

**To: Council**  
**Date: 1 October 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 19 September 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 Green group, Labour group, Liberal Democrat group, an independent member in that order.**

- a. Freedom of the City for Benny Wenda (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Howlett) -motion for debate is that amended by proposer
- b. Opposition to Investment in Fracking (proposed by Councillor Tanner)
- c. Improve Legal Aid (proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Roz Smith)
- d. Call for resignation (proposed by Councillor Haines)
- e. Brexit and the Sustainable Communities Act (proposed by Councillor Simmons) -motion for debate includes amendments by proposer
- f. Oxford Weighting (proposed by Councillor Bely-Summers)
- g. Building a statutory youth service (proposed by Councillor Simm) -motion for debate includes amendments by proposer

#### **a. Freedom of the City for Benny Wenda (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Howlett)**

Green member motion

Original text

*Council resolves:*

*That the Honorary Freedom of the City be conferred on Benny Wenda at a special meeting to be held at a later date, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.*

Text amended by the proposer to clarify that it is the special meeting, not this meeting, which makes the decision.

New substantive motion for debate:

**Council resolves:**

**To request the Chief Executive in consultation with the Lord Mayor to convene a special meeting of Council at a later date to consider conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Benny Wenda, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.**

#### **b. Opposition to Investment in Fracking (proposed by Councillor Tanner)**

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council reaffirms its opposition to investment in fossil fuels. We deeply regret the investment by the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund in companies which are promoting and engaging in fracking in the United Kingdom and overseas.

Campaigners calculate that out of a total pension fund of £2 billion (£2,174,177,881), £84 million (£83,645,909) or 3.85% is invested in companies which practice fracking. The pension fund has indirect fracking investments in Shell of £24,560,465 and direct investments in BHP Billiton — £4,936,494, EOG Resources — £3,908,397, Marathon Oil — £2,819,711 and Pioneer Natural Resources — £2,650,534.

Oxford City Council is part of the Oxfordshire Council pension fund through which it provides pensions for our staff.

Oxford City Council believes that:

- Investment in fracking is damaging to the environment
- Investment in fracking is not a sound investment for the future
- Fracking goes against the City Council's commitment to help combat climate change.

**Oxford City Council resolves to call on the Oxfordshire County Council pension fund to disinvest in fracking in particular and fossil fuels in general and to invest instead in renewable energy, and asks the Chief Executive to inform the pension fund managers of this resolution.**

### **c. Improve Legal Aid (proposed by Councillor Harris, seconded by Councillor Roz Smith)**

#### Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that:

1. Legal Aid was created as part of the post-war welfare state of which Liberals such as Keynes and Beveridge were key architects;
2. Legal Aid, providing legal advice and legal representation, is a vital ingredient of a democratic society without which access to justice would depend on wealth;
3. Legal Aid, already grossly under-funded, is being subjected by the Government to unprecedented further cuts, which will result in a £600 million reduction by 2019/2020, a 40% real terms cut since 1997;
4. As a result many of the poor and vulnerable are being denied access to justice; and
5. The faith of the public in the legal system is being undermined by under-staffing and chaos in our courts.

Council therefore calls on the Government to:

1. Recognize the concerns of the legal profession at all levels about this issue;
2. Consider how the reduction in legal aid provision is affecting the Government's ability to comply with its international human rights obligations, and to ensure that effective remedies are provided under British legislation.
3. Undertake an urgent independent review of the cumulative effect of legal aid reductions on the provision of access to legal advice and assistance, taking evidence from professionals, from agencies which assist litigants such as Citizens Advice Bureaux and Law Centres, and from people who are themselves affected by the lack of legal aid support, to include recommendations to ensure adequate legal aid provision;
4. Abandon the cuts planned for 2019/2020.

**Council accordingly resolves to ask the Leader of the Council:**

1. **to ask the Oxford MPs Layla Moran and Anneliese Dodds to write to the Prime Minister to communicate the resolution of the Council as expressed above;**
2. **to ask Oxfordshire County Council to join us in this request to the Prime Minister.**

### **d. Call for resignation (proposed by Councillor Haines)**

#### Independent Member motion

Council calls for Councillor Ben Lloyd-Shogbesan to resign and step down immediately as an Oxford City Councillor following his reposting of articles on Facebook, especially the claim that Cancer is not a disease but a business.

