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Minutes of the MEETING OF MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY  
20 January 2021 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor A Geary (Mayor)  
Councillors Akter, Alexander, 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, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, Lancaster, Legg, Long,  
Marland, Marlow, McCall, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Miles,  
Minns, Montague, Nazir, Nolan, O'Neill, Petchey, Priestley, Raja,  
Rankine, Reilly, Trendall, Townsend, Wales, Walker, Wallis, Williams,  
C Wilson-Marklew and J Wilson-Marklew

Alderman Bartlett

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

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

**CL76**

**MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

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

**CL77**

**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Councillors R Bradburn and Montague, as members of the Audit  
Committee, disclosed Personal Interests in Item 5(b)(ii) (Blakelands  
Warehouse Development - Motion submitted under Council  
Procedure Rule 15 to Rescind the Resolution of the Audit Committee  
[1 December 2020]).

Councillors Legg, Minns, Petchey and Wales, as members of the  
Audit Committee, indicated that they did not consider that they had  
an interest in Item 5(b)(ii) (Blakelands Warehouse Development -  
Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to Rescind the  
Resolution of the Audit Committee [1 December 2020]) and that if

they were to take part in the discussion on the motion they would not be predetermined should the matter be referred back to the Audit Committee, but in the interest of transparency they would not participate in the debate or voting on the motion.

Councillors Gilbert, Lancaster and Rankine indicated that in respect of Item 5(b)(ii) (Blakelands Warehouse Development - Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to Rescind the Resolution of the Audit Committee [1 December 2020]), as members of the Audit Committee, they did not have an interest and were not predetermined so would take part in the debate on the motion with an open mind.

#### **CL78**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made announcements in respect of:

- (a) the flooding that occurred in parts of the Borough on the 23, 24 and 25 December and commended the response of Milton Keynes Council officers and those from partner organisations;
- (b) the death of two waste collection colleagues from the Serco team from Covid-19;
- (c) the death of Ken Baker;
- (d) the inauguration of Dr Wei Yang as the President of the Royal Town Planning Institute;
- (e) Alan Oddie (co founder of the Ride High Equestrian Centre in Loughton) and Fiona Copeland (Chair of the Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia) who received New Year's Honours from the Queen; and
- (f) the Mayors inaugural virtual Christmas Quiz which raised almost £5,000 for the Mayor's charities.

#### **CL79**

#### **ADDRESS OF THE NEW LORD-LIEUTENANT FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

The Council received an address from the new Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Countess Howe.

#### **CL80**

#### **PETITIONS**

The Council received a petition from Wavendon residents, presented by Councillor D Hopkins, which requested that Walton Road, Wavendon be considered as a pilot route for the establishment of a low traffic neighbourhood.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability) indicated that she would discuss with the transport and highways departments and residents about how this could be progressed.

**CL81**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- (a) Question from Alan Francis to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Alan Francis, referring to the question he asked at last month's Cabinet meeting in relation to the status of many of the recommendations from Climate Change Task and Finish Group, asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew whether the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group included in the Activity Stage of the Sustainability Action Plan had been adopted as Council Policy, or were still recommendations from the Task and Finish Group and so not a commitment by the Council at this stage.

Alan Francis also asked when those Actions would be allocated a timescale and funding.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that all the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group had been included in the action plan. Officers were currently working through the list to assign each one a timescale. This work was due to be completed by the 15 February 2021 and the Cabinet member undertook to provide Mr Francis with an update when it was available.

- (b) Question from Alderman Bartlett to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet Member for Public Realm)

Alderman Bartlett, referring to his understanding that there was concern about the approach taken by the Council to those seeking Council and other social housing in Milton Keynes, particularly for those applying online, asked Councillor Darlington if there could be a review of the response and approach shown by the Council to social housing applicants that understands and reflects their needs, points them in the direction of other social housing providers, with contact information, and also considers the possibility of the Council establishing a working housing partnership with other providers similar to that operated by Northampton Borough Council.

Councillor Darlington indicated that the process for applying for Council housing was to first go through a complex housing needs assessment to allow officers to understand the needs and financial situation of the family. Once an assessment had been completed, officers would do their best to find an appropriate house, whether this was one owned by the Council or provide a nomination to a social housing provider.

