

To: Council

Date: 23 July 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 11 July 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.

Unfamiliar terms are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

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

- a. Eco standards in new buildings (Proposed by Councillor Gotch) -motion for debate is that amended by proposer
- b. Opposition to the Oxford Cambridge Expressway road plans and the expansion of Oxford airport (Proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons) – amendment proposed by Councillor Brown
- c. Stop Roll out of Universal Credit, Fix its Impact on Vulnerable People (proposed by Councillor Tidball)
- d. Homelessness (proposed by Councillor Gant, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills) – amendment proposed by Councillor Smith
- e. Supporting a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)
- f. Extending twinning links (proposed by Councillor Tanner, seconded by Councillor Rush)

a. Eco standards in new buildings (Proposed by Councillor Gotch)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council wishes to live up to its green aspirations.

Council encourages officers to give consideration to incorporating as far as possible suitable 'green' aspirations into the development of policies in the Local Plan.

Examples of the type of matters to which due consideration may be given could include: improving air quality; electric charging provision; and measures to ensure high quality development.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Gotch: and replacing the text above

Council , wishing to live up to its 'green' aspirations ,

.....*delete remaining text of motion and replace with.....*

requests that CEB members consider the following measures to apply to all housing schemes for 20 or more dwellings, private or public, with officers encouraging developers to incorporate:

1. District heating schemes to be included, lowering the carbon footprint substantially compared to all dwellings [and other buildings] having separate boilers.
 2. Electricity generating solar panels to all dwellings [or block of dwellings] and extensive external electricity charging points , to be provided .
 3. Whole house ventilation wherever noise or air pollution levels are high.
 4. Higher standard factory-built structures – delivered to site faster and cheaper than by conventional building methods.
 5. Site planning and extensive landscaping – particularly with trees – to minimise the impact of noise and air pollution sources and maximise solar gain.
- Points 2 – 5 should apply also to projects with 3 – 19 dwellings.

Council requests offices to monitor the effectiveness of encouraging developers to adopt the measures outlined above, and report annually to Council -- in a simple format.

Motion as amended now reads – this is the motion to be debated

Council wishing to live up to its green aspirations *requests that CEB members consider the following measures to apply to all housing schemes for 20 or more dwellings, private or public, with officers encouraging developers to incorporate:*

1. *District heating schemes to be included, lowering the carbon footprint substantially compared to all dwellings [and other buildings] having separate boilers.*
2. *Electricity generating solar panels to all dwellings [or block of dwellings] and extensive external electricity charging points , to be provided .*
3. *Whole house ventilation wherever noise or air pollution levels are high.*

4. *Higher standard factory-built structures – delivered to site faster and cheaper than by conventional building methods.*
5. *Site planning and extensive landscaping – particularly with trees – to minimise the impact of noise and air pollution sources and maximise solar gain.*

Points 2 – 5 should apply also to projects with 3 – 19 dwellings.

Council requests offices to monitor the effectiveness of encouraging developers to adopt the measures outlined above, and report annually to Council - in a simple format.

Please note: advice from the Monitoring Officer will be tabled at the meeting.

b. Opposition to the Oxford Cambridge Expressway road plans and the expansion of Oxford airport (Proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

Original text

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.

Since the January meeting opposition to the Expressway road has, in particular, grown significantly.

With respect to the airport, the capacity increases that the proposed lengthened runway 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.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Brown

Delete last paragraph

~~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.~~

and replace with

This Council therefore wishes to restate its support of integrated public transport systems, and prioritisation of clean travel such as pedestrian, cycling and clean public transport and asks the Secretary of State for Transport to consider these principles when making their decision on their proposals for an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. The Council's commitment to improved Air Quality is well known. Council also notes the deficiencies in the democratic process of making this decision. We request that the Leader of the Council writes to the relevant ministers and Oxford's MPs informing them of these views.

