

Amendments to Motions

Item 12 Motion by Councillor Gregory

Amendment proposed by Councillor Baines, seconded by Councillor Hicks

The Two Child limit to benefit payments was introduced by the Conservative Government in 2017 and ~~is supported by the current Labour Government.~~ **This legacy of 14 years of Conservative Government** prevents families from claiming Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit for more than 2 children in the household.

Council notes the recent research ~~conducted by the End Child Poverty Coalition~~ which has found that:

- 1.5 million children in the UK live in households subject to the two-child limit on benefit payments. That is roughly one-in-ten children in the UK.
- In 2023/24 the two-child limit cost families up to £3,235 per child each year.
- Scrapping the two-child limit would lift 250,000 children out of poverty overnight, and significantly reduce the level of poverty that a further 850,000 children live in.
- ~~Scrapping the two-child limit would cost £1.3 billion, however it is estimated that child poverty costs the economy £39 billion each year.~~

In Oxfordshire 10,850 children in 3050 households are currently affected by the two-child limit to benefit payments.

Council believes:

- **Reckless decisions by the former Government in supporting unfunded spending commitments has left a black hole in our nation's finances.**
- **Governments and political parties should never commit to unfunded spending commitments, this threatens the stability of our economy.**
- ~~T~~**hat the two-child limit is a cruel policy that should be scrapped once the fiscal environment allows.**

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the ~~Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Prime Minister~~ **Minister for the Cabinet Office** expressing Oxfordshire County Council's strong belief that the two-child limit to benefit payments should be scrapped **welcoming the establishment of a new child poverty unit and a ministerial taskforce to break down barriers to opportunity for every child.**
- Ask the Leader to write to all MPs covering the Oxfordshire area, asking them to commit their public support **for these measures.**

Amendment results in 245 words

Item 13 Motion by Councillor Povolotsky

Amendment proposed by Councillor Reeves, seconded by Councillor Corkin

In September 2023, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission declared their judgment post inspection that the Local Area Partnership (LAP) had multiple systemic failures.

Despite the Priority Action Plan (PAP), the Council is failing to meaningfully engage with **elected members on a cross-party basis or** ~~and~~ capture the voice of **families affected and** ~~the user~~, our young people.

Council calls on Cabinet to consider;

1. **More** ~~More~~ meaningfully involving young people and youth organisations throughout all policy-making processes within SEND improvement and the PAP. ~~Co-management and co-creation structures are the best way to ensure direct participation.~~
2. Any consultations or engagement with young people by this council must have a visible public follow-up to the outcomes **and tangible metrics to ensure outcomes are delivered.**
3. All Council policies ~~and frameworks~~ that affect young people, must include an impact assessment, and ensure ~~there are~~ **that reasonable** mitigation measures **are put** in place for those youth groups that might be negatively impacted ~~by a new policy or framework.~~
4. Ensuring that where appropriate all future events, in person/online, run ~~by or~~ funded by OCC, especially those related to the PAP, LAP, and SEND improvement, are open to ~~all~~ **appropriate** young people with the attendance of their parent or carer.
5. Launching a rapid task force for the voice of the young person and SEND users, and task them to create a framework for a Youth Forum within ~~3~~ **three** months ~~of this meeting date.~~
6. The leader to appoint a SEND Champion **from an opposition group** to enable ~~seldom heard~~ **that a wider range of** voices in the SEND community ~~to~~ **are able to** feed into SEND improvement and services, and that **such** person ~~to~~ sits on the SEND Improvement board.

Amendment results in 241 words

Item 14 Motion by Councillor Reeves

Amendment A proposed by Councillor Levy, seconded by Councillor Ley

This Council ~~deplores~~ **notes** the government's decision to cut Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could **affect** ~~hit~~ 2 million people across the country, **some of whom** ~~who badly~~ need the money to stay warm this winter.

