

To: Council
Date: 18 July 2022
Report of: Head of Law and Governance
Title of Report: **Motions and amendments received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18**

Councillors are asked to debate and reach conclusions on the motions and amendments 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 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on Wednesday 6 July 2022, 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 Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour groups in that order.

Introduction

- a) No Greyhound Racing in Oxford City (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]
- b) Council provision of period products (proposed by Cllr Rawle, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton]
- c) BBC Oxford Cuts (proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Chapman)
- d) Sustainable Street Trading Policy (proposed by Cllr Miles and seconded by Cllr Muddiman)
- e) Tackling and Preventing Child Poverty (proposed by Cllr Djafari-Marbini and seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- f) Street Homelessness and Severe Weather (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Dunne)
- g) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)

a) No Greyhound Racing in Oxford City (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

Council notes:

The reopening of the stadium in Sandy Lane is a welcome addition to Oxford's leisure activities. The stadium has had a chequered history since the mid-1970s and decreasing interest in greyhound racing directly contributed to its decline.

In 2005, Risk Capital Partners with Galliard Homes purchased the failing stadium. Plans for 150 houses and 75 flats were mooted but the Council's statement in favour of keeping the land for leisure use stalled the development. Greyhound racing and speedway continued until 2012 when the Greyhound Racing Association closed the stadium down.

After a decade of disuse, it was announced last year that a new owner planned to bring back greyhound racing to the Oxford Stadium.

This is a concern for the following reasons:

- **Animal welfare:** In 2019, the last full year of racing, the Greyhound Board of Great Britain recorded 4,970 injuries on registered tracks. Despite limited racing, in 2020 there were still 3,575 injuries. Dog welfare is poorly regulated on and off the track, with Parliament's Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee calling for stronger regulation of the industry. The Government has failed to back up the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regs 2010 with stronger legislation.
- **Gambling:** Inevitably greyhound-racing is focused on gambling. There has been considerable research about the effect of gambling on individuals and communities, recently by Dr N. Muggleton (Brasenose College): "gambling is associated with addiction and harmful outcomes for others."
- **Active leisure:** The continuation of greyhound racing at the stadium prevents it being used for more active leisure-based activities. Council notes there has been an informal assessment of the site by British Cycling who have stated it would be suitable as a velodrome, combined with a BMX and learn-to-ride facility, with ample space for other community uses.

The Council considers itself to be a caring Council which seeks the highest standards of welfare for all animals.

This Council calls on the Leader to:

- Issue a press release publicly opposing the return of greyhound racing to Oxford.
- Write to the UK Government calling for the introduction of legislation incorporating the recommendations of the 2016 Greyhound Welfare EFRA Report.

This Council resolves to:

- Support consultation with Oxford residents on their preferred options for leisure activities at the stadium as a part of the Local Plan Review and the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Reg 19 consultation.
- Ask the Cabinet Member for Planning and Housing Delivery to write to the owner of the stadium to request that other uses for the site are explored.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Brown seconded by Cllr Linda Smith

Add the words in bold italics and delete words struck through.

[No changes to first part]

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-

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

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The Council considers itself to be a caring Council which seeks the highest standards of welfare for all animals.

This Council calls on the Leader to:

- Write to the UK Government calling for the introduction of legislation incorporating the recommendations of the 2016 Greyhound Welfare EFRA Report.

b) Council provision of period products (proposed by Cllr Rawle, seconded by Cllr Pegg) [amendment proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton]

Green Group member motion

This Council notes that:

- The average menstruating person spends £4800 on period products in their lifetime (Bloody Good Period, 2019)
- 36% of girls aged 14-21 in the UK struggled to afford or access period products during the coronavirus pandemic, equivalent to over a million people (Plan International, 2021)
- Half of these girls could not afford period products at all and 73% said they had to use toilet paper instead of pads or tampons at some point
- Inability to buy period products leads to social exclusion, particularly from education (Global Citizen, 2018)
- Period poverty is a particular problem for refugees and those in the asylum system, who receive under £40 a week in state support (Bloody Good Period/Women for Refugee Women, 2019)
- Young Women's Music Project currently delivers a volunteer-run distribution network in Oxford to support people who menstruate or have young children and cannot access sanitary products or nappies
- Under the Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill, the Scottish Government has set up Scotland-wide scheme to allow anyone who needs period products to get them free of charge, and gives the Scottish Government the power to make public bodies including schools, colleges and universities provide period products for free (Scottish Parliament, 2021)
- As part of the Welsh Government's Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education Institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021)

