

**URGENT BUSINESS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION****Council****20 July 2020**

Agenda Item Number	Page	Title	Officer Responsible	Reason Not Included with Original Agenda
4.	Pages 3 – 4	Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting	N/A	Deadline to register after agenda publication
8.	Pages 5 - 12	Questions Responses to written questions	N/A	Responses to questions
9.	Pages 13 - 22	Motions Proposed amendments to motions	N/A	Deadline to submit amendments after agenda publication
10.	Pages 23 - 24	Amendments to Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership and Outside Body Representative	Governance and Elections Manager	Information available after agenda publication

If you need any further information about the meeting please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections democracy@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01295 221589

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Council

Monday 20 July 2020

Agenda Item 4, Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting

There has been 1 request to address Council as set out below.

Agenda Item 8: Motion on Peat-free Compost

- Linda Newbery, local resident

The speaker will be admitted to the virtual meeting by the Governance and Elections Manager at the start of the agenda item. The Chairman will then invite the speaker to address the meeting prior to the motion being presented to Council by the proposer.

The speaker will each be able to speak for a maximum of 5 minutes and will leave the virtual meeting after their address. There is no question and answer of speakers.

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Council

Monday 20 July 2020

Agenda Item 9 (a), Written Questions

Question From: Councillor Conrad Copeland

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Castle Quay

Question

“Given the new economic realities and the increased economic uncertainty of the Covid-19 crisis, is there an updated risk assessment available to councillors for the Castle Quay development that takes into account the potential vulnerabilities of each tenant and any concessions that may need to be offered to them to maintain their presence in the centre?”

Response

“The current economic climate has presented challenges across all sectors of commerce and property has not been immune from this. Castle Quay Shopping has seen a reduction in rental income during this period from tenants mainly as a result of Central Government initiatives to protect companies and jobs. Stimulus Policies that have been introduced and continue to be developed will enable businesses to re-start as they emerge from this crisis and start to pay back dated rents over the coming months. The Council has adopted a policy of rental deferment to those tenants requesting assistance to help them through this unprecedented period which sits alongside other well documented Central Government easing such as business rates.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Officers alongside professional advisers analyse the financial viability of companies trading at Castle Quay Shopping and act decisively where possible to proactively protect the Councils Asset. Commercially sensitive risk assessments on the vulnerabilities both financially and market sectors of tenants are reviewed on a regular basis and reported back to the cross-party Castle Quay Advisory Group. This Advisory Group is made aware of these potential vulnerable tenants and the action Officers are taking to mitigate any losses to tenants and jobs both on a reactive basis as well as delivering medium / long term initiatives.

Throughout the Lockdown, Officers have worked tirelessly keeping elements of Castle Quay Shopping open to meet the needs of residents and those tenants chosen to remain open and trading. At Castle Quay Waterfront, works have



continued under strict supervision by officers to ensure our Banbury's vision for a new leisure development continues to be delivered. Risk Assessments on the viability of the Councils Assets have not been interrupted throughout this challenging period with the Castle Quay Advisory Group meeting throughout.

Even before the unprecedented situation that COVID-19 has presented the Council had already acknowledged the national shift in the retail market and the impact that was having on our own town centres. Since acquiring the Castle Quay shopping centre, the council has been proactive in continually addressing this shift and repurposing space. We are delivering Lock29 in the former BHS unit as a vibrant food and beverage anchor to reinvigorate this empty space and create a new destination within the town. Castle Quay Waterfront will see new and exciting leisure facilities, increasing the appeal of the town and to a wider audience, attracting new names and providing a welcome boost to Banbury's evening economy. The Council are investing responsibly and future proofing the town, responding to the needs of its residents and turning it into a true leisure and shopping destination which will secure long term tenants and jobs for the Town."

Question From: Councillor Ian Middleton

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Climate Emergency Motion

"A year ago this council passed a climate emergency motion promising a plan within 6 months and tangible action after that.

