

Minutes of a meeting of COUNCIL on Monday 7 October 2019

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Council members attending:

Councillor Simmons (Lord Mayor)	Councillor Altaf-Khan (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Councillor Goddard (Sheriff)	Councillor Arshad
Councillor Azad	Councillor Bely-Summers
Councillor Brown	Councillor Chapman
Councillor Clarkson	Councillor Cook
Councillor Corais	Councillor Curran
Councillor Fry	Councillor Gant
Councillor Garden	Councillor Gotch
Councillor Haines	Councillor Harris
Councillor Hayes	Councillor Henwood
Councillor Hollingsworth	Councillor Howlett
Councillor Humberstone	Councillor Iley-Williamson
Councillor Kennedy	Councillor Landell Mills
Councillor Lygo	Councillor Malik
Councillor McManners	Councillor Munkonge
Councillor Pressel	Councillor Rowley
Councillor Rush	Councillor Simm
Councillor Linda Smith	Councillor Roz Smith
Councillor Tanner	Councillor Tarver
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Tidball
Councillor Turner	Councillor Upton
Councillor Wade	Councillor Wolff

Apologies:

Councillors Aziz, Djafari-Marbini, Donnelly and Lloyd-Shogbesan sent apologies.

The minutes show when Councillors who were absent for part of the meeting arrived and left.

37. Declarations of interest

Minute 50 (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.

Minute 50 (d): Councillor Brown declared that, while the motion did not affect her disclosable pecuniary interest as an employee of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, to avoid any appearance of impropriety she would leave the chamber and take no part in the debate.

Minute 50 (d): Councillor Tarver stated for the record that although he was an employee of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, his role did not encompass parking and he did not use the parking facilities and so he had no declarable interest. He would remain in the chamber and take part in the debate.

38. Minutes

Council agreed to approve as a true and correct record the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 22 July 2019.

39. Appointment to Committees

There were no changes to committee memberships.

40. Announcements

The Lord Mayor announced his main civic events since the Annual Council meeting, including attending the St Giles Fair.

He reminded councillors of Remembrance Sunday events on 10 November 2019.

The Lord Mayor asked the City Rector, Rev Anthony Buckley, to speak about his work in the city.

The Sheriff announced the events he had attended, including the annual cattle round up on Port Meadow and the National Association of City & Town Sheriffs of England & Wales AGM held in Oxford.

The Leader of the Council announced that she would attend the South Oxfordshire District Council meeting to speak about the impact on the city and wider county should they agree their Cabinet's recommendations on their Local Plan.

The Chief Executive notified Council of the arrangements on 14 October for the funeral at Christchurch of PC Andrew Harper, killed while on duty in August 2019.

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

There were no addresses or questions.

42. Commissioning of services at Floyds Row

Councillors Corais and Gotch arrived during this item.

Council considered a report of the Head of Housing submitted to Cabinet on 3 October 2019 seeking approval to increase the capital budget envelope for the Floyds Row project; to delegate authority to commission further capital works; and to commission the service contract to operate services from this new project.

Councillor Linda Smith, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Housing, presented the report and answered questions. She moved the recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to:

- 1. revise the capital budget for this project, to take the capital envelope of the project to £1,892,300, including contingencies, as outlined in Appendix 3 Option A, increasing the budget by £1,134k. (Noting grant funding already secured of £275k capital funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and £100k from Public Health England, which will reduce the funding requirement from the Council's 2019/20 capital programme accordingly, and noting that additional external funding contributions are being progressed from a variety of sources, including the MHCLG; Oxfordshire District and County Councils; the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group and other charitable sources); and**
- 2. make budget provision for the gross revenue costs of providing Floyds Row in the sum of £1.069 million in 2019-20 funded by grants and contributions.**

43. Review of the Street Trading Policy 2019

Council considered a report of the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety to the General Purposes Licensing Committee on 18 September 2019 setting out the proposed Street Trading Policy, to take effect from 1 April 2020.

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 adopt the Street Trading Policy 2019 attached as Appendix B to the report.

44. Appointment of independent persons 2019

Council considered a report of the Monitoring Officer asking Council to approve the appointment of the council's independent persons.

Council noted that due to the availability of applicants and suitable interview dates, it had not been possible to complete all the interviews before this meeting. A recommendation as to suitable appointments could not be made until these were

completed. Consequently, new recommendations had been circulated to councillors in the briefing note.

As the Committee Chair was not present, Councillor Pressel, the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee, presented and moved these new recommendations, which were agreed on being seconded and put to the vote.

Council resolved to extend the term of the current independent persons by a further month to 30 November 2019 to allow the recruitment process to conclude, and to consider the outcome and recommendations at its next meeting.

45. Questions on Cabinet minutes

Council had before it the minutes of Cabinet meetings of 11 September 2019.

a) Minutes of meeting Wednesday 11 September 2019 of Cabinet

Minute 58:

Councillor Wolff asked how much had been written off in total as a result of the Icelandic banking crash in 2008.

