



Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 at 19:30

Present: Councillor Legg (Mayor)

Councillors M Bradburn (Deputy Mayor), Andrew, Adewale, Ahmad, Bailey, K Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brown, Cannon, A Carr, J Carr, Clarke, Crooks, Darlington, De Villiers, Exon, Fuller, Geary, Hall, Hearnshaw, D Hopkins, Hume, Hussain, Kendrick, M Khan, Lancaster, Long, Mahendran, Marland, McBride, McLean, McPake, McQuillan, Middleton, Muzammil, Nayee, Nolan, Oguntola, Petchey, Priestley, Smith, Taylor, Townsend, Verma and Wilson-Marklew

and 6 members of the public

Apologies Councillors Andrews, Balazs, Bell, Ferrans, V Hopkins, Imran, N Khan, Rolfe, Trendall, Wardle and Whitworth

Aldermen Bartlett, Alderman Beeley, Alderman Bristow, Alderman Connor, Alderman Coventry, Alderman Geary, Alderman Henderson, Alderwomen Henderson, Alderwomen Irons, Alderman Lewis, Alderwomen Lloyd, Alderman McCall, Alderman McKenzie, Alderman Miles, Alderwoman Saunders and Alderman Tallack

**CL14(b) Minutes**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**CL14(c) Disclosures of Interest**

None.

**CL14(d) Announcements**

The Mayor made announcements in respect of:

- (a) The election of the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor;
- (b) A Ward Boundary Review briefing for all Councillors; and
- (c) Armed Forces Day.

**CL14(e) Appointment of Honorary Recorder**

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded, that His Honour Judge Patrick Perusko be appointed Honorary Recorder of the City of Milton Keynes for the duration of his tenure and that the Council agree a vote of thanks to his Honour Judge Anthony Hughes for his exemplary service as Honorary Recorder.

On being put to the vote, the motion was agreed unanimously.

Their Honours thanked the Council for the honour and the vote of thanks.

RESOLVED:

1. That His Honour Judge Patrick Perusko be appointed Honorary Recorder of the City of Milton Keynes for the duration of his tenure.
2. The Council agreed a vote of thanks to His Honour Judge Anthony Hughes for his exemplary service as Honorary Recorder.

**CL15(a) Petitions**

The Council received a petition from residents of Downham Road, Woburn Sands requesting a 20 MPH speed limit for the road.

The Cabinet member undertook to ask Highways Officers to undertake a technical assessment of the area.

The Council received a petition from residents requesting the reinstatement of the No 9 bus between Kingston and Bletchley.

As the lead petitioner was unable to attend the meeting the Cabinet member was asked to provide a written response.

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 provide a written response regarding the petition on reinstating the No. 9 Bus.

**CL15(b) Questions from Members of the Public**

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

Alan Francis, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, the Council had recently been allocated government funding for bus and active travel improvements, £650k for buses and £1.2m for cycling and walking. What projects would that funding be spent on, or if not yet known, what would be the process for deciding how it was spent?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that the award of £1.2m followed a

successful bid to the Active Travel Fund and would be used on the Newton Leys to Blue Lagoon Redway. The Council was aware they had been awarded, in principle, additional funding for public transportation and was in consultation with the Department for Transport as to how these funds could be used as that was not clear.

As a supplementary question Alan Francis, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew would she provide assurance that the Bus User Group would be involved in discussions as to how the additional public transportation funding would be used.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew advised that the funding would be used to deliver objectives of the Bus Service Improvement Plan and the Bus Users Group was part of that process.

**CL16 Business Remaining from Last Meeting**

None.

**CL17(a) Regulatory Committee - 7 March 2023**

Councillor McLean (the previous Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee) moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on 7 March 2023, which was seconded by Councillor Exon:

“That the Council receive the Licencing and Regulatory Committee Annual Report.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Licencing and Regulatory Committee Annual Report be received.

**CL17(b) Standards Committee - 23 March 2023**

Councillor Geary (as the continuing Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee) moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 23 March 2023, which was seconded by Councillor McPake:

“That the Standards Committee Annual Report be received by Council.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards Committee Annual Report be received by Council.

**CL17(c) Delegated Decisions - 30 May 2023**

The Mayor moved, and the Deputy Mayor seconded, 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 1 Schedule 12A of the

Local Government Act 1972.

The Council agreed not to move into exempt session.

Councillor Middleton moved the following recommendation from the meeting of Delegated Decisions held on 30 May 2023, which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

“That Council approve additional temporary borrowing of £9.1m to cashflow the delivery of the project in advance of the receipt of Tariff contributions from the MK East development.”

