

Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER 2015 at 6.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Marland (Chair)  
Councillors Clifton, E Gifford, Legg, Long, Middleton, Miles and O'Neill.

**Officers:** C Mills (Chief Executive), T Hannam (Corporate Director Resources), M Bracey (Corporate Director People), S Gerrard (Interim Service Director [Legal and Democratic Services]), M Hancock (Assistant Director Joint Commissioning), L Ellen (Head of Housing), J Entwistle (Head of Spatial Planning and Implementation), J Nokes (Housing Options Manager), I Gohill (Senior Transport Planner (Policy and Programme), A Ward (Senior Practitioner [Regulatory Unit]) and S Muir (Committee Manager)

**Also Present:** Councillors Bald, Bint, Bramall, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, McDonald, Morris and Walker and 12 Members of the Public

**C90 CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**C91 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None.

**C92 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None were asked.

**C93 COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS**

Question from Councillor McDonald to (Cabinet member for Resources and Commercialism)

Councillor McDonald (Chair of the Audit Committee) noting that the Cabinet was due to consider Shared Services at its meeting on 11 January 2016, which was before the next Audit Committee meeting of 26 January 2016, asked Councillor Middleton when would the Audit Committee be given the opportunity to consider the item prior to the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Middleton indicated that he would be happy to meet with Councillor McDonald prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on 11 January 2016, to discuss the Local Government Shared Service item.

**C94 REFERRAL FROM YOUTH CABINET**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the Youth Cabinet with reference to Votes for Young People.

Mahe Joshi representing the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet presented the referral which asked how the Council would engage with students to encourage them to register to vote, and inform and

educate them about the voting process and opportunities to take part in elections.

Councillor Marland indicated that a written response would be sent to the Youth Cabinet and also be included in the Councillors Weekly News.

**C95 ADOPTION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY**

Further to the minute RC27 of the Regulatory Committee held on 23 September 2015 the Cabinet considered adopting a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to take effect from 1 January 2016.

It was reported that the Council had originally adopted the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire (Taxi) Licensing Policy in September 2014 (Minute C46 refers). The Policy had been further consulted on since then, resulting in further revisions being adopted by the Cabinet at its meetings in December 2014 (Minute C111 refers) and September 2015, (Minute C39 refers). The Policy had now undergone a further public consultation.

Councillors Morris, Chair of the Regulatory Committee indicated that the Licencing and Regulatory Committee had considered the Policy at its meeting in September and the Committee supported the amendments.

Councillor Legg, the responsible Cabinet member for Public Realm indicated his support of the revised Policy that now included further procedures to strengthen the process of licensing taxi drivers, such as a requirement that all new drivers had to evidence that they had passed the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) test.

RESOLVED -

That the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be adopted to take effect from 1 January 2016.

**C96 HOME TO SCHOOL TRAVEL**

The Cabinet considered, in the context of the current review of Passenger Transport, extending the review to include Home to School Travel.

It was reported that it was anticipated that the review would ensure that the service was as efficient and effective as possible, minimising expenditure and keeping it within budget, whilst at the same time ensuring that the quality of the service delivered was improved for eligible children.

It was also reported that it was intended that the review, would include a six week consultation of the potential removal of five discretionary services currently provided by the Council. The findings of the review along with the outcomes from the consultation

would be reported to the Cabinet at a later date, and include h recommended next steps.

Councillor Miles, the responsible Cabinet member for Children and School Improvement, indicated that the review was a response to the overspend in the Home to School Transport budget that had been reported to the Cabinet by the Budget Scrutiny Committee at the Cabinet's meeting on 9 November 2015 (Minute C78 refers).

Councillor Miles acknowledged that free transport was currently being provided from two schools in the rural south of the borough to schools outside the borough in Aylesbury Vale and Central Bedfordshire, whilst the pupils were in the catchment area for schools in Milton Keynes. This was an inconsistency that had been in place for many years as support with Home to School transport was not provided to pupils in other parts of the borough to schools outside the borough.

Councillor Miles also indicated that he would be happy to meet separately with Woburn Sands Town Council and Little Brickhill Parish Council and residents thereof as part of the consultation process.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) indicated that the Government had recently reported, as part of the Autumn Budget statement, that changes to the responsibility for the future provision of statutory functions by local authorities for education would be consulted on in due course and this might have an impact on where the future responsibility for Home to School Transport lay.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor D Hopkins and one member of the public during consideration of the item.

