

To: Council
Date: 27 November 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 15 November 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 Green, Oxford Social Independents, Independent Group, Labour, Liberal Democrat groups in that order.

Introduction

- a) Rent Controls (Proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]
- b) Motion to call for a ceasefire in Gaza (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Lucy Pegg]
- c) Back Oxford communities, Oxfam, and Oxford based medical workers, demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire (proposed by Cllr Shaista Aziz, seconded by Cllr Amar Latif).
- d) Peace in Israel and Palestine (proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton)
- e) Housing Management System problems and resultant accounts issues at Oxford City Council and ODS (proposed by Cllr Christopher Smowton, seconded by Cllr Laurence Fouweather) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Nigel Chapman, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown]
- f) A Ban on Disposable Vapes (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Rosie Rawle)

g) School Streets Initiative (proposed by Cllr Katherine Miles, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr)

**a) Rent Controls (Proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Chris Jarvis)
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Alex Hollingsworth, seconded by Cllr Linda Smith]**

Green Member Motion

This council notes:

1. According to the 2021 census, almost a third of all households in Oxford are private renters (32.2 per cent).¹ This has increased from 28.3 per cent at the point of the 2011 census, and is substantially higher than the national average of 20.3 per cent.²
2. In the year to September 2023, tenants in the South East of England experienced rent increases of more than 5 per cent on average.³
3. Studies have shown that Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK to live in⁴, with housing costs being the single biggest contributor to this.⁵
4. A growing number of local authorities and leaders are calling for powers to introduce rent controls in the private rented sector, including Mayor of London Sadiq Khan⁶ and Bristol City Council.⁷
5. The Scottish Government has introduced temporary rent controls, which will be in place until 2024.⁸ Following this, the Scottish Government has stated it intends to introduce a new housing bill that would implement long-term rent controls.⁹

This council believes:

1. Oxford's spiralling housing costs are central to the cost of living crisis in our city, with private renters being among the hardest hit. Without making renting more affordable, thousands of residents in the city will continue to face staggering costs, be plunged further into economic hardship and be priced out.
2. Rent controls are far from a panacea - they will not fix the housing crisis alone or overnight. However, they are a necessary tool to transition to a housing system which puts people before profit.

This council resolves:

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingenglandandwales/census2021>

² <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23235132.census-shows-people-renting-privately-oxford/>

³ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/indexofprivatehousingrentalprices/september2023#measuring-the-data>

⁴ <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23476851.unaffordable-places-live-uk--oxford-ranked-8th/>

⁵ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing_in_oxford

⁶ <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayors-longstanding-call-rent-controls-more-urgent-ever-private-rents-london-forecast-surpass-ps2700>

⁷ <https://westenglandbylines.co.uk/features/brokenbritain/rent-control-motion-passes-the-bristol-city-council/>

⁸ <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-parliament-approves-final-extension-of-tenant-protections/>

⁹ <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23769220.scottish-government-confirms-plans-rent-controls/>

1. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council publicly campaign for local authorities - including Oxford City Council - to be given powers to introduce rent controls.
 2. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's position and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.
-

Labour Group Amendment

This Council notes:

6. That the trend of landlords moving properties from private lets to short term and holiday lets nationally is one that is impacting on large parts of Oxford as well, reducing the number of homes available for rent to families and house-sharers.
7. That this trend is driven largely by the fact that even with the current very high levels of rent in the private rented sector it is possible to generate the same levels of income from a few days rental as a short term let as from a month as a privately rented property.¹⁰
8. That the Government has consistently failed to come close to delivering the number of new homes required each year, with the most recent quarterly figures for planning permissions for new homes been the lowest since records began. Of even greater concern, the same report shows that the number of social housing units – the only genuinely affordable form of affordable housing – given planning permission has fallen by 24% since the previous year.¹¹

This Council believes:

3. That the introduction of rent controls without the simultaneous introduction of powers to restrict the numbers of short-term lets is likely to increase the shift of privately rented homes to short term lets, further worsening the shortage of homes in Oxford.”
4. The only real sustainable and equitable long-term solution to rising housing costs and increasing shortages of homes is a massive and sustained investment in new social housing, to provide genuinely affordable homes in all the cities, towns and villages where people want to live.

