

To: Council
Date: 22 July 2019
Title of Report: Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rules

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 Rules by the deadline of 1.00pm on 10 July 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 are explained in the glossary or in footnotes.

Cross Party motions agreed by the three group leaders are taken first.

Motions are then taken in turn from the Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, groups, then from a non-group councillor in that order.

Motions:

- (a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations (proposed by Councillor Aziz, cross party)
- (b) A City of Sanctuary (proposed by Councillor Djafari-Marbini, cross party)
- (c) Making Oxford an Anti-racist City (proposed by Councillor Aziz)
- (d) Natural Capital Census (proposed by Councillor Goddard)
- (e) Car Free Day (proposed by Councillor Wolff)
- (f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action (proposed by Councillor Henwood)
- (g) Multilateral nuclear disarmament (proposed by Councillor Tanner)
- (h) Tourism Management (proposed by Councillor Wade)
- (i) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds (proposed by Councillor Wolff)

**(a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations
(proposed by Councillor Aziz, seconded by Councillors from Liberal Democrat
and Green Groups)**

Cross party motion

This council supports the calls of Oxford's Sudanese community to hold the Transitional Military Council to account over the killings and abuses of protestors.

Since the fall of Omar al Bashir on 11th April 2019, Sudan's transition to democratic, civilian authority rule has been violently quashed and met by human rights violations carried out by the military authorities comprising of the Transitional Military Council (TMC). Rights violations include using rape and sexual abuse as a political weapon, enforced disappearances and imprisonment of protestors, the use of live ammunition and torture against unarmed protestors and attacks on hospitals and health facilities to further target the injured.

Since December 2018 a mass peaceful protest uniting citizens across class and regional lines over the cost of living has developed into a representative protest movement calling for peaceful democratic change supported by Sudan's independent trade unions, professional associations and opposition political parties.

Doctors, teachers, lawyers, journalists, students and workers are among people who have taken strike action and joined the democracy movement. Many of these individuals are related to or are friends of Oxford residents of Sudanese heritage or Sudanese people who are residents of Oxford.

This council acknowledges the brave and principled work of Oxford's Sudanese community and wider diaspora to push for accountability over the many decades of human rights violations and crimes against the Sudanese people by the regime.

This council believes the people of Sudan have the right to protest and organise without fear of violence and abuse.

This council condemns the British government for being complicit in the violence through its cooperation with the Saudi campaign in Yemen (where Sudanese militias are deployed) and through funding Sudanese militias indirectly through EU border policy (the Khartoum process/Rome Declaration 2014).

This council acknowledges and thanks Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP for demanding the UK government applies pressure on the Sudanese authorities to end the killings and abuses and ensure there is a democratic transition of power.

In support of the local Sudanese community, this Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the relevant U.K. Government Ministers in the Home Office and Foreign Office, and to the city's MPs, asking

- 1. that the UK government to condemn the use of violence, rape and sexual violence against protestors, cease all forms of security cooperation with the TMC, and look into imposing sanctions on individuals connected to the regime and figures in the TMC;**
- 2. that the Home Office provide sanctuary to Sudanese people seeking safety from the regime and its allies;**
- 3. the city's MPs to also write appropriate letters to the Home Office and Foreign Office representing the demands set out in this motion.**

(b) A City of Sanctuary (proposed by Councillor Djafari-Marbini, seconded by Councillors from the Liberal Democrat and Green Groups)

Cross party motion

This Council reaffirms its commitment to being a City of Sanctuary. We uphold the principles of dignity and respect for all, welcome the paper “Oxford’s Commitment to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants” and ask the Leader of the Council to sign it on the Council’s behalf.

This is an age of growing xenophobia with the globalisation of the far right from Trump to Orban. Here, Hostile Environment policies have blurred the distinction between service provision and immigration enforcement with the most vulnerable having no recourse to public funds (NRPF), and being left destitute.

