



# Meeting of Council

Monday 21 October 2024

Members of Cherwell District Council,

A meeting of Council will be held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA on Monday 21 October 2024 at 6.30 pm, and you are hereby summoned to attend.

Monitoring Officer  
Friday 11 October 2024

## AGENDA

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.

3 **Communications**

To receive communications from the Chairman and/or the Leader of the Council.

4 **Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

The Chairman to report on any requests to submit petitions or to address the meeting.

Addresses may be presented by:

- A Local Government elector for the area,

- A person who is wholly or mainly resident in the area,
- A Council Taxpayer or National Non-Domestic Ratepayer for the area

Addresses must be on an item on this meeting agenda and must not exceed 5 minutes. No person may address more than one meeting on any particular issue.

Requests to address the meeting (including the agenda item and reason for the address) should be submitted to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) The deadline for requests to address this meeting is noon on Friday 18 October 2024.

The deadline to present a petition to this meeting has passed.

Full details of public participation at meetings is available in the Constitution.

## **5 Urgent Business**

The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any item of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.

## **6 Minutes of Council (Pages 7 - 18)**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of Council held on 15 July 2024.

## **7 Minutes**

- a) Minutes of Executive, Portfolio Holder Decisions and Executive Decisions not included in the 28-day notice

The Leader of the Council to formally propose that the minutes of the meetings of the Executive and Portfolio Holder Decisions as set out in the Minute Book (circulated separately) be received and to report that since the last meeting of Council held on 15 July 2024, one key and exempt decision had been taken which was not included in the 28 day notice relating to a Castle Quay lease.

- b) Minutes of Committees

The Leader of the Council to formally propose that the minutes of committees as set out in the Minute Book (circulated separately) be received.

## **8 Questions**

- a) Written Questions

No written questions have been submitted with advance notice in accordance with the Constitution.

- b) Questions to the Leader of the Council

The Chairman to invite questions to the Leader of the Council (including any matters arising from the minutes).

Following a response to their question being provided Members will be entitled to a follow up or supplementary question.

c) **Questions to Committee Chairmen on the Minutes**

The Chairman to invite questions to Chairmen of Committees on any matter arising from the minutes of their committee (if any).

## **Council Business Reports**

### **9 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

The following item of business contain exempt information as defined in the following paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of Local Government Act 1972.

- 3 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Members are reminded that whilst the following item has been marked as exempt, it is for the meeting to decide whether or not to consider it in private or in public. In making the decision, Members should balance the interests of individuals or the Council itself in having access to the information. In considering their discretion Members should also be mindful of the advice of Council Officers.

Should Members decide not to make a decision in public, they are recommended to pass the following recommendation:

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that they could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

### **10 Relocation of CDC administrative headquarters from Bodicote House to Castle Quay (Pages 19 - 26)**

Exempt report of Assistant Director Property

### **11 Readmittance of the Press and Public**

The meeting is recommended to resolve to readmit the press and public to the meeting.

### **12 Amendment to Committee Membership**

The Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Reeves, has notified the Proper Officer of the following amendment to Conservative Group committee membership:

#### **Budget Planning Committee**

Remove: Councillor Kieron Mallon  
Add: Councillor Barry Wood

## Recommendation

Council resolves:

1.1 To note the Conservative Group committee membership amendment.

## 13 Motions (Pages 27 - 32)

To debate the following motions which have been submitted with advance notice, in accordance with the Constitution (to be debated in the order submitted).

Topic	Proposer	Seconder
Winter Fuel Payments	Cllr Eddie Reeves	TBC
Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023	Cllr Andrew McHugh	TBC
'Primary Care' health services across North Oxfordshire	Cllr David Rogers	TBC
Neurodiversity	Cllr Rebecca Biegel	TBC
Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre, Kidlington	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr Dorothy Walker

Please note that the deadline to submit motions has passed. The deadline for Members to submit amendments to motions is noon on Thursday 17 October 2024. No amendments will be permitted after this deadline.

Any amendments submitted will be published as a supplement to the agenda on the afternoon of Friday 18 October 2024. Amendments for motions will be dealt with in the order submitted.

