

Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2015 at 6.30 pm

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

**Officers:** T Hannam (Corporate Director - Resources), M Bracey (Corporate Director - People), D Sharkey (Corporate Director - Place), N Jones (Service Director [Finance and Resources]), A Rose (Service Director [Planning and Transport]), P Sanders (Assistant Director [Community Facilities]), A Townsend (Revenues & Benefits Service Delivery Manager), S Bridglalsingh, (Head of Legal Services), N Hanley (Community Solutions Programme Manager), F Robinson (Senior Planning Officer) and S Muir (Committee Manager).

**Also Present:** Councillors Bald, Brackenbury, Bramall, Burke, Crooks, P Geary, Hosking and Wallis and circa 30 Members of the Public

**C68 CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Marland announced that the 2016/17 Council Budget Consultation would take place at Christ the Cornerstone Church at 5pm on Wednesday 11 November 2015.

**C69 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 October 2015 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**C70 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None.

**C71 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

(a) Question from Beverley Doe of Make a Difference (MaD) to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Beverley Doe, asked Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) with the closure of the Point and the anticipated closure of the Buzsy, what the future provision for young people in Milton Keynes would be.

Councillor Marland clarified that Milton Keynes Partnership owned 401 Eldergate where the Buzsy was located and that the provision for young people was located at 401 Eldergate by Make a Difference (MaD). MaD had been contacted by the appropriate officer colleagues to discuss the issue further, and the future provision for young people was dependant on the outcome of those discussions,

In response to a supplementary question from Beverley Doe who asked if there was another operator in mind for this venue, Councillor Marland indicated that the question would need to be directed to Milton Keynes Partnership as owners of the site.

- (b) Question from Alan Francis to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet Member for Resources and Commercialism)

Mr Alan Francis, indicating that he had not received a response to the question he had asked at the 12 October Cabinet meeting, when he had requested an assurance that the £1.67m taken from Sustainable Transport Projects in the current financial year would be rolled over into further financial years, rather than being lost altogether asked when would he receive the answer.

Councillor Middleton (Cabinet Member for Resources and Commercialism), apologised for the delay in responding and indicated that there was a forecast overspend on the current A421 scheme estimated at about £1.68m which was being investigated by the Audit Committee. Councillor Middleton also summarised how the Smarter Choices funding was allocated within the Capital Programme.

Mr Alan Francis asked a supplementary question about an amount of between £1.2m and £1.6m which was seemingly lost from the Transport budgets and how this would affect the successful implementation of the Local Transport Plan 3,

Councillor Middleton indicated that all service areas across the Council were experiencing cuts to budgets following the Government's recent announcements on reductions to Council budgets. However, the Administration was committed to delivering the corporate goals and promoting sustainable transport.

Councillor Clifton, the Cabinet member responsible for Economic Growth and Inward Investment, reminded the Cabinet that the consultation on the for Central Milton Keynes Transport and Parking Strategy closed that day which would lead to the next version of the Local Transport Plan.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) indicated that there was a launch meeting later that week of the Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Strategic Alliance which focussed on investment in sustainable transport and which Milton Keynes Council was looking to become a member.

C72

## COUNCILLOR'S QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor Bramall to Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing)

Councillor Bramall, with reference to a review being undertaken by the Local Government Association, National Health Service East, and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services with regard to the national plan for reducing in-patient beds and increasing community capacity for people with learning disabilities, asked what the plans were for the review and what work was being done on the review at the moment. Councillor Bramall also asked at what stage the discussions were with the Clinical Commissioning Group Milton Keynes Hospital and Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

Councillor Long indicated that he would supply a written response on the progress of this.

In response to a supplementary question in respect of cementing the partnership with other local neighbouring local authorities, particularly as Milton Keynes was being clustered with Luton and Bedford which was a change to the current arrangements, Councillor Long indicated that he would include this in his written response

- (b) Question from Councillor Bald to Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration)

In response to a question from Councillor Bald with regard to the scheduling of proposed decisions with reference to the crisis in homelessness and temporary accommodation, Councillor O'Neill listed the decisions that had been made recently, or were scheduled on the Forward Plan to be made, up to the end of the Council year.

