

To: Council
Date: 23 March 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.

As Council deferred the business from the previous substantive meeting, including the motions submitted by the Liberal Democrat and Green Groups, at the meeting on 26 January 2026, these will be taken first.

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 Liberal Democrat (re-submitted motion), Green (re-submitted motion), Oxford Independent Group, Real Independent, Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green, Independent Oxford Alliance groups in that order.

Introduction

- a) Better use of Oxpens Bridge Funding (proposed by Cllr Jupp, seconded by Cllr Miles) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Muddiman, seconded by Cllr Rawle]
- b) Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikes (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy) [Amendment Proposed by Cllr Ottino, Seconded by Cllr Qayyum]
- c) Support for Mini Plant Oxford (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith seconded by Cllr Ottino) [Amended by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Smowton, seconded by Cllr Gant]
- d) Condemnation of Attempted Election Postponement (proposed by Cllr Smowton, seconded by Cllr Miles)

e) Stop the War in Iran (proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini)
[Amendment proposed by Cllr Ottino, seconded by Cllr Turner)

a) Better use of Oxpens Bridge Funding (proposed by Cllr Jupp, seconded by Cllr Miles) [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.

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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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.

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- 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;
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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.

b) Prisoners for Palestine hunger strikes (proposed by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy) [Amendment Proposed by Cllr Ottino, Seconded by Cllr Qayyum

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.¹
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial², despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.³
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers are:⁴
 - 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.⁵
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 treatment of the hunger strikers is “humane” and that their human rights are upheld.⁶

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

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

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

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

⁵ <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/>

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

7. A number of other councils, including Belfast⁷ and Derry⁸, 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.
2. 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.

Councillor Jarvis has submitted a self-amendment to the motion:

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.⁹
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial¹⁰, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.¹¹

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

⁸ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

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

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

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

3. In January 2026, the last hunger strike terminated their protest, bringing the hunger strikes to an end¹²
4. Among the demands of the hunger strikers are **were**:¹³
 - 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.
5. 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.
6. ~~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.~~¹⁴
7. ~~67~~ 71 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.¹⁵
8. A number of other councils, including Belfast¹⁶ and Derry¹⁷, 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.
9. **Since the hunger strikes ended, the proscription Palestine Action was ruled unlawful by the High Court.**

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 **who have been** on hunger strike **to discuss the conditions they have faced.**

¹² <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/strike-ends/>

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

¹⁴ <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/>

¹⁵ <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

¹⁶ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

¹⁷

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

- 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~~ **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.**
 - v. **In light of the High Court ruling on Palestine Action, move to de-proscribe the group and cease attempts to overturn the ruling.**
 - vi. **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 1.

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.¹⁸
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial¹⁹, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.²⁰
3. In January 2026, the last hunger strike terminated their protest, bringing the hunger strikes to an end²¹
4. Among the demands of the hunger strikers were:²²
 - 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.
5. 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.

¹⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

¹⁹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

²⁰ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

²¹ <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/strike-ends/>

²² <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

6. 71 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.²³
7. A number of other councils, including Belfast²⁴ and Derry²⁵, 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 who have been on hunger strike to discuss the conditions they have faced.
 - ii. 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.
 - iii. Review, far more regularly and systematically whether any proscribed organisation still needs to be proscribed.
 - iv. In light of the High Court ruling on Palestine Action, move to de-proscribe the group and cease attempts to overturn the ruling.
 - 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 1.

Labour Group Amendment to the Originally Proposed Motion

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.²⁶

²³ <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

²⁴ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

²⁵

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

²⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial²⁷, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.²⁸
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers were:²⁹
 - 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. 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.³⁰
6. A number of other councils, including Belfast³¹ and Derry³², 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.
7. Since the hunger strikes ended, the proscription Palestine Action was ruled unlawful by the High Court.

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 who have been on hunger strike to discuss the conditions they have faced.
 - ii. **Enter negotiations Where any form of protest within the prison and justice system occurs, reflect on that protest and engage with all**

²⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

²⁸ <https://www.cps.gov.uk/prosecution-guidance/custody-time-limits>

²⁹ <https://prisonersforpalestine.org/demands/>

³⁰ <https://edm.parliament.uk/early-day-motion/64800/palestine-action-hunger-strike>

³¹ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

³²

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

- 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 to bring hunger strikes to an end and thus preventing potential to prevent any loss of life or long-term health complications
- iii. Do everything they can to ensure that the 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 1.

