

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 29 April 2019  
**Title of Report:** Questions on Notice from members of Council and responses from the Board Members and Leader

## Introduction

1. Questions submitted by members of Council to the Board members and Leader of the Council, by the deadline in the Constitution are listed below in the order they will be taken at the meeting.
2. Responses will be included in the re-published version in the full Council Briefing Note.
3. Questioners can ask one supplementary question of the councillor answering the original question.
4. This report will be republished after the Council meeting to include supplementary questions and responses as part of the minutes pack.
5. Unfamiliar terms may be briefly explained in footnotes.

## Questions and responses

The Constitution states that questions must be directed to the Lord Mayor, a City Executive Board member or a committee chair. A City Executive Board member can nominate another City Executive Board member to reply.

### Board member for Culture and City Centre

#### 1. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Clarkson – Covered Market

Question	Written Response
Is the City Council considering offering a reduction in rents to Covered Market traders, to reflect the inevitable disruption to their takings as a result of the major building works undertaken by Jesus College in Market Street?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**2. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Clarkson – Covered Market visibility**

Question	Written Response
<p>The extension to the Covered Market into Market Street was successfully piloted over four years ago.</p> <p>Can the Board Member advise how this can be taken forward, even in a reduced form, to minimise the loss of visibility currently being suffered by the Covered Market?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**3. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Clarkson – reinvigorate the City Centre**

Question	Written Response
<p>Following a recent survey which showed that there are now 68 vacant units in the City Centre, a substantial increase on last year, and that footfall is down in Cornmarket since the opening of the Westgate,</p> <p>Will the portfolio holder acknowledge the impact that the tripling of the retail area in the expanded Westgate has had on existing traders and set out a plan of action to reinvigorate our City Centre?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**4. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Clarkson – Fees for events in parks**

Question	Written Response
<p>It is recognised that local charities do much to provide some wonderful events for Oxford residents in local parks and open spaces.</p>	

<p>These events can take a huge amount of volunteer time and effort to put on, whilst keeping costs to a minimum.</p> <p>Could the board member explain the reasoning behind the additional fees for 'set-up and set-down', and the vehicle fees?</p>	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**5. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Clarkson – May morning arrangements**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
<p>Could the leader outline the crowd management arrangements for May morning?</p> <p>How will cyclist know not to take their bikes across Magdalen Bridge (as they risk not being able to make it back over).</p>	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

## Board member for Customer Focused Services

### 6. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Chapman – Oxford Direct Services S42

Question	Written Response
Is the Board member satisfied with current arrangements for Oxford Direct Services to do work for Oxfordshire Council?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 7. From Councillor Harris to Councillor Chapman – Oxford Direct Services contract

Question	Written Response
Can the Board member explain why Oxford Direct Services were unable to act as contractor for re-surfacing of the Oxford Canal between Aristotle Lane and Elizabeth Jennings Way after being initially identified as suitable?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 8. From Councillor Goddard to Councillor Chapman – emissions from City Council vehicles

Question	Written Response
What provision does the City have for monitoring and limiting polluting emissions from its own fleet of vehicles, and what plans exist for further limiting such emissions as vehicles in the fleet are replaced?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**9. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Turner – Social value weighting**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Now that CEB has agreed to the recommendation from Scrutiny to include a consideration of social value (currently weighted at 5%) in its procurement decisions, how will this be tracked?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**10. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Turner – social housing receipts from the Westgate**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
What is the current situation regarding the social housing receipts from the Westgate flats?  What money has been received and is more expected?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**11. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Turner – social housing receipts from the Westgate 2**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
A s.106 agreement was reached with the Westgate developer, which required the developer to pay the City Council 15% of the sale value of the 59 market-value flats as an off-site contribution to	

affordable housing. The value of the contribution was estimated in 2014 at £3m. Can the Board Member advise the actual s.106 figure received by the City?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

## 12. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Turner – commercial occupancy rates

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Can the Board Member indicate what proportion of units within the city's commercial portfolio is occupied – for both units within the city and district centres?  Can the Board Member provide figures for general commercial occupancy within the city boundaries?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

## 13. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Turner – Project management team

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Could the Board member inform the council how many of the five new project management posts have been filled?	.
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