The motion made reference to the fact that we only had 10 years to set the planet on a course that would avoid climate meltdown. We now only have 9 years left to prevent that outcome. Yet in that time we have done next to nothing, while continuing to support fossil fuel investments and the destruction of our green belt.

The only palpable moves towards increasing the council's commitment to decarbonisation and climate change mitigation amount to little more than tokenism. There have been some paltry budget allocations, much of which was already in the pipeline anyway, and the engagement of environmental consultants whose narrow remit avoids much of the council's work in areas such as planning and development – a major cause of environmental degradation in Cherwell. We need to go further than that.

Whilst I appreciate the past 6 months we have been overtaken by events, climate change has not stood still. There should have been more progress made towards the goals set out in our climate emergency motion. COVID-19 has been one of the greatest threats our planet has faced, but it will be nothing compared to the misery, death and destruction that future generations will face if we don't halt climate change now.



When are we going to see coherent policies, leadership and action on meeting the commitments this council unanimously voted for in 2019?"

Response

"This Council over the last decade has been committed to reducing its impact on the environment and driving emissions down. It has had two carbon management plans, the first covered the period 2008 -2015, the second 2015-2020. These plans have helped drive our emissions down by 32%.

Since the motion to commit the Council to net zero a lot has been taking place, but like the emissions themselves not always visible. To deliver such ambitious & challenging reductions requires the construction of an appropriate communicable framework and ensuring action is embedded within the organisation, whilst engaging expertise and working in partnership with a wide range of partners. The approach is to ensure activity will take place across the entire 10 years needed and avoid a short-term glut of activity which runs the risk of fizzling out.

This Council engaged expert consultants, Bioregional & Aether to not only help formulate plans, approaches and milestones to achieve the net zero targets, but also to review a number of our current local plan policies through a climate emergency lens. This important piece of work is nearing completion and will help inform the evidence base and future policies of our Local Plan Review. The Local Plan review has identified the Climate Emergency as one of three over-riding cross cutting themes, and will be integral to the plans formation – the first consultation in the process is due shortly and we would strongly encourage you to engage in this fundamentally important piece of work.

The initial response was brought to the Executive in January 2020. A more detailed plan will come forward to the Executive in October 2020. The current Covid-19 emergency and the delays in engaging with elected members; due to purdah around the General election, have meant a short delay in the timetable of producing plans and some refocussing of this work, recognising the potential opportunities and cultural impact upon this agenda.

However, behind the scenes a large amount of activity has taken place to drive our emissions and the emissions of the district down. Some examples include Our fleet now has 50% of our small vehicles purely electric powered with four more vehicles having arrived since the climate change motion. Usually these vehicles are charged using electricity from our solar panels at Thorpe Lane depot. Overall 10% of our fleet is now electric and we are engaging with opportunities around vehicle to grid technologies, which could enhance our EV's to further decrease our carbon footprint.

Whilst under lockdown, we have entered into a partnership with Oxfordshire County Council and others to install charging facilities at several of our car parks. This Park & Charge project will not only allow vehicle owners to charge their vehicles it will also provide charging at night for those residents who cannot charge their vehicles at their homes because they have no off- road parking. In Banbury alone this predicament affects more than 1,200 households who could



otherwise face being locked out of access to future zero emission infrastructure. The first charging points will appear later in 2020/21.

We have worked in partnership with a local company DCS to plant almost 40,000 trees on Banbury Country Park and since the declaration, have engaged in a partnership to produce an Oxfordshire woodland planting strategy, looking to highlight how and where future tree planting could take place.

We are installing more bicycle racks in the three urban centres in a project with the County Council to encourage active travel, whilst also working with the County Council to produce local walking and cycling infrastructure plans. Many of the initiatives require working in partnership and we have been building our links, especially with Oxfordshire County Council, with whom we are forming a joint team to deliver a challenging and extensive Climate Change programme to cut our emissions over the coming years.

The Council is committed to achieving net zero by 2030 and we do recognise both the enormity of the challenge and increase in activity that is needed, but with encouraging progress being made to date.”