This Council resolves:

2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing publicly support Shelter's campaign for a new programme for the mass building of social housing, both nationally and in Oxford and Oxfordshire.
 3. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing continue the Council's long-standing support for all measures to regulate and control the short-term let sector.
 - 2- 4. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's positions, and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.
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¹⁰ Landlord Today: 3rd May 2023 (<https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2023/4/warning-to-landlords-that-switching-to-holiday-lets-wont-be-easy>)

¹¹ Glenigan: Housing pipeline report - Q2 2023 report - Published 7 September 2023 (<https://www.hbf.co.uk/news/housing-pipeline-report-q2-2023-report-published-september-2023/>)

If amended, the Motion would read:

This council notes:

1. According to the 2021 census, almost a third of all households in Oxford are private renters (32.2 per cent).¹² This has increased from 28.3 per cent at the point of the 2011 census, and is substantially higher than the national average of 20.3 per cent.¹³
2. In the year to September 2023, tenants in the South East of England experienced rent increases of more than 5 per cent on average.¹⁴
3. Studies have shown that Oxford is one of the most expensive cities in the UK to live in¹⁵, with housing costs being the single biggest contributor to this.¹⁶
4. A growing number of local authorities and leaders are calling for powers to introduce rent controls in the private rented sector, including Mayor of London Sadiq Khan¹⁷ and Bristol City Council.¹⁸
5. The Scottish Government has introduced temporary rent controls, which will be in place until 2024.¹⁹ Following this, the Scottish Government has stated it intends to introduce a new housing bill that would implement long-term rent controls.²⁰
6. That the trend of landlords moving properties from private lets to short term and holiday lets nationally is one that is impacting on large parts of Oxford as well, reducing the number of homes available for rent to families and house-sharers.
7. That this trend is driven largely by the fact that even with the current very high levels of rent in the private rented sector it is possible to generate the same levels of income from a few days rental as a short term let as from a month as a privately rented property.²¹
8. That the Government has consistently failed to come close to delivering the number of new homes required each year, with the most recent quarterly figures for planning permissions for new homes been the lowest since records began. Of even greater concern, the same report shows that the number of social housing units – the only genuinely affordable form of affordable housing – given planning permission has fallen by 24% since the previous year.²²

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<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingenglandandwales/census2021>

¹³ <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23235132.census-shows-people-renting-privately-oxford/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/indexofprivatehousingrentalprices/september2023#measuring-the-data>

¹⁵ <https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/23476851.unaffordable-places-live-uk--oxford-ranked-8th/>

¹⁶ https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20126/housing/458/housing_in_oxford

¹⁷ <https://www.london.gov.uk/mayors-longstanding-call-rent-controls-more-urgent-ever-private-rents-london-forecast-surpass-ps2700>

¹⁸ <https://westenglandbylines.co.uk/features/brokenbritain/rent-control-motion-passes-the-bristol-city-council/>

¹⁹ <https://www.gov.scot/news/scottish-parliament-approves-final-extension-of-tenant-protections/>

²⁰ <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23769220.scottish-government-confirms-plans-rent-controls/>

²¹ Landlord Today: 3rd May 2023 (<https://www.landlordtoday.co.uk/breaking-news/2023/4/warning-to-landlords-that-switching-to-holiday-lets-wont-be-easy>)

²² Glenigan: Housing pipeline report - Q2 2023 report - Published 7 September 2023

(<https://www.hbf.co.uk/news/housing-pipeline-report-q2-2023-report-published-september-2023/>)

This council believes:

1. Oxford's spiralling housing costs are central to the cost of living crisis in our city, with private renters being among the hardest hit. Without making renting more affordable, thousands of residents in the city will continue to face staggering costs, be plunged further into economic hardship and be priced out.
2. Rent controls are far from a panacea - they will not fix the housing crisis alone or overnight. However, they are a necessary tool to transition to a housing system which puts people before profit.
3. That the introduction of rent controls without the simultaneous introduction of powers to restrict the numbers of short-term lets is likely to increase the shift of privately rented homes to short term lets, further worsening the shortage of homes in Oxford."
4. The only real sustainable and equitable long-term solution to rising housing costs and increasing shortages of homes is a massive and sustained investment in new social housing, to provide genuinely affordable homes in all the cities, towns and villages where people want to live.

