

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 28 November 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 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 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 28 November 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, Labour, Liberal Democrat and Green groups in that order.**

### Introduction

- a) Bus Fares (proposed by Cllr Hollingsworth) [amendment proposed by Cllr Smowton]
- b) Campsfield House (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Goddard) [amendment proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini]
- c) Fixing Oxford's Water (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Bely-Summers)
- d) End Tory Cost of Living Crisis (proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton)
- e) Support Small Business Saturday on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr R Smith) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Rehman]
- f) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)

## a) Bus Fares (proposed by Cllr Hollingsworth) [amendment proposed by Cllr Smowton]

### Labour member motion

This Council recognises the vital importance of affordable, reliable and high quality public transport to the functioning of our city. We therefore strongly welcome the recent IPPR research on public transport, published on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 under the title ***“To support low-income households, it’s time to reduce the cost of daily bus travel”***.

This Council agrees with the IPPR report when it makes clear that reducing fares is not the ONLY thing needed to increase bus patronage – interventions to improve speed, reliability and the experience of passengers are all required as well.

However this Council agrees strongly that reductions in the costs of public transport for passengers are essential for a fair transport system.

Low income households are the most likely to use buses, while research by the RAC Foundation shows that since 2013 the cost of bus travel has risen by a greater extent than all other forms of transport. It is the poorest households, without access to other forms of travel, that have borne the brunt of these increases driven by de-regulation and lack of long-term funding.

Any reduction in bus fares would therefore be of the greatest benefit to those least well off. Capping bus fares at no more than £1 per day would save the poorest 20% of households in England £0.8bn a year. Making all bus fares in England free would save the poorest 40% of households £1.5bn a year.

This Council notes that a policy of making bus fares in England entirely free would cost £2.3bn a year, with the greatest benefits going to the least well off. For comparison, the recent ‘fiscal event’ proposed £40bn worth of tax cuts, mostly to the most well off. The current proposed Government funding for new roads is £27bn, for schemes that are likely to increase pollution and make the climate and biodiversity crises worse. For the same money, bus travel could be made free for at least ten years, helping to reduce car journeys and making progress towards a net zero transport system.

This Council therefore asks that:

- The Leader of the Council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport, the Shadow Secretary State for Transport, Oxford’s two MPs and to the Leader of the County Council expressing this Council’s support for making public transport in Oxford free of charge
- The Council’s Cabinet Members and officers, through their existing partnerships and relationships with the County Council and bus operators, work to promote and deliver this objective.

### References/links

<https://www.ippr.org/blog/time-to-reduce-the-cost-of-daily-bus-travel>

<https://www.racfoundation.org/data/cost-of-transport-index>

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### **Amendment proposed by Cllr Smowton**

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

[No changes to first part]

***This Council further notes the Fair Deal Alliance's progress in improving bus travel in the County, including delivering reduced Park and Ride fares, £1 fares for 18s and under, and decarbonising our bus fleet via the ZEBRA programme.***

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**b) Campsfield House (proposed by Cllr Gant, seconded by Cllr Goddard)  
[amendment proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini]**

Liberal Democrat member motion

The Home Office announcement of its intention to reopen Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre in Kidlington ignores local and national feeling on the treatment of refugees. It's also a cruel, ineffective, and costly backwards step for this government, for our country and for the people of Kidlington, Yarnton and Begbroke.

In the years before its closure in 2018, Campsfield House was used to detain nearly 30,000 migrants. During that time there were weekly demonstrations, protests, hunger strikes, two suicides, escapes and scores of legal challenges. It was finally closed following a damning inquiry into conditions.

The UK is ranked 20th in terms of asylum applications processed, and 19th for applications accepted. Two thirds of UK asylum seekers' claims are turned down, the highest refusal rate in Europe, with 41% of those decisions overturned on appeal.

Instead of criminalising people fleeing war, oppression and persecution, who have already suffered at the hands of people traffickers, the government should focus on achieving its own targets to deal with asylum claims promptly and fairly.

This Council therefore condemns the re-opening of Campsfield House and asks the Leader to write to the Home Secretary calling for:

- The cancellation of the reopening of Campsfield House as a detention centre.
- The creation of safe havens and more legal routes to apply for asylum in the UK.
- The prioritisation of prompt and fair processing of asylum claims whilst introducing appropriate safeguards to allow asylum seekers to live and work in our communities in the meantime.