## For information

Please note:

Members are advised that written questions and motions for the next scheduled Council meeting on Monday 16 December 2024 must be submitted to the Assistant Director Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer, [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), by noon on Wednesday 4 December 2024.

**Councillors are requested to collect any post from their pigeon hole in the Members Room at the end of the meeting.**

## **Information about this Agenda**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence should be notified to [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) or 01295 221534 prior to the start of the meeting.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item.

### **Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates**

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare the fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

### **Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the car park as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

### **Access to Meetings**

If you have any special requirements, such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities to view a meeting online or attend a meeting in person, please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

### **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

### **Webcasting and Broadcasting Notice**

The meeting will be recorded by the council for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the council's website. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except when confidential or exempt items are being considered. The webcast will be retained on the website for 6 months.

If you make a representation to the meeting, you will be deemed by the council to have consented to being recorded. By entering the Council Chamber or joining virtually, you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

The council is obliged, by law, to allow members of the public to take photographs, film, audio-record, and report on proceedings. The council will only seek to prevent this should it be undertaken in a disruptive or otherwise inappropriate manner.

### **Queries Regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Natasha Clark, Democratic and Elections [democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@cherwell-dc.gov.uk), 01295 221534

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## **Cherwell District Council**

### **Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held at Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxon OX15 4AA, on 15 July 2024 at 6.30 pm

Present:

Councillor Dr Chukwudi Okeke (Chairman)

Councillor Tom Beckett  
Councillor Rebecca Biegel  
Councillor Gordon Blakeway  
Councillor Chris Brant  
Councillor John Broad  
Councillor Phil Chapman  
Councillor Mark Cherry  
Councillor Becky Clarke MBE  
Councillor Jean Conway  
Councillor Grace Conway-Murray  
Councillor Gemma Coton  
Councillor Nick Cotter  
Councillor Andrew Crichton  
Councillor David Hingley  
Councillor Matt Hodgson  
Councillor Frank Ideh  
Councillor Harry Knight  
Councillor Simon Lytton  
Councillor Kieron Mallon  
Councillor Nicholas Mawer  
Councillor Fiona Mawson  
Councillor Andrew McHugh  
Councillor Lesley McLean  
Councillor Ian Middleton  
Councillor Julian Nedelcu  
Councillor Rob Parkinson  
Councillor Lynne Parsons  
Councillor Rob Pattenden  
Councillor Chris Pruden  
Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves  
Councillor David Rogers  
Councillor Alisa Russell  
Councillor Les Sibley  
Councillor Nigel Simpson  
Councillor Dr Kerrie Thornhill  
Councillor Dom Vaitkus  
Councillor Linda Ward  
Councillor Amanda Watkins  
Councillor John Willett  
Councillor Douglas Webb

Councillor Barry Wood  
Councillor Sean Woodcock

Apologies for absence:

Councillor Dorothy Walker  
Councillor Besmira Brasha  
Councillor Dr Isabel Creed  
Councillor Ian Harwood

Officers:

Gordon Stewart, Chief Executive  
Ian Boll, Corporate Director Communities  
Stephen Hinds, Corporate Director Resources and Transformation  
Michael Furness, Assistant Director Finance & S151 Officer  
Shiraz Sheikh, Assistant Director Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer  
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

15 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

16 **Communications**

**Parliamentary Election**

On behalf of Council, the Chairman congratulated Councillor Sean Woodcock on his election as MP for the Banbury Constituency. The Chairman also congratulated Calum Miller who was elected as MP for the Bicester and Woodstock Constituency.

On behalf of Council, the Chairman extend gratitude to Victoria Prentis who served as MP for the Banbury Constituency for 14 years; to John Howell who, for 16 years, was MP for the Henley Constituency, which previously incorporated areas of the Kirtlington and Otmoor wards; and Layla Moran, who remains MP for the Oxford West and Abingdon Constituency, which, prior to the constituency boundary changes, incorporated Kidlington, Begbroke and Yarnton.

**Euro 2024**

On behalf of Council, the Chairman congratulated the England men's football team on reaching the finals of Euro 2024. Whilst the outcome wasn't what we hoped for, reaching the final was a great achievement. Congratulations to Spain on their victory.

