

Council Decision Notice

The following decisions were taken by Council at its meeting held on Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 7.30 pm

1(a) Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to a correction at CL 112 where those recorded as voting for the substantive motion should be recorded as voting against and those recorded as voting against should be recorded as voting for the motion.

That the minutes of the special meeting of the Council held on 28 February 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

2(a) Petitions

ACTIONS:

1. The Cabinet member agreed to ask officers to undertake a technical assessment of the area that had been requested for a reduction in speed to 20MPH
2. The Cabinet member agreed to ask officers to review the responses to the trial scheme and to ask officers to speak with the Department of Transport to seek greater enforcement powers with a view to considering reinstating the school streets scheme at Chestnuts School.

2(b) Questions from Members of the Public

ACTIONS:

The Mayor asked Councillor Marland to provide a written response to the public question he had received.

3 Joint Negotiating Committee (Employers Side) - 24 February 2023 - Pay Policy Statement 2023/24

RESOLVED:

That Council approve the Pay Policy Statement for 2023/24.

4(a) Councillors' Questions

Questions were received from Councillors D Hopkins, Ferrans, Lancaster, N Khan, Taylor, Exon, Bowyer, Mahendran, Verma, Clarke, Rolfe and Long.

ACTIONS:

Councillor Marland indicated that he would write to the Minister of State (Housing and Planning) requesting that deadlines for issuing decisions for various prior consent applications were aligned.

5(a) Extension of £2 Bus Fare Cap

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that the Government have extended the £2 bus fare cap until June 2023.
2. That this Council believes that:
 - (a) the ongoing cost-of-living crisis will worsen over the next year as from April energy bills are due to rise by approximately £500, water bills are set to increase by 7.5%, and 1 in 4 households regularly run out of money for essentials;
 - (b) the £2 bus fare cap is a lifeline for many people in Milton Keynes who use the bus service to attend work, school, and vital medical appointments;
 - (c) bus services help to reduce the city's carbon emissions, pollution, and congestion across the city; and
 - (d) the £2 bus fare cap should be extended to 31 December 2023.
3. That this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chancellor to request the £2 bus fare cap be extended to 31 December 2023.

(Chief Executive)

5(b) Public Transport

RESOLVED:

On being put to the vote the Motion was lost.

5(c) Loss of Development Land at Calverton Lane

RESOLVED:

On being put to the vote the Motion was lost.

5(d) Litter on the A5

RESOLVED:

On being put to the vote the Motion was lost.

5(e) Vehicle Fuel Prices

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that:
 - (a) cities often have lower vehicle fuel prices than rural areas, this is due to having higher populations and greater demand for fuel which drives competitive prices;
 - (b) despite being a city Milton Keynes has consistently had higher vehicle fuel prices than many other areas in the UK with little justification or rationalisation;
 - (c) fuel prices in the city are even higher than some rural areas such as Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, which offers prices of 10p per litre less than MK;
 - (d) residents and businesses across Milton Keynes have shared that they often travel further afield to Northamptonshire and Bedfordshire to fill up their vehicles to save money which is having a negative effect on the environment and our local economy;
 - (e) skill sets such as social care, are having difficulty recruiting employees;
 - (f) the Approved Mileage Allowance rate of 45p has not changed since 2011 and no longer covers the cost of using your own car for business; and
 - (g) given the rate of inflation The Association of Taxation Technicians have called on the Government to review Approved Mileage Allowance Payments to reduce the tax and National Insurance burden for employers and employees.
2. That this Council resolves to:
 - (a) Continue to provide funding to help ease costs for City Council colleagues completing high mileage car journeys.
 - (b) Consult the local business community on the impact of vehicle fuel prices to gauge what other support might be offered to offset this unfair tax burden.
 - (c) Consider what actions the City Council can take to extend the availability of affordable electric charging.
 - (d) Lobby our local MPs to:

- (i) consult with fuel providers to ascertain what can be addressed locally to lower the price of fuel in line with our neighbouring areas; and
- (ii) support the Association of Tax Technicians to review the standard rate of reimbursement, to bring it in line with the Advisory Fuel Rate, which is calculated against fuel prices and avoids additional taxation and National Insurance liabilities.

(Chief Executive / Director of Resources / Cabinet Member for Resources)

6 Returning Officer's Fees and Disbursements

RESOLVED:

1. That the schedule of fees and disbursements for Principal Area and Parish elections be adopted for 2023/24; and
2. That the Head of Democratic Services and the Electoral Services Manager be appointed as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers to provide certainty and resilience to support the timely issue of Temporary Voter Authority Certificates.

7 Independent Remuneration Panel - Scheme of Councillors Allowances

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendation of the IRP that a Special Responsibility Allowance be paid to the Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel - Cabinet Advisory Group at Tier 7 rate (£5,024 pro rata'd for the remainder of 2022/23 and £5,260 for 2023/24), be noted and agreed.
2. That the unchanged Scheme of Allowances for 2023/24, previously agreed by Council on 18 January 2023, be noted.

8 Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

9 Ward Based Budgets 2022/23

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

