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| To: | Council |
| Date: | 22 March 2021 |
| 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 10 March 2021, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Head of Law and Governance by publication of the briefing note are also included below.

Unfamiliar terms may be explained in footnotes.

**Motions will be taken in turn from, the Green group, the Labour group, the Liberal Democrat group, and an Independent member (if any) in that order.**

[Introduction](#_Toc67050523)

[a) Developing a Food Strategy (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Tidball, seconded by Cllr Hayes]](#_Toc67050524)

[b) Housing and Homelessness (Proposed by Cllr Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini)](#_Toc67050525)

[c) Call on the Government to repeal the Vagrancy Act (proposed by Cllr Gant)](#_Toc67050526)

[d) Support for a new Oxford National Park (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Tarver]](#_Toc67050527)

[e) Financial security (Proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Humberstone)](#_Toc67050528)

[f) Proportional Representation to ensure every vote counts (proposed by Cllr Garden)](#_Toc67050529)

[g) Adopting an advertising and sponsorship policy which supports responsible consumption (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff) [amendment proposed by Cllr Tanner]](#_Toc67050530)

[h) Against Food Poverty (proposed by Cllr Tidball)](#_Toc67050531)

# Developing a Food Strategy (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Tidball, seconded by Cllr Hayes]

Green member motion

The Council resolves to request Head of Community Services bring a report to Cabinet with proposals for commissioning aFood Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in Oxford that have been highlighted by the current pandemic (including the scandal surrounding free school meals during lockdown) and takes into account the emerging National Food Strategy (Part 1 report and recommendations released July 2020).

As part of this work, the Cabinet is requested to recognise:

* That the Council has undertaken considerable work to address inequality
* That the Council is signatory to the Oxford Good Food Charter
* The excellent work already being done by the voluntary sector within the City
* That this work has needed to expand in response to the increased need during the COVID-19 pandemic

In preparing the Food Strategy, the Council should focus on those with the greatest need and seek to address issues including sustainability and public health.

**Amendment proposed by Cllr Tidball, seconded by Cllr Hayes**

**Add** the words in *italics* and **delete** the words ~~struckthrough,~~ leaving the words in bold from the original so that the final text would read:

*When Oxford was hit by Coronavirus in March 2020, doing nothing was not an option.*

*Council recognises the commitment made to ensuring nobody in Oxford went hungry. Knowing that the pandemic would exacerbate inequalities, this Council established five Locality Response Hubs, a food depot at Rose Hill Community Centre, and, with partners the Oxford Hub, Oxford Together.*

*Council further recognises that this Council:*

* *Gave over 11,000 emergency food parcels to communities between March and August 2020; working with communities and Oxford Brookes University, these food parcels were nutritious and culturally appropriate.*
* *Worked to strengthen relationships with SOFEA and a network of charities and community partners, such as Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford Community Action, Good Food Oxford, the Oxford Mosques and Syrcox, to support Oxford’s food system.*
* *Secured food pipelines, along with access to Community Larders and low-cost food for those who needed it, and £145k of grant funding to support organisations to sustain this system when the Council transitioned from food parcel delivery. Took care to call all those in receipt of a food parcel and worked with them to access food vouchers and the network of food banks and larders.*
* *Committed to providing Free School Meal vouchers when the Government refused to provide Free School Meals during October half-term, and continued to work with partners to help people access food through the Winter Support Grants.*

*More can be done. Supermarkets have significant food waste. Tackling food poverty and reducing waste to deliver a net Zero Carbon City go hand in hand.*

*This Council backs concerted and coordinated action to address food poverty and resolves to continue to work with partners, as we have throughout the pandemic, to develop a county-wide strategy that addresses the causes of food poverty as part of our wider anti-poverty work. This should include the following:*

* ~~This council resolves to request~~**The Head of Community Services bring***ing* **a report to Cabinet with proposals** *for* **commissioning a Food Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in Oxford***,* ~~that have been highlighted by the current~~ *exacerbated by the* **pandemic***,* ~~(including the scandal surrounding free school meals during lockdown) and takes into account the emerging~~ *taking into account:*
  + **The**~~emerging~~**National Food Strategy***;* ~~(Part 1 report and recommendations released July 2020~~