C73

## **REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER 2015 PETITION "MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGENERATION PLANNING GROUP" FROM RESIDENTS FROM BRADVILLE**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the meeting of the Council on 21 October 2015 in respect of a petition received from residents of Bradville in respect of the membership of the Regeneration Planning Group, which was presented by Councillor Burke on behalf of Anna Seymour.

In response to the Petition, Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Housing and Regeneration), confirmed that although the petition had asked that the Council removed the member for Bradville from the Regeneration Planning Group, there was no such group.

Councillor O'Neill clarified that RegenerationMK hosted a monthly Resident Communications Group to which all Parish/Town Councils and Residents Associations in the regeneration areas had been

asked to nominate one attendee. Councillor O'Neill listed the attendances to date and thanked the attendees for their valued, active and constructive input.

Councillor O'Neill also indicated that the membership of the Group would be reviewed in December 2015, and it was likely that at the at that time, nominations would be invited for a resident from North Bradville to join in 2016. Residents were encouraged to express their interest in responding, via their Town or Parish Council or Residents Association.

Councillor O'Neill also noted that currently the 'All Bradville Residents Association' (ABRA) did not constitutionally represent all the residents of North Bradville, therefore, if those residents who were not members of ABRA, wished to establish their own Residents Association separate from ABRA, the Community Partnership team would be happy to explain the process for this.

**C74**

**REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER 2015 PETITION TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN GREEN PARK NEWPORT PAGNELL**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the meeting of the Council on 21 October 2015 in respect of a petition received requesting Traffic Calming Measures in Green Park Newport Pagnell which was presented by Mrs Bonner.

Councillor Clifton (Cabinet member for Economic Growth and Inward Investment) indicated that Council's Road Safety Team frequently worked with Green Park School and its students, parents and carers to address the road safety concerns of the school. At these meetings, it had been agreed that an Advisory 20mph speed restriction would be implemented and monitored for compliance. Further measures would then be introduced as appropriate.

Councillor Clifton also acknowledged the concerns raised in the petition about crossing points to the east of the school at the redway and footway crossings and indicated that the Advisory 20mph speed limit would be extended shortly to include the Redway crossing point. Additionally, the Road Safety Team would investigate, before the end of the year, what measures could be implemented to enhance the two crossing points and any works resulting from the investigation would form part of the Safe Journeys To School programme 2016-17 subject to funding being available.

**C75**

**REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL 21 OCTOBER 2015 PETITION "THE BUZSY**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the meeting of the Council on 21 October 2015 in respect of a petition received from "The Buzsy" at 401 Eldergate, Central Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) indicated that the Buszy, was located at 401 Eldergate, which was now owned by the Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP).

Councillor Marland explained that 401 Eldergate had been originally leased to Make a Difference (MaD), which was a community interest company, and a number of other companies, under a follow on lease arrangement from the Housing and Communities Agency (HCA). Under the lease from HCA, MaD were able to take income from a number of adjacent car park spaces. However, MKDP had now taken a decision as part of its strategic plan to regularise the arrangements in respect of their assets which included these lease and car park income arrangements. This had resulted in MaD losing the income it had received from the car park spaces.

Councillor Marland clarified that MaD and other organisations based at 401 Eldergate, had been asked if they needed support from the Council with their activities. However, any future provision out of 401 Eldergate was dependant on the partnership continuing between MKDP and its clients.

Councillor Marland also indicated that he had always made it clear that he believed there was a future for community use of some description at 401 Eldergate.

**C76**

**REFERRAL FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE 21 JULY 2015**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the Children and Young People Committee held on 21 July 2015, which had investigated practical measures to address the shortage of GP's, teachers, engineers and other skilled professions in Milton Keynes.

Councillor Crooks, Chair of the Children and Young People Committee introduced the referral and highlighted the issues that the Committee had considered.