**Radio Horton 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**



On behalf of Council, the Chairman congratulated Radio Horton on its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Founded by local journalists on 7 July 1964, the station was built on the founding principles of uplifting spirits and brightening patients' time in hospital. To mark the diamond jubilee, the radio station aired a 60-hour marathon of programmes, culminating in a live broadcast from the Horton Restaurant on Monday 8 July. The special programme starred Radio Horton presenter Anthony Brown and station President John Craven OBE.

### **Chairman's Engagements**

A copy of the events attended by the Chairman, or the Vice-Chairman was published with the agenda.

### **Meeting Etiquette**

The Chairman asked councillors to be respectful of each other when addressing the meeting and out of courtesy, to remain in their seat during items. If necessary, the Chairman would adjourn the meeting to allow for a comfort break at a suitable point.

### **Change to Agenda Order**

Item 12, "Notification of Committee membership changes" would be taken before item 11, "Motions".

### **Members' Pigeon Holes**

The Chairman reminded Members to check their pigeon hole and take any post with them.

## **17 Petitions and Requests to Address the Meeting**

There were no petitions or requests to address the meeting.

## **18 Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **19 Minutes of Council**

Subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- attendance to record Cllr Webb's apologies
- Minute 11, resolution (2),
  - second bullet, change from "all Labour & co-operative members" to "all Labour or Labour and co-operative members"
  - third bullet, change Green / Independent to Green and Independent Alliance Group

20 **Minutes**

**a) Minutes of the Executive, Portfolio Holder Decisions and Executive Decisions made under Special Urgency**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting of the Executive and Portfolio Holder decisions as set out in the Minute Book be received and that it be noted that since the last meeting of Council on 26 February 2024 two key or exempt decisions had been taken which were not included in the 28-day notice: Temporary accommodation lease and the letting of Unit 5 at Castle Quay 2.

**b) Minutes of Committees**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of Committees as set out in the Minute Book be received.

21 **Questions**

**a) Written Questions**

There were no written questions.

**b) Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Questions were asked and answers received on the following issues:

Councillor Parsons: Community facilities and infrastructure to support development

Councillor Cherry: Police and Crime Commissioner proposal to centralise CCTV operation monitoring

Councillor McHugh: Cherwell Military Champion attendance or representation at relevant events

Councillor Mawer: Sanctuary Housing and long term voids

Councillor Watkins: Short breaks to be factored into all meetings approximately every two hours

**c) Questions to Committee Chairmen on the Minutes**

There were no questions to Committee Chairman on the minutes of meetings.

22 **Annual Report of Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee 2023/2024**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report which presented the annual report of the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee 2023/24

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Annual Report of the Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee 2023/24 be noted.

23 **Treasury Management Report - Annual Performance Report 2023/24**

The Assistant Director of Finance submitted a report to provide Council with information on treasury management performance and compliance with treasury management policy for 2023-24 as required by the Treasury Management Code of Practice. The report demonstrated that all treasury management activities undertaken during the financial year 2023-24 complied with the CIPFA Code of Practice, the council's approved Treasury Management Strategy and that all Prudential Indicators were met during the reporting period.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the Treasury Management Annual Performance Report 2023/2024 and the Capital Prudential indicators be noted.

24 **Amendment to Committee Membership**

The Chairman referred to the agenda which set out that the former Labour Group Leader, Councillor Woodcock and newly appointed Labour Group Leader, Councillor Watkins, had notified the Proper Officer of a change to the Labour Group Leader and Deputy Leader and committee membership changes and that the Conservative Group Leader, Councillor Reeves, had notified the Proper Officer of a change to the Conservative Group committee membership.

**Resolved**

- (1) That the following Conservative Group committee membership amendment be noted:

Planning Committee

Councillor Andrew McHugh from full committee member to named substitute

Councillor Phil Chapman from names substitute to full committee member

- (2) That the notification of the change of Labour Group Leader and Deputy Labour Group Leader be noted:

Labour Group Leader: Councillor Amanda Watkins

Deputy Labour Group Leader: Councillor Andrew Crichton

- (3) That the following Labour Group committee membership amendments be noted:

Accounts, Audit & Risk Committee

Remove: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Add: Councillor Besmira Brash

Appeals Panel

Remove: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Add: Councillor Dr Chukwudi Okeke

Budget Planning Committee

Remove: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Add: Councillor Andrew Crichton

25

**Motions**

The Chairman advised that four motions had been submitted. An amendment to the "Consultation on Congestion Commission" had been submitted. In line with the Constitution, no further amendments were now permitted.