This Council resolves to:

- Request Cabinet to launch a countywide awareness campaign working with our City and District Councils, 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.
- Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the government's precipitous 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.
- ~~• Request that the Cabinet reprioritises monies within the Council's budget for 2024/5 held within the Budget Priority Reserve and/or within other relevant contingency funds, with a view to establishing an Oxfordshire Winter Fuel Payment Protection Fund, akin to the Oxfordshire Resident Support Scheme, to ensure that pensioners who are in genuine hardship, but who are not eligible for other government support, are helped through the Winter.~~
- **Request that the Cabinet enhances its efforts to support vulnerable people, including pensioners, through its Adult Social Care responsibilities and its Cost of Living support programme and through backing for groups within Oxfordshire offering support and advice to residents.**

Amendment results in 196 words

Amendment B proposed by Cllr Baines, seconded by Cllr O'Connor

This Council depl~~ores~~ **notes** the ~~G~~government's decision to ~~cut~~ **means-test** Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). ~~Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could hit 2 million people across the country, who badly need the money to stay warm this winter.~~

This Council ~~resolves to:~~

- **Recognises that the new Government inherited a terrible fiscal inheritance with a £22 billion of unfunded spending commitments which had not been reported to the Office for Budget Responsibility. Left unaddressed this poses a major risk to the nation's economy with the budget deficit increasing by 25%.**
- **Welcomes the Government's commitment to increasing the uptake of Pension Credit, aligning Pension Credit and Housing Benefit, extending the Household Support Fund and protecting the triple lock.**
- Requests Cabinet to launch a countywide awareness campaign working with our City and District Councils, 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.
- ~~Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the government's precipitous 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.~~
- Requests that the Cabinet reprioritises monies within the Council's budget for 2024/5 held within the Budget Priority Reserve and/or within other relevant contingency funds, with a view to establishing a **new Oxfordshire Winter Fuel Payment Protection Fund**, akin to the Oxfordshire Resident Support Scheme, to ensure that pensioners **and adults of working age** who are in genuine hardship, ~~but who are not eligible for other government support,~~ are helped through the Winter **and beyond**.

Amendment results in 197 words

Amendment A was received first and will be debated first.
If Amendment A is passed, then the following version of
the amendment from Councillor Baines will be taken:

Amendment C

This Council notes the ~~G~~government's decision to ~~cut~~ **means-test** Winter Fuel Payments (WFPs). ~~Age UK estimates that the government's changes to WFPs could affect 2 million people across the country, some of whom need the money to stay warm this winter.~~

This Council ~~resolves to:~~

- **Recognises that the new Government inherited a terrible fiscal inheritance with a £22 billion of unfunded spending commitments which had not been reported to the Office for Budget Responsibility. Left unaddressed this poses a major risk to the nation's economy with the budget deficit increasing by 25%.**
- **Welcomes the Government's commitment to increasing the uptake of Pension Credit, aligning Pension Credit and Housing Benefit, extending the Household Support Fund and protecting the triple lock.**
- Request Cabinet to launch a countywide awareness campaign working with our City and District Councils, 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.
- ~~Request that the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging a review of the government's precipitous 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.~~
- ~~Request that the Council enhances its efforts to support vulnerable people, including pensioners, through its Adult Social Care responsibilities and its Cost of Living support programme and through backing for groups within Oxfordshire offering support and advice to residents.~~
- **Requests that the Cabinet reprioritises monies within the Council's budget for 2024/5 held within the Budget Priority Reserve and/or within other relevant contingency funds, with a view to establishing a new Oxfordshire Resident Support Scheme, to ensure that pensioners and adults of working age who are in genuine hardship are helped through the Winter and beyond.**

Amendment results in 197 words

Item 16 – Motion by Councillor Gawrysiak

Amendment proposed by Councillor Reeves

In December Oxfordshire County Council removed ~~7~~ **seven** beds from the Chiltern care home. ~~These beds were removed~~ without any consultation with the GP's who run them, Henley Town Council ~~and~~ **or** the community of South Oxfordshire ~~and Henley~~. This lack of consultation by the Council is unacceptable **and must not be repeated**.

These beds were originally provided as 'NHS beds'.

Following FOI requests to the Integrated Care Board Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Berkshire West (ICB BOB) and the Council, ~~we have~~ **it has been firmly** established that these beds are NHS ~~B~~beds funded by ~~the~~ ICB, ~~this~~ Council and ~~the~~ Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust. ~~and cannot~~ **They should not therefore have been** closed without **full and proper public** consultation.

Dr Broughton interim Chief Executive of the ICB BOB states 28th February 2024 "The beds have not 'lost NHS funding', "The beds continued to be overseen by the Oxford University Hospital Hub team."

These beds are NHS beds which cannot be removed without consultation.

This Council:

1. Deplores the **beds'** removal without **said** consultation.
2. Believes **that a full and objective account as to why** these beds, which serve a population of 140,000 of South Oxfordshire, ~~should be reinstated~~ **were removed and what replacement measures have since been taken**.

