

To: Council
Date: 30 January 2023
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 18 January 2023, 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) Opposing Voter ID (proposed by Cllr Landell Mills, seconded by Cllr Snowton)
- b) Fixing Oxford's Water (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Muddiman) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hunt]
- c) End Tory Cost of Living Crisis (proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton) [amendment proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Rawle]
- d) Use Park and Ride Parking Sites for Solar Farms (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Miles) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth]
- e) Plant-based Food and Sustainable Farming (proposed by Cllr Dunne, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth)

a) Opposing Voter ID (proposed by Cllr Landell Mills, seconded by Cllr Smowton)

Liberal Democrat member motion

Voting at elections is the cornerstone of democracy at both local and national level.

Participation in elections should be encouraged in all those who are qualified regardless of age, ethnicity or income.

Unnecessary barriers to voting are likely to reduce voter participation in elections, proper representation of all parts of the community and so legitimacy of those elected to office.

Voter ID is a solution without a problem and as such insinuates barriers to voting which should be of great concern to anyone who supports an open and effective democratic system of government.

The specific details released at the end of 2022, showing that considerably more forms of ID will be accepted for older voters than for younger voters, is particularly concerning in that it risks disproportionately disenfranchising voters who tend not to support the current Government.

This Council therefore requests that the Leader should write to Minister for the Cabinet Office to convey:

- This council's opposition to mandatory voter ID.
- That the list of acceptable documentation should be reviewed at the earliest opportunity and its equalities impacts measured.
- That adequate funding for local advertising must be provided to minimise the risk of voter disenfranchisement due to unawareness of the new requirements.

b) Fixing Oxford's Water (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Muddiman) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hunt]

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. ¹
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.

¹ <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/thames-waters-daily-waste-same-hosepipe-being-73-years>

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.²
7. Since privatisation in 1989, shareholders of water companies have pocketed over £72bn in dividends.³ Thames Water paid out £392 million in profit to shareholders between 2013 and 2017.⁴

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.
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.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hunt

Add the words in bold italics.

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.⁵

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thames-water-fined-4-million-after-30-hour-waterfall-of-sewage-discharge>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/15/uk-water-boss-bonuses-reservoirs-built-leaks-fixed>

⁴ <https://weownit.org.uk/company/thames-water>

⁵ <https://www.gmb.org.uk/news/thames-waters-daily-waste-same-hosepipe-being-73-years>

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 **and the ring road for several days in October.**
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.⁶
7. Since privatisation in 1989, shareholders of water companies have pocketed over £72bn in dividends.⁷ Thames Water paid out £392 million in profit to shareholders between 2013 and 2017.⁸

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.
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. **Only by bringing back water into public ownership can we guarantee the health and safety of Oxford's residents, of Oxford's cherished waterways, wildlife and the future of our water supplies.**

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.
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4. To lobby government ministers on an ongoing basis to tackle the issues raised in this motion, and for a publicly owned water system.

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thames-water-fined-4-million-after-30-hour-waterfall-of-sewage-discharge>

⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/aug/15/uk-water-boss-bonuses-reservoirs-built-leaks-fixed>

⁸ <https://weownit.org.uk/company/thames-water>

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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. Only by bringing back water into public ownership can we guarantee the health and safety of Oxford's residents, of Oxford's cherished waterways, wildlife and the future of our water supplies.

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¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thames-water-fined-4-million-after-30-hour-waterfall-of-sewage-discharge>

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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.

c) End Tory Cost of Living Crisis (proposed by Cllr Aziz, seconded by Cllr Upton) [amendment proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Rawle]

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 continues, 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 is causing people and communities daily.

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

We reject this government's 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 multi-millionaires 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 implement urgently 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.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Rawle

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

[no changes to first part]

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 applaud those trade unions and workers who are currently taking industrial action to secure a pay rise that matches the cost of living.***

We call on the government to implement urgently 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.~~ ***follow the TUC's recommendation to take the big 5 energy retail companies into public ownership.***

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

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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.

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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 applaud those trade unions and workers who are currently taking industrial action to secure a pay rise that matches the cost of living.

We call on the government to implement urgently the energy windfall tax and follow the TUC's recommendation to take the big 5 energy retail companies into public ownership.

d) Use Park and Ride Parking Sites for Solar Farms (proposed by Cllr Fouweather, seconded by Cllr Miles) [amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth]

Liberal Democrat member motion

Oxford City Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' in 2019. Various initiatives have been proposed since then and the Council has been making progress in areas such as decarbonisation of Council owned social housing and leisure centres.

This proposal is to ask that the case for installing solar panels on the Park and Ride sites around Oxford is examined and a report prepared for Cabinet to consider at a future meeting.

A solar farm in this case would consist of solar panels mounted on a sufficiently high framework so that the majority of cars would be able to park underneath. An additional benefit would be that cars would be protected from both bad weather and overheating due to sunshine.

The French government has recently announced a plan to mandate that all car parks in France must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced that they were installing a car park solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it makes much more efficient use of available land – rather than using farmland in the Green Belt and demonstrates that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero.

Taking the three City owned P+R sites (Peartree, Redbridge and Seacourt) together there are 3836 car spaces. This could generate at least 6MW of power – enough for

800–1000 average sized houses. If the other P+R sites (Thornhill and Water Eaton/Parkway) are included then this rises to over 9MW.

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy submits a report to Cabinet which:

1. Examines this proposal to assess its feasibility.
2. Explores alternative possibilities for funding the installation costs.
3. Considers the desirability or otherwise of the Council being the operator of the solar farm(s) and thus selling the electricity generated to energy companies.
4. Assesses the potential income stream to the Council from the solar farms once installed.
5. Reports on discussions with the relevant County Council officers about the possibility of the other P+R sites at Thornhill and Water Eaton being included in this scheme.