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.³³
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial³⁴, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.³⁵
3. Among the demands of the hunger strikers were:³⁶
 - 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.

³³ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

³⁴ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2026/jan/07/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-government>

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5. 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.³⁷
6. A number of other councils, including Belfast³⁸ and Derry³⁹, 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.
7. Since the hunger strikes ended, the proscription Palestine Action was ruled unlawful by the High Court.

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 who have been on hunger strike to discuss the conditions they have faced.
 - 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 to of life or long-term health complications
 - iii. Do everything they can to ensure that ~~the~~ 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 1.

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³⁸ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

³⁹

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If the Amendment was 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.⁴⁰
2. The prisoners are expected to be on remand for over a year before they face a trial⁴¹, despite the CPS guidance suggesting the maximum time anyone should be held on remand is 182 days.⁴²
3. In January 2026, the last hunger strike terminated their protest, bringing the hunger strikes to an end⁴³
4. Among the demands of the hunger strikers were:⁴⁴
 - a) Immediate bail for the prisoners held on remand.
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Council believes

⁴⁰ <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/dec/16/palestine-action-hunger-strikers-may-die-without-lammy-intervention-lawyers-say>

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⁴⁶ <https://belfastmedia.com/belfast-city-council-backs-motion-supporting-palestine-action-hunger-strikers-in-england>

⁴⁷

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 - 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. In light of the High Court ruling on Palestine Action, move to de-proscribe the group and cease attempts to overturn the ruling.
 - vi. 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 1.

c) Support for Mini Plant Oxford (proposed by Cllr Linda Smith seconded by Cllr Ottino) [Amended by Cllr Jarvis, seconded by Cllr Mundy] [Amendment proposed by Cllr Smowton, seconded by Cllr Gant]

The UK automotive sector is in the midst of a low-volume crisis, and while different car plants are affected in different ways, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Mini Plant Oxford has been (and continues to be) one of the worst hit.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost as the plant adjusts to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds.

In addition, and due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at Plant Oxford, the increased Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will be need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% via imports, or it will be subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government. Growth will fund our public services, enable investment in our hospitals and schools, and, most importantly, raise living standards for everyone. So it is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department of Transport understands the impact of policies like the ZEV mandate on jobs here in Oxford.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.

Green Group Amendment

~~The UK automotive sector is in the midst of a low-volume crisis, and while different car plants are affected in different ways, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Mini Plant Oxford has been (and continues to be) one of the worst hit.~~

Challenges for the automotive manufacturing sector have impacted countries including France, Italy and the UK, resulting in falling car production figures. This is driven by a number of factors, including competition from cheaper imports.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost ~~as the plant~~ **at the Mini Plant Oxford.**

The plan needs to adjust to the ~~adjusts to the~~ government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds.

~~In addition, and~~ Also, due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at Plant ~~the~~ Oxford ~~plant~~, the ~~increased~~ Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will ~~be~~ need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% ~~targets~~ via imports, ~~or~~ This is to prevent it will ~~being~~ be subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

~~Economic growth is the number one mission of the government. Growth will fund our public services, enable investment in our hospitals and schools, and, most importantly, raise living standards for everyone.~~

Growing the economy increases tax revenue, and is one way of funding improvements to public services.

~~So it~~ It is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department of ~~for~~ Transport ~~and the~~ Department for Business and Trade understands ~~what support car plants including our Mini Plant need in order to adapt to the ZEV targets and be ready for the end of new ICE vehicle production.~~ the impact of policies like the ZEV mandate on jobs here in Oxford.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.

If approved, the motion would read:

Challenges for the automotive manufacturing sector have impacted countries including France, Italy and the UK, resulting in falling car production figures. This is driven by a number of factors, including competition from cheaper imports.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost at the Mini Plant Oxford.

The plant needs to adjust to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds. Also, due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at the Oxford plant, the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% target via imports. This is to prevent it being subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government.

Growing the economy increases tax revenue, and is one way of funding improvements to public services.

It is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department for Transport and the Department for Business and Trade understand what support car plants including our Mini Plant

need in order to adapt to the ZEV targets and be ready for the end of new ICE vehicle production.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.

