

Minutes of a meeting of the COUNCIL on Monday 29 January 2018

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Committee members:

Councillor Fooks (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Altaf-Khan (Sheriff)
Councillor Abbasi	Councillor Azad
Councillor Brown	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Clarkson	Councillor Cook
Councillor Curran	Councillor Fry
Councillor Gant	Councillor Goddard
Councillor Goff	Councillor Haines
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Henwood
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Iley-Williamson
Councillor Kennedy	Councillor Ladbrooke
Councillor Landell Mills	Councillor Lloyd-Shogbesan
Councillor Lygo	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Paule	Councillor Pressel
Councillor Price	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Simmons	Councillor Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Tarver
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Tidball
Councillor Turner	Councillor Upton
Councillor Wade	Councillor Wilkinson
Councillor Wolff	

Apologies:

Apologies were reported from Councillors Anwar, Brandt, Malik, Simm, Sinclair, Taylor, and sent to the clerk during the meeting but not reported from Councillors Humberstone and Sanders.

Councillors Tarver and Turner apologised for lateness.

69. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations.

70. Minutes

Council approved the minutes of the special meeting of 27 November 2017 as a correct record.

Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting of 27 November 2017 as a correct record with the addition of the text of the petition to Minute 65.

71. Appointment to Committees

Councillor Price proposed and Council agreed to appoint Councillor **Lygo** to replace Councillor **Tidball** on West Area Planning Committee.

Councillor Gant proposed and Council agreed to appoint Councillor **Wade** to replace Councillor **Landell Mills** on West Area Planning Committee.

72. Announcements

The Lord Mayor:

- reported on the Holocaust Remembrance Service on 26 January;
- reported on the ceremony to present Bill Heine with a Special Certificate of Merit by Oxford City Council in recognition of his contribution to the city;
- announced that Rev Bannister Parker, currently at University Church of St Mary the Virgin, had been appointed as interim City Rector and looked forward to welcoming her at future meetings of the Council.

The Sheriff made no announcements.

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Price announced that the civic office holders for 2018/19, subject to election at Annual Council, would be:

Lord Mayor	Councillor Cook
Deputy Lord Mayor	Councillor Malik
Sheriff	Councillor Simmons

73. Appointment of Council Leader

Further to Councillor Price having announced his resignation as Leader of the Council effective from 29 January 2017 to the Chief Executive, Council was asked to elect an Executive Leader of Council.

The Executive Leader of Council was elected for a term of office starting immediately, and ending at the annual meeting of Council immediately following the local election when she is due for re-election as a councillor

Councillor **Brown**, being proposed and seconded for the role, was elected as the Council's Executive Leader with a term of office to end at the annual meeting on 15 May 2018.

Councillor Brown thanked Council and announced

- Councillor Smith was appointed as the Deputy Leader of Council;
- Councillor Price remained on the Executive with responsibility for his current portfolio including Human Resources but excluding the corporate plan, and would also remain the Executive's representative on the Growth Board;
- She would retain responsibility for her current Executive portfolio excluding Human Resources but including the corporate plan.
- No other changes were proposed immediately.

Councillor Brown thanked Councillor Price for his 12 years of service as Leader, and the Lord Mayor and leaders of the opposition groups also paid tribute to him as a loyal, hard-working and straight-talking Leader steering the Council through challenging times and maintaining its commitment to public service. Councillors thanked Councillor Price for his service as Leader.

Councillor Price thanked councillors and officers for their collective contribution to the work of the Council and congratulated Councillor Brown on her appointment.

Councillor Brown took the role of Leader from this point in the meeting.

74. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There were no addresses or questions.

75. Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2018/19

Councillor Tanner arrived for the start of this item.

Council considered a report from the Executive Director Organisational Development & Corporate Services to the City Executive Board on 20 December 2017 asking the Board to consider the feedback from the recent consultation on the proposed changes to the Local Council Tax Support Scheme and to agree the principles of the new scheme to be drawn up for approval by Council.

The full draft scheme was also available to Council.

Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council, presented the report and moved the recommendations which were adopted on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

adopt the Council Tax reduction scheme for 2018/19 comprising that in place as at 1 April 2017 with changes as set out in the options in the report to:

1. Create an income band scheme for Universal Credit customers
2. Remove second adult reduction provision
3. Limit backdating to one month

4. Introduce a minimum income floor for self-employed claims
5. Reduce period where someone can claim whilst abroad
6. Remove family premium for new claims.

76. Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2018-2021

Councillor Goddard arrived for the start of this item.

Council considered a report from the Head of Housing Services to the City Executive Board on 23 January 2018 which noted the amendments made to the draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2018-21 following 6 weeks of public consultation and sought the City Executive Board's approval of the amended draft Strategy (and its associated appendices) and recommend its approval to Council.

Councillor Rowley, Board Member for Housing, presented the report and moved the recommendations which were adopted on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

1. **adopt** the amended draft Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2018-21 and its associated appendices.
2. **delegate** authority to the Head of Housing Services to make minor editorial changes as recommended by the Housing Panel of the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 16 January and by the City Executive Board at its meeting on 23 January, and to update the Strategy and Action Plan as required in accordance with the monitoring and review process set out in Chapter 10 of the Strategy

77. Council and Committee meetings programme May 2018-May 2019

Council considered the report of the Head of Law and Governance setting out a programme of Council, Committee and other meetings for the 2018/19 council year (May 2018 to May 2019 inclusive).

Councillor Price, Board Member for Corporate Strategy and Economic Development, presented the report and moved the recommendations which were adopted on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

1. **approve** the programme of Council, Committee and other meetings attached at Appendix 1 for the council year 2018/19; and
2. **delegate** the setting of dates for the Standards Committee and training and briefing sessions for members to the Committee and Members Services Manager.

78. City Executive Board Minutes

a) Minutes of meeting Tuesday 21 November 2017 of City Executive Board

Minute 101 Review of the Community Grants programme

Councillor Gant asked about progress on resolution 6 (early discussions with advice centres about the new arrangements for their funding).

Councillor Brown replied that a number of meetings with the centres were scheduled or had happened. Officers were working on the implementation of the new programme and would meet again with advice centres to discuss their proposals.

b) Minutes of meeting Monday 27 November 2017 of City Executive Board

There were no questions on these minutes.

c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 20 December 2017 of City Executive Board

There were no questions on these minutes.

d) Minutes of meeting Tuesday 23 January 2018 of City Executive Board (to follow)

Minute 136: Scrutiny Committee reports: Preventing Elderly Isolation

Councillor Wilkinson said this had been raised at the Headington Forum and asked what actions by Oxfordshire Strategic Partnership were envisaged.

Councillor Price replied that the partnership was organising around thematic task-and-finish groups, and isolation was one proposed strand. The Headington Forum could contact him if it wished to be involved in the task-and finish group.

Minute 137: Community Infrastructure Levy - Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule

Councillor Goddard asked if a list of large projects and liability for CIL or S106 payments or both could be made available. Councillor Hollingsworth said that it could.

Minute 141: Lucy Faithfull House

Councillor Thomas asked why the proposal was not for 100% affordable units on the site.

Councillor Rowley said the proposal was for the maximum number of genuinely affordable units that could realistically be financed.

79. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

36 written questions on notice were submitted. These, written responses, and 26 supplementary questions and responses are set out in the supplement to these minutes.

80. Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Two speakers addressed Council.

1. Judith Harley addressed Council asking it to recognise, and begin to tackle, the racism, neglect, and lack of opportunity for those of African Caribbean heritage in this City today, both within, and outside, the Council.
2. Stefan Piechnik on behalf of James Lawson asked a question about whether he paid for the refurbishment work to the tower blocks and if so why there was no response to his concerns.

The full text of these speeches and question where these were read as submitted; responses from the Board Members in writing before the meeting; and summaries of verbal responses given at the meeting are in the supplement to these minutes.

81. Petition submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules - Westgate bike racks

Council considered a petition meeting the criteria for debate under the Council's petitions scheme in line with the procedure for large petitions stating:

Where are our promised 1000 Westgate bike racks?

One of the planning conditions attached to the development of the Westgate Shopping Centre was the provision of 1022 bike parking spaces. These bike racks were intended to replace those removed from the City Centre during the construction works and provide additional spaces to encourage more sustainable travel.

So far, Labour-run Oxford City Council (who voted through the development on their own land) have failed to enforce this condition, allowing the Westgate to open with only a small fraction of the promised cycle parking and without the promised cycle hub. Overall, Oxford now has far fewer cycle racks than before the Westgate development began.

The Council have, however, found time to expand the number of car parking places in the City Centre and negotiated a reduction in car parking fees leading to increased traffic and a worsening of Oxford's already badly polluted air.

Elise Benjamin, the petition organiser, addressed Council.

Council considered two motions relating to the petition set out in the briefing note.