As a supplementary question Alderman Bartlett, referring to two fire-damaged vacant properties in Stony Stratford, asked Councillor Darlington why it had taken so long to return these properties to a state that would allow them to be rented again.

Councillor Darlington indicated that if the Alderman had specific concerns about how a void property was being dealt with, that he should write to the Council who would investigate the matter.

## **CL82**

### **STRATEGY FOR 2050**

Councillor P Geary, Chair of the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee advised Council that the Committee had scrutinised the Strategy for 2050 at its meeting on 13 January 2021 and had made a number of recommendations that had been accepted as part of the amendment to be proposed by Councillor Walker. The Committee would also be making a number of recommendations on the Strategy to Cabinet and the Scrutiny Management Committee.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) moved the recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 2 June 2020, which was seconded by Councillor McCall:

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

“That additional clauses 1.2 (iii) – (xxvii) be added after clause 1.2 (ii):

- (iii) That the words ‘Milton Keynes Council has expressed its concern with the detail of recent proposals for development just beyond the borough boundary at Shenley Park and Salden Chase, including the potential impact on the city’s infrastructure and the need for proper integration with existing communities.’ Be added as a footnote to page 11.

- (iv) That a new sentence 'The requirement to improve sustainability must be balanced against the urgent need to provide homes that are affordable to buy or rent and to live in' is added at the end of the third paragraph on page 22.
- (v) That the words 'as well as ensuring residents in our existing communities have excellent access to high quality open spaces near to their homes' are inserted at the end of the third paragraph in the second column on page 26, such that the paragraph reads: 'We will also improve connections in the existing networks, such as linking the Blue Lagoon to Waterhall Park, and fixing missing public rights of way to improve footpaths and bridleways to neighbouring settlements and new developments, as well as ensuring residents in our existing communities have excellent access to high quality open spaces near to their homes.'
- (vi) That the sentence 'We will continue with this approach and make improvements where new development within the city puts pressure on the existing water management networks' at the end of the fourth paragraph on page 27 be deleted and replaced with the sentence 'We will continue to plan for water management at a city-wide level for existing areas as well as for future development areas, using our green and blue infrastructure network. The frequency of high rainfall events is changing so we need to prioritise work to identify our flooding and drainage requirements as well as explore potential solutions, which may include new balancing lakes, local wet/dry ponds, and strategic river maintenance and management. We also appreciate that in some of the older parts of Milton Keynes, the drainage networks can lack the capacity needed to be resilient against the climate changing and future growth, so we also need to assess requirements and solutions for those systems as a priority.'
- (vii) That the words '...social and affordable rent, private' be inserted into the final sentence of the second paragraph after the word 'for' on page 31 such that it reads 'This means we don't have enough decent homes for social and affordable rent, private rent or purchase at prices that many of our residents can afford.'
- (viii) That the words '...or on a shared-ownership basis' be added at the end of the second sentence of the third paragraph on page 31 such that it reads 'Affordable homes are often built by housing developers, transferred to housing associations and

then rented to households on waiting lists or sold with a discount through schemes like 'Help to Buy' or on a shared-ownership basis.' and that the words '...as well as opportunities for households to build equity in their homes' be added to the end of the last sentence such that it reads 'We will also encourage other housing providers, which could include community land trust or co-housing co-operatives, to increase their delivery of homes at affordable prices, as well as opportunities for households to build equity in their homes.'

