



Council

Monday 18 July 2022

Agenda Item 11, Motions with proposed amendments

Topic	Proposer	Seconder	Amendment Proposer	Amendment Secunder
Cost of Living Crisis	Cllr David Hingley	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr Dan Sames	Cllr Ian Corkin
Refugee Crisis Motion	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr Angus Patrick	Cllr Barry Wood	TBC

No amendments have been proposed on the following motions:

- Motion to declare a Food Poverty Emergency
- Campsfield House, Kidlington, Motion

The deadline to submit has now passed and no amendments (further amendments are now permitted):

Motion Proposer: Councillor David Hingley

Motion Secunder: Councillor Ian Middleton

Topic: Cost of Living Crisis

Motion

“There is a pressing need to address the cost-of-living crisis.

Inflation is squeezing already stretched household budgets – propelled largely by energy price increases. On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the household energy price cap by 54 per cent - this excludes homes using solid fuel oil or bottled gas. However, the cap does not protect businesses. Energy cost rises affect all aspects of life: from logistics and food production to home heating and cooking. Many Cherwell families face the hard choice between heating and eating.

This crisis demonstrates the need to change our energy supply, not only to prevent a climate catastrophe, but also to maintain a functioning economy for all. The UK Government has announced tax reliefs for companies investing in "UK extraction". This move is encouraging more investment in North Sea oil and gas extraction, whilst hampering energy decarbonisation plans.

This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Crisis' and calls on the Leader to write to the Government to:

1. Put in place schemes for subsidising bus and train travel, to ensure people can travel affordably and sustainably
2. Urgently review the energy cap to cover all types of domestic fuels and provide protection to SMEs.
3. Expand the coverage of the Rural Fuel Duty Rate Relief.
4. Provide immediate financial support for councils to aid the most vulnerable.
5. Demonstrate a real and immediate increase of investment in UK renewables to decarbonise the energy sector and prevent a future energy fuelled cost of living crisis."

Proposer of Amendment: Councillor Dan Sames

Seconder of Amendment: Councillor Ian Corkin

Motion with Amendments

~~"There is a pressing need to address the cost-of-living crisis.~~

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~~Inflation is squeezing already stretched household budgets — propelled largely by energy price increases. On 1 April 2022, Ofgem increased the household energy price cap by 54 per cent — this excludes homes using solid fuel oil or bottled gas. However, the cap does not protect businesses. Energy cost rises affect all aspects of life: from logistics and food production to home heating and cooking. Many Cherwell families face the hard choice between heating and eating.—~~

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~~This Council therefore declares a 'Cost of Living Crisis' and calls on the Leader to write to the Government to:~~

We recognise the need to continue to support our communities at a time when the cost of living is increasing. We would like to thank our staff for ensuring that £6.7m of the £7.7m of Government funded resources, through the Council Tax Rebate Scheme, has already been provided to support our residents.

We will continue to work closely with the Government and the Leader of the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting a meeting to discuss:

1. ~~Put in place schemes for subsidising~~ **Subsidy for** bus and train travel, to ensure people can travel affordably and sustainably
2. ~~Urgently review~~ **A review of** the energy cap to cover all types of domestic fuels and provide protection to SMEs.
3. ~~Expand~~ **Expansion of** the coverage of the Rural Fuel Duty Rate Relief.
4. ~~Provide immediate~~ **Additional** financial support for councils to aid the most vulnerable.
5. ~~Demonstrate a real and immediate increase of~~ **Increasing** investment in UK renewables to decarbonise the energy sector and prevent a future energy fuelled cost of living crisis.”

CLEAN VERSION OF MOTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

“We recognise the need to continue to support our communities at a time when the cost of living is increasing. We would like to thank our staff for ensuring that **£6.7m of the £7.7m** of Government funded resources, through **the Council Tax Rebate Scheme**, has already been provided to support our residents.

We will continue to work closely with the Government and the Leader of the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, requesting a meeting to discuss:

1. Subsidy for bus and train travel, to ensure people can travel affordably and sustainably
2. A review of the energy cap to cover all types of domestic fuels and provide protection to SMEs.
3. Expansion of the coverage of the Rural Fuel Duty Rate Relief.
4. Additional financial support for councils to aid the most vulnerable.
5. Increasing investment in UK renewables to decarbonise the energy sector and prevent a future energy fuelled cost of living crisis.”