Councillor Miles, the responsible Cabinet Member for Children and Lifelong Learning thanked the Committee for its work and indicated that many of the issues detailed by the Committee, such as a Skills Strategy, and Local Area Economic Assessment, were already being progressed by the Council. Councillor Miles also indicated that the Cabinet did not currently have the resources to deliver all of the issues that had been identified.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Long, the responsible Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing and Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council, during consideration of the referral.

**C77**

**REFERRAL FROM HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE 6 OCTOBER 2015**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the Health and Adult Social Care Committee held on 6 October 2015.

Councillor Bramall, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee, introduced the referral and highlighted the issues that the Committee had considered with reference to the Learning Disabilities Services Review and care plans.

Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing), thanked the Committee for its comments and indicated that underpinning the Learning Disabilities Services review was the recognition of the principles of empowerment, independence, choice and engagement of the service users so they could define the services they used. Councillor Long also highlighted that some of the underspend on budgets reported later in the agenda were a result of savings in placement costs which was linked to direct payments which, in turn, assisted service users to choose the services they required.

Councillor Long also indicated that the use of care plans had been a requirement for some time and these had been extended by the Affordable Care Act (2014) to include carers.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) during consideration of the referral, who reiterated that choice and independence for service users was essential in the redesign of services.

**C78**

#### **REFERRAL FROM BUDGET SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – AUTUMN REPORT OCTOBER 2015**

The Cabinet considered the referral from the Budget Scrutiny Committee in respect of its Autumn Report on pressures facing the Councils' Budget for 2016/17 and beyond.

Councillor Brackenbury, Chair of Budget Scrutiny Committee, introduced the report and thanked the members of the Committee and Cabinet members for their input to a series of challenge meetings held to inform the report, which Councillor Brackenbury hoped took a more strategic approach than in previous years.

Councillor Brackenbury summarised that Cabinet members had been asked to provide plans and strategies that showed how the budget pressures in their portfolios were being mitigated, such as the proposed Waste and Housing Strategies. It was also hoped that the early submission of the Budget Scrutiny Committee's Report would enable it to be considered when the draft Budget was being prepared and would allow the Cabinet to make a formal response which could be considered at the December meeting of the Budget Scrutiny Committee.

Councillor Middleton, the responsible Cabinet Member for Resources and Efficiency, thanked the Budget Scrutiny Committee for its improved methodology and rigour and also indicated that even if the Government funding reductions did not take place, some of the service areas would still be required to make savings in the coming years.

Councillor Middleton also indicated that he was drafting a written response to the report and this would be would be circulated in due course and would answer the points that had been raised. Councillor Middleton also informed the Cabinet that a report was also coming to Cabinet on 30 November on Home to School Transport.

Councillor Marland, leader of the Council also indicated that the Cabinet wished to protect the most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents when it recommended the budget to Council, but the financial restraints placed on the Council meant efficiencies would be required across the Council services to meet the savings target of £58m.

RESOLVED -

That the report and recommendations from the Budget Scrutiny Committee Autumn report be noted.

C79

### **A STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER (CAT) PROGRAMME AND WAY FORWARD FOR THE FUTURE**

The Cabinet considered a strategic review of the Community Asset Transfer (CAT) programme.

It was noted that the purpose of the review was to bring together lessons, achievements and changes identified as a result of the operation of the programme and to consider as a result, any revised approach to be taken by the Cabinet to the CAT programme as it moved forward. It was reported that the Review also linked the CAT programme with other methods of managing and investing in facilities, and also the benefits to Parish Councils and Community Groups of transferring community assets.

It was also reported that as a result of the Review, the programme's eligibility criteria had been updated to include clear reasons why some assets were not currently under consideration for CAT.

Councillor E Gifford, the responsible Cabinet member for Community Services, highlighted that of the 50 assets that had been considered by the Programme, 17 had been transferred, 23 did not transfer and a further 10 were still in progress. Councillor Gifford also indicated that the aim of the review was to make more information available for those who were interested in considering taking over a community asset.

Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council indicated that the review complemented the work of the Community Services Review.

RESOLVED -

That the progress made to date and the Community Asset Transfer eligibility criteria be noted.