Liberal Democrat Group Amendment

The UK automotive sector is in the midst of a low-volume crisis, and while different car plants are affected in different ways, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Mini Plant Oxford has been (and continues to be) one of the worst hit.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost as the plant adjusts to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds.

In addition, and due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at Plant Oxford, the increased Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will be need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% via imports, or it will be subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government. Growth will fund our public services, enable investment in our hospitals and schools, and, most importantly, raise living standards for everyone. So it is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department of Transport understands the impact of policies like the ZEV mandate on jobs here in Oxford.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.
3. **Seek support for full economic re-integration with the EU, including pursuit of a customs union and European single market membership, in order to minimise friction to trade and employment.**

If approved, the motion would read:

The UK automotive sector is in the midst of a low-volume crisis, and while different car plants are affected in different ways, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the Mini Plant Oxford has been (and continues to be) one of the worst hit.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost as the plant adjusts to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds.

In addition, and due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at Plant Oxford, the increased Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% via imports, or it will be subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government. Growth will fund our public services, enable investment in our hospitals and schools, and, most importantly, raise living standards for everyone. So it is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department of Transport understands the impact of policies like the ZEV mandate on jobs here in Oxford.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.
3. Seek support for full economic re-integration with the EU, including pursuit of a customs union and European single market membership, in order to minimise friction to trade and employment.

If both amendments were accepted, the motion would read:

Challenges for the automotive manufacturing sector have impacted countries including France, Italy and the UK, resulting in falling car production figures. This is driven by a number of factors, including competition from cheaper imports.

As one of the biggest employers in Oxford, a significant number of agency workers' jobs have been lost at the Mini Plant Oxford.

The plant needs to adjust to the government reinstating the 2030 ban date on new Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) models, the only models the plant currently builds. Also, due to there being no Electric models being manufactured at the Oxford plant, the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) target for 2026 will potentially create a situation whereby ICE production will need to be artificially lowered to ensure BMW can hit the 33% target via imports. This is to prevent it being subject to either a £12,000 fine per car or pushed into buying credits from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) such as Tesla.

Economic growth is the number one mission of the government.

Growing the economy increases tax revenue, and is one way of funding improvements to public services.

It is vital different government departments work in harmony to support UK jobs and industry. It's especially important that the Department for Transport and the Department for Business and Trade understand what support car plants including our Mini Plant need in order to adapt to the ZEV targets and be ready for the end of new ICE vehicle production.

This council therefore resolves to ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport Heidi Alexander to ask her to:

1. Meet with Unite the Union and its representatives at the factory to hear their concerns and to support their work to make Oxford the future home of affordable EV production.
2. Engage to as full an extent as possible with BMW on the UK's transition to electric vehicles and policies which affect demand for new vehicles and investment and jobs in the UK automotive sector.
3. Seek support for full economic re-integration with the EU, including pursuit of a customs union and European single market membership, in order to minimise friction to trade and employment.

d) Condemnation of Attempted Election Postponement (proposed by Cllr Smowton, seconded by Cllr Miles)

This council notes that:

- On 18th December 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness wrote¹ to council leaders requesting views on the potential postponement of their local election in May 2026.
- The Chief Executive of the Electoral Commission wrote² that they were “disappointed by both the timing and substance of [that] statement”, that it created “unprecedented” uncertainty, that “we do not think that capacity constraints are a legitimate reason for delaying long planned elections” and that “there is a clear conflict of interest in asking existing Councils to decide how long it will be before they are answerable to voters”.
- On 22nd January 2026, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government announced³ the postponement of 29 areas’ elections.
- The Secretary’s letter identifies “postponement was not sought”⁴ as a reason why an area’s elections would go ahead, implying that all authorities receiving a postponement had expressly sought one.
- There was a clear difference in political control between those councils whose elections would be postponed and those that would go ahead as scheduled, with the Local Government Chronicle reporting⁵ that 16 out of 19 Labour-controlled, 4 out of 9 Conservative-controlled, 1 out of 8 Lib Dem controlled and 8 out of 27 NOC councils were set for postponement.
- On 16th February 2026, the Secretary of State withdrew⁶ his decision to postpone elections citing “recent legal advice”.