Motion as amended would then read (new words in italics)

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c. Stop Roll out of Universal Credit, Fix its Impact on Vulnerable People (proposed by Councillor Tidball)

Labour member motion

Last month, the National Audit Office report “Rolling out Universal Credit” highlighted a number of urgent problems about the way Universal Credit works in practice and acknowledges that the Department for Work and Pensions has actually dismissed evidence of difficulties and hardship on claimants 'instead of working with these bodies to establish an evidence base for what is actually happening'. Indeed the National Audit Office (NAO) doubts 'it will ever be possible to measure whether the economic goal of increasing employment has been achieved'. This, the extended timescales, and the cost of running Universal Credit compared to the benefits it replaces has caused the NAO to conclude that ‘the project is not value for money now, and that its future value for money is unproven’.

On 18 May 2018, the Council and Oxford & District Action on Child Poverty, held a conference with local stakeholders to share experiences and learning from supporting Oxford residents on receiving Universal Credit. The meeting included advice organisations, housing associations and specialist support providers from the third sector. This reflected the findings of the NAO and showed the desperate impact Universal Credit is having on vulnerable individuals in our City. It also reflected the Council’s own experience in supporting the DWP to deliver Universal Credit. The following are just some of the dire problems with the operation of and hardship caused by Universal Credit:

- some young people in education have had difficulty in claiming Universal Credit, despite being eligible, particularly those in care and with specialist educational needs and disabilities (SEND);
- the inability to claim Universal Credit when in hospital is delaying discharges for many vulnerable groups, including those with mental health problems;
- prisoners are unable to access computers, so cannot learn how to apply for Universal Credit before they are released. Some types of offender may be barred from accessing digital services even when they are not in custody;
- it is difficult for people with disabilities to arrange home visits when they need them in order to be able to make a claim;
- there is insufficient support for claimants with mental health needs;
- those without ICT and literacy skills need a lot more support than DWP say they do;

The explicit consent rule means that it takes advice organisation four times longer to deal with an issue compared to legacy benefits. Oxford City Council is also experiencing significant additional workloads as a result of Universal Credit. Oxford City Council currently has six full time members of staff dealing with these Universal Credit notifications provided by DWP, but the funding provided by DWP for this work doesn’t even cover the costs of one member of staff.

Oxford City Council calls on the government to stop the roll out of universal credit and urgently work to fix its impact on vulnerable people by ensuring the DWP:

- 1) Immediately reviews the way support is provided for the vulnerable groups highlighted above;
- 2) Pauses the migration of these customer types while that review is conducted;
- 3) Urgently reduces the burden of work for local authorities created by the provision of unnecessary notices;
- 4) Provide funding to local authority software suppliers to automate the administration of the Universal Credit notices;
- 5) Reviewing the funding arrangements for the work that local authorities are required to do, to support the delivery of Universal Credit. Including, increasing funding for staffing for local authorities supporting migration to UC to a level sufficient to enable local authorities to deliver the effective support for residents migrating to Universal Credit that is needed.

and asks that the Leader makes representations to that effect.

d. Homelessness (proposed by Councillor Gant, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Original text

Council notes:

- The fantastic work local charities such as Oxfordshire Homeless, Aspire and others do, as well as national charities like Crisis which operate heavily in Oxford, and community/church groups who provide SWEP accommodation.
- Oxford Brookes University and Crisis' joint partnership, designing stable, long-term temporary accommodation for homeless people that could be practically used in Oxford.
- The extra funding made available to Oxford through the Government's Trailblazer initiative
- 61 people are sleeping rough in Oxford, a figure that is thought to be just the lowest estimate, with real numbers likely to be closer to three figures. This is an 85% increase from 2016-17, compared to a 15% rise nationally and 24% rise in the South East of England.
- Crisis estimates the current average number of rough sleepers in the UK at 9,000. If best practice in rehabilitating rough sleepers was adopted by Oxford City, including flexible options for accommodation and support, we could make a real difference.

Council believes:

- Those who are sleeping rough should be identified as quickly as possible, so as to be helped until they are no longer homeless.
- Emergency accommodation can never be the long-term answer.

