

SUMMONS TO THE MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY 18 JULY 2018
7.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES



Sharon Bridglalsingh
Service Director (Legal and Democratic Services)

For more information about the meeting please contact Simon Heap on (01908) 252567 or by e-mail simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Health and Safety

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

Agenda

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/> Wi Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

Users of Windows 7 and above can simply click the link to any documents you wish to see. Users of Windows XP will need to right click on the link and select 'open in browser'.

Recording of Meetings

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, you can film, photograph, record or use social media at any Council meetings that are open to the public. If you are reporting the proceedings, please respect other members of the public at the meeting who do not want to be filmed. You should also not conduct the reporting so that it disrupts the good order and conduct of the meeting. While you do not need permission, you can contact the Council's staff in advance of the meeting to discuss facilities for reporting the proceedings and a contact is included on the front of the agenda, or you can liaise with staff at the meeting.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and local government can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended. Please e-mail your comments to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address. A formal complaints / compliments form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/>

AGENDA

Item No:

1. Procedure

(a) Apologies

(b) Minutes

To approve, and the Mayor to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 June 2018 (Item 1) (**Pages 9 to 24**).

(c) Disclosure of Interests

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

(d) Announcements

To receive any announcements.

2. Public Involvement

(a) Deputations and Petitions

No deputations have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.

(b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting

None.

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

(a) Corporate Parenting Panel – 26 June 2018

Annual Report of the Work of the Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel 2017/18

To receive the Corporate Parenting Annual Report (Item 4[a]) (**Pages 25 to 40**).

(b) Cabinet – 10 July 2018

(i) Unauthorised Encampments

“That capital funding of £250,000 be made available to improve physical security at sensitive sites to protect against unauthorised encampments.”

A copy of the report considered by Cabinet is attached at the following link:

- (ii) Adoption of the Milton Keynes Site Allocations Plan

“That the Milton Keynes Site Allocations Plan be adopted.”

A copy of the report considered by Cabinet is attached at the following link:

Should there be any change to either recommendation from Cabinet it will be reported at the meeting.

5. Councillors' Matters

- (a) Councillors' Questions

Councillors to ask questions of the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.

- (b) Notices of Motions:

- (i) Reserves and Local Government Finance

Councillor R Bradburn – 20 June 2018

“That this Council:

1. re-affirms its strategy to maintain a prudent level of reserves to enable major infrastructure and investment for the good of Milton Keynes going forward.
2. deplores the use of Reserves as an electoral gimmick to curry favour amongst the electorate by some at the last local elections.
3. continues to support the ongoing efforts of the Local Government Association in getting a fair Local Government Finance Settlement for all local authorities so that even County Councils do not have to raid over 50% of reserves in some cases to reach a balanced Budget, noting that over 22 Local authorities did this in the Budget round for 2018/19; and
4. maintains pressure on our Local MPs to follow this through so that we can maintain front line services and benefit all residents of the Borough.”

- (ii) Modern Slavery Charter

Councillor Marland – 21 June 2018

“1. That the Council notes:

- (a) the scourge of modern slavery on our communities;
- (b) the broad nature of this exploitation, including, but not limited to sexual exploitation; domestic servitude; forced labour; organ removal; forced begging; forced benefit fraud; and forced marriage and illegal adoption, affecting men and women, adults and children, those born in the UK, and those not;

- (c) the fifteen arrests in Milton Keynes and Bedford in February, covering five car washes and commends Thames Valley Police for their Hidden Harm campaign and for taking this action in particular; and
 - (d) its community leadership role in setting the highest standards for public life in the borough.
2. That the Council resolves to:
- (a) train its Corporate Procurement Team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply;
 - (b) require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies, with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance;
 - (c) challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery;
 - (d) highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one;
 - (e) publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery;
 - (f) require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery;
 - (g) review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery;
 - (h) highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed;
 - (i) refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery; and
 - (j) report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.
3. That the Council requests:
- (a) the Leader of the Council to formally sign the Co-operative Party Modern Slavery Charter; and
 - (b) the Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation to adopt these principles into the Council's procurement rules and procedures."

6. Appointment of Statutory Officers

(a) Acting Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 requires every local authority to appoint a Head of Paid Service.

Article 13 of the Council's Constitution designates the post of Chief Executive as holding the responsibilities of Head of Paid Service.

At its meeting of 20 June 2018, Council received a report outlining the process for both the appointment of a new permanent Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service and interim arrangements. The interim arrangements are to be effective from 1 August 2018 following the departure of the current post holder on 31 July.

Following an internal recruitment exercise, Michael Bracey, currently Corporate Director for People was selected as the preferred interim candidate. He currently holds two other statutory appointments: Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Children's Services. It is inappropriate for a Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service to hold other statutory roles, so it is proposed to designate two other officers to hold those roles during this interim period. Such statutory appointments need to be ratified by Council.

In order to secure sound arrangements in relation to statutory officers, it is good practice to delegate to the Chief Executive the ability to nominate statutory officers until such time a meeting of the Council takes place to formally consider the appointment(s). Council approved such action on 28 November 2016 (Minute CL78(2) refers) in relation to the Chief Finance Officer. It is recommended that the Chief Executive has similar delegations for all statutory posts to ensure stability and sound governance during any period of transition.

(b) Acting Director of Adult Social Services

Section 6 (A1) of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970 requires every upper tier local authority to designate one of its officers as the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS).

Article 13 of the Council's Constitution sets out the responsibilities of the DASS.

In the light of the acting arrangements set out in paragraph 6(b) it is proposed to temporarily designate the current Service Director (Adult Services), Victoria Collins, as the DASS with effect from 1 August 2018.

(c) Acting Director of Children's Services

Section 18 of the Children Act 2004 requires every upper tier local authority to designate one of its officers as the Director of Children's Services (DCS).

Article 13 of the Council's Constitution sets out the responsibilities of the DCS.

In the light of the acting arrangements outlined in paragraph 6(b), it is proposed to temporarily designate the current Service Director (Children's Services), Mac Heath, as the Acting DCS with effect from 1 August 2018.

The Council is recommended to confirm the following appointments with effect from 1 August 2018 to run until such time alternative appointments are made:

- (a) the designation of Michael Bracey as the Council's Acting Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service;
- (b) the designation of Victoria Collins as the Council's Acting Director of Social Services;
- (c) the designation of Mac Heath as the Council's Acting Director of Children's Services; and
- (d) delegate to the Chief Executive the ability to nominate statutory officers until such time a meeting of Council takes place to formally consider such appointments.

Accountable Officer: Carole Mills (Head of Paid Service and Chief Executive Officer) Tel: (01908) 252200

7. Membership of Committees

- (a) Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee

The Council will recall at its last meeting it was reported to Council that the Conservative Group had reduced in number to 23 and as a result was required to give up two committee seats as a result of the revised overall proportionality.

The Leader of the Conservative Group indicated that the Group was giving up seats on the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee, which is in actuality three seats.

Having reconsidered the position the Leader of the Conservative Group has indicated that he only wishes to give up the two seats on the Licensing and the Regulatory Committees and is reappointing Councillor McDonald to the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee.

- (b) Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee

The Leader of the Labour Group has indicated that Councillor Khan is replacing Councillor Akter on Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee.

The Council is asked to confirm the changes to committee membership outlined above.

8. Ward Based Budgets 2018/19

All Councillors have a budget of £1,000 to spend on Ward based issues, giving them the ability to make contributions to projects carried out in their local communities by local organisations.

