

To: Council
Date: 29 April 2019
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 15 April 2019 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 may be explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

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

There is a 500 word limit for motions and amended motions

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a) Acting on the Climate Emergency (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

On 28th January 2019, the Council passed an amended motion declaring a Climate Emergency.

Since then, the County Council has followed suit, as have many Councils nationwide, as part of the national movement – led by Extinction Rebellion, YouthStrike4Climate and others - to prioritise action on tackling the climate crisis.

The majority of Councils, including Oxfordshire, have gone further than Oxford City Council by pledging to make their own operations, and their wider administrative area, carbon neutral by a specified date and putting in place a process to report back on progress.

This Council therefore wishes to align with the target set by Oxfordshire County Council, building on its previous unanimous declaration, and:

1. Pledge to make Oxford City Council carbon neutral by 2030
2. Continue to work with partners across the city to deliver this new goal across all sectors
3. Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target achievable
4. Ensure, as far as possible, that this target is reflected in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and associated plans and strategies including Oxford's own Local Plan
5. Do what it can to support those groups and organisations – such as YouthStrike4Climate – who are seeking to galvanise public action around climate change
6. Report to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.
7. Asks Scrutiny to consider setting up a review group to help develop, scrutinise and support plans to deliver against this 2030 target.

1. Amendment proposed by Councillor Harris:

After 'This Council therefore wishes to align with the target set by Oxfordshire County Council, building on its previous unanimous declaration, and:

1. Pledge to make Oxford City Council carbon neutral by 2030'
add the words
in particular by applying stricter energy efficiency standards to new houses, converting its own vehicle fleet to electric, and banning the most polluting coaches and heavy goods vehicles from the city without further delay.
-

2. Amendment proposed by Councillor Hayes, seconded by Councillor Brown:

To change the wording of the motion to include the words **in bold** and delete the words *struck through*:

On 28th January 2019, the Council **unanimously** passed an amended motion declaring a Climate Emergency.

Since then, the County Council has followed **suit to unanimously acknowledge the climate emergency facing the world** *as have many Council's nationwide, as part of the national movement—led by Extinction Rebellion, YouthStrike4Climate and others—to prioritise action on tackling the climate crisis*

The majority of Councils, including Oxfordshire, **have pledged to make their own operations** *have gone further than Oxford City Council by pledging to make their own operations, and their wider administrative area,* carbon neutral by a specified date and put in place a process to report back on progress.

This Council therefore wishes to align with the target set by Oxfordshire County Council, building on its previous unanimous declaration, and:

This Council has gone further, by committing to involve a Citizens Assembly to make recommendations on the key decisions around both target deadlines to reach zero carbon and the types of costed measures required to meet those targets. We await the evidence-based recommendations of the Citizens Assembly in September 2019 in order to make decisions and set deadlines that reflect the support of a representation of the city.

Therefore, we will:

1. ~~*Pledge to make Oxford City Council carbon neutral by 2030*~~
2. Continue to work with partners across the city to deliver this new goal across all sectors **and make further reductions in carbon emissions as the City Council is responsible for just 1% of Oxford's carbon emissions.**
3. **Continue to call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to fully decarbonise Oxford City Council in the shortest timeframe working towards the vision of zero carbon by 2030 at the latest.**
~~*Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2030 target achievable*~~
4. Ensure, as far as possible, that ~~*this target is*~~ **any new targets are** reflected in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and associated plans and strategies ~~*including Oxford's own Local Plan*~~
5. ~~*Do what it can to support those groups and organisations—such as YouthStrike4Climate—who are seeking to galvanise public action around climate change*~~
6. ~~*Report to Council within six months with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*~~
7. ~~*Asks Scrutiny to consider setting up a review group to help develop, scrutinise and support plans to deliver against this 2030 target.*~~

5. **Report to Council within two months of the finalisation of the Citizens Assembly report with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.**
 6. **After the Citizens Assembly has reported, encourage Scrutiny, as master of its own house, to consider setting up a review group to scrutinise and support plans to deliver against targets.**
 7. **Respect the process agreed to unanimously by all councillors on 28 January 2019 to approve a Citizens Assembly to 'establish the facts and make recommendations' for dealing with climate change and discourage the submission of further motions to Full Council which may pre-empt the findings of the Citizens Assembly.**
-

So the motion as amended by Councillor Hayes would read:

On 28th January 2019, the Council unanimously passed an amended motion declaring a Climate Emergency. Since then, the County Council has followed suit to unanimously acknowledge the climate emergency facing the world.