Question From: Councillor Perran Moon

Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood

Topic: Coronavirus

“As the UK is released from Coronavirus lockdown, the threat of local outbreaks such as that experienced in Leicester, has increased. The Oxfordshire Local Action Control Plan, while heavy on ‘aims’, ‘objectives’ and ‘themes’, does not actually contain a coherent Action Plan! Can Cherwell District Council please confirm what specific actions would be taken by this Council, in the event of a local spike in positive cases of coronavirus in our area?”

Further, our area employs many thousands of people in small and micro businesses which have had to temporarily shut during the coronavirus outbreak. The window for the application of the Cherwell District Council discretionary grant scheme was less than 2 weeks and many of our local businesses missed out, as they were simply not aware of it. For those businesses not eligible for the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure grant and which are not ‘rateable’, what additional support is Cherwell District Council offering, to prevent hundreds of local small businesses collapsing, with the consequent loss of jobs in our area?”

Response

Response to first paragraph

“We recognise the risk of outbreaks as we ease out of national lockdown. The aim of the local outbreak plan is to outline the overall approach of the principles of managing an outbreak. In addition to this it also details specific action plans



tailored to individual settings. These are based on existing arrangements that are already in place to manage outbreaks, which are highly effective. There are long established and robust systems and plans in the County to respond to monitoring and preventing the spread of communicable diseases in the County. In addition to this a range of local measures are also considered to contain the spread of the virus with differing levels of public interferences and clinical effectiveness. The implementation of these will be carefully considered through the newly formed COVID governance structures. The government is also considering what additional local powers will be required and these are yet to be finalised. The Public Health team and the local partners have a good understanding of the Oxfordshire population and what we need to do in order to respond to identified cases and limit spread of COVID-19. Local partners are working together through the newly set up COVID-19 Health Protection Board and have developed a Local Outbreak Control Plan which will strengthen on the existing outbreak plans, so that we are prepared for any second wave if it does arrive as we expect later in the year. We will continue to evolve this as the situation emerges further and we continue to develop our understanding about the virus.

However, we need the assistance of public in following the social distancing guidance. The best way to manage an outbreak is to prevent one in the first place. The pandemic is far from over, we are not relaxing our vigilance and do not want to lose the effects of the sacrifice and hard work of everyone so far. It is important to emphasise that this prevention message not just in areas where there are cases but for whole of Oxfordshire.

I can assure you that we have put in systems and process in place to manage and detect outbreaks, but it is really important that everyone in Oxfordshire also follows the key prevention message and stays alert at all time. I would very much appreciate if you could front this message to the public in your capacity.”

Response to second paragraph

“HM Government’s Discretionary Grant Scheme (DGS) is aimed at small businesses which fell outside the eligibility requirements of the earlier (and larger scale) Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant schemes.

Cherwell was awarded funding of around £26.7m for the earlier schemes and around £1.2m for the DGS. The DGS was, evidently, a significantly smaller scheme and would, inevitably, therefore only enable a small number of businesses to benefit from it.

The DGS award from HM Government to Cherwell represented approximately 5% of the funding allocation of the earlier Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant schemes funding allocation; the HM Government guidance makes it clear that the Council are not permitted to exceed the funding allocation.

The CDC Executive received a report, for its consideration, on 1 June 2020 which:

- outlined the national criteria*



- *proposed different options for what a Cherwell scheme might look like*
- and*
- *recommended a policy to support Cherwell's scheme.*

As a result of this work, a policy was adopted by the Council.

As part of the new policy, and in the interests of fairness and equity, it was decided to allow businesses, and other organisations, a 13-day window for submitting applications. The window was open from 09:00 on Tuesday 2 June until midnight on 14 June.

This approach was preferred to the alternative option of "first-come-first-served". The preferred (and chosen) option meant that anyone could submit their application during the "open-window" period, secure in the knowledge that all applications would be reviewed, all at the same time, after the window had closed. All this information was clearly explained on a dedicated page on the CDC website, together with a link to the application form. In addition to the information on the website, a programme of local promotion was undertaken to publicise the scheme which built upon the national media exposure for the Discretionary Grant scheme.