For the period 1 April 2018 to 30 June 2018, applications totalling £1,610 have been approved. Details of the applications are attached at Item 8 (**Page 41**).

Contact Officer: Simon Heap (Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager) – 01908 252567

Background Papers: None



Minutes of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Petchey (Mayor)
Councillors Akter, Baines, Bint, Brackenbury, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Brunning, Cannon, Carr, Clancy, Crooks, Dransfield, Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Gilbert, Gowans, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, Legg, Long, Marklew, Marland, McCall, McDonald, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Minns, Morla, Morris, Nolan, O'Neill, Patey-Smith, Priestley, Rankine, Reilly, Small, Wales, Walker, Wallis, C Wilson and K Wilson

Aldermen Bartlett and Howell

Apologies: Councillor Alexander, Buckley and Williams and Aldermen Beeley, Bristow, and E Henderson and Alderwomen Henderson Irons, Lloyd and Saunders

Also Present: c100 members of the public

CL20 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 May 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the reference to Councillor Coventry in Minute CL02 being changed to Councillor D Hopkins, the proportions in the preamble of Minute CL06 being corrected to reflect those in the resolution and all references to the 'Deputy Mayor' after Minute CL04 being changed to 'Councillor McLean'.

C21 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor P Geary disclosed a pecuniary interest in items 5(b)(ii) and 5(b)(iii) (Flooding), as a flood prevention scheme had been built on land in his ownership and he was still awaiting settlement of compensation which might result in legal action against the Council.

Councillor A Geary advised the Council that in respect of items 5(b)(ii) and 5(b)(iii) (Flooding), land in his ownership had previously been used to for a flood prevention scheme and he had received payment in lieu of the land.

CL22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) The Queen's Birthday Honours

The Mayor congratulated Sally Fennemore who had been awarded an MBE for services to Female Entrepreneurship and Gary Wilmot who had been awarded an MBE for services to drama and charity, both residents of Milton Keynes.

The Mayor indicated that he would be inviting both to join him before the next Council meeting and to then attend the meeting so that the Council could express its congratulations.

(b) Society for Information Technology Managers Award

The Mayor announced that the Council's web-site had been awarded 4 star status by the Society for Information Technology Managers to recognise its accessibility and congratulated all involved.

The Mayor outlined that of 414 council web-sites assessed the Council's was one of only 37 given a 4 star rating and only one of seven which had received a 4 star rating for four consecutive years.

(c) Presentations from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable

The Mayor welcomed Mr Anthony Stansfeld, the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Chief Constable Francis Habgood and Superintendent Yvette Hitch, the Local Police Area Commander to the meeting.

CL23

PRESENTATION FROM THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

The Council received presentations from Mr Anthony Stansfeld, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Mr Francis Habgood the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police.

The Police and Crime Commissioner outlined his responsibilities and strategic priorities and gave details of progress achieved against the Police and Crime Plan 2017/18 along with details of the performance of Thames Valley Police.

The Police and Crime Commissioner also referred to his victim first initiative dedicated to making sure that all victims of crime received the support they needed to cope and recover from the impact of crime.

The Chief Constable outlined major public events which had been policed during 2017/18, which included the recent Royal Wedding.

The Chief Constable referred to response rates to calls, performance, including particularly successes with regard to missing people, bike thefts, rural crime and modern slavery, along with crime trends.

The Chief Constable also referred to particular initiatives being undertaken by the force which included measures to protect vulnerable youths particularly in respect of being drawn into drug related crime, a clamp down on car cruise events, action against unauthorised encampments, work with schools and Hidden Harm, aimed at addressing modern slavery, online child abuse, honour crime, hate crime and domestic abuse.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and the Local Police Area Commander answered questions from councillors which related to such areas as conviction rates, hate crime, unauthorised encampments, fear of crime, local policing, neighbourhood forums, anti-social behaviour, taxi enforcement, reporting of crime and enforcement of lorry bans.

The Mayor thanked the Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable and the Local Police Area Commander for their attendance and invited them to stay for the Council's debate on unauthorised encampments.

CL24

PETITIONS

(a) Unauthorised Encampments

The Council received a petition relating to Unauthorised Encampments.

The Council noted that the petition would be discussed as part of the Council's debate on Travellers.

(b) Flooding

The Council received a petition relating to drainage and flooding issues in Newport Pagnell.

The Council noted that the petition would be discussed as part of the Council's debate on Flooding.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor brought forward the motions on Travellers and Flooding.

CL25

TRAVELLERS

Councillor Morla moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Small:

1. "That the Council notes that:
 - (a) residents feel they cannot safely use the parks and green spaces in Tattenhoe and Tattenhoe Park due to the constant stream of unauthorised traveller encampments;
 - (b) there is considerable evidence of antisocial and threatening behaviour towards residents, a risk to public health through open spaces being used as a toilet, and damage to the environment through unsightly rubbish and churning up of the ground;

- (c) this comes on top of years of unauthorised encampments, but the last eight months are unprecedented;
 - (d) the costs of eviction, enforcement and clean up are estimated to be at least £100,000 over the last year; and
 - (e) simply dealing with each incursion through enforcement action has not and will not solve the problem and that further action is required.
2. That the Council further notes that:
- (a) Harlow Council has successfully used an Injunction against named individuals to ban unauthorized encampments on any land in Harlow and protect 322 vulnerable sites including parks, playgrounds, verges, schools, cycle tracks across Harlow; and
 - (b) the Injunction, taken out in 2015 has recently been extended by the High Court to 2020.
3. That the Council requests Officers to:
- (a) fully investigate the Injunction route as a long lasting solution to stop the intolerable situation being suffered by Tattenhoe residents;
 - (b) wherever possible erect more physical barriers to prevent unauthorized access;
 - (c) thoroughly investigate every traveller case to understand their housing needs and match those to available pitches or other housing solutions;
 - (d) publish an Action Plan covering joint action with the police and Homes England; and
 - (e) report back to Council on progress made in July and September 2018.”

Councillor Brown moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Ferrans:

- “1. That in clause 1(a) the words ‘Tattenhoe and Tattenhoe Park’ be deleted and replaced with the words ‘Tattenhoe, Tattenhoe Park, Caldecotte and surrounding areas’ and the words ‘the constant stream of’ be deleted.
- 2. That in clause 1(b) all words after ‘there is considerable evidence of’ be deleted and replaced with the words ‘heightening tensions between the traveller and settled communities leading to threatening and anti-social behaviour both on line and face to face’.
- 3. That in clause 1(d) all words after the words ‘clean up are’ be deleted and replaced with the words ‘substantial for Milton Keynes Council and partners’.

4. That a new clause 1(e) be added as follows 'Milton Keynes requires 19 more pitches to meet its legal duty and the Traveller Liaison Unit, which used to manage unauthorised encampments was disbanded in 2012 and subsequent clauses be re-lettered accordingly'.
5. That in clause 1(f) (originally clause 1[e]) the word 'whilst' be added to the beginning of the sentence and all the words after enforcement action be deleted and replaced with the words 'whilst has been effective at times, it is not a permanent solution and further action is required'.
6. That clause 2(b) be deleted and replaced with the words 'due to Milton Keynes Council not delivering the Fenny Lock site in 2012 the Council is unlikely to be successful in any bid for an injunction, even if the Council was minded to pursue that route'.
7. That clause 3(a) be deleted and subsequent paragraphs be re-lettered accordingly.
8. That clause 3(a) (previously clause 3[b]) be deleted and be replaced with the words 'recognise that community safety for all is paramount and ensure that, wherever possible, the Council work with travellers and settled communities to discourage the use of sensitive sites and identify safe and viable pieces of land where Travellers can stop temporarily until permanent solutions can be finalised'.
9. That 3(c) (previously clause 3[d]) be deleted and replaced with the words 'work with partners such as the Parks Trust, Homes England and Thames Valley Police, travellers and settled communities to publish an action plan to manage unauthorised encampments, address short term and long term needs and investigate claims of permanent rights to settle in Milton Keynes'.
10. That a new clause 3(d) be added as follows 'investigate and identify new sites and to deliver the Council's 19 pitch requirements and bring forward plans to develop them so that the Council meets its legal duty' and the subsequent paragraph be re-lettered accordingly.
11. That the words 'July and' be deleted from clause 3(e)."