This Council believes that:

- Everyone who requires period products should be able to access them for free
- A person's period should not prevent them from succeeding in life

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet setting out the feasibility of providing free period products in public toilets and other public buildings including the Town Hall and community centres – in female, male, disabled and gender neutral facilities, including options to:
 - Explore whether any free disposable period products provided by the council can be sustainably sourced
 - Provide sanitary waste bins in all toilets, not just female toilets

- Publicise the provision of free period products through council communication channels
- Call on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to:
 - Write to the County Council encouraging it to widen access to free period products across Oxfordshire, providing free period products in toilets of all public buildings including libraries, schools and colleges.
 - Write to the Minister for Women and Equalities, calling on the UK government to make period products free and available to all who need them across England, as has been done in Scotland and Wales

Amendment proposed by Cllr Aziz seconded by Cllr Upton

Add the words in bold italics and delete words struck through.

[No changes to the first six bullet points]

- Under the Period Products (Free Provision) Scotland Bill, the Scottish Government, **sponsored by Labour MSP Monica Lennon**, has set up Scotland-wide scheme to allow anyone who needs period products to get them free of charge, and gives the Scottish Government the power to make public bodies including schools, colleges and universities provide period products for free (Scottish Parliament, 2021)
- As part of the Welsh **Labour** Government's Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education Institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021)

This Council believes that:

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This Council resolves to:

- ~~Request that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet setting out the feasibility of providing free period products~~ **Work with period poverty charities and organisations in the city to provide free period products including sustainable ones** in public toilets and other public buildings including the Town Hall and community centres – in female, male, disabled and gender neutral facilities, including options to:
 - Explore whether any free disposable period products provided ~~by the council~~ can be sustainably sourced
 - Provide sanitary waste bins in all toilets, not just female toilets
 - Publicise the provision of free period products **including** through council communication channels
- Call on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to:
 - Write to the County Council encouraging it to widen access to free period products across Oxfordshire, providing free period products in toilets of all public buildings including libraries, schools and colleges.
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- As part of the Welsh Labour Government's Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan, funding has been provided to local authorities and Further Education institutions to ensure that period products can be accessed free of charge by learners in schools, Further Education Institutions and to those in need in communities (Welsh Government, 2021)

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c) BBC Oxford Cuts (proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Chapman)

Labour Group member motion

This Council condemns the BBC's proposal to end the transmission of its Oxford based television news bulletins from its headquarters in Summertown and urges it to drop this cost saving plan.

This Council acknowledges the Conservative Government has deliberately made the BBC's funding position very challenging by freezing the licence fee but this plan will minimise coverage of Oxfordshire issues and lead to an unacceptable reduced regional news service on television at peak viewing times.

The plan to present all the regional news programming from Southampton by creating a single edition of South Today with no segment committed to Oxford news serves no local resident well. With a much larger region to cover, all BBC South Today viewers will get less local coverage and Oxfordshire on the edge of the region is likely to miss out on a regular basis.

The move comes at a time when local journalism is under threat, with cash starved local newspapers and persistent BBC cuts already having hollowed out local radio and newspaper news coverage.

This is also a cut that disproportionately affects older people and those without access to digital services. There are still many people who choose to get their news through TV and newspapers and for them an increased online service is no substitute.

The BBC argument that audiences are relatively low to the Oxford segment of South Today is not the point. The value of regional television news services is about more than audience size – it is about an informed public able to hold decision makers to account. Local democracy will be worsened by this BBC Plan.

This Council recognises that councils across the affected areas are joining together to condemn these cuts.

This Council calls upon the Leader of the Council to:

- Write to the Chair of the BBC Trust and its Director General demanding the cuts be scrapped, and urging the BBC to boost coverage of local government across all its news media, and in particular re-instate its Local Democracy scheme reporter post based in Oxford;
- Write to Anneliese Dodds MP and Layla Moran MP, including a copy of the Council's letter to the Chair of the BBC Trust and its Director General, requesting that they also raise this issue;
- Request an urgent meeting with the BBC Nations Director Rhodri Talfan Davies to impress upon him the damage this proposal will do to local journalism;
- Write a letter of support to the Trades Unions, including the NUJ and BECTU, who represent staff at BBC Oxford to fight the cuts and rule out any compulsory redundancies.