This council resolves:

1. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council publicly campaign for local authorities - including Oxford City Council - to be given powers to introduce rent controls.
2. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing publicly support Shelter's campaign for a new programme for the mass building of social housing, both nationally and in Oxford and Oxfordshire.
3. To request that the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Housing continue the Council's long-standing support for all measures to regulate and control the short-term let sector.
4. To request the Cabinet Member for Housing and the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities of the United Kingdom informing them of the council's positions, and request the government allow local authorities to introduce controls on private sector rents.

b) Motion to call for a ceasefire in Gaza (proposed by Cllr Paula Dunne, seconded by Cllr Jabu Nala-Hartley) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Chris Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Lucy Pegg]

Oxford Socialist Independents Group Motion

This Council notes that:

- In response to the Hamas-led attacks on 7th October, the Israeli army has dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza²³ – one of the most densely populated places in

²³ [Israel says 6,000 bombs dropped on Gaza... | Al Jazeera](#)

the world and home to 2.2 million Palestinians²⁴ (of whom almost half are children).²⁵

- The scale of this assault in Gaza has been compared to the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 People were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.²⁶
- As of 10 November 2023, over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced, 11,078 killed (4,506 of whom were children) and 27,490 injured.²⁷
- Collective punishment²⁸ is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.²⁹
- The Israeli government have cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.³⁰
- There has been a 16 year illegal siege of Gaza³¹, an occupation including in our twin city of Ramallah with the deadliest year for Palestinians even before October 7th, and a system of apartheid as documented by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'tselem.³²

This Council believes that:

- What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe with horrific escalations of violence.
- Loss of all civilian lives and atrocities committed against civilians in both the Hamas attacks and the ensuing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israel are horrific and must be condemned.
- Polls show those surveyed overwhelmingly support a humanitarian ceasefire³³, which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, as well as Oxford's own Oxfam.
- Hundreds of Oxford residents have joined protests, written to MPs, or contacted their councillors backing these calls.³⁴

This Council agrees to:

- Request that the Council Leader write to
 - a) the foreign secretary and ask them to:
 - call for an immediate ceasefire,
 - open humanitarian corridors into Gaza (to allow aid, not displace people),
 - provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention,

²⁴ [Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory... | OCHA](#)

²⁵ [WHO pleads for immediate reversal of Gaza evacuation order... | WHO](#)

²⁶ [Thousands of Palestinians forced to flee northern Gaza in what critics call 'new Nakba' | The Independent](#)

²⁷ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel... | OCHA](#)

²⁸ [UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment' | REUTERS](#)

²⁹ [The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law | Doctors Without Borders](#)

³⁰ [The Siege of Gaza and the Starvation War Crime | Just Security](#)

³¹ [Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza | Amnesty International](#)

³² [Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians... | Amnesty International](#)

³³ [Israel-Palestine war: UK poll finds 76 percent want an immediate ceasefire | Middle East Eye](#)

³⁴ [Oxford city centre sees hundreds of Palestine protesters | Oxford Mail](#)

- call for an arms embargo to be enacted by all involved in the conflict.
 - b) local MPs to request that they too write to the foreign secretary as above.
 - Confirm its position that all forms of racism and all hate crimes, including against Jewish or Muslim people, has no place in Oxford.
-

Green Group Amendment

This Council notes that:

- As of 10 November 2023, 11,078 Palestinians, 4,506 of whom were children, have been killed, 27,490 injured and more than 1 million displaced, by Israeli forces.
- ~~In response to~~ Following Hamas' led attacks on 7th October, - killing 1,200 people and abducting more than 200 people including children, in contravention of the Geneva Conventions - ~~the Israeli forces~~ has dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza, one of the world's most densely populated places, ~~in the world and~~ home to 2.2 million trapped Palestinians (of whom almost half are children).
- UNRWA has described the situation as reminiscent of ~~The scale of this assault in Gaza has been compared to~~ the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 people were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.
- ~~As of 10 November 2023, over 1 million Palestinians have been displaced, 11,078 killed (4,506 of whom were children) and 27,490 injured.~~
- Collective punishment is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.
- The Israeli government ~~have~~ has cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.
- There has been a 16-year illegal siege ~~blockade~~ of Gaza, an occupation in the West Bank, including in our twin city of Ramallah with the deadliest year for Palestinians even before October 7th, and major NGOs say there is a system of apartheid. ~~as documented by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and B'tselem.~~
- Hamas' rocket and mortar attacks targeting civilians have been condemned by the UN and human rights organisations.

