

**To:** **Council**  
**Date:** **26 January 2026**  
**Report of:** **Director of Law, Governance and Strategy**  
**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 Director of Law, Governance and Strategy in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.18 by the deadline of 1.00pm on 14 January 2026, as amended by the proposers.

All substantive amendments sent by councillors to the Director of Law, Governance and Strategy 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 Independent Oxford Alliance, Oxford Community Independents, Oxford Independent Group, Real Independent, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, Independent Oxford Alliance, Oxford Community Independents groups in that order.**

### Introduction

- a) Better use of Oxpens Bridge Funding (proposed by Cllr Jupp, seconded by Cllr Miles)
- b) Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikes (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy)

**a) Better use of Oxpens Bridge Funding (proposed by Cllr Jupp, seconded by Cllr Miles) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Malik, seconded by Cllr Azad]  
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Muddiman, seconded by Cllr Rawle]**

### Liberal Democrat Group Motion

Council notes:

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
- Government can and does vary the rules of the Deal from time to time. Thus far, government has rightly prioritised the spirit and objectives of the Deal above the letter of the agreement.
- Doubt remains that the Oxpens bridge will be able to provide a dry route to Osney Island and thereby unlock housing, due to the low-lying railway underpass in-between.
- The Growth Board (now Future Oxfordshire Partnership) was strongly urged against pursuing the Oxpens bridge project to begin with.

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

**Council therefore resolves** to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:

- That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
- That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
  - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
  - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
  - Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

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#### Real Independent Group Amendment

Council notes:

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.

- Government can and does vary the rules of the Deal from time to time. Thus far, government has rightly prioritised the spirit and objectives of the Deal above the letter of the agreement.
- Doubt remains that the Oxpens bridge will be able to provide a dry route to Osney Island and thereby unlock housing, due to the low-lying railway underpass in-between.
- The Growth Board (now Future Oxfordshire Partnership) was strongly urged against pursuing the Oxpens bridge project to begin with.
- **There are already two excellent and well-used cycle and foot bridges in the immediate vicinity of the site of the proposed bridge.**
- **Grandpont Nature Park is a much loved site of precious biodiversity which enriches the lives of the local residents of Grandpont, Osney and beyond; workers at Osney Mead and elsewhere; students and staff at the City of Oxford College, and many others**
- **£8.8million of the funding for the Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) comes from the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal's 'Homes from Infrastructure' fund, whose purpose is to finance "infrastructure to unlock key housing sites".**
- **£1.5million of the funding for the Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) comes from Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund, whose purpose is to finance infrastructure that is "necessary to unlock new homes."**
- **The Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) in its proposed location would not unlock the building of a single home.**

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

**Council therefore resolves** to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:

- That the Growth Deal by varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
- That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
  - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
  - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
  - Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

Council further resolves to:

- Cancel plans for the Oxpens River Bridge and its connecting pathworks to be built in Grandpont Nature Park
- Look again at the various proposals for a) a new bridge directly linking Osney Mead to Oxpens west of the railway and b) improving the route between the gasworks bridge and the city centre

If the amendment was approved, the motion would read:

Council notes:

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
- Government can and does vary the rules of the Deal from time to time. Thus far, government has rightly prioritised the spirit and objectives of the Deal above the letter of the agreement.
- Doubt remains that the Oxpens bridge will be able to provide a dry route to Osney Island and thereby unlock housing, due to the low-lying railway underpass in-between.
- The Growth Board (now Future Oxfordshire Partnership) was strongly urged against pursuing the Oxpens bridge project to begin with.
- There are already two excellent and well-used cycle and foot bridges in the immediate vicinity of the site of the proposed bridge.
- Grandpont Nature Park is a much loved site of precious biodiversity which enriches the lives of the local residents of Grandpont, Osney and beyond; workers at Osney Mead and elsewhere; students and staff at the City of Oxford College, and many others
- £8.8million of the funding for the Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) comes from the Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal's 'Homes from Infrastructure' fund, whose purpose is to finance "infrastructure to unlock key housing sites".
- £1.5million of the funding for the Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) comes from Homes England's Housing Infrastructure Fund, whose purpose is to finance infrastructure that is "necessary to unlock new homes."
- The Oxpens River Bridge (and associated pathworks) in its proposed location would not unlock the building of a single home.