#### e. Brexit and the Sustainable Communities Act (proposed by Councillor Simmons)

##### Green member motion

This Council notes the recent use of Section 5A(b) of the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 by Plymouth City Council to demand that the Government releases “all government departmental information and analysis pertaining to the impacts upon Plymouth’s communities and businesses of the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union, including any information deemed by the government to be confidential”. Like Oxford, where a report commissioned by Finance Panel has identified the risks to our City posed by Brexit, Plymouth City Council had also identified a number of risks to the economic and social wellbeing of its communities as a result of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

**Council agrees to similarly invoke the Sustainable Communities Act by writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, so that it can obtain the accurate and up-to-date information it needs to best engage with businesses, institutions and communities and inform its own actions with respect to protecting Oxford, the Council and Council services from the effects of the Government’s approach to Brexit.**

Amendment by the proposer to replace last paragraph with

**Council agrees to similarly invoke the Sustainable Communities Act by *and asks the Leader of the Council to write on its behalf* writing to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, so that it *this Council* can obtain the accurate and up-to-date information it needs to best engage with businesses, institutions and communities and inform its own actions with respect to protecting Oxford, the Council and Council services from the effects of the Government’s approach to Brexit.**

#### **Background Information**

*Letter from Plymouth City Council to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and*

*Local Government*

<http://democracy.plymouth.gov.uk/documents/s90646/2018%2008%2028%20Correspondence%20re%20Sustainable%20Communities%20Act%202007%202.pdf>

## **f. Oxford Weighting (proposed by Councillor Bely-Summers)**

### Labour member motion

Oxford is the most expensive city to live in the UK. A band 2 porter working for the NHS Hospital trusts and renting a single bedroom flat in Oxford can expect to pay 85% of their wages on rent.

For staff in higher bands the situation is little better. As a result the NHS in Oxfordshire has twice the national vacancy rate. Patient care is undermined; vital cancer operations are being delayed. Staff are having to work extra shifts due to high living costs and high number of vacancies.

With a much higher proportion of BAME staff among the lower bandings these issues are disproportionately affecting them.

Local MPs support the Oxford Weighting for NHS staff to help address the recruitment and retention crisis. NHS employers would like to see additional funds to help them recruit the workforce needed to provide care for the local population.

### **Oxford City Council resolves**

- 1. to Campaign publicly for Oxford Weighting for NHS staff and against in work poverty with officer resources allowing data collection around this vital issue to contribute to the development of a comprehensive workforce strategy and tackle inequalities;**
- 2. to use its influence via Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board to call for higher wages for all;**
- 3. to give a clear message to our NHS partners that the health of our Oxford residents is vitally important at a time when health inequalities are increasing especially in the most deprived areas of Oxford.**

## **g. Building a statutory youth service (proposed by Councillor Simm)**

### Labour member motion

Oxford City Council notes:

- That excellent work being carried out, on a limited budget, by the City Council's Youth Ambition service in Oxford, especially in areas of high deprivation.
- That the Conservative Government has failed young people by overseeing unprecedented and cruel cuts to youth services across Oxford City. Overall spending on youth services in England has fallen by £737m (62%) since 2010.
- Youth work as a profession has been eroded and undermined through funding cuts and market reforms. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of JNC programmes, the number of providers employing JNC qualified workers and the number of students enrolling in undergraduate programmes.
- Between 2012 and 2016, 600 youth centres closed down and 3,500 youth workers lost their jobs.
- Cuts to youth services have devastated the lives of young people by damaging community cohesion, making it harder to stay in formal education, and having a negative impact on their health and wellbeing.

- 83% of youth workers say the cuts have had an effect on crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Youth work is a distinct educational process offering young people safe spaces to explore their identity, experience decision-making, increase their confidence, develop inter-personal skills and think through the consequences of their actions. This leads to better informed choices, changes in activity and improved outcomes for young people.

Oxford City Council believes:

- Youth services should be made statutory, recognising the important role universal youth work plays in supporting young people to realise their potential.
- Oxfordshire County Council should set up a local youth services partnership with young people, parents, professionals and councillors, to ensure that provision is tailored to the needs of each community.
- It should be the responsibility of the Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services in each local authority across the country.
- There should be a mandated national body with dedicated ring fenced funding to oversee youth service provision across England.

**Oxford City Council resolves to ask Oxford’s MPs to support and campaign for statutory youth services.**

Amendment by the proposer to add words in red

**6<sup>th</sup> bullet point:** 83% of youth workers say the cuts have had **a detrimental** effect on crime and anti-social behaviour.

then

**Oxford City Council believes:**

**3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point:** It should be the responsibility of the **appropriate** Secretary of State to promote and secure youth services in each local authority **area** across the country.

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Oxford City Council resolves to ask **the Leader of the Council to write** to Oxford’s MPs **requesting that they** support and campaign for statutory youth services.