- (ix) That the sentence 'We will also encourage pupils to consider applying to university and the Council will show leadership by providing apprenticeships and other opportunities for young people to train and gain work experience' be added to the end of the second paragraph on page 37.
- (x) That the words 'promoting inward investment and the growth of existing businesses' which make up the third bullet point in the list on page 38 be deleted and replaced with 'promote the growth of existing businesses together with national and international inward investment, building the reputation of Milton Keynes as a leading European business city'.
- (xi) That the words '...and the increasing use of electric cars will mean a reduced impact on the environment' be inserted to the second sentence of the second paragraph after the word 'future' on page 41 such that it reads 'For many people, cars will be the 'go-to' option for the foreseeable future and the increasing use of electric cars will mean a reduced impact on the environment, but our approach is to change the balance and make 'active travel' through walking and cycling more attractive....'
- (xii) That the sentence 'Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) is one of a mixed economy of innovative mobility services that is emerging in Milton Keynes' be added at the beginning of the third paragraph on page 47.
- (xiii) That the first sentence of the third paragraph on page 48 be deleted and replaced with 'We must address our road safety challenges as there was an average of 68 people killed or seriously injured each year on our roads between 2013 and 2019' and that the words 'Underpasses have been an important asset for our grid network. We will give critical consideration to grade separation and road crossings as our road network expands and as we design new neighbourhoods.' are added to

- the end of the paragraph.
- (xiv) That the words 'The impacts of COVID-19 will take many years to be fully revealed. The detailed actions and policies that will deliver this Strategy for 2050 will be set through future Local Plans and other council strategies. As these are developed it will be important that they pay due regard to the impacts of Covid-19 as these are understood at the time' be inserted at the beginning of the fifth paragraph on page 73.
  - (xv) That the word 'invented' be deleted from the penultimate sentence in the final paragraph of page 6 and replaced with the word 'pioneered' such that it reads 'Back then we didn't know that the way we lived would contribute to climate change or how computers (pioneered at Bletchley Park) would change the way we earn a living, communicate, shop and travel.'
  - (xvi) That Figure Three be replaced with a clearer map with better colour definition and a legend that includes all symbols used (i.e. the greyed-out development symbol used in Figure Eight).
  - (xvii) That the words '... especially some of the early areas built by Milton Keynes Development Corporation...' in the first paragraph of page 32, be deleted and replaced with '...including some of the earliest areas built as part of the New Town....' such that it reads 'Many of our existing homes and estates, including some of the earliest areas built as part of the New Town, need major investment to bring them up to a decent standard for our residents.'
  - (xviii) That the words 'that reflect changes in the diversity, age, composition and lifestyle preferences of our communities...' be added to the third paragraph of page 32 after the word 'designs' such that it reads 'We wish to see a wider variety of designs that reflect changes in the diversity, age, composition and lifestyle preferences of our communities than the relatively standard homes built in recent years...'
  - (xix) That the words 'early childhood intervention and' are added to the last sentence on page 36 after the word 'through' such that it reads 'Our council regeneration policy will help people in our most deprived neighbourhoods to improve their life chances through early childhood intervention and skills development.'

- (xx) That the words 'and to encourage investment in our Local Centres by their landlords' are added to the end of the last sentence of the fourth paragraph on page 54 such that it reads 'We want to maintain this community spirit and to encourage investment in our Local Centres by their landlords.'
- (xxi) That the word 'underpasses' is added to the fourth paragraph on page 58 after the word 'crossings' such that it reads 'We will make sure that paths, road crossings, underpasses and places where people gather are overlooked, well-lit and well-maintained.'
- (xxii) That the word 'reducing' is deleted and replaced with the words 'working with Thames Valley Police to reduce' in the first paragraph on page 59 such that it reads 'This will be supported by working with Thames Valley Police to reduce road speeds within developments and having excellent paths and Redways that link to our wider mobility network.'
- (xxiii) That the word 'Eid', be deleted and replaced with the words 'cultural and religious' in the second paragraph of page 61 such that it reads 'This ranges from attending events at our theatre, gallery and music venues through to big community celebrations at our World Picnic, Pride and cultural and religious festivals and our thriving independent dance scene.'
- (xxiv) That the word 'controlled' be replaced with the word 'led' in the second paragraph of page 69, such that it reads 'One option being considered is to establish a new locally led development corporation financed by government.'
- (xxv) That a new sentence 'We will work closely with Town and Parish Councils across Milton Keynes in delivering our Strategy for 2050, to ensure there is local involvement at all stages.' be added at the end of the fourth paragraph on page 73.
- (xxvi) That the word 'greater' be capitalised in the final sentence on page 73 such that it reads 'Working across Greater Milton Keynes with our partners, stakeholders, investors and local communities, we can deliver the promise of our Seven Big Ambitions and make our Great City Greater.'
- (xxvii) That the words 'For more information about the role and the work of The Parks Trust go to [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)' be added as a reference to the work of the Parks Trust on page 78 under Other Links relating to Chapter Three – A Sustainable and Green City.