Local promotion included:

- *producing a timely press release which was sent to all normal press contacts and media outlets;*
- *posting social media messages on the usual platforms which provided scope for followers to re-tweet/re-post/propagate;*
- *reaching out to local business-support partners (for instance Banbury BID, Chambers of Commerce, Bicester Vision, local business centres etc) to request them to promote the scheme to their members, levy payers and followers;*
- *working with OxLEP to ensure that the scheme was promoted on their website (along with other district schemes within Oxfordshire) and using their leverage with their own extensive media outlets – incidentally, OxLEP were running, during a similar period, their own business resilience grant scheme from which some Cherwell businesses benefited;*
- *having a high-profile banner headline on the CDC website home page during the period that the application window was open, promoting the Discretionary Grants scheme, with an embedded direct link to the relevant page giving the necessary information and access to the application form itself.*

It was inevitable that some businesses and organisations did not receive the messages, despite all actions documented above. On a positive note, officers are aware that the messages which were provided certainly provoked word of mouth awareness raising amongst interested parties – which assisted the overall effort towards greater dissemination.

At the time of writing this response the latest figures available were from 3 July 2020, Discretionary Grants totalling £812,500 have been paid to 108 local



businesses. This is in addition to the 1,913 businesses who have received grants totalling £25,115,000 under the original Grants schemes. The Discretionary Grants distribution process continues.

As regards the question about what additional support Cherwell District Council is offering – it is more complex than this because most of the financial assistance is originating from HM Government. This support is being distributed through several channels, sometimes directly from HMRC, sometimes from the banks, sometimes through local authorities and via other agencies. The support that is, and has been, available includes: Loans; business rates relief; tax relief; & cash grants.

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (furlough) has been available for some time and has enabled employers to apply for staff to get up to 80% pay if they can't work. This scheme is now due to be tapered off slightly in July and ceased at the end of October.

Further details of Government assistance can be accessed via:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support>.

As regards Cherwell:

Officers have played an active part in distributing the government funding and continue to play their full part in ensuring local businesses, as far as is possible, benefit.

Business rates relief – the extended retail relief scheme means 100% business rates relief for the financial year 2020-21 – for occupied properties wholly or mainly used for leisure & as shops, restaurants, cafes, cinemas, live music venues, hotels, guest & boarding premises and self-catering accommodation.

Cherwell identified the eligible businesses, so that businesses didn't need to apply themselves, and the 100% relief was applied to just under 1,000 accounts (including nurseries) during the last week of March.

This is in addition to the various Business Grants schemes and Discretionary Grant schemes described above.

As part of the emergency structure that was stood-up for the COVID-19 pandemic response, we established a multi-disciplinary Business Community Support cell led by the Assistant Director - Growth and Economy to direct operations and engage with the rest of the organisation, central government and other business support partners (such as OxLEP) involved in providing a united and co-ordinated response to this unprecedented situation.

As we move into the Recovery phase, a new CDC/OCC structure is being stood up including a themed group reporting directly to CEDR called the Economic Recovery Group (ERG) and its first meeting will take place during August. The ERG will be chaired by a Corporate Director. All of the Council's economic



recovery response will be directed by this new group – services to the Cherwell business community will continue to be provided through the Council’s Growth and Economy teams and other parts of the organisation.

There is no doubt that COVID-19 is a health emergency – but, equally, it is a global economic emergency, as well. We do not know the full impact of the damage to the Cherwell and Oxfordshire economies; it is likely that the economic implications will endure even after the health aspects are brought under greater control. The recovery phase is going to be important here and, as indicated above, work is already starting on this – but it is expected to take some years to resolve. Set against the scale and enormity of the potential economic impact of the pandemic, it must be acknowledged that the Council has limited resources and ability to prevent local businesses closing and unemployment increasing but it can work towards creating an environment to nurture business for the future.