**Motion One: Mental Health Initiative**

It was proposed by Councillor Parsons and seconded by Councillor Dr Thornhill that the following motion be adopted:

"The Labour Group would like to increase the impact of the existing mental health programme which was started by the Youth Activators in conjunction with the mental health charity MIND. It is proposed that this is achieved by making the programme longer and available through all schools, which we can achieve by partnering with the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership to identify schools where there were higher levels of need reported initially.

Providing a 12-week programme in 11 schools per term will result in all schools in the district benefitting within two years. The proposal would also target academic years 5 and 6 in primary and year 7, 10 and 11 in secondary as transition years.

The cost of the proposal is £0.035m per year and is proposed on an ongoing basis. Funding can be provided from the general contingency budget within Policy Contingency.

This council resolves to ask the Executive to increase spending on the mental health initiatives currently in place within the Chief Executive's directorate to be funded by an allocation from the Policy Contingency budget."

No amendments to the motion having been proposed, the motion was debated as submitted. On being put to the vote the motion was carried unanimously.

## **Motion Two: Spare Seats Scheme**

It was proposed by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Mallon that the following motion be adopted:

*“Oxfordshire County Council has not run its Spare Seats scheme for school bus places well in recent years. Parents and carers have too often been left in an unenviable position following changes, with consultation of Cherwell District Council too often lacking about changes affecting its wards and schools.*

On 26 June, the Oxford Mail reported that:

*“Oxfordshire County Council is withdrawing its Spare Seats scheme for pupils travelling from Middle Barton and The Bartons villages to Chipping Norton School.*

*“It follows a furore last year when the council scrapped the scheme on nine routes, affecting more than 200 children including at Wheatley Park School, The Warriner in Bloxham and Wood Green in Witney.*

Parental choice remains an important principle of the current education settlement and will remain so unless changed by a new government. Whilst such a principle remains, it is important that local government works with maintained schools and academies to facilitate transport to families’ preferred schools at reasonable cost.

Given that County Hall’s most recent cancellations would appear to imperil this important principle, the Council requests that its Leader write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council setting out in clear terms that, in future, Cherwell District Council would expect to be more fully consulted upon all such changes affecting families across North Oxfordshire.”

No amendments to the motion having been proposed, the motion was debated as submitted. On being put to the vote the motion was carried unanimously.

## **Motion Three: Consultation on Congestion Commission**

It was proposed by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Mallon that the following motion be adopted:

*“On 14 February, Oxfordshire County Council considered setting up a Congestion Commission as part of its last budget debate. Although this measure was not taken up at the time, this Council now considers that it is time for such commission to ensure that commuters into Oxford have a meaningful voice about how any policy changes planned in County Hall affect their working lives.*

This Council further notes that the administration at Oxfordshire County Council has refused to rule out extending measures currently planned for

Oxford to Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, despite concerns from local businesses about the health of our high streets.

Such measures include Oxfordshire County Council's ambitious suite of traffic filters, workplace parking tax and Low-Traffic Neighbourhoods, none of which have been ruled out for Cherwell in future.

Were all such measures to go ahead, Oxfordshire motorists and working people could be hit by £57million in fines and charges over a five-year period as follows:

Zero Emissions Zone: £25m;  
Workplace Parking Levy: £21m;  
Traffic Filters: £11m.

This Council requests that its Leader write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council requesting that Cherwell District Council be fully consulted before any plans are put in train or capital expenditure committed to introduce similarly restrictive measures across North Oxfordshire, mindful of this Council's need to protect our high streets and local economy."

Councillor Biegel proposed the following amendment (amendments struck through and revised text in italics), which was duly seconded by Councillor Crichton.