The Council heard from twelve members of the public.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21 it was moved and seconded that Council Procedure Rule 13.6(a) be suspended to allow a further amendment to the motion to be moved.

On being put to the vote it was agreed by acclamation that Council Procedure Rule 13.6(a) be suspended.

With the consent of the Council, Councillor Brown withdrew his amendment to the motion.

Councillor Marland moved the following amendment which was seconded and accepted by Councillor Morla as the mover of the motion:

“That all of the words after ‘1. That the Council’ be deleted and replaced with:

- ‘(a) notes that this issue is of utmost concern to residents;
 - (b) thanks residents for bringing this issue to the Council’s attention and for their time addressing Council; and
 - (c) notes Council has listened to residents.
2. That the Council therefore asks:
- (a) Cabinet to take immediate action on this issue at the next Cabinet meeting;
 - (b) notes the Leader’s commitment to independent consideration of all options, including physical barriers, legal injunctions and any other practical options; and
 - (c) the Leader to convene an urgent cross party meeting to establish common ground on this issue.’

On being put to the vote the motion, as amended was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council:
- (a) notes that this issue is of utmost concern to residents;
 - (b) thanks residents for bringing this issue to the Council’s attention and for their time addressing Council; and
 - (c) notes Council has listened to residents.
2. That the Council therefore asks:
- (a) Cabinet to take immediate action on this issue at the next Cabinet meeting;
 - (b) notes the Leader’s commitment to independent consideration of all options, including physical barriers, legal injunctions and any other practical options; and
 - (c) the Leader to convene an urgent cross party meeting to establish common ground on this issue.

CL26 PROCEDURAL MOTION

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 8.6 and 21 it was moved and seconded that Council Procedure Rule 8.2 be suspended to allow public questions to be asked.

On being put to the vote it was agreed by acclamation that Council Procedure Rule 8.2 be suspended.

CL27 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) Question from Mrs J Knight to Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families).

Mrs J Knight, referring to the Council's consultation on closing the Walnuts Children's Home asked Councillor Nolan to confirm what the savings the Council anticipated making from the closure were and what other revenue and capital sources of funding had been explored to fund the children's home and/or the proposed 6th form provision.

Councillor Nolan indicated that the current consultation was a pre-consultation which would be taking place through to the middle of August, after that time it would be decided whether to proceed to a formal consultation.

Councillor Nolan also indicated that the cost of the Home was not the foremost factor, the foremost factor was what was best for the children and the aspiration for children to be in a family setting.

Councillor Nolan confirmed that there were no planned savings to the Council's General Fund budget linked to the proposals, although there would be some financial benefit, but it was quite hard to say exactly what those would be because the needs of the children in residential care change. However, Councillor Nolan recognised that the High Need or Designated Schools Grant was topping up the budget for the children's home and that wouldn't need to happen if the home was to close.

As a supplementary question Mrs Knight, noting that Councillor Nolan had indicated that savings were not the main consideration in proposing the closure, asked Councillor Nolan how the proposal linked with Council Plan Priority 5 (Putting young People First) and whether she would either not support the Council Plan, or she would withdraw the proposed closure.

Councillor Nolan reiterated that the pre-consultation was designed to hear the views of interested parties before deciding whether to proceed.

The issue for the Council was quality of care and it was not believed the current building allowed good quality health and

care to be delivered and, while there were no serious widespread failures, this issue had been identified during the latest inspection.

- (b) Question from Mrs A Braddy to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm).

The Council noted that as Mrs Braddy had been unable to stay to this point in the meeting to ask her question which related to highway repairs and parking at Mersey Way / Close Bletchley and therefore a written response would be provided.

CL28

FLOODING

The Council noted that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 11.3, the two motions relating to flooding had been combined and a joint motion submitted by Councillors Walker and K Wilson.

Councillor Walker moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor K Wilson:

“That following the recent devastating floods to hit parts of Milton Keynes this Council:

1. notes the recent extremely heavy rainfall which resulted in flash flooding across Milton Keynes;
2. notes the havoc and damage inflicted on a large number of residents as a consequence of flooding and further notes that damage was spread across Milton Keynes, with the estates in the Woughton Community Council area being acutely affected;
3. appreciates and thanks all the Council officers and staff from other organisations including those from Your MK, Woughton Community Council, other Parish Councils, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service, Ringway, SERCO and others who worked around the clock in the immediate emergency response phase;
4. acknowledges the efforts of the Leader of the Council to support residents in the affected areas and welcomes and supports the announcement of a hardship fund of £100,000 to support victims of flooding, and to temporarily suspend rents of Council tenants badly affected;
5. requests a review of the emergency response to learn what worked well and what could have been done better in order to ensure that the Council can respond quickly and effectively in future;
6. acknowledges residents' concerns regarding the lack of drain clearance and general flood protection, in doing so requests the Chief Executive to launch a Borough-wide independent investigation, which includes evidence from Town and Parish

Councils, other local groups and organisations as well as other agencies to ensure an honest appraisal of this incident, with the review making recommendations to the Council on:

- (a) issues such the cleaning and maintenance of drainage and guttering over the past four years, which many residents believe were either not fit for purpose, were poorly maintained, or were damaged by tree roots and other factors;
 - (b) Milton Keynes' flood prevention provisions; and
 - (c) how best to incorporate other agencies such as Town and Parish councils in any future response to ensure a timely and effective response to any future emergencies;
7. The Council therefore asks Cabinet to:
- (a) publish a report detailing the current status of all drains, culverts, watercourses and current flood mitigation schemes, along with planned improvements to drainage following the outcome of the independent review, if required;
 - (b) ensure that all existing planned flood protection schemes are completed by November 2019;
 - (c) Review planning guidance for new housing developments to ensure how future developments can best deal with sustained periods of extremely heavy rainfall, the incidence of which appears to be growing as a consequence of climate change;
 - (d) Investigate how some current issues can be addressed for example houses on some estates are below the street level, communal drains are now on private property, how houses on Netherfield can maintain a standard roof line and on Coffee Hall and Tinkers Bridge where the street structure is designed so as to lead to many houses below the street level
8. That this Council therefore highlights the fantastic support offered by local residents associations, and local communities in supporting those affected in a wide variety of ways, noting however that it is clear that storms and weather events previously classified as 'once in a generation', are now occurring on a more regular basis and many of the communities affected have also experienced flooding in recent years which may suggest some fundamental issues that need addressing in order to ensure that this does not happen again."

