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# SUMMONS TO THE MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

**When: 7.30pm - Wednesday 20 January 2021**

**Where: Online**

A link will be made available to those entitled to participate by no later than noon the day before the meeting. Members of the public can observe proceedings at <https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil>.

Sharon Bridglalsingh  
Director Law and Governance

## **Public Questions and Petitions**

The deadline for the submission of public questions and petitions is 7:30 pm on Monday 18 January 2021 and should either be delivered to the address below or sent by email to [meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

The Mayor has the discretion to extend the deadline if the matter is sufficiently urgent and relates to a matter that has arisen in the last 48 hours, subject to the question being submitted a minimum of 30 minutes before the start of the meeting.

## **Public Speaking**

Persons wishing to speak on an agenda item must give notice by not later than 7.15 pm on the day of the meeting. Requests can be sent in advance by email to [meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## **Enquiries**

Please contact Peter Brown on 01908 253671 or [Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

## **Agenda**

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed at: <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/>.

## **Recording of Meetings**

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

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The Government's Guidance can be viewed at:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/343182/140812\\_Openness\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf).

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If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an email address. A formal complaints / compliments form is available 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 25 November 2020 (Item 1(b))  
**(Pages 5 to 26).**

(c) Disclosure of Interests

Councillors to disclose any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted and officers to disclose any interest in contracts to be considered by the Council.

(d) Announcements

To receive announcements, if any.

(e) Address of the new Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire

To receive an address from the new Lord-Lieutenant; Countess Howe.

### 2. Public Involvement

(a) Petitions

Any petitions received by the deadline of 7:30 pm on Monday 18 January 2021 will be reported at the meeting.

(b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions received from members of the public by the deadline of 7:30 pm on Monday 18 January 2021 and any urgent questions agreed by the Mayor.

### 3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting

None.

### 4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

Referral from Cabinet (15 December 2020)

Strategy for **2050 (Pages 27 to 44)**

### 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:

The motions are set out in full at (Item 5(b)) (Pages 45 to 50).

(i) Councillor M Bradburn – 26 November 2020

Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps

(ii) Councillors Walker, Bint, Jenkins, Marlow & Raja – 9 December 2020

Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to rescind the resolution of the Audit Committee (1 December 2020)

(iii) Councillor Walker – 7 January 2021

Mellish Court and the Gables

**6. LGSS – Changes to Governance Arrangements and Constitution**

To consider item 6 (Pages 51 to 68).

**7. Scheme of Councillors Allowances for 2021-22**

To consider item 7 (Pages 69 to 84).

**8. Appointment of Director of Public Health**

To consider item 8 (Pages 85 to 87)

**9. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions**

In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.4, to note that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, which provides for key decisions to be taken within the usual 5-day notice period, subject to the agreement of the Chair/Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Management Committee, was not used during the period 4 September 2020 to 7 January 2021.

Also the Council is advised, in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(j), that with the agreement of the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny Management Committee, it was agreed by the Leader of the Council that the call-in procedure would not apply to the decisions taken on 14 November and 22 December 2020 (Additional Restrictions Grant Scheme(s)), because a delay in implementing the decisions would have seriously prejudiced the Councils ability to promptly release funding to those business entitled to support.

Contact: Peter Brown (Head of Democratic Services) - 01908 253671

Background Papers: None

**10. Ward Based Budgets 2020/21**

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 2020 to 7 January 2021, applications totalling £10,500 have been approved. Details of the applications are attached at Item 10 (Page 88-89).

Contact: Siobhan Pitkin (Business Support & Civic Events Manager) – 01908 252426.

Background Papers: None

Minutes of the MEETING OF MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY  
25 November 2020 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor A Geary (Mayor)  
Councillors Akter, Baines, Baume, Bint, Bowyer, Brackenbury,  
K Bradburn, M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, Carr, Crooks,  
Darlington, Exon, Ferrans, P Geary, Gilbert, Gowans, Green,  
D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Jenkins, Khan, Lancaster, Legg, Long, Marland,  
Marlow, McCall, McLean, McPake, Miles, Minns, Montague, Nazir,  
Nolan, O’Neill, Petchey, Priestley, Raja, Rankine, Reilly, Trendall,  
Wales, Walker, Wallis, Williams, C Wilson-Marklew and J Wilson-  
Marklew

Alderman Bartlett

**Apologies:** Councillor Alexander, Cryer-Whitehead, Hosking, Middleton and  
Townsend and Aldermen Beeley, Bristow, Coventry, Henderson,  
Howell and McKenzie and Alderwomen Henderson, Irons, Lloyd and  
Saunders

**Also Present:** 95 members of the public

**CL63 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 21 October  
2020 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**CL64 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None disclosed.

**CL65 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made announcements in respect of Covid-19 Community  
Champions and Councillor Alexander.

**CL66 ADDRESS OF THE LORD-LIEUTENANT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

The Council received an address from the retiring Lord-Lieutenant for  
Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher.

The Council also heard from the Mayor and Councillors Marland,  
McCall, and McLean.

**CL67**

**PETITIONS**

The Council received a petition calling on the Audit Committee to commission external auditors with planning expertise to investigate the issues surrounding the approval of the Blakelands Warehouse (Griffen Park) and associated matters.

The Chair of the Audit Committee indicated that the issues raised would be considered by the Audit Committee at its special meeting on 1 December 2020.

**CL68**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

(a) Questions from Bill Walford, Alan Hastings, Iain Layden and Tarun Goel to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council).

Bill Walford, referring to Evolve's proposals for changes to Windmill Hill Golf Course asked Councillor Marland to provide approximate current values for:

- (i) the minimum market value of the whole of Windmill Hill Golf Course as a going concern;
- (ii) the minimum market value of the whole of Windmill Hill Golf Course if sold off for housing and other developments; and
- (iii) the minimum likely annual income for MK Council from leasing Windmill Hill Golf Course to Evolve as per their latest plans.

Alan Hastings, referring to the Council's recent adoption of a motion submitted by Councillor Rankine relating to Windmill Hill Golf Course, asked Councillor Marland what steps were being taken or were planned to fully explore all commercial options for the site.

Iain Layden, referring to Councillor Middleton's response to the petition presented at the Council Meeting on 18 March 2020 in relation to retaining an 18-Hole Golf Course at Windmill Hill, asked Councillor Marland whether or not the Council had received the results of the consultation undertaken by Evolve and, if so, would the Council make those results available to members of the public and to Parish Councils in the areas that would be affected by the proposed development.

Tarun Goel, referring to statements made by Councillor Middleton that Windmill Hill Golf Course was not profitable and had not been unprofitable for years, asked Councillor Marland on what basis was Councillor Middleton basing his assessment.

Councillor Marland outlined that:

- (i) the Council had recently instructed valuers to assess the value of the property for the purposes of the proposed development lease transaction with Evolve. This work had not been completed and was likely to take a few weeks;
- (ii) the Council had been exploring all commercial options, which included the Evolve proposal as well as marketing for a new golf course operator and or golf course developer. However, the specialist advice obtained suggested that by marketing the site Council was unlikely to secure a purchaser to improve or invest in the golf course nor was the Council likely to find a purchaser to commit to developing a new golf course. Also, according to 1 Life's financial statements the Golf Centre had made a loss over both the last two financial years. Although the site would be seen as having potential for investment by housebuilders;
- (iii) the Council had concluded that a new golf course at Windmill Hill, in the present market, was unlikely to be viable and the Council was unlikely to attract a buyer to develop a new golf facility, particularly if a condition of the sale was that the Course was improved and there was investment in a Sports Hub and the wider community;
- (iv) the public consultation carried out by Evolve ended in March and Evolve had adjusted its proposals to reflect public comments /opinions, the last adjustment being to re design the Sports Hub to include a new 18 hole golf course and high tech driving range. Evolve had attended a number of Parish Council meetings to update on the outcome of the public consultation events and to explain how it had responded and changed the proposals to reflect public opinion. As there was not one document that covered the responses from the public consultation events the

Council could request Evolve to prepare one and make the results available.

As a supplementary question Bill Walford, referring to the fact that the issue of Windmill Hill Golf Course was clearly important to residents, asked Councillor Marland whether he felt that this was really a matter to be delegated to a single Cabinet member.

Councillor Marland indicated that he would not reconsider who made the decision as it was allowed for by the scheme of delegation.

As a supplementary question Alan Hastings, referring to the fact that the Council had only approached one company to provide options for the site, asked Councillor Marland if the Council would request outline proposals from three companies for the regeneration of Windmill Hill Golf Course.

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council was under no obligation to do this as long as the Council got best value for the asset.

As a supplementary question Iain Layden, referring to the results of the consultation carried out by Evolve, asked Councillor Marland to advise how the results of the consultation would be provided.

Councillor Marland advised that the consultation results would be provided in the format that Evolve submitted them. Before the Council took any decision on this issue the Cabinet member would insist on seeing the consultation responses and it would be shared with residents, parish councillors and ward councillors.

As a supplementary question Tarun Goel, referring to his Freedom of Information request to 1 Life that indicated they were making a quarterly profit of £50,000, asked Councillor Marland how old the Council's information was that indicated a £150,000 annual loss.

Councillor Marland responded that the Council's information was from Evolve and it related to the last two financial years.



- (b) Question from Virginia Bell to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainability)

Virginia Bell, referring to claims that the production and consumption of meat and dairy was one of the biggest drivers of climate change, contributed to land; water; and air pollution, and was also a factor in ill health, asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew to give a commitment for the Council to lead by example by enacting a policy of not serving meat and dairy on Council premises, and of offering plant-based meals instead, preferably organic.

Virginia Bell also sought a commitment for the Council, to require schools to reduce servings of meat and dairy, phasing them out in favour of plant based, meals, so promoting improvements to the City's nutrition and health, and more generally improvements for the health of the planet.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that this was a thought-provoking question and not one she had previously considered as an area for the Council to explore. However, she undertook to have discussions more widely with the relevant parties. Councillor J Wilson-Marklew also indicated that the Council's ambitions around carbon neutrality were not just for action by the Council but by residents more widely. The Council therefore had a role in education on matters such as this to help residents make choices that were better for the environment.

As a supplementary question Virginia Bell, referring to Enfield Council, Lewisham Council and Faversham Town Council who had all taken the decision to no longer serve meat at Council events and Leeds City Council who had arranged for 180 schools in their area to have at least one meat free day per week, asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew to consider these examples as small actions that the Council could do to lead by example.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew agreed that she would take this forward and discuss with officers as to what next steps could be taken.

- (c) Question from Phil Gerrella to Councillor Baume (Cabinet Member for Economy and Culture)

Phil Gerrella, referring to RoRE support for the estate renewal programme and the Estate Renewal Forums and welcoming the revised Terms of Reference, asked Councillor Baume what Key Performance Indicators were to be used and how would the targets be communicated.

Councillor Baume indicated that the Delivery Plan would be published in the New Year that would contain a suite of KPI's. Between now and then, officers would be working with stakeholders to develop these indicators including data and information that was reliable and as up to date as possible. Councillor Baume noted that KPI's may differ slightly between estates and progress against them would be communicated to the estate renewal forums and their subgroups, the Council website and other communication methods.

As a supplementary question Phil Gerrella, referring to the fact that 18 out of 21 housing indicators presented to the last scrutiny committee either failed to be green or have any information available, asked Councillor Baume how the Council would ensure that this would not be the fate of the estate KPI's.

Councillor Baume indicated that she and officer colleagues would work with stakeholders to develop what were the important KPI's for the Forums.

- (d) Question from Alderman Bartlett to Councillor Walker (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Alderman Bartlett, referring to the support provided by Central Government for some of the most vulnerable children and their families in Milton Keynes through special funds for free school meals during the Covid-19 pandemic and the additional sums for Universal Credit and continuing special vouchers for the purchase of food, asked Councillor Walker, who he understood had been active along with Councillors Bowyer and Cryer Whitehead and others in supporting the delivery of food, if he would confirm his commitment to supporting the most vulnerable and in particular school children, and ensure that the £722,000 pounds, which equates to over £6000 per child who were assessed as living in poverty in Milton Keynes, recently allocated to Milton Keynes Council by the Government reached those children.

Councillor Walker indicated that they were absolutely committed to making sure that no vulnerable child or family went hungry in Milton Keynes and that they got the support they needed. It was great news the Government had provided further support on top of the £9 billion pounds extra that had been put into the welfare system this year. These additions, plus the Covid Winter Grant scheme would allow higher quality local support, ensuring that children and their families were provided with a comprehensive support package. The virus had unfortunately highlighted the inequalities in our society, both the public health and economic crisis hurt those on the lowest income and the most vulnerable the hardest. That was why at a local level they had been in full support of the Foodbank Xtra project and as the main opposition group they would do everything they could to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable were met and the government funding made its way through the system as effectively as possible to those that needed it.

As a supplementary question Alderman Bartlett, asked Councillor Walker to take the opportunity to publicly thank all the people of Milton Keynes, including councillors and the private sector, who had helped by supporting vulnerable people, including children, during the Pandemic.

Councillor Walker indicated that he recognised the outstanding response from the community of Milton Keynes and took the opportunity to thank all who contributed.

- (e) Question from Adam Rolfe to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet Member for Public Realm)

Adam Rolfe's question, welcoming the fire warden who was now on site 24/7, referred to the lack of a sprinkler system at Mellish Court flats, despite it being recommended by the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, and the £300,000 being put aside for its installation, asked Councillor Darlington why had a sprinkler system not been installed and, if it was not to be installed, what was to happen to the £300,000 budget allocation.

As Adam Rolfe was unable to participate in the meeting the Mayor indicated that Mr Rolfe would receive a written reply from Councillor Darlington.

- (f) Question from Turan Turan to Councillor McCall (Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group)

Turan Turan, referring to the repeated failures to produce a report into the Blakelands Warehouse, asked Councillor McCall if he supported the call for a further audit and if not, why not.

Councillor McCall indicated that yes, he did and that he would be attending the Audit Committee to make his points there.

As a supplementary question Turan Turan, referring to Councillor McCall recently describing on Facebook the external audit report into the Blakelands Warehouse as a joke, asked Councillor McCall whether he would agree that the Council had once again failed residents with this review.

Councillor McCall responded that he felt that it was fair to say that everyone was disappointed with the content of the report and that it failed to answer the key questions.

- (g) Question from John Fernandez to Councillor Cannon (Chair of the Audit Committee)

John Fernandez, referring to what he said was 15 missed deadlines, the failure to produce a report after 20 months and the error ridden preliminary findings, asked Councillor Cannon how he thought the residents of Blakelands and Milton Keynes could have any confidence in the Council's ability to review the what he claimed was the biggest planning blunder in its history.

Councillor Cannon indicated that the Council would be holding a special meeting of the Audit Committee on the 1 December 2020 and hoped that all interested residents, other stakeholders as well as ward councillors and members of the Development Control Committee would attend. It was expected that they would get some answers from the author of the interim report and be able to respond to concerns and recommend further steps to take going forward.

As a supplementary question John Fernandez, referring to a social media post by Councillor McCall that indicated that the Deputy Chief Executive had asked Mr Dorfman to give the Council whatever he had available resulting in an incomplete report being submitted, asked Councillor Cannon if he felt as the Chair of the Audit Committee whether this was an acceptable way to submit a document of such importance.

Councillor Cannon indicated that the Deputy Chief Executive had made a commitment to publish on the particular date and it was considered important that this commitment was honoured.

**CL69**

**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) Question from Councillor Rankine to Councillor Walker (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Councillor Rankine, referring to the Strategy for 2050 which included Salden Chase as part of the Council's recommended spatial strategy, asked Councillor Walker whether he was concerned that the Labour Administration was dropping its opposition to the development at Salden Chase.

Councillor Walker indicated that in terms of the Spatial Strategy, the wider challenge was creating a constructive environment and relationship with our neighbouring authorities to be able to progress developments that could, might, or did straddle boundaries. Council policy was against development at Salden Chase and it was hoped that the Administration would clarify why it had been included in the Strategy at the next Cabinet meeting.