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

**Council therefore resolves** to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:

- That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
- That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
  - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
  - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
  - Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

Council further resolves to:

- Cancel plans for the Oxpens River Bridge and its connecting pathworks to be built in Grandpont Nature Park
- Look again at the various proposals for a) a new bridge directly linking Osney Mead to Oxpens west of the railway and b) improving the route between the gasworks bridge and the city centre

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#### Green Group Amendment

**Council notes:**

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
- Government can and does vary the rules of the Deal from time to time. Thus far, government has rightly prioritised the spirit and objectives of the Deal above the letter of the agreement.
- Doubt remains that the Oxpens bridge will be able to provide a dry route to Osney Island and thereby unlock housing, due to the low-lying railway underpass in-between.
- The Growth Board (now Future Oxfordshire Partnership) was strongly urged against pursuing the Oxpens bridge project to begin with.

- £8.8 million of the funding for the proposed Oxpens Bridge came from the Government Growth Deal via Oxfordshire County Council and £1.5 million of the funding came from Homes England.
- These 2 funds should be spent on unlocking affordable homes, which this bridge does not do.

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

**Council therefore resolves**

- To ask the leader to write to all external funders to say that the bridge is not viable and to ask how the remaining funds could be reallocated.
- to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:
  - That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
  - That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
    - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
    - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
    - Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

If the amendment was approved, the motion would read:

**Council notes:**

- The cost of the Oxpens bridge has substantially increased since its original approval, and is Oxford City Council, Town Hall, St Aldate's Oxford OX1 1BX running considerably behind other Growth Deal projects.
- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
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- To ask the leader to write to all external funders to say that the bridge is not viable and to ask how the remaining funds could be reallocated.
- to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:
  - That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
  - That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
    - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;
    - Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
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If both amendments were approved, the motion would read:

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- That government has the option to repurpose the money for use in other active travel schemes and entrust the County Council to manage this.
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- These 2 funds should be spent on unlocking affordable homes, which this bridge does not do.

Council therefore believes it would be sensible to examine alternatives, and open a conversation with the County and/or the Ministry on options that deliver greater benefits for the residents of Oxford.

### **Council therefore resolves**

- To ask the leader to write to all external funders to say that the bridge is not viable and to ask how the remaining funds could be reallocated.
- to ask the Leader to write to the relevant Minister, in full consultation with the accountable body for the Growth Deal funds, requesting that in the event of the bridge not going ahead:
  - That the Growth Deal be varied as necessary to permit the funds to be used for other specified purposes in Oxford;
  - That other options be explored to better employ the funds, including but not limited to:
    - Resurrecting the substantive scheme for Woodstock Road improvements to mitigate the effect of housing development to the north;

- Revisiting the pedestrian bridge across the A40 at Barton Park which was dropped at planning stage, resulting in very real and significant safety concerns for residents;
- Resurrecting the long-discussed plan for a foot/cycle bridge across the Thames at Jackdaw Lane, providing a safe and convenient alternative to the challenging Plain roundabout for residents of south and east Oxford.

Council notes that each of these schemes has been worked up in detail, and are thus available to re-visit, making any one of them attractive to a government which has the best interests of Oxford's residents at heart.