Prior to the pandemic emergency, CDC had embarked upon a major co-design process (with businesses and other stakeholders) to create a ten-year Cherwell Industrial Strategy (CIS) – this work had to be paused slightly whilst officers attended to the emergency response. This work is now due to resume, imminently, and the resultant strategy will be reframed in order to focus specifically upon helping to create a successful post-COVID-19 economy.”



Council

Monday 20 July 2020

Agenda Item 9, Motions with proposed amendments

(Motions to be debated in the order submitted)

Topic	Proposer	Seconder	Amendment proposer	Amendment seconder
Peat-free Compost	Cllr Hannah Banfield	Cllr Dan Sames	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr Nick Cotter
Brighter Futures Banbury	Cllr Sean Woodcock	TBC	Cllr Andrew McHugh	Cllr Barry Wood
Black Lives Matter	Cllr Barry Wood	TBC	N/A	N/A
Government Covid-19 Recovery Plan	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr John Broad	Cllr Dam Sames	TBC
Motion to Guarantee Democratic Accountability in 2021	Councillor Conrad Copeland	Councillor Katherine Tyson	Amended motion submitted by proposer of motion and supported by seconder	

Motion Proposer: Councillor Hannah Banfield

Motion Seconder: Councillor Dan Sames

Topic: Peat Free Compost

Motion

“Peatlands located within the UK and The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change. This council agrees that any supplier of our bedding plants at this time and in the future will from this juncture use no more than 50% peat compost within the cultivation of our plants and that the suppliers of our bedding plants now and in the future must make the commitment to be peat-free as soon as practicable and most definitely by 2030. In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource and help to safeguard our peatlands.

This Council agrees that officers will investigate sustainable alternatives in relation to the design and planting of our bedding schemes which will include perennial plants that are cost-effective, insect-friendly, and attractive to pollinators.”

(NB. The motion on this matter submitted by Councillor Banfield to the 20 February 2020 Council meeting which was adjourned due to it having budgetary implications was withdrawn having been considered at the 6 July 2020 Executive, agenda item 8 available at the following link [Executive agenda](#))

Proposer of Amendment: Councillor Ian Middleton

Seconder of Amendment: Councillor Nick Cotter

Motion with Amendments

“Peatlands located within the UK and The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change.

This council agrees that ~~the current any~~ supplier of our bedding plants ~~at this time and in the future~~ will from this juncture use no more than 50% peat compost within the cultivation of our plants and that ~~the suppliers of our bedding plants now and in the future must make the commitment to be peat-free as soon as practicable and most definitely by 2030 by the end of their contract in 2022 they should commit to supply us with peat free plants without significant cost increases. If they are unable or unwilling to do so, officers should investigate alternative procurement options to achieve that goal. The use of peat based products will be banned from all future landscaping and supply contracts.~~

In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource and help to safeguard our peatlands.

This Council agrees that officers will investigate and adopt sustainable peat free alternatives in relation to the design and planting of our bedding schemes which will include perennial plants that are drought resistant, cost-effective, insect-friendly, and attractive to pollinators.

Alternative landscaping practices such as rewilding should also be applied where possible.”

Clean version of proposed amended motion:

“Peatlands located within the UK and The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change.

This council agrees that the current supplier of our bedding plants will from this juncture use no more than 50% peat compost within the cultivation of our

plants and that by the end of their contract in 2022 they should commit to supply us with peat free plants without significant cost increases. If they are unable or unwilling to do so, officers should investigate alternative procurement options to achieve that goal. The use of peat based products will be banned from all future landscaping and supply contracts.

In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource and help to safeguard our peatlands.

This Council agrees that officers will investigate and adopt sustainable peat free alternatives in relation to the design and planting of our bedding schemes which will include perennial plants that are drought resistant, cost-effective, insect-friendly, and attractive to pollinators.

Alternative landscaping practices such as rewilding should also be applied where possible.”

Motion Proposer: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Brighter Futures Banbury

Motion

"This council notes with alarm that in the last three years this district recorded the biggest increase in child poverty in the whole of Oxfordshire.

