

From GREEN Caroline 3:29 PM 14/01/2026

Dear Anne

Thank you for your further letter and the phone message earlier today. In the interests of replying promptly, I am responding by email rather than on formal letterhead.

In relation to your reference to the Council responsibilities and executive responsibilities in Section 3 of the constitution, which as you say lists "elections and electoral registration" as a responsibility of Council, this refers to the matters which council has specifically reserved to itself as set out in part 5 of the Constitution, listed in the table at para 5.16. It does not cover the request for views on postponing elections and the impact on operational capacity to deliver LGR which is the subject of the request for views received by government.

On the comparison you draw with previous decisions, these were in relation to motions proposed by the political parties and councillors in line with the relevant rules on an ordinary council meeting agenda. They meet the requirements of a "motion on notice", with the wide catch all being something that directly affects residents in the city (11.16). Therefore, they were permissible despite the Council having not responsibility for them.

This matter at hand is the subject of a special meeting, which is subject to a different procedure to ordinary meetings and only cover the business for which it has been called (11.5). A special meeting doesn't have provision for motions on notice. Therefore, there is no anomaly with these motions.

The ask of government is to share views, and the purpose of the meeting is to seek views from members in chamber to inform the letter to government. The Leader has been clear that it is her intention to ensure that these views are reflected in the letter, and to that end I understand she will clarify this in introducing the report at the meeting. In addition, she is proposing to supply to government the draft minutes.

You express concern about how the decision as to the letter's content will be reached but we hope this assures you that it will reflect the comments of councillors made in the chamber.

We note that councillors from the OIA will be in attendance and that they will be taking note of the views offered. Unfortunately, we cannot commit to sharing a draft of the response to government given the timelines involved in terms of a need to reply by Thursday this week. We do not want to delay that and risk that government will not take the views into consideration at all. We will of course share with councillors a copy of the final letter and the minutes.

Regards

Caroline

Caroline Green

Chief Executive, Oxford City Council

Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford OX1 1BX

Tel: 07483 007109

cgreen@oxford.gov.uk