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**Amendment proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini**

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

[No changes to first part]

***For decades, the Campaign to Close Campsfield<sup>1</sup>, the people of Oxford, and this council<sup>2</sup> have fought tirelessly to amplify the voices of asylum seekers and end the misery and injustice of immigration detention.***

***This Council is proud and committed to being a City of Sanctuary welcoming Afghans, Syrians, Ukrainians and all those fleeing war in recent times.***

***This Council is currently supporting partner organisations such as Asylum Welcome<sup>3</sup> to care for recently arrived asylum seekers locally providing the humanity and dignity not provided to them by the faceless Home Office.***

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<sup>1</sup> [Close Campsfield | The weblog of the Campaign to Close Campsfield \(wordpress.com\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Statement on Government plans to reopen Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre | Oxford City Council](#)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>

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### **c) Fixing Oxford's Water (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Bely-Summers)**

#### Green member motion

#### **Council notes**

1. On August 24, Thames Water introduced a hosepipe ban following the driest July on record.
2. Across England and Wales, 3 billion litres of water are lost to leaks in the water system every single day
3. According to analysis by the GMB union, Thames Water's infrastructure allows 635 million litres of water to leak out of the system every single day - equivalent to leaving a hosepipe on for 73 years.<sup>7</sup>
4. Failure to fix leaks has had a major impact on public infrastructure in Oxford - including the flooding of the Littlemore underpass for several weeks.
5. There has been a long delay in replacing the water pipe occupying the east bound cycle lane on Osney Bridge, which has endangered cyclists using Botley Road.
6. Between 2017 and 2021, Thames Water has accrued £32.4 million of fines over 11 separate incidents of water pollution - including a £4 million fine for sewage pumped into Oxford's waterways.<sup>8</sup>
7. Since privatisation in 1989, shareholders of water companies have pocketed over £72bn in dividends.<sup>9</sup> Thames Water paid out £392 million in profit to shareholders between 2013 and 2017.<sup>10</sup>

#### **Council believes**

1. Thames Water is currently failing to deliver an adequate public service, is failing to invest in infrastructure, and has caused extensive environmental damage - all while putting the burden of water saving onto residents.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/thames-waters-daily-waste-same-hosepipe-being-73-years>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thames-water-fined-4-million-after-30-hour-waterfall-of-sewage-discharge>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/15/uk-water-boss-bonuses-reservoirs-built-leaks-fixed>

<sup>10</sup> <https://weownit.org.uk/company/thames-water>

2. Serious questions have been raised as to Thames Water's performance - questions to which the public need answers. More accountability for the company is therefore necessary.
3. Going forward, the country's illogical privatisation of water must be reversed. Water is a basic need, a natural monopoly and a vital public service. Privatisation provides all the wrong incentives for running a water supply, and it should be returned to public hands, with democratic oversight.

### **Council resolves**

1. To request that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks requests that Thames Water's CEO Sarah Bentley attend a meeting open to all Councillors to ask questions on the company's performance.
2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks writes to the water regulator - Ofwat - expressing the concerns laid out in this motion and requesting action be taken to redress it.
3. To request that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Parks writes to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Thérèse Coffey, and the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Grant Shapps informing them of the Council's view that the country's water system should be taken into public ownership.
4. To lobby government ministers on an ongoing basis to tackle the issues raised in this motion, and for a publicly owned water system.

### **d) End Tory Cost of Living Crisis (proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton)**

#### Labour member motion

The cost-of-living crisis is deepening poverty, inequalities and insecurity, amongst thousands of people, families, and communities across our city.

Twelve years of Tory austerity and brutal central government funding cuts to councils such as ours continues to have a catastrophic impact on services and community support for working people.

The Covid pandemic has also pushed many people into further hardship along with independent and small businesses finding it impossible to survive.

Under a Tory government of millionaires, food bank use across the country and in our own city has rocketed, with more and more people in full time employment also dependent on food banks and food projects across Oxford.

And now this government is wielding more cuts to services. The Tories have shown over the past twelve years they have no desire to improve the lives of working people across our city and country. They need to go. Now.

As winter starts, many are left to wonder how they will feed their families, heat their homes, pay spiralling energy bills and pay their rent and mortgages. People are terrified of becoming destitute and homeless.

Oxford City Council is working with people and communities, organisations and partners across the city including advice centres, food banks and food networks, the NHS, and others to provide information and support across Oxford's diverse communities.

We are proud of the many ways community groups are working together to support people and thank everyone for their tireless work.

This council condemns this out of touch government for the harm and devastation it's causing people and communities daily.

We condemn the increases in inequalities and specifically racialised inequalities the cost of living crisis is exacerbating as outlined in the recent Runnymede Trust report.

We reject this governments failed economic and social policies that have seen an increase in child poverty in our city that is creating a deepening mental health crisis, as the recent Marmot report highlights

We demand an end to further cuts to local government budgets and services across our city and reject the Tories desire to wield austerity 2.0 against our city.

We call on the government to ensure benefit payments rise in line with record breaking inflation, so that people have a chance to survive the economic chaos created by a government of billionaires and can make it through the winter.

We call on Universal Credit payments and Disability Cost of Living Payments to rise for everyone and for these payments not to be one off.

We call on the government to respect public sector workers human rights to strike action and call on all workers to be paid wages enabling them to live lives of dignity and hope.