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

That following the recent devastating floods to hit parts of Milton Keynes this Council:

1. notes the recent extremely heavy rainfall which resulted in flash flooding across Milton Keynes;
2. notes the havoc and damage inflicted on a large number of residents as a consequence of flooding and further notes that damage was spread across Milton Keynes, with the estates in the Woughton Community Council area being acutely affected;
3. appreciates and thanks all the Council officers and staff from other organisations including those from Your MK, Woughton Community Council, other Parish Councils, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire and Rescue Service, Ringway, SERCO and others who worked around the clock in the immediate emergency response phase;
4. acknowledges the efforts of the Leader of the Council to support residents in the affected areas and welcomes and supports the announcement of a hardship fund of £100,000 to support victims of flooding, and to temporarily suspend rents of Council tenants badly affected;
5. requests a review of the emergency response to learn what worked well and what could have been done better in order to ensure that the Council can respond quickly and effectively in future;
6. acknowledges residents' concerns regarding the lack of drain clearance and general flood protection, in doing so requests the Chief Executive to launch a Borough-wide independent investigation, which includes evidence from Town and Parish Councils, other local groups and organisations as well as other agencies to ensure an honest appraisal of this incident, with the review making recommendations to the Council on:
 - (a) issues such the cleaning and maintenance of drainage and guttering over the past four years, which many residents believe were either not fit for purpose, were poorly maintained, or were damaged by tree roots and other factors;
 - (b) Milton Keynes' flood prevention provisions; and
 - (c) how best to incorporate other agencies such as Town and Parish councils in any future response to ensure a timely and effective response to any future emergencies;

7. The Council therefore asks Cabinet to:
- (a) publish a report detailing the current status of all drains, culverts, watercourses and current flood mitigation schemes, along with planned improvements to drainage following the outcome of the independent review, if required;
 - (b) ensure that all existing planned flood protection schemes are completed by November 2019;
 - (c) Review planning guidance for new housing developments to ensure how future developments can best deal with sustained periods of extremely heavy rainfall, the incidence of which appears to be growing as a consequence of climate change;
 - (d) Investigate how some current issues can be addressed for example houses on some estates are below the street level, communal drains are now on private property, how houses on Netherfield can maintain a standard roof line and on Coffee Hall and Tinkers Bridge where the street structure is designed so as to lead to many houses below the street level.
8. That this Council therefore highlights the fantastic support offered by local residents associations, and local communities in supporting those affected in a wide variety of ways, noting however that it is clear that storms and weather events previously classified as 'once in a generation', are now occurring on a more regular basis and many of the communities affected have also experienced flooding in recent years which may suggest some fundamental issues that need addressing in order to ensure that this does not happen again.

CL29

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING ACT 1989 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COMMITTEES AND POLITICAL GROUPS) REGULATIONS 1990

The Council noted that notification has been received that Councillor Dransfield was no longer a member of the Conservative Group as was the case when the Council reviewed the basis of the allocation of seats amongst the Political Groups at its Annual Meeting.

The Conservative Group now held 40.35% of the seats on the Council, the Labour Group 36.84% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group 21.05% of the seats, with 1.76% of the seats remaining unallocated.

As a result of the notification the Conservative Group needed to forfeit two seats. Unallocated seats could be filled by the Independent councillor.

RESOLVED -

1. That, in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, the Council noted that the Conservative Group was entitled to 40.35% of the seats on the Council's Committees, the Labour Group was entitled to 36.84% of the seats, the Liberal Democrat Group was entitled to 21.05% of the seats, with 1.76% of the seats remaining unallocated.
2. That, as a result of the need for the Conservative Group to relinquish two committee seats, Councillor McDonald would stand down from the Community and Housing Committee and Councillor Green would stand down from the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.
3. That Councillor Green's appointment to the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee to replace Councillor Small be confirmed.
4. That Councillor Dransfield's decision to decline the unallocated committee places be noted.

CL30

STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2018 - 2023

Councillor Morris moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 14 March 2018, which was seconded by Councillor Miles:

"That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 – 2023 be endorsed."

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

That the revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2018 – 2023 be endorsed.

CL31

DRAFT AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Councillor Ferrans moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Housing and Community Committee held on 27 March 2018, which was seconded by Councillor Reilly:

- “1. That the Council be requested to support the Government's independent review into delays in construction on development sites with planning permission and the possibility of introducing a tax to be paid by developers on any such sites which appear to have been “banked” by developers.
2. That the Council continues to press the Government to relax the limitations on local authority house building so that local authorities can build the houses they need, not what the Government is willing to fund.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESLOVED –

1. That the Council be requested to support the Government's independent review into delays in construction on development sites with planning permission and the possibility of introducing a tax to be paid by developers on any such sites which appear to have been "banked" by developers.
2. That the Council continues to press the Government to relax the limitations on local authority house building so that local authorities can build the houses they need, not what the Government is willing to fund.

CL32

MAKING THE STONY STRATFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Legg moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 June 2018, which was seconded by Councillor C Wilson:

"That the Council makes the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and that:

- (a) a decision document setting out the results of the referendum and the Council's decision to make the plan, and the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan be published on the Council's website and in other means, to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area; and
- (b) the decision document and details on how to view the plan be sent to the qualifying body (Stony Stratford Town Council) and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESLOVED –

That the Council makes the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, and that:

- (a) a decision document setting out the results of the referendum and the Council's decision to make the plan, and the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan be published on the Council's website and in other means, to bring them to the attention of people who live, work or carry out business in the neighbourhood area; and
- (b) the decision document and details on how to view the plan be sent to the qualifying body (Stony Stratford Town Council) and any person who asked to be notified of the decision.

CL33 MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL PLAN 2016 - 2020

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 June 2018, which was seconded by Councillor McCall:

“That the revised Council Plan 2016 – 2020 be approved.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried with 29 councillors voting in favour, 0 councillors voting against and 22 councillors abstaining from voting.

RESLOVED –

That the revised Council Plan 2016 – 2020 be approved.

CL34 RESERVES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

With the consent of the Council, Councillor R Bradburn withdrew the motion.

CL35 MILTON KEYNES REGISTER OFFICE

Councillor Rankine moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Clancy:

“That this Council:

- (a) recognises the concerns raised by residents over the recently announced decision to relocate the register office from Bracknell House in Bletchley to the Civic Offices, demonstrated clearly in the petition that now numbers over 3,500 signatures; and
- (b) calls on the Cabinet to review the decision at its next meeting.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

That the Council:

- (a) recognises the concerns raised by residents over the recently announced decision to relocate the register office from Bracknell House in Bletchley to the Civic Offices, demonstrated clearly in the petition that now numbers over 3,500 signatures; and
- (b) calls on the Cabinet to review the decision at its next meeting.

CL36 APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE/HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

The Council considered appointing both an interim and permanent Chief Executive following the resignation of the current Chief Executive.

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded that:

- “1. That the processes for making interim arrangements and the recruitment of a new permanent Chief Executive Officer/Head of Paid Service be noted.
2. That a Chief Executive Appointment Committee/Panel be established with the following Terms of Reference in the proportions of 2:2:1 (two each Labour and Conservative and one Liberal Democrat councillor) to deal with the appointment process as follows:
 - (a) Determine the role requirements associated with the post;
 - (b) Review and finalise a Job Description, Person Specification, recruitment pack and timetable;
 - (c) Review and determine the salary level;
 - (d) Undertake longlisting, shortlisting, interviewing and final selection of a candidate, recommending the latter to Full Council in due course.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That the processes for making interim arrangements and the recruitment of a new permanent Chief Executive Officer/Head of Paid Service be noted.
2. That a Chief Executive Appointment Committee/Panel be established with the following Terms of Reference in the proportions of 2:2:1 (two each Labour and Conservative and one Liberal Democrat councillor) to deal with the appointment process as follows:
 - (a) Determine the role requirements associated with the post;
 - (b) Review and finalise a Job Description, Person Specification, recruitment pack and timetable;
 - (c) Review and determine the salary level;
 - (d) Undertake longlisting, shortlisting, interviewing and final selection of a candidate, recommending the latter to Full Council in due course.

