

To: Council
Date: 27 January 2020
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 January 2020 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.

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

1. Supporting refugee children cross party motion (proposed by Councillor Simmons, seconded by Councillor Djafari-Marbini and first speaker Councillor xxxx)

Council notes that, the world is experiencing the largest refugee crisis since World War Two with UNHCR figures of 68.5m people forcibly displaced. Over half of these are children, many unaccompanied.

Whilst in the EU we have been subject to the Dublin regulation which allows lone children within the EU to apply for legal family reunion with relatives elsewhere within the EU. So, for example, a Syrian orphan who arrives in Greece hoping to find a brother in Oxford has the right to apply to be reunited with him. But when we leave the EU, we will no longer be covered by the Dublin regulation.

In December 1938, the first Kindertransport arrived in Harwich, England. Through this scheme, Britain welcomed 10,000 child refugees, in just 10 months including Alf Dubs (a Labour peer and former MP).

When Theresa May's withdrawal bill was going through parliament, Alf Dubs brought an amendment in the Lords that received cross-party support in both houses. This obliged the government to negotiate that the terms of the Dublin regulation would continue after we left the EU.

However, in Boris Johnson's withdrawal bill, published just before Christmas and passed unamended, the rights of refugee children to be reunited with their families had been removed.

The only option remaining to them is to engage with illegal traffickers or take other dangerous routes. Lack of safe routes to the UK will only lead to further suffering for hugely traumatised children.

Dubs is attempting to reintroduce the amendment into the withdrawal bill before the UK leaves the EU on 31 January 2020 and will no doubt continue to lobby for something with an effect similar to the Dublin regulation to be reinstated if this current attempt fails.

As a City of Sanctuary with a proud record of welcoming refugees and asylum seekers, Oxford deplores the removal of the so-called 'Dubs amendment' from the withdrawal bill.

We ask the Leader to;

- 1. urgently write to the City's MPs and the Secretary of State for the Home Department demanding that the rights of refugee children available under the Dublin regulation be reinstated.**
- 2. write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council asking them to support the Safe Passage 'Our Turn' Campaign and commit to a target of ten at risk refugee children per year for the next ten years as part of a fully funded Government vulnerable children's resettlement scheme.**

2. Licensing Private Rented Sector Homes motion (proposed by Councillor L Smith, seconded by Councillor Taylor)

Labour member motion

Original text

This Council notes that:

- The private rented sector is continuing to grow in Oxford, over 30% of Oxford residents rent their home privately.
- This council has a strong record of taking action to improve privately rented homes in our city.
- We were the first in England to use discretionary powers to require every House in Multiple Occupation to be licensed to operate and this has successfully driven up standards.
- We currently use the 2004 Housing Act to regulate the rest of the private rented sector. We carry out 250 inspection visits a year and serve over 300 enforcement notices against poor landlords. However, the last stock condition survey showed that the private rented sector in Oxford has twice the national level of disrepair.
- Local authorities currently have the power to implement licensing for all privately rented homes in no more than 20% of their area or to licence no more than 20% of the privately rented stock. The consent of the Secretary of State is required to approve any licensing scheme which exceeds this 20% rule.

This council believes it should have more powers to enforce minimum property standards and protect tenants.

This council supports a city-wide licensing scheme in order to ensure all Oxford landlords are fit and proper persons and all properties let to the residents of our city meet minimum standards and are a safe place to call home.

This council believes that extending licensing to cover all privately rented homes in the city will continue to improve standards, reduce carbon emissions, drive out rogue landlords, reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure all rented homes are safe to live in.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet Member to continue discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to make the case for a city-wide licensing scheme for every property in the private rented sector, and with Government agreement bring forward a plan to introduce a requirement for every privately let property in Oxford to be licensed.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Gant

After "...safe to live in" insert

Council also recognises that:

Any system is only as good as its enforcement. In addition, a potentially significant extra cost imposed on landlords will inevitably lead to higher rents and to some landlords simply withdrawing from the market, both of which will have a deleterious effect on the PRS.