This council agrees that 1 in 8 children living below the poverty line in Cherwell is completely unacceptable.

Further, with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic anticipated to be extremely negative, this council understands that unless urgent remedial action is taken the Cherwell child poverty crisis is only likely to get worse.

Thus, this council commits to the following in order to help tackle our child poverty crisis:-

- Restarting the 'Brighter Futures' programme at the earliest possible opportunity with the appointment of a dedicated Lead Member and regular reporting to this council's committees and Executive.
- Carrying out an urgent study across the district on the causes and impact of child poverty locally. This study will be completed within 6 months.
- Drawing up an action plan to tackle child poverty, working with other authorities and agencies to understand best practices and how to implement them, within 6 months of the completion of this study."

Proposer of Amendment: Cllr Andrew McHugh

Seconder of Amendment: Cllr Barry Wood

Motion with Amendments

"This council notes with ~~alarm~~ concern that in the last three years this district recorded the biggest increase in child poverty in the whole of Oxfordshire.

This council agrees that 1 in 8 children living below the poverty line in Cherwell is completely unacceptable. Reducing child poverty is and has been a long term objective for this council. The council notes the great work of 'Brighter Futures in Banbury' in addressing child poverty since it was set up in over 10 years ago. ~~Further, with t~~ The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic anticipated to be extremely negative, ~~this council understands that unless urgent remedial action is taken the Cherwell child poverty crisis is only likely to get worse.~~ and likely to exacerbate the situation.

~~Thus, t~~ This council commits to the following in order to ~~continue to help~~ tackle ~~our~~ child poverty ~~crisis:-~~ within the district

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~~Restarting~~ Continuing the 'Brighter Futures' programme which has continued to run throughout the pandemic. ~~at the earliest possible opportunity with the appointment of a dedicated Lead Member and regular reporting to this council's committees and Executive.~~

~~Carrying out an urgent study across the district on the causes and impact of child poverty locally. This study will be completed within 6 months. Receive annual reports to this council's committees from the chairman of Brighter Futures, beginning Autumn 2020.~~

~~Drawing up an action plan to tackle child poverty, working with other authorities and agencies to understand best practices and how to implement them, within 6 months of the completion of this study." Build on the work from the Brighter Futures workstream 'Addressing Childhood Poverty'.~~

- Use the Cherwell Industrial Strategy to attract high skilled, well paid jobs to the district as part of a green revolution.
- Work with stakeholders to take actions that improve educational attainment, reduce exploitation and provide positive activities for young people
- Support families to reduce inactivity and health inequalities

Clean version of proposed amended motion:

"This council notes with concern that in the last three years this district recorded the biggest increase in child poverty in the whole of Oxfordshire.

This council agrees that 1 in 8 children living below the poverty line in Cherwell is completely unacceptable. Reducing child poverty is and has been a long term objective for this council. The council notes the great work of 'Brighter Futures in

Banbury' in addressing child poverty since it was set up in over 10 years ago. The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic anticipated to be extremely negative, and likely to exacerbate the situation.

This council commits to the following in order to continue to tackle child poverty within the district:

- Continuing the 'Brighter Futures' programme which has continued to run throughout the pandemic.
- Receive annual reports to this council's committees from the Chairman of Brighter Futures, beginning Autumn 2020.
- Build on the work from the Brighter Futures workstream 'Addressing Childhood Poverty'.
- Use the Cherwell Industrial Strategy to attract high skilled, well paid jobs to the district as part of a green revolution.
- Work with stakeholders to take actions that improve educational attainment, reduce exploitation and provide positive activities for young people
- Support families to reduce inactivity and health inequalities

Motion Proposer: Councillor Barry Wood

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Black Lives Matter

Motion

"This Council notes recent national awareness around the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This Council believes that of course all lives matter but knows that the evidence points to BAME communities being particularly vulnerable to deprivation, poorer life chances and racism. This is reflected in, among other indicators, disproportionate deaths from Covid 19.