- (b) Question from Councillor Nolan to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Nolan asked Councillor Darlington to provide an update on when the refurbishment of the playpark in Ashpole Furlong, Loughton would be completed.

Councillor Darlington indicated that things were progressing rapidly and it was hoped that in early December, shortly after the end of the lockdown, the playpark would be available for use.

- (c) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Councillor P Geary, referring to the Council's ambition to be the greenest city in the world, asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew whether she agreed with him that if a bus with space on it was going past a person's house and to the place that they wanted to go, that it was better for that person to use that bus rather than drive a car.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that yes, she did agree with that.

As a supplementary question, Councillor P Geary asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew if she would therefore help him by taking up the case of a child from Lathbury who, due to a bureaucratic problem, was unable to use the school bus that passed his house and had to be driven to school.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would be happy to receive the details and discuss it with her colleagues.

(d) Question from Councillor McPake to Councillor Darlington  
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor McPake, referring to problems with repairing lights in bus shelters, including in those shelters where the lighting had failed shortly after being, asked Councillor Darlington if the issue could be investigated.

Councillor Darlington indicated that as lighting in bus shelters crossed a number of portfolios the best way forward was for Councillor J Wilson-Marklew, Councillor McPake and herself to meet with officers to get to the bottom of the issue.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McPake asked Councillor Darlington if resolving the issues with lighting in bus shelters outside schools could be prioritised.

Councillor Darlington agreed, particularly as secondary school students were encouraged to use sustainable forms of transport and indicated that again the best way forward was for the three councillors to meet with officers to resolve the issue.

(e) Question from Councillor Nazir to Councillor Darlington  
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Nazir, referring to the road closures at Queensway Bletchley, asked Councillor Darlington when these would be lifted.

Councillor Darlington indicated that she had recently met with town councillors and spoken to local businesses. The key issue was where the market would be located and this was still to be finalised, but she hoped that she would be able to clarify the changes that would be made to Queensway soon.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Nazir asked Councillor Darlington whether the changes would be done once lockdown ended.

Councillor Darlington responded that she would be able to provide an update once the Town Council was happy with the plans.

- (f) Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor McLean asked Councillor Darlington whether she would agree to remove the booking system for the Household Waste Recycling Centres in order to increase capacity and improve the customer experience.

Councillor Darlington indicated that the Council had been able to keep the Waste Recycling Centres open during the latest lockdown because they were using a booking system. The use of the booking system would be reconsidered once social distancing guidelines were lifted.

Councillor Darlington also indicated that there were savings from the using a booking system as it had reduced incorrect use of the Centres and a new online booking system was in the process of being developed and tested that did not rely on third party software.

- (g) Question from Councillor Crooks to Councillor Walker (Leader of the Conservative)

Councillor Crooks, referring to the revision in the Internal Market Bill relating to the Northern Ireland protocol, asked Councillor Walker whether, being mindful of the number of Irish residents in Milton Keynes, he would be prepared to say that this was a Government measure that he could not support and that he hoped would be withdrawn.

Councillor Walker indicated that as a councillor on Milton Keynes Council and not an MP, or in the House of Lords he did not have a vote or a position on this issue and would rather be talking about matters that related to the power and influence the Council had locally.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Crooks, referring to the fact that in the event of a no deal Brexit that it would be necessary to enact a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic, asked Councillor Walker was this really a

scenario he wanted to see happen.

Councillor Walker indicated that of course no one wanted to see a return to that situation and he was confident that there would be a deal by the end of December.

- (h) Question from Councillor Walker to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Walker, referring to the cost of the 24 hour Fire Wardens at Mellish Court and The Gables, asked Councillor Darlington to give an honest explanation as to why fire sprinklers had not been were not installed in the.

Councillor Darlington indicated that the Council had been working closely with the Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to consider all options and following discussions with the Service had considered that updating the fire doors and detectors amongst other measures was the best option available at the time. The use of fire sprinklers alone would not have brought the building up to the modern safety standards expected. The Council continued to work with the Fire and Rescue Service which was satisfied with the current measures the Council were taking, including the Fire Wardens. Councillor Darlington also indicated that she had met with residents and would be taking a Delegated Decision on 1 December which would set out the next steps.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Walker asked Councillor Darlington whether she would apologise to the residents of these buildings for failing to invest in their safety over the last four years.

Councillor Darlington indicated that there had been significant investment in both buildings including upgrades to fire doors, detectors and waste systems.

- (i) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor D Hopkins, referring to flooding at Cranfield/Newport Pagnell Road and the timetable for highway drainage work which wouldn't see work carried out in the Wavendon and Woburn Sands area until May 2023, asked Councillor Darlington if she would support the Conservative Group's suggestion in the 2021/22 Budget for the Council to invest in a second set of drainage equipment and to expand the highways drainage team.



Councillor Darlington indicated that the flooding referred to by Councillor D Hopkins was believed to have been caused by issues on Network Rail land. As a result the Council had been putting pressure on Network Rail to carry out clearance work to see if this was the source of the issue.

As a supplementary question, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Darlington whether given the changing climate and that there were ongoing flooding issues throughout Danesborough and Walton Ward and no programmed maintenance work until 2023, the Administration would commit to investing more in highways drainage maintenance and repair in the budget going forward.

Councillor Darlington indicated that she was having discussions with officers as to how highways maintenance was presented in the budget, although this was under investigation it would need to go through the proper budget processes.

(i) Question from Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Jenkins asked Councillor Marland to provide an update on the levels of Covid-19 infection across Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland indicated that the latest figure was around 190 people per 100,000, however infection rates were rising as was the number of people in hospital. In terms of any decision about which Tier the borough would be placed in this would depend on a number of factors including, the rate per 100,000, the rate of transmission, the age and demographic of the population and of those with the virus, together with the number of people in hospital. The Council had recently secured a walk-through testing centre in the south of the city. Councillor Marland stressed that people should stay at home, make sure they took care of both their physical and mental health and follow the rules.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Jenkins asked Councillor Marland what advice he would give residents to ensure that they could enjoy Christmas preparations safely in Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland indicated that his advice was for people to take personal responsibility, to socially distance, not mix with other households and to avoid all but essential travel. If they had symptoms they should stay home and get a test.

Councillor Marland emphasised that if testing positive it was the law to self-isolate.

- (k) Question from Councillor Ferrans to Councillor O’Neil (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing)

Councillor Ferrans, referred to the fact that today was ‘White Ribbon Day’ in recognition of those who had experienced domestic abuse, asked Councillor O’Neill what the Council was doing to reduce the levels of domestic abuse in Milton Keynes. Councillor O’Neill indicated that a Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership had been established about a year ago and that it had recently published a Domestic Abuse Strategy which would prioritise early support and prevention.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Ferrans asked Councillor O’Neill what budget had been allocated to deliver the Strategy.

Councillor O’Neill indicated that all the strategic partners understood the value of prevention work in this area and had agreed to pool resources to allocate to programmes and projects as needed. MK-ACT was a full member of the partnership and it might be able to access funding that the statutory bodies might not necessarily be able to.

**CL70**

### **TESTING FOR COVID-19 IN MILTON KEYNES**

In accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor decided that the Council should consider this motion as an urgent item of business because of the very recent increase in Covid-19 infection rates in Milton Keynes.

Councillor Walker moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

- “1. That this Council notes:
- (a) the recent and rapid increase in infection rates of COVID-19 across Milton Keynes;
  - (b) the rise in the number of hospital admissions and the pressure this places on Milton Keynes University Hospital;

- (c) the tragic news of eleven recorded deaths in Milton Keynes, reported on 17 November, related to COVID-19; and
  - (d) the following statement issued by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in August 2020:  
'Robust testing capacity, prompt isolation of cases and timely and effective contact tracing and quarantine of identified contacts, along with other measures such as social distancing, are currently the main pillars of the COVID-19 public health response.'
2. That this Council resolves to call on the Leader of the Council to apply for inclusion in the mass testing programme as quickly as possible for the benefit of the people of Milton Keynes in line with advice from the Director of Public Health."

On being put to the vote the motion was declared by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That this Council notes:
- (a) the recent and rapid increase in infection rates of COVID-19 across Milton Keynes;
  - (b) the rise in the number of hospital admissions and the pressure this places on Milton Keynes University Hospital;
  - (c) the tragic news of eleven recorded deaths in Milton Keynes, reported on 17 November, related to COVID-19; and
  - (d) the following statement issued by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) in August 2020:  
'Robust testing capacity, prompt isolation of cases and timely and effective contact tracing and quarantine of identified contacts, along with other measures such as social distancing, are currently the main pillars of the COVID-19 public health response.'
2. That this Council resolves to call on the Leader of the Council to apply for inclusion in the mass testing programme as quickly as possible for the benefit of the people of Milton Keynes in line with advice from the Director of Public Health.

CL71

## **THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MENTAL HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Councillor Jenkins moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Reilly:

- “1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the significant impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on people’s mental health;
  - (b) that demand for mental health services, from people never having accessed services before, is forecast to increase by 1.3 million people for moderate-severe anxiety and 1.8 million for moderate to severe depression across the UK; and
  - (c) that the NHS will be under greater strain, as researchers estimate that more than 230,000 NHS workers may need treatment and support due to the mental health impact of Covid-19.
2. That this this Council resolves to:
  - (a) ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to establish a Mental Health Taskforce that focuses on planning for the long-term impacts from Covid-19 on the mental health of the residents of Milton Keynes;
  - (b) request that the Cabinet member responsible continue to prioritise mental health services; and
  - (c) make representations to the Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety, to ask that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) review resources that will be needed for mental health services as the impact of Covid-19 on mental health grows.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared by acclamation.

**RESOLVED –**

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the significant impact the Covid-19 pandemic has had on people’s mental health;
  - (b) that demand for mental health services, from people never having accessed services before, is forecast to increase by 1.3 million people for moderate-severe

anxiety and 1.8 million for moderate to severe depression across the UK; and

- (c) that the NHS will be under greater strain, as researchers estimate that more than 230,000 NHS workers may need treatment and support due to the mental health impact of Covid-19.

2. That this this Council resolves to:

- (a) ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to establish a Mental Health Taskforce that focuses on planning for the long-term impacts from Covid-19 on the mental health of the residents of Milton Keynes;
- (b) request that the Cabinet member responsible continue to prioritise mental health services; and
- (c) make representations to the Minister for Mental Health, Suicide Prevention and Patient Safety, to ask that the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) review resources that will be needed for mental health services as the impact of Covid-19 on mental health grows.

**CL72**

### **NO CHILD SHOULD GO HUNGRY**

Councillor Carr moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Montague:

“1. That this Council notes that:

- (a) on 21 October 2020 Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart voted against a Labour motion that would have extended free school meals for children throughout school holidays, up until Easter 2021;
- (b) 322 MPs voted against the motion and 261 voted for it;
- (c) on 8 November 2020 the Conservative Government U-turned on this decision, setting up a Covid Winter Grant Scheme and extending the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021;
- (d) the basic annual salary for an MP from April 2020 is £81,932;
- (e) in their 2020 Vital Signs Report, the MK Community Foundation found that an estimated 10,900 (17.7%) of children are living in poverty, and some areas of Milton Keynes show child poverty rates as high as 32%; and

- (f) in March 2020, the Child Poverty Commission Interim Report found that:
  - (i) Child poverty is rising. Latest figures suggest that there are currently high levels of child poverty in Milton Keynes. Child poverty has also started to rise in absolute terms;
  - (ii) Child poverty is multi-faceted;
  - (iii) Children move in and out of poverty: and
  - (iv) In Milton Keynes, more than 75% of all children in poverty are in households where at least one person is working.
- 2. That this Council resolves to:
  - (a) publicly condemn the decision of Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to vote against the Labour motion to extend free school meals on 21st October 2020; and
  - (b) request the Leader of the Council write to Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to convey the disappointment and anger over this decision on behalf of the Council.
- 3. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
  - (a) reaffirm its own commitment to fight child poverty; and
  - (b) lobby the Conservative Government and the Milton Keynes MPs for:
    - (i) Free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit;
    - (ii) Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown;
    - (iii) Free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under S4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

- 1. That this Council notes that:
  - (a) on 21 October 2020 Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart voted against a Labour motion that would

have extended free school meals for children throughout school holidays, up until Easter 2021;

- (b) 322 MPs voted against the motion and 261 voted for it;
  - (c) on 8 November 2020 the Conservative Government U-turned on this decision, setting up a Covid Winter Grant Scheme and extending the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021;
  - (d) the basic annual salary for an MP from April 2020 is £81,932;
  - (e) in their 2020 Vital Signs Report, the MK Community Foundation found that an estimated 10,900 (17.7%) of children are living in poverty, and some areas of Milton Keynes show child poverty rates as high as 32%; and
  - (f) in March 2020, the Child Poverty Commission Interim Report found that:
    - (i) Child poverty is rising. Latest figures suggest that there are currently high levels of child poverty in Milton Keynes. Child poverty has also started to rise in absolute terms;
    - (ii) Child poverty is multi-faceted;
    - (iii) Children move in and out of poverty; and
    - (iv) In Milton Keynes, more than 75% of all children in poverty are in households where at least one person is working.
2. That this Council resolves to:
- (a) publicly condemn the decision of Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to vote against the Labour motion to extend free school meals on 21st October 2020; and
  - (b) request the Leader of the Council write to Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart to convey the disappointment and anger over this decision on behalf of the Council.
3. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
- (a) reaffirm its own commitment to fight child poverty; and
  - (b) lobby the Conservative Government and the Milton Keynes MPs for:

- (i) Free school meals to every pupil whose parents or guardians are in receipt of Universal Credit;
- (ii) Food vouchers for every one of those pupils in every school holiday and during any period of lockdown;
- (iii) Free school meals to pupils from low-income families whose parents or guardians have no recourse to public funds and destitute asylum seekers under S4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

**CL73**

**KEEPING AFFORDABLE HOMES AFFORDABLE**

Councillor Ferrans moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Trendall:

“1. That this Council notes:

- (a) that shared ownership, underwritten by this Council or registered social landlords, is the only means whereby many residents are ever able to get their foot onto the ladder of home ownership;
- (b) that some owners, when selling their share on, charge a premium above the sale price, making the homes less affordable to those that need them;
- (c) that some registered social landlords have outlawed such premiums; and
- (d) that in other cases huge premiums have been requested.

1. That the Council resolves to request that Cabinet:

- (a) investigates whether the planning system, either by conditions on permissions, or by policy in the next Local Plan, can be used to outlaw such premiums or to restrict their value;
- (b) investigates whether the Council, when selling new shares in Council properties, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value; and
- (c) investigates whether the Council, when handling requests to sell existing shares, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value.

2. That this Council then requests Cabinet to do all it can to stop the practice of charging, via any mechanism, amounts excessively beyond the value of the homes and contents being sold, when shared ownership properties are sold on, striking a



balance between compensating the owner for the share of the market value of improvements made that they will not retain, and keeping the home affordable for subsequent owners.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) that shared ownership, underwritten by this Council or registered social landlords, is the only means whereby many residents are ever able to get their foot onto the ladder of home ownership;
  - (b) that some owners, when selling their share on, charge a premium above the sale price, making the homes less affordable to those that need them;
  - (c) that some registered social landlords have outlawed such premiums; and
  - (d) that in other cases huge premiums have been requested.
2. That the Council resolves to request that Cabinet:
  - (a) investigates whether the planning system, either by conditions on permissions, or by policy in the next Local Plan, can be used to outlaw such premiums or to restrict their value;
  - (b) investigates whether the Council, when selling new shares in Council properties, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value; and
  - (c) investigates whether the Council, when handling requests to sell existing shares, can outlaw such premiums or restrict their value.
3. That this Council then requests Cabinet to do all it can to stop the practice of charging, via any mechanism, amounts excessively beyond the value of the homes and contents being sold, when shared ownership properties are sold on, striking a balance between compensating the owner for the share of the market value of improvements made that they will not retain, and keeping the home affordable for subsequent owners.