Nigel Kennedy, S151 officer, reported the sum written off was £170k from an initial investment of between £4.5m (*figures confirmed after the meeting*).

46. Questions on Notice from Members of Council

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

47. Outside organisation/Committee Chair reports and questions

With Council's consent this item was taken before the break.

a) Oxfordshire Environment Partnership Report

Council had before it the report of the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford on the work of the Oxfordshire Environment Partnership including the report to Cabinet and the Oxfordshire's Resources and Waste Strategy for Oxfordshire 2018-2023.

Councillor Hayes introduced the report and answered questions.

He drew Council's attention to the reasons and the proposed arrangements for re-instating the Oxfordshire Waste Partnership. Most Oxfordshire Councils were of the view that waste management and recycling was a key part of reducing the impact on the environment and climate. The Oxfordshire's Resources and Waste Strategy for Oxfordshire 2018-2023, adopted by Cabinet, had been prepared to improve waste management in response to the Climate Emergency.

Council noted the report.

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

Councillors Goddard, McManners and Linda Smith left at the start of this item.

Councillors Iley-Williamson and Turner arrived after the break and for the start of this item.

There were four addresses and one question to Council.

1. South Oxfordshire District Councillor Alexandrine Kantor gave a speech in support of Motion (a) Supporting EU nationals.
2. Zile Huma gave a speech about the humanitarian crises in Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Henry Owen from the Community Action Groups Project gave a speech in support of Motion (c) Community Wealth.
4. Judith Harley asked a question about Oxford Direct Services review of its property portfolio and its plans to vacate the Cowley Marsh depot.
5. Judith Harley gave a speech supporting retaining the William Morris Sports Field as a sports field.

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](#).

49. Scrutiny Committee update report

With Council's consent this item was taken before the break.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee updated Council on the committee's work plan for the year ahead. He also presented the committee's annual report for 2018/19, noting that this would be finalised and published on the council's website.

Council noted the committee's work plan for 2019/20 and the annual report for 2018/19.

50. Motions on notice 7 October 2019

Council had before it six 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) Supporting EU nationals
- b) Responding to the youth-led climate strikes
- c) Community Wealth
- d) John Radcliffe Hospital Parking

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

- e) Expanding Car Free Days
- f) Multilateral nuclear disarmament
- g) Support second EU membership referendum

a) Supporting EU nationals

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

Councillor Garden, seconded by Councillor Gotch, 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:

Council notes that EU nationals are part of our shared communities. They are our husbands, wives, parents, friends and colleagues. They are an integral part of a vibrant and thriving Oxfordshire.

Since 2016 EU nationals were promised again and again that "there will be no change for EU citizens already lawfully resident in the UK and [...] will be treated no less favourably as they are at present".

After three years of living in limbo, their homes and livelihoods are yet again being threatened by the further uncertainty brought about by the prospect of an even more chaotic no-deal Brexit.

According to the Home Office's June statistics, only a third of EU nationals have applied for the Settled Status and 42% of them have been granted the inferior Pre-Settled status leading them to reapply for the Settled status later on. There is no possibility to know how many EU nationals need to apply, leaving vulnerable and unaware EU nationals left at risk of becoming unlawful residents at the mercy of the Home Office's Hostile Environment. Lack of clarity regarding differentiating between EU citizens arriving before and after the UK's exit from the EU will likely lead to discrimination in the labour market and will prevent many from accessing the services that they are entitled to.

Another Windrush-like scandal is unfolding right before the eyes of this Council and we mustn't be passive observers to it.

Therefore, the Council asks that:

1. **Officers undertake an urgent review of how a disorderly exit from the EU is likely to affect EU nationals accessing services provided by the Council (licensing, benefits etc).**

2. **Officers report on how the Council can mitigate adverse impacts on the rights of EU nationals (including but not limited to advising on what the Council can do to help landlords and employers to be trained on immigration status and therefore avoid potential discrimination against EU nationals).**
3. **The Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary to ask that the current European Settlement Scheme is clarified by:**
 - a. **Providing a clear deadline for application to the EUSS in case of no-deal exit from the EU.**
 - b. **Providing those with settled status with physical proof that can be used to access services.**
 - c. **Confirming that there will be no changes to the rights of settled EU citizens that they currently have by ratifying the Immigration Bill as primary legislation before the exit day.**
 - d. **Replacing the current European Settlement scheme with a registration scheme without a deadline where EU citizens are considered legally settled by default and can request a proof of immigration status only when they are asked to demonstrate it.**

b) Responding to the youth-led climate strikes

Councillor Turner re-joined the meeting.

Council had before it the original text of the motion proposed by Councillor Wolff (set out in the agenda and briefing note) and amendments proposed by Councillors Gant, Hayes, and Upton (set out in the briefing note).

Councillor Wolff drafted a new text for the motion as set out below. This incorporated elements of the original motion and two of the three amendments in the briefing note. This was tabled for all councillors to consider.

Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor Henwood, proposed this new text for their submitted motion as set out below.