The Council has a good record with things like help for the Sunshine Centre, the Bretch Hill Centre, the FAST programme and Banbury Brighter Futures, but a good Council always refreshes and updates its work.

To that end the Council resolves to request Officers to consider an engagement exercise with BAME communities and individuals to effectively listen to their experience of life in our District and to bring back recommendations to Scrutiny and the Executive for consideration by Members."

No amendments to the motion proposed

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton

Motion Seconder: Councillor John Broad

Topic: Government Covid-19 Recovery Plan

Motion

Boris Johnson recently announced his plan for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is to Build! Build! Build!

This blunt aspiration carries the potential to override local democracy on planning, damage the environment, destroy wildlife habitats and harm both our rural and urban communities with more roads and cars, and yet more unnecessary development on green field sites. Our eco-systems and our health are going to be sacrificed on the altar of growth in the pursuit of inward investment at all costs. This is surely not in the best interests of the people we represent. We have an opportunity now to learn the lessons of the past. A socially just and green recovery will create a better future for our planet and everyone on it. Let's build back better!

This council calls on government to :

- Work towards ensuring everyone has access to wholesome food, free healthcare, income and job security, affordable zero carbon housing, renewable energy, superfast broadband, public transport, clean air and green spaces.
- Acknowledge the value of our carers and educators by protecting and investing in our NHS, social care, schools, colleges and early years care
- Protect genuine local democracy on planning matters.
- Restructure public and private finance to give power to local communities and guarantee sufficient funding to councils to provide high quality local services for everyone.
- Decarbonise the economy and create thousands of new, well-paid, secure jobs in green industries.
- Ensure that the longer-term recovery will guarantee human rights and prevent environmental damage, injustice and conflict.

Proposer of Amendment: Cllr Dan Sames

Seconder of Amendment: TBC

Motion with Amendments

Boris Johnson recently announced his plan for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is to "Build!, Bbuild!, Bbuild!, **build back greener, build back better, and build back faster.**"

This ~~blunt~~ aspiration ~~carries the potential to override local democracy on planning, damage the environment, destroy wildlife habitats and harm both our rural and urban communities with more roads and cars, and yet more~~

~~unnecessary development on green field sites. Our eco-systems and our health are going to be sacrificed on the altar of growth in the pursuit of inward investment at all costs. This is surely not in the best interests of the people we represent. We have an opportunity now to learn the lessons of the past.~~ **is to tackle this country's great unresolved challenges of the last three decades: to build the homes, to fix the NHS, to solve social care, to tackle the skills crisis, to mend the indefensible gap in opportunity and productivity and connectivity between the regions of the UK, to unite and level up.** A socially just and green recovery will create a better future for our planet and everyone on it. Let's build back better **and build back bolder!**

This council ~~calls on~~ **expects** government to:

- Work towards ensuring everyone has access to wholesome food, free healthcare, income and job security, affordable zero carbon housing, renewable energy, superfast broadband, public transport, clean air and green spaces.
- **Promote building homes on brownfield sites.**
- **Build residential provision above stations and retail spaces.**
- **Create new woodlands and invest in conservation.**
- Acknowledge the value of our carers and educators by protecting and investing in our NHS, social care, schools, colleges and early years care
- Protect genuine local democracy on planning matters.
- Restructure public and private finance to give power to local communities and **guarantee provide sufficient** funding to councils to provide high quality local services for everyone.
- Decarbonise the economy and create thousands of new, well-paid, secure jobs in green industries.
- Ensure that the longer-term recovery will promote human rights, **prevent environmental damage, protect the environment and tackle** injustice. **and conflict.**

Clean version of proposed amended motion:

Boris Johnson recently announced his plan for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is to "Build, build, build, build back greener, build back better, and build back faster."

This aspiration is to tackle this country's great unresolved challenges of the last three decades: to build the homes, to fix the NHS, to solve social care, to tackle the skills crisis, to mend the indefensible gap in opportunity and productivity and connectivity between the regions of the UK, to unite and level up. A socially just and green recovery will create a better future for our planet and everyone on it. Let's build back better and build back bolder!