The majority of Councils, including Oxfordshire, have pledged to make their own operations carbon neutral by a specified date and put in place a process to report back on progress.

This Council has gone further, by committing to involve a Citizens Assembly to make recommendations on the key decisions around both target deadlines to reach zero carbon and the types of costed measures required to meet those targets. We await the evidence-based recommendations of the Citizens Assembly in September 2019 in order to make decisions and set deadlines that reflect the support of a representation of the city.

Therefore, we will:

1. *Continue to call on the Government to provide the powers and resources to fully decarbonise Oxford City Council in the shortest timeframe.*
2. *Continue to work with partners across the city to deliver this new goal across all sectors and make further reductions in carbon emissions as the City Council is responsible for just 1% of Oxford's carbon emissions.*
3. *Ensure, as far as possible, that any new targets are reflected in the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and associated plans and strategies.*
4. *Report to Council within two months of the finalisation of the Citizens Assembly report with the actions the Council will take to address this emergency.*
5. *After the Citizens Assembly has reported, encourage Scrutiny, as master of its own house, to consider setting up a review group to scrutinise and support plans to deliver against targets.*
6. *Respect the process agreed to unanimously by all councillors on 28 January 2019 to approve a Citizens Assembly to 'establish the facts and make recommendations' for dealing with climate change and discourage the submission of further motions to Full Council which may pre-empt the findings of the Citizens Assembly.*

b) Council tax exemption for Care Leavers under 25 years old (proposed by Councillor Azad)

Labour member motion

In Oxford we have a proud record of support for people who are struggling financially. Children in local authority care are particularly vulnerable as they move into independent accommodation and begin to manage their own budget fully for the first time. It can be extremely challenging. With no family to support them and insufficient financial education, some will fall into debt and financial difficulty.

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 places corporate parenting responsibilities on district councils for the first time, requiring them to have regards to children in care and care leavers when carrying out their functions.

This provides us with a fantastic opportunity to work together with Oxfordshire County Council and surrounding district colleagues for the benefit of approximately 800 young care leavers who are 16-25 years old across Oxfordshire.

The city council already has a good model of council tax reduction which supports many vulnerable people. All care leavers in financial need are covered by our existing policies. Oxford City Council also has policies of financial and social inclusion in many other areas such as access to our leisure services, advice support and access to housing services that are good models of financial and social inclusion that benefit care leavers among others.

Council notes that many councils chose to end their council tax reduction schemes when the government ceased to provide financial support for these schemes centrally but that in Oxford we chose to retain our scheme to support households who were struggling financially, particularly in light of the government's austerity programme.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council

- to engage with the County Council to see how we can do more to ensure that care leavers, some of our most vulnerable citizens have the best possible start when they set up their own homes.
- to work with other District Councils to share our expertise in implementing council tax reduction schemes, with a view to looking at broader general agreement on social and financial inclusion policies across the districts as soon as possible.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Henwood:

Motion unchanged except to add to first bullet point **the words in bold:**

Council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council

- to engage with the County Council to see how we can do more to ensure that care leavers **and young people who are registered carers**, some of our most vulnerable citizens have the best possible start when they set up their own homes.
- to work with other District Councils to share our expertise in implementing council tax reduction schemes, with a view to looking at broader general agreement on social and financial inclusion policies across the districts as soon as possible.

c) Homelessness - Six months to plan for Winter 2019/20 (proposed by Councillor Wade)

Liberal Democrat member motion

In November 2018, 119 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in this County, nearly 80% of them in Oxford city.

I understand Oxford is now providing 215 Beds (41 of them funded by £1m from the MHLCG Rough Sleepers' Initiative which only runs to 2019/20)

Walking through the city centre at night it seems to me we are in the grip of the homelessness epidemic. This is a problem affecting the entire country.

This Council gratefully recognises the valuable work done by our officers, in partnership with charities and volunteers, but much more remains to be done across the spectrum of our Oxford residents suffering homelessness - who range from individuals impacted by high and insecure rentals to rough sleepers who have normalised living on the street.