**C80**

**ADOPTION OF DEVOLVED POWERS FROM THE DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY FOR REMOVAL OF UNTAXED ROAD VEHICLES**

The Cabinet considered adopting Devolved Powers from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) for the Removal of Untaxed Road Vehicles and operating the Untaxed Vehicle Scheme through a contractor in conjunction with the Abandoned Vehicles service.

It was reported that the Council currently reported untaxed vehicles to the DVLA, but, by adopting the DVLA powers, the Council would be able to remove untaxed vehicles from the public highway in order to improve highway and community safety. The principle of adopting this power had been agreed in the approved budget for the current financial year (Minute CL98 of 18 February 2015 refers).

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated that the adoption of the powers would allow abandoned vehicles to be removed more efficiently, as it was recognised that these were a target for anti-social behaviour and crime and a frequent cause of anxiety to residents.

Councillor Legg also clarified, in response to a question from Councillor Burke, that the Council had other powers to deal with untaxed vehicles parked off the highway.

**RESOLVED -**

1. That the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency devolved powers under the Vehicles & Excise Duty (Immobilisation, Removal and Disposal of Vehicles) regulations 1997, be adopted.
2. That the untaxed vehicle scheme be operated through a contractor in conjunction with the Abandoned Vehicles service.

**C81**

**DRAFT STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OPTIONS CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

The Cabinet considered approving the draft Strategic Development Options Consultation Document for a for a 12 week period of public consultation and engagement.

It was reported that the consultation document included the outputs of 'Vision Workshops' held in Spring 2015 that identified a number of principles that could be used to develop a longer term Vision for the future of the Borough, and a series of four spatial development options for how longer term growth could be delivered. The feedback from the consultation on the Strategic Development Options would be used to inform the "Preferred Options" stage in the preparation of the new local plan for the borough, Plan:MK.

The Cabinet considered as an alternative option, whether instead of holding a consultation period, to use the vision and development



strategy approach in the Core Strategy which could be rolled forward over the next plan period. However, this approach would miss the opportunity to reconsider what was important for the future of the borough, and, would also risk the reputation of the Council, as it retracted on the agreed approach for Plan:MK.

Another alternative considered by the Cabinet, was to wait for the MK Futures 2050 project to be completed and be considered by the Council. However, this would cause an unacceptable and unnecessary delay to the Plan:MK process which, if not progressed as planned by 2017, carried a risk that the Government would intervene in the Council's plan-making process.

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated that this was the latest in a piece of work towards replacing the current Core Strategy; although this consultation was not a statutory stage in the plan-making process. It would help ensure the final plan was sound and robust and would meet the requirements of the regulations when it reached the Public Examination stage.

Councillor Legg also indicated that the Cabinet Advisory Group had considered the document in detail and its suggested revisions had been incorporated. Councillor Legg further indicated that the suggested options from the various workshops and discussions with neighbouring authorities and the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) would be evaluated and worked although further discussions would be required. Councillor Legg also offered to meet with town and parish councils and partners, to discuss the suggested options further.

Councillor Marland, Leader of the Council, indicated that it was in the Council's interest to progress with Strategic Development Options Consultation and Plan:MK, because, as experience of other Local Authorities had shown if the Plan:MK was not approved at the Public Examination stage, then the future pace and size of developments within the borough would be dictated by Government and speculative development. Therefore, an evidence based process and delivery of Plan:MK would provide future planning protection to communities. Councillor Marland also recognised that all of the options had complications and benefits and that there were perceived conflicts with the Neighbourhood Planning process.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillors Bald, Bramall, P Geary, Hosking and 7 members of the public and heard a representation read out on behalf of Councillor McLean, during consideration of the item.

**RESOLVED -**

That the Draft Strategic Development Options Document be approved for a 12 week period of public consultation and engagement.

**C82**

### **HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Cabinet considered approving the Highways Asset Management Policy which would align the Council Plan and the Local Transport Plan to ensure the Council had a strategic approach to Asset Management across the borough. The Policy, if adopted, would evidence and support the focus on whole life costs for asset management and provided high level strategic links across the Council to other policies, and also fed into the future vision of Milton Keynes.