Council therefore asks officers to help members make an informed decision by preparing a paper, with evidence, to include: an estimate of the cost and duration of the

licence; an estimate of the potential impact on supply within the PRS; the resource implications for the council of additional enforcement and potential impact on current enforcement activity

And to bring this paper at an early opportunity to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

Continue with added text in italics “This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet Member, *at the successful conclusion of this process*, to continue discussions...”

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet Member, *at the successful conclusion of this process*, to continue discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to make the case for a city-wide licensing scheme for every property in the private rented sector, and with Government agreement bring forward a plan to introduce a requirement for every privately let property in Oxford to be licensed.

Motion if amended then reads

This Council notes that:

- The private rented sector is continuing to grow in Oxford, over 30% of Oxford residents rent their home privately.
- This council has a strong record of taking action to improve privately rented homes in our city.
- We were the first in England to use discretionary powers to require every House in Multiple Occupation to be licensed to operate and this has successfully driven up standards.
- We currently use the 2004 Housing Act to regulate the rest of the private rented sector. We carry out 250 inspection visits a year and serve over 300 enforcement notices against poor landlords. However, the last stock condition survey showed that the private rented sector in Oxford has twice the national level of disrepair.
- Local authorities currently have the power to implement licensing for all privately rented homes in no more than 20% of their area or to licence no more than 20% of the privately rented stock. The consent of the Secretary of State is required to approve any licensing scheme which exceeds this 20% rule.

This council believes it should have more powers to enforce minimum property standards and protect tenants.

This council supports a city-wide licensing scheme in order to ensure all Oxford landlords are fit and proper persons and all properties let to the residents of our city meet minimum standards and are a safe place to call home.

This council believes that extending licensing to cover all privately rented homes in the city will continue to improve standards, reduce carbon emissions, drive out rogue landlords, reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure all rented homes are safe to live in.

Council also recognises that:

Any system is only as good as its enforcement. In addition, a potentially significant extra cost imposed on landlords will inevitably lead to higher rents and to some landlords simply withdrawing from the market, both of which will have a deleterious effect on the PRS.

Council therefore asks officers to help members make an informed decision by preparing a paper, with evidence, to include: an estimate of the cost and duration of the

licence; an estimate of the potential impact on supply within the PRS; the resource implications for the council of additional enforcement and potential impact on current enforcement activity

And to bring this paper at an early opportunity to Scrutiny and Cabinet.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet Member, *at the successful conclusion of this process*, to continue discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) to make the case for a city-wide licensing scheme for every property in the private rented sector, and with Government agreement bring forward a plan to introduce a requirement for every privately let property in Oxford to be licensed.

3. Car Parking and vehicle management in the city (proposed by Councillor Gant, seconded by Councillor xxx)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Original text

Council notes that a key thread in recent policy thinking around traffic management in our city has been the effect of the availability of parking.

However, Council recognises that its approach in this area has not delivered the outcomes residents are entitled to expect, including regular congestion around Westgate, variable income in its own facilities (alongside a considerable cost for maintenance), considerable unease about both the need for and the delivery of the proposed extension to the Seacourt Park and Ride, and decking at the ice rink sitting unused and unsightly.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet Member to:

Instruct officers to undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of all policies in relation to car parking and vehicle management in Oxford, with the aim of:

- Minimising car use and enhancing the environment in our city
- Maximising financial benefit to the council

Amendment proposed by Councillor Hollingsworth

Council notes that a key thread in ~~recent~~ policy thinking around traffic management *since the early 1970s* in our city has been *limiting* the ~~effect of the~~ availability of parking.

Reducing commuter car parking through the implementation of Residents Parking Zones, setting planning policies to minimise and now reduce the levels of car parking in new developments, the creation of the country's first formal park and ride system and the capping of public car parking spaces in the city centre have been and continue to be critical parts of Oxford's planning and transport policies.

Charges for all City Council car parks have been set with the primary objective of encouraging the use of park and rides, of public transport and of active modes such as walking and cycling wherever possible.

As planning and transport policies continue to move away from the provision of parking for private cars in Oxford, the number of parking spaces will fall, and the Council's medium and long-term financial planning reflects this reality.