- Stable, long-term homeless accommodation is necessary if we're to fix Oxford's homeless issues.
- More can be done to tackle Oxford's homelessness crisis on a local level, despite setbacks relating to national government funding cuts.
- The absence of stable, long-term accommodation can have hugely adverse impacts on both mental and physical health, pushing many people toward substance addiction and crime.
- Tackling homelessness is best done by preventing it from happening in the first place.

Council resolves:

- To continue to explore flexible options to accommodate and/or support homeless rough sleepers, including those who have no local connection with city or anywhere else and no recourse to public funds.
- To work with Oxfordshire-based charities and other relevant local stakeholders to provide tens of stable homeless accommodation units, offering a long-term but temporary home to those who are struggling with homelessness.
- To actively consider providing City Council owned land to fulfil this long-term homeless accommodation, particularly looking at land designated for car parks or earmarked for further employment growth.
- Look into innovative methods of building the accommodation, where possible maximising the use of land.
- Ensure there is a clear link between stable housing for homeless people and relevant support services, so they can have access to long-term, high quality support for as long as they need.
- Where possible, use the existing local charities and social enterprises to provide relevant services.
- To work with local charities to ensure mental and physical health and substance misuse support, pre-tenancy training and employment assistance is accessible to all those who fall into homelessness.
- To explore further options that will prevent homelessness in the first place, including expanding help-to-rent schemes and making them more accessible.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Linda Smith

Delete text struck through and insert text in *italics*.

Council notes:

- ~~The fantastic work local charities such as Oxfordshire Homeless, Aspire and others do, as well as national charities like Crisis which operate heavily in Oxford, and community/church groups who provide SWEP accommodation.~~

- ~~Oxford Brookes University and Crisis' joint partnership, designing stable, long-term temporary accommodation for homeless people that could be practically used in Oxford.~~
- 61 people are sleeping rough in Oxford, a figure that is thought to be just the lowest estimate, with real numbers likely to be closer to three figures. This is an 85% increase from 2016-17, compared to a 15% rise nationally and 24% rise in the South East of England.
- *The City Council punches above its weight when it comes to homelessness services, we work with Oxford's homeless charities to fund a wide range of support services and accommodation, this year our budget increased to £1.8million. we also committed £1.5million to keep Simon House hostel open in the face of closure and build a brand new facility for rough sleepers with complex needs in Cowley.*
- The extra £790k funding made available to Oxford through the Government's Trailblazer initiative *which is helping prevent homelessness through targeted outreach work provided by Connection and Aspire including housing advice workers embedded in local hospitals, and working with social services and probation service.*
- *The successful bid by the council to MHCLG for £503k to alleviate rough sleeping this winter which will be used to provide an additional 64 beds, expand the Street Population Outreach team and create a multi-agency service hub for rough sleepers in the city centre.*
- ~~Crisis estimates the current average number of rough sleepers in the UK at 9,000. If best practice in rehabilitating rough sleepers was adopted by Oxford City, including flexible options for accommodation and support, we could make a real difference.~~

Council believes:

- Those who are sleeping rough should be identified as quickly as possible, so as to be helped until they are no longer homeless. *The St Mungo's Outreach team funded by the council and set to expand do this crucial work well.*
- Emergency accommodation can never be the long-term answer, *which is why this council prioritises the building of genuinely affordable homes available for social rent.*
- Stable, long-term homeless accommodation is necessary if we're to fix Oxford's homeless issues. *That is why this council allocated £15million to buy homes for otherwise homeless Oxford families, and added a further £5million to the 'Real Lettings' fund in this year's budget.*
- More can be done to tackle Oxford's homelessness crisis on a local level, despite setbacks relating to national government funding cuts.
- The absence of stable, long-term accommodation can have hugely adverse impacts on both mental and physical health, pushing many people toward substance addiction and crime.
- Tackling homelessness is best done by preventing it from happening in the first place. *That is why this council operates the 'Home Choice' Rent Guarantee scheme. This tops up private sector rents above LHA rates and our pilot scheme*

now works with tenants to increase their household income. We also administer Discretionary Housing Payments. Alongside our partners the council prevented 1107 households becoming homeless in 2016/17.