This Council also commits to:

1. Flying the “City of Sanctuary” flag on World Refugee Day.
2. Encouraging our residents to exercise their existing rights in conjunction with organisations such as Asylum Welcome, Refugee Resource, Sanctuary Hosting and our advice centres, ensuring routine access to interpreters and immigration advice.
3. Working with existing community networks, such as the Syrian Sisters and African Families in the UK to place lived experiences at the centre of service provision.
4. Encouraging councillors to sign up to a “place of safety” pledge. Both our Oxford MPs have signed the “MPs not border guards” pledge. We are proud to have no embedded UK Visa and Immigration staff in our frontline services. The “place of safety pledge” will communicate our commitment to not being part of immigration enforcement, ensuring all are able to seek confidential advice and representation without fear.
5. Encourage the Council’s partners to not be part of the ‘Hostile Environment’ by for example providing data to the Home Office to be used for detention and deportation.
6. Working towards all residents being able to access voluntary and statutory services to meet their basic healthcare, housing, and income needs. The Council has successfully secured funding to further support vulnerable groups by investigating rogue landlords; and helping European Economic Area migrant rough sleepers access accommodation and support services.
7. Improving access to employment. We have funded four work-based English as a Second Language courses helping migrants to access employment opportunities. We will continue this via implementation of the equalities action plan. This committed the Council to improving understanding of the career paths available, and focused advice for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic candidates. Coordinated action with higher education colleges can ensure all our residents benefit equally from the available opportunities.

And asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Secretary asking the government to:

1. Implement the recommendations of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into detention, end the shameful practice of “indefinite detention” and work towards the closure of all detention centres.
2. Honour its commitment to the “Dubs amendment”; Britain will provide sanctuary to 10,000 child refugees over the next ten years (3-5 per local authority).
3. End NRPF policies and reverse attacks on access to the NHS.
4. Extend the equal right to vote to all UK residents, regardless of citizenship and grant asylum seekers the right to take paid work while their application is being determined.

(c) Making Oxford an Anti-racist City (proposed by Councillor Aziz,)

Labour member motion

This council notes the following.

- The increase in racism and hate crime as well as increased incidents by far-right/Nazi groups in Britain.
- The visit of the UN special rapporteur on racism to England earlier this year who highlighted the:
- The increase in hate crimes and incidents across the UK after the referendum to leave the EU.
- The growth in volume and acceptability of xenophobic discourses on migration, and on foreign nationals including refugees in social and print media.
- The gross human rights violations and indignities that African-Caribbean British citizens referred to as the 'Windrush generation' have had to endure as a result of the so-called 'hostile environment' policy.
- The criminalisation of young people from ethnic minorities, especially young black men and British Muslim men. Black men are over-represented in police stop and searches and are over-represented in the prison system.
- Structural racism is still an everyday reality for people from Black, Asian and other minority and refugee communities.
- Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia is on the rise and is being mainstreamed through our political and public discourse.
- The increase in incidents in Oxford. In 2018, there were 188 racist or racially aggravated crimes reported to the police, an increase of 40% compared to 2017.

This council believes that:

- Operation Prevent, the government's counter-terrorism strategy, should be suspended while officials conduct a comprehensive audit of its impact on racial equality;
- urgent action is required to make Oxford a truly anti-racist city and develop a long term strategy to put into action anti racism work.

This Council therefore

- 1. pledges to make Oxford an Anti-racist city;**
- 2. will work with and listen to people experiencing racism;**
- 3. and will work with local authorities, trade unions and community groups to achieve this; and**
- 4. asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Home Office seeking the suspension of the Prevent programme.**

(d) Natural Capital Census (proposed by Councillor Goddard, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Long-term thinking is key to safeguarding our environment. The creation and introduction of the government's 25-year environmental plan in 2018 was a welcome step.

Key to the success of the plan is the collection of reliable, consistent data across a range of indicators, from air quality to water quality to urban vegetation, in order to produce a baseline against which progress can be measured. Although vast amounts of data are being collected and analysed, the challenge is to make sure that this is done in a joined-up way using the same methodology and spatial and temporal resolution, at a single point in time, in order to allow meaningful comparison and analysis of variations over time.