~~However, Council recognises that its approach in this area has not delivered the outcomes residents are entitled to expect, including regular congestion around Westgate, variable income in its own facilities (alongside a considerable cost for maintenance), considerable unease about both the need for and the delivery of the proposed extension to the Seacourt Park and Ride, and decking at the ice rink sitting~~

~~unused and unsightly.~~

Council therefore asks the Cabinet Member to:

~~Work with Instruct officers to continue to refine and develop transport, planning and car parking policies that undertake an urgent and comprehensive review of all policies in relation to car parking and vehicle management in Oxford, with the aim of:~~

- ~~• Continue to reduce Minimising private car use and enhancing the environment of in our city~~
- ~~• Continue to prepare and make provision for the financial implications of following such a policy Maximising financial benefit to the council~~

Motion if amended then reads:

Council notes that a key thread in policy thinking around traffic management since the early 1970s in our city has been limiting the availability of parking.

Reducing commuter car parking through the implementation of Residents Parking Zones, setting planning policies to minimise and now reduce the levels of car parking in new developments, the creation of the country's first formal park and ride system and the capping of public car parking spaces in the city centre have been and continue to be critical parts of Oxford's planning and transport policies.

Charges for all City Council car parks have been set with the primary objective of encouraging the use of park and rides, of public transport and of active modes such as walking and cycling wherever possible.

As planning and transport policies continue to move away from the provision of parking for private cars in Oxford, the number of parking spaces will fall, and the Council's medium and long-term financial planning reflects this reality.

Council therefore asks the Cabinet Member to:

Work with officers to continue to refine and develop transport, planning and car parking policies that

- Continue to reduce private car use and enhance the environment of in our city
- Continue to prepare and make provision for the financial implications of following such a policy

4. **Bicycle Mayors (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor xxx)**

Green member motion

Original text

This Council notes the international Bicycle Mayors and Leaders Network (<https://bycs.org/our-work/bicycle-mayors/>), a global initiative to accelerate the progress of cycling in cities and help get another one billion people onto bikes.

Bicycle Mayors are a catalyst to bring together the public and private realms to uncover the massive economic, health, and environmental benefits of increased cycling.

As a City which aims to improve cycling rates, this Council agrees to appoint an Oxford Bicycle Mayor in line with the Network's aims and goals.

This Council asks the Leader:

To set in place the necessary arrangements to facilitate such an appointment

(Note: the Network's rules state that a Bicycle Mayor must be someone appointed from outside the Council).

5. Climate Partners (proposed by Councillor Henwood, seconded by Councillor xxx)

Independent member motion

Original text

Oxford City Council has many partners and stakeholders both within and outside the city. Oxford City Council in order to develop and facilitate good practice will develop a 360-degree feedback forum on its website, publishing suggestions, materials sharing good practice associated with climate change.

Council is resolved to:

Liaise with its stakeholders and partners including Schools, Colleges, Universities, Community Centres, Parish Councils and retail outlets to ask them to recognise the climate emergency. To facilitate good practice, City Council will make available to these organisations, suggestions on how to deliver sustainable outcomes to contest climate change, and encourage these organisations to contribute their own three-point plan on how they have delivered sustainable outcomes and carbon reduction over the past year. This 360-degree feedback to be promoted on the council's website and other media.

Therefore, the Council asks that the Leader:

- writes to the council's partners and stakeholders asking them to recognise the climate emergency.
- Introduces the 360-degree feedback plan, asking our partners and stakeholders to contribute 3 strategies to contest climate change.
- instructs officers to develop a 360-degree feedback page that advises promotes the activities and suggestions of our both the council, it stakeholders and partners.

6. International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons motion (proposed by Councillor Tanner, seconded by Councillor xxx)

Labour member motion

Oxford City Council has been a long-standing member of the 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 the regular transport of nuclear weapons on Oxfordshire's roads and the continuing threat of nuclear war.

NFLA has worked with Mayors for Peace and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) to promote the International Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Over two thirds (122) of United Nations member states have agreed the TPNW.

Council regrets that the Governments of the existing nuclear weapon states, including the UK, refuse to support the Treaty. Council fully supports the TPNW as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament.

