

Minutes of a meeting of the **COUNCIL** on Monday 22 July 2019

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Councill members:

Councillor Simmons (Lord Mayor)

Councillor Goddard (Sheriff)

Councillor Azad

Councillor Bely-Summers

Councillor Chapman

Councillor Cook

Councillor Djafari-Marbini

Councillor Gant

Councillor Gotch

Councillor Harris

Councillor Henwood

Councillor Howlett

Councillor Landell Mills

Councillor McManners

Councillor Pressel

Councillor Rush

Councillor Linda Smith

Councillor Tanner

Councillor Taylor

Councillor Turner

Councillor Wade

Councillor Altaf-Khan (Deputy Lord Mayor)

Councillor Arshad

Councillor Aziz

Councillor Brown

Councillor Clarkson

Councillor Curran

Councillor Fry

Councillor Garden

Councillor Haines

Councillor Hayes

Councillor Hollingsworth

Councillor Humberstone

Councillor Lloyd-Shogbesan

Councillor Munkonge

Councillor Rowley

Councillor Simm

Councillor Roz Smith

Councillor Tarver

Councillor Tidball

Councillor Upton

Councillor Wolff

Apologies:

Councillors Corais, Donnelly, Iley-Williamson, Kennedy, Lygo and Malik sent apologies.

17. Declarations of interest

Minute 36 (d): Councillor Gant declared that he had a disclosable pecuniary interest in the motion as his wife was a member of HMG Natural Capital Committee, and he left the room and took no part in the debate or decision on this item.

Minute 36 (a) Councillor Turner left the room and took no part in the debate or decision on this item as it concerned matters relevant to his secondment to The Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

18. Minutes

Council agreed to approve as a true and correct record the minutes of:

1. the ordinary meeting on 29 April 2019
2. the annual meeting on 13 May 2019; and
3. subject to correction of spellings and republication, the special meeting on 17 July 2019.

19. Appointment to Committees

Council agreed to appoint Councillor Garden to replace Councillor Wade on the East Area Planning Committee.

20. Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced his main civic events since the Annual Council meeting including:

- The official visit to the city by Prince Harry
- D Day commemorations and the unveiling of a plaque at Normandy Crescent
- The Freedom of the City ceremony
- Events including the Oxford Festival of Arts, the Council of Faiths Friendship walk; and involving his chosen charities and the Council's twin cities
- The City Council team maintained their tradition of losing the annual Oxford-Abingdon inter-council bowls match.

The Lord Mayor asked the City Rector, Rev Anthony Buckley to introduce himself and his role. Rev Buckley said he was grateful for the kind welcome to the city, and that he saw his role as city rector as being available to councillors and staff and representing those who valued the council's work. He extended an open invitation to councillors to meet and talk with him.

The Sheriff announced the events he had attended including the Friendship walk, nursery visits, and the annual cattle roundup on Port Meadow followed by losing the Aunt Sally match to the Freeman.

The Leader of the Council announced that she had appointed Councillor Djafari-Marbini as the Council's Migrant Champion.

21. Public addresses and questions that relate to matters for decision at this meeting

There were no addresses or questions.

22. The future strategic direction for the Council's group of housing companies

Council considered a report of the Head of Housing submitted to Cabinet on 29 May 2019 proposing changes to the arrangements between the Council's group of Housing companies and the Council's Housing Revenue Account for the delivery of affordable housing in response to recent government policy changes and recommending a review of future Oxford City Housing Limited (OCHL) development with a view to expanding activity and accelerating affordable housing delivery.

Councillor Rowley, the Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to

- 1. increase the HRA capital programme by £45.303m so that adequate additional budgetary provision is made available for the acquisitions to take place as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;**
- 2. approve a revised HRA budget and Business Plan that incorporates the new acquired dwellings that impacts on rental income, maintenance spend, interest payments, debt redemption activity and other matters as set out in Appendix 2 of the report; and**
- 3. approve the re-phasing of the loans from the General Fund Capital Programme in relation to the borrowing activity of OCHL over the MTFP period 2019/20 to 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

23. Revolving Construction Loan to Low Carbon Hub IPS

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2019 seeking approval of a revolving loan facility for the Low Carbon Hub IPS (Industrial and Provident Society).

Councillor Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the report and answered questions. He moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to make budget provision of £2.3 million to enable the revolving loan facility to the Low Carbon Hub to be created.

24. OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour

Councillor McManners arrived during this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Community Services submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2019 highlighting the requirements of delivering the OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour in Oxfordshire over the next three years (2019, 2020 and 2021).

Councillor Upton, the Cabinet Member for Healthy Oxford, presented the report and answered questions. She moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to allocate a budget of £30,000 funded from reserves to pay the City Council's share of the costs of delivering the OVO Energy Women's Cycle Tour in Oxfordshire for 2019.

25. Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control - Unmet Demand Survey

Council considered a report of the Head of Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety submitted to the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 14 May 2019 asking for consideration of the recommendations in the "Unmet Demand Survey" report (2018) and agree the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control.

Councillor Clarkson, the Chair of the Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. to note that there is currently no significant unmet demand for the services of Hackney Carriage Vehicles; and therefore**
- 2. to maintain the Council's Policy of Hackney Carriage Quantity Control and the current quota of 107 Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences; and**
- 3. that a further "Unmet Demand survey" be commissioned in 2021, subject to any changes to relevant legislation.**

26. Amendment to Emission Standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles

Council considered a report of the Head of Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety submitted to the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 8 July 2019 asking for consideration of the recommendations in the "Unmet Demand Survey" report (2018) and agree the Policy on Hackney Carriage Quantity Control.

Councillor Clarkson, the Chair of the Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to approve, as set out in the report, the amendment to the approved emission standards for Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by this Authority.

27. Appointment of independent persons 2019

Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer asking for authorisation to extend the terms of office of the council's independent persons for a further three months to 31 October 2019.

Councillor Aziz, the Chair of the Standards Committee, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to authorise the Monitoring Officer to extend the terms of office of the Council's Independent Persons for a further three months to 31 October 2019.

28. Constitution - Members' Briefings on Planning Matters

Council considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance recommending changes to paragraph 24.14 (Members' Informal Briefings) of Part 24 (The Planning Code of Conduct) of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Brown, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. approve the proposed amendments to Part 24 of the Constitution as set out in the appendix to the report; and**
- 2. delegate authority to the Head of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution in line with the changes approved by Council.**

29. Shareholder and Joint Venture Group meeting dates

Council considered a report of the Head of Law and Governance setting out meeting dates of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group.

Councillor Brown, the Leader of the Council, presented the report and a change to the date of agreement of the terms of reference, and answered questions. She clarified her decision that all of the Council's companies and joint ventures would report to a Shareholder and Joint Venture Group, comprising all members of Cabinet, which would meet quarterly on dates set out in the report..

Councillor Brown moved the recommendation, which was agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to note the meeting dates of the Shareholder and Joint Venture Group and that the terms of reference would now be presented at the meeting on 25 September 2019.

30. Cabinet Minutes

Council had before it the minutes of Cabinet meetings of 29 May 2019; 12 June 2019; and 10 July 2019.

a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 29 May 2019 of Cabinet

There were no questions on these minutes.

b) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 12 June 2019 of Cabinet

Minute 27 (Seacourt Park and Ride Extension)

Councillor Tanner asked when the work on this project would start and if it was affected by the delays to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme project.

Councillor Hollingsworth replied that it was anticipated that the project would start and finish very close to the dates set out in the report accompanying that decision. The delay of the OFAS was not predicted to delay this project.

c) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 10 July 2019 of Cabinet

Minute 42 (Q4 Integrated Performance Report)

Councillor Roz Smith asked who would carry out monitoring and research into the outcomes of the Citizens' Assembly and about plans to evaluate the recommendations of the Assembly.

Councillor Brown replied that these were not finalised but were part of the ongoing preparation for the Assembly which was overseen by a cross-party group.

31. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

38 written questions were asked of the Cabinet members and Leader, and these and written responses were published before the meeting.

These along with summaries of the 17 supplementary questions and responses asked and given at the meeting are set out in the [printed pack of these minutes](#).

32. Q4 Integrated Report 2018/19 - allocation of budgetary provision

With the agreement of Council the Lord Mayor took this item just before the break.

Councillor Bely-Summers arrived for the start of this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Financial Services submitted to the Cabinet on 10 July 2019 update Members on Finance, Risk and Performance as at the end of the financial year.

Councillor Turner, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management presented the report.

Councillor Brown answered questions about the proposals for the Citizens' Assembly.