## Board member for Healthy Oxford

### 14. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Upton – dockless bike companies

Question	Written Response
<p>Ofo and Pony bikes have been withdrawn from London streets.</p> <p>Can the Board Member advise which dockless bike companies are still functioning in Oxford, and what steps are being taken to limit the number of bikes managed by each company?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 15. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Upton – bike hangars

Question	Written Response
<p>Bike hangars are being supplied for safe storage of bikes in Camden and other London boroughs.</p> <p>Can the Board Member advise whether the use of bike hangars will be trialled in Oxford, particularly in areas where there is no indoor provision for residents' bikes?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 16. From Councillor Landell Mills to Councillor Upton – new cycleways

Question	Written Response
<p>At the start of this financial year the city council stated that working with the county council they would support five new cycleway initiatives funded by the Growth Board, including re surfacing the canal towpath and a cycleway from Eynsham.</p>	

Both initiatives have failed to progress this year.  Is there any good news the city council can report in creating any new cycleways over the last financial year?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**17. From Councillor Roz Smith to Councillor Upton – London Road cycle way**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Residents have raised the issue of the poor placement bus shelters within shared cycle and pedestrian off road sections of the London Road.  Will the Board member consider using some of the £250k allocated for cycle schemes to see relocation of bus shelters thereby allowing more logical cycle movement past them?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**18. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Upton – cycle to work scheme**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Following the announcement made by GoCycle – at the eBike Summit in Oxford – that it will become the first organisation to pay its staff 40p per mile to cycle to work on conventional or electric bikes, will the portfolio holder consider what more can be done for the City’s own staff?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>



## 19. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Upton – Cancer screening services

Question	Written Response
<p>(this was addressed to Cllr Susanna Pressel)</p> <p>As the City's representative on the Oxfordshire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, could you please provide an update on the situation regarding the privatisation of cancer screening services at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust which I am sure will be of concern to many in this Council Chamber.</p> <p>My understanding is that plans for the Churchill Hospital have been revised but that the privatisation is still possible subject to review by Government?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

## Board member for Housing (Building better homes)

## 20. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Rowley – HRA borrowing cap

Question	Written Response
<p>Given that the HRA borrowing cap has now been lifted by Government, why are the Council not borrowing to build 100% social housing on sites it owns – such as the former Murco Petrol Station on Between Towns Road (where slightly less than half the homes – according to the report to East Area Planning on 2nd April 2019 - are going to be socially rented)?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

## 21. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Rowley – Affordable housing delivery

Question	Written Response
<p>Figures presented to the Oxfordshire Growth Board Scrutiny Committee on 21 March 2019, in response to a member request for data on affordable housing delivery, showed Oxford City Council in a very poor light.</p> <p>Of the 1,211 units of affordable housing units delivered in Oxfordshire in 2017/18 only 45 (less than 4%) were delivered in Oxford. The estimated figures to date for 2018/19 were only slightly better with Oxford seen to be providing just 87 out of 1,217 units (7% of the total). In 2017/18, Oxford fell short of its target for affordable housing delivery and is predicted to do so again in 2018/19.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder provide any commentary to explain this relatively poor performance?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

## 22. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Rowley– carbon neutral developments

Question	Written Response
<p>The motion (<i>to acknowledge a climate emergency at January's full council</i>) means that City Council's own planning applications should reflect and endorse this motion.</p> <p>Can I have reassurance for Cowley residents that the proposed development site on Between-Towns-Road (former Murco site), will be carbon neutral, or offset the carbon used in the build elsewhere in Oxford City?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

## Board member for Planning and Transport

### 23. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hollingsworth – Local Plan carbon neutrality

Question	Written Response
<p>The motion to acknowledge a climate emergency was unanimously backed at January's full council.</p> <p>In light of the motion can the portfolio holder reassure council that the current draft of the Oxford Local plan will facilitate the climate emergency declaration's aim of reducing or offsetting our carbon emissions</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 24. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hollingsworth – Local Plan zero carbon homes

Question	Written Response
<p>The draft Oxford Local Plan 2036 agreed by CEB only requires new homes to be zero carbon from April 2030. How is this consistent with the recent declaration of a climate emergency?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**25. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Hollingsworth – SHMA re-estimates and housing targets**