On being put to the vote the recommendation, as amended, was declared carried, with 42 councillors voting in favour, 4 voting against and 6 abstaining from voting. Councillors P Geary, Hosking and McLean requested that their votes against the recommendation be recorded.

RESOLVED –

1. That Council agree that the Strategy for 2050 becomes an Annex to the Council Plan, making it a Policy Framework document.
2. That Council approves the Strategy for 2050 with the following amendments:
  - (i) That the words ‘and cultural’ be added to the second of the Seven Big ambitions after the word ‘green’ on page 8, such that it reads; ‘make Milton Keynes a leading green and cultural city - by global standards’.
  - (ii) That the sentence ‘The network could also accommodate smaller, connected and autonomous vehicles as such solutions emerge’ be added to the end of second paragraph of the section on A Mass Rapid Transit network, on page 43.
  - (iii) That the words ‘Milton Keynes Council has expressed its concern with the detail of recent proposals for development just beyond the borough boundary at Shenley Park and Salden Chase, including the potential impact on the city’s infrastructure and the need for proper integration with existing communities.’ Be added as a footnote to page 11.
  - (iv) That a new sentence ‘The requirement to improve sustainability must be balanced against the urgent need to provide homes that are affordable to buy or rent and to live in’ is added at the end of the third paragraph on page 22.
  - (v) That the words ‘as well as ensuring residents in our existing communities have excellent access to high quality open spaces near to their homes’ are inserted at the end of the third paragraph in the second column on page 26, such that the paragraph reads: ‘We will also improve connections in the existing networks, such as linking the Blue Lagoon to Waterhall Park, and fixing missing public rights of way to improve footpaths and bridleways to neighbouring settlements and new developments, as well as ensuring residents in our existing communities have excellent access

- to high quality open spaces near to their homes.’
- (vi) That the sentence ‘We will continue with this approach and make improvements where new development within the city puts pressure on the existing water management networks’ at the end of the fourth paragraph on page 27 be deleted and replaced with the sentence ‘We will continue to plan for water management at a city-wide level for existing areas as well as for future development areas, using our green and blue infrastructure network. The frequency of high rainfall events is changing so we need to prioritise work to identify our flooding and drainage requirements as well as explore potential solutions, which may include new balancing lakes, local wet/dry ponds, and strategic river maintenance and management. We also appreciate that in some of the older parts of Milton Keynes, the drainage networks can lack the capacity needed to be resilient against the climate changing and future growth, so we also need to assess requirements and solutions for those systems as a priority.’
- (vii) That the words ‘...social and affordable rent, private’ be inserted into the final sentence of the second paragraph after the word ‘for’ on page 31 such that it reads ‘This means we don’t have enough decent homes for social and affordable rent, private rent or purchase at prices that many of our residents can afford.’
- (viii) That the words ‘...or on a shared-ownership basis’ be added at the end of the second sentence of the third paragraph on page 31 such that it reads ‘Affordable homes are often built by housing developers, transferred to housing associations and then rented to households on waiting lists or sold with a discount through schemes like ‘Help to Buy’ or on a shared-ownership basis.’ and that the words ‘...as well as opportunities for households to build equity in their homes’ be added to the end of the last sentence such that it reads ‘We will also encourage other housing providers, which could include community land trust or co-housing co-operatives, to increase their delivery of homes at affordable prices, as well as opportunities for households to build equity in their homes.’
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opportunities for young people to train and gain work experience' be added to the end of the second paragraph on page 37.

- (x) That the words 'promoting inward investment and the growth of existing businesses' which make up the third bullet point in the list on page 38 be deleted and replaced with 'promote the growth of existing businesses together with national and international inward investment, building the reputation of Milton Keynes as a leading European business city'.
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- (xiv) That the words 'The impacts of COVID-19 will take many years to be fully revealed. The detailed actions and policies that will deliver this Strategy for 2050 will be set through future Local Plans and other council strategies. As these are developed it will be important that they pay due regard to the impacts of Covid-19 as these are understood at the time' be inserted at the beginning of the fifth paragraph on page 73.