**CL74**

**HELPING CARE LEAVERS IN THEIR NEXT STEPS**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(g) and with the consent of the Council the motion was withdrawn.

**CL75**

**BIODIVERSITY UPDATE**

The Council received an update on the delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:32 PM

# Council report



20 January 2021

## Referral from Cabinet - Strategy for 2050

Cabinet member	<b>Councillor Pete Marland</b> Leader of the Council
Report sponsor	<b>Geoff Snelson</b> Director of Strategy and Futures
Report author	<b>Fiona Robinson</b> MK Futures Programme Manager <a href="mailto:fiona.robinson@milton-keynes.gov.uk">fiona.robinson@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> / 01908 252318

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>Ref number 33</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive summary

The Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 sets the way forward for the next era of making our great city greater. It is a strategy for everyone living in Milton Keynes today, especially the children and young people who will be our future citizens, as well as those who will choose to move here to be part of a globally leading green city.

The Strategy sets out a long-term approach to spatial development. It aims for a steady population increase to around 410,000 people in the borough by 2050 as the best means of achieving Seven Big Ambitions. Public and stakeholder engagement has been extensive and included a draft strategy published for comment in January 2020 for 18-weeks and a subsequent 5-week long review of the impacts of COVID-19.

The Strategy includes a commitment to provide essential infrastructure and services, including a Mass Rapid Transit System. It also commits to keep and strengthen those things that make Milton Keynes special – green spaces and trees, being able to move around easily using grid roads and redways, a vibrant economy and diverse communities and a strong community spirit. It includes proposals to help achieve the council's ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to support the mental and physical health of the community. The Strategy has been prepared to provide ambition and focus at a time of great uncertainty but to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances.

The Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2020. Cabinet also agreed to a review of the Strategy after three years and a recommendation that Council adopt the Strategy as an Annex to the Council Plan.

## Decisions to be made

- 1.1 That Council agree that the Strategy becomes an Annex to the Council Plan, making it a Policy Framework document.
- 1.2 That Council approves the Strategy for 2050 with the following amendments:
  - (i) Add the words “and cultural” to the second of the Seven Big ambitions (page 8 of the Strategy) such that it reads “*make Milton Keynes a leading green and cultural city - by global standards*”; and
  - (ii) Add a new final sentence that reads “*The network could also accommodate smaller, connected and autonomous vehicles as such solutions emerge*” to the second paragraph of the section on A Mass Rapid Transit network (page 43 of the Strategy).
- 1.3 That Council notes the Cabinet’s decisions of 15 December 2020 to:
  - (i) receive a revised MK Futures 2050 programme by the end of June 2021;
  - (ii) pursue a partnership approach to implementing the strategy with government and its agencies, including Homes England, and
  - (iii) review the Strategy for 2050 after it has been adopted for three years, with a review commencing in April 2024.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

### Background

- 2.1 The need for a new long-term strategy was identified by the MK Futures 2050 Commission established by the council in 2015 to help create a vision for the next phase of our city’s journey. The Commission’s report, *Making a Great City Greater*, was published in July 2016 and proposed that Milton Keynes should grow to a population of around 400,000 people by 2050 and set out a broad approach for where that development could happen. The vision and direction of their findings received unanimous support from the different political groups on Milton Keynes Council and have provided the basis for the Strategy.
- 2.2 [Cabinet approved the Strategy on 15 December 2020](#) (on the basis that it was an executive decision) but additionally resolved to recommend to Council that the Strategy should become an Annex to the Council Plan and be approved as such.
- 2.3 Cabinet also resolved that the Strategy should be reviewed after three years, in the context of any significant emerging changes to environment and place planning or design, borne out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## The process for creating the Strategy for 2050

- 2.4 The strategy has been developed through the MK Futures 2050 programme that has been responsible for delivering the Six Big Projects recommended by the MK Futures Commission. The programme of work has included a series of detailed evidence studies covering issues such as growth locations, Mass Rapid Transit and the city's future economy.
- 2.5 Key evidence studies have recently been reviewed to test their assumptions against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The full range of studies has been published on the MK Futures 2050 website ([www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com)).
- 2.6 Public and stakeholder engagement has been a central feature of the MK Futures programme since it was established in 2016. A communications strategy has been delivered over the period of its operation, including regular briefings for city stakeholders and public engagement via social media, regular local radio slots and presentations at numerous public events. A major exhibition was held in Middleton Hall during 4-7 July 2019 and seen by 121,000 people and a dedicated project stream was created to engage young people.
- 2.7 A draft strategy was published on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 for an engagement period that was extended due to the COVID-19 pandemic to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020. This included a programme of public meetings within the borough and immediately neighbouring areas that was largely completed prior to COVID-19 restrictions being implemented. Meetings were subsequently held virtually, where requested, and a narrated version of the engagement presentation was posted on the MK Futures website. A further 5-week long round of engagement was held during June-July 2020 to seek views on the impact of COVID-19 on key elements of the strategy. Dedicated reviews were also undertaken of the potential impact of COVID-19 and the associated economic recession on key policy elements including the prospects for housing and jobs growth, the operation of Mass Rapid Transit, and the design of homes and communities.
- 2.8 A Supporting Statement has been prepared to summarise the engagement process undertaken on the Strategy for 2050 and includes a high-level summary of the comments received during the two engagement periods during 2020. It also explains how this has been used to revise and refine the final Strategy. A more comprehensive summary of the comments received has also been prepared with details of how these have been considered in the final Strategy. Both documents are available at [MKFutures2050.com](http://MKFutures2050.com).

## Strategy focus

- 2.9 The Strategy for 2050 offers Seven Big Ambitions which together act as our promise to those living here today and those who wish to make their homes here in future. As amended by recommendation 1.2(i), these ambitions state that we will:
  - strengthen those qualities that make Milton Keynes **special**;
  - make Milton Keynes a **leading green and cultural city** – by global standards;

- ensure everyone has their own **decent home** to rent or buy;
- build safe communities that support **health and wellbeing**;
- **provide jobs for everyone** by supporting our businesses, and attracting new ones;
- offer better opportunities for everyone **to learn** and develop their skills; and
- make it **easier for everyone to travel** on foot, by bike and with better public transport.

2.10 The Strategy aims for growth by a steady population increase to around 410,000 people living in the borough by 2050 as the best means of achieving the Seven Big Ambitions. The flexible development framework of the Strategy can support growth beyond this total under the right conditions, including a strong working partnership with the government that provides investment in the services and infrastructure that a larger city would require.

2.11 The Strategy for 2050 does not specify development sites in our neighbouring areas as that is a decision for the relevant councils and any homes built are counted towards their housing targets. It does anticipate that growth in immediately neighbouring areas, coupled with the growth of the Borough, will see a “Greater Milton Keynes” population of around half a million people by 2050. We hope to work with our neighbours to develop plans that create high quality development and joined up infrastructure and services.

2.12 This report recommends two amendments to the version of the Strategy agreed by Cabinet on 15 December 2020. These limited amendments do not impact on policy content but emphasise the importance placed in the Strategy on culture and the flexibility to accommodate future mobility innovation.

### 3. Implications of the decision

Financial	N	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	N	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	Y	Procurement	N
Energy Efficiency	Y	Workforce	N

#### a) Financial implications

None directly from adopting the Strategy. The Strategy includes proposals for development models that will help to secure public and private investment for infrastructure, services and facilities. One-off MKC funding was allocated in the 2020/21 budget to MK Futures implementation studies.

#### b) Legal implications

The Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and so has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

## c) Other implications

Communications – the Strategy for 2050 has been produced through an extensive stakeholder and public engagement programme that is described in the body of this report.

Human rights/equalities. The Strategy for 2050 has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment that found the strategy advances equality of opportunity in numerous ways and mentions, and has regard to, the need for inclusivity, diversity and meeting the challenge of child poverty. The Strategy recognises the diversity of Milton Keynes as a great strength and sets out policies that will contribute to delivering inclusive growth that benefits everyone in Milton Keynes and helps address child poverty, including increasing the delivery of truly affordable homes, improving access to skills and better jobs, ensuring local facilities and services are accessible to everyone within easy reach of their homes, and delivering a much improved public transport network to aid mobility for all. These are interventions referenced in the final Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission report. The Impact Assessment notes that as the Strategy is delivered, we will need to give attention to the factors that have led to persistent child poverty and focus on designing in access to all and developing a ‘welcoming spirit’. These themes are integral to our Strategy but there is a risk they could be disregarded as we deliver our ambitions if they aren’t given the right attention.

Energy efficiency. Chapter 3 of the Strategy for 2050 is titled “A sustainable and Green City” and describes strategic policies that will help reduce carbon emissions and energy consumption and require sustainable construction. Elsewhere, the Strategy promotes energy efficient transport and buildings.

Policies and Council Plan. The Strategy for 2050 helps deliver several actions within the Council Plan:

- Action 19 – Support the delivery of a fully electrified East-West Rail and continue to promote better connectivity and infrastructure across the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc.
- Action 23 – Continue to support the development for a Mass Rapid Transport system
- Action 33 – Take back control from developers, progressing a shared vision for the future of the City with MK Futures 2050 and securing proper funding for growth through a Housing Deal
- Action 34 – Progress Plan:MK2 to plan the growth for MK properly, and include appropriate zero carbon housing mix policies that address the needs of Milton Keynes
- Action 41 – Bring forward plans to improve Station Square.
- Action 42 – Bring forward plans to improve CMK market.
- Action 53 – Seek funding from Government for the development of MK:U

The adoption of the Policy is a two-stage process. Cabinet formally approved its adoption by decision on 15 December 2020, but also recommend that it become an Annex of the Council Plan, effectively becoming a Policy Framework document. If agreed by Council, other policies/strategies should then respond accordingly as part of delivery.

#### 4. Alternatives

4.1 The alternative option of delaying the publication of the Strategy has been considered and discounted. The Strategy is deliberately designed to be flexible to adapt to changing circumstances. At a time of great uncertainty and volatility it is even more important for the council to have a vision of what we are trying to achieve for Milton Keynes.

#### 5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 A revised MK Futures 2050 programme will be produced for consideration Cabinet by June 2021.

5.2 Council will review the Strategy for 2050 after it has been adopted for three years, with the review commencing in April 2024.

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#### List of annexes

Annex A – [Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050, November 2020](#)

Annex B – [Strategy for 2050 Supporting Statement, November 2020](#)

Note: Annex A not supplied printed with this report as previously supplied to all Councillors.

#### List of background papers

[Cabinet Report – Strategy for 2050 \(15 December 2020\)](#)

MK Futures 2050 Commission “Making a Great City Greater”, July 2016

Strategy for 2050 – Engagement Draft, January 2020

Available at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com)



# MILTON KEYNES STRATEGY FOR 2050

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, NOVEMBER 2020

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This document has been prepared to support the adoption of the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 in order to explain the engagement process and changes that have been made to the Strategy post-engagement, and the process moving forward.

### 1. CONTEXT

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In 2015, Milton Keynes Council established the MK Futures 2050 Commission to help it plan for the next phase of the city's journey.<sup>1</sup> The Commission's report "Making a Great City Greater" was published in July 2016 and recommended the council took forward Six Big Projects and the preparation of the Strategy for 2050 in order to put the city in the best possible position for the future. The 'Making a Great City Greater' report proposed a high rate of growth to 2050 as the best way of providing the greatest benefit for the city's population and included a broad approach for how that development might be distributed and this has provided core assumptions used in the development of the Strategy.<sup>2</sup>

The Strategy for 2050 sets out how the long-term future of the city is about achieving quality of life and success that is shared across all our communities, in the context of a scale of growth that would take our borough population to around 410,000 people by 2050.

#### Geographical Coverage

The Strategy for 2050 has its main focus the future development of the borough of Milton Keynes. But it also considers the wider area and its economy, and the way that people travel day-to-day to access work, shops, leisure and other services in different areas and towns across the wider area, across council boundaries. We think of this area as a 'Greater' Milton Keynes, including neighbouring parts of Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire and Central Bedfordshire. These areas each have their own unique character, independent of Milton Keynes, but many of their residents work, shop or visit MK on a daily basis and those towns and villages add to the overall attractiveness and prosperity of the wider area.

It is not our intention in the Strategy for 2050 to recommend a distribution of growth in our neighbouring areas; we know that is a job for the local plans of those individual planning authorities and that the homes that are delivered are counted towards their own housing targets. But in developing the Strategy for 2050 and the evidence base that sits behind it, we have sought to consider how growth might work best across boundaries, especially when thinking about how many of us lead

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<sup>1</sup> The MK Futures 2050 Commission comprised independent experts and local champions and conducted in-depth research and one of the largest programmes of public engagement in the city's history – direct engagement with 1,051 people and a further 23,105 through social media. The MK Futures 2050 website, [www.mkfutures2050.com](http://www.mkfutures2050.com) includes a range of background Commission Working Papers which were developed to inform the preparation of the full report.

<sup>2</sup> "Making a Great City Greater", July 2016, pages 36 and 37

our lives and the services we use regularly, and in thinking about the natural environment or other constraints and opportunities.

## Status of the Strategy

The Strategy is a non-statutory document (i.e. it is not a formal planning policy document prepared in accordance with statutory regulations), but it does create a context and vision for the development of Milton Keynes borough over the coming decades, which future local plans and other Council and partner plans, policies and strategies should respond to and help to deliver.

The Strategy for 2050 has been prepared in the context of a suite of other local plans and strategies, which have helped to guide its ambitions.

## 2. BACKGROUND EVIDENCE

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### Evidence Base

The Strategy for 2050 was prepared during 2019 and 2020, informed by a variety of evidence and data sources which are referenced within the document with hyperlinks where available. The evidence that was prepared specifically for the Strategy is available to download at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com), including the comprehensive Strategic Growth Study and supporting studies that were prepared using a grant from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Following the publication of the Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 in January 2020, the world was hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and the UK has subsequently gone into recession. This inevitably led to questions about the evidence that was prepared during 2018 and 2019 and the way that has been interpreted in the Strategy. During summer 2020 we commissioned work to review core assumptions in the Strategy and what the pandemic and resulting recession could mean for delivery. These evidence reviews looked closely at our proposed mass rapid transit system and how we can deliver our aim of mobility for all in the light of suppressed levels of commuting and use of public transport, and also the implications of the recession for jobs and housing growth. We also undertook public and stakeholder engagement to seek views on the impact of the pandemic on any aspect of the Strategy (see section 3 below).

### Differences between the Strategy and the Strategic Growth Study

While the Strategy takes forward many of the propositions made in the evidence studies, there are some cases where the Strategy takes a slightly different stance, and where that is the case, the approach in the Strategy for 2050 should take precedence as the Council's proposed direction.

### Further Evidence

It is important to note that in order to deliver the Strategy, including in how it is translated into future Local Plans, there will be further evidence prepared to test the propositions contained within it in more detail and meet the robust challenges of the Local Plan examination. Examples of this further work

include more detailed modelling and preparation of a full business case for the proposed mass transit system, and a comprehensive, long-term infrastructure assessment.

### 3. ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

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#### Pre-publication Engagement

There has been ongoing stakeholder and public engagement which has informed the development of the Strategy for 2050, culminating in an extended engagement period in early 2020. This is in addition to the extensive programme that took place as part of the MK Futures 2050 Commission process in 2015 and 2016 which is explained in detail in a Commission Working Paper that informed their final report.<sup>3</sup>

Through 2018 and 2019, the ongoing engagement programme that informed the drafting of the Strategy for 2050 included

- regular roundtable discussions with civic and city stakeholders
- presentations and discussions with various interest groups including MK Arts and Heritage Alliance, MK Secondary Heads group, MK Business Council, voluntary and community sector, and town and parish councils.
- “Forging the Future” programme with secondary school students
- workshop sessions at MK YCAB (Youth Cabinet) and MySayMK conference
- presentation and discussion at conferences and seminars, including MK Sustainability Conference, Fred Roche Foundation talks, Groundwork Weekender, MK Business Leaders and MK Geek Night.
- Journey to 2050 four-day public exhibition in Middleton Hall, Central Milton Keynes in July 2019.