In its Sixth Annual Report, the government's Natural Capital Committee recommends that a comprehensive review of progress against the baseline assets and associated 25-Year Plan goals should be undertaken on a 5-yearly basis to determine direction of change in England's environment. An Environmental Census will provide the framework and data necessary to ensure that this happens. It will also bring together and harmonise existing datasets to (i) ensure geographical referencing of all records using standard OS grid (ii) ensure date stamping of all records (iii) facilitate open-access. The NCC proposes that the first Environmental Census is undertaken in 2020 to follow the UK's 'Year of Green Actions'.

Crucially, mass data collection of this kind cannot be undertaken only by scientists and politicians. The Census will involve the use of novel and emerging technologies (e.g. GIS and Landsat imagery, smart phone apps) and will encourage as wide as participation as possible in collecting data, including citizen scientists, individual landowners and school children.

We believe that Oxford should lead on this vital initiative. Our city can draw a huge resource of commitment and expertise from all its citizens, particularly young people. This Council is uniquely placed to coordinate activity among the many stakeholders in our city who will want to take part. We should set the standard by undertaking now to be part of the Census in 2020. In addition, we should go further by offering to undertake a pilot study.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive:

- 1. To maintain contacts with HMG and the NCC and proactively make clear Oxford City Council's willingness to act as the lead in the proposed Census in our region;**
- 2. To offer additionally to conduct a pilot in advance of the main Census;**
- 3. To open discussions with neighbouring authorities about how best to coordinate action at a regional level.**

References:

25 Year Environment Plan, 2018:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf

NCC Sixth Annual Report, January 2019:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/774218/ncc-annual-report-2019.pdf

Government response, March 2019 [see in particular recommendation 7]:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-capital-committees-sixth-annual-report-government-response/the-governments-response-to-the-natural-capital-committees-sixth-annual-report>

(e) Car Free Day (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Simmons)

Green member motion

World Car Free Day is on 22 September. Council notes the recent decisions by local Government in London, Edinburgh, Norwich and others to declare 'car free' days covering one or more streets in urban areas and around schools.

Council notes (as set out by the organisation London Car Free Days) that car free days provide many benefits:

1. improved air quality
2. enhanced enjoyment of historic settings and improved visitor experience.
3. increased footfall and dwell times for local commerce.
4. raised ambition for further pedestrian-priority city streets and secondary centres.
5. encouragement for people to discover the pleasures of walking and cycling.
6. an opportunity for local authorities and residents organisations to experiment with and monitor the impact of street closures as pilots for wider or more regular schemes.

Council therefore offers its support for the creation of a Car Free Day in Oxford and asks the Cabinet Member responsible to liaise with the County Council and relevant community organisations with the goal of establishing regular Car Free Days in Oxford.

(f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action (proposed by Councillor Henwood)

Non-group member motion

Motion

Students or young people of compulsory school age who strike from school relating to climate change should not be penalised for not attending school, or their parents or guardians face fines for non-authorized attendance.

Secondly, absence from school with parental or guardian consent should be marked in school registers as 'authorized non-school activity'.

Background

Schools are legally required to maintain an attendance register, and they must tell the local authority about pupils who are regularly absent or have missed at least 10 school days without the school's authority. Some people refer to this system as the 10 yellow card rule.

Schools and local authorities have the legal right to take action for non-attendance. Any student registered with a school can miss school in very restricted circumstances: medical grounds, religious reasons, and transport issues if the LEA have a legally defined circumstance where they have to provide transport. Reasons for authorized absence from school may include with pre-authorization – family holidays, funerals, interviews. Currently many schools record student strike action as 'unauthorized'. If permission is not granted and absence recorded as unauthorized, the parents can be prosecuted.

If a child of compulsory school age who is on the admissions register is found in a public place during school hours, the parents can be prosecuted. On conviction, a fine of up to £1,000 can be imposed on the parents. The local authority can prosecute a parent for their child's non-attendance at school, and this does not have to be preceded by a fixed penalty notice. If a prosecution is successful, the court can order a Parenting Order, supervised by either a responsible person at the school or the local authority. A Parenting Order requires parents to attend parenting classes to support them in improving the child's behaviour, and also requires them to comply with other conditions. Breaching such an order can lead to a fine.