On being proposed, seconded and put to the vote, the motion proposed by Councillor Simmons was not agreed.

On being proposed, seconded and put to the vote, Council resolved to agree the motion proposed by Councillor Upton:

Council notes the petition and while it is a matter of regret that not all of the public realm works, and therefore some on-street cycle parking, around the Westgate Centre were completed before the opening of the first shops the Council is pleased that the

Westgate Centre have identified locations for the installation of more cycle parking spaces than was required by the planning condition. As the final paving works around the site are completed, any outstanding cycle parking spaces will be installed.

Oxford City Council believes that increased space for secure cycle parking, both in the city centre and in residential streets, is essential for getting more people moving round the city by bike. This will have huge benefits in terms of both increasing physical activity levels and better health and reducing pollution and congestion.

In addition, we support the introduction of segregated cycle lanes along all of the "Cycling Super and Premium Routes" proposed in Oxfordshire County Council's Local Transport Plan 4. And the City Council's new Local Plan should include policies to support safe segregated cycle routes across our parks, and an increased priority cycle parking across the city.

Our goal is to have a joined up network of safe cycle routes so that both confident and the less confident can all get on their bikes, trikes and scooters and make their journeys in safety and comfort, and know that there are secure places to park their bike at the end of those journeys. We want Oxford to be a great cycling city for all.

82. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions - Oxfordshire Partnerships report

Councillor Price introduced the annual Oxfordshire Partnership Update Report from Oxfordshire County Council and the covering report. He recommended that in future the covering report should set out how the partnerships impacted on the work of the Council

Council resolved to note the report.

83. Scrutiny Committee update report

Councillor Turner arrived during this item.

Council had before it the report of the Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Gant introduced the report. Councillor Rowley thanked the Housing Panel for their work on the Housing Strategy and suggested that the Panel may wish to co-opt a representative from the new homelessness partnership in due course.

Council resolved to note the report and recommendations accepted.

84. Motions on notice

Council had before it nine motions on notice and amendments submitted in accordance with Council procedure rule 11.17 and published with the agenda and briefing note, and reached decisions as set out below.

Council resolved to adopt the following motions as set out in these minutes:

- a. Setting a target of zero rough sleeping in Oxford **as amended**
- b. Public services must be run for the public benefit, not private profit
- c. Fair employment: voluntary charter “Dying to Work”

The following were not taken because the time for discussing motions had elapsed.

- d. Opposing expansion of Oxford Airport and proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway road
- e. Sexual Harassment at Work
- f. Phasing out unnecessary single-use plastics

Call on Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act

a) Setting a target of zero rough sleeping in Oxford

Councillor Thomas proposed his submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note, and accepted the amendment set out in the briefing note proposed by Councillor Rowley.

Councillor Simmons seconded the amended motion.

Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Gant, proposed an amended version of her submitted amendment:

To retain the section:

This Council therefore agrees to target of zero rough sleeping on the streets of Oxford 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.*

noting that 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.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the amendment above was agreed.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the amended motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion, as proposed and including the amendments agreed as set out in the briefing note and above:

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".

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

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.

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.

b) Public services must be run for the public benefit, not private profit

Councillor Landell-Mills left the chamber for the duration of this item, as he was employed by Capita although this motion did not directly impact on his disclosable pecuniary interest.

Councillor Iley-Williamson, seconded by Councillor Ladbroke, proposed his submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

Councillor Simmons , seconded by Councillor Thomas, proposed his submitted motion as set out in the briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the amendment was declared lost.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the original motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion as originally proposed:

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:

- 1. 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 Council's aims and values, as Capita's current practice would not be able to demonstrate,**
- 2. 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**
- 3. ask the Leader of the Council to write to Oxford's MPs asking them to lend their support to this motion.**

c) Fair employment: voluntary charter "Dying to Work"

Councillor Landell-Mills joined the meeting

Councillor Wilkinson, seconded by Councillor Goff, proposed her submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote, the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following 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 Chief Executive 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 Chief Executive 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.

d) Opposing expansion of Oxford Airport and proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway road

This motion was not taken because the time for discussing motions had elapsed.

e) Sexual Harassment at Work

This motion was not taken because the time for discussing motions had elapsed.

f) Phasing out unnecessary single-use plastics

This motion was not taken because the time for discussing motions had elapsed.

g) Call on Government to introduce a new Clean Air Act

This motion was not taken because the time for discussing motions had elapsed.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 23 April 2018