The Cabinet considered the alternative option of not approving the Policy but it was anticipated that would result in a significant funding loss because funding from the Government was based on having an Asset Management Policy that included a life cycle management approach and thus would impact the prioritisation of future works.

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated his support for the recommendation and added that it brought the Highway Asset Management Plan in to line with the other key Council documents such as the Council Plan and the Local Transport Plan.

**RESOLVED -**

That the Highways Asset Management Policy be approved.

**C83**

### **HIGHWAYS ASSET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered approving the Highways Asset Management Strategy, which would govern the future Highways Asset Management delivery in Milton Keynes.

It was reported that the Strategy also took into account financial pressures and outlined how the available resources would be utilised/ prioritised in order to maximise the benefits and minimise whole life costs. It was considered that the Strategy offered a systematic and strategic approach that would enable decision making for service provision to achieve best value within the financial resources available. The Strategy also identified the best allocation of resources for the management, operation, preservation and enhancement of the highway infrastructure that met the current needs and future demands.

The Cabinet considered the alternative option of not approving the Highways Asset Management Strategy, but it was anticipated that would result in a significant funding loss because funding from the Government was based on having an Asset Management Strategy that included a life cycle management approach and would also impact the prioritisation of future works.

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm) indicated his support for the recommendation.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) clarified that a policy was required to ensure the management of the highway assets were co-ordinated with the Council's other service provisions. The Strategy also explained how the Highways Asset Management Policy would be implemented.

RESOLVED -

That the Highways Asset Management Strategy be approved.

**C84**

### **A COMMERCIAL PROPOSAL FOR THE COUNCIL**

The Cabinet considered a commercial proposal to undertake market testing to inform the procurement of a joint venture partner or partners in order that efficiencies could be generated in any Council service.

It was reported that a joint venture partner or partners could be offered the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Council to develop major investment schemes. It was anticipated that that this would maximise ongoing income or generate capital receipts. However, it was recognised that, the scope of the delegation to the partner or partners would need to be confirmed in the light of potential risks, or, the type of proposals that could emerge.

It was also reported that once market testing was completed, further approval would be required to commence the procurement process. In order to secure the best possible outcome from this market testing exercise and to facilitate the procurement of a joint venture partner(s), it was suggested that it would be prudent for the Council to secure additional capacity to support, inform and enhance the exercise.

Councillor Middleton, (Cabinet member for Resources and Commercialism) indicated that the recommendations supported the Cabinet's financial strategy which included three touchstone principles: 'Smarter, Sustainable, Different' and was another strand to delivering services 'differently' which would potentially deliver additional income which would offset the budget savings of £59m that were required over the next four years.

Councillor Middleton drew the Cabinet's attention to how the Commercialism Proposal worked, the income that could be collected and also quoted the examples of the Residual Waste Facility and Milton Keynes Service Partnership (MKSP). Councillor Middleton recognised that the Council had learnt lessons from previous commercial ventures and indicated that cross party working groups would be formed to progress the proposal.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) indicated his support for the recommendations and also that the proposals would allow the Council to offer alternative, different and longer term delivery models whilst delivering efficiencies. Councillor Marland also recognised that cross party working was a key element to deliver the proposal.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillors Long and Bald during consideration of the item and the Council's Head of Resources who clarified the details of the proposal.

RESOLVED -

1. That market testing to inform the development of a commercial offer to the market be carried out.
2. That the procurement of additional advice and capacity designed to support, inform and enhance the market testing exercise, including the detailed timetable, be agreed.
3. That a cross party working group be established to consider the proposals.

**C85**

### **LOCAL WELFARE PROVISION FROM 2016**

The Cabinet considered adopting Local Welfare Provision (LWP) to provide a critical safety net fund for residents who found themselves in crisis.

