

Council Local Plan Debate – Process for submitting amendments

Opposition Group Amendments

Deadline: These must be received by Committee and Members Services before 1.00pm on two working days before the meeting (Wednesday, 21st January 2026), and preferably earlier than that.

These are considered as substantive amendments to the submitted Local Plan and must be available in advance. These are published in the briefing note.

These must be discussed with the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services and include his commentary before Committee and Members Services will accept these for publication.

Minor amendments, or individual amendments, arising as a result of the debate on opposition group proposals

Deadline: These must be set out clearly and legibly **on the form** (below) and emailed to Committee and Member Services in advance and by no later than **15 minutes before the start of this section of the debate**.

These must be discussed with the Director of Planning and Regulatory Services before acceptance for debate. The Director of Planning and Regulatory Services will review these and decide if an amendment is minor and can be taken; or substantive and cannot be taken at this late stage. His decision is final.

Council needs to be clear what is being suggested along with the implications for the budget so the form should set out

- What is proposed and why;
- Impact on the Local Plan;
- Commencement and duration of the proposal.

Amendments will be taken in the order given to Committee and Member Services.

Debating minor/ individual amendments

These are taken separately or in groups as appropriate

1. Lord Mayor calls the amendment number
2. the amendment is taken as read – so the proposer and seconder should only speak briefly
3. the Lord Mayor will take one speaker from each Group.
4. If the seconder has not already spoken, they can do so.
5. Cabinet Member responds.
6. Proposer sums up.
7. Vote.

Proposer: Rosie Rawle **Seconder:** Lois Muddiman

What is proposed

Chapter 2: Housing

Amendment 1: Securing more sites for Boat Dwellers

In the Policy Context for H11, add the following new bullet point: “The City Council welcomes opportunities for the establishment of new moorings and will produce further planning guidance for those seeking to deliver new moorings in the City”.

Chapter 3: Economy

Amendment 2b: An Oxford Living Wage for apprentices

In Policy E3, at bullet point f), add “although this is encouraged where possible”, after “other than apprentices” so that it reads: “f) Paying all employees (other than apprentices, although this is encouraged) the Oxford Living Wage”.

Amendment 2c: The Oxford Living Wage as a minimum standard

In Policy E3, remove or “other social clauses appropriate to the development” in bullet point g).

Chapter 4: Blue and Green Infrastructure

Amendment 3a: Preventing the loss of playground space

In Policy G1, insert after “Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of “, “playground space or”, so that it reads: “Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of playground space or other green infrastructure features such as hedges or ponds where this would have a significant adverse impact upon public amenity or ecological interest.

Amendment 3b: Encouraging the provision of a City Centre playground

In the Policy Context for Policy G1, include a new bullet point: “The City Centre has a deficit of high quality, accessible playgrounds and the Council will welcome applications that seek to resolve or contribute to the resolving of, this deficit.”

Chapter 5: Environment and Net Zero

Amendment 4: Welcoming community-owned energy projects

In the Policy Context for Policy R1, add the following as a new bullet point: “The development of local renewable energy projects will be especially welcomed where they are community owned or owned by non-profit making organisations.”

Chapter 7: Communities

Amendment 5a: Promoting community cohesion, health and wellbeing in our communities

In the Policy Context for Policy C1, “Establishments that promote community cohesion, health and wellbeing are particularly welcomed in the city centre, local, and district centres.”

Amendment 6: Protecting pubs

In Policy C5, after “Planning permission will not be granted for the loss of existing cultural venues and visitor attractions”, “including pubs”, so that it reads, “Planning permission will not be granted for the loss of existing cultural venues and visitor attractions, including pubs, except in the following circumstances:”

Reason

Chapter 2: Housing

Amendment 1: Securing more sites for Boat Dwellers

The Local Plan already states that there is additional need for residential moorings across Oxfordshire, and the majority of that need arises from Oxford. We are aware that there has been a reduction in moorings on Osney Island. We believe there is therefore a clear need for the council to welcome, encourage and search for further site allocations to meet the current levels of need.

Chapter 3: Economy

Amendment 2b: An Oxford Living Wage for apprentices

The minimum wage for an apprentice is £7.55 an hour - just over half the legal minimum wage for someone over 21 [1]. This is not a decent wage and problematically assumes that people undertaking an apprenticeship have another form of income, or are able to sustain themselves through family support, which is not always the case. In 2024, The National Society of Apprentices (NSoA) and National Union of Students (NUS UK) began a joint campaign calling for the minimum wage for apprentices to be raised to the Real Living Wage, describing the existing rate as “poverty pay” [2]. This amendment therefore encourages employers to pay apprentices the Oxford Living Wage, rather than explicitly excluding them from this criterion.

Amendment 2c: The Oxford Living Wage as a minimum standard

The final clause of bullet point g) entirely undermines the principle of the Oxford Living Wage. It suggests that a decent liveable wage is something that can be substituted by another social benefit. The Oxford Living Wage defines the minimum rate of pay that allows for a decent standard of living [3]. It cannot be substituted. This is especially important for subcontracted workers where pay tends to be lower and contracts and hours tend to be less secure.

Chapter 4: Blue and Green Infrastructure

Amendment 3a: Preventing the net loss of playground space

Public playgrounds are vital community assets, providing a free, safe and secure environment for children to play. Following community campaigns for the protection and expansion of playgrounds across the city – from the campaign to Save Bertie Park [5] to the campaign for a playground in the city centre [6] – it is important that the City Council recognises the demand from residents. This amendment seeks to protect valuable playground space across Oxford in the context of increasing pressures for development.

Amendment 3b: Encouraging the provision of a City Centre playground

As has been highlighted by a community campaign, the absence of playgrounds in the city centre means that children do not have a free, safe and secure environment to play, which is a barrier to families spending time in the city centre. Following a petition presented to Full Council on 25 November 2024, members voted in support of the principle of creating a children's playground in Oxford City Centre. This amendment seeks to ensure that this principle is carried into the new Local Plan.

Chapter 5: Environment and Net Zero

Amendment 4: Welcoming community-owned energy projects

Community owned energy projects allow people and communities to take democratic control over their energy future, by generating, using, owning, and saving energy in their communities. They create community cohesion, based on a shared concern for the local and global environment, and provide a source of long-term income to support community wealth building activities and other local causes. This fundamentally differs to renewable energy projects that deliver profits to private entities.

Chapter 7: Communities

Amendment 5a: Promoting community cohesion, health and wellbeing in our communities

Our community districts and centres should encourage development that promotes community cohesion, health and wellbeing, rather than only a range of use-classes that may include establishments that deliver less value to communities or even generate harm to community health. This amendment seeks to demonstrate the council's support for and welcoming of applications that work towards providing a liveable city with strong communities.

Amendment 6: Protecting pubs

The Guardian reported in that 366 pubs had been demolished or converted for other uses in 2025 as cost pressures take toll on the sector [7]. Pubs act as vital social hubs that can foster community cohesion and reduce isolation. These institutions require protection and our local plan should make this explicit. This amendment makes clear that they are included in the category of "cultural venues and visitor attractions", and the grounds of their protection explicit in our policy.

[1] <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

[2] <https://www.nus.org.uk/apprentice-wage-gap-day>

[3] <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/living-wage/oxford-living-wage>

[4] <https://www.oxford.gov.uk/policies-plans-strategies/strategy/5>

[5] <https://savebertie.com/>

[6] <https://www.change.org/p/establish-a-children-s-playground-in-oxford-city-centre>

[7] <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/dec/31/one-pub-a-day-closed-permanently-in-england-and-wales-in-2025>