d) Sustainable Street Trading Policy (proposed by Cllr Miles and seconded by Cllr Muddiman)

Liberal Democrat Group member motion

Council notes:

Street trading¹ contributes to the vibrancy and vitality of Oxford and its local economy but there is scope to increase the sustainability of this activity, as well as at events on public land including parks². The Oxford City Council Street Trading Policy already contains some environmental measures including a condition on food traders that 'packaging and utensils shall be made of recycled or part recycled material.' However, the policy is in the process of being updated and this presents the Council with the opportunity to take a stronger and more comprehensive approach to manage the sustainability impacts of street trading. This is in recognition that street trading activities, as with any type of business or activity, may positively or negatively affect the wider environment, society or the economy.

In light of its commitment to address the Climate Emergency and ecological crisis, and during Plastic Free July, this Council acknowledges that there are actions it can take within its sphere of control and influence to promote more sustainable approaches to street trading. Examples might include, attaching conditions to licences, working in partnership with licence holders to improve the sustainability of their business practices, and involving them in wider city council initiatives such as the city's work on safer streets in the night time economy.

Therefore, this Council:

- Commits to seeking and integrating feedback including with traders on the Environment; Air quality; Littering; and Sustainable energy during the policy consultation process.
- Commits to updating its standard street trading consent conditions so they include a:
 - Ban on single use plastic and polystyrene in street trading;
 - Ban on the sale of plastic and helium balloons;
 - Requirement and guidance on the use of sustainable food packaging, utensils, drinks containers and bags
- Requests that the Head of Regulatory Services and Community Safety explores options to update standard street trading consent conditions so that they include a requirement to provide a litter bin for recycling.
- Commits to encouraging and providing guidance to street traders:
 - To adopt sustainable sourcing of food and drink;
 - To use sustainable sources of energy for their trading activities;
 - To deal with customers' rubbish responsibly; and
 - On the benefits of sustainable street trading.
- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to work with stakeholders including at the County Council to consider the feasibility of increasing the provision of street based electric power points for street traders including in parks to phase out the use of diesel generators for energy generation by street traders.
- Calls on Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to explore ways to encourage street traders to transition to electric vehicles during the initial grace period for the ZEZ with the aim to require street traders to use electric vehicles in the medium term.

¹ 'Street Trading' is defined as the selling or exposing or offering for sale of any article (including a living thing) in a street – subject to a number of exceptions.

² Currently, there are 37 annual street traders and 2 weekly trading pitches. To date in 2022, there have been 5 events with 45 traders.

e) Tackling and Preventing Child Poverty (proposed by Cllr Djafari-Marbini and seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Labour Group member motion

Council notes:

Child poverty in Oxford is sadly persistent. In 2019, 29% of children in Oxford lived below the poverty line, approximately 9 children in every class of 30, a horrendously high figure given the prosperity of the city and country. The majority (70% nationally) of these children live in working families, in which the cost of living crisis has now combined with the existing problems of unaffordable housing and low wage, poor quality jobs to make life even more challenging. The data are even more stark amongst racialised minorities and families living with disabilities.

It is almost impossible to list exhaustively the negative consequences on children of growing up in poverty. Poorer health outcomes, lower educational attainment and earnings, and higher entrapment in the criminal justice system are pervasive themes which resonate into adulthood and cause life-long scarring and stigmatisation. The stigma of poverty is one of many compelling reasons for universal and “cash first” approaches favoured by most local and national experts in the field.

However, the struggles which accompany not having sufficient resources to engage in society on the same basis as everybody else though are of concern right now, and require an immediate response. In the words of Baroness Lister of Burtersett, Honorary President of Child Poverty Action Group children should be valued and cared for as “beings” rather than “becomings”.

It is striking that in the discourse around poverty the voices of children and families living in poverty are often missing. There are some notable exceptions which reveal devastating testimony such as *“Poverty feels like a tangled web that you can never escape”* (ATD Fourth World/Oxford University) and: *“[it] makes me feel sad when mum says we haven’t got much money but I’m OK with it and have to support my mum”* (Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission).

Despite the national constraints, our Council has taken a huge number of positive steps over many years to tackle inequalities in the city, without which the situation would undoubtedly have been much worse. These include an ambitious housing strategy, a comprehensive Council Tax Reduction scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments, sustained support for the city’s advice centres and work on the Oxford Living Wage.