It was reported that further to Minute C109 of the Cabinet's meeting held on 8 December 2014, when the Cabinet considered continuing the Local Welfare Provision scheme, an element of the funding had been transferred to local authorities to create Local Welfare Provision schemes which were aimed at the needs of the most vulnerable in their communities. A budget of £0.25m for the payments under the scheme had been agreed. The monies previously unspent allowed the provision to be continued for a further year.

The Cabinet considered an alternative option for ceasing to fund the scheme and close down the LWP scheme. However, it was anticipated that the provision and administration of other discretionary payments would continue as the Government sought to reduce the welfare bill by £12billion over the coming five years, and the provision of Discretionary Housing Payments increased. There were not likely to be any additional savings.

Another alternative considered was to continue funding the scheme at a reduced level, i.e. £0.15m. However it was acknowledged that associated administration costs which were contained within the Revenues and Benefits budgets, were subject to 'cross service staffing cuts' due to wider budget pressures.

Councillor Middleton, the Cabinet member for Resources and Commercialism, supported the recommended option to continue with a scheme funded to the current level of £0.25m, whilst acknowledging the associated administration costs. Councillor Middleton also drew the Cabinet's attention to the fact that the scheme was aimed at supporting vulnerable residents.

Councillor Middleton gave examples of those who had benefited from LWP and also indicated that the positive impact of LWP

payments on other service areas would be monitored in terms of their potential to reduce demand, along with the associated budget for both LWP payments and the cost of administration of such and the types of customer which benefited from the Local Welfare Provision awards. Councillor Middleton also indicated that he recognised the impacts on LWP of the proposals for Universal Credit.

The Cabinet heard from other Cabinet members and Councillor Bald who indicated their support for continuing the scheme.

RESOLVED -

1. That the types of customer which benefit from awards made under the LWP scheme be noted.
2. That the positive impact of LWP payments on other service areas be noted, in terms of their potential to reduce demand and /or avoid a current or future cost.
3. That the continuation of the provision of a Local Welfare Provision Scheme be approved, along with the associated budget for both LWP payments and the cost of administration of such.

**C86**

#### **COUNCIL TAX BASE AND BUSINESS RATE BASELINE 2016/17**

The Cabinet considered the Council Tax Base and Business Rate Baseline 2016/17.

It was reported that from April 2013, the change from Council Tax Benefit to Local Council Tax Reduction meant that, rather than receiving a benefit to offset the cost of Council Tax, eligible residents received a discount, thus reducing the Tax Base for all precepting authorities. Part of the potential loss created by this tax base reduction was offset to an extent by Government funding, which formed part of the Council's Revenue Support Grant. The Council also received some funding to partially compensate for the reduction in town and parish council's Tax Base.

It was further reported that the Local Government Finance Act 2012 required authorities to make calculations and supply information on their anticipated collectable business rate income for the following year therefore the Corporate Director of Resources would be delegated the authority to make technical legislative changes.

Councillor Middleton, the responsible Cabinet member for Resources and Commercialism, in supporting the recommendations, summarised the issues highlighted in the report and indicated that in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and related Statutory Instruments; the Council was obliged to set its Council Tax Base for the forthcoming financial year by 31 January.

Councillor Middleton also indicated that the Cabinet had worked with Town and Parish Councils to mitigate the financial impact of the

Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme on them. Councillor Middleton reported that following a consultation of the available options, the majority of Town and Parish Councils had supported the retention of the current distribution method which meant that grants needed to be recalculated every year, once an estimate of the Tax Base had been completed in late October. Councillor Middleton also highlighted the intention that collection rates of Council Tax should be set at 1.63% to produce an expected collection rate of 98.37%.

