Vehicle Excise Duty on new diesel vehicles (except vans) by around £800, to reflect the additional cost to society of dirty diesel engines, raising £500m to help fund a targeted diesel scrappage scheme.
4. **Diesel Scrappage**: It should introduce a targeted diesel scrappage scheme to take diesel vehicles off the road as soon as possible, and ensure that all those who live within Clean Air Zones can affordably replace polluting diesel vehicles. As well as offering replacement clean vehicles, these schemes should also offer alternatives such as car club membership and rail season tickets.
5. **Fine the Cheats**: It should set out a plan for how companies who cheated emissions testing would be fined. Despite a $14.7bn settlement in the US, Volkswagen, for example, has yet to pay any damages in the EU - an equivalent fine in the UK could raise more than £8 billion from VW alone.
6. **Independent Regulation**: It should guarantee the independence of the Vehicle Certification Agency - changing the way it is funded ensuring that the car industry doesn’t have a disproportionate influence on its activities.
7. **Monitor Pollution** **Hotspots**: It should ensure there is a comprehensive network of air monitoring stations in pollution hotspots - ensuring that air quality is monitored around hospitals, health clinics, and schools, so that those who are most vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution, notably children, the elderly and infirm, are protected.
8. **Active Transport**: It should undertake a national review of transport system with serious investment in buses, trams and trains along with safe routes for walking and cycling. People need an alternative to car use and we must protect our towns, cities and countryside from the pollution and congestion that comes with new roads .
9. **Clean Energy**: It should scale-up investment in renewable energy - which, as it stands, is set to drop by 95% over next two years. Harnessing the clean energy that we have in abundance would be a win-win, both for tackling climate change and air pollution.
10. **Ditch Coal**: It should bring forward the coal phase-out date to 2023 at the least, and gradually end the £6bn a year subsidies in the UK to dirty energy. Pollution from the UK’s coal-fired fleet causes roughly 2,900 premature deaths a year.

**Accordingly, this Council asks the Leader to write to the City's MPs and the relevant Minister asking them to actively support such a new Clean Air Act**