Council further resolves to:

- Cancel plans for the Oxpens River Bridge and its connecting pathworks to be built in Grandpont Nature Park
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**b) Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikes (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Ottino, seconded by Cllr Qayyum]**

*Councillor Jarvis submitted a self-amendment to the motion; the motion now reads:*

**Council notes**

1. Since September 2024 eight remand prisoners detained as a result of alleged activities with Palestine Action have participated in hunger strikes, including at least one individual from Oxford.<sup>1</sup>
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial<sup>2</sup>, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.<sup>3</sup>
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers are:<sup>4</sup>
  - a) Immediate bail for the prisoners held on remand.
  - b) While they are imprisoned, for the prisoners to be able to send and receive communications without restriction, surveillance, or interference from the prison administration.
  - c) The right to a fair trial.
  - d) For Palestine Action to be de-proscribed.
4. All of those participating in the hunger strikes were detained for alleged activities with Palestine Action prior to parliament adding it to the list of proscribed organisations.
5. While some of the hunger strikers have ended their action, at the time of publication of this motion, four are still refusing food and are facing serious risk of long term health issues or death.<sup>5</sup>
6. Since the publication of this motion, three more of the hunger strikers have ended their protest. However, one individual remains on hunger strike and the bulk of the demands of the campaign, as highlighted by this motion, have not been met.
7. 67 MPs - including Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran - have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure the treatment of the hunger strikers is "humane" and that their human rights are upheld.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

<sup>4</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

8. A number of other councils, including Belfast<sup>7</sup> and Derry<sup>8</sup>, have passed motions expressing solidarity with the hunger strikers and for the government to enter proper negotiations with the prisoners to bring an end to the strikes.

### **Council believes**

1. It is extremely concerning that these prisoners have felt that they had no other recourse to protest against their prison conditions but to engage in hunger strikes.

### **Council resolves**

1. To request that the leader of the council:
  - a) Write to the Secretary of State for Justice and other relevant government ministers, requesting that they
    - i. Meet with the families and representatives of those on hunger strike.
    - ii. Enter negotiations to bring the hunger strikes to an end and to prevent any loss of life or long term health complications.
    - iii. Do everything they can to ensure that the prisoners on remand have their human rights respected and that they are treated humanely.
  - b) Write to local MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran requesting that they work to ensure that government ministers carry out the requests in resolves 1.

### Labour Group Amendment

### **Council notes**

1. Since September 2024 eight remand prisoners detained as a result of alleged activities with Palestine Action have participated in hunger strikes, including at least one individual from Oxford.<sup>9</sup>
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial<sup>10</sup>, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.<sup>11</sup>
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers are:<sup>12</sup>
  - a) Immediate bail for the prisoners held on remand.
  - b) While they are imprisoned, for the prisoners to be able to send and receive communications without restriction, surveillance, or interference from the prison administration.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

<sup>8</sup>

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=2378&Ver=4>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

<sup>12</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

- c) The right to a fair trial.
- d) For Palestine Action to be de-proscribed.

4. All of those participating in the hunger strikes were detained for alleged activities with Palestine Action prior to parliament adding it to the list of proscribed organisations.
5. While some of the hunger strikers have ended their action, at the time of the publication of this motion, four are still refusing food and are facing serious risk of long term health issues or death.<sup>13</sup>
6. Since the publication of this motion, three more of the hunger strikers have ended their protest. However, one individual remains on hunger strike and the bulk of the demands of the campaign, as highlighted by this motion, have not been met.
7. 67 MPs - including Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran - have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure the treatment of the hunger strikers is "humane" and that their human rights are upheld.<sup>14</sup>
8. A number of other councils, including Belfast<sup>15</sup> and Derry<sup>16</sup>, have passed motions expressing solidarity with the hunger strikers and for the government to enter proper negotiations with the prisoners to bring an end to the strikes.

### **Council believes**

1. It is extremely concerning that these prisoners have felt that they had no other recourse to protest against their prison conditions but to engage in hunger strikes.