Council resolves:

- To continue to explore flexible options to accommodate and/or support homeless rough sleepers, including those who have no local connection with city or anywhere else and no recourse to public funds. *We will do this in conjunction with our partners in the charitable, voluntary and social enterprise sectors, including through our work with the City Conversation Partnership which we resource.*
- *To continue our investment in the 'Real lettings' property fund, which purchases properties for use as temporary accommodation for local families who would otherwise be homeless, with support for tenants provided by St Mungos. This ensures there is a clear link between stable housing for homeless people and relevant support services, so they can have access to long-term, high quality support for as long as they need.*
- *Where possible, use the existing local charities and social enterprises to provide relevant services.*
- *To work with local charities to ensure mental and physical health and substance misuse support, pre-tenancy training and employment assistance is accessible to all those who fall into homelessness.*
- ~~To work with Oxfordshire-based charities and other relevant local stakeholders to provide tens of stable homeless accommodation units, offering a long-term but temporary home to those who are struggling with homelessness.~~
- ~~To actively consider providing City Council owned land to fulfil this long-term homeless accommodation, particularly looking at land designated for car parks or earmarked for further employment growth.~~
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- To explore further options that will prevent homelessness in the first place, including expanding help-to-rent schemes and making them more accessible *building on our Home Choice scheme which makes the private sector more accessible for many Oxford residents.*

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- *Where possible, use the existing local charities and social enterprises to provide relevant services.*
- *To work with local charities to ensure mental and physical health and substance misuse support, pre-tenancy training and employment assistance is accessible to all those who fall into homelessness.*
- *To explore further options that will prevent homelessness in the first place, building on our Home Choice scheme which makes the private sector more accessible for many Oxford residents.*

e. Supporting a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)

Green member motion

Original text

This Council notes that:

- More than 70% of Oxford residents voted to remain in the EU
- There are a large number of non-UK EU nationals living in Oxford who remained concerned at the impact of Brexit
- Full Council has passed several motions supporting the various benefits of EU membership
- A report commissioned by Scrutiny's Finance Panel shows a range of negative impacts that a 'bad' Brexit deal could have on Oxford's economy and the City Council's finances
- The recent warning by BMW (who are already building Minis in the Netherlands) that its manufacturing set-up would not be able to cope were Brexit to disrupt cross-border trade; concerns echoed by many other businesses
- Many residents and politicians from the City attended the march in London on 23 June 2018, the second anniversary of the EU referendum, in support of a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal.

This Council also notes that the recent 'Chequers Statement', issued on 6th July 2018 (and the closest indication yet of what a final deal might look like), has managed to alienate both Remainers and Brexiteers alike.

This Council therefore:

- 1) Wishes to formally add its voice to those calling for a public 'People's Vote' on the final Brexit deal
- 2) Agrees to liaise with the official 'People's Vote' campaign on ways in which it can help promote its petition

- 3) Agrees to write to its MPs expressing its views and asking them to support a People's Vote

and asks the Leader to make representations and write to this effect.

f. Extending twinning links (proposed by Councillor Tanner, seconded by Councillor Rush)

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council reaffirms its commitment to do all it can to ensure that Oxford remains an international and European city open to all.

Whatever the results of Britain's negotiations with the rest of the European Union we are determined to strengthen and deepen Oxford's links with other cities inside and outside Europe.

To this end we call on the City Executive Board to:

- a) continue support for Oxford's existing twinning links with Leiden (Netherlands), Bonn (Germany), Grenoble (France), Perm (Russia) and Leon (Nicaragua);
- b) continue to support the Oxford European Association and promote the interests of non-British European citizens living in Oxford;
- c) initiate new twinning links with both Wroclaw (Poland) and Padua (Italy);
- d) initiate a twinning link based on the long-standing friendship between Oxford and Ramallah (Palestine).