#### Engagement Draft – January – May 2020

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 was published in January 2020. Initially, this was intended to be for a ten-week period, due to end on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2020. At the start of the engagement period, we used the following engagement methods;

- document published online at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com)<sup>4</sup>
- hard copies of the Strategy held in libraries, including in neighbouring towns, and in MKC children’s centres
- emails sent to known stakeholders, with encouragement to share widely across their networks
- social media used to pull out bite-size issues and themes – Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter
- a short YouTube animation shared through social media channels<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Working Paper 2 “Results from the Commission’s Engagement Programme” at [www.MKFutures2050.com/read-our-report](http://www.MKFutures2050.com/read-our-report)

<sup>4</sup> Strategy for 2050 Engagement Page <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page>

<sup>5</sup> YouTube video is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7d6TvsmNpgE>

- series of public meetings in communities within MK and in neighbouring areas
- discussion sessions with stakeholder groups, e.g. civic and city groups, business community, council staff.

However, by mid-March it was obvious that our programme of public meetings would no longer be feasible due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, and the final sessions were cancelled. The engagement period was extended to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May to allow time for responding via other means, creating an engagement period of 18 weeks in total from the initial publication on 20<sup>th</sup> January. We also added a narrated version of the presentation that had been used at our public meetings to the website, offered on line briefings, and published answers to the ‘frequently asked questions’ we had received from the meetings that had gone ahead.<sup>6</sup>

Through this January – May 2020 engagement period, we received around 250 emails in addition to the comments made during public meetings and via social media. The headlines from this feedback are presented in Section 5 of this statement, and a more comprehensive summary of the points raised and a brief description of how this has influenced the final Strategy is available online at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com).

## COVID-19 Engagement – June – July 2020

Following the main engagement period, we took the decision to ask for views on the potential implications for the Strategy from the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to understand people’s thoughts on the potential long-term impacts of the pandemic on the future development of Milton Keynes and any aspect of the draft Strategy we had published. To that end, a note was prepared describing emergent thinking about potential impacts, including a set of questions to help respondents frame their thoughts.<sup>7</sup> The note was published online on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with a deadline for comments of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Emails were sent to the original mailing list plus all those who responded to the earlier engagement draft, with details shared through our social media channels.

Through this five-week engagement period, around 55 responses were received. The headline summary of these comments is included in Section 5, and a more comprehensive summary online at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com).

## Respondents

Through both the engagement periods, we received comments from a wide range of sources. The respondents included members of the public, Town and Parish Councils, local planning authorities, local Ward Members and political parties, planning consultants, landowners and developers, council officers, city and civic stakeholder groups and other local interest groups, government agencies, voluntary and community sector organisations, and business groups.

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<sup>6</sup> The FAQs are available at <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-faqs> and the narrated presentation is on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCaXFvgyJ6o>

<sup>7</sup> The “Strategic Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic” note is available at <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page>

## 4. WIDER CONTEXT

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As is inevitable in the development of a long-term strategy, there is uncertainty about the status or potential outcomes of a range of variables that could impact on its preparation and delivery. For the Strategy for 2050, these uncertainties include;

- the COVID-19 pandemic and the major changes it has made to the way we live our lives, including new travel and working patterns, increased online shopping and declining city centre footfall, and changing lifestyles and priorities
- the economic recession resulting from the pandemic, including the possible impact on the housing market or increases in unemployment and business failure
- Brexit and a new relationship with the European Union
- the government's intentions for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, including a proposed cross-corridor long-term, strategic spatial framework
- the "pausing" of the proposed A421 expressway by Highways England and timing of delivery of East-West Rail
- potential changes to the planning system following the Planning White Paper, "Planning for the future" which was published in August 2020 and is likely to have major implications for the way local plans are prepared and operate
- the creation of unitary councils in neighbouring local authority areas.

The Strategy for 2050 has been prepared with the best available knowledge at the time of drafting and is designed to provide the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.

In drafting the Strategy, it has also been important to balance a range of interests and aims. For example, we need to ensure that detail is provided on a wide range of issues whilst maintaining a document length that is concise and suitably strategic. Similarly, we have tried to use language that is accessible and easily understood by a range of readers, whilst trying to convey sometimes complex issues.

## 5. HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

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This summary reflects the headline points that were made. The comments are broadly grouped by topic rather than listing by respondent and repeating similar points. A more comprehensive summary of the feedback received during both the January – May 2020 and June – July 2020 engagement periods is available online at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com).

### Feedback on the Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050

- Growth should be within the Milton Keynes boundary; lack of justification for cross-boundary development. Cross-boundary development is unlikely to be deliverable
- Approach to working with neighbouring areas is not clear, has been inadequate, does not align with Neighbourhood Plans or Local Plans or meet the Duty to Cooperate

- Support a boundary blind, strategic approach but it needs political buy-in from partners
- Any future joint working or development of proposals across boundaries needs to be done on the basis of a shared vision, developed by all partners, and with better understanding of governance structures. Not logical for each council to plan alone, but there has been insufficient agreement in developing the approach
- Level of growth is not supported or evidenced. Not credible to plan for growth at this scale. Growth to a population of 400k is far more acceptable.
- Growth target or quality of development is not achievable without a new delivery mechanism. Support consideration of new mechanism
- Do not support a new delivery vehicle, including with powers outside MK boundary
- Strategy should be flexible
- Viability needs to be factored into development assumptions. Make it clear the Council will pursue Government funding for infrastructure
- Lack of targets or detail, including numbers of homes intended in each growth location or type of development
- Support the Strategy in principle
- Support the Strategy and laudable principles, but success will come down to implementation and ensuring there are benefits for all
- COVID-19 and recession will impact the underlying evidence and how we will live in the future
- We need to sort out some of the weaknesses and challenges. Should look after what we already have first
- Ambitions need to be reconsidered and better inter-linked. MK Futures 2050 Six Big Projects should also be included
- Climate change and sustainability aspirations are not sufficiently embedded through the Strategy or ambitious enough
- Develop a comprehensive plan for CMK that considers design, investment, (re)development opportunities, parking and mobility, and takes into account the original city centre principles
- Importance of culture not reflected in the Strategy; should be given greater emphasis throughout and in Ambitions
- Limited scope for densification in the city. Compact communities mustn't be just about maximising development space and profits; consider 'gentle density'.
- Place-making agenda should promote better design, identify and retain MK's unique nature and be sensitive to existing communities
- Recent developments have not been sensitive to existing communities or original principles
- Character of different parts of the area should be reflected, not just all classed as the city
- Support development of a variety of sites, including smaller sites in addition to larger development sites
- Focus on CMK and new areas is at expense of dealing with issues in existing communities. Other places and communities are forgotten about
- Development strategy should prioritise urban development and brownfield sites rather than greenfield and edge-blobbing
- Development on greenfield sites, areas of open countryside and in small villages would irreparably damage those places

- Focus on the local economy and providing access to good jobs as an important route out of poverty, but needs strategic view
- Education system is failing local people. Not enough focus on education outside of MK:U
- Focus on CMK as location for new jobs should be reconsidered
- Green infrastructure issues should be integrated throughout the whole strategy, and be more ambitious. Environmental gains for the city should be included just as they are for transport, skills etc, with a comprehensive landscape and green infrastructure strategy
- Avoid development on existing green spaces. New green space needs to be provided to the same quality and quantity
- Design of homes should meet minimum space standards, with outdoor space and space for home working
- Importance of providing necessary infrastructure at the right time; further work needed to understand what is needed
- Infrastructure costs may not be affordable. And existing infrastructure requires renewal
- Inadequate landscape character and capacity assessment, and water-related infrastructure evidence
- Basing growth strategy around MRT is inappropriate
- Strategy isn't ambitious enough on mobility including walking and cycling. It won't deliver mobility for all principles
- Should provide better options for walking and cycling, but redways might not be the answer in all cases
- Do not perpetuate the grid road structure without considering options
- Maintain the grid roads and dual roads where possible, but new mobility options should not be at the expense of car drivers
- Proposed MRT network needs flexibility and revised routes to reach key locations. CMK-centric/radial network not appropriate
- MRT analysis has not considered full options or is an inappropriate solution
- Further information needed on funding and governance/legislative changes needed to run MRT system
- Support the reinstatement of East West Rail with appropriate improvements, but need to understand implications for some settlements/stations
- Do not support the East West Expressway
- Premature to prepare Strategy ahead of regional decisions and further evidence
- Engagement should have been halted during COVID-19 lockdown
- Strategy preparation and engagement process has not been appropriate; a new approach is needed
- Support for development across a range of specific sites/growth locations
- Against development across a range of specific sites/growth locations
- Detailed proposals for re-wording of sections

## Feedback on the Strategic Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Challenges in the public transport sector from need for social distancing reducing capacity, lack of confidence in safety, fewer journeys being made and use of private cars
- Impact of more online shopping and how to deal with the 'last mile' of delivery journeys
- Walking and cycling increase may be minimal; requires investment in infrastructure maintenance
- Changing travel patterns will impact on demand for car parking and the way people use their cars
- Changing travel patterns and the impact on commuting levels and congestion; impact on the environment, noise and pollution
- All new homes must have gardens or accessible outside space
- New homes should include homeworking space
- Impact of increased home-working and changing need for office space, which may be put to alternative use; opportunities for CMK as a regional office location; need for flexible office/meeting spaces
- High street decline will be accelerated and alternative uses found for shops and ways of attracting people to the city centre
- Still a need for local food shops and local centres, in addition to more online retailing
- Impact on leisure, food and drink, cultural and tourism sectors
- Importance of local facilities near to people's homes that provide a range of services; growing importance of local high streets and hubs
- Opportunities to change the use of existing buildings, but potential impacts on quality of life, including impact of density of development and need to maintain city centre vitality
- Investment in the city may now be very uncertain and the delivery of the Strategy is even more uncertain
- Need for UK-wide strategic action on the economy, but also need to consider changes to local economic structures to build more resilience and focus on new priorities, including green recovery
- Should consider alternative education models, e.g. forest schools, and consider implications for MK:U project
- Investment strategy needed for CMK to address decline
- Need to maintain investment in connectivity and enabling high speed broadband
- Government approach to energy will not deliver carbon neutrality; local policy should go further
- Impact is likely to exacerbate inequality
- Importance of community spirit and local support networks. People's priorities have changed
- Public Health and Voluntary Sector need proper funding and support
- Opportunities to address housing need and affordability, including rough sleepers
- Need to consider other methods for true engagement. Solutions need to be driven by citizens and stakeholder specialists
- Benefit of open spaces for outdoor recreation in lockdown
- Need spaces in the public realm that allow people to come together
- Original principles for MK have meant the city has fared well compared to other places during the pandemic, and those principles should be maintained
- There is still a need for a long-term strategy for the future of Milton Keynes
- Premature to finalise the Strategy for 2050
- Remain opposed to the Strategy and its principles
- Impact on housing market; already unachievable targets should be revised



- Should also think about other behavioural and attitude changes as a result of other calls for change, e.g. BLM movement, as well as impact of Brexit
- Changes to the national planning system are likely to have an impact. Also need local guidance on how spaces could be adapted
- Seize opportunities created, not just try to return to normal
- Government and local authorities need to give confidence to communities; MKC could take a stronger lead.

## 6. KEY CHANGES SINCE THE ENGAGEMENT DRAFT STRATEGY

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Following the feedback received during the two engagement periods and using the outputs of our work to refresh the evidence base in the light of COVID-19, we have made several changes to the structure of the strategy, and further detailed changes throughout the document. The changes described below are not exhaustive; there are many smaller changes to the wording within the Strategy for 2050 that improve clarity or consistency, and update data or references within the document where new information is available. A comprehensive summary of comments is available online at [www.MKFutures2050.com](http://www.MKFutures2050.com) and includes further detail of the changes made to the document in response to the comments received, in addition to the more fundamental changes list below.

### Changes to the structure of the Strategy for 2050

Many people commented that there was insufficient coverage of issues relating to green infrastructure and the city's green character; sustainability and meeting the city's challenging carbon neutrality agenda; and culture and the creative industries. In order to address these weaknesses, a new chapter has been added in the final Strategy for 2050 called "A Sustainable and Green City" which provides greater detail on green and blue infrastructure and sustainability issues, and more references have been threaded through the document.

A chapter has been added called "Healthy and Creative Places" which now covers our placemaking principles and adds some further focus on cultural issues. We have also added further information within the "Our Diverse and Inclusive Economy" chapter to reference the importance of the cultural and creative sector in our local economy and quality of life. Within the "Healthy and Creative Places" chapter we have explained our placemaking approach with a greater focus on our residents' health and wellbeing, and have removed the extended list of principles. The chapter "Affordable and High-Quality Homes" is now focussed on housing affordability and quality.

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 included an Annex called the "Growth Options Assessment" which included a brief assessment of the potential growth locations that had been assessed as part of the development of the Strategy. This section has now been removed from the final Strategy as originally intended.

The Engagement Draft included a chapter that focussed on Central Milton Keynes and Central Bletchley as two priority areas of change. We received feedback that this section should be expanded

as it meant some parts of the borough were not covered by this approach. This chapter is now called “Central Milton Keynes and Our Centres” and includes discussion about other centres and the opportunities available, including as locations for sensitive intensification, for flexible working space and as nodes on a much improved mobility network.

We have also included an introductory section for each chapter that summarises our vision and approach. These sections also form an Executive Summary which is available separately from the main Strategy for 2050 document.

## **Major changes to content or approach**

### **Cross boundary growth**

The Engagement Draft Strategy for 2050 was prepared on the basis of a metropolitan Milton Keynes area, working on a ‘boundary blind’ basis which recognised the opportunity for growth on a more strategic geography. It was always the intention that growth in those neighbouring authority areas would come forward through the relevant councils’ own local plan processes, but through the Strategy we made a suggestion, on the basis of the Strategic Growth Study prepared in support of the work, for how that wider cross boundary growth could be distributed.

In this final Strategy for 2050 we have only included a proposition for the Milton Keynes borough area and have included a broad ambition for a population of around 410,000 people in the borough by 2050. The final Strategy does include reference to the 10,000 homes that are already in adopted or emerging plans in the areas immediately adjoining the borough boundary, and that we expect that a further c.10,000 will be built in the decades to 2050 due to ongoing demand for new homes and the likely uplift in housing targets in neighbouring areas. It does not, however, put forward a recommendation for how that might be distributed (beyond identifying main settlements which are likely to be the most sustainable locations for future development), and reiterates that this will be an issue for the respective local plan in those areas to determine. Our view is that with the growth envisaged for Milton Keynes borough alongside the planned and probable growth in those neighbouring areas, the population across that greater Milton Keynes area is still likely to reach around half a million people in the middle of this century.

### **Population growth**

The comments on the Engagement Draft also demonstrated that we had not made it clear that the 500,000 population target it discussed was not for Milton Keynes borough alone; many people commented that the annual delivery rates that would be required would not be viable. The change discussed above – making it clear that the borough population ambition is around 410,000 people by 2050 – is intended to help clarify this position. This population is broadly in line with the MK Futures 2050 Commission recommendation in their report “Making a Great City Greater” and would require annual housebuilding rates at a level comparable with that in Plan:MK. It is important to remember that the detail of the phasing and delivery of future housing delivery will be determined through the Local Plan process and the annual housing target may change as a result of new planning requirements (following publication of the Planning White Paper).

## Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

Throughout the document, new wording has been added to reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and recession where appropriate. We believe the impact will be most significant where the pandemic has accelerated existing trends. Within the “Our Diverse and Inclusive Economy”, for example, we have included discussion about the implications for the city and town centres from changing working patterns and reduced footfall, demand for employment space and the potential for companies to move out from London to regional centres like Milton Keynes. We have included a revised jobs growth target that has been determined using new evidence. Within the “Mobility for All” chapter, we have emphasised walking and cycling as the priority for most journeys and reframed our proposition for a mass rapid transit system in the light of our COVID-19 evidence refresh on mobility, to include a potential phased delivery. The importance of ready access to local neighbourhood services and facilities has always been a feature of Milton Keynes and has been reinforced during the pandemic.

## Amendments to images/plans

To reflect the changes mentioned above (in particular around cross boundary growth and phasing of the mass transit network), some changes and updates have taken place to the recommended growth strategy and mobility network plans.

## Other changes

In addition to the points raised above, in refining the Strategy for 2050 we have also included some highlights from our engagement with young people in the form of a section on “Postcards from the Future” using the output of our “Forging the Future” programme in local secondary schools.

We have made greater reference to our challenges around child poverty, the important role that placemaking can play in supporting the health of our residents and included more ambitious targets around issues like affordable homes and green space provision.

## 7. ADOPTION PROCESS

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As explained above, the Strategy for 2050 has been prepared and revised using the evidence and feedback collected over the last three years. The final Strategy for 2050 reflects the best available view of the issues and is intended to form a flexible framework for the future development of Milton Keynes, as discussed in section 4.

In order to move forward to delivery of the Strategy, it is intended that it is adopted as policy, as an annex to the Council Plan, and used to inform the development and delivery of other plans, policies and strategies across the authority and where appropriate, by partners. The mechanism for adopting the Strategy will be for the Cabinet to make a recommendation to Full Council. The timetable for this process is set out below, and includes early publication of the Strategy for 2050 ahead of the usual committee papers. Following adoption, the final Strategy for 2050 will be professionally designed and published.

Publication of Strategy for 2050 online	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
Cabinet report online on Council's CMIS committee papers system at <a href="https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Home.aspx">https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Home.aspx</a>	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2020
Cabinet meeting to agree a recommendation to Full Council to adopt the Strategy for 2050	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Council meeting to adopt the Strategy for 2050 as an Annex to the Council Plan	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

# Agenda Item 5(b)

## Notices of Motion

	Document	Pages
1.	Councillor M Bradburn – 26 November 2020 Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps	46-47
2.	Councillors Walker, Bint, Jenkins, Marlow & Raja – 9 December 2020 Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to rescind the resolution of the Audit Committee (1 December 2020)	48-49
3.	Councillor Walker – 7 January 2021 Mellish Court and the Gables	50

### Enquiries and Amendments

Amendments to motions must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday 15 January 2021.

Please contact Peter Brown on 01908 253671 or [peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

This agenda is available at <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees.aspx>

## 1. Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps

Councillor M Bradburn (12 November 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:
  - (a) looked after young people travel a difficult path in their time in local authority care;
  - (b) there is no common age at which young people are ready to leave the structure of care; this is never more apparent than when considering accommodation, and the access to it;
  - (c) as the Corporate Parent to looked after children and care leavers, this Council has a duty to prepare young people for the reality of housing options;
  - (d) most young people cannot afford rent deposits when they first leave home; and
  - (e) around 25% of all our households in temporary accommodation are headed by people under the age of 25, often following a failure to transfer successfully to independent living, demonstrating that young people, whether or not they are in care, can sometimes struggle with accommodation.
2. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
  - (a) ensure looked after children and care leavers are given the opportunity to consider their housing options in detail, including information about the housing market and entitlement to housing, which comprises:
    - (i) the deposits required for all types of rented housing;
    - (ii) how to access waiting lists for Registered Provider and Council housing; and
    - (iii) support to engage with any Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme, when it is introduced.
  - (b) ensure when young people are ready to leave care, they are supported to choose the accommodation that will best suit them (given the constraints on local provision), and that they are given as much notice as possible;
  - (c) ensure thorough training and mentoring for looked after children and care leavers, so that they are supported to gain the skills for increasing independence, including managing a household and budgeting/finance skills;

- (d) encourage schools to include this information and training for all children; and
  - (e) consider providing an information pack to young people as they register to vote at 18, or via the schools, and parents educating at home, at 16.
3. That to achieve these aims, this Council also resolves to request Cabinet to:
- (a) accelerate the planned review into the current process of how looked after children and care leavers move into their next stage of accommodation, and involve the Care Leavers Housing Champion, the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, and the Corporate Parenting Panel in reviewing any proposals;
  - (b) investigate whether care leavers would be entitled to bonds for rent deposits in the private or social housing sectors, and consider plugging any gaps in entitlement, while still helping with the selection of alternative accommodation, often more suitable, such as shared occupancy and supported accommodation; and
  - (c) consider whether more supported accommodation is needed.
-

**2. Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to rescind the resolution of the Audit Committee (1 December 2020)**

Councillors Walker, Bint, Jenkins, Marlow & Raja (9 December 2020)

1. That the Council notes the decision of the Audit Committee, held on 1 December 2020 at 6.30 pm.
2. That Council agrees to set aside the decision due illegality, irrationality and procedural impropriety, for the following reasons:
  - (a) The Committee failed to consider that it is irrational to place arbitrary time constraints on Mr Dorfman without prior discussion or agreement. As Mr Dorfman explained at the meeting, there was a large amount of work that was still necessary to be undertaken and things needed to be checked. The Committee did not ask Mr Dorfman whether it would be feasible to undertake all of this work and to produce a complete report by the deadline as set out in the resolution.
  - (b) The Committee failed to take into account the comments of Mr Dorfman that he felt it was time for a line to be drawn under his work and for someone else to takeover. The Committee also did not ask or consider whether Mr Dorfman did not want his name to be the centre of the resolution.
  - (c) The Committee failed to take into account the comments of the two independent members, who expressed their views that further work needed to be undertaken and investigated by external individuals.
  - (d) The Committee failed to exercise the Council's statutory duty of care towards Mr Dorfman who has acknowledged that he has recently been suffering from personal issues and ill health.
  - (e) The Committee passed a resolution which is factually inaccurate and misleading. Paragraph 3 of the resolution is irrational in relation to the internal audit report because it did not conclude the decision to grant planning permission was sound. The scope of the internal audit did not include the decision-making of Development Control Committee Members to resolve to grant planning permission for the warehouse.
  - (f) The Committee failed to consider the petition submitted by 587 people. Councillor Cannon explained at the outset of the meeting that he had received the petition and the Committee would need to discuss it and consider its response. There was a failure to do so and the petition was not discussed or debated at all by Members.



- (g) The Committee failed to consider the legitimate expectation given to the residents of Blakelands by Milton Keynes Council's former Deputy Chief Executive, Paul Simpson, over the external review and the letter from him dated 17 May 2019.
  - (h) The committee failed to comply with Standing Orders, finishing after 4 and a half hours and the chair did not reasonably attempt to conclude business at 4 hours.
  - (i) The committee failed to consider the 'court of public opinion' when it came to Councillor Legg and Councillor Petchey voting on final motion given they were members of the original DCC meeting. Legal advice should have been sought.
3. That Council asks Audit Committee to reconsider the matter in line with their normal procedures.
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### 3. Mellish Court and The Gables

Councillor Walker (7 January 2021)

1. That this Council notes that:
  - a) the fire safety report published in September 2020 by Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service which outlined in the event of a fire, Mellish Court and The Gables do not meet the standards now expected to prevent the risk of smoke and fire spreading between flats and floors;
  - b) since 2016, the Council has consistently underspent on the Capital Programme allocations for fire safety improvements at Mellish Court and the Gables;
  - c) in July 2017, at a Labour Cabinet meeting, £300,000 was promised to 'retrofit sprinklers' at Mellish Court and The Gables with a timeframe promised of 'as soon as they practically can be';
  - d) actual spend to date on retrofitting sprinklers at Mellish Court and the Gables is £0.00; and
  - e) Cabinet members were aware of the fire safety challenges in regards to the two buildings as far back as 2016.
2. That this Council therefore:
  - a) believes MK Council has failed to be a responsible landlord to the tenants of Mellish Court and the Gables;
  - b) wholeheartedly apologises to the tenants of The Gables and Mellish Court for disruption to their lives and their communities;
  - c) welcomes the action plan published at a Delegated Decisions meeting on 1st December 2020 and encourages the Cabinet member to do everything possible to stick to the outlined timeframe; and
  - d) requests that the Cabinet member responsible undertake a comprehensive review into the actions and progress of fire safety upgrades at Mellish Court and The Gables and provide recommendations and lessons learned so that the Council can avoid similar scenarios occurring in the future.

# Council report



20 January 2021

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHARED SERVICES (LGSS) – CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND THE CONSTITUTION

Report sponsor	<b>Sharon Bridglalsingh</b> (Director Law and Governance)
Report author	<b>Peter Brown</b> (Head of Democratic Services) <a href="mailto:Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk">Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> / 01908 253671

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>Not in Council Plan</b>
Wards affected	-

### Executive Summary

At its meeting on 18 March 2020 (Minute CL127 refers), the Council agreed to a revised operating and financial model for LGSS which would see number of services brought back into each of the constituent councils and the continuation of a shared service (lead authority) arrangement where appropriate for some services.

It was originally intended that the revised operating model would be implemented in October 2020, but as a consequence of the Covid-19 response, implementation was delayed until 1 December 2020, when LGSS in its previous form ceased to exist.

From 1 December 2020 a lead authority model has been implemented, via an amended LGSS agreement (secured by Deed of Variation). A new agreement will be needed to reflect local government reorganisation in Northamptonshire and include the newly vested East and West Northamptonshire authorities from 1 April 2021.

Whilst the previous LGSS Scheme of Delegation was not part of the Council's Constitution, and existing delegations contained in both previous Council / Cabinet reports, alongside the current Scheme of Officer Delegation provide sufficient authority to implement these changes, it is prudent to fully update the Council's governance arrangements and Constitution, to reflect new arrangements.

## **1. Decisions to be Made**

- 1.1 That the implementation of the revised arrangements be noted.
- 1.2 That the revised Schedule of Delegated Services and Functions (Annex A), be approved.
- 1.3 That the LGSS Joint Committee and the LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee be disbanded and replaced with a 'Lead Authority Board' comprising the s151 officers of the lead authorities.
- 1.4 That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to approve any consequential changes to the Schedule of Delegations arising from Local Government reorganisation in Northamptonshire.
- 1.5 That reference to LGSS, including the LGSS Joint Committee and the LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee be deleted from Part II of the Constitution (Annex B)
- 1.6 That in respect of the Council's Financial Regulations, the following amendments be agreed (Annex C).
  - (a) the words in brackets (via the LGSS Integrated Finance Team) be deleted from Clause 14.2;
  - (b) the words in brackets (through the LGSS Partnership) be deleted from Clause 29.2;
  - (c) the words 'its partnership arrangements with LGSS' be deleted from the first sentence and the words 'the LGSS Lead Authority arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council' be added to the end of the sentence in Clause 30.11 and the term 'LGSS' be deleted at the start of the next sentence; and
  - (d) the term 'LGSS' be deleted from Clauses 30.12 and 30.13.
- 1.7 That the links referencing LGSS in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules be deleted.

## **2. Why is the Decision Needed?**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 18 March 2020 (Minute CL127 refers), the Council agreed to a revised operating and financial model for LGSS which saw a number of services brought back into the constituent councils and the continuation of a shared service arrangement where this was appropriate.
- 2.2 The changes to the operating model, in summary, involve:
  - (a) A move to a lead authority model for services where there was a continuing need for services to be shared;
  - (b) the repatriation of the following services to the constituent councils:
    - (i) Human Resources
    - (ii) ICT

- (iii) Procurement
  - (iv) Financial Assessments & Client Funds
  - (v) Monitoring and Payments (MAP)
- (c) the disbanding of both the LGSS Joint Committee and the LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee, with the remaining shared services being overseen by a Management Board comprising the Section 151 Officers from the constituent councils, together with other key senior officers from the councils.
- 2.3 The lead authority model for services will see Milton Keynes Council responsible for the management of Revenues and Benefits and Internal Audit for the constituent councils, with Northamptonshire County Council responsible for Business Systems, Payroll and HR Transactions and Cambridgeshire County Council managing Insurance Services and Financial Transactions (although MKC debt and income services have been repatriated and are managed through Revenues and Benefits).
- 2.4 Officer delegations to agree a revised financial model, recharging mechanisms, other contractual arrangements and Service Levels Agreements have been previously agreed.
- 2.5 The changes to the operating model took formal effect from 1 December 2020, but there are further agreements to be finalised in due course:
- a) A Revenues and Benefits Deed of Variation is being finalised and will be agreed by the s.151 Officer in due course.
  - b) Given the changes to the structure of local government in Northamptonshire further agreements will be required with newly vested Councils early in 2021/22.
- 2.6 Whilst the previous LGSS Scheme of Delegation was not part of the Council's Constitution, and existing delegations contained in both previous Council / Cabinet reports, alongside the current Scheme of Officer Delegation provide sufficient authority to implement these changes, it is prudent to fully update Council on the Council's governance arrangements and seek agreement for minor constitutional amendments to reflect new arrangements.

### 3. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human Rights, Equalities, Diversity	
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

### 3.1 Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the decision to change the Constitution or governance arrangements. However, the costs of transitioning to the new operating model are being funded from LGSS reserves and if in the unlikely event these prove insufficient the additional costs will be shared equally between the three partners subject to a cap of £150k per partner.

### 3.2 Legal Implications

It is necessary to update the Constitution to reflect the changes to the LGSS Operating Model in order that the Council maintains an up to date and accurate Constitution as far as possible.

### 3.3 Other Implications

The disbanding of the joint committees will also mean that the joint LGSS Scrutiny Working Group will be ceased. Scrutiny of the shared services will become the responsibility of the constituent councils through their existing scrutiny arrangements.

## 4. Alternatives

4.1 The alternative would be to not update the governance arrangements and Constitution, which would mean that the Constitution would not accurately reflect the current position in respect of the either the revised decision making' or management arrangements for shared services with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils.

## 5. Timetable for Implementation

5.1 The LGSS Joint Committee and the LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committees ceased operation on 30 November 2020.

5.2 The consequential amendments to the Councils constitution in decision 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 will take effect once agreed and be republished in due course.

5.3 Given the changes to the structure of local government in Northamptonshire a further agreement will be required with newly vested Councils in April 2021/22.

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## List of Annexes

Annex A - Revised Schedule of Delegated Services and Functions

Annex B - Affected pages of MKC constitution with tracked changes

Annex C – Affected pages of Financial Regulations with tracked changes

## List of Background Papers

Council Report 25 March 2020 (LGSS Review - Proposals to proceed with a new operating model; the repatriation of specific services and the creation of a collaborative Lead Authority Model).

LGSS Deed of Variation of Contract

## Schedule 2 - Shared Services and Delegated Functions

### 1. The Shared Services

#### 1.1

- Audit and Risk
- Insurance
- Business Systems
- Performance and Governance Service
- HR Transactions and Payroll
- Accounts Payable and Finance Helpdesk
- Debt and Income (for CCC and NCC only);
- Pensions (for CCC and NCC only)

#### 1.2 Client Authorities:

- See section 4.

### 2. Delegation of Functions and Responsibilities

#### General Principles

- 2.1 The Councils each agree that the Shared Services listed above will be provided by the designated Lead Authority for each of the Shared Services which shall be responsible for the provision of the Shared Service under delegated authority from the other Council(s) to the Lead Authority, as set out set out below. These delegations are subject to the conditions, limitations and the specific reservations, set out below.
- 2.2 In order to facilitate the efficient and effective conduct of the Shared Services, the relevant Lead Authority shall delegate certain functions and responsibilities to their Section 151 Officer. The Section 151 Officers, where they consider it necessary, may sub-delegate to officers within their respective Council. Such delegations must be made in writing and must be available for inspection by the Monitoring Officers and Section 151 Officers of the Councils.
- 2.3 Where an Officer listed in this scheme of Delegation is absent for any period, the Lead Authority may nominate in writing another officer to act in his/her place during his/her absence and shall make a record of all such nominations. Without prejudice to the generality of the above and to any specific delegation listed below, the officers listed in this section are authorised to exercise the following functions of the Council, the Leader and the Head of Paid Service, which relate to their area of responsibility.