This Council believes that:

- There must be an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- Neither the actions of the Israeli government or Hamas will contribute to a just peaceful resolution.
- ~~What is happening in Gaza is a humanitarian catastrophe with horrific escalations of violence. Loss of all civilian lives~~ The killing of all civilians and atrocities committed against civilians in both the Hamas attacks and the ensuing ongoing bombardment of the Gaza strip by Israeli forces and the Hamas attacks are horrific and must be condemned.

- Polls show ~~these surveyed overwhelmingly~~ **over 70% of the British public surveyed** support a humanitarian ceasefire, which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, ~~as well as Oxford's own Oxfam,~~ **Layla Moran MP, and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques have also called for the leader of this council and the Oxford East MP to call for an immediate ceasefire.**
- ~~Hundreds of Oxford residents have joined protests, written to MPs, or contacted their councillors backing these calls.~~
- **There are major concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Ramallah.**
- **Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and hate crimes of all forms, including against Jewish and Muslim people, communities and places of worship, have no place in Oxford.**

~~This Council agrees to:~~

- ~~Request that the Council Leader write to~~
 - a) ~~the foreign secretary and ask them to:~~
 - ~~call for an immediate ceasefire,~~
 - ~~open humanitarian corridors into Gaza (to allow aid, not displace people),~~
 - ~~provide an opportunity to seek the immediate release of all hostages and all Palestinians held in arbitrary military detention,~~
 - ~~call for an arms embargo to be enacted by all involved in the conflict.~~
 - b) ~~local MPs to request that they too write to the foreign secretary as above.~~
 - ~~Confirm its position that all forms of racism and all hate crimes, including against Jewish or Muslim people, has no place in Oxford.~~
 - **Write to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Anneliese Dodds demanding they call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire**
 - **Write to the foreign secretary asking them to:**
 - **work to ensure full access for humanitarian aid is granted in Gaza**
 - **seek an immediate unconditional release of all hostages**
 - **call for Palestinians in arbitrary military detention to be given access to justice through an independent, non-military system**
 - **raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence in the West Bank**
 - **Write to express solidarity with Layla Moran and her family in Gaza**
 - **Invites the mayor of Ramallah to address full council to discuss the crisis in the West Bank**
 - **Seeks to convene a meeting of religious leaders, including Jewish and Muslim leaders, and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to better tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia**
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If amended, motion would read:

Council notes:

- As of 10 November 2023, 11,078 Palestinians, 4,506 of whom were children, have been killed, 27,490 injured and more than 1 million displaced, by Israeli forces.³⁵
- Following Hamas' attacks on 7 October - killing 1,200 people and abducting more than 200 people including children, in contravention of the Geneva Conventions, Israeli forces dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza³⁶, one of the world's most densely populated places, home to 2.2 million trapped Palestinians³⁷ (of whom almost half are children)³⁸.
- UNRWA has described the situation as reminiscent of the Nakba ('Catastrophe') of 1948 in which more than 750,000 people were forcibly displaced, dispossessed and expelled from their homes.³⁹
- Collective punishment⁴⁰ is against international law under the Geneva Conventions.⁴¹
- The Israeli government has cut off water, food, and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Humanitarian Law.⁴²
- There has been a 16-year illegal blockade of Gaza,⁴³ an occupation in the West Bank, including in our twin city of Ramallah, and major NGOs say there is a system of apartheid.⁴⁴
- Hamas' rocket and mortar attacks targeting civilians have been condemned by the UN and human rights organisations.⁴⁵

Council believes:

- There must be an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.
- Neither the actions of the Israeli government or Hamas will contribute to a just peaceful resolution.
- The killing of all civilians and atrocities committed against civilians in both the ongoing bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces and the Hamas attacks are horrific and must be condemned.