- (xv) That the word 'invented' be deleted from the penultimate sentence in the final paragraph of page 6 and replaced with the word 'pioneered' such that it reads 'Back then we didn't know that the way we lived would contribute to climate change or how computers (pioneered at Bletchley Park) would change the way we earn a living, communicate, shop and travel.'
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- (xxvii) That the words 'For more information about the role and the work of The Parks Trust go to [www.theparkstrust.com](http://www.theparkstrust.com)' be added as a reference to the work of the Parks Trust on page 78 under Other Links relating to Chapter Three – A Sustainable and Green City.

**COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

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

Councillor Jenkins, referring to the fact that in the last three weeks the Thames Valley Police had declared a major incident because of Covid-19, asked Councillor Marland how the system in Milton Keynes was coping.

Councillor Marland indicated that a number of procedures had been put in place including moving forward with mass testing and a mass vaccination centre. The Council's communication team had increased their messaging around Covid-19 and all key workers had been offered lateral flow tests.

- (b) Question from Councillor McPake to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Councillor McPake asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew to investigate how the gates to the balancing lakes could be opened more quickly in the event of potential flooding.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that she had raised this issue with the Environment Agency and would continue to follow up with them.

- (c) Question from Councillor Minns to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Minns asked Councillor Darlington, whether she could provide categorical reassurance that the wheelie bin trial was not the reason for the delay to waste collections and that any suggestion that the trial had placed pressure on normal sack collections or was in some way linked to the issues that the Council contractor was experiencing due to Covid-19 were false.

Councillor Darlington indicated that she could give Councillor Minns those reassurances as the wheelie bin trial had actually brought additional resource, including an additional vehicle that was being used on the trial and was not taking resources away from the normal waste and recycling collections.

- (d) Question from Councillor V Hopkins to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor V Hopkins, referring to the additional funds for highway drainage offered in the budget proposals, asked Councillor Darlington if she would look again at the level of

investment in the Council's highway drainage management infrastructure and consider adding significantly to that investment or contracting additional work externally.

Councillor Darlington indicated that there had been a full discussion at the recent Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the gully and drainage programme, including the use of technology to make the best use of the Council's funds. Plans on flooding prevention and flood defences were continually under review particularly as climate change might mean floods become more frequent.

- (e) Question from Councillor Carr to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Councillor Carr asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew whether she could advise what pressure was being put on the Environment Agency to ensure that river management was deemed a priority for Newport Pagnell and surrounding villages, particularly given the flooding that occurred over the Christmas period.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that the Council had commissioned an independent review into the flooding that happened in December to present an evidence based report to the Environment Agency and to identify what work needed to take place.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Carr asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew how the Council could improve communications with the Environment Agency so that this work would be seen as a priority.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew responded that the Council needed to work with the Regional Boards and lobby the Environment Agency and the Government to increase flooding infrastructure investment in the Milton Keynes area.

- (f) Question from Councillor C Wilson-Marklew to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor C Wilson-Marklew, referring to the budget allocated to repairs to the Galley Hill Community Centre which had not been able to be spent this year due to the Covid-19 situation, asked Councillor Marland if he could confirm that these funds would still be available next year.

Councillor Marland indicated that the budget for this work would be rolled over if the building works could not be completed this year. Councillor Marland further explained that

the situation at Galley Hill was complicated with multiple ownership and that he had asked officers to investigate the underlying situation and to develop a plan to improve the building and increase usage.

- (g) Question from Councillor Rankine to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Rankine, referring to the £7.8 million pounds the Council would receive in Government grants for local businesses, asked Councillor Marland, why the Council had only handed out £310,000 to date.

Councillor Marland indicated that this funding had to last until April 2022 and so was being phased accordingly.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Rankine asked Councillor Marland, could he provide assurance that all the grant funding would be spent to ensure jobs and keep the economy running.