#### Conditions Relating to the Exercise of Delegated Authority

- 2.4 The exercise of functions delegated to officers under this scheme must comply with:
- i) any legal requirement or restriction
  - ii) the relevant Council's Constitution
  - iii) the relevant Council's policy framework and any other plans and strategies approved by the relevant Cabinet or Full Council/relevant Committee
  - iv) the relevant in-year budget
  - v) the relevant officers code of conduct
  - vi) relevant Procurement standing orders and financial regulations
  - vii) all other relevant policies, procedures, protocols and provisions.

## **Limitations to the Exercise of Delegated Powers**

- 2.5 Officers in the exercise of functions delegated by this scheme may not:
- i) make Key Decisions as defined in the relevant Council's Constitution, unless where specifically provided for by that Council's constitution;
  - ii) change or contravene policies or strategies approved by the Council/Committee (in the case of CCC) or the Council/Cabinet (in the case of MKC or NCC) in the absence of specific delegated authority to do so;
  - iii) create or approve new policies or strategies, in the absence of specific delegated authority to do so;
  - iv) take decisions to withdraw public services, in the absence of specific delegated authority to do so;
  - v) take decisions to significantly modify public services without consulting the appropriate Cabinet Member (in the case of MKC and NCC) or Full Council/Committee Chairman/woman (in the case of CCC) before exercising the delegated power.

## **Consultation**

- 2.6 Where an officer takes a decision under delegated authority on a matter which has significant policy, service or operational implications or is known to be politically sensitive, the officer shall first consult with the appropriate Cabinet Member (MKC or NCC) or Committee Chairman/woman (or in his/her absence the Vice-Chairman/woman) (CCC) before exercising the delegated powers. When exercising delegated powers, officers shall ensure that local Members are kept informed of matters affecting their divisions or wards.

## **3. Specific Delegations**

The delegations are listed as in section 5 below.

## **4. Powers and Duties delegated by client authorities (must be agreed by all parties)**

- 4.1 The Lead Authority shall be responsible for the provision of shared services to client authorities under the Partnership and Delegation Agreements in place between the client authorities and Cambridgeshire County Council, Northamptonshire Council and Milton Keynes Council. The nature of services provided and the conditions, limitations and the specific reservations which apply are set out below.
- 4.2 Under the auspices of the Partnership and Delegation Agreements in place between the client authorities and Cambridgeshire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council and by virtue of Sections 101, 112 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, officers of the aforementioned authorities are authorised to undertake any and all of the specified functions on behalf of the client authorities.



## 5. Delegations from all Councils to their respective Section 151 Officer

<b>Delegation General</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
To have overall responsibility for the provision, to the Councils, of the Shared Service.	Section 151 Officer	In accordance with all relevant financial, accounting, constitutional and legal requirements
To consider and negotiate the Shared Services Plan and make recommendations to the Councils as to the provision of financial and other resources.	Section 151 Officer	

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority - General</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Section 151 Officer has responsibility for the operational management of the Shared Service, including authority to determine the number, grade, title and nature of staff deployed and all other terms and conditions, in addition to ensuring their proper management within the remit of those services for which they are allocated responsibility by the Lead Authority.	Section 151 Officer	Subject to budget and in accordance with the relevant Council's policies and procedures and in accordance with the relevant Council's HR policies and procedures.
To arrange for and undertake the recruitment and appoint of all relevant employees	Section 151 Officer	in accordance with the relevant Council's HR policies and procedures.
In respect of Relevant Employees , to: a) instigate disciplinary and capability investigations and proceedings and to take action up to and including dismissal, and b) implement all other relevant HR policies and exercise any associated decision-making powers.	Section 151 Officer	In consultation with the Director responsible for Human Resources of the relevant Council or their nominee and in accordance with the relevant Council's HR policies and procedures.
In consultation with relevant Chief Officer, to approve the early retirement of staff who are subject to the Local Government Superannuation Regulations.	Section 151 Officer	Subject to approval by the Lead Authority Board
To invite tenders and to enter into contracts In respect of goods or services directly relating to the provision of the Shared Services.	Section 151 Officer	In accordance with relevant procurement standing orders and any financial limits in place.

To enter into agreements with new client authorities for the provision of Shared Services.	Section 151 Officer	Subject to the prior agreement of the Lead Authority Board
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<b>Delegation to Lead Authority (MKC) by CCC and NCC – Internal Audit and Risk Management</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Authority for management of Internal Audit and Risk Management Services.	Section 151 Officer	In accordance with the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2003 or any successor legislation. Subject to budget and in accordance with the relevant Council's policies and procedures.
To maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems in accordance with proper internal audit practices and be authorised to visit all establishments and have access to all documents, other records, computer systems and property and to require relevant information or explanation from any officer in connection with the above.	Section 151 Officer	
To commission investigations and reports, where appropriate, in support of NCC's or CCC's Anti-Fraud Policy and financial governance arrangements.	Section 151 Officer	

### **Specific Reservations**

The Delegated Functions relating to Internal Audit and Risk Management do not include the following Reserved Functions:

- Approval of each authority's Annual Governance Statement

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority (CCC) by MKC and NCC – Insurance</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Authority for management of Insurance Services.	Section 151 Officer	Subject to budget and in accordance with the relevant Council's policies and procedures and any relevant legislation.

## Specific Reservations

The Delegated Functions relating to Insurance do not include the following Reserved Functions:

- Policy and strategy decisions on Insurance and decisions which fall outside of the principles of decision making set out in Article 12 (CCC) and Article 14 (MKC and NCC) of the relevant authority's constitution.

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority (NCC) by CCC and MKC – Business Systems</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	
Authority for management and development of Business Systems for ERP Services.	Section 151 Officer	Any investment subject to a business case approved by the Lead Authority Board

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority (NCC) by CCC and MKC - Performance and Governance Service</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Management of the performance and governance service in support of the Lead Authority Board	Section 151 Officer	

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority (NCC) by CCC and MKC - Human Resources Transactions and Payroll</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Authority for management of Human Resources Transactions and Payroll	Section 151 Officer	Subject to budget and in accordance with the relevant Council's policies and procedures.
To implement national and local pay awards and increase payments under the Pension Increase Acts	Section 151 Officer	Subject to approval by the employing Council

<b>Delegation to the Lead Authority (CCC) by NCC and MKC – Accounts Payable and Finance Helpdesk</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
To ensure payment to NCC and MKC creditors in line with agreed policies	Section 151 Officer	

<b>Delegation to the Lead Authority (CCC) by NCC – Debt and Income</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
To ensure NCC debt recovery is carried out in line with agreed policies	Section 151 Officer	

**Delegations from CCC to NCC (the Lead Authority) only**

<b>Delegation to Lead Authority( NCC) by CCC - Pensions</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Authority for management of Pensions Services.	Section 151 Officer	Subject to budget and in accordance with the relevant Council's policies and procedures.

<b>Delegation to the Lead Authority (NCC) by CCC - Pensions</b>	<b>Delegation to Officer</b>	<b>Condition</b>
Detailed implementation of the investment strategy as determined by the Pension Fund Board and the issuing of any instructions to investment managers consistent with the strategy or required as a matter of urgency to safeguard CCC's position.	Section 151 Officer	

## Chapter 2

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FUNCTIONS

Part	Title	Contents
1	Diagrammatic Explanation of Decision Making	This part shows a diagram of the Council decision making arrangements.
2	Introduction to Decision Making	This part sets out an introduction to decision making including the principles of good decision making, who makes decisions in the Council and what are Key Decisions
3	The Full Council	This part sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Functions of the Full Council</li> <li>(b) Council Meetings</li> <li>(c) Policy Framework</li> <li>(d) The Budget</li> <li>(e) Local Choice Functions</li> <li>(f) Appointment to Outside Organisations</li> <li>(g) Role of the Mayor and Chairmanship of the Council</li> </ul>
4	The Cabinet	This part sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Role of the Cabinet</li> <li>(b) The Leader and Cabinet Members</li> <li>(c) General Responsibilities of the Cabinet, Committee and Sub-Committees</li> <li>(d) Responsibilities of all Cabinet Members</li> <li>(e) Specific Responsibilities of Cabinet members</li> </ul>
5	Functions of Committees	This part sets out the Functions, Roles and responsibilities of the Committees of the Council, which are:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Overview and Scrutiny Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Scrutiny Management Committee</li> <li>(ii) Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>(iii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>(iv) Communities and Housing Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>(v) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>(vi) Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>(vii) Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) Other Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Development Control Committee</li> <li>(ii) Licensing Committee</li> <li>(iii) Constitution Commission</li> <li>(iv) Audit Committee</li> <li>(v) Corporate Parenting Panel</li> <li>(vi) Health and Wellbeing Board</li> <li>(vii) Appeals Commission</li> <li>(viii) Chief Officer Appointments Panel</li> <li>(ix) Joint Negotiating Committee (Employers)</li> <li>(x) Regulatory Committee</li> <li>(xi) Standards Committee</li> <li>(xii) Statutory Officer Disciplinary Panel</li> </ul> </li> <li>(c) Joint Arrangements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><del>(i) LGSS Joint Committee</del></li> <li><del>(ii) LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee</del></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	Officer Delegations	This part sets out the Scheme of Officer Delegation and contains a diagram of the officer structure at the Council. It sets out the areas of responsibility of the Senior Officers and Statutory Officers and the arrangements for the discharge of the Proper Officer functions.

## Joint Arrangements

### **LGSS**

~~1. The Council is part of joint arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Northampton Borough Council for the provision of a number of shared services. The LGSS shared services are managed by:~~

- ~~(a) The LGSS Joint Committee; and~~
- ~~(b) The LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee~~

~~The LGSS Scheme of Delegation can be viewed at the following link:~~

~~2. The following sections set out the specific responsibilities of each Committee:~~

### **LGSS Joint Committee**

~~Membership: — 3 councillors from each of Milton Keynes Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and Northamptonshire County Council~~

~~Quorum: — 1 councillor from each organisation~~

~~Terms of Reference:~~

~~To have overall responsibility for the provision of shared services to Cambridgeshire County Council, Northamptonshire County Council and Milton Keynes Council through the LGSS arrangements.~~

### **LGSS Revenue and Benefits Joint Committee**

~~Membership: — A representative of Milton Keynes Council (Cabinet member responsible for Resources preferred) and Northampton Borough Council together with a representative of either Northamptonshire County Council or Cambridgeshire County Council appointed by the LGSS Joint Committee~~

## **Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority**

Milton Keynes Council Representatives: 6 councillors

Fire Authority Terms of Reference

1. To appoint the Authority's Standing Committees and Lead Members.
2. To determine the following issues after considering recommendations from the Executive Committee, or in the case of 2(a) and 2(e) below, after considering recommendations from the Overview and Audit Committee:
  - (a) variations to Standing Orders and Financial Regulations;
  - (b) the medium-term financial plans including:
    - (i) the Revenue Budget;
    - (ii) the Capital Programme;
    - (iii) the level of borrowing under the Local Government Act 2003 in accordance with the Prudential Code produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy; an





**Financial Regulations**  
**Effective from 15 May 2019**



milton keynes council



## References

<b>Financial Regulations</b>	
1	Introduction and Responsibilities
<b>Medium Term Financial Planning</b>	
2	Financial Planning and Estimates
3	Budget and Medium Term Financial Planning
4	Capital Programme Preparation
5	Tariff and Section 106 Agreements
6	Virements (or Transfers) Between Budgets
<b>Forecasting and Monitoring</b>	
7	Forecasting and Monitoring
8	Management of Approved Capital Projects
9	Record of Contracts for Capital And Revenue
10	Year End and Statement of Accounts
<b>Accounting</b>	
11	Income and VAT
12	Bad Debts/Write-offs/Loss of Income
13	Banking Arrangements
14	Treasury Management
15	Pension Bonds and Guarantee
<b>Grants from external bodies</b>	
16	<u>Payment of Grants and Benefits to External Bodies</u>
17	<u>Grants Received from External Bodies</u>
<b>Security and Control of Assets</b>	
18	Security and Control of Assets
19	Acquisition and Disposal of Land and Buildings
20	Small Value Assets (Inventory)
21	Stocks and Stores
22	Fleet Management
<b>Procurement Rules</b>	
23	Orders for Goods and Services
24	Imprests/Petty Cash
25	Reimbursement of Expenses and Payment of Allowances
26	Payment of Grants to External Bodies
<b>Partnerships</b>	
27	Partnerships
28	Voluntary Sector
29	Internal Audit Arrangements, Fraud and Corruption
30	Risk Management and Insurance

## 1. Banking Arrangements

### Procedure

- 1.1. The Council's banking arrangements are the responsibility of the Director for Finance and Resources. Bank accounts can only be opened with the approval of the Director for Finance and Resources or his/her nominated member of staff. All bank accounts must include Milton Keynes Council (or "MKC") in their title.
- 1.2. The Director for Finance and Resources or his/her nominated officer must approve the signing arrangements for each bank account including the names of colleagues authorised to sign cheques and issue instructions to the bank and the limits of their authority.
- 1.3. Directors are responsible for ensuring that all bank accounts within their Service Group (imprest) are operated properly and reconciled at least once a month.
- 1.4. Directors must ensure that loans are not made to third parties and that interests are not acquired in companies, joint ventures or other enterprises without the approval of the Cabinet or the Council, following consultation with the Director for Finance and Resources.
- 1.5. All monies collected must be handled and banked in accordance with section 11.9.

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## 14. Treasury Management

### Procedure

- 14.1. All investments and borrowing will be made in the name of Milton Keynes Council.
- 14.2. All securities which are the property of, or are in the name of, the Council and will be recorded, managed and monitored by the Director for Finance and Resources ~~(via the LGSS Integrated Finance Team)~~.
- 14.3. The Director for Finance and Resources will produce a treasury management strategy statement and treasury management policy statement and submit them to Cabinet and then to Council each year. The Director for Finance and Resources will report quarterly on treasury management activities against the approved strategy, and will revise the treasury management strategy as appropriate and submit to Cabinet/Council for approval.
- 14.4. All treasury management activities will be conducted by the Director for Finance and Resources in line with the relevant CIPFA Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral guidance notes for Treasury Management in the Public Services and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.
- 14.5. Adequate division of duties must exist between arranging and settling of transactions. Additional segregation must exist between arranging and recording of transactions.

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## 28. Voluntary Sector

### Procedure

- 28.1. Where the Council enters into partnerships with the voluntary sector to provide services to the public an SLA must be agreed with the relevant community group unless proper contract arrangements are in place.
- 28.2. Monitoring of the contract or SLA as appropriate should be on a regular basis and any discrepancies from this will be reported to the relevant Cabinet Member.

## 29. Internal Audit Arrangements, Fraud and Corruption

### Internal audit

- 29.1. The Council will maintain an adequate and effective internal audit service in accordance with the latest Accounts and Audit Regulations and in line with the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government and professional auditing standards. Internal Audit will review, arrange and report upon:
  - a) whether operations are being carried out as planned and objectives and goals are being met;
  - b) the adequacy of systems established to ensure compliance with policies, plans, procedures, laws and regulations, i.e. rules established by the management of the organisation, or externally;
  - c) the completeness, reliability and integrity of information, both financial and operational;
  - d) the extent to which the Council's assets, data and interests are properly accounted for and safeguarded from losses of all kinds, including fraud and corruption, waste, extravagance, abuse, ineffective management and poor value for money; and
  - e) the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which resources are employed.
- 29.2. Internal Audit (~~through the LGSS Partnership~~) will have an unrestricted range of coverage of the Council's operations and therefore has authority to:
  - a) enter at any time Council premises or land subject to any statutory or contractual restrictions that may apply, e.g. health and safety;
  - b) access all records, documents, correspondence, information and data relating to all areas of business of the Council regardless of how the information is held and remove records as necessary for the purposes of their work (including records of the Council's agents and contractors);
  - c) require and receive such explanations as are necessary concerning any matter under examination; and

- .....
- 30.8 All Officers , Councillors, agents or contractors of the Council have a responsibility to bring to the attention of the Head of Internal Audit, Director for Finance and Resources or their Director any suspected fraud, corruption or irregularity.
- 30.9 The Head of Internal Audit, in consultation with the Director for Finance and Resources if appropriate, will take such steps as considered necessary by way of investigation or report. Wherever possible the Director and the Officer referring concerns is to be kept informed.