~~As part of this work Cabinet is requested to recognise~~

* + ~~That the Council has undertaken considerable work~~*The considerable work undertaken by this Council to* **address inequality** *and to tackle food poverty during the pandemic;*
  + ~~That the Council is~~*Being* **a signatory to the Oxford Good Food Charter;**
  + **The excellent work**~~already being done by the~~ *of Oxford’s* **voluntary sector** ~~within the city~~ *to tackle food poverty;*
  + ~~That this work has needed to expand in response to the increased need during the COVID-19 pandemic~~
  + *Recommendations on achieving a self-sustaining community food system and Council’s role in supporting this.*
* *Bringing together the views and knowledge of our food network partners to better understand the current root causes of food poverty, and a shared action plan to implement meaningful solutions.*
* *Tackling child food poverty by campaigning to address holiday hunger, increasing take up of free school meals and access to food larders for families with children.*
* *Continuing to use relationships with supermarkets to divert surplus food to those in need and minimise waste to help eliminate Oxford’s contribution to climate change by 2040 or sooner, in line with the Zero Carbon Oxford Charter and recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Change.*

~~In preparing the Food Strategy, the Council should focus on those with the greatest need and seek to address issues including sustainability and public health.~~

**The motion, if the amendment is agreed, would then read:**

*When Oxford was hit by Coronavirus in March 2020, doing nothing was not an option.*

*Council recognises the commitment made to ensuring nobody in Oxford went hungry. Knowing that the pandemic would exacerbate inequalities, this Council established five Locality Response Hubs, a food depot at Rose Hill Community Centre, and, with partners the Oxford Hub, Oxford Together.*

*Council further recognises that this Council:*

* *Gave over 11,000 emergency food parcels to communities between March and August 2020; working with communities and Oxford Brookes University, these food parcels were nutritious and culturally appropriate.*
* *Worked to strengthen relationships with SOFEA and a network of charities and community partners, such as Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford Community Action, Good Food Oxford, the Oxford Mosques and Syrcox, to support Oxford’s food system.*
* *Secured food pipelines, along with access to Community Larders and low-cost food for those who needed it, and £145k of grant funding to support organisations to sustain this system when the Council transitioned from food parcel delivery. Took care to call all those in receipt of a food parcel and worked with them to access food vouchers and the network of food banks and larders.*
* *Committed to providing Free School Meal vouchers when the Government refused to provide Free School Meals during October half-term, and continued to work with partners to help people access food through the Winter Support Grants.*

*More can be done. Supermarkets have significant food waste. Tackling food poverty and reducing waste to deliver a net Zero Carbon City go hand in hand.*

*This Council backs concerted and coordinated action to address food poverty and resolves to continue to work with partners, as we have throughout the pandemic, to develop a county-wide strategy that addresses the causes of food poverty as part of our wider anti-poverty work. This should include the following:*

* *The Head of Community Services bringing a report to Cabinet with proposals for commissioning a Food Strategy to address the causes of food inequality in Oxford, exacerbated by the pandemic taking into account:*
  + *The National Food Strategy;*
  + *The considerable work undertaken by this Council to address inequality and to tackle food poverty during the pandemic;*
  + *Being a signatory to the Oxford Good Food Charter;*
  + *The excellent work of Oxford’s voluntary sectorto tackle food poverty;*
  + *Recommendations on achieving a self-sustaining community food system and Council’s role in supporting this.*
* *Bringing together the views and knowledge of our food network partners to better understand the current root causes of food poverty, and a shared action plan to implement meaningful solutions.*
* *Tackling child food poverty by campaigning to address holiday hunger, increasing take up of free school meals and access to food larders for families with children.*
* *Continuing to use relationships with supermarkets to divert surplus food to those in need and minimise waste to help eliminate Oxford’s contribution to climate change by 2040 or sooner, in line with the Zero Carbon Oxford Charter and recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Change.*

# Housing and Homelessness (Proposed by Cllr Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini)

Labour member motion

This Council notes with horror the decision by the Government to make sleeping rough sufficient grounds for deportation from the UK; nothing could expose the callous brutality of the current Conservative administration more clearly than this.

The Council also notes that in addition to long-standing and indisputable evidence linking both homelessness and poor quality housing with poor mental and physical health, poorer educational outcomes and worse life chances, it is becoming clearer that overcrowded homes are likely to be a significant factor in both the spread of Covid and deaths from the virus.