Question	Written Response
<p>I am aware that an independent expert report has concluded that Oxford’s figure of 1.356 dwellings per annum (dpa) to meet all affordable housing need is a substantial over-estimate and that the 2014 SHMA [Strategic Housing Market Assessment] requirement of 1400dpa was “an outlier which should be disregarded”.</p> <p>It also says that Oxford’s 2018 SHMA Update gives an objectively assessed housing need (OAN) for the city of 776dpa. I have also seen a final draft of the SHMA Update (provided under an FoI request) that originally stated that the OAN is 776dpa and includes a comment from a city planning officer that says that 776dpa is the OAN. However, the reference to OAN was omitted in the published document.</p> <p>In the light of this, could the Council confirm that the 2018 SHMA Update gives an objectively assessed need of 776dpa and explain why it is insisting on a housing target of 1,400 dwellings per annum?</p> <p>[reports referenced]</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**26. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Hollingsworth – numbers of new homes**

Question	Written Response
Can the Board Member confirm the number of new homes granted permission in the city up to 1 April (given that the target for the calendar year 2018 was 300, but only 151 had been given permission by December 2018)?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**27. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Hollingsworth – activity in the Green Belt**

Question	Written Response
<p>In 2014 Councillor Seamons, then Board Member for Housing and Estate Regeneration, said that Oxford would require less than 1% of the Oxford Green Belt to be given over to housing.</p> <p>Can the current Board Member advise what percentage of the Oxford Green Belt is now being given over for housing and other economic uses either by Oxford City, by other City landowners or by the surrounding districts?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**28. From Councillor Gotch to Councillor Hollingsworth – reduce city centre parking**

Question	Written Response
When is Oxford going to emulate Nottingham and reduce numbers of parking spaces in the city centre , and start charging for workplace parking spaces — the proceeds to go towards better public transport?	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**Board member for Safer, Greener Oxford**

**29. From Councillor Henwood to Councillor Hayes – speed awareness**

Question	Written Response
<p>On January 26th, I organised 3 speed watches in the Cowley area: on Beauchamp Lane, Bartholomew Road and Hollow Way. Of the 39 vehicles caught speeding, 3 were Oxford City licensed taxis.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder kindly write to our licensed taxi drivers informing them of the dangers of speeding in residential areas such as Cowley, and introduce a review and amend system for repeat offenders?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**30. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Environmental Sustainability Team**

Question	Written Response
<p>I can find no information on the City Council website about our Environmental Sustainability Team, but I think that there is probably some excellent work going on which members should know about so that we can celebrate and promote it.</p> <p>Would the portfolio holder please update us on the size of the team, the different responsibilities within it, and (so far as is possible) some of the more significant pieces of work currently being undertaken?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 31. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Sustainability Strategy

Question	Written Response
<p>I believe that a replacement Sustainability Strategy is under preparation with adoption by the Council anticipated in early 2019. The Strategy on the Council's website dates from 2011. When might Council be presented with a revised strategy that reflects the priorities of a climate emergency?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 32. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Electric vehicles and transport planning

Question	Written Response
<p>The recent series of City events on electric vehicles have been most informative.</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder indicate how the learnings from these events will impact on the formulation of the City's transport planning and, in particular, the ultra-low emission zone that the City is leading on?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 33. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Castle Mill stream boaters

Question	Written Response
<p>Will the Portfolio Holder join me in promoting their petition to allow those boaters who live on the stream (one has lived there for 19 years) to continue to do so unhindered assuming they do so peacefully and in negotiation with the land-owner</p> <p><a href="https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-castle-mill-stream">https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/save-castle-mill-stream</a></p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### 34. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Hayes – Castle Mill stream boaters 2

Question	Written Response
<p>Does the portfolio holder support the right of boaters at Castle Mill Stream to buy and provide managed moorings on this stream which, as I sure he knows, runs alongside the canal in Jericho?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

### Board member for Supporting Local Communities

No questions.