The recommendation was agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve additional temporary borrowing of £9.1m to cashflow the delivery of the project in advance of the receipt of Tariff contributions from the MK East development.

#### **CL17(d) Cabinet - 6 June 2023**

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendation from the meeting of Cabinet held on 6 June 2023, which was seconded by Councillor R Bradburn:

“That the Council approve the new Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2023/24.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was passed.

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve the new Council Plan Delivery Plan for 2023/24.

#### **CL18 Councillors' Questions**

Questions were received from Councillors Bailey, K Bradburn, D Hopkins, McLean, Oguntola and Priestley.

- (a) Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families)

Councillor Mclean asked Councillor Nolan, with regard to the twenty three students who were within the Ousedale catchment but were not offered a place, could the Cabinet member ensure that ward councillors were advised of any future issues in advance so that they can be prepared to work with parents on resolving the situation.

Councillor Nolan indicated that when the Council became aware that there were a number of students that would not be able to be offered a place to at Ousedale School the headteacher was contacted and asked to consider agreeing to adding an additional class which the school eventually agreed to do and the students in question were offered a place.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McLean asked Councillor Nolan,

could ward councillors be told in advance if there was a future issue with students in the Ousedale catchment not being able to be offered a place.

Councillor Nolan indicated that the final placement numbers were only confirmed a matter of days before parents were advised therefore it would be difficult to give ward councillors prior notice.

- (b) Question from Councillor Priestley to Councillor R Bradburn (Cabinet member for Economy and Culture)

Councillor Priestley asked Councillor R Bradburn, as many are aware the International Festival returns this summer and it is great that the Council continues to support it. Would the Cabinet member join her in encouraging councillors to attend this festival and promote it to their residents?

Councillor R Bradburn indicated that he would of course encourage all ward councillors to visit as many events as possible and to spread the word to their residents.

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

Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland, with the recent route update from East West Rail it seems that the East West Rail Company remains unaware of the South East Milton Keynes Urban extension and if this is the case how does the Leader intend to address that with the East West Rail Company?

Councillor Marland indicated that he had recently met with the Chief Executive of the East West Rail Company and they had agreed for officers to meet to ensure that plans are aligned in the South East Milton Keynes Urban Extension.

As a supplementary question, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland, given the stated policy of wanting the whole route to be electrified, how would the Leader ensure that this happened?

Councillor Marland indicated that he could not ensure this happened and it would come down to financial considerations.

- (d) Question from Councillor Oguntola to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities)

Councillor Oguntola asked Councillor Townsend, there are thousands of unpaid carers in Milton Keynes, what does the Council do to support them?

Councillor Darlington indicated that the Council supports unpaid carers in the following ways: they fund MK Carers; provide respite and day services; are running a pilot scheme to pay £240 to unpaid carers and help them to navigate the care system support and benefits system.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Oguntola asked Councillor

Darlington, how did an unpaid carer access the £240?

Councillor Darlington indicated that they could do this via MK Carers of their contacts at the Council.

- (e) Question from Councillor K Bradburn to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor K Bradburn asked Councillor Townsend, could she provide a progress update on the roll out of wheeled bins?

Councillor Townsend indicated that rollout was continuing to schedule with officers proactively addressing any concerns that residents are having. Bins are being delivered in order of the new collection rounds with the next area to receive bins being Brooklands, Broughton, Willen, MK Village and Oakgrove. Councillors should ensure that any concerns that residents raise with them on the wheeled bins should be submitted via the councillor casework or raised with the waste team directly.

- (f) Question from Councillor Bailey to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Bailey asked Councillor Townsend, residents were increasingly growing concerned about car cruising and other related antisocial behaviour, would the Cabinet member join her in condemning this activity and advise what the Council was doing to address it?

Councillor Townsend indicated that the Council obviously condemned this behaviour and was working closely with Thames Valley Police to address it. There had been car seizures and arrests as well as using the CCTV footage at hot spots to take action after the event. There was a PSPO for car cruising across the city and the Cabinet member encouraged people to report any associated anti-social behaviour to the police so they could identify hotspots and take action.

- (g) Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Mclean asked Councillor Townsend, a parish council meeting had recently been advised that there was to be a new 20 MPH policy prepared however it was subsequently advised that work on the new policy had not yet started.

Councillor Townsend indicated that she was not aware of any new policy and the current model was that residents requested this, officers assessed the suitability of it and there was a set budget every year for the work. The Cabinet member advised that she would ask officers to clarify the

comments that were made to the parish council.