³⁵ [Hostilities in the Gaza Strip and Israel... | OCHA](#)

³⁶ [10 Israel says 6,000 bombs dropped on Gaza... | Al Jazeera](#)

³⁷ [Appeal for the Occupied Palestinian Territory... | OCHA](#)

³⁸ [WHO pleads for immediate reversal of Gaza evacuation order... | WHO](#)

³⁹ [Thousands of Palestinians forced to flee northern Gaza in what critics call 'new Nakba' | The Independent](#)

⁴⁰ [UN experts say Israel's strikes on Gaza amount to 'collective punishment' | REUTERS](#)

⁴¹ [The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law | Doctors Without Borders](#)

⁴² [The Siege of Gaza and the Starvation War Crime | Just Security](#)

⁴³ [Damning evidence of war crimes as Israeli attacks wipe out entire families in Gaza | Amnesty International](#)

⁴⁴ [Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians... | Amnesty International](#)

⁴⁵ [Israel: Palestinian armed groups must be held accountable... | Amnesty International](#)

- Polls show over 70% of the British public surveyed support a ceasefire,⁴⁶ which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, Oxfam, Layla Moran MP, and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques have also called for the leader of this council and the Oxford East MP to call for an immediate ceasefire.
- There are major concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Ramallah.
- Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and hate crimes of all forms, including against Jewish and Muslim people, communities and places of worship, have no place in Oxford.

Council agrees to:

- Request the Council Leader
 - Write to Rishi Sunak, Keir Starmer and Anneliese Dodds demanding they call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire
 - Write to the foreign secretary asking them to:
 - work to ensure full access for humanitarian aid is granted in Gaza
 - seek an immediate unconditional release of all hostages
 - call for Palestinians in arbitrary military detention to be given access to justice through an independent, non-military system
 - raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence in the West Bank
 - Write to express solidarity with Layla Moran and her family in Gaza
 - Invite the mayor of Ramallah to address full council to discuss the crisis in the West Bank
 - Convene a meeting of religious leaders, including Jewish and Muslim leaders, and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to better tackle Antisemitism and Islamophobia

c) Back Oxford communities, Oxfam, and Oxford based medical workers, demanding immediate Gaza ceasefire (proposed by Cllr Shaista Aziz, seconded by Cllr Amar Latif).

Independent Group Motion

This council notes the UN describes Gaza as a “graveyard for children”⁴⁷, with almost 5,000 Palestinian children killed amongst more than 11,000 Palestinians in Israel's military onslaught on Gaza, including refugee camps, hospitals, medical centres, ambulances, Universities, and neighbourhoods bombed.

Save the Children say more children have been killed in Gaza than the entire number killed in global conflicts since 2019.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ [Israel-Palestine war: UK poll finds 76 percent want an immediate ceasefire | Middle East Eye](#)

⁴⁷ [Gaza becoming 'a graveyard for children', says UN secretary general | Gaza | The Guardian](#)

⁴⁸ [Statement on children's deaths in Gaza | Save the Children](#)

Journalists, doctors, surgeons, nurses, paramedics and aid workers have been killed. The Committee to Protect Journalists say 39 Palestinian journalists have been killed since November 8th, the highest number of journalists killed in conflict since 1992.⁴⁹

The UN says Palestinians in Gaza are surviving on two pieces of bread a day, water is rationed and people including pregnant women are drinking contaminated sea water.⁵⁰

And yet Oxford City Council leader and Oxford East MP refuse to call for a ceasefire, in contrast to Liberal Democrat MP for Oxford and Abingdon West, Layla Moran and our Lord Mayor. Oxford's four main mosques issued a statement calling for the leader of this council and Oxford East MP, to do so, and despite ten Labour councillors resigning over Labour leader Keir Starmer's dehumanising rhetoric on LBC Radio seemingly endorsing collective punishment of Palestinians.⁵¹

Polls show 70% of the British public surveyed want a ceasefire, like us they condemn Hamas for their atrocities in Israel and want hostages returned unharmed immediately.⁵²

Oxfam, based in Cowley, is calling for a ceasefire.⁵³

Oxford based surgeon Nick Maynard leads a teaching initiative in Gaza and says medics are "trying to treat patients despite knowing they may die as a result of hospitals being bombed and surrounded by Israeli soldiers."⁵⁴

According to Gaza Medic Voices, more than 200 healthcare workers have been killed.⁵⁵

This Council agrees that

1. The government, the Labour Party and local MPs should be calling for an immediate ceasefire;
2. It stands in solidarity with Layla Moran MP and her family in Gaza;
3. That it has concerns about the Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in Ramallah, twinned with Oxford
4. That the Council stands in solidarity with Ramallah
5. That the Council should seek to use its position and work with all faiths and relevant partners to seek to tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia.