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton

Motion Seconder: Councillor Angus Patrick

Topic: Refugee Crisis Motion

Motion

“The UK government response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis has been criticised for its slow start and unnecessary bureaucracy at a time of extreme stress for people fleeing a war zone.

Many of the problems associated with the Homes for Ukraine Scheme have been piled on to local authorities already dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis.

Nevertheless, the generosity of our residents and the dedication and hard work of our housing team has ensured that hundreds of guests have been placed with hosts in Cherwell. But there is now some uncertainty about the longer-term prospects for these people as the conflict in their home country continues.

Ukrainian support groups such as the Opora network have reported that finding longer term accommodation may be hampered by requirements from landlords and lettings agencies for extensive reference checks, including proof of earnings in the UK going back some years along with other documentation. According to reports, many refugees have been told point blank that they have no chance of renting in the UK. This is a problem that may impact all refugees.

This Council therefore re-affirms its commitment to providing as much support as we are able to all refugees in Cherwell and calls on the leader to write urgently to the Home Secretary seeking reassurances on long-term support packages, including national agreements with landlords and lettings organisations to prevent another major crisis that our housing and homeless agencies will have to deal with.”

Proposer of Amendment: Councillor Barry Wood

Seconder of Amendment: TBC

Motion with Amendments

“The UK government response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis has been criticised for its slow start and unnecessary bureaucracy at a time of extreme stress for people fleeing a war zone. **Local authorities, already dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis, are on the frontline of sorting out the issues from the Homes for Ukraine scheme.**

~~Many of the problems associated with the Homes for Ukraine Scheme have been piled on to local authorities already dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis.~~

Nevertheless, the generosity of our residents and the dedication and hard work of our housing team **staff** has ensured that hundreds of guests have been placed

safely with hosts in Cherwell. But there is now some uncertainty about the longer-term prospects for these people as the conflict in their home country continues.

~~Ukrainian support groups such as the Opora network have reported that finding longer term accommodation may be hampered by requirements from landlords and lettings agencies for extensive reference checks, including proof of earnings in the UK going back some years along with other documentation. According to reports, many refugees have been told point blank that they have no chance of renting in the UK.~~ Reports from groups like Opora show that the likelihood of refugees becoming renters in the private sector is unlikely based on the documentation requirements from landlords and letting agents. This places a huge additional pressure on social housing availability. This is a problem that may impact all refugees.

~~This Council therefore re-affirms its commitment to providing as much support as we are able to~~ welcoming refugees and working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to provide longer term stability for all refugees in Cherwell and calls on the Leader to write urgently to the Home Secretary seeking reassurances on long-term support packages, including national agreements with landlords and lettings organisations to prevent another major crisis that our housing and homeless agencies will have to deal with. Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, offering an invitation to Cherwell to show how beneficial partnership working can be in resolving issues. We also request reassurance on long-term funding packages, delivering parity for refugees from different countries alongside national guidance to private landlords regarding letting properties to refugees and so prevent a major housing crisis.”

CLEAN VERSION OF MOTION WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

"The UK government response to the Ukrainian refugee crisis has been criticised for its slow start and unnecessary bureaucracy at a time of extreme stress for people fleeing war. Local authorities, already dealing with the fallout from the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis, are on the frontline of sorting out the issues from the Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Nevertheless, the generosity of our residents and the dedication and hard work of our staff has ensured that hundreds of guests have been placed safely with hosts in Cherwell. There is uncertainty about the longer-term prospects for refugees while the conflict in Ukraine continues.

Reports from groups like Opora show that the likelihood of refugees becoming renters in the private sector is unlikely based on the documentation requirements from landlords and letting agents. This places a huge additional pressure on social housing availability. This is a problem that may impact all refugees.

This Council therefore re-affirms its commitment to welcoming refugees and working in partnership with other agencies and organisations to provide longer term stability for all refugees in Cherwell and calls on the Leader to write urgently to Lord Harrington, Minister for Refugees, offering an invitation to Cherwell to show how beneficial partnership working can be in resolving issues. We also request reassurance on long-term funding packages, delivering parity for refugees from different countries alongside national guidance to private landlords regarding letting properties to refugees and so prevent a major housing crisis.”