CL37

QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.4, the Council noted that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(j) were used once during the period 11 March 2018 to 8 June 2018, when the call-in provisions were waived

in respect of the decision taken by the Cabinet on 5 June 2018 concerning the support provided for victims of the recent flooding in Milton Keynes, due to the urgent need for a decision because of the likely prejudice to the public's interest if implementation of the decision was to be delayed.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.23 PM

Report considered by the Corporate Parenting Panel – 26 June 2018

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE MILTON KEYNES CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL 2017/18

Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel: Councillor Miles

Author and contact: Joanne Rabbitte - Head of Delivery: Corporate Parenting Services, Children and Families - Tel: 01908 253473

Executive Summary:

The Corporate Parenting Panel oversees how the Council fulfils its responsibilities as a Corporate Parent to Milton Keynes' children and young people in care and care leavers. Corporate Parenting Panel is a Committee of the Council and not part of either the Cabinet or Scrutiny arrangements as such. This annual report provides Councillors, all of whom are "Corporate Parents", with information about our children and young people and summarises the Panel's work during the Council year 2017/18. The report also explains how the Panel have engaged with young people during the year and plans to develop this in 2018/19. Councillors are invited to make suggestions which they as Corporate Parents would like the Panel to address, as well as any ways in which they can actively promote the needs of these young people within their council work and activity.

[NB the Annex to this report, detailing year end key information about Milton Keynes children and young people in care and Care Leavers, is attached.]

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the report be received and Councillors ensure their personal awareness and responsibilities of the needs of the Children and Young People for whom they are Corporate Parents;
- 1.2 That the report and the work undertaken on their behalf in 2017/18 by members of the Corporate Parenting Panel be noted; and
- 1.3 That the emerging agenda for the work of the Corporate Parenting Panel in 2018/19 be noted.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Essential information for all Corporate Parents about the children and young people living in and leaving Milton Keynes Council Care is included in the **Annex** to this report. *[See note in executive summary.]*
- 2.2 Milton Keynes Corporate Parenting Panel has met formally with Panel members and officers on three occasions and has held three meetings with Children in Care and Care Leavers during the 2017/18 Council year. The Panel members were Councillors Betteley, Cannon, Clancy, Crooks, Green, V Hopkins, Miles and Webb. The Panel has been chaired by Councillor Miles, with the support of the two vice-chairs, Councillors Crooks and V Hopkins. The Cabinet member for Children and Families also attended. Members have

also visited the council's children's homes and attended social events with children, staff and parents/carers (see point 2.5).

2.3 During the year, the Panel has received, considered and discussed reports from professionals about a number of priority issues for Milton Keynes Children in Care (CIC) and Care Leavers and kept informed in regard to the progress and indicators that guide our success.

2.4 The key issues discussed at Panel were:

(a) The Education of Children in Care Examination Feedback 2017

The Panel received a presentation from the Virtual School Head Teacher, which detailed the performance of Children in Care and the results from the recent GCSE exams. The Virtual School Head Teacher clarified that the new GCSE marking system had been introduced for English and Maths only and was graded 1-9; all other subjects were still graded alphabetically. However there was little comparison between the two systems. Grade B was approximately similar to Grade 8; and Grade 5 and above was considered as a strong pass. The Virtual School Head Teacher also indicated that overall, Key Stage 1 (pupils aged between 5 and 7) children in care had issues with writing and Key Stage 2 (pupils aged between 7 and 11) had improved in English and Maths since the previous year.

The Panel heard that Milton Keynes was the only Virtual School nationally that measured eligibility for GCSEs and submitting this information to OFSTED for Key Stage 4 (pupils aged between 14 and 16) and the results were gradually improving year on year. Key Stage 5 (students aged 16-18, or sixth form, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland,) are improving slowly and the result would be included in the Annual Report. The Virtual School Head Teacher also indicated that the statutory release date for National Benchmarking data was in March annually and she would provide an update to the Panel after that. The Virtual School Head Teacher also indicated that there were 13 LAC in the year group of 39 that did not take GCSEs and listed the reasons for this. There was also indication from the results that pupils need to concentrate on a smaller range of subjects rather than take a large number of GCSEs where they may not perform so well. In response to a question about whether the same challenges found in children's health were reflected in their educational needs, the Virtual School Head Teacher indicated that most of the cohort of LAC children starting the GCSE exams seemed to come into care during Key Stage 3, between the ages of 11 and 14, which was a challenge both locally and nationally.

(b) The Health of Children in Care.

The Panel received and reviewed the annual report for the statutory health services provided to Milton Keynes Children in Care during the year 2017/18. The report acknowledged that children in care and care leavers were at greater risk of social exclusion and poorer outcomes than their peers and therefore needed excellent support and services to

ensure that they had happy and successful childhoods and become successful independent adults. The report pointed out that it is essential that health needs are recognised and met and that all professionals worked closely with children, young people and their carers to identify and address any areas for improvement. The report listed a number of improvement areas identified and addressed in 2016/17 and also the priority improvement areas that were being addressed in 2017/18. It was noted that Looked after Children were presenting with more complex medical issues and this was partly due to increases in the number of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. Health assessments are now more complex and included a holistic overview, they take longer to complete and this has created pressure within the service. The report also noted that the Specialist Nurse (LAC) and Named Nurse (LAC) were now embedded with the Children's Social Work team which increased engagement and focus on a strategic and practice levels. The panel was informed that a joint piece of work had also been successfully carried out with the Children's Social Work team to obtain consent for medical assessments on one document which improved the process by avoiding duplication.

Councillors discussed the issue of substance misuse and were informed about the engagement of Looked After Children with Compass. Health Workers and the Youth Service in Milton Keynes work with COMPASS to engage with young people and will persevere with young people who need their help.

(c) Children and Young People's Participation.

A key statutory requirement is for Local Authorities to ensure that children in care participate in and contribute to decisions about their lives and contribute to the development of services provided for them.

The Panel received reports from the Participation Youth Worker on the work of the Children in Care Council explaining how young people in care and care leavers are involved in service development and have opportunities to celebrate their achievements.

The reports detailed instances of young people participating in Skills to Foster Training and recruitment interviews for key positions in Children's Services. A number of care leavers had been involved in the council's response to the Local Government Association review of the Care Leavers Service and participated in a multi-agency meeting where they were able to express their views, make suggestions and contribute to the service development plan. In addition they participated in activities to mark National Care Leavers' Week which included a meeting and interview with Robert Goodwill Minister for Education. Part of the interview was played on MKFM Radio.

Two care leavers and their personal advisors were interviewed on MKFM Radio about the challenges facing care leavers. A group of eight care leavers took part in a Worktree event which focused on skills needed for the workplace and dealing with professionals.

The members were informed of the summer activity scheme for CIC which was called Summer Sensation. This four week long programme organised in conjunction with the Virtual School and the Youth Faculty was designed to increase participation for hard to reach children. A total of 21 children attended and were involved in the activities.

As part of National Takeover Day two young people enjoyed 'Taking Over' the airwaves of MKFM radio they enjoyed the experience of being a DJ and gained a good understanding of the workings of a radio station.