"On 14 February, Oxfordshire County Council considered setting up a Congestion Commission as part of its last budget debate. Although this measure was not taken up at the time, this Council now considers that it is time for such commission to ensure that commuters into Oxford have a meaningful voice about how any policy changes planned in County Hall affect their working lives.

This Council further notes that the administration at Oxfordshire County Council has refused to rule out extending measures currently planned for Oxford to Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, despite concerns from local businesses about the health of our high streets.

Such measures include Oxfordshire County Council's ambitious suite of traffic filters, workplace parking tax and Low-Traffic Neighbourhoods, none of which have been ruled out for Cherwell in future.

Were all such measures to go ahead, Oxfordshire motorists and working people could be hit by £57million in fines and charges over a five-year period as follows:

Zero Emissions Zone: £25m;  
Workplace Parking Levy: £21m;  
Traffic Filters: £11m.

This Council requests that its Leader write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council requesting that Cherwell District Council be fully consulted

before any plans are put in train or capital expenditure committed to introduce ~~similarly restrictive~~ *similar* measures across North Oxfordshire, mindful of this Council's need to protect our high streets and local economy."

The amendment was debated. On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

The substantive motion was debated. On being put to the vote the substantive motion was carried.

#### **Motion Four: Member Briefings**

It was proposed by Councillor Reeves and seconded by Councillor Mallon that the following motion be adopted:

"This Council notes that, by the time of its next elections in 2026, it will have been in No Overall Control for three years. Mindful that a new approach to local politics is required, this Council resolves to:

- i. Ask the Chief Executive to consider and ensure that 'all member' briefings on forthcoming policy matters of concern are offered as standard practice; and allow designated frontbench spokespeople from political groups to attend relevant Director briefings, for example, in connection with non-confidential items; and
- ii. Ask that the Constitution Review Group consider whether the formal designation of opposition spokespeople should now be enshrined in the Council's constitution."

No amendments to the motion having been proposed, the motion was debated as submitted. On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

#### **Resolved**

- (1) That the following motion be adopted:

##### **Mental Health Initiative**

"The Labour Group would like to increase the impact of the existing mental health programme which was started by the Youth Activators in conjunction with the mental health charity MIND. It is proposed that this is achieved by making the programme longer and available through all schools, which we can achieve by partnering with the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership to identify schools where there were higher levels of need reported initially.

Providing a 12-week programme in 11 schools per term will result in all schools in the district benefitting within two years. The proposal would also target academic years 5 and 6 in primary and year 7, 10 and 11 in secondary as transition years.

The cost of the proposal is £0.035m per year and is proposed on an ongoing basis. Funding can be provided from the general contingency budget within Policy Contingency.

This council resolves to ask the Executive to increase spending on the mental health initiatives currently in place within the Chief Executive's directorate to be funded by an allocation from the Policy Contingency budget."

- (2) That the following motion be adopted:

Spare Seats Scheme

"Oxfordshire County Council has not run its Spare Seats scheme for school bus places well in recent years. Parents and carers have too often been left in an unenviable position following changes, with consultation of Cherwell District Council too often lacking about changes affecting its wards and schools.

On 26 June, the Oxford Mail reported that:

*"Oxfordshire County Council is withdrawing its Spare Seats scheme for pupils travelling from Middle Barton and The Bartons villages to Chipping Norton School.*

*"It follows a furore last year when the council scrapped the scheme on nine routes, affecting more than 200 children including at Wheatley Park School, The Warriner in Bloxham and Wood Green in Witney.*

Parental choice remains an important principle of the current education settlement and will remain so unless changed by a new government. Whilst such a principle remains, it is important that local government works with maintained schools and academies to facilitate transport to families' preferred schools at reasonable cost.

Given that County Hall's most recent cancellations would appear to imperil this important principle, the Council requests that its Leader write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council setting out in clear terms that, in future, Cherwell District Council would expect to be more fully consulted upon all such changes affecting families across North Oxfordshire.

- (3) That the following motion, as amended, be adopted:

Consultation on Congestion Commission

"On 14 February, Oxfordshire County Council considered setting up a Congestion Commission as part of its last budget debate. Although this measure was not taken up at the time, this Council now considers that it is time for such commission to ensure that commuters into Oxford have a meaningful voice about how any policy changes planned in County Hall affect their working lives.