### Insurance

- 30.10 The Council maintains various policies and internal risk management measures to protect the Council's interests.
- 30.11 The Council through ~~its partnership arrangements with LGSS~~ [the LGSS Lead Authority arrangements with Cambridgeshire County Council](#) has delegated the day to day management of its insurance function. The ~~LGSS~~ Insurance Manager has delegated authority to enter into insurance arrangements on behalf of the Council with the exception of schools who under delegated budget authority can select their own insurance provider. The main tendering arrangements for the Council's insurance must be awarded within the Council's normal procurement rules, which would usually be Cabinet.
- 30.12 The ~~LGSS~~ Insurance Team hold a central record of the Council's insurance policies and claims. Authority to manage claims, including settlements is delegated to the Insurance Team. The Insurance Team report directly to the Director for Finance and Resources and provide quarterly management reports on insurance activity and losses.
- 30.13 Where incidents occur which might give rise to a claim this must be reported to the ~~LGSS~~ Insurance Team at the earliest opportunity, preferably the same day that the event takes place. Service Groups are required to strictly follow the advice of the Insurance Team including communications with potential claimants, third party insurers etc. The Insurance Team must be involved in any discussions about potential settlements and if appropriate will lead this process.
- 30.14 To ensure best practice and manage future risk 'near miss' reporting will be used to ensure that the Council's systems and processes are effective.

### Acronyms used in this document

- CFO – Chief Financial Officer
- CLT – Corporate Leadership Team
- GF – General Fund
- HCA – Homes and Communities Agency
- HRA – Housing Revenue Account
- SLA – Service Level Agreement
- MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government



# Council Report



20 January 2021

## SCHEME OF COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES 2021/22

Report sponsor	<b>Sharon Bridglalsingh</b> Director Law and Governance
Report author	<b>Peter Brown</b> Head of Democratic Services <a href="mailto:Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk">Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> / 01908 253671

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>Not in Council Plan</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive summary

Under the terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required, before the beginning of each year, to agree the scheme for the payment of basic allowance to each member of the Authority to each member of the Authority for that year.

The Scheme must also make provision for the following allowances if an authority intends to make such payments in respect of the year:

- (a) special responsibility allowance;
- (b) dependants' carers' allowance;
- (c) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
- (d) co-optees' allowance.

The proposed Scheme of Allowances for 2021/22, based on the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel of 2017/2018 and subsequent amendments made by Council, is attached as Annex A to this report.

The current four-year indexation framework runs from April 2018 until March 2022 and so a review of allowances by an Independent Remuneration Panel will begin work in the new Council year 2021/2022 ready for implementation in April 2022.

## 1. Decision/s to be made

- 1.1 That the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances in Annex A to this report be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2021.
- 1.2 That the decision of the Independent Remuneration Panel to adopt the provisions of the 2014 report on allowances for members of Parish and Town Councils, be noted.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 Under the terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, the Council is required, before the beginning of each year, to agree the scheme for the payment of basic allowance to each member of the authority for that year.
- 2.2 The scheme must also make provision for the following allowances if an authority intends to make such payments in respect of the year:
  - (a) special responsibility allowance;
  - (b) dependants' carers' allowance;
  - (c) travelling and subsistence allowance; and
  - (d) co-optees' allowance.
- 2.3 Under the terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, where utilising an allowance scheme with indexation, the Council is obliged to appoint an Independent Remuneration Panel to review, comment and advise on the level of allowances paid to councillors at least every four years. The Council last appointed an Independent Remuneration Panel in 2017/18 and adopted its report, subject to an amendment capping the pool for Cabinet members at the Council meeting on 17 January 2018.
- 2.4 The proposed Scheme of Allowances for 2020/21 is attached as Annex A to this report.

### Indexation

- 2.5 The proposed scheme of allowances at Annex A reflects the recommendations of the 2017/18 Independent Remuneration Panel and uprates the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances by 2% from 1 April 2021, accordingly. The Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowances have also been increased by between 1.5 – 2.2% in line with increases in the National Living Wage, for various age groups.
- 2.6 The Independent Remuneration Panel also reviewed the Allowances for Members of Parish and Town Councils and agreed that the 2014 Scheme should be continued. An extract from the 2014 report on allowances for members of Parish and Town Councils detailing the key elements is attached as Annex B.



### 3. Implications of the decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

#### (a) Financial implications

The Allowances Scheme as drafted is within the Council's approved budget for 2021/22.

#### (b) Legal implications

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 make it a requirement to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel and for the Council to adopt a Scheme of Allowances for the forthcoming year by 1 April each year.

Under the terms of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council is required to take account of the recommendations of an independent panel before fixing its level of Councillors' Allowances.

#### (c) Other implications

None.

### 4. Alternatives

4.1 As the Council has a legal requirement to agree a scheme in advance of each municipal year it must make a scheme. However, it could decide not to accept the recommended increase, agree an alternative increase / decrease or change, with the exception of the basic allowance, the allowances paid.

### 5. Timetable for implementation

5.1 The proposed scheme of councillor allowances, if adopted will come into force from 1 April 2021.

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#### List of annexes

Annex A – Draft Scheme of Councillor Allowances 2021/2022

Annex B – Key elements of allowances for members of Parish and Town Councils

#### List of background papers:

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel 2017/18

Councillors' Allowances Scheme 2020/21



milton keynes council

**DRAFT SCHEME OF COUNCILLORS'  
ALLOWANCES  
2021-2022**

**1. General**

- 1.1 This Scheme is made under the terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Council on 20 January 2021 it was agreed that the Council would adopt this Scheme after taking into account the recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel in 2017/18.
- 1.3 Milton Keynes Council currently has 57 councillors, who serve a 4 year term of office and all of whom are entitled to receive the allowances under this scheme.

**2. Basic Allowance**

- 2.1 All councillors to receive a Basic Allowance of £11,142 per annum. This is paid in 12 equal, monthly instalments and is subject to both tax and National Insurance contributions where applicable.
- 2.2 If a councillor ceases to be a councillor before the end of his or her term of office, payment of the allowance ceases and a pro rata calculation is made to ensure that the councillor receives the right amount of allowance. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the correct final payment is made, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of Basic Allowance.
- 2.3 The Basic Allowance is intended to recognise the time commitment of all councillors, including such inevitable calls on their time as meetings with officers and constituents and attendance at political group meetings. It is also intended to cover incidental costs, such as the use of their homes for council business, telephone rental and broadband charges.
- 2.4 The Basic Allowance is subject to indexation at a rate of 2% per year from 1 April 2019 until the end of the financial year beginning 1 April 2021.

**3. Special Responsibility Allowance**

- 3.1 The Council also pays Special Responsibility Allowances to those councillors it considers to have significant, additional responsibilities over and above the generally accepted duties of a councillor. These special responsibilities are related to the discharge of the Council's functions.

3.2 Milton Keynes Council currently pays Special Responsibility Allowances for the following roles at the rates stated:

Leader of the Council	£32,473
Deputy Leader of the Council	£16,236
Main Opposition Group Leader - per Group Member	£671
Smaller Opposition Group Leader(s) - per Group Member	£671
Cabinet Member* <sup>1</sup>	£11,673
Chair of Scrutiny Management Committee	£8,118
Chair of Scrutiny Committee* <sup>2</sup>	£4,872
Chairs of Task and Finish Groups (pro rata depending on the length of time the Group is in place)	£4,872
Chair of Development Control Committee	£8,659
Chair of Licensing & Regulatory Committees (1 person)	£8,659
Chair of Audit Committee	£5,953
Chair of Standards Committee	£3,247

Notes:

\*<sup>1</sup> Pool capped at £70,039 shared between a maximum of 8 Cabinet Members (in addition to the Leader and Deputy Leader) and increased by 2% for each year 2019 to 2021. Figure of £11,673 is based on six Cabinet members in addition to the Leader and Deputy Leader.

\*<sup>2</sup> Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee, Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee.

- 3.3 Special Responsibility Allowance is paid in 12 equal, monthly instalments. Special Responsibility Allowances are liable for tax and National Insurance.
- 3.4 Special Responsibility Allowances (and Civic Allowances) are subject to indexation at a rate of 2% per year from 1 April 2019 until the end of the financial year beginning 1 April 2021.
- 3.5 In the event of a councillor ceasing to hold an office which entitled him or her to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance before the term of office is completed, payment of the Allowance ceases, and a calculation based on the number of days in the Council year concerned will be made to determine the entitlement. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the correct final payment is made, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of Special Responsibility Allowance.

- 3.6 In the case of a councillor who is in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance being unable to carry out the duty for which the Allowance is payable for a period of three months or more, requiring the duty to be carried out by a specific councillor as deputy, the Council will consider the circumstances, with the option of ceasing the Special Responsibility Allowance payment to the councillor concerned, and making a retrospective payment to the deputising councillor for the whole of the three month period, and continuing until the original councillor is able to resume the duty concerned.
- 3.7 Under the terms of Milton Keynes Council's Scheme of Allowances no councillor is allowed to receive more than one Special Responsibility Allowance, even if they fulfil more than one role.
- 3.8 In the event of a councillor already in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance being appointed to an office with a different level of Special Responsibility Allowance, a calculation based on the number of days in the Council year concerned will be made to determine the entitlement. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the correct final payment is made, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of the Special Responsibility Allowance.

#### **4. Co-opted Members of Committees**

- 4.1 Persons co-opted to serve on Committees, Sub-Committees or Panels, and who have voting rights, shall receive an allowance of £640 calculated pro-rata to the term of co-option. This is to be paid in 12 equal, monthly instalments and will be liable for tax and National Insurance.
- 4.2 All co-optees are eligible for travel and subsistence allowances at the Councillors' rate when carrying out the duties for which they are co-opted.
- 4.3 If the co-opted person ceases to serve as a co-opted member before the end of his or her term of co-option, payment of the Allowance ceases, and a calculation based on the number of days in the Council year concerned will be made to determine the entitlement. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the correct final payment is made, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of this allowance.

#### **5. Civic Allowances**

- 5.1 The Mayor of Milton Keynes receives a civic allowance of £11,905 per annum, in line with that paid to Cabinet Members, paid in two equal instalments of £5,952.50 in June and November.
- 5.2 The Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes receives a civic allowance of 50% of the Mayor's allowance, i.e. £5,953 per annum, payable in two equal instalments of £2,975.50 in June and November.

- 5.3 In the event of a Mayor or Deputy Mayor ceasing to hold office before the term of office is completed, payment of the Allowance ceases, and a calculation based on the number of days in the Council year concerned will be made to determine the entitlement. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the correct final payment is made, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of the Civic Allowance.

## **6. Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowance**

- 6.1 All councillors and co-opted members of Council committees can claim, on production of appropriate receipts, the Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowance at the following rates:

Child Care:

The Living Wage of £8.91 per hour applies for those aged 23 or over. The current minimum wage rate which applies is dependent on the age of the carer, the rates at 1 April 2021 are:

- £8.36 per hour (21 – 22 year olds)
- £6.56 per hour (18 – 20 year olds)
- £4.62 per hour (for workers under 18 who are above compulsory school leaving age)

Other Dependants:

£10 per hour, or the applicable rate for the hourly cost of Milton Keynes Council Home Help carer, whichever is the least.

This is paid for up to a maximum of 5 hours in any 24 hour period and covers care provided for a councillor's/co-opted member's dependent(s) whilst the councillor/co-opted member is carrying out any 'Approved Duties' specified in the Appendix.

This includes travel time associated with the Approved Duties.

- 6.2 Full details of the Dependent Carers' Allowance Scheme are listed in the Appendix of this Scheme

## **7. Travel and Subsistence**

- 7.1 Re-imbusement to councillors for travel and subsistence will be paid at the current rates agreed by the National Joint Council (NJC) for the re-imbusement of Council officers.
- 7.2 From 1 April, 2016 mileage claims are no longer liable for tax and National Insurance contributions.
- 7.3 Councillors will be reimbursed the full cost of travelling by the most appropriate means of transport at standard class rates whilst carrying out Approved Duties, provided a valid receipt (bus ticket etc), is produced to substantiate the claim.

7.4 All reasonable claims for subsistence expenses whilst carrying out Approved Duties will be paid provided they are supported by valid receipts. As there is no profit element in the payment of subsistence claims, this allowance is not subject to tax or National Insurance contributions.

## **8. Claimable Allowances**

8.1 There is a 3 month time limit for submitting claims for the claimable allowances above i.e. Child Care and Dependent Carers' Allowance and Travel and Subsistence Allowances. Any claims made outside of this time limit will only be paid in exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Director Law and Governance and the Chief Internal Auditor.

## **9. Pensions**

9.1 Councillors are no longer eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme.

## **10. Dual Authority Roles**

10.1 Councillors cannot receive an allowance from more than one authority (e.g. Fire Authority) for the same duties.

## **11. Forgoing Allowances**

11.1 A councillor may forgo all or part of any allowances to which he or she is entitled, provided he or she has given notice in writing to the Director Law and Governance.

## **12. Approved Duties**

12.1 The list of "Approved Duties" under the regulations for which the Travel and Subsistence Allowance is payable is as follows:

- a meeting of the Council;
- a meeting of the Cabinet;
- a meeting of a committee of the Cabinet;
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a committee of the Council where that councillor is a member of that committee, is substituting for a member of that committee or otherwise receives a specific invitation from the chair of that committee;
- a meeting of Cabinet members with the Corporate Leadership Team;
- a meeting with officer colleagues in relation to portfolio / corporate issues (to include Group Leaders, Cabinet members, Chairs, Vice-Chairs and opposition spokespersons) and Ward issues;
- a meeting of some other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations (i.e. Outside Bodies);
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations;

- a meeting of a local authority association of which the Council is a member (e.g. Local Government Association);
- a meeting in the Councillor's Ward called by a Council Officer or Parish Council;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in pursuance of any Procedure Rule requiring a councillor or councillors to be present while tender documents are opened;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of Section 342 of the Education Act 1996;
- a meeting which has been:
  - both authorised by the Council, a committee, or a sub-committee of the Council and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee, and
  - to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited or to which two or more Councillors have been invited;
- a meeting of the Cabinet, committee of the Cabinet, committee of the Council, or sub-committee, at which a councillor, who is not appointed to that body:
  - attends to present an item which he/she has requested be included on the Agenda in his/her name;
  - is required to attend to answer questions/give evidence; or
  - attends to present a report on behalf of another body of the Council;
- attendance at conferences, seminars and other Councillor Development and training events as approved by the Council or the Service Director (Legal and Democratic Services);
- attendance at casework surgeries organised at advertised times and venues within the Councillor's own ward;
- any other duty approved by the Council in connection with discharging the duties of the authority or its committees or sub-committees.

### **13. Indexing**

13.1 The Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances are subject to indexation at a rate of 2% per year from 1 April 2019 until the end of the financial year beginning 1 April 2021.

13.2 The Dependent Carer's Allowance: indexed to the maximum hourly rates for minimum wage for age of carer/average hourly cost of Milton Keynes Council home help.

13.3 Travel and Subsistence allowances: at the same rates and conditions applicable to Officer and HMRC rates where applicable.