Membership of the CIC Youth Group has gone from strength to strength with over 20 young people registered for the group and a waiting list in operation. The group has recently started using the Zones of Regulation which is a method used to support children and young people with managing their emotions and behaviour.

The CIC+ group is aimed at the 16 – 21 year old age bracket is attended by older CIC and care leavers – membership has steadily increased. The group has participated in the national consultation on changes in legislation and have been consulted by the Director of Children's Services and other managers in regard to service developments.

Our Voice (Children in Care Council) has also increased its membership and has been working on a number of priorities including finishing the Coming into Care Pack, health Assessment Consent Poster and the Bright Spots action plan. Young people also attended a residential training course which was run in conjunction with two other local authorities for new members of the Children in Care Council, 'Our Voice'.

The purpose of the course is to enable the young people to understand the role and function of the Council and how they can best participate.

Members were also updated on the use of Mind of my Own (MOMO) which is an App designed to help young people express their views and feel that they are listened to. The report noted that since its launch in May 2017 numbers of users had increased on a monthly basis and further training was provided later in the year. An audit was carried out which indicated the positive impact the App was having on practice. In total 98 worker accounts have been created and over 70 children have used MOMO with a worker or independently.

(d) Milton Keynes Leaving Care Arrangements and Development Plan

The Panel considered Milton Keynes Leaving Care Arrangements and Development Plan which was presented by Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting. It was reported that the Leaving Care Service was part of the Council's Corporate Parenting Service within the People Directorate and overall responsibility for the service was with the Head of Delivery for Corporate Parenting, who was directly accountable to the Service Director for Children and Families.

It was also reported that the plan had been formulated in response to the 2017 Peer Review which followed the inspection of services for Children in need of help and protection, Children in Care and Care Leavers. A stakeholder consultation event had also been carried out in August 2017.

In response to Councillors' questions, the Head of Delivery for Corporate Parenting advised that: although case-loads for each personal adviser were about 22 young people, a variety of communications methods were used such as texting, Apps, 16+ Youth Groups and drop in sessions rather than 1:1 evaluations.

All contact sessions were recorded and the level and type of contact was measured on a dashboard. The level of contact depended on each young person, as some required very little or no contact and for others it was more intense. It was also recognised that some vulnerable young people might not respond and "no contact" was also monitored; the department had daily "wash up" sessions where cases of concern were highlighted and followed up.

The department has a duty to offer support to those up to the age of 25 years as defined in the Children and Social Care Act 2017 and is waiting for more national guidance on this.

Levels of support would also depend on each young person's preference. Successful care-leaving was also about ensuring that people were helped to be independent;

Of the 8% recorded as not being in suitable accommodation, this reflected some who were in prison and a couple of older young people who were homeless; further details could be advised on request.

- It was confirmed that Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation was not being used for homeless young people in care; 57% in education training and employment reflected the fluidity of older young people moving in and out of education and work.
- The understanding of the cohort was that there were improvements in the knowledge of the services available to young people to help them. However young people who had been in care had more challenges to engagement than those not in care;
- Some of the variations between local and national statistics reflected the methods of collecting and recording data but this was also improving; and
- Ambitious targets had been set with little areas of tolerance to ensure that the care leavers, who had considerably more challenges than that not in care, had the best support available.

The Head of Delivery for Corporate Parenting also indicated that with reference to a 16-25 Council, older young people would require support with this although that age group would have a better tolerance of a more formal meeting. Other Local Authority models for young people's Councils would be considered and Corporate Parenting Panel members will be encouraged to participate in any visits.

The Service Director (Children and Families) indicated that the priorities of young people themselves need to be considered and digital engagement ideas at other Councils could be investigated further.

(e) Milton Keynes Fostering Service Development Plan

The Panel received a presentation from Head of Delivery Corporate Parenting which detailed the Council's Fostering Service and Development Plan.

It was reported that as part of the Council Plan commitments, it was pledged to increase the number of high quality local placements, meaning children who came into care were matched with a local foster placement that really met their needs. To deliver this pledge it was recognised that improvements to working with and supporting foster carers was needed.

It was also reported that fostering was one of the most highly regulated areas in children's social care. The development plan was therefore at times technical and detailed in order to deliver compliance. However, officer colleagues were producing a separate, more accessible, document for the Council's current and future foster carers, detailing its commitment to them and to the fostering service and also the key developments that it was anticipated would directly impact upon foster carers and the young people in their care.

The Lead member for Children's Services indicated that the numbers of children taken into care in Milton Keynes had reduced since 2016 with a reduction in adolescents being taken into care which was good news. Additionally, the numbers in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and in prevention had also decreased.

- 2.5 On 12 June 2017 induction training was provided to new members by the Head of Delivery, Corporate Parenting which explained the profile of the children in care and the care leavers and outlined the shared responsibility of 'corporate parents' and what is expected. A new Councillors' Guide to Corporate Parenting document was also introduced and circulated. During 2017/18, the Corporate Parenting Panel continued to engage with children and young people. Members of the Panel visited the Council's children's homes and met with parents, children and staff at the annual fun day.
- 2.6 A member of the panel availed themselves of an opportunity to shadow social workers within the Corporate Parenting Service which was aimed at providing insight into key issues and practice dilemmas. The member attended operational meetings, shadowed duty workers and met foster carers and young people in placement.

- 2.7 The Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel attended the quarterly Virtual School governing body meetings.
- 2.8 The Panel received summary reports of the monthly visits to the homes by an Independent Visitor to provide assurance about the quality of care, safeguarding, leadership and other key issues based on the findings from the Regulation 44 visits to the Walnuts, Furze House and Westminster House Children's Homes. It was reported that young people continued to receive good quality care and were observed as being happy within the homes with staff interactions. Staff were able to evidence the progress young people were making and where required, clear baseline assessments had been introduced. A 'Targets and Achievements' book was in place in one home which provided an easily accessible overview of young people's progress. Parents had also commented on the progress their child is making and value the support provided by the homes. Members attended events with children, young people and carers, including True Triumph (our annual celebration and awards evening for Children in Care). Panel members have continued to prioritise young people's participation and to explore how to develop their engagement in the Panel's work. Two Panel meetings were hosted by the children and young people at the *Our Voice* venue on Tuesday, 18 July 2017 and 14 November 2017. The issues discussed were:

- (a) Coming into Care Pack
- (b) A social worker handover process
- (c) Social worker information cards for children and young people to keep when meeting a new social worker
- (d) Health Assessment consent poster – explaining health assessments and the meaning of 'consent' in relation to the assessment
- (e) Bright Spots Questionnaire headlines which specific exploration on Bullying at school
- (f) Social workers' statutory visits.

The meetings provided opportunities for panel members to talk to children and young people in a child friendly and informal setting about their views, feelings and wishes. It is recognised that a substantial amount of work was achieved in this forum with key issues being identified and fed back to the operational teams through the senior officers who were present.

On Tuesday, 20 March 2018 a specific meeting took place between the Corporate Parenting Panel and care leavers. The young people delivered a presentation entitled 'The life of a Care Leaver' which focused on:

- The role of the Personal Adviser
- Suitable accommodation
- Benefits and finances
- Support/ transitioning from 'in care' to 'care leaver' Gaining life skills

The meeting provided a forum for rich discussion and exchange between the CPP, young people and senior officers. Section 2 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 requires each local authority to consult on and publish a local offer for its care leavers. The specific issues raised have been picked up by the service and will feed into the MKC 'local offer' which will be published in September 2018.