Councillor Middleton also highlighted that, with reference to the Business Rate Baseline estimate for 2016/17, currently only a third of the amount collected was retained by the Council with the balance being returned to Government.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Marland, the Leader of the Council, who indicated his support for the recommendations during consideration of the item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the 2016/17 Tax Base be set at 80,360.69 Band D equivalent properties.
2. That the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2016/17 be set at 1.63% producing an expected collection rate of 98.37%.
3. That the proposed 2016/17 funding contribution to parish and town councils of £512,000, as set out in section 5 of this report be noted and recommends to Council for approval as part of the final Budget.
4. That the distribution methodology to be used to allocate funding from Milton Keynes Council to parish and town councils as set out in Annex E be approved.
5. That the Cabinet recommends to Council that the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as adopted by the Council on 14 January 2015, be continued for 2016/17, retaining the delegation to the Corporate Director of Resources to make technical legislative changes.
6. That the Council's current estimate of the 2016/17 Business Rates Baseline be noted, retaining the delegation to the Corporate Director Resources to finalise this Baseline, based on the latest data for submission to Department for Communities and Local Government in January.

**C87**

## **REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - TO END OF OCTOBER 2015**

The Cabinet considered the Revenue and Capital Budget Monitoring Report to the end of October 2015 (Period 7).

It was reported that the forecast outturn position was an estimated overspend of £1.577m, after use of £3.672m of one off resources

which was a decrease in the overspend of £0.030m since Period 6. The Dedicated Schools Grant was reporting a forecast underspend of (£0.248m) against budget, which was an increase in the underspend of £0.115m since period 6, and the Housing Revenue Account was reporting a £nil forecast position.

The Cabinet noted that there were spend approvals of £131.827m on the Capital Programme which was forecasting an outturn of £132.265m, an overall variation of £0.438m against the latest spend approval. The figure included forecast re-phasing of £0.144m worth of schemes bringing the position to a net overspend of £0.

It was also reported that management actions continued to be implemented to minimise the overspend in the current year and reduce the impact on the 2016/17 Budget. However the increasing demands for children's social care placements and temporary accommodation as a result of homelessness were creating substantial challenges for the Council.

Councillor Middleton, the responsible Cabinet member for Resources and Commercialism, summarised the overspends in Children and Young People's Services and in Housing and Community. Councillor Middleton indicated that reports were scheduled to be considered by future Cabinet meetings about Home to School Transport and the crisis in homelessness and temporary accommodation.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Bald and from Councillor Long who highlighted the management actions being taken by Adult Social Care and the strategic actions to manage resources, during consideration of the recommendations.

RESOLVED -

1. That the forecast outturn position of £1.577m and the management actions currently underway to mitigate this position be noted.
2. That the forecast outturn for the 2015/16 Capital Programme, and the management actions underway to address the overspend on the A421 scheme be noted.

**C88**

## **REVISIONS TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME AND SPEND APPROVALS REPORT**

The Cabinet considered the revisions to the Capital Programme and Spend Approvals which requested spend approval for schemes in the 2015/16 Capital Programme and made amendments to existing schemes within the Programme.

It was reported that changes outlined resulted in a revised Capital Programme for 2015/16 of £144.74m. Against this programme, £131.83m of spend approval has been given to enable individual projects to commence or continue.

It was also reported that the Council was responsible for the management of the Milton Keynes Tariff, which was a forward funding mechanism to deliver infrastructure in the expansion areas. Tariff Programme for 2015/16 was £40.18m with the total spend approval against these contributions at £25.2m.

Councillor Middleton indicated that the programme of the various schemes in the Capital Programme had been scrutinised closely with senior officer colleagues.

Councillor Middleton also indicated his support for the recommendations and summarised the new schemes in the programme which included the procurement of Solar Photovoltaic Panels which related to the Commercialism programme, additional resources for school expansions and the re-phasing of projects that included the CMK Sports facility and the Housing and Revenue Account (HRA) Bathroom programme

The Cabinet also heard from a member of the public during consideration of this item.

RESOLVED -

1. That the additions to resource allocation and spend approvals for the 2015/16 Capital Programme be approved.
2. That the amended resource allocation and spend approvals for the 2015/16 Capital Programme be approved.
3. That the funding position for the 2015/16 Capital Programme be noted.
4. That the amended resource allocation and spend approvals for 2015/16 Tariff Programme be approved.
5. That the current position of the 2015/16 Tariff Programme be noted.

**C89**

#### **PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of Procurement and Commissioning held on held on 1 September 2015 be received.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.32 PM