Amendment proposed by Cllr Railton, seconded by Cllr Hollingsworth

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

Oxford City Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' in 2019. Various initiatives have been proposed since then and the Council has been making progress in areas such as decarbonisation of Council owned social housing and leisure centres.

This proposal is to ask that the case for installing solar panels on the Park and Ride sites around Oxford ~~is examined and a report prepared for Cabinet to consider at a future meeting~~ ***continues to be considered by officers and Cabinet.***

A solar farm in this case would consist of solar panels mounted on a sufficiently high framework so that the majority of cars would be able to park underneath. An additional benefit would be that cars would be protected from both bad weather and overheating due to sunshine.

The French government has recently announced a plan to mandate that all car parks in France must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced that they were installing a car park solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it ~~makes~~ ***could make*** much more efficient use of available land – ~~rather than using farmland in the Green Belt~~ ***in addition to welcome proposals for large scale solar farms elsewhere in Oxfordshire*** and ***could further*** demonstrates that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero.

Council notes that the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, supported by this Council, identifies a need for installed PV capacity in Oxfordshire to increase from 300mW to 1900mW – a six fold increase. This Council therefore is supportive of exploring all possible opportunities for increasing that installed capacity, whether it is large strategic-scale installations like Botley West Solar Farm, or smaller and more tactical projects like the existing installation at Redbridge Park and Ride and Leys Pool and Leisure Centre.

Taking the ~~three~~ ***two*** City owned P+R sites (~~Peartree, Redbridge and Seacourt~~) ***there could be potential for substantial electricity generation, although this would depend on resolving other, potentially competing uses, such as freight consolidation to cycle delivery networks, EV charging and so on, of the sites and***

~~**so would need careful planning.** together there are 3836 car spaces. This could generate at least 6MW of power – enough for 800–1000 average sized houses. If the other P+R sites (Thornhill and Water Eaton/Parkway) are included then this rises to over 9MW.~~

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy **continues to investigate the feasibility of extending solar installations on spaces in Oxford including Park and Rides, and that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice provide a verbal update at a Council meeting before the end of the year.** ~~submits a report to Cabinet which:~~

- ~~1. Examines this proposal to assess its feasibility.~~
- ~~2. Explores alternative possibilities for funding the installation costs.~~
- ~~3. Considers the desirability or otherwise of the Council being the operator of the solar farm(s) and thus selling the electricity generated to energy companies.~~
- ~~4. Assesses the potential income stream to the Council from the solar farms once installed.~~
- ~~5. Reports on discussions with the relevant County Council officers about the possibility of the other P+R sites at Thornhill and Water Eaton being included in this scheme.~~

If the amendment is agreed the motion would read:

Oxford City Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' in 2019. Various initiatives have been proposed since then and the Council has been making progress in areas such as decarbonisation of Council owned social housing and leisure centres.

This proposal is to ask that the case for installing solar panels on the Park and Ride sites around Oxford continues to be considered by officers and Cabinet.

A solar farm in this case would consist of solar panels mounted on a sufficiently high framework so that the majority of cars would be able to park underneath. An additional benefit would be that cars would be protected from both bad weather and overheating due to sunshine.

The French government has recently announced a plan to mandate that all car parks in France must have solar farms installed. The Bentley Car Company recently announced that they were installing a car park solar farm at their plant in Crewe which will cover 1378 spaces and generate 2.7 MW of power.

The benefit of this proposal is that it could make much more efficient use of available land – in addition to welcome proposals for large scale solar farms elsewhere in Oxfordshire and could further demonstrate that the City Council is fully behind the push for Green Energy and Net Zero.

Council notes that the Oxfordshire Energy Strategy, supported by this Council, identifies a need for installed PV capacity in Oxfordshire to increase from 300mW to 1900mW – a six fold increase. This Council therefore is supportive of exploring all possible opportunities for increasing that installed capacity, whether it is large strategic-scale installations like Botley West Solar Farm, or smaller and more tactical projects like the existing installation at Redbridge Park and Ride and Leys Pool and Leisure Centre.

Taking the two City owned P+R sites (Redbridge and Seacourt) there could be potential for substantial electricity generation, although this would depend on resolving

other, potentially competing uses, such as freight consolidation to cycle delivery networks, EV charging and so on, of the sites and so would need careful planning.

Therefore this Council requests that the Head of Corporate Strategy continues to investigate the feasibility of extending solar installations on spaces in Oxford including Park and Rides, and that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice provide a verbal update at a Council meeting before the end of the year.

e) 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.¹³
- Oxford City Council is committed to reducing its impact on the environment and to becoming carbon neutral by 2030.¹⁴
- 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.¹⁵
- 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.¹⁶
- 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.¹⁷
- 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:

¹³ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/outreach/IPCC_AR6_WGI_Press_Conference_Slides.pdf

¹⁴ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/news/article/1705/council_outlines_how_it_aims_to_become_a_zero_carbon_council_by_2030_at_the_latest

¹⁵ <https://www.rspb.org.uk/globalassets/downloads/documents/conservation-projects/state-of-nature/state-of-nature-uk-report-2016.pdf>

¹⁶ <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/news/how-much-meat-should-i-be-eating/>

¹⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/22/eu-farm-animals-produce-more-emissions-than-cars-and-vans-combined-greenpeace>

- 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.¹⁸
- 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 March 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 March 2023.

¹⁸ Oxford City Council stopped catering for council meetings a year ago so plant-based catering would be for the few remaining internal council events.