This Council notes that overcrowding is just one factor that has been identified as leading to the higher rates of people from BAME backgrounds becoming critically ill and dying from Covid-19 and the work Shelter and The Big Issue have done to highlight the government's own figures that black people are 'three times as likely to experience homelessness'. The pandemic is intensifying the housing crisis and widening inequalities for these groups.

The pandemic has demonstrated that we are only as safe as our most vulnerable member; those with no recourse to public funds must have access to public services including housing services with no fear of deportation.

The Council further notes that the ‘everyone in’ campaign at the onset of lockdown showed that it is possible to end rough sleeping with sufficient political will and funding, and also notes that over the last 70 years it is only when council housing was being built in sufficient volumes alongside market housing that enough homes for everyone were provided.

This Council believes that nobody should have to sleep rough on our streets, and that having a secure, safe and affordable home is a basic human right for all.

This Council believes that the Government should have used the publication of the long-delayed Social Housing White Paper to address properly both the moral imperative to end rough sleeping, and the equally important need to provide genuinely affordable and secure homes for all, and condemns the failure to do so.

This Council therefore asks that:

* the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary to demand that Government abandons their proposals to make sleeping rough a ground for deportation, and instead to properly fund local authorities, health services and support providers to ensure that no one in Oxford, or anywhere else in the UK, has to sleep rough on the streets;
* all members of Council support Shelter’s campaign for a mass programme of social housing building, with 200,000 new homes a year being required to address a backlog that has built up over decades;
* all members of Council endorse efforts by Oxford City Council and the other local authorities in Oxfordshire to provide enough affordable housing to meet the needs of our current and future citizens

# Call on the Government to repeal the Vagrancy Act (proposed by Cllr Gant)

Liberal Democrat member motion

On 21 June 1824 Parliament introduced “An Act for the punishment of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds”, commonly known as the Vagrancy Act. It was a response to the increasing number of homeless urban poor following the end of the Napoleonic Wars some nine years earlier, and made it an offence to sleep rough or beg. Campaigners including William Wilberforce condemned the Act from the start because it did not take individual circumstances into account.

But, astonishingly, almost two centuries later, it remains in force. Nor is it just a forgotten relic: in 1989 there were 1,396 convictions under the Act; in 2014 three men were prosecuted under the Act for taking cheese, tomatoes and cake from a bin outside a supermarket in Kentish Town (later dropped by the CPS).

In 2017 the Government announced a review of the law, but made no progress.

In March 2020 Layla Moran MP tabled the Vagrancy (Repeal) Bill. The campaign was joined by many leading organisations in the field, including Shelter, St Mungo’s, Crisis, and very many others. However, the Government took no steps to progress the bill.

On 25 February this year the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government Robert Jenrick MP told the House of Commons that the Vagrancy Act should be “consigned to history” and described it as “antiquated” (though did add, worryingly, “We should consider carefully whether better, more modern legislation could be introduced to preserve some aspects of it”).

Layla Moran MP welcomed the direction of his comments and pointed out cross-party support for the repeal Bill: “Liberal Democrats and politicians on all sides have been urging him to repeal this law for years and years. So now he has to keep his word and scrap the Act as soon as possible. Our cross-party bill can be adopted at a moment’s notice and would receive widespread support.”

This Council

* Welcomes the apparent commitment of Robert Jenrick MP to consign the Vagrancy Act to history, and joins the cross-party group of MPs in urging him to expedite the Repeal Bill as soon as possible;
* Re-states its belief that criminalising homelessness is never part of the solution to a complex problem;
* Commits to improving the supply of social-rented homes through house purchase or renovation of underused/unused properties, and to pursue additional funding from MHCLG;
* Explores by way of a report to Cabinet from the Interim Director of Housing the setting up or supporting a Social Enterprise Lettings Agency to link landlords with homeless people, and provide ongoing support to both landlords and tenants;
* Asks the Leader to write to Layla Moran MP as sponsor of the Vagrancy (Repeal) Bill communicating its wholehearted support for the Bill and its speedy passage through Parliament

# Support for a new Oxford National Park (proposed by Cllr Wolff, seconded by Cllr Simmons) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Tarver]

Green member motion

Council notes that Bioabundance, a local community interest company, has put together a plan for a 36 sq mile National Park to the northeast of Oxford in response to a call from the Government, in its Environmental Bill and in its 10-point plan; the Green Industrial Revolution, for the creation of new National Parks.