**Deputy Leader of the Council; Board member for Leisure and Tackling Homelessness and Improving the Private Rented Sector**

**35. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Linda Smith – Jericho Boatyard development\***

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Can the Board Member advise on the current state of the planning application 14/01441/FUL in respect of the Jericho Boatyard, which was approved in 2015? (permission issued April 2016)	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

\*taken by Deputy Leader as relates to the planning portfolio holder's DPIs

**36. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Linda Smith – Floyds Row**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Written Response</b>
Once open to clients, is Floyds Row going to eliminate the need for rough sleepers to turn up at a particular time and register every night for winter accommodation - the main criticism levelled at the current SWEP provision?	
<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>

**Leader of the Council, Board Member for Economic Development and Partnerships**

**37. From Councillor Simmons to Councillor Brown – open sourcing Council data**

Question	Written Response
<p>Is the Leader aware of the initiative by the Open Data Institute in Leeds which is working with local Councils to help them open source their data (with a strict privacy code) so that citizens and other third party's can build applications that generate insights from the data (one example being an app which identifies your nearest restaurant and provides its 'scores on the door' rating using data from Leeds City Council)?</p> <p>Will the portfolio holder consider the steps necessary to open source Oxford City Council's data?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**38. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – Citizens Assembly on the Climate Emergency**

Question	Written Response
<p>What is the situation regarding the planning of, and funding for, a Citizens Assembly on the Climate Emergency as agreed by Council on 28th January 2019?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**39. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – report from the Growth Board**

Question	Written Response
<p>The Growth Board agreed that each voting member, as leader of the respective councils, would be responsible for reporting back in detail and on a regular basis on the decisions and activities of the growth board to his/her council, thus ensuring the required level of accountability and openness.</p> <p>The mechanism for doing this was delegated by the Board to each leader.</p> <p>Could the Leader describe the detailed process adopted for fulfilling this commitment at Oxford City Council, and brief council on decisions taken by the Board since the last meeting of this council?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

**40. From Councillor Wolff to Councillor Brown – OxCam expressway**

Question	Written Response
<p>What action is the City Council taking to influence other councils and the National Infrastructure Commission to stop the development of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

#### 41. From Councillor Wade to Councillor Brown – assisting local traders

Question	Written Response
<p>Oxford City Council frequently expresses its desire to assist local retailers and small businesses. It is good news that the Gloucester Green market is increasing its trading days.</p> <p>What plans does the Board Member have to promote traders in the city, some of whom have the additional concern of the ZEZ to contend with?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

#### 42. From Councillor Gant to Councillor Brown – position on People's vote

Question	Written Response
<p>Has the Leader replied to the letter from Layla Moran MP of December 2018 asking her to clarify her personal position on the desirability of a People's Vote on remaining in the EU?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

#### 43. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Brown – Election participation

Question	Written Response
<p>How prepared is this council to ensure that the forthcoming Euro elections are the most successful ever in terms of participation?</p>	
Supplementary Question	Verbal Response

#### 44. From Councillor Garden to Councillor Brown – Election participation by EU nationals

Question	Written Response
<p>Voting is a fundamental part of a well-functioning democracy and it is therefore in the interest of local councils to encourage high voter turnout through engagement and informative communications. Voter apathy is not a new problem for the UK or local councils. For example, during the 2014 European elections, eligible (EU) citizens' voting fell in the UK to 327,833 from the previous level of 1,043,629 in 2009 because they did not fully understand the voting process.</p> <p>Despite assurances by the Electoral Commission to simplify the procedure for registering to vote in the European elections in the UK (2019) there is a risk that many will again be turned away at polling stations, as they were then, unless properly informed.</p> <p>This council recognises the good work done by our officers and acknowledges the communications already made available to the public. However, the details of the two-stage process for European citizens registering to vote in the European elections, 23 May, is not fully explained on our council website at present.</p> <p><b>Can this council give assurances that all communication to residents eligible to vote will contain clear instructions of the process, along with the necessary deadlines, to ensure that those who would like to vote can do so?</b></p> <p>References:</p> <p><a href="https://newEuropeans.net/article/2697/vote-denied-2019-why-hundreds-thousands-eu27-citizens-uk-may-not-be-allowed-vote">https://newEuropeans.net/article/2697/vote-denied-2019-why-hundreds-thousands-eu27-citizens-uk-may-not-be-allowed-vote</a></p> <p><a href="https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpolcon/232/23207.htm#a2">https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201415/cmselect/cmpolcon/232/23207.htm#a2</a></p>	

<b>Supplementary Question</b>	<b>Verbal Response</b>