Oxford City Council calls on the United Kingdom Government to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- Cancelling the programme to replace its entire Trident nuclear arsenal with enhanced weapons;
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear-armed states to reduce and then eliminate their nuclear arsenals by supporting both the Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and the 'Good Faith' Protocols within the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

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

Note: Similar resolutions have been agreed by Manchester City Council and Renfrewshire Council. The TPNW was agreed at the UN by 122 countries (including the Republic of Ireland) in July 2017 and is currently being ratified, a process that is expected to conclude in 2019.

7. Local Electricity Bill (proposed by Councillor Gant, seconded by Councillor xxx)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Original text

That Oxford City Council

- (i) acknowledges the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
- (iii) further recognises
 - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,
 - that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
 - that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities;
- (iv) accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, and which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and**
- (v) further resolves to ask the Leader to**
 - **inform the local media of this decision,**
 - **write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and**
 - **write to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.**

8. Homelessness Charter (proposed by Councillor Wolff, seconded by Councillor xxx)

Green member motion

Original text

This Council notes that it provides significant support, directly and indirectly, to the homeless¹ and has an extensive policy framework but has no underlying, summary statement of those rights that it aims to protect and defend. Council therefore agrees to adopt the following Homelessness Charter:

1. Homelessness prevention
Each person has the right to access the help and support they need, including access to financial, mental or physical health services, to avoid homelessness.
2. The Right to Housing
Services supporting access to appropriate housing must be accessible to all homeless people.
3. The Right to Shelter
Where housing cannot be immediately provided, there must be access to decent emergency accommodation for anyone finding themselves without shelter.
4. The Right to Use Public Space
People who find themselves without a home will have the same right as others to use public space e.g. pavements, parks, public transport and public buildings.
5. The Right to Equal Treatment
All staff and services uphold the right to equal treatment for all including those who find themselves homeless.
6. The Right to a Postal Address
The Council shall ensure that homeless people who need one have an accessible postal address.
7. The Right to Sanitary Facilities
The Council commits to providing access for all homeless people to basic sanitary facilities sufficient to maintain human dignity.
8. The Right to Emergency Services
The right to emergency services (where the Council has influence) e.g. social services, health services, the police and the fire service without fear of discrimination
9. The Right to Vote
The right to vote, to be included on the electoral register and to be given the necessary documents to prove their identity.
10. The Right to Data Protection
Data will only be shared by public and other services with their consent and for the purposes of providing services.
11. The Right to Privacy
The right to privacy must be respected and protected to the fullest extent possible.
12. The Right to Survive
The right to carry out practices necessary for survival within the law. While the Council strives for a City in which such practices are not necessary, we

recognise that where people have no other option they will seek support from other people or forage for discarded food to survive.

13. The Right to Respect for Personal Property

People who are homeless should have their belongings respected by everyone. They should never be damaged or thrown away or be removed without compelling need, and if they are removed they should be made available for collection without charge.

14. The Right to Life

The Council's priority is to preserve life. If a person who is homeless dies, there should be an investigation in order to understand the causes and the implications for any changes in policy or practice.

[1] Note: The term 'homeless' is taken here to include rough sleepers as well as individuals and families who have a roof over their head but no security of tenure.

Amendment proposed by Councillor L Smith

The Council provides significant support, directly and indirectly, to the homeless [1] and has an extensive policy framework but has no underlying, summary statement of those rights that it aims to protect and defend. Council therefore agrees to:

Delete all forward from:

~~adopt the following Homelessness Charter:~~

and replace with

request that the Housing Panel of the Scrutiny Committee in conjunction with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum formulate a Homelessness Charter for the council to adopt. To cover standards of service that people experiencing homelessness can expect from council services as well as the human and citizens' rights which this council will seek to defend and promote.

Motion if amended then reads:

The Council provides significant support, directly and indirectly, to the homeless [1] and has an extensive policy framework but has no underlying, summary statement of those rights that it aims to protect and defend. Council therefore agrees to:

request that the Housing Panel of the Scrutiny Committee in conjunction with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum formulate a Homelessness Charter for the council to adopt. To cover standards of service that people experiencing homelessness can expect from council services as well as the human and citizens' rights which this council will seek to defend and promote.

[1] Note: The term 'homeless' is taken here to include rough sleepers as well as individuals and families who have a roof over their head but no security of tenure.

This page is intentionally left blank