This council believes that:

- As a matter of principle, elections should only be postponed in extraordinary circumstances.
- Any future foreseeable election postponement, whether due to local government reorganisation or any other cause, should be signposted as far as possible in advance, not floated for the first time immediately before the Christmas break and long after the proposed LGR timeline was announced.
- There is indeed a fundamental conflict of interest in inviting councils to substantially control whether their own election goes ahead, and so any future postponement should be determined by clearly set objective parameters, not whether councils choose to seek or not seek delay.
- The legal reasoning for the late withdrawal of the planned postponements should be published so as to reduce uncertainty about any further delays.

This council requests that:

- The Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State expressing this Council’s condemnation of the timing and criteria for their proposed election postponements, attaching a copy of this motion.
- The Leader further request the publication of the legal advice that led to the late reversal of the Secretary’s decision.

e) Stop the War in Iran (proposed by Cllr Powell, seconded by Cllr Djafari-Marbini) [Amendment proposed by Cllr Ottino, seconded by Cllr Turner]

Council notes

1. On February 28th 2026, the United States of America and Israel launched joint airstrikes on Iran.¹
2. That in response to these actions, Iran responded by utilising missiles and drone strikes against US military bases in the Persian Gulf including amongst others, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.²
3. That there has not been any resolution of the UN security council or other lawful basis for these actions.
4. That the conflict has already resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians including hundreds of children at Minab school.³
5. That at this time of global uncertainty and trauma, caused by the actions of the US and Israel, the UK government is once again reneging on its international obligations by reducing the rights of people seeking asylum and introducing Trumpian “visa breaks”.⁴
6. That these attacks were launched while negotiations between the US and Iran had been heralded as yielding ‘significant progress’ just two days before the attack.⁵
7. That Iranian residents of Oxford City have raised their significant concern and anxiety for their family and Friends, many of whom they have been unable to make contact with.⁶
8. That Oxford is home to a diverse range of residents, many of whom are facing extreme anxiety regarding family and friends still located in Iran, as well as other neighbouring countries.
9. That both Oxford Universities have committed the University of Sanctuary scheme but their ability to offer spaces to talented international students has been undermined by policies such as the visa break.⁷

Council believes

1. That the aggression shown by the US and Israel do nothing to make the world safer and have already resulted in an unacceptable loss of life.
2. That as an accredited City of Sanctuary, Oxford has a moral and ethical obligation to speak against moves by the UK government to reduce the rights of people to seek sanctuary, particularly at this moment of global uncertainty.
3. That reducing the grant of leave to remain given to refugees to 30 months is cruel and, at this moment of global uncertainty, represents the UK turning its back on the international community.
4. That the introduction of “visa breaks” targeted at nationals of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Myanmar and Sudan as a result of a “surge in asylum claims from legal routes” is incompatible with the UK’s purported humanitarian commitments and undermines social cohesion in the UK.

Council resolves

1. To request that the leader of the Council:

- a. Write to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Prime Minister, requesting that they:
 - I. Clearly condemn the unlawful aggression of the United States of America and Israel
 - II. Operationalise safe and managed routes for people to enter the UK in search of Sanctuary from the conflict.
 - b. Write to the Secretary of State for the Home department requesting that they:
 - i. Reverse the decision to reduce the period of refugee settlement to 30 months.
 - ii. Reverse the “Visa-break” policy
-

Labour Group Amendment

Council notes

2. On February 28th 2026, the United States of America and Israel launched joint airstrikes on Iran.¹
3. That in response to these actions, Iran responded by utilising missiles and drone strikes against US military bases in the Persian Gulf including amongst others, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.²
4. That there has not been any resolution of the UN security council or other lawful basis for these actions.
5. That the conflict has already resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians including hundreds of children at Minab school.³
6. That at this time of global uncertainty and trauma, caused by the actions of the US and Israel, the UK government is once again renegeing on its international obligations by reducing the rights of people seeking asylum and introducing Trumpian “visa breaks”.⁴
7. That the these attacks were launched while negotiations between the US and Iran had been heralded as yielding ‘significant progress’ just two days before the attack.⁵
8. That Iranian residents of Oxford City have raised their significant concern and anxiety for their family and Friends, many of whom they have been unable to make contact with.⁶
9. That Oxford is home to a diverse range of residents, many of whom are facing extreme anxiety regarding family and friends still located in Iran, as well as other neighbouring countries.
10. That both Oxford Universities have committed the University of Sanctuary scheme but their ability to offer spaces to talented international students has been undermined by policies such as the visa break.⁷