This council expects government to:

- Work towards ensuring everyone has access to wholesome food, free healthcare, income and job security, affordable zero carbon housing, renewable energy, superfast broadband, public transport, clean air and green spaces.

- Promote building homes on brownfield sites.
- Build residential provision above stations and retail spaces.
- Create new woodlands and invest in conservation.
- Acknowledge the value of our carers and educators by protecting and investing in our NHS, social care, schools, colleges and early years care
- Protect genuine local democracy on planning matters.
- Restructure public and private finance to give power to local communities and provide funding to councils to provide high quality local services for everyone.
- Decarbonise the economy and create thousands of new, well-paid, secure jobs in green industries.
- Ensure that the longer-term recovery will promote human rights, protect the environment and tackle injustice.

Motion Proposer: Councillor Conrad Copeland

Motion Seconder: Councillor Katherine Tyson

Topic: Motion to Guarantee Democratic Accountability in 2021

Motion

Government has undertaken to present a White Paper on Devolution this year. Regardless of any proposed changes or reorganisation of local authorities, democratic accountability remains fundamental to local representation and government. Democratic accountability is important in the consultation process on any proposals contained in the White Paper.

Oxfordshire County Council Leader, Ian Hudspeth, tabled a motion which calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the 2021 county elections be delayed until 2022.

It is democratically deficient to go years without filling empty seats. Cherwell must endeavour to make sure that our residents are not democratically silenced by not holding elections.

Coronavirus Act 2020, section 61 gives the Secretary of State power to delay elections taking place before 5 May 2021; subsection (5) states that the date for postponed elections cannot fall after 6 May 2021.

The schedule for local elections conforms to these rules within the legislation. Further, current District Council elections are scheduled for 6 May 2021, outside of the window for further delay.

Therefore, Cherwell District Council opposes any further delay to local elections.

Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State to request that local elections at all levels of local government proceed as planned in May 2021.

Council guarantees that seats scheduled for election will take place on 6 May 2021, or as soon thereafter as it is safe to do so, through byelection or other means, notwithstanding any delay of formal elections.

The proposer of the motion, Cllr Copeland, has submitted an amended version of his motion, which is supported by the seconder, Cllr Tyson.

Government has undertaken to present a White Paper on Devolution this year. Regardless of any proposed changes or reorganisation of local authorities, democratic accountability remains fundamental to local representation and government. Democratic accountability is important in the consultation process on any proposals contained in the White Paper.

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Council

Monday 20 July 2020

Agenda Item 10, Amendments to Proportionality Calculations and Committee Membership – Annex to report

The following section of the published report has been updated by this annex:

- 3.6 As a result of the above calculations, the following amendments to committee membership are required. In addition to the required changes, the Progressive Oxfordshire Group Leader has notified the Proper Officer of changes to the Group's Planning Committee membership which are detailed in italics below.

Appeals Panel

Remove: Councillor John Broad (was previously appointed as an Independent Group Member)

Add: Councillor John Broad (appointed as Progressive Oxfordshire Group member)

Licensing Committee

Add: Councillor Tim Hallchurch (Conservative Member)

(NB. No member is removed as there was previously an Independent Group vacant seat on the Committee)

Planning Committee

Remove: Cllr John Broad (was previously named substitute for the Independent Group)

Remove: Councillor Conrad Copeland (as Full Member for the Progressive Oxfordshire Group)

Remove: Cllr Nick Cotter (as named substitute for the Progressive Oxfordshire Group)

Add: Cllr Fraser Webster as named substitute for the Independent Group

Add: *Cllr John Broad as Full Member for the Progressive Oxfordshire Group*

Add: *Cllr Conrad Copeland as names substitute for the Progressive Oxfordshire Group*

Standards Committee

Remove: Councillor Tim Hallchurch (Conservative Group Member)

Add: Councillor Ian Middleton (Progressive Oxfordshire Group member)

Please note that the Leader, Councillor Barry Wood, will confirm the new representative to the Oxfordshire County Council Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting.

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