We call on the government to urgently implement the energy windfall tax and tax energy companies making huge profits while thousands of people across our city struggle to pay for gas and electricity.

**e) Support Small Business Saturday on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr R Smith) [amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Rehman]**

Liberal Democrat member motion

Council notes that Small Business Saturday 2022 is coming up on December 3rd. Small Business Saturday has grown into a significant event – with £1.1 billion spent at small businesses during the 2020 event alone.

Council recognises that this is an excellent opportunity to promote small businesses in Oxford and to celebrate the contribution smaller businesses make to our city.

Council believes that Small Businesses are the heart and soul of our city and district shopping centres. They help give the City of Oxford its unique character and employ thousands of local people. It is only by supporting our local independent businesses that we can also help our local high streets thrive.

Council resolves to:

- (a) participate as fully as possible in Small Business Saturday on 3rd December 2022.
- (b) request that the Chief Executive explores how officers can work closely with local business organisations and smaller enterprises across Oxford to make them aware of the day and encourage them to sign up.
- (c) promote Small Business Saturday thoroughly and prominently on the Council's website, social media channels and other external communications.
- (d) welcome the excellent cooperation between the County Council and local bus companies which resulted in reduced bus ticket prices for teenagers and the

introduction of a reduced ticket for family groups using the Park and Ride sites around Oxford which will encourage shoppers to travel both into Oxford city and other district centres.

Council requests that the Executive Director (Development) submits a report to Cabinet with options to develop a year round communications plan to continue promoting local small businesses and encouraging residents across Oxford to shop small and shop local.

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### **Amendment proposed by Cllr Brown, seconded by Cllr Rehman**

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

[No changes to first part]

Council ~~resolves to~~ **recognises that:**

- (a) ~~participate as fully as possible in on 3rd December 2022.~~ **the Council has a longstanding commitment to support Small Independent Businesses and regularly promotes them through its social media channels. Most recently we have launched a city centre best dressed Christmas window competition for independents.**

**Council resolves to:**

- (ab) ~~request that the Chief Executive explores how officers can work closely with local business organisations and smaller enterprises across Oxford to make them aware of the day and encourage them to sign up,~~ **commend the work done by the City Centre Manager, Economic Development team and Covered Market team to support local independent businesses through regular quarterly network meetings and a monthly newsletter as well as working closely with OxLEP to promote their grants to the SME sector.**
- (be) **continue to promote small businesses** ~~Small Business Saturday thoroughly and prominently on~~ **via** the Council's website, social media channels and other external communications **and in particular notes the augmented Christmas trail round the city that the council has instigated to support independent businesses.**
- (cd) ~~welcome the~~ **thank the City Council transport and development portfolio holders for instigating the** excellent cooperation between the **City and** County Councils and local bus companies which resulted in reduced bus ticket prices for teenagers and **ODS introducing** ~~the introduction of~~ a reduced ticket for family groups using the Park and Ride sites around Oxford which will encourage shoppers to travel both into Oxford city and other district centres **by bus.**

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Council recognises that the Council has a longstanding commitment to support Small Independent Businesses and regularly promotes them through its social media channels. Most recently we have launched a city centre best dressed Christmas window competition for independents.

Council resolves to:

- (a) commend the work done by the City Centre Manager, Economic Development team and Covered Market team to support local independent businesses through regular quarterly network meetings and a monthly newsletter as well as working closely with OxLEP to promote their grants to the SME sector.
- (b) continue to promote small businesses via the Council's website, social media channels and other external communications and in particular notes the augmented Christmas trail round the city that the council has instigated to support independent businesses.
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#### **f) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)**

##### Labour member motion

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.<sup>1</sup>
- Oxford City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.<sup>2</sup>
- 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.<sup>3</sup>

- 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.<sup>4</sup>
- 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.<sup>5</sup>
- 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.
- 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.

Council agrees to:

- Request that the Cabinet Member for Health and Transport:
  - Works with local farmers to support, promote, and encourage their move to create more sustainable plant-based produce.
  - Recognises the benefit of sourcing food locally from producers who follow sustainable principles.
- Request that the Executive Director (Communities and People) submits a report to Cabinet with options to form a plant-based localised free food service by funding community groups who are already doing this work to transform Oxford into a more environmentally sustainable economy which will also tackle food poverty.
- Follow Oxfordshire County Council's lead by ensuring that food provided for internal councillor events are entirely plant-based and food provided at all council catered events and meetings include plant-based options, preferably using ingredients sourced from local food surplus organisations.<sup>6</sup>
- Call 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 January 2023 will have plant-based options.
- Call on the Shareholder group to work with all Council run companies to encourage moving to having plant-based catering options by January 2023.

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[https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC\\_AR6\\_WGI\\_Press\\_Conference\\_Slides.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf)

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[https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1705/council\\_outlines\\_how\\_it\\_aims\\_to\\_become\\_a\\_zero\\_carbon\\_council\\_by\\_2030\\_at\\_the\\_latest](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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