Councillor Turner moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. agree the inclusion of an additional £1.53m budget within the Housing Revenue Account in 2019-20 for completion of the Tower Block refurbishment scheme; and**
- 2. agree the inclusion of £200k in 2019-20 in respect of costs to establish a citizens' assembly together with associated staffing costs for reporting and research.**

33. Public addresses and questions that do not relate to matters for decision at this Council meeting

Councillor Haines left before the start of this item.

There were five addresses and three questions to Council.

1. Racky Wane gave an address asking for support to campaign for climate change to be added to the school curriculum.
2. Nuha Abdo of the Syrian Sisters Community Group gave an address about the experiences of Syrian refugees in the city and asking for support for English language teaching.
3. Nabeela Talib and Adam Khan gave an address about their experiences as a foster family and an asylum seeker in support of the City of Sanctuary motion (36b)
4. Geoffrey Sandford of the Oxford Men's Group asked a question about the Council's complaints process.
5. Artwell gave an address asking that the Council maintain the long-established rights of free speech and extend that unreservedly to groups with bookings at the Town Hall
6. Artwell asked a question about statements made in the press and asking for an apology for these.
7. Judith Harley gave an address about the responsibilities of councillors who were appointed to outside organisations, in particular appointments as Charity Trustees.
8. Judith Harley asked a question about the possibility of the Council making a compulsory purchase of William Morris Sports ground in Cowley.

Cabinet members responded to each speaker.

The full text of these speeches read as submitted; responses from the Cabinet members in writing before the meeting; and summaries of any verbal responses given at the meeting are set out in the [printed pack of these minutes](#).

There were three further submitted addresses or questions: these and written responses are included in the briefing note accompanying the agenda.

- *Question from Sue Brough – Action to help people likely to experience hate crime*
- *Question from Sarah Lazenby – Use of Roundup weedkiller*
- *Address by Alistair Morris, Marston Community Gardening - Lack of information/difficulty maintaining local group.*

34. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

Council had before it the report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services giving an update on the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Councillor Chapman introduced the report and answered questions.

Council noted the report

a) Oxford Safer Communities Partnership Update

Council had before it the report of the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and Customer Focused Services on the work of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership.

Councillor Chapman introduced the report and answered questions.

Council noted the report.

35. Scrutiny Committee update report

Council had before it the Scrutiny Committee work plan for 2019/20 and the recommendation tracker as at July 2019.

Councillor Gant introduced the report and highlighted the forthcoming work of the committee and that the review groups would be established in September once the new Scrutiny Officer was in post.

He thanked the previous Scrutiny Officer Stefan Robinson who had served the committee and review groups with distinction.

Council noted the report.

36. Motions on notice 2019/20

Council had before it nine motions on notice submitted in accordance with Council procedure rules and reached decisions as set out below.

Council resolved to adopt the following motions as set out in these minutes:

- a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations
- b) A City of Sanctuary
- c) Making Oxford an Anti-racist City
- d) Natural Capital Census

The following motions were not taken as the time allocated for debate had elapsed:

- e) Car Free Day

- f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action
- g) Multilateral nuclear disarmament
- h) Tourism Management
- i) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds

a) Emergency motion on Sudan: end the killings and human rights violations (cross party)

Councillor Turner left the meeting for the debate and decision on this motion.

Councillor Aziz, seconded by Councillor Harris, and supported by Councillor Simmons, proposed the submitted cross-party motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following 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 protesters, 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; and**
- 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 (cross party)

Councillor Turner re-joined the meeting at the start of the debate on this motion.

Councillor Djafari-Marbini, seconded by Councillor Wolff, and supported by Councillor Garden, proposed the submitted cross-party motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following 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

Councillor Aziz, seconded by Councillor Rowley, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following 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

Councillor Tidball left the meeting at this point.

Councillor Gant, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the meeting for the debate and decision on this motion.

With Council's agreement the Lord Mayor extended the time for debating motions to the end of this debate and vote.

Councillor Goddard, seconded by Councillor Landell Mills, proposed the submitted motion as set out in the agenda and briefing note.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following 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.**

e) Car Free Day

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

f) Not penalising school age children for climate change strike action

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

g) Multilateral Nuclear disarmament

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

h) Tourism Management

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

i) Climate Emergency priorities in new builds

This motion was not taken as the time allowed for debate had finished.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm

Chair

Date: Monday 7 October 2019