Bioabundance is asking local authorities, the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, businesses, charities and environment groups to work together to make this happen for Oxfordshire.

This nature recovery zone would halt the catastrophic loss of wildlife and reduce the detrimental effect of large new developments around Oxford. The right kind of trees would be planted to promote carbon capture and natural flood defences.

The proposed Park encompasses Otmoor and the ancient royal forests of Bernwood and Stowood. This is a beautiful area with few major roads, between Oxford, Bicester, Kidlington and Wheatley. Over a quarter of a million people live within 10 miles of this area. Easy access would be offered through a new network of sustainable transport links, including foot and cycle paths from train stations and from Park and Ride.

Council asks the Leader to issue a statement of support for the new Oxford National Park and ask the Interim Executive Director (Communities) bring a paper to Cabinet to discuss how the Council might get involved further. This should include an exploration of the value of extending the proposed Park to include adjoining land (for example, Shotover).

**Amendment proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Tarver**

**Add** the words in *italics* and **delete** the words ~~struckthrough~~ so that the final text would read:

*Oxford City Council has committed to increasing biodiversity and is supporting calls to double tree cover across the county, including developing Oxfordshire’s first Local Nature Partnership in partnerships with others.*

*Oxford City Council takes an ambitious Natural Resource Management approach which will outline what we need to do to sustainably enhance biodiversity. It is important that we examine the needs of our varied ecosystems and maintain vitally important habitats and species in our city.*

*In the recommendations from the*[*Oxford Citizens Assembly on Climate Change*](https://www.oxford.gov.uk/citizensassembly)*, the first by a UK city, enhanced biodiversity was addressed as one of five themes and seen as central to the overall net zero vision of Oxford. It was recognised that tackling climate change and ecological breakdown together was important. Assembly Members were positive about creating more biodiversity and green space. The strong sentiment emerging from citizens was to make our communities among the greenest in the country, which is exciting ambitious and achievable.*

*The City Council owns and manages over 600 hectares of accessible green space in the city and surrounding area, including a country park, 33 nature areas and over 60 urban parks. The City has 12 Sites of Special Scientific Interest, covering 278 hectares and including Port Meadow (which has been meadowland for at least 4000 years), Wolvercote Common, Shotover Country Park, and Lye Valley Nature Reserve.*

Council notes that Bioabundance, a local community interest company, has put together a plan for a 36 sq mile National Park to the northeast of Oxford in response to a call from the Government, in its Environmental Bill and in its 10-point plan; the Green Industrial Revolution, for the creation of new National Parks.

Bioabundance is asking local authorities, the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, businesses, charities and environment groups to work together to make this happen for Oxfordshire.

~~This~~ ***Bioabdundance say that* *the*** nature recovery zone would halt the catastrophic loss of wildlife and reduce the detrimental effect of large new developments around Oxford.  The right kind of trees would be planted to promote carbon capture and natural flood defences.

~~This~~ ***Bioabdundance say that* *the*** proposed Park encompasses Otmoor and the ancient royal forests of Bernwood and Stowood. This is a beautiful area with few major roads, between Oxford, Bicester, Kidlington and Wheatley. Over a quarter of a million people live within 10 miles of this area. Easy access would be offered through a new network of sustainable transport links, including foot and cycle paths from train stations and from Park and Ride.

Council asks the Leader to ~~issue~~ ***consider*** a statement of support for the new Oxford National Park ***after more information can be gathered***, and ***to*** ask the Interim Executive Director (Communities) *to* bring a paper to Cabinet to ~~discuss~~ ***reflect on this information and consider*** how the Council might get involved further ~~this should include an exploration of~~ ***and explore*** the value of extending the proposed Park to include adjoining land (for example, Shotover).

# Financial security (Proposed by Cllr Hayes, seconded by Cllr Humberstone)

Labour member motion

Council believes the Conservative Government was too slow to introduce lockdown, too slow to protect care homes, and too slow to provide key workers with protective equipment. Because of this, the UK has the worst Coronavirus death rate in Europe.