### **Council resolves**

1. To request that the leader of the council:
  - a) Write to the Secretary of State for Justice and other relevant government ministers, requesting that they or officials representing them
    - i. **Where written consent has been given by the prisoner**, meet with the families and representatives of those on hunger strike.
    - ii. ~~Enter negotiations to bring the hunger strikes to an end and to prevent any loss of life or long-term health complications. Where any form of protest within the prison and justice system occurs, reflect on that protest and engage with all stakeholders to ensure that any issues including those relating to prisoner safety, health, care and the effectiveness and efficiency of the justice system are reviewed; in particular with these cases, with the aim of bringing any hunger strikes to an end and thus preventing potential loss of life or long-term health complications~~
    - iii. ~~Do everything they can to ensure that the prisoners on remand prisoners, whether they are on remand or serving custodial~~

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<sup>13</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

<sup>15</sup> <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

<sup>16</sup>

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=2378&Ver=4>

**sentences**, have their human rights respected and that they are treated humanely.

- iv. Review, far more regularly and systematically whether any proscribed organisation still needs to be proscribed, and in the light of the number and make-up of the people being arrested in relation to Palestine Action, review the proscription of that particular organisation urgently.
- v. Because it conflicts with an individual's right to free speech, review whether simply saying you support a proscribed organisation should be an arrestable offence.

b) Write to local MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran requesting that they work to ensure that government ministers carry out the requests in resolves

If approved, the Motion would read:

### **Council notes**

1. Since September 2024 eight remand prisoners detained as a result of alleged activities with Palestine Action have participated in hunger strikes, including at least one individual from Oxford.<sup>17</sup>
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial<sup>18</sup>, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.<sup>19</sup>
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers are:<sup>20</sup>
  - a) Immediate bail for the prisoners held on remand.
  - b) While they are imprisoned, for the prisoners to be able to send and receive communications without restriction, surveillance, or interference from the prison administration.
  - c) The right to a fair trial.
  - d) For Palestine Action to be de-proscribed.
4. All of those participating in the hunger strikes were detained for alleged activities with Palestine Action prior to parliament adding it to the list of proscribed organisations.
5. While some of the hunger strikers have ended their action, at the time of writing, four are still refusing food and are facing serious risk of long term health issues or death.<sup>21</sup>
6. 67 MPs - including Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran - have signed an Early Day Motion calling for the Secretary of State for Justice to ensure the

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<sup>17</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

<sup>20</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/>

treatment of the hunger strikers is “humane” and that their human rights are upheld.<sup>22</sup>

7. A number of other councils, including Belfast<sup>23</sup> and Derry<sup>24</sup>, have passed motions expressing solidarity with the hunger strikers and for the government to enter proper negotiations with the prisoners to bring an end to the strikes.

### **Council believes**

1. It is extremely concerning that these prisoners have felt that they had no other recourse to protest against their prison conditions but to engage in hunger strikes.

### **Council resolves**

1. To request that the leader of the council:
  - a) Write to the Secretary of State for Justice and other relevant government ministers, requesting that they or officials representing them
    - i. Where written consent has been given by the prisoner, meet with the families and representatives of those on hunger strike.
    - ii. Where any form of protest within the prison and justice system occurs, reflect on that protest and engage with all stakeholders to ensure that any issues including those relating to prisoner safety, health, care and the effectiveness and efficiency of the justice system are reviewed; in particular with these cases, with the aim of bringing any hunger strikes to an end and thus preventing potential loss of life or long-term health complications
    - iii. Do everything they can to ensure that prisoners, whether they are on remand or serving custodial sentences, have their human rights respected and that they are treated humanely.
    - iv. Review, far more regularly and systematically whether any proscribed organisation still needs to be proscribed, and in the light of the number and make-up of the people being arrested in relation to Palestine Action, review the proscription of that particular organisation urgently.
    - v. Because it conflicts with an individual's right to free speech, review whether simply saying you support a proscribed organisation should be an arrestable offence.
  - b) Write to local MPs Anneliese Dodds and Layla Moran requesting that they work to ensure that government ministers carry out the requests in resolves

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<sup>22</sup> <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

<sup>23</sup> <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

<sup>24</sup>

<https://meetings.derrycityandstrabanedistrict.com/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=189&MId=2378&Ver=4>