3. Legal

The Council's role as a Corporate Parent is governed by legislation (primarily the Children Act 1989), associated guidance and regulations and case law. The Council's legal department provides clear advice as required by officers in their discharge of the council's corporate parenting responsibilities for individual children and young people.

4. Other implications

Y	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	Y	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

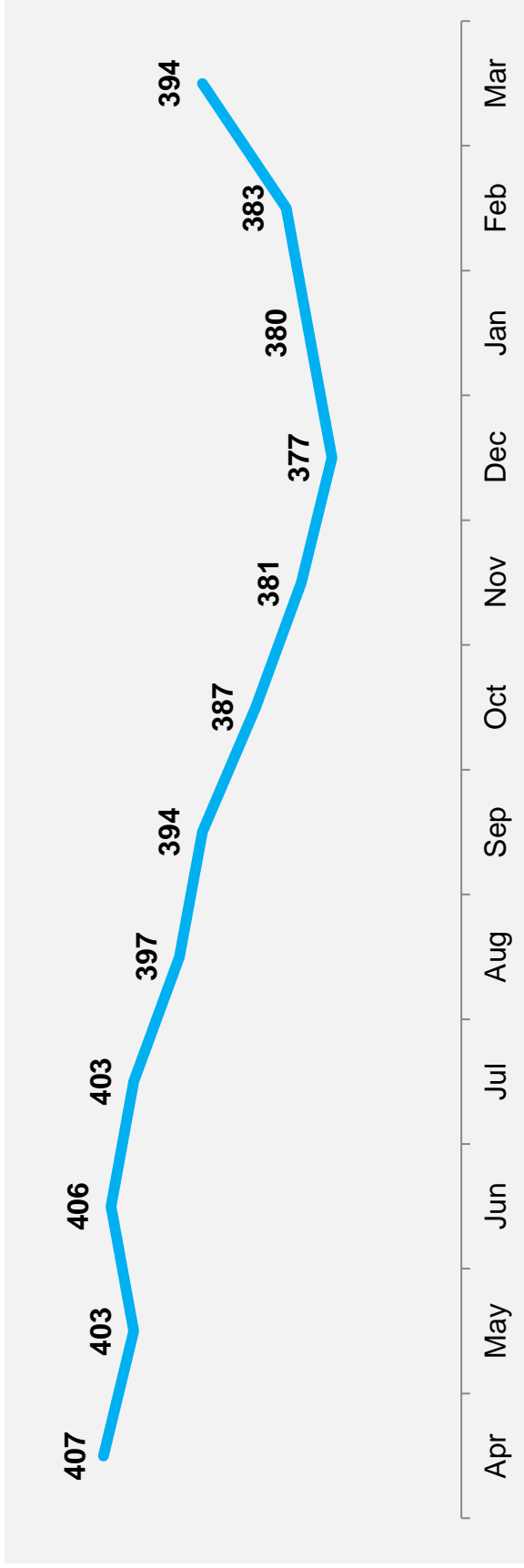
Background Papers: Milton Keynes Children in Care (Looked After Children) and Care Leavers Key Data 2017/18 (to be added in April 2018)

Annex: Year end key information about Milton Keynes Children and Young People in Care.

Corporate Parenting Panel Annual Report 2017-18

Our numbers of children in care have reduced

However numbers started to increase again towards the end of the year



Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

UASC numbers have reduced during the year to 34 by the end of December 2017 and 30 by March 2018.

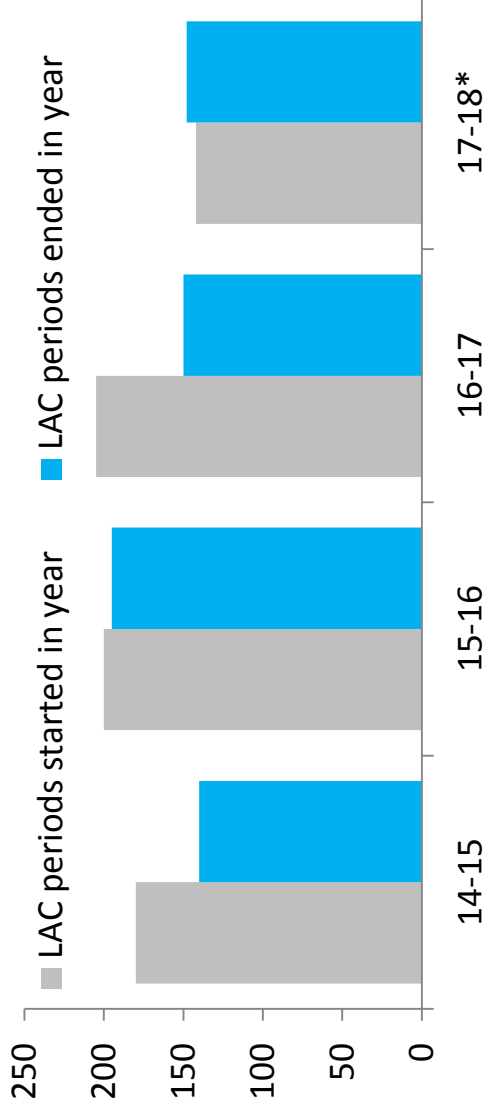
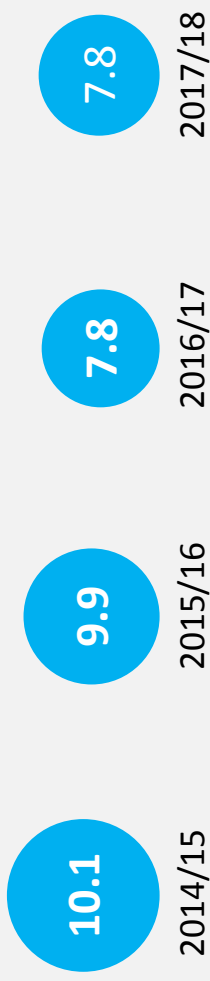
The percentage of looked after children that are UASC has been less than 10% for over 9 months now, having been as high as 12.3% in the past.



Fewer children are coming into care, especially older children

Average age of child at period start date

The average age that children are entering was around 10 in 2014/15 and 2015/16 but has dropped to around 8 more recently



Following a reduction in Looked After Children (LAC) periods ending in 2016/17, there has been a large drop in children becoming LAC during 2017/18. The reduction has been over 30% from the 2016/17 values.

Long term placement stability has dropped slightly during 2017/18, however children with 3 or more placements in 12 months have remained stable

<i>Under 16s</i>	Total LAC 2.5 years or more	In same placement 2 years or more	Percentage
2014/15	101	63	62%
2015/16	110	60	55%
2016/17	119	78	66%
2017/18	128	74	58%

	Total looked after children (LAC)	Three or more placements	% LAC with three or more placements
2013/14	305	32	10%
2014/15	340	34	10%
2015/16	345	40	12%
2016/17	395	40	10%
2017/18	394	40	10%