This Council requests that Cabinet:

3. Asks partners to seek to **account for the reasons why the** ~~reinstated the 7~~ **seven** Chiltern Court Beds serving South Oxfordshire **cannot be reinstated, bearing in mind the new measures that have since been in place and, in the absence of such an account, take steps to reinstate them**.
4. Conduct **all necessary public** consultations ~~if they still wish to remove the~~ **beds**.

Item 18 Motion by Councillor Middleton

Amendment A proposed by Councillor Middleton, seconded by Councillor Sudbury

In 2018 this Council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.

When DEFRA announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county is in the killing zones.

~~A new DEFRA policy now allows epidemiological culling or 'epi-culling', which involves killing up to 100% of badgers across a large area in response to a new cluster of herd breakdowns. Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years. Oxfordshire is now being considered by DEFRA for future epi-culling programmes.~~

~~A recent **Numerous** scientific reports shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.~~

While it's welcomed that the new government has abandoned plans to allow up to 100% of badgers to be killed in some areas, there was a hope that they would cancel the cull completely and focus on cattle based measures, including support for farmers over improved biosecurity, and a move towards testing and vaccination. However it seems likely that the cull will continue for at least the next 5 years meaning even more badgers in Oxfordshire will be senselessly slaughtered.

This Council therefore :

1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling ~~and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling~~ which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB.
2. Asks the Cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on Council owned land.
3. Requests that the Leader writes to DEFRA making clear our continued opposition to the cull and any extension of it in size and scope, ~~especially with regard to epidemiological culling.~~

Amendment results in 250 words

Amendment B proposed by Councillor Baines

In 2018 this Council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.

When ~~DEFRA~~ **the previous Conservative Government** announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county ~~is~~ **was** in the killing zones.

The new Government has announced a new bovine TB eradication strategy working with farmers, vets, scientists and conservationists to rapidly strengthen and deploy a range of disease control measures. This comprehensive TB eradication package includes a new wildlife surveillance programme, a new Badger Vaccinator Field Force and a badger vaccination study, will allow the Government to end the badger cull in the next five years.

~~A new DEFRA policy now allows epidemiological culling or 'epi-culling', which involves killing up to 100% of badgers across a large area in response to a new cluster of herd breakdowns. Epi-Culling was first introduced in Cumbria, and has been adopted on a trial basis in parts of England over the past five years. Oxfordshire is now being considered by DEFRA for future epi-culling programmes.~~

~~A recent scientific report shows that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.~~

This Council therefore :

1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB.
2. Asks the Cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on Council owned land.
3. Requests that the Leader writes to DEFRA ~~making clear our continued opposition to~~ **welcome the Government's new TB eradication package and plans to end the badger cull by the end of the Parliament.** ~~and any extension of it in size and scope, especially with regard to epidemiological culling.~~

Council will first be asked if it accepts Cllr Middleton's Amendment A to his own motion. If Council does not accept it, it will be debated and put to a vote.

If the motion is amended by Amendment A then the following version of the amendment from Councillor Baines will be taken:

Amendment C

In 2018 this Council passed a motion stating that it was opposed to the licensing of a badger cull in Oxfordshire.

When ~~DEFRA~~ **the previous Conservative Government** announced that badger culling would be phased out by 2025, many people believed that the cull had ended. Sadly, culling in Oxfordshire intensified, seemingly with the intent of shooting as many badgers as possible before the deadline. Over 50% of the county ~~is~~ **was** in the killing zones.

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~~Numerous scientific reports show that epi-culling is ineffective as a control measure. However, DEFRA, Animal and Public Health Agenda, the bTB Hub/NFU and British Cattle Veterinary Association, continue to advocate its use.~~

~~While it's welcomed that the new government has abandoned plans to allow up to 100% of badgers to be killed in some areas, there was a hope that they would cancel the cull completely and focus on cattle based measures, including support for farmers over improved biosecurity, and a move towards testing and vaccination. However it seems likely that the cull will continue for at least the next 5 years meaning even more badgers in Oxfordshire will be senselessly slaughtered~~

This Council therefore :

1. Re-affirms our opposition to badger culling **and condemns the introduction of epidemiological culling** which has been shown to be an ineffective control measure for bTB.
2. Asks the Cabinet to consider a specific policy that badger culling will not be permitted on Council owned land.
3. Requests that the Leader writes to DEFRA ~~making clear our continued opposition to~~ **welcome the Government's new TB eradication package and plans to end the badger cull by the end of the Parliament** ~~and any extension of it in size and scope.~~

Amendment results in 217 words