**Oxford & District Labour Party, All-Member Meeting, 13 July 2018**

**The Living Wage**

The living wage in East London was the product of a broad social movement involving community organisations, faith groups, the Citizens organisation and unions. In 2007 the Oxford City Council agreed to adopt and promote an Oxford Living Wage which came to be set at 95% of the London Living Wage in recognition of the exceptionally high costs of owning or renting accommodation in the city.

It is **£9.69 an hour as of April 2018 and it will be recalculated in November.**

The council pays this living wage as a minimum to staff directly employed by the council and also major contractors (eg Fusion who run the leisure centres).

The council also recognises it has a duty of advocacy with local employers and it wishes to work with local partners - movements campaigning for social justice.

The city council has recently reviewed its Living Wage work and its clear that further outreach is needed with local employers and to engage with community groups and of course trade unions. We need your help!

We recognise there are a number of loopholes - eg the use of bogus self employment to undermine the legal rights of workers to pay, holidays, pensions and sickness benefits. There are also reports of abuse of the apprentice system to hold down pay and conditions. We deplore this. Close work is needed with our trade union colleagues on these issues.

The full council living wage report is at <https://goo.gl/YxNAj8>

The Exec response is here <https://goo.gl/fQgu7u>

Mark Ladbrooke and Peter Nowland

Trade union liaison officers