**14. Duration**

14.1 The above Scheme of Allowances is operative from 1 April 2020 until 31 March 2021 or such other time as agreed by the Council.



## Dependant Carer Allowance Scheme

1. The Scheme is open to all elected councillors of Milton Keynes Council and co-opted members of Council committees.
2. The Scheme covers the care of dependants whether children, elderly people or people with disabilities for whom those listed in 1 above have responsibility.
3. The rate payable is the current hourly rate for the National Minimum Wage, up to a maximum of 5 hours in any 24 hour period.
4. The Scheme covers care provided for a councillor's/co-opted member's dependant(s) whilst they are carrying out any 'approved duties', including travel time, as listed below.
5. Carers must be over the age of 16 and not be a member of the claimant's own household.
6. Where the provision is for childcare, it is recommended that a registered child-minder / nursery or an approved child carer is used. However, it is ultimately the parents' responsibility to make adequate provision for their childcare needs.
7. Claims should be made on the Councillor' Business Expense claim forms, supported by valid receipts. Co-opted members of committees should submit their receipts with a covering letter to the Head of Democratic Services, Milton Keynes Council, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ.
8. Receipts should contain the date the care was provided, length of time the care was provided, the 'approved duty' covered, the cost per hour and should be countersigned by both the carer and claimant. Claimants may wish to use the attached sample receipt as a standard format.
9. In accordance with paragraph 9 of the Council's Scheme of Councillors' Allowances claims for Dependent Carer Allowance payments should be submitted within 3 months of the event.

## **LIST OF APPROVED DUTIES FOR DEPENDENT CARER'S ALLOWANCE**

A scheme may provide for the payment to councillor of an authority of an allowance ("dependants' carers' allowance") in respect of such expenses of arranging for the care of their children or dependants as are necessarily incurred.

The list of "Approved Duties" for which the dependants carers' allowance is payable is follows:

- a meeting of the Council;
- a meeting of the Cabinet;
- a meeting of a committee of the Cabinet;
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a committee of the Council where that councillor is a member of that committee, is substituting for a member of that committee or otherwise receives a specific invitation from the chair of that committee;
- a meeting of Cabinet members with the Corporate Leadership Team;
- a meeting with officer colleagues in relation to portfolio / corporate issues (to include Group Leaders, Cabinet members, Chairs, Vice-Chairs and opposition spokespersons) and Ward issues;
- a meeting of some other body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations (i.e. Outside Bodies);
- a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of a body to which the Council makes appointments or nominations;
- a meeting of a local authority association of which the Council is a member (e.g. Local Government Association);
- a meeting in the Councillor's Ward called by a Council Officer or Parish Council;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with the discharge of any function of the Council conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in pursuance of any Procedure Rule requiring a councillor or councillors to be present while tender documents are opened;
- duties undertaken on behalf of the Council in connection with arrangements made by the Council for the attendance of pupils at a school approved for the purposes of Section 342 of the Education Act 1996;

- a meeting which has been:
  - both authorised by the Council, a committee, or a sub-committee of the Council and one or more other authorities, or a sub-committee of a joint committee, and
  - to which representatives of more than one political group have been invited or to which two or more Councillors have been invited;
- a meeting of the Cabinet, committee of the Cabinet, committee of the Council, or sub-committee, at which a councillor, who is not appointed to that body:
  - attends to present an item which he/she has requested be included on the Agenda in his/her name;
  - is required to attend to answer questions/give evidence; or
  - attends to present a report on behalf of another body of the Council;
- attendance at conferences, seminars and other Councillor Development and training events as approved by the Council or the Service Director (Legal and Democratic Services);
- attendance at casework surgeries organised at advertised times and venues within the Councillor's own ward;
- any other duty approved by the Council in connection with discharging the duties of the authority or its committees or sub-committees.

## Dependant Carers' Allowance

Data care provided	
Duty covered	
Time from	
Time to	
Total hours	
Cost per hour	
Total	
Name of Carer	
Signature of Carer	
Name of Claimant	
Signature of Claimant	

### Parish Basic Allowance

(2014 Rates – Indexation applied yearly from April 2017 to the annual salary percentage increase, as agreed each April by the National Joint Councils for Local Government Staff).

Role	2014 rate	2021 rate
<b>Town and parish councils achieving quality status with budgets of £50,000 and above:</b>		
Chairs	£1,500	£1,620
Member	£750	£810
<b>Town and parish councils achieving quality status with budgets of less than £50,000:</b>		
Chairs	£750	£810
Member	£375	£405
<b>Other town and parish councils with budgets of £50,000 and above:</b>		
Chairs	£1,500	£1,620
Member	£750	£810
<b>Other town and parish councils with budgets of less than £50,000:</b>		
Chairs	£0	N/a
Member	£0	N/a

### Travel and Subsistence Allowances

The 2003 Regulations and subsequent amendments permit Parish and Town Councils to pay travel and subsistence allowances for approved duties only to elected and co-opted Members.

Travel and subsistence allowances are payable for the attendance at approved duties outside the boundary of the parish/town council only.

Parish and Town Councils are recommended to include Travel and Subsistence Allowances in their Scheme of Allowances.

### Mileage Rates – Payable outside respective Council area only

The relevant rates are those applicable to Members and Co-optees of Milton Keynes Council.

The following rates, in addition to those covered by the National Joint Council approved rates, be included in travel allowances schemes for Parish and Town Councils. These should be based on HMRC rates, which are currently:

- Bicycle allowance: 20p per mile
- Motorcycle allowance: 24p per mile
- Passenger supplement: 5p per mile

Where public transport is used, then it is recommended that the same terms and conditions that are applicable to the Members of Milton Keynes Council are applicable to Parish and Town Councillors in the area. The guiding principle should be that value for money should be maximised in the use of public transport.

### **Subsistence Allowances – Payable outside respective Council area only**

The relevant subsistence rates should be those applicable to Members and Co-optees of Milton Keynes Council, which are based on those paid to officers of the Council. Subsistence allowances should only be payable when a Parish or Town Councillor undertakes an approved duty outside their respective council area and allowances be reimbursed only on the production of receipts for expenditure incurred up to the maximums permitted.

### **Approved Duties**

The statutory definition of approved duties for which members of Parish and Town Councils may claim travel and subsistence allowances for undertaking approved duties outwith their Parish/Town Council area is set out below:

Travel and subsistence allowances may be payable only in respect of the following duties undertaken outside a Members' Parish/Town Council area:

- A meeting of the authority
- A meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the authority
- A meeting of some other body to which the authority makes appointments or nominations
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the authority in pursuance of any standing order requiring a member or members to be present while tender documents are opened
- A meeting of a local authority association of which the authority is a member
- Duties undertaken on behalf of the authority in connection with the discharge of any function of the authority conferred by or under any enactment and empowering or requiring the authority to inspect or authorise the inspection of premises
- Any other duty approved by the authority in connection with discharging the duties of the authority or its committees or sub-committees

### **Indexation**

- The Parish Basic Allowance and Chairs Parish Basic Allowance should be indexed to the annual salary percentage increase, as agreed each April by National Joint Councils for Local Government Staff.
- Travel and subsistence allowances should be indexed to the same rates and conditions applicable to Milton Keynes Council Officers, and where applicable, HMRC rates.

### **Withdrawal of Allowances**

Parish and Town Councils are recommended to make provision in their schemes for the withdrawal of allowances from any member who is suspended or partially suspended from their duties in the same terms as those in the Borough Council's Scheme.

# Council report



20 January 2021

## APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Report sponsor	<b>Michael Bracey</b> Chief Executive
Report author	<b>Peter Brown</b> Head of Democratic Services <a href="mailto:Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk">Peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> / 01908 253671

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>36</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive summary

From April 2013 public health services were returned to the control of Local Authorities with public health responsibilities. Every such local authority must make a joint appointment, with the Secretary of State for Health, to the role of Director of Public Health. The post holder will act as the principal advisor to Councillors and Officers on all health matters.

Locally there is an established arrangement to share the post between Milton Keynes, Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils in order to optimise the public health service offer. Bedford Borough Council is the employing authority and led the external recruitment exercise. Vicky Head was appointed by Bedford Borough Council in August 2020 and has effectively been the Council's interim Director of Public Health since the departure of Muriel Scott in August 2020. The appointment is supported by Public Health England.

The post of Director of Public Health is a Statutory Chief Officer and subject to Council Employment Procedure Rules. Usually a Senior Appointments Panel would recruit to and approve the appointment of Director posts. However, given the circumstances and the shared appointment, Council is asked to note the ongoing shared arrangements and approve the permanent appointment of Vicki Head as the Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes in addition to the same roles for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils.

## 1. Decision to be made

- 1.1 That the appointment of Vicki Head as Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes Council in addition to her current position of Director of Public Health for Bedford Borough Council and pending appointment to Central Bedfordshire Council, be approved.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

- 2.1 In January 2014, and further to earlier pilot arrangements, Council approved the principle of a shared Director of Public Health and the appointment of Muriel Scott as Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes, in addition to her positions as Director of Public Health for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils.
- 2.2 Muriel Scott left her post on 31 August 2020 with the subsequent recruitment process being led by Bedford Borough Council, working alongside the Regional Director of Public Health England and the Faculty for Public Health (FPH). Vicky Head was subsequently appointed by Bedford Borough Council and has effectively been acting on an interim basis at Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Councils, subject to approval by respective Councils.
- 2.3 It continues to be the case that it makes logical sense for the position to be shared across the three authorities, an arrangement which is formally supported by Public Health England.
- 2.4 Locally, the post is supported by a Public Health team led by Deputy Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes Council (Oliver Mytton) and three senior leadership posts (Head of Public Health Programmes, Public Health Principal – Children and Young People, and Public Health Principal – Primary Care and Performance).

## 3. Implications of the decision

- 3.1 The appointment ensures that the Council's statutory responsibilities for Public Health are met appropriately alongside the Council's key Corporate Aim that Milton Keynes is a healthy city.
- 3.2 If Council is not minded to approve the appointment, it would undermine the shared arrangements between the partnership authorities and require the independent appointment of a Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes Council. This would undermine the wider strategic benefits of a shared Director across three unitary authorities with comparable communities.



Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	Y

**a) Financial implications**

None - the cost of the Director of Public Health role is met from the Council's public health budget.

**b) Legal implications**

The Health and Social Care Act 2013 places a duty on local authorities with public health responsibilities to appoint an individual (Director of Public Health) to have responsibility for its public health functions.

**c) Other implications**

Equalities / workforce – the recruitment process was taken in accordance with the recruiting authority's (Bedford Borough Council) Equal Opportunity Policy.

**List of annexes**

None.

**List of background papers**

None.



Date	Councillor	Ward	Party	Details of Scheme	Amount £
20/04/20	David Hopkins	Danesborough & Walton	Conservative	Love Woburn Sands Foodbank - to support the work of the Food Bank in Woburn Sands during the current Coronavirus emergency.	200
19/05/20	Alex Walker	Stantonbury	Conservative	Great Linford Parish Council - contribution to bench and/or artwork for refurbishment of Neath Hill Serjeants Green Play park and mound.	630
24/06/20	Pete Marland	Wolverton	Labour	New Bradwell St Peters FC - towards extra funding to maintain pitches and facilities.	500
14/07/20	David Hosking	Olney	Conservative	Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville Joint Parish Council - to cover the cost for the email list for bids.	40
26/07/20	Dan Gilbert	Loughton & Shenley	Conservative	Shenley Church End Community Charity Shop - towards paint to refurb the charity shop.	80
25/09/20	Douglas McCall	Newport Pagnell South	Liberal Democrats	NP Christmas Lights - towards WiFi control system and the maintenance of light.	500
01/10/20	Douglas McCall	Newport Pagnell South	Liberal Democrats	NP Bowling Club Ltd - towards the winter maintenance of the bowling green.	500
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	MK Foodbank Extra for food.	80
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	1st Two Mile Ash Rainbows to support local Rainbow Guide Sections to return to face to face meetings in times of Covid 19.	100
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	1st Great Holm Brownies to support local brownie guides to return to face to face meeting in times of Covid 19.	100
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	Sieve MK Gateway to provide hygiene material and equipment to support the classes, promoting exercise and guidance and mental health of young people and their families.	200
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	Heelands Rangers Football Club to provide skip hire services for major clean up service of Heelands sport field and pavillion.	220
14/10/20	Robert Exon	Bradwell	Liberal Democrats	TMA and Great Holm Scout Group to support local scout group to return to face to face meetings in times of Covid 19.	300
06/10/20	Zoe Nolan	Loughton & Shenley	Labour	Ride High Equestion Centre - resurfacing of car park.	500
06/10/20	Zoe Nolan	Loughton & Shenley	Labour	Petworth House - garden shed for the elderly residents.	250
09/10/20	Rob Middleton	Wolverton	Labour	St Mary Magdalene School - to resurface vandalised nursery soft play area.	1000
09/11/20	Saleena Raja	Shenley Brook End	Conservative	Xmas hampers for the elderly [Milton Keynes Christmas Day Party for the Elderly (MKCDPE)].	500
11/11.20	Andy Reilly	Shenley Brook End	Lib Dems	Fundraising for the Milton Keynes Christmas Day Party for the Elderly (MKCDPE).	100
12/11/20	Saleena Raja	Shenley Brook End	Conservative	The Money is towards replenishing first aid equipment and an additional defibrillator.	300
12/11/20	Saleena Raja	Shenley Brook End	Conservative	Community Christmas Tree & Servant King Church & Community Centre in Furzton. Bringing the joy of Christmas to the whole community with an opportunity for people to add ribbons or baubles in memory of loved ones or as their prayer/wish for the future.	200
12/11/20	Andy Reilly	Shenley Brook End	Lib Dems	To support the illumination of the Community Christmas Tree.	250
25/11/20	Anne Cryer-Whitehead	Stony Stratford	Labour	Galley Hill & Fullers Slade Residents Associations, Joint Christmas Drawing Competition at St. Maries & St. Giles School in Galley Hill.	100

WARD BASED BUDGETS

12/11/20	Anne Cryer-Whitehead	Stony Stratford	Labour	Galley Hill & Fullers Slade Residents Associations, Joint Christmas Drawing Competition at St. Maries & St. Giles School in Galley Hill.	100
24/11/20	Hannah Minns	Stantonbury	Labour	To provide funds for art work for the refurbished Neath Hill playpark.	500
04/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	Willen Primary School towards art supplies to raise well-being of children and their families.	100
04/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	MK Food Bank towards food supplies.	200
04/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	The Salvation Army towards their Christmas Present Appeal.	100
04/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	MK Veterans Community Network towards creating a casework database.	150
14/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	Orchard Academy towards stocking the Reading Room.	100
09/12/20	Elaine Wales	Bletchley Park	Labour	Flowers House - towards Chistmas Event for residents.	250
09/12/20	Elaine Wales	Bletchley Park	Labour	West Bletchley Commnity Association - funds for bingo equipment.	250
09/12/20	Elaine Wales	Bletchley Park	Labour	Chestnuts Primary School - towards accessories for Chritmas Party.	250
09/12/20	Elaine Wales	Bletchley Park	Labour	St Mary 's Church - to support Community After School project.	250
12/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	1st Springfield Guides - towards Youth Development.	100
17/12/20	Peter Cannon	Shenley Brook End	Lib Dems	Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council towards Christmas Party for the Elderly.	100
18/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	MK & District Cats Protection - support for activities protecting cats in MK.	100
23/12/20	Paul Trendall	Campbell Park & Old Woughton	Lib Dems	Ashland & Simpson Parish Council - towards landscaping around meeting hall.	150
21/12/20	Andy Reilly	Shenley Brook End	Lib Dems	Shenley FC - Money towards kit for new girls team.	650
04/01/20	Jenni Ferrans	Monston	Lib Dems	YIS - Youth Counselling Service for additional support during COVID-19.	500
				<b>Total</b>	<b>10500</b>