Councillor Marland responded that of course the Council would spend all of the grant funding, but that this was the beginning not the end of a huge economic downturn.

- (h) Question from Councillor Trendall to Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families)

Councillor Trendall, referring to a local resident who had contacted him, who despite being a key worker had been denied a school place for her child, asked Councillor Nolan what the Council could do to ensure these cases were dealt with more fairly.

Councillor Nolan indicated that she was happy to ask officers to investigate this case if Councillor Trendall passed on the details.

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

Councillor Lancaster, referring to the Council's objection to the proposed development at Shenley Park, asked Councillor Marland if he would continue to support residents in their objections to this proposal

Councillor Marland indicated that Shenley Park was located on the Borough boundary and residents would expect to use the infrastructure and services available in Milton Keynes and if Buckinghamshire Council continued to persist with housing



allocation in this area then the Council would make every single step in the planning process a nightmare for them.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Lancaster asked Councillor Marland whether he would confirm that he would work with the ward councillors and residents to assess any changes to the proposals and that the Council would submit a response to these changes by the deadline in February.

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council would be submitting an objection and this would be shared with ward councillors. It should however be noted, that this was under the 'Duty to Co-operate' and there was limited scope as to what changes to the for Aylesbury Vale Plan Buckinghamshire Council had to accept.

- (j) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor D Hopkins, referring to the land sold to Red Bull at Tilbrook, which was partly to be used for community car parking spaces, but which were being charged at £8 a day, asked Councillor Marland, what assurances where there either as part of the sale of the land or the planning permission that guaranteed the retention of carparking for Bow Brickhill Station, employee carparking and leisure parking for Caldecotte Lake and the Greensand Ridge and would Councillor Marland contact Red Bull urgently to request they reverse their charging decision.

Councillor Marland indicated that neither the sale of the land or the planning decision created a position where the Council could legal bind an owner to provide parking free of charge. However, he did not believe that the charge was in the spirit of what was intended when the land was disposed of and he would write to Red Bull.

- (k) Question from Councillor Long to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Long asked Councillor Darlington whether she could provide an update on Mellish Court, including progress with the decanting.

Councillor Darlington indicated that around 40% of residents at Mellish Court have had an offer or have moved and this figure

was even higher at The Gables.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Long asked Councillor Darlington how the wider community would be involved with the rebuilding of Mellish Court.

Councillor Darlington indicated that the tender to appoint an architect would include the provision that the wider community would be involved with deciding what would replace both buildings.

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

Councillor P Geary, referring to flood protection work in Lavendon, which despite promises that it would be built by 2015 had not been, asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew when this work would be completed.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that unfortunately as she had not had prior notice of the question, she would have to respond to Councillor P Geary once she had the information he requested.

As a supplementary question, Councillor P Geary asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew whether she agreed that it was imperative that this work was completed.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would seek more details from officers and would respond to all ward councillors in due course.

- (m) Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor J Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Councillor McLean asked Councillor J Wilson-Marklew whether the Council would consider setting up a scheme where homes could be visited by professionals to provide localised flood defence advice.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew indicated that this was a very interesting idea that she would like to speak to Councillor McLean and officers about this further.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean advised Councillor J Wilson-Marklew that at a recent meeting the Environment Agency had confirmed that there was capital funding available and could the Cabinet member follow this up.

Councillor J Wilson-Marklew responded that she would indeed

follow this up with the Environment Agency.

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

Councillor McCall, referring to the additional funding for the NHS that was promised once the United Kingdom left the European Union, asked Councillor O’Neill how much of this funding had come to Milton Keynes.

Councillor O’Neill indicated that she could not confirm an amount.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McCall asked Councillor O’Neill whether she thought this was good enough.

Councillor O’Neil responded that she did not think this was good enough and that now was the time to see an increase in investment in NHS staff and services.

#### **CL84**

#### **HELPING CARE LEAVERS IN THEIR NEXT STEPS**

Councillor M Bradburn moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Cannon:

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.”

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

RESOLVED –

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.

**CL85**

**BLAKELANDS - MOTION SUBMITTED UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE  
RULE 15 TO RESCIND THE RESOLUTION OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

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

- “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."