Progress over the next six months would require the Council to:

1. make a formal pledge that no one should have to sleep rough in Oxfordshire;
2. if SWEP provision continues, activate Severe Weather Protocol after 1 night predicted at 4 degrees Celsius (not after 3 nights predicted at zero degrees);
3. seek increased support from Oxfordshire County and District Councils;
4. look at increasing financial support to mental health services specifically geared to the needs of homeless people
5. urgently seek expert advice now made available by Department of Health and Social Care under the HRA 2018 to mental health and drug related services (dependent on budgetary constraints);
6. provide funding for existing and new social enterprises responding to homeless people who want to get back to life in the community (dependent on budgetary constraints);
7. urgently explore: (1) an extension of RSI funding, or other Government finance; (2) Big Society Capital (£135m); (3) Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding (£617m pledged).

Council therefore asks the City Executive Board to ensure that these areas of work are pursued urgently.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Linda Smith

To change the wording of the motion to include the words **in bold** and delete the words ~~struck through~~:

In November

~~I understand~~ Oxford is now providing 215 Beds (41 of them funded by £1m from the MHLCG Rough Sleepers' Initiative which only runs to 2019/20)

~~Walking through the city centre at night it seems to me~~ We are in the grip of the homelessness epidemic. This is a problem affecting the entire country.

.....
Progress over the next six months would require the Council to:

1. ~~make a formal pledge~~ **Make clear our ambition that** no one should have to sleep rough in Oxfordshire;
2. ~~if SWEP provision continues, activate Severe Weather Protocol after 1 night predicted at 4 degrees Celsius (not after 3 nights predicted at zero degrees);~~

Make preparations for next winter, including work on our new engagement and assessment centre and night shelter style accommodation at Floyds Row . This new continuous winter provision open to all will reduce demand for SWEP but we will also implement a new SWEP protocol which opens further emergency beds on each night forecast to drop below zero degrees.

[then the rest of the original motion]

So the motion as amended by Councillor Linda Smith would read:

In November 2018, 119 people were estimated to be sleeping rough in this County, nearly 80% of them in Oxford city.

Oxford is now providing 215 Beds (41 of them funded by £1m from the MHLCG Rough Sleepers' Initiative which only runs to 2019/20)

We are in the grip of the homelessness epidemic. This is a problem affecting the entire country.

This Council gratefully recognises the valuable work done by our officers, in partnership with charities and volunteers, but much more remains to be done across the spectrum of our Oxford residents suffering homelessness - who range from individuals impacted by high and insecure rentals to rough sleepers who have normalised living on the street.

Progress over the next six months would require the Council to:

1. *make clear our ambition that no one should have to sleep rough in Oxford..*
2. *make preparations for next winter, including work on our new engagement and assessment centre and night shelter style accommodation at Floyds Row . This new continuous winter provision open to all will reduce demand for SWEP but we will also implement a new SWEP protocol which opens further emergency beds on each night forecast to drop below zero degrees.*
3. *seek increased support from Oxfordshire County and District Councils;*
4. *look at increasing financial support to mental health services specifically geared to the needs of homeless people*

5. *urgently seek expert advice now made available by Department of Health and Social Care under the HRA 2018 to mental health and drug related services (dependent on budgetary constraints);*
6. *provide funding for existing and new social enterprises responding to homeless people who want to get back to life in the community (dependent on budgetary constraints);*
7. *urgently explore: (1) an extension of RSI funding, or other Government finance; (2) Big Society Capital (£135m); (3) Flexible Homelessness Support Grant funding (£617m pledged).*

Council therefore asks the City executive Board to ensure that these areas of work are pursued urgently

d) Supporting the EU election process (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Wolff)

Green member motion

Council notes that European Parliamentary elections have now been called for 23rd May.

Council believes that, though the circumstances are unusual, these elections form part of the democratic process and the Council should make every effort to ensure that participation rates are high and put in place the necessary resources to make this happen.

Council therefore asks the City Executive Board to work with officers to ensure that:

1. The elections are widely promoted within the City with clear media communications and information on the website;
2. Electors are encouraged to register before the 7th May cut-off;
3. The Council makes every effort to accommodate organisations wishing to hold last minute hustings in our buildings;
4. Any reasonable request by the Returning Officer for additional funding for the running of the elections is properly considered.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Rush, seconded by Councillor Djafari-Marbini

*to amend point 3 to add: **the words in bold***

3. The Council makes every effort to accommodate organisations wishing to hold last minute hustings in our buildings **excluding groups and parties that promote racism and hate speech**
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e) Nuclear disarmament (proposed by Councillor Tanner)

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council is a long-standing member of Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) which has been working for over three decades to promote multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Oxford City Council is particularly concerned about the huge cost to the taxpayer of nuclear weapons, the risk posed by other regular transport of nuclear weapons on Oxfordshire's roads and the continued threat of nuclear war.