Council believes

1. That the aggression shown by the US and Israel do nothing to make the world safer and have already resulted in an unacceptable loss of life.
2. That as an accredited City of Sanctuary, Oxford has a moral and ethical obligation to speak against moves by the UK government to reduce the rights of people to seek sanctuary, particularly at this moment of global uncertainty.
3. That reducing the grant of leave to remain given to refugees to 30 months is cruel and, at this moment of global uncertainty, represents the UK turning its back on the international community.
4. That the introduction of “visa breaks” targeted at nationals of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Myanmar and Sudan as a result of a “surge in asylum claims from legal routes” is incompatible with the UK’s purported humanitarian commitments and undermines social cohesion in the UK.

Council resolves

1. To request that the leader of the Council:
 - a. Write to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Prime Minister, **expressing our strong endorsement for their decision not to join the US / Israeli strikes, offering our solidarity to the Prime Minister in the face of the unwarranted verbal onslaught from President Trump, and requesting that they:**
 - I. Clearly condemn the unlawful aggression of the United States of America and Israel **and the violent response from Iran directed at other nations in the region with no direct involvement**
 - II. Operationalise safe and managed routes for people to enter the UK in search of Sanctuary from the conflict.
 - III. **Reiterate the view that the resolution to all international disputes should be resolved by peaceful methods**
 - b. Write to the Secretary of State for the Home department requesting that they:
 - i. Reverse the decision to reduce the period of refugee settlement to 30 months.
 - ii. Reverse the “Visa-break” policy

If approved, the motion would read:

Council notes

1. On February 28th 2026, the United States of America and Israel launched joint airstrikes on Iran.¹
2. That in response to these actions, Iran responded by utilising missiles and drone strikes against US military bases in the Persian Gulf including amongst others, Bahrain, Oman and Qatar.²
3. That there has not been any resolution of the UN security council or other lawful basis for these actions.

4. That the conflict has already resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians including hundreds of children at Minab school.³
5. That at this time of global uncertainty and trauma, caused by the actions of the US and Israel, the UK government is once again reneging on its international obligations by reducing the rights of people seeking asylum and introducing Trumpian “visa breaks”.⁴
6. That these attacks were launched while negotiations between the US and Iran had been heralded as yielding ‘significant progress’ just two days before the attack.⁵
7. That Iranian residents of Oxford City have raised their significant concern and anxiety for their family and Friends, many of whom they have been unable to make contact with.⁶
8. That Oxford is home to a diverse range of residents, many of whom are facing extreme anxiety regarding family and friends still located in Iran, as well as other neighbouring countries.
9. That both Oxford Universities have committed the University of Sanctuary scheme but their ability to offer spaces to talented international students has been undermined by policies such as the visa break.⁷

Council believes

1. That the aggression shown by the US and Israel do nothing to make the world safer and have already resulted in an unacceptable loss of life.
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3. That reducing the grant of leave to remain given to refugees to 30 months is cruel and, at this moment of global uncertainty, represents the UK turning its back on the international community.
4. That the introduction of “visa breaks” targeted at nationals of Afghanistan, Cameroon, Myanmar and Sudan as a result of a “surge in asylum claims from legal routes” is incompatible with the UK’s purported humanitarian commitments and undermines social cohesion in the UK.

Council resolves

1. To request that the leader of the Council:
 - a. Write to the Secretary of State for Defence and the Prime Minister, expressing our strong endorsement for their decision not to join the US / Israeli strikes, offering our solidarity to the Prime Minister in the face of the unwarranted verbal onslaught from President Trump, and requesting that they:
 - I. Clearly condemn the unlawful aggression of the United States of America and Israel and the violent response from Iran directed at other nations in the region with no direct involvement
 - II. Operationalise safe and managed routes for people to enter the UK in search of Sanctuary from the conflict.

- III. Reiterate the view that the resolution to all international disputes should be resolved by peaceful methods
- b. Write to the Secretary of State for the Home department requesting that they:
 - i. Reverse the decision to reduce the period of refugee settlement to 30 months.
 - ii. Reverse the “Visa-break” policy

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