**RESOLVED -**

1. That a consultation be carried out on the removal of the remaining non-statutory services offered in home to school travel for a period of six weeks in December 2015 and January 2016 for possible implementation in September 2016.
2. That the work on the future of a cross Council Transport Strategy be continued.

**C97**

### **CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES TRANSPORT AND PARKING STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered the draft Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy which, once approved by the Council, would then be included as a policy document under the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) as one of a number of sub-strategies.

It was reported that following extensive, informal consultation from December 2014 to July 2015 with key stakeholders and local organisations, a further 8 week public consultation had been

undertaken that had resulted in further significant responses from parish and town councils, businesses, stakeholders and members of the public, that had informed the revised Strategy.

It was also reported that the Strategy had been considered by the Milton Keynes Transport Partnership and the Strategic Transport and Road Safety Group. Also, drop-in sessions both for Councillors and the public had been held.

Councillor Clifton, the responsible Cabinet member for Economic Growth and Inward Investment, thanked all those who had submitted consultation responses and, whilst indicating his support for the Strategy, clarified that its purpose was to provide a coherent transport and parking strategy for Central Milton Keynes that supported the aspirations for planned growth to 2026.

Councillor Clifton also indicated that Scrutiny Management Committee would be asked to consider this in advance of the Council meeting on 13 January 2015, which would give the opportunity for a further revision of the Strategy, if required

Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council, indicated that that Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking issues had been at the top of the Council's agenda for a long time and it was important that they were settled to inform the future economic development and employment opportunities in Central Milton Keynes.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Walker and 3 members of the public during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy be noted.
2. That the Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy be referred to Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration in advance of the Council meeting on 13 January 2015.
3. That the Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy be referred to Council on 13 January 2016 for adoption.

## **C98 COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES REVIEW - PROGRESS UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the second Community and Cultural Services Review, Progress Update.

It was reported that the Review was initiated as a response to 2015/16 budget proposals and the commitment by the Cabinet to find more creative and sustainable models for the delivery of libraries, children's centres and youth services by exploring new ways of working and promoting greater levels of engagement with the Council's partners and the community, rather than to close them.

Councillor Gifford (Cabinet member for Community Services) whilst indicating her support for the Review, summarised the potential impacts on various areas such as volunteers and libraries, and the progress to date. Councillor E Gifford's also reported that the review had been considered by the Cabinet Advisory group in October 2015 and the Scrutiny Management Committee would be asked to consider the outcomes of the Review by the Spring 2016.

Councillor Gifford clarified that the funding for Community Action:MK was for a one off, six month pilot to support increasing the number of volunteers in libraries, children's centres and youth services. This had been funded from the Community and Cultural Services Review transition funding. Any future funding for this was dependant on the availability of funding in the next financial year and the outcome of a review of the pilot.

Councillor Gifford also indicated that the review would be closed down at the end of the financial year, but that the principles of meaningful engagement, creative but careful redesign work and the importance of funded transition arrangements that underpinned it would be captured and applied as appropriate, to other service change programmes across the Council.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Marland in support of the recommendations and from Councillor Bald during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That progress made to date be noted.
2. That the Community and Cultural Services Review be referred to Scrutiny Management Committee for consideration.
3. That the Community and Cultural Services Review project be closed down at the end of the financial year, with the underpinning principles of meaningful engagement, creative but careful redesign work and the importance of funded transition arrangements applied, as appropriate, to other service change programmes across the Council.

**C99**

### **DOMICILIARY CARE - OPTIONS FOR EXTERNALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES**

The Cabinet considered the options for providing externally commissioned Domiciliary Care services.

It was also reported that Domiciliary Care services were delivered to vulnerable people in Milton Keynes either by the Council's Home Care Service or by independent sector agencies commissioned by the Council. In 2014/15 provision of these services accounted for approximately £9.5m of Council expenditure in total.

It was reported that the Council was committed to maximising choice for service users with Personal Budgets and Self Funders. It was therefore suggested that the services should be tendered. It was also intended that the contracts, when awarded, would be incorporate the UNISON Ethical Care Charter.