As such the Council request that the Leader:

1. Write to Rishi Sunak and Keir Starmer and Annelise Dodds, demanding they call for an immediate ceasefire.

⁴⁹ [Israel-Hamas war is 'deadliest conflict for journalists' since at least 1992, CPJ says - ABC News \(go.com\)](#)

⁵⁰ [The average Palestinian in Gaza is living on 2 pieces of bread a day, UN official says | AP News](#)

⁵¹ [Sir Keir Starmer tries to clarify comments on Gaza-Israel siege after LBC interview... - LBC](#)

⁵² [From what you've read and heard, do you think there should or should not be an immediate ceasefire in Israel and Palestine? | Daily Question \(yougov.co.uk\)](#)

⁵³ [Why a humanitarian pause or humanitarian corridors in Gaza are not the answer | Oxfam GB](#)

⁵⁴ [UK hospital workers protest outside No 10 against deaths of medics in Gaza | Israel-Hamas war | The Guardian](#)

⁵⁵ [In Gaza, doctors are among the many dead. Here are some of their stories : NPR](#)

2. Write to Layla Moran, MP, to express the Council's solidarity with and her family in Gaza
3. Write to the Foreign Secretary to raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in Ramallah, twinned with Oxford.
4. Invite the mayor of Ramallah to provide an address to full council meeting (via video link) to discuss the crisis in the West Bank, so we can express in person that the Council is in solidarity with Ramallah
5. Seek to convene an urgent meeting of religious leaders including Jewish and Muslim leaders and community safety stakeholders to discuss how to tackle antisemitism and Islamophobia.

d) Peace in Israel and Palestine (proposed by Cllr Susan Brown, seconded by Cllr Anna Railton)

Labour Group Motion

The terrible loss of life in Israel and Gaza has shocked and appalled us all. We need peace.

The council condemns the terrorist attacks by Hamas on the people of Israel in the strongest possible terms. We call on Hamas to immediately release all hostages unharmed. We recognise Israel's right to take targeted action under international law to defend itself and rescue hostages.

We also recognise the terrible suffering of the people of Gaza - injured, displaced and killed. Women and children are being disproportionately harmed by the collapse of healthcare and other infrastructure in Gaza. This humanitarian crisis must be urgently addressed by the international community. The council echoes the calls of the UN Secretary General, the IRC and ICRC for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire by all parties in the conflict as well as the release of all hostages.

This council therefore calls on the Leader to write to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary to work towards an immediate cessation of hostilities, a release of hostages and to work towards a long-term peaceful two-state solution for all communities.

This council recognises that all Oxford's diverse faith and ethnic communities are continuing to work together to challenge hatred, racism, Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia whenever it occurs and thanks them for continuing to promote cohesion and peace.

This council believes that our city is overwhelmingly a compassionate, welcoming diverse place to live, and we want everyone to feel safe and at home here.

e) Housing Management System problems and resultant accounts issues at Oxford City Council and ODS (proposed by Cllr Christopher Smowton, seconded by Cllr Laurence Fouweather) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Nigel Chapman, seconded by Cllr Susan Brown]

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of a new Housing Management System revealed serious shortcomings in this council's working practices and decision-making.

Council notes that as a result of these failures the budget for the project has had to be doubled to over £3 million.

Council also notes that this project still has not delivered the benefits promised and that it does not yet provide all the facilities needed by Council departments.

Council notes with concern that, as a result of these failures, Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14th August 2023 when they were due on 31st December 2022. Because of this ODS was fined every month for non-compliance. This non-compliance also harmed ODS's ability to tender for additional business.

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts for submission to Central Government.