This Council further notes that the administration at Oxfordshire County Council has refused to rule out extending measures currently planned for Oxford to Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington, despite concerns from local businesses about the health of our high streets.

Such measures include Oxfordshire County Council's ambitious suite of traffic filters, workplace parking tax and Low-Traffic Neighbourhoods, none of which have been ruled out for Cherwell in future.

Were all such measures to go ahead, Oxfordshire motorists and working people could be hit by £57million in fines and charges over a five-year period as follows:

Zero Emissions Zone: £25m;  
Workplace Parking Levy: £21m;  
Traffic Filters: £11m.

This Council requests that its Leader write to the Leader of Oxfordshire County Council requesting that Cherwell District Council be fully consulted before any plans are put in train or capital expenditure committed to introduce similar measures across North Oxfordshire."

The meeting ended at 8.40 pm

Chairman:

Date:

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By virtue of  
Regulation 21(1)(A) of the Local Authorities (Executive  
Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England)  
Regulations 2000.

Document is Restricted

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## Council

**Monday 21 October 2024**

## Motions

Topic	Proposer	Seconder
Winter Fuel Payments	Cllr Eddie Reeves	TBC
Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023	Cllr Andrew McHugh	TBC
'Primary Care' health services across North Oxfordshire	Cllr David Rogers	TBC
Neurodiversity	Cllr Rebecca Biegel	TBC
Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre, Kidlington	Cllr Ian Middleton	Cllr Dorothy Walker

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Edward Fraser Reeves**

**Motion Secunder: TBC**

**Topic: Winter Fuel Payments**

### Motion

"This Council deplores the government's precipitous decision to cut Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs) ahead of its budget on 30 October 2024.

Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could adversely affect as many as two million pensioners across the country, many of whom need support to stay warm this winter. In the Banbury constituency alone, 17,638 pensioners are set to be affected by the decision.

This Council resolves to request that:

- (i) the Executive launch a countywide awareness campaign working with our fellow City and District Councils, Oxfordshire County Council, local NHS partners, and charitable, civic and religious groups, to encourage elderly residents who are eligible for means-tested benefits such as Pension Credit to register and claim them to ensure that they continue to receive WFPs this Winter;

- (ii) the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the government's decision to means-test WFPs without public consultation and asking HM Treasury to ensure that vulnerable pensioners, particularly those who are eligible for, but who do not – or cannot – claim, other benefits under current thresholds are protected from fuel poverty in her forthcoming budget; and
- (iii) the Executive builds on the Council's notable successes in tackling food insecurity and providing community food grants by prioritising monies within its current and/or the 2025/6 budget to ensure that pensioners who are in genuine hardship, but who are not otherwise eligible for other government support, are helped through the Winter."

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Andrew McHugh**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023**

### **Motion**

"This Council proudly holds the silver level award for the Defence Employers' Recognition Scheme, known as the Armed Forces Covenant.

In this year's King's Speech, the Prime Minister set out measures to repeal and replace the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 ('the Act'). The Act afforded members of British Armed Forces who served in Northern Ireland the same protection from prosecution as that given to convicted terrorists and those on the run.

Protection from prosecution was granted to convicted terrorists and 'on the run' terrorists by former Prime Minister Tony Blair and then-Director of Public Prosecutions Sir Keir Starmer under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement.

In interviews given by Sir Keir Starmer prior to the General Election, he made it clear that he does not believe British Service personnel should have immunity for prosecution and that convicted and 'on the run' paramilitaries should continue to enjoy this protection as the cost of a lasting peace.

The repeal of the Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act 2023 is a betrayal to British Armed Forces Veterans who saw active service during Operation Banner.

As a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant, this Council calls on the Leader of the council to write to the Prime Minister asking him to reconsider his commitment to repealing the Act or to replace it with another that gives British Armed Forces veterans equal degree of protection from prosecution related to the Troubles as that enjoyed by their terrorist/paramilitary adversaries."

**Motion Proposer: Councillor David Rogers**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: 'Primary Care' health services across North Oxfordshire**

**Motion**

"This Council recognises the need to improve 'Primary Care' health services across North Oxfordshire.