NFLA has worked to promote the International treaty to prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Over two thirds (122) of United Nations members states have agreed the TPNW.

Council regrets that the governments of existing nuclear weapon states, including the United Kingdom, refuse to support the treaty.

Oxford City Council calls on the U.K. Government to lead a global effort prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the options of using nuclear weapons first;
- Cancelling the replacement of the trident nuclear weapons with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed countries to reduce, and then eliminate, their nuclear arsenals.

Oxford City Council asks the Chief Executive to write to the UK Government and Oxford's MPs to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take appropriate action.

f) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

Council :

1. notes the officer's report entitled *Carbon-Related Issues (Climate Change and Fuel Poverty)* which states that the Council is able to require all new homes to be zero carbon. It reads :

It is Oxford City Council's view that the recently revised NPPF supports the ability of individual Councils to . . . [set] local targets that are in excess of national requirements. In the Oxford context . . . it is essential that such stretching targets are set and are supported by local policy.

2. notes the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan commissioned by the Council where it reads :

For a truly neutral impact on climate change, the housing would need to be built to standards that exceed the current Building Regulations, and would need to generate a significant amount of renewable energy (Oxford Local Plan 2036 : Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment)

3. notes with approval that in Policy RE1 of the draft Local Plan, we are ahead of the field in seizing the opportunity granted by government to require that new homes are, as a minimum, to be built significantly above the government minimum standard, but
4. notes that we will not require them to be carbon neutral until 2030;
5. notes that zero carbon homes are possible, feasible and typically cost (according to one recent study (https://eciu.net/assets/ECIU_Zero_Carbon_Homes_-compressed.pdf) only 1-2% more to build, a cost which is paid back by lower energy bills within a few years;
6. notes that under policy RE1, houses built from the date of the Local Plan adoption will, without expensive retrofitting which subsequent governments may require, continue to be carbon emitters to the end of the century and beyond;
7. believes that the draft Local Plan to which we are now committed is inconsistent with the climate emergency declared by us on January 28th which recognised the need for early action.

Council therefore:

1. asks those members and officers that are representing the Council in the developing of the Oxfordshire Plan (and our own five-year plan review) to give the highest priority to a drive for the earliest possible adoption of zero carbon building standards;
2. asks those members and officers that are representing the Council in the Growth Board to adopt the same priority;
3. asks the City Executive Board, as sole shareholder in our Housing Company, to give the highest priority to the construction of zero carbon social housing from now onwards;
4. asks the City Executive Board, as sole shareholder in Oxford Direct Services, and recognising the national skill shortages in the building trades, to prioritise up-skilling of our workforce in zero carbon quality building and renewable energy systems.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Rowley

to delete ~~the words struck through~~ and add: **the words in bold**

Council :

1. notes 2. *energy*

3. notes with approval that in Policy RE1 of the draft Local Plan, we are ahead of the field in seizing the opportunity granted by government to require that new homes are, as a minimum, to be built significantly above the government minimum standard, **and that we will require them to be carbon neutral from 2030.**

4. notes that zero carbon homes are possible with current technology, but that up-front funding is needed to enable the saving on energy bills that will be delivered in the following years; thus the Committee on Climate Change, in its major report "Next Steps for UK Heat Policy", prioritises retrofitting of existing homes and concludes that zero carbon will require significant national policy changes. [2]

5. nevertheless, aspires to build zero carbon homes earlier than 2030 if possible

6. believes that making homes carbon efficient should be a high priority both for its environmental benefits and for the benefits to residents; and that the Council also has a duty to existing tenants to help make their homes as carbon efficient as possible.

7. believes that Oxford is suffering from a housing and homelessness crisis and so delivering as many genuinely affordable homes as possible should remain among our most urgent priorities as a Council.

8. believes that any changes affecting residents' homes should be worked through in co-operation with those residents.

4.....notes that we will not require them to be carbon neutral until 2030

5.....notes that zero carbon homes are possible, feasible and typically cost (according to one recent study¹) only 1-2% more to build, a cost which is paid back by lower energy bills within a few years.