An alternative is issuance of fixed penalty notices by the local authority, police officers or head teachers to the parents/guardians of children who have irregular school attendance. The penalty is a £60 for each instance, rising to £120 if paid after 21 days but before 28 days. As many schools record strike action as unauthorized attendance, this process could be applied to the parents or guardians of school children seeking strike action for climate change.

Many students in Oxford indeed across the globe are going on strike to draw attention to the climate emergency. We have a collective responsibility to change both as individuals and as members of groups and communities. The actions of our students should be celebrated and indeed lessons from young people learnt urgently.

Council resolves to ask the Leader to

- 1. write to our two city MP's, requesting this motion be presented to parliament,**
- 2. write to OFSTED and the local education authority to facilitate changes in recording attendance of young people in compulsory education.**
- 3. write to the portfolio holder for education and the leader of the County Council commending this motion.**

(g) Multilateral nuclear disarmament (proposed by Councillor Tanner)

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council has worked with other Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) 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 the regular transport of nuclear weapons on Oxfordshire's roads and the continued threat of nuclear war.

The Council welcomes the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Around 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 Trident nuclear weapons with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing verifiable agreements among nuclear-armed countries to reduce, and then eliminate, their nuclear arsenals.

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

(h) Tourism Management (proposed by Councillor Wade, seconded by Councillor Harris)

Liberal Democrat member motion

This Council has cut its £173K annual contribution (part grant/ part use of property) to Experience Oxfordshire (EO) by £20K from April 2019; by £25K from April 2020; and, from April 2021, EO will receive no grant. It may also lose its City owned base in Broad Street in 2021, which houses the Visitor Information Centre and EO's offices. Oxford had nearly nine million tourists last year, half a million of whom used the Centre. 15,000 Oxfordshire residents work in the tourist trade.

In February EO won Destination Marketing Company of the Year award, in face of competition from cities with multi-million-pound budgets, and has consistently been praised for punching above its weight despite limited budgets. At the same time as the City Council grant is being slashed to zero, EO will be working flat out to ensure that Oxford is chosen as part of one of the five 'tourist zones' in the new Govt Tourism Sector Deal of 28 June. There could be a boost from Government funding, a tourist data hub, and thousands of new apprenticeships.

The City expects EO to take on this new challenge, as well as its existing workload.

Experience Oxfordshire has transformed into a much more commercial business model to help deliver on the promotional aspects, whilst still working to not for profit principles and has attracted significant private sector support. However, EO will need

continued Local Authority support to continue to provide destination management and marketing services.

This Council recognised the importance of tourism to Oxford's economy by establishing a Tourist Management Review Group. Its recommendations were responded to by the Cabinet Member on 29 May, and the proposals below reference these responses.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to work with officers to explore funding to:

- 1. Support EO's bid to make Oxford one of the UK's 5 'tourist zones.**
- 2. Develop a shared vision for tourism in Oxford with EO, the Universities and businesses, working to EO's ambition statement priorities (Recc.1 Response)**
- 3. Discuss commissioning services from EO as a possible way of providing continued funding to EO and ensure that the Council continues to provide business support in this area. (Recc.3 Response).**
- 4. Provide an appropriate officer leading on tourism for the Council to work closely with EO to avoid an 'unsustainable workload' on the officers (Recc.5 Response)**
- 5. Discuss with EO and Oxfordshire CC what information they have and need to research on tourist coaches e.g. number and movements (Recc.10 Response)**
- 6. Partner with EO in identifying the digital provision of apps and tourism products (Recc.12 Response)**
- 7. Partner with EO and Oxfordshire CC to make the case for the Discover England Fund to continue beyond 2019 (Recc.13. Response)**
- 8. Explore, primarily through the Events Team, closer working with EO and Oxfordshire CC on developing an events strategy (Recc.14 Response)**
- 9. Support Experience Oxfordshire through a continued finance arrangement for at least an additional 5-year period to enable the organisation to continue delivery of services and become more sustainable.**

(i) 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.