Primary Care expansion is the remit of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System Board ('BOBICS') whose Primary Care Estates Strategy acknowledges the scale of developer contributions that are available to support such vital public services.

Regrettably, since the adoption of the Supplementary Planning Document in 2018, it is estimated that only 15% of funds available have been requested and secured within the Cherwell District Council area. This must improve.

Accordingly, this Council request that its Leader writes to the Chief Executive of BOBICS, copied to its Place Director for Oxfordshire and its Senior Primary Care Estate Manager, to request that it:

- (i) more consistently requests developer contributions on all planning applications of 10 or more dwellings;
- (ii) considers using this funding in part for ICT Infrastructure to support primary care expansion;
- (iii) work more closely with this Council to ensure the release the s.106 contributions currently allocated to, or held by, Cherwell District Council; and
- (iv) works with this Council on both its Local Plan review, the Community Infrastructure Levy consultation and its review of the Supplementary Planning Document to ensure better and more coordinated provision of vital health services.

This Council further calls on its Leader to request a meeting between BOBICS and Leaders of all political groups and Officers to discuss how we could improve the delivery of Primary Care across North Oxfordshire."

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Rebecca Biegel**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Neurodiversity**

**Motion**

“Around 1-in-7 people in the UK are neurodivergent, experiencing the world differently from others. Neurodivergence is associated with a range of conditions including, but not limited to ADHD, Autism, Dyslexia, Developmental Language Disorder, Dyspraxia, and Dyscalculia.

*People with neurodivergent traits and conditions face a range of challenges across our society, including finding employment, increased likelihood of mental health diagnoses, and trouble accessing public services.*

I hope Members will agree that we should act to reduce barriers faced by neurodivergent individuals to make Cherwell more neurodiversity friendly.

To meet this aim, this Council resolves to ask the Executive to:

- add neurodiversity within 12 months as part of EDI strategy/plan that ensures our organisation and services identify and meet the needs of the neurodiverse community.
- Promote acceptance and understanding of neurodiversity through celebrating awareness-raising campaigns.
- Look at training for all on neurodiversity so they may recognise the growing impact of neurodivergent conditions on the issues they deal with on behalf of service users / constituents.
- Ensure neurodiversity is considered within the Council’s well-being goals and strategy.
- Encourage neurodivergent individuals to apply for employment with the council or participate in public life, for example by running to be a Councillor.
- Review and implement reasonable adjustments for elected members, to ensure the role of Councillor is accessible to people with neurodivergent traits and conditions so the skills and talents of all people can be harnessed for the benefit of the residents of Cherwell.
- And finally, for inclusivity, to extend any reasonable adjustments more widely.



**Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton**

**Motion Seconder: Councillor Dorothy Walker**

**Topic: Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre, Kidlington**

### **Motion**

“Campsfield House Immigration Detention Centre in Kidlington was closed in 2019 after decades of campaigning by refugee support groups and Cherwell residents, and the publication of two government commissioned reviews criticising the UK’s migrant detention system. The leader of the reviews, the Prison Ombudsman, Sir Stephen Shaw, described the detention system as indiscriminate, inhumane and hugely wasteful.

In 2022 the Conservatives announced plans to re-open and double the size of Campsfield House to support its Rwanda Resettlement Scheme. The new Labour government have thankfully cancelled that scheme, removing the main rationale for the plans for Campsfield, but they have since announced their intention to continue with the re-opening. This has been criticised by migrants’ rights groups including Asylum Welcome, Detention Action, The Refugee Council, Amnesty International UK and the Keep Campsfield Closed group.

Cherwell has a proud tradition of welcoming refugees and providing sanctuary from oppression and war. The re-opening of Campsfield House is a stain on our district and contradicts government recommendations into migrant detention in the UK.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Home Secretary calling on her to :

1. Abandon the re-opening of Campsfield House.
2. Outline plans to reduce, rather than increase, the number of people held in detention.
3. Focus on accelerating the processing of asylum claims to reduce the huge number of individuals trapped in the system.
4. Develop a more humane migration policy, including the establishment of safe and legal routes for people to claim asylum.!

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