Oxfordshire has ten wards in the most deprived 20% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation and they are frequently home to key workers, BAME communities, and others who will be disproportionately affected by COVID. COVID has shone a light on inequalities and how badly prepared the UK was for dealing with a major crisis after a decade of cuts to the NHS and local councils.

The UK is experiencing the worst economic crisis of any major economy. With nearly 10% shrinkage of the British economy last year, the UK is on course for the deepest recession in 300 years, and this will harm people’s lives and livelihoods.

Compared with a pre-COVID trajectory, Oxfordshire’s economy could expect to see 6,000 fewer jobs and output £522 million lower by 2030. Council notes the findings of the COVID-19 Psychological Research Consortium about the mental health impacts of COVID and the link that is emerging between its economic impacts and poor mental health outcomes.

Council understands that small businesses drive the growth and innovation that will help build Oxford’s and Britain’s recovery. Oxford needs a government to make the right choices on our economy, with support for business going hand-in-hand with robust health measures.

Council applauds council officers for distributing over 4,500 grants to these to businesses disrupted by the pandemic. Council further applauds the successful placement of rough sleepers in accommodation during the pandemic and regrets the lack of adequate government funding to continue this work and calls for “everyone in” funding to be made permanent.

Council regrets that the Government has not lived up to its promises to support local government during the pandemic, with less than a third of the projected £29 million losses and additional expenditure projected to be covered.

This Council calls on the Leader to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to:

* Urgently come up with a plan to secure the economy and help businesses to escape their disastrous stop and go approach.
* Announce a smarter furlough scheme that offers certainty beyond April that avoids a cliff-edge and supports residents with training and skills for new employment opportunities.
* Give an immediate extension to the business rates holiday to give businesses breathing space and extend reduced rate VAT to support our hospitality and retail sectors and protect our high streets from collapse.
* Extend the increase to Universal Credit payments. The Institute for Fiscal Studies says that removing this could see some single, childless adults see their income fall by a fifth, and Council would oppose moves that would exacerbate poverty.
* Follow the advice of the COVID-19 Psychological Research Consortium: "the Government can most preserve the population’s mental health by protecting people from the economic consequences of the pandemic and by providing practical support to parents of young children”.

# Proportional Representation to ensure every vote counts (proposed by Cllr Garden)

Liberal Democrat motion

First Past the Post is an archaic system that distorts representation and weakens public engagement with politics. It is no longer fit for purpose in the 21st Century. It encourages divisive and tribal politics.

The mismanagement of the UK’s political system by a single-party government especially over the past four years has demonstrated the need for proportional representation (PR) even more strongly. The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted the flaws of a centralised system in Westminster, and we have encountered the frustrations of poor decision-making in this top-down approach first-hand. The political situation may be worse by the time of the next election.

The results of last year’s general election speak for themselves. On average it took 38,300 votes to elect each Conservative MP, and a staggering 864,743 to elect the one Green MP. Essentially the Conservatives got 44% of votes but 56% of seats and tragically 71% of votes cast were wasted. At the moment, millions of voters are being left effectively voiceless as they live in safe seats where their vote is unlikely to have any influence on the outcome.

The Conservative Party has been the main beneficiary of First Past the Post (FPTP) over the past 50 years which would explain their reluctant and misleading compromise for electoral reform in the form of the 2011 Alternative Vote (AV) Referendum. There are many possible systems under PR but AV is not one of them.

Recent events in the USA have shown the fragility of democracy. We have a responsibility in safeguarding it. People should have the right to vote for their first choice, not a choice between the least bad candidate with a chance of winning and a wasted vote. It is not how people form consensus in everyday life and shouldn’t be in choosing their government.

Oxford City has repeatedly shown its place in the world. As a city, we should call for a fair voting system that ensures politics works for people. We should call for a pre-election commitment to Proportional Representation. The current system is not working. We need to build a democracy that is fit for the 21st century and in which every vote really counts.

This Council therefore wishes to express its strong support for electoral reform by:

1. Publicly expressing its support for Proportional Representation and encouraging individual Councillors to do likewise.
2. Asking the Leader to write to the City’s MPs asking them to build cross-party consensus on a representative system that is fair and fit to deal with future challenges.