6.....notes that under policy RE1, houses built from the date of the Local Plan adoption will, without expensive retrofitting which subsequent governments may require, continue to be carbon emitters to the end of the century and beyond

7.....believes that the draft Local Plan to which we are now committed is inconsistent with the climate emergency declared by us on January 28th which recognised the need for early action.

Council therefore:

1. calls on the Government urgently to make the policy changes recommended by the CCC in its abovementioned report, and to make available grant funding for Councils wishing to build new zero carbon homes as well as to improve the carbon efficiency of their existing stock.

2..... as original 1

3..... as original2

4. asks the City Executive Board, **as custodian of Council homes and** as sole shareholder in our Housing Company, ~~to give the highest priority to the construction of zero carbon social housing from now onwards~~ **to explore the possibility of zero carbon new build alongside retrofitting of existing homes;**

5. asks the City Executive Board, as sole shareholder in Oxford Direct Services, and recognising the national skill shortages in the building trades, to ~~prioritise upskilling of~~ **explore how we can up-skill** our workforce in zero carbon quality building and renewable energy systems

Motion as amended by Councillor Rowley would then read

Council :

1. *notes the officer's report entitled Carbon-Related Issues (Climate Change and Fuel Poverty) which states that the Council is able to require all new homes to be zero carbon. It reads :*

It is Oxford City Council's view that the recently revised NPPF supports the ability of individual Councils to . . . [set] local targets that are in excess of national requirements. In the Oxford context . . . it is essential that such stretching targets are set and are supported by local policy.

2. *notes the Sustainability Appraisal of the Local Plan commissioned by the Council where it reads^[1]*

For a truly neutral impact on climate change, the housing would need to be built to standards that exceed the current Building Regulations, and would need to generate a significant amount of renewable energy.

3. *notes with approval that in Policy RE1 of the draft Local Plan, we are ahead of the field in seizing the opportunity granted by government to require that new homes are, as a minimum, to be built significantly above the government minimum standard, and that we will require them to be carbon neutral from 2030.*

4. *notes that zero carbon homes are possible with current technology, but that up-front funding is needed to enable the saving on energy bills that will be delivered in the following years; thus the Committee on Climate Change, in its major report "Next Steps for UK Heat Policy", prioritises retrofitting of existing homes and concludes that zero carbon will require significant national policy changes^[2]*

5. *nevertheless, aspires to build zero carbon homes earlier than 2030 if possible*

6. *believes that making homes carbon efficient should be a high priority both for its environmental benefits and for the benefits to residents; and that the Council also has a duty to existing tenants to help make their homes as carbon efficient as possible.*

7. *believes that Oxford is suffering from a housing and homelessness crisis and so delivering as many genuinely affordable homes as possible should remain among our most urgent priorities as a Council.*
8. *believes that any changes affecting residents' homes should be worked through in co-operation with those residents.*

Council therefore:

1. *calls on the Government urgently to make the policy changes recommended by the CCC in its abovementioned report, and to make available grant funding for Councils wishing to build new zero carbon homes as well as to improve the carbon efficiency of their existing stock.*
2. *asks those members and officers representing the Council in the developing of the Oxfordshire Plan (and our own five-year plan review) to give high priority to a drive for the earliest possible adoption of zero carbon building standards;*
3. *asks those members and officers that are representing the Council in the Growth Board to adopt the same priority;*
4. *asks the City Executive Board, as custodian of Council homes and as sole shareholder in our Housing Company, to explore the possibility of zero carbon new build alongside retrofitting of existing homes;*
5. *asks the City Executive Board, as sole shareholder in Oxford Direct Services, and recognising the national skill shortages in the building trades, to explore how we can up-skill our workforce in zero carbon quality building and renewable energy systems.*

[1]<http://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=157&MId=4346&Ver=4#x_ftnref1> Oxford Local Plan 2036 : Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

[2] The Committee on Climate Change published its major report "Next steps for UK heat policy" (<https://www.theccc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Next-steps-for-UK-heat-policy-Committee-on-Climate-Change-October-2016.pdf>) in October 2016, with a focus on retrofitting as well as advice on new build. The report notes that "fiscal support is required to decarbonise buildings" but "funding remains extremely limited". The Government abandoned its zero carbon homes policy in 2015. The CCC's expert Advisory Group concludes that "whole-building retrofit and near-zero energy new build are far beyond the capability of the current supply chain", recommending a "systematic education and up-skilling of the workforce to create high quality, cost-competitive and professional building trades, including project managers, building services engineers, gas fitters, electricians, and

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