Council notes that the more information about failures of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:-

Ask the Leader of the Council, as a matter of priority, to:

- 1) Request the publication of a minimally redacted version of the lessons learned report, in contrast to the brief summary published in June 2023.
 - 2) Ensure that action is taken as soon as possible to ensure the new Housing Management System is properly implemented in the Council and that all the benefits promised when the system was acquired are realised.
 - 3) Confirm that the deadline (October 2023) for reporting the certified Council accounts to Central Government has been met.
 - 4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the Cabinet has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation.
-

Labour Group Amendment

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of ~~the~~ a new Housing Management System revealed serious historic shortcomings in this Council's working practices and decision-making in these areas.

Council notes that whilst the budget for the project has had to be increased to over £3 million, this has enabled the system to be properly implemented as per the consultant's report and provision made for extra functionality and support beyond the original scope of the project.

Council also notes that this project is delivering the vast majority of the benefits promised and that work is underway to ensure ~~it does not yet provide all~~ all the extra functionality facilities needed by the relevant Council departments and ODS is delivered.

Council notes ~~with concern that, as a result of these failures,~~ Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14th August 2023 when they were due on 31st December 2022. ODS expects its accounts for 22/23 to be filed by the end of the calendar year, therefore within the appropriate time frame. ~~Because of this ODS was fined every month for non-compliance.~~

~~This non-compliance also harmed ODS's ability to tender for Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX additional business.~~

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts. ~~for submission to Central Government.~~ These are now expected to be published by March 2024.

Council notes that the more information about issues ~~failures~~ of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can

benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:- Ask the Leader of the Council ~~as a matter of priority,~~to:

1) **Make available the summary of lessons learned to interested parties** ~~Request the publication of a minimally redacted version of the lessons learned report, in contrast to the brief summary published in June 2023.~~

2) Ensure that **the relevant officers continue to monitor the implementation of the** ~~action is taken as soon as possible to ensure the new~~ Housing Management System is properly implemented in the ~~so~~ Council and that all the benefits promised when the system was acquired are realised.

3) Confirm that the **Council accounts are published as soon as is practicable** ~~deadline (October 2023) for reporting the certified Council accounts to Central Government has been met.~~

4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the **Council and its senior officers collectively** ~~Cabinet~~ has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation **and continue to advise the Cabinet portfolio holder accordingly.**

If amended, the Motion would read:

Council notes that the report by external consultants into the tendering process, procurement and implementation of the new Housing Management System revealed serious historic shortcomings in this Council's working practices and decision-making in these areas.

Council notes that whilst the budget for the project has had to be increased to over £3 million, this has enabled the system to be properly implemented as per the consultant's report and provision made for extra functionality and support beyond the original scope of the project.

Council also notes that this project is delivering the vast majority of the benefits promised and that work is underway to ensure all the extra functionality needed by the relevant Council departments and ODS is delivered.

Council notes that Oxford Direct Services (ODS) was unable to submit its accounts for the financial year 2021/22 to Companies House as they were not yet certified by the ODS auditors. The accounts were finally lodged on 14th August 2023 when they were due on 31st December 2022. ODS expects its accounts for 22/23 to be filed by the end of the calendar year, therefore within the appropriate time frame.

Council notes that this also prevented the Council's auditors from approving the Council's own accounts. These are now expected to be published by March 2024.

Council notes that the more information about issues of this nature that can be published, the more third parties including other local authorities and public bodies can benefit from the lessons learned. Therefore, there is a strong public interest in disclosure.

Council resolves to:- Ask the Leader of the Council to:

1) Make available the summary of lessons learned to interested parties

2) Ensure that the relevant officers continue to monitor the implementation of the Housing Management System so that all the benefits promised are realised.

- 3) Confirm that the Council accounts are published as soon as is practicable
- 4) Confirm that action has been taken to ensure that the Council and its senior officers collectively has the necessary skills to make decisions on major IT system acquisition and implementation and continue to advise the Cabinet portfolio holder accordingly.

f) A Ban on Disposable Vapes (proposed by Cllr Lucy Pegg, seconded by Cllr Rosie Rawle)

Green Group Motion

Disposable vapes are creating an environmental and health crisis. Far from helping smokers to quit, with their attractive packaging and child-friendly flavours, disposable vapes are getting a new generation addicted to nicotine. Frequently littered and hard to recycle, disposable vapes are also causing damage to the natural environment and wasting critical materials.