# Adopting an advertising and sponsorship policy which supports responsible consumption (proposed by Cllr Simmons, seconded by Cllr Wolff) [amendment proposed by Cllr Tanner]

Green member motion

Council notes that Bristol has produced a draft advertising and sponsorship policy [1] that would cover the council as an advertiser or sponsor; and the council as an owner of an advertising platform or sponsorship opportunity which an external individual, group or organisation may wish to take up.

It provides a framework for how the council is promoted and how it promotes others, aligned to [the council’s] core values and principles. It seeks to establish a consistent approach, through a set of standards and framework of controls that ensure compliance with legislation, advertising industry codes, council policies and guidelines.

The policy aims to ensure that [the council’s] advertising and sponsorship practice upholds the council’s reputation, supports the council’s priorities by facilitating communication, secures best value for money and maximises income and supports the development of commercial partnerships.

One aim is to support responsible consumption. Content where a ban is being considered includes, for example:

* Promotion or availability of junk food in proximity to schools
* Promotion of polluting fossil fuel vehicles
* Advertising of ‘High Cost Short Term (HCST)’ loan advancers
* Advertising of organisations offering ways to avoid paying legitimate tax in the UK

**Council requests the Chief Executive to delegate an appropriate officer to bring a report to Cabinet to assess whether it is appropriate to adopt a similar policy in Oxford.**

[1] <https://democracy.bristol.gov.uk/documents/s53588/OSMB_Nov2_Advertising_and_Sponsorship_Policy.pdf>

**Amendment proposed by Cllr Tanner**

**Delete** last paragraph

~~Council requests the Chief Executive to delegate an appropriate officer to bring a report to Cabinet to assess whether it is appropriate to adopt a similar policy in Oxford.~~

and **replace** with:

*‘Council notes that such an approach to advertising and sponsorship is already the policy and practice of Oxford City Council. We congratulate Bristol City Council on taking a similar approach.’*

# Against Food Poverty (proposed by Cllr Tidball)

Labour member motion

When Oxford was hit by Coronavirus in March 2020, doing nothing was not an option.

Council recognises the commitment made to ensuring nobody in Oxford went hungry. Knowing that the pandemic would exacerbate inequalities, this Council established five Locality Response Hubs, a food depot at Rose Hill Community Centre, and, with partners the Oxford Hub, Oxford Together.

Council further recognises that:

* Between March and August 2020, over 11,000 emergency food parcels were given to communities by the Council, and working with communities and Oxford Brookes University, these food parcels were nutritious and culturally appropriate.
* Relationships with SOFEA and a network of charities and community partners, such as Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford Community Action, Good Food Oxford, the Oxford Mosques and Syrcox, have been strengthened to support the food system in the city.
* Food pipelines have been secured and Community Larders and access to low-cost food increased for those who needed it. £145k of grant funding has been secured to support organisations to sustain this system when the Council transitioned from food parcel delivery. Care was taken to ensure contact teams called all those in receipt of a food parcel and worked with them to access food vouchers and the network of food banks and larders where needed.
* When the Government refused to provide Free School Meals during October half-term, this Council committed to providing Free School Meal vouchers and continued to work with partners to help people access food through the Winter Support Grants.

More can be done. Supermarkets have significant food waste. Tackling food poverty and reducing waste to deliver a net Zero Carbon City go hand in hand.

This Council backs concerted and coordinated action to address food poverty and resolves to continue to work with partners, as we have throughout the pandemic, to develop a county-wide strategy that addresses the causes of food poverty as part of our wider anti-poverty work. This should include the following:

* The Council producing recommendations on what is needed for a self-sustaining community food system and its role in supporting this, based on its strengths and experiences over the last year.
* Bringing together the views and knowledge of our food network partners to better understand the current root causes of food poverty, with a view to developing and implementing meaningful solutions through a shared action plan.
* Tackling child food poverty by campaigning to address holiday hunger, increase the take up of free school meals, and access to food larders for families with children.
* Continuing to use relationships with supermarkets to divert surplus food to those that need it and minimise waste to help eliminate Oxford’s contribution to climate change by 2040 or sooner, in line with the Zero Carbon Oxford Charter and recommendations of the Citizens’ Assembly on Climate Change.