This Council:

- Notes the work already being done to tackle the causes of child poverty.
- Requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy submits a report to Cabinet with options to consider how:
 - a. The Socio-economic Duty could be implemented within all council policies, and
 - b. Partnership institutions, including Oxford University, could be encouraged to adopt the Socio-economic Duty.
- Requests that the Head of Communities submits a report to Cabinet with options to:
 - a. Develop a Child Poverty Strategy informed by the voices of young people directly affected.
 - b. Implement more immediate actions such as:
 - Donation of devices to Getting Oxfordshire Online

- Considering how parents and carers in or at risk of destitution (including those with no recourse to public funds) can access support via “food first” and “cash first” approaches.

f) Street Homelessness and Severe Weather (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith, seconded by Cllr Dunne)

Labour Group member motion

This Council notes that The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) sets out the measures that Oxford City Council and our partners will take to provide for the welfare of people who are sleeping rough in instances of severe weather. The focus of SWEP to date has been on providing additional emergency accommodation during periods of cold weather, and in 2018 this council agreed that SWEP should be triggered every night forecast to be zero degrees or below.

However, climate change means that we are increasingly experiencing extreme weather of other kinds, including heatwaves, storms, hurricanes, and floods. People sleeping rough are at risk of heat stroke, heat exhaustion, dehydration, sun burn and skin cancer. Areas used by rough sleepers may be threatened by falling trees or rising water levels.

This Council now requests that:

- The Head of Housing Services updates the Council’s SWEP procedure to take account of these threats. It should plan for periods of extreme heat and include the distribution of drinking water and sun protection and ensure that there is an indoor area available to anyone experiencing rough sleeping who wants to get out of the sun.
- The Head of Housing Services ensures that the updated SWEP procedure is discussed with the Lived Experience Advisory Forum (LEAF) for input.

g) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)

Labour Group member motion

This Council notes that:

- The global scientific consensus is that humans have heated the climate at a rate that is unprecedented, and we are heading towards mass extinction not just for ourselves but of entire eco systems if we do not change our actions today.¹
- Oxford City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.²
- We have a duty as leaders in the city to empower the local community to make changes that can mitigate climate catastrophe and help preserve the vitality of our planet for future generations.
- The UK's agriculture produces 10% of the country's greenhouse gas emissions and makes up 70% of land use. Modern agricultural practices are a central driver for habitat and biodiversity loss and the UK is one of the world’s most nature-depleted countries.³
- In the UK we eat twice as much meat and dairy as the global average which is not sustainable as there is not enough land in the world to meet this demand without destroying our natural world.⁴

- Plant-based sources of protein have much smaller carbon footprints than animal-based ones, even when comparing locally raised meat to imported plant foods.
- Farm animals across Europe are producing more emissions than cars and vans combined.⁵
- Our relationship to food is still an overlooked factor to the climate crisis yet it is the quickest and cheapest step to help tackle the climate crisis if we reduce our meat intake.
- The necessary change to confront the climate crisis needs to tackle existing inequalities in society while acting urgently.
- One of the few ways of reducing emissions that potentially saves people money is by consuming less meat which can be done immediately.
- To protect and enrich jobs in Oxford, we should work closely with local farmers and plant-based food organisations to move to more sustainable farming methods and local produce that promotes plant-based food.

This Council:

- Calls on the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport to work with Oxfordshire partners to encourage that the Oxfordshire Food Strategy:
 - Works with local farmers to support, promote, and encourage their move to create more sustainable plant-based produce.
 - References the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
- Requests that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet with options to form a plant-based localised free food service by supporting community groups who are already doing this work to transform Oxford into a more environmentally sustainable economy which will also tackle food poverty.
- Commits to the provision of entirely plant-based food at councillor-only events and the provision of plant-based options at public Council events which are catered.⁶
- Calls on Cabinet to:
 - Request that the Council's Climate Action Plan be updated to state that all catering provided at council events and functions from August 2022 will have plant-based options.
 - Work with all Council run companies and facilities to encourage moving to having plant-based catering options by August 2022.

1 https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf

2

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1705/council_outlines_how_it_aims_to_become_a_zero_carbon_council_by_2030_at_the_latest

3 <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/state-of-nature-uk-report-2016.pdf>

4 <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/how-much-meat-should-i-be-eating/>

5 <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/22/eu-farm-animals-produce-more-emissions-than-cars-and-vans-combined-greenpeace>

6 Oxford City Council stopped catering for council meetings a year ago so plant-based catering would be for the few remaining internal council events.

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