We're working hard on improving education outcomes

 Improvement on last year

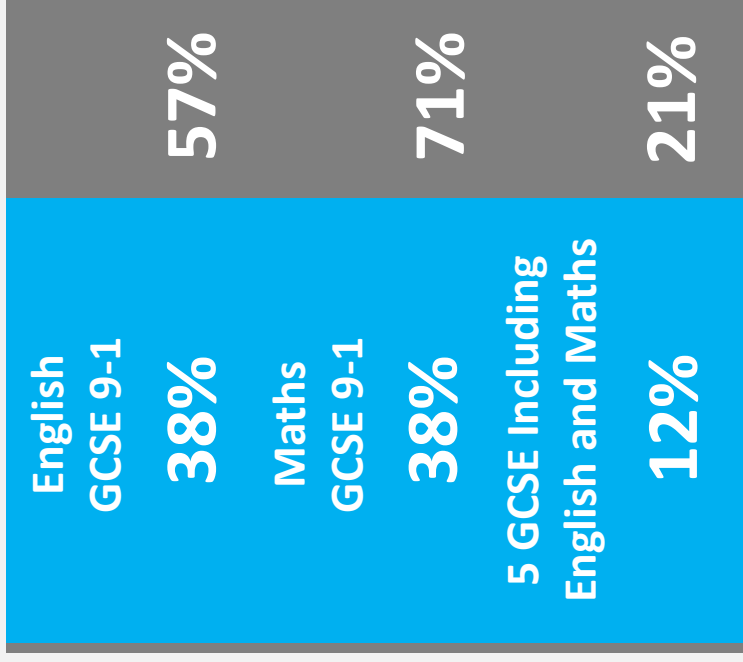
2017 Key Stage 1
Reporting cohort 11



2017 Key Stage 2
Reporting cohort 21



2017 GCSE
Reporting cohort 26



Eligible and Entered cohort 13

Personal Education Plans (PEPs) pending...

6

Early Years

6

Year 10

5

Year 12

2

Year 13

Bright Spots is helping us hear from more children in care



An action plan
was then created
by young people
and colleagues

The Bright Spots Programme, developed by Coram Voice with the University of Bristol, aims to improve the well-being of children and young people in care by identifying and promoting practices that have a positive influence on them.

Positively, nearly 9 in 10 (89%) of children in care thought that their lives were improving.

Three in ten (31%) children (11-18) were ‘Sometimes’ or ‘Often’ afraid of going to school because of bullying, higher than in other areas where the figure was 19%.

Importantly, young children (4-7) were more likely than those in other authorities to know why they were in care.

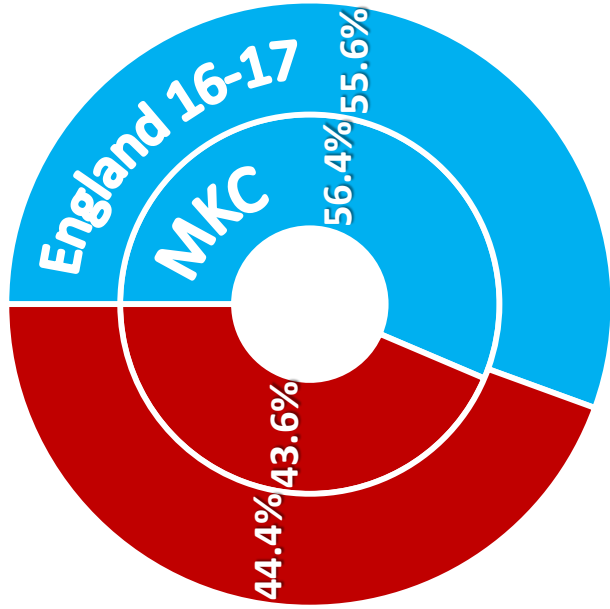
15 children (16%) were identified as having low well-being. These children were more likely to have been in care for a long time and experienced multiple placements. They were more likely to say they were rarely nice to other people and were also more likely to say that they did not like their appearance, that they did not feel included in decisions, that they did not like school and that they had concerns about their feelings or behaviour.

Girls aged 11-18 years were more likely to have low well-being than boys of the same age. Nearly a third (31%) reported low life satisfaction in comparison to 5% of boys.

Our care leaver's situations are in line with national averages*

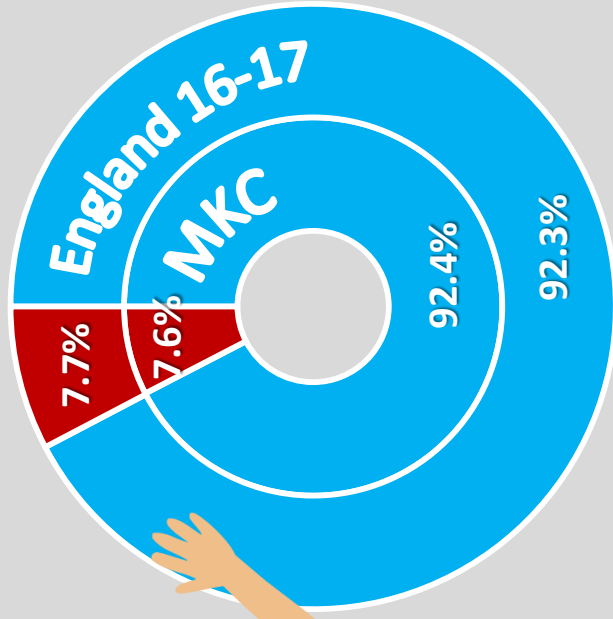
Education and training effort focused on Year 12 and 13s

Percentage of care leavers in education, employment or training

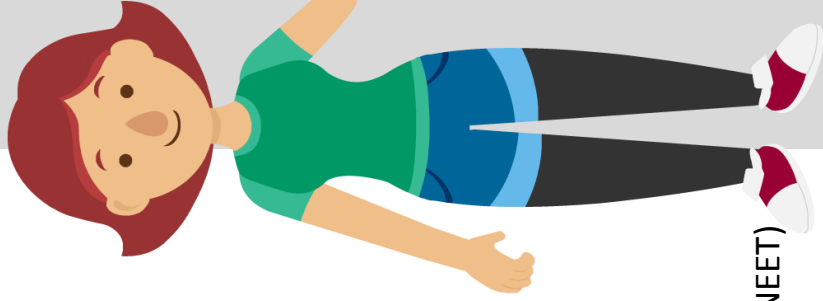


- Education, Employment or Training (EET)
- Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Accommodation suitability



- 1 - Accommodation is considered Suitable
- 2 - Accommodation is considered Unsuitable



* National data adjusted to show only known cases as per MKC current data

We're working hard to improve adoption performance

Using other permanency options where adoption plans are not progressing

2015/16 2016/17 2017/18

Number of Adoption Orders	20	10	9
Children adopted aged five or older	5	3	2
Children matched with adopters	10	19	16
Children with adoption plans not matched by 31 March	3	16	22

Average days from start of period of Care to being placed for adoption



MKC 2014-17
Average



England 2014-17
Average

Average days from placement order to match



MKC 2014-17
Average



England 2014-17
Average

Date	Councillor	Ward	Party	Details of Scheme	Amount £
26/06/18	Bint, John	Broughton	Conservative	1st Broughton & Monkston Guides - Equipment to facilitate the operation and activities of the group.	200
04/06/18	Gowans, Martin	Bletchley East	Labour	Newton Leys Residents Association - Defibrillator for Newton Leys.	75
07/06/18	Hopkins, David	Danesborough & Walton	Conservative	Woburn Sands Festival - Free community event to raise money for two local charities. Live music, food and drink stalls and bouncy castles.	100
04/06/18	Khan, Mohammed	Bletchley East	Labour	Newton Leys Residents Association - Defibrillator for Newton Leys.	75
01/06/18	McDonald, Peter	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Conservative	Great Linford (St Andrews) Scout Group - Fencing for Great Linford Scout Group at Loriner Place, Downs Barn.	1000
28/06/18	Walker, Alex	Stantonbury	Conservative	Worktree - Career WorkOut - To introduce young people aged 11-18 to work guests from a range of work backgrounds so they can find out what it's really like in that job.	160
				Total	1610