This council notes that:

- There has been a fourfold increase in the number of disposable vapes being discarded over the past year, with 5 million vapes now being thrown away every week⁵⁶
- Vapes contain critical raw materials, such as lithium and copper, which are vital for our transition to a greener society. The disposable vapes thrown away over the past year contain enough lithium to create 5,000 batteries for electric cars⁵⁷
- 1 in 9 young people aged 11 to 18 have experimented with e-cigarettes, with 69% of these people choosing disposable vapes, according to research from Action on Smoking and Health (ASH). There has been a 7-fold increase between 2020 and 2022 in the choice of disposables amongst this age group, alongside a 50% year on year increase in the proportion of children experimenting with vaping of all kinds.⁵⁸
- Lithium ion batteries, like those used in vapes, caused 700 fires at waste sites in 2022 due to not being properly disposed of.⁵⁹
- Prominent environmental and health organisations have called for a ban, including The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Marine Conservation Society, Centre for Sustainable Healthcare and Surfers Against Sewage.⁶⁰
- Councils across the country have called for a UK ban on disposable vapes by 2024, and the Scottish Government has already agreed to carry out a consultation on banning disposable vapes⁶¹
- Whilst vaping can help smokers to quit, reusable vapes serve this same purpose

This council resolves:

- Request that the Leader of the Council will write jointly to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food

⁵⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2023/sep/08/call-for-uk-ban-on-single-use-vapes-as-more-than-5m-discarded-each-week>

⁵⁷ Ibid

⁵⁸ <https://ash.org.uk/uploads/Use-of-vapes-among-young-people-GB-2023.pdf?v=1690455394>

⁵⁹ <https://www.materialfocus.org.uk/press-releases/over-700-fires-in-bin-lorries-and-recycling-centres-are-caused-by-batteries-many-of-which-are-hidden-inside-electricals/>

⁶⁰ <https://green-alliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Letter-to-ministers-on-disposable-vapes.pdf>

⁶¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-66718599>

and Rural Affairs, supporting a ban on disposable vapes by 2024 on environmental and child health grounds, as part of the package of measures to be introduced in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill

- That the Leader requests that Officers discuss with Oxford Direct Services the provision of additional facilities for recycling disposable vapes and publicise the existing e-waste recycling services, which accepts vapes
- Request that the Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities investigate ways the council can encourage retailers selling disposable vapes in Oxford to provide recycling facilities for vapes in their stores

g) School Streets Initiative (proposed by Cllr Katherine Miles, seconded by Cllr Emily Kerr)

Liberal Democrat Group Motion

1. Council notes that School Streets deliver a range of benefits, including:
 - Reducing car congestion around the school gate at the beginning and end of day, producing a safer and more welcoming environment for pupils, parents and staff.
 - Reduces overall traffic by encouraging parents not to drive and by preventing large numbers of cars trying to access restricted places at the same time.
 - Delivers opportunities for better physical and mental health, cognitive function, academic performance, resilience, independence, social and leisure activities and many other benefits to children as they grow through taking control of their own lives and accessing healthy and sustainable transport choices.
2. Council also notes that a key element of a School Street is the 'White List' of exempt vehicles maintained by the school(s) in partnership with the County Council, so that any journey which does need to be made to school by car is made easier.
3. Council also notes that:
 - Car traffic in Oxford has continued to increase and is now at crisis levels.
 - Many have observed that congestion increases during school term, and in particular during term for schools in urban Oxford whose pupils travel from both within the city and beyond.
 - Reducing congestion is an urgent priority and requirement for all, in particular buses, including school buses.
4. Council therefore requests that the Leader of the City Council write to the Leader of the County Council and Corporate Director for Environment and Place and urges the County Council, with the full and unequivocal support of this Council, to:
 - Develop proposals for a School Street in Cowley Place;
 - Continue to develop proposals for a School Street in Charlbury Road and the three access points via Belbroughton Road, Linton Road and Bardwell Road;
 - Bring forward proposals for any similar locations considered appropriate.

In all cases working with schools and with the explicit intention of implementation as soon as possible.