Councillors Hayes and Gant withdrew their amendments.

Councillor Upton, seconded by Councillor Simm, proposed her amendment to the new text of the motion. After debate and on being put to the vote the amendment was declared lost.

After debate and on being put to the vote the motion as set out below (as revised and tabled at the meeting) was agreed.

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

Council welcomes and supports the youth-led climate strikes that took place in September around the world. The march in Oxford on 20th September was one of the largest gatherings in the City's history and enjoyed cross-party support. Council wishes

to place on record its support for the climate strikers and our admiration for their commitment and determination.

Council has already recognised the climate emergency and established a Citizen's Assembly, which is on-going, to engage residents in the inevitable de-carbonisation of our economy that must happen over the next few decades.

Council notes that the Scrutiny function is independent and can and does give serious and detailed attention to selecting matters to consider, and that Council as a whole cannot and does not wish to influence that process. Council also notes that resource for panels and other functions is set as part of the budget process.

Council also notes and welcomes initiatives taken by a number of councils recently, and encourages further close co-operation and learning from best practice.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet to:

- 1. Establish a Climate Advisory Group to support all-member engagement to build on the aims of the Citizens' Assembly; to engage the public in the issue; and bring recommendations to the Cabinet on how best to use its powers of control and influence to meet the Climate Emergency across the City Council and the city of Oxford; noting that this does not pre-empt the outcome of the Citizen's Assembly;**
- 2. Ask officers to report back to Cabinet on the financial and constitutional issues.**

Council also asks the Leader to write to Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Education & Cultural Services, to request that she contacts Oxford's schools setting out our support for the youth strikers and our request that absenteeism from school to attend climate strikes is treated leniently.

c) Community Wealth

Councillor Howlett, seconded by Councillor Turner, 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:

Council notes:

- That Oxford City Council was the first UK local authority to pay a Living Wage, pays the Oxford Living Wage, spends around 50% with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), spends over 70% with local suppliers, and operates a higher level of support for the local voluntary sector than that of many other districts. It has agreed to include a social value element in non-OJEU procurement activity and apply the Green Public Procurement Policy, and it has appointed a Co-operatives Champion.

- That the Community Wealth Building (CWB) model has had success in Preston in uniting the city's key employers and procurers (known as 'anchor institutions') to reorganise their supply chains and identify where they could buy goods and services locally, showing what can be achieved by effective local leadership.
- While Oxford's economy is relatively buoyant, high levels of inequality and concentrations of poverty make a focus on adding social value crucial for our city.

Council believes:

- That there is potential for our City Council to work alongside other 'anchor institutions' in Oxford in using our spending powers to forge a local economy that shares wealth and power more equally and puts environmental sustainability at its heart, and this work is making good progress under the Inclusive Employer Task Group strand of the Oxford Strategic Partnership.
- There are clear benefits to co-operation and substantial growth in the sector provides a true alternative to business as usual.

Council resolves to:

- **Explore with leading Oxford employers how they can together target our significant procurement spend to achieve social and environmental goals, and monitor its impact.**
- **Work to ensure that public spend in Oxford maximises the achievement of social value, including in the activity of City Council-owned companies.**
- **Request an update report from the relevant officer to Cabinet and Council within six months of this meeting.**

d) John Radcliffe Hospital Parking

Councillor Brown, having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest, left the meeting for the debate and decision on this motion. Councillors Bely-Summers, Cook, and Lygo left the meeting at this point.

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

Councillor Haines proposed his submitted motion, accepting the amendment proposed by Councillor Hollingsworth as set out in the briefing note. This was seconded by Councillor Harris.

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

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

Motion:

Council resolves to continue to work with the management of Oxford University Hospitals Trust as a matter of urgency to help them to undertake a review of the

approach to sustainable transport at all the Trust’s sites including the John Radcliffe hospital, including a review of the Trust’s approach to the allocation of car parking capacity so as to allow for an increased proportion of parking at the sites for the disabled, patients and visitors, and for the operational needs of critical medical staff as part of a comprehensive masterplan for all the Trust’s sites in Headington including the John Radcliffe hospital, to promote a sustainable approach to transport to those sites as part of the Local Transport Strategy 5.

Reason:

It is grossly unfair on people who are sick and the friends and family of those wanting to urgently visit people in hospital to allow the current situation to continue. A comprehensive shift to more sustainable transport approaches would:

- Reduce the congestion on local roads, freeing up the road network to other traffic including buses and ambulances;
- Reduce the pollution inhaled by cyclists, pedestrians and local residents from vehicles queuing with engines running;
- Reduce lost time and missed appointments which cost the health service a fortune;
- Make it easier for staff to access the hospital, helping to reduce staff shortages;

I hope this motion can be carried to allow us to resolve this long standing issue for now and in to the future, and to alleviate some of the problems that the public so clearly and desperately need resolving.

e) Expanding Car Free Days

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

f) Multilateral Nuclear disarmament

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

g) Support second EU membership referendum

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

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm

**Lord Mayor
2019**

Date: Monday 25 November