It was suggested that to secure the service model and appropriate procurement strategy for the external domiciliary care services the decision making process be delegated to the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing.

Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) in supporting the recommendations, highlighted that a remodelling of the delivery of home-care services would also provide choice through direct payments to the service users, which would enable them to have control of their care packages and to continue to live independently.

Councillor Long also indicated that by including the Ethical Care Charter in the Council's care contracts, it was anticipated that there would be improved staff terms and conditions of employment, staff retention, recruitment, training and capacity, therefore improving the standards of care to service users.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Bald and one member of the public during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. The commencement of a tender process for the provision of external domiciliary care services be agreed.
2. That the decision in respect of the service model and appropriate procurement strategy for the external domiciliary care services be delegated to the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing.
3. That the UNISON Ethical Care Charter be welcomed and endorsed.
4. That the UNISON Ethical Care Charter be incorporated into the contract for externally commissioned Domiciliary Care.

**C100**

### **DOMICILIARY CARE SERVICES - PROPOSAL FOR MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL DIRECTLY PROVIDED SERVICES**

The Cabinet considered proposals to provide Milton Keynes Councils Domiciliary care services delivered to individuals at home.

It was reported that the Council was committed to maximising choice for service users with Personal Budgets and self-funders. It was therefore suggested that a tendering approach for internal domiciliary care services should be adopted through a Local Authority Trading Company model. It was also intended to incorporate the UNISON Ethical Care Charter.

Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) in supporting the recommendations indicated that this was very similar to the decision to the previous item that had considered the options for providing externally commissioned Domiciliary Care services. In this case, should the recommendations be approved, it would be the Council's internal domiciliary care services that would benefit.

Councillor Long also indicated that the terms and conditions of the Trading Company contract would be based on an evaluation of the best form of Local Authority Trading Company model.

Councillor Long also indicated that as the proposals offered a different method of delivering services, they would be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee along with examples of other successful models.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) indicated that the proposals linked to the Administration's commitment to be a Co-operative Council and provided individual choice to service users.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Bald during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Joint Commissioning Team, working with Milton Keynes Council Home Care Service and Legal Services, establish a Local Authority Trading Company model, following an evaluation of the best form of Local Authority Trading Company model.
2. That the model of Local Authority Trading Company be based on a user led co-operative or other appropriate model.
3. That the Scrutiny Management Committee be requested to consider the proposals for Directly Provided Domiciliary Care Services.

**C101 PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING**

The Minutes of the meetings of Procurement and Commissioning meetings held on 15 September 2015 and 6 October 2015 were received.

**C102 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 3 (Information relating to the Financial or Business Affairs of the Authority) of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that the meeting may consider the Annex to Temporary Accommodation - Working with the Private Sector.

**C103 TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION - WORKING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

The Cabinet considered the introduction of an enhanced Private Sector Leasing scheme.

It was reported that Council had a statutory duty to provide accommodation for homeless persons. Homelessness was growing both nationally and in Milton Keynes. Key factors influencing the growth were rising house prices, rising private sector rents and a lack of supply in meeting the needs of a fast-growing population. The proposals considered a potential approach to alleviate the shortage in supply of temporary accommodation by way of an enhanced Private Sector Leasing Scheme.

Councillor O'Neill, the Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration, highlighted the different types of temporary accommodation that had already been investigated and added to the Council's portfolio. Other types of commercial and retail property already owned by the Council which could be used for temporary accommodation were also being explored and she gave examples of these.

Councillor O'Neill also indicated that another source of potential supply was the private rental sector. Consultation with landlords had confirmed that landlords with a small portfolio of properties valued the reassurance of Homes in Partnership) or Private Sector Lease scheme with the Council.

Councillor O'Neill also confirmed that plans for the implementation of this scheme in Milton Keynes would be discussed with a cross party working group at the earliest opportunity and prior to introduction of the scheme.

Councillor O'Neil further indicated that when future reports came forward for consideration, they would include details of all progress to date and decisions that had been taken with reference to temporary accommodation.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Morris during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the introduction of an enhanced Private Sector Leasing Scheme be approved.
2. That plans for the implementation of this scheme in Milton Keynes be discussed with by the cross party working group at the earliest opportunity and prior to introduction.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.08 PM