On being put to the vote the motion was declared lost, with 15 councillors voting in favour, 26 voting against and 5 abstaining from voting.

**CL86**

**MELLISH COURT AND THE GABLES**

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

- "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.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared lost, with 16 councillors voting in favour, 36 voting against and 0 abstaining from voting.

**CL87**

#### **LGSS – CHANGES TO GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTITUTION**

Councillor Middleton moved the following recommendations which were seconded by Councillor Marland:

- “1. That the implementation of the revised arrangements be noted.
2. That the revised Schedule of Delegated Services and Functions be approved.
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.
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.
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.
6. That in respect of the Council’s Financial Regulations, the following amendments be agreed:
  - (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.
7. That the links referencing LGSS in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules be deleted.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That the implementation of the revised arrangements be noted.
2. That the revised Schedule of Delegated Services and Functions be approved.
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.
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.
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.
6. That in respect of the Council's Financial Regulations, the following amendments be agreed:
  - (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.
7. That the links referencing LGSS in the Council's Contract Procedure Rules be deleted.

**CL88**

**SCHEME OF COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES FOR 2021-22**

The Mayor highlighted that Section 14 of the Scheme of Allowances (revised Annex A) should say 'The above Scheme of Allowances is operative from 1 April 2021 until 31 March 2022 or such other time as agreed by the Council.'

The Mayor formally moved the recommendations in the report which were seconded by the Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Marland moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Walker.

"That clause 1.1 be deleted and replaced with the following new clauses (1.1 - 1.3) and that clause 1.2 be renumbered 1.4 accordingly:

1.1 That Council notes that:

- (i) the Independent Remuneration Panel report is in its final year having met in 2017, and recommended the indexation of allowances for each year; and
- (ii) the exceptional current external circumstances; inflation is 0.3%, a public sector pay freeze has been imposed on MK Council staff and the impact of the on-going Covid-19 crisis.

1.2 That therefore Council, due to the exceptional and one-off current circumstances, agrees that:

- (i) the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances in Annex A (Revision 1) to this report be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2021, but that no indexation be applied to Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances; and
- (ii) this action is due to the one-off exceptional nature of current circumstances and that it sets no precedent for future consideration of Independent Remuneration Panel Reports.

1.3 That paragraph 2.5 of the report item by be amended as follows:

‘That the words ‘...and uprates the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances by 2% from 1 April 2021, accordingly.’ be deleted and replaced with ‘however due to exceptional and one off circumstances the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances will be subject to a 0% uplift from 1 April 2021’ “

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

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

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council notes that:

- (a) the Independent Remuneration Panel report is in its final year having met in 2017, and recommended the indexation of allowances for each year; and
- (b) the exceptional current external circumstances; inflation is 0.3%, a public sector pay freeze has been imposed on MK Council staff and the impact of the on-going Covid-19 crisis.

2. That Council therefore, due to the exceptional and one-off current circumstances, agrees that:

- (a) the Scheme of Councillors’ Allowances in Annex A (revision 1) to this report be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2021, but that no indexation be applied to Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances; and
- (b) this action is due to the one-off exceptional nature of current circumstances and that it sets no precedent for future consideration of Independent Remuneration Panel Reports.

3. That paragraph 2.5 of the report be amended as follows:

‘That the words ‘...and uprates the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances by 2% from 1 April 2021, accordingly.’ be deleted and replaced with ‘however due to exceptional and one off circumstances the Basic Allowance, Special Responsibility Allowances and Civic Allowances will be subject to a 0% uplift from 1 April 2021’.

4. 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.

**CL89**

**APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

Councillor O'Neill moved the following recommendation which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

“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 by Central Bedfordshire Council, be approved.)”

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

RESOLVED –

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 by Central Bedfordshire Council, be approved.
2. That Muriel Scott, the former Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes Council, be thanked for her service

**CL90**

**QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS**

The Council received a quarterly report on special urgency decisions.

**CL91**

**WARD BASED BUDGETS 2020/21**

The Council received a report on the Ward Based Budgets for 2020/21.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:52 PM

The recording of this meeting is available to view on the Council's YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil/videos>