**ACTIONS:**

Councillor Townsend undertook to ask officers if there was any changes proposed to the 20 MPH policy and to provide an update to Councillor McLean (Cabinet member for Public Realm / Director of Environment and Property)

**CL19 Notices of Motions:**

**CL19(a) Motion 1: Make Care Experience a Protected Characteristic**

Councillor J Carr moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor K Bradburn:

“1. That this Council notes:

- (a) that care experienced people face significant barriers and challenges that impact them throughout their lives, including discrimination, and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment, and the criminal justice system;
- (b) that despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
- (c) that as corporate parents we have a special responsibility for providing the best possible care and ensure they get the support they need to live the happiest and healthiest life as possible so they can reach their full potential;
- (d) the positive work of the City Council’s Corporate Parenting Panel in improving the lives and experiences of our care-experienced children and young people through lived experiences, working in partnership to embed a corporate parenting culture within Milton Keynes; and
- (e) recommendations of the Independent Review of Children’s Social Care by Josh McCallister (May 2022) including:
  - ‘Government should make care experience a protected characteristic’
  - ‘new legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations’.

2. That this Council believes that:

- (a) the children and young people of Milton Keynes deserve the best start in life;
- (b) the voices, needs, priorities, and rights of children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do;

- (c) care experienced people are a disadvantaged group who face challenges and discrimination and that Milton Keynes has a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision making;
  - (d) Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society; and
  - (e) MKCC must continue to ensure the support we provide to our care-experienced children and young people is of the same quality we would expect for our own birth children.
3. That this Council believes that it should proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their lives and therefore resolves to ask the executive to consider and implement the following:
- (a) that this Council will treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic;
  - (b) that in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the City Council include care experience in the publication and review of the Equality Policy (2021) relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;
  - (c) that future decision, services, and policies made and adopted by the City Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic; and
  - (d) to formally call upon other bodies and organisations to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.”

The motion was agreed carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) that care experienced people face significant barriers and challenges that impact them throughout their lives, including discrimination, and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment, and the criminal justice system;
  - (b) that despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account;
  - (c) that as corporate parents we have a special responsibility for providing the best possible care and ensure they get the support they need to live the

happiest and healthiest life as possible so they can reach their full potential;

- (d) the positive work of the City Council's Corporate Parenting Panel in improving the lives and experiences of our care-experienced children and young people through lived experiences, working in partnership to embed a corporate parenting culture within Milton Keynes; and
- (e) recommendations of the Independent Review of Children's Social Care by Josh McCallister (May 2022) including:
  - 'Government should make care experience a protected characteristic'
  - 'new legislation should be passed which broadens corporate parenting responsibilities across a wider set of public bodies and organisations'.

2. That this Council believes that:

- (a) the children and young people of Milton Keynes deserve the best start in life;
- (b) the voices, needs, priorities, and rights of children and young people should be at the heart of everything we do;
- (c) care experienced people are a disadvantaged group who face challenges and discrimination and that Milton Keynes has a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision making;
- (d) Councillors should be champions of our looked after children and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society; and
- (e) MKCC must continue to ensure the support we provide to our care-experienced children and young people is of the same quality we would expect for our own birth children.

3. That this Council believes that it should proactively seek out and listen to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their lives and therefore resolves to ask the executive to consider and implement the following:

- (a) that this Council will treat care experience as if it were a protected characteristic;
- (b) that in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the City Council include care experience in the publication and review of the Equality Policy (2021) relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment;

- (c) that future decision, services, and policies made and adopted by the City Council should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic; and
- (d) to formally call upon other bodies and organisations to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.

**CL20 Amendments to Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference and Other Consequential Changes to Procedure Rules**

The Mayor moved, and the Deputy Mayor seconded, the following recommendations:

- “1. That revisions to the following Terms of Reference are agreed:
  - (a) Corporate Oversight and Scrutiny Management Committee;
  - (b) Housing, Planning and Placemaking Scrutiny Committee;
  - (c) Public Realm and Environment Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (d) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 2. That minor associated and consequential changes to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules be agreed.
- 3. That consequential changes to the Council’s Access to Information Procedure Rules be agreed.
- 4. That authority be delegated to the Director – Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leaders of other Political Groups, or relevant Committee Chairs and Vice chairs (as appropriate) to make further consequential amendments or minor typographical corrections to these documents.”

The recommendations were agreed by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That revisions to the following Terms of Reference are agreed:
  - (a) Corporate Oversight and Scrutiny Management Committee;
  - (b) Housing, Planning and Placemaking Scrutiny Committee;
  - (c) Public Realm and Environment Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (d) Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee.
- 2. That minor associated and consequential changes to the Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules be agreed.

3. That consequential changes to the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules be agreed.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director – Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leaders of other Political Groups, or relevant Committee Chairs and Vice chairs (as appropriate) to make further consequential amendments or minor typographical corrections to these documents.