

## Council Decision Notice

The following decisions were taken by Council at its meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2023 at 19:30

### 1(a) Minutes

RESOLVED:

That with the correction to the spelling of the name of the member of the public at CL151 that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 October 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

### 2(b) Questions from Members of the Public

ACTIONS:

Councillor Townsend undertook to ask officers to make sure that the organisers of major events at Campbell Park are clear on their commitments regarding road closures and to ask officers to investigate the request regarding the extension of no-stopping signage along the urban clearway.

### 4(a) Constitutional Changes - Planning Committee (7 September 2023)

This item was taken with Item 7 – Report on Changes to the Council’s Constitution.

### 5 Councillors' Questions

ACTIONS:

1. The Leader advised that Councillor Middleton was stepping down from the Cabinet and new Cabinet and Committee appointments would be announced in due course.
2. Councillor Nolan undertook to ensure that officers updated Councillor Andrew on the investigation into the school bus incident in Hanslope and the follow up actions that had been put in place.
3. The Leader gave assurances that establishing the working group and investigating the provision of a community facility in Galley Hill would be a priority for the new Cabinet member for Resources.
4. The Leader advised that he would update Councillor Lancaster on the recent meeting with Crest Nicholson regarding the proposed development at Shenley Park and any potential impact on Kingsmead Green so that he could share this information with local residents.

## 6(a) Motion 1 - The Provision of Facilities for Youth Football Across Milton Keynes

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that:
  - a) When presenting the outstanding Leah Williamson on 28 February 2023 with her Freedom of the City award this council undertook to ensure that there would be a legacy across MK in her honour to mark this momentous achievement.
  - b) Girl's football has been growing at a phenomenal rate in recent years, and the success of the Lionesses at European and World level has certainly accelerated that demand. Add to that the ever-growing population growth and expansion in MK - demographically still a young profile, means that the continued growth for already thriving mixed grassroots youth football will continue for the foreseeable future.
  - c) The Council's pitch strategy, prepared using the Sport England matrix is being delivered, but the increase in the women's games shows the need for more space to meet our aspirations driven by the Lionesses recent achievements. Nowhere represents this more than in the Danesborough & Walton ward and in Wavendon in particular. Wavendon is MK's fastest growing area and home to the largest and oldest grassroots football club with more girl's teams than any other.
  - d) Historically Woburn & Wavendon FC has relied upon pitch provision in Central Beds to satisfy demand for its members (who are mostly MK residents), reflecting a deficit in pitch provision.
  - e) The Strategic Land Allocation in SE MK promised 8.6 hectares of playing fields to satisfy demands from new developments. However, only just over 2 hectares will eventually be delivered, simply adding further to the deficit. Similarly, grassroots football requires adequate midweek artificial floodlit facilities, which is recognised within the strategy, with clubs encouraged to access funding via the FA and Football Foundation to ensure this is delivered. Already the new 3G at Glebe Farm Combined School in Wavendon is fully booked with a substantial waiting list.
2. That this Council believes that youth football enables our young people to:
  - a) Make friends - making friends is an important part of social development for young people. Youth soccer teams provide not only the opportunity for our children, settled or newly arrived and of either gender not only to make friends, but also find a place where they can belong, build self-esteem and confidence, and create a safe space to talk about tough issues. Peer feedback and problem-solving addresses the causes of teenage vandalism and

associated anti-social behaviour in some young people by giving them somewhere to go and somewhere to belong.

- b) Build life skills - playing football helps our young people build valuable life skills, such as hard work, decision-making, problem-solving, and communication. Through healthy competition, it also teaches the importance of teamwork and cooperation, balanced by good sportsmanship.
  - c) Be active and healthy – youth football is a fun activity that helps young people to stay active and helps combat childhood obesity. With physical activity comes many health benefits like muscular development, but it's also important for kids to learn motor skills like coordination and balance.
  - d) Promote gender equality - gender equality is core to effective and sustainable development, and participating in youth football can help break down gender stereotypes.
  - e) Experience the joy of childhood - when it comes down to it, football is a game! It's an outlet for kids to play and have fun.
3. That this Council resolves to ask the executive to:
- a) Continue to provide more safe, well designed, and constructed grass pitches within future expansion areas in line with the pitch strategy calculations as affirmed by stakeholders. The provision of playing fields needs to match the promises made in full. Past deficits need to be addressed. Football facilities need to continue to be delivered earlier, in line with housing development as shown by the facilities at Brooklands, Tattenhoe Park, Fairfields and Whitehouse, but recognising the increasing need for more, including in the South East.
  - b) Continue to address the need for more floodlit artificial surfaces in line with new housing developments and population growth as set out with the Council's Pitch Strategy.
  - c) Continue to address the issues associated with costs and accessibility – be it grass or artificial surface, and value community cohesion with partner agencies who deliver more, such as schools, Town and Parish Councils and community groups, who open up their facilities across the city for community use. Continue to expect Community access agreements to be adhered to as set out within Planning Consents, whether they be Academies or Maintained, with a requirement in the agreements to offer realistically priced and year-round community access.
  - d) Support the ongoing audit of all youth football facilities and existing grass pitches undertaken via the FA and Pitch Power, to assess the level of investment required and encourage all landlords and clubs to take up the

funding available from the Football Foundation to improve quality, reduce postponements and grow truly local participation.

- e) Include a specific section (prepared in conjunction with Sport England) either included in or as an associate document to Plan:MK 2, devoted to setting out just how Plan:MK 2 will ensure the delivery of open space provision for youth football through an ambitious determination to accelerate the provision of such facilities and meet the demand for grassroots football (especially for girls) and in so doing engage and work with the National Football Foundation to garner advice, financial assistance and guidance.

## **6(b) Motion 2 - Boys NEED Bins**

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - a) Prostate Cancer UK's campaign "Boys NEED Bins" which highlights the growing number of those who suffer with incontinence due to prostate treatment; and
  - b) that 1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer and 1 in 3 men over the age of 65 are estimated to have a urinary incontinence problem in the UK.
2. That this Council believes that:
  - a) men who suffer with incontinence should feel comfortable and dignified and be able to dispose of their incontinence pads; and
  - b) sanitary bins should be provided in all toilets so that waste products can be disposed of in a discreet and hygienic manner.
3. That this Council resolves to request the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to work with officers of the Council to:
  - a) roll out a programme to provide sanitary bins in Council owned accessible toilets as soon as practicable in the present circumstances both financial and logistical;
  - b) write to the city's MPs to ask them to publicly back the "Boys NEED Bins" campaign; and
  - c) call on other organisations across the city to support the campaign and provide sanitary bins for their employees and public use.

## **6(c) Motion 3 - Is Milton Keynes Killing Me?**

RESOLVED:

The Substantive Motion (the Amendment having been carried) was withdrawn, with the consent of the meeting.

**6(d) Motion 4 - Cycling and Walking Infrastructure**

RESOLVED:

The Motion was lost.

**6(e) Motion 5 - Housing Ombudsman's Findings**

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - a) with embarrassment and regret the findings of the housing ombudsman, a finding of severe maladministration against the council in regard to housing repairs for a disabled resident and her son, issues that went on over a space of years;
  - b) that this finding showed over 120 logs of works that needed attention over 4 years;
  - c) that the Council failed to ensure sufficient record keeping of actions taken by council officers and the contracted service provider took to try and resolve the issues raised, and that a number of actions did not meet the standard expected by the Council even after a MKCC Councillor became involved;
  - d) that the Council failed to keep proper records and communicate appropriately within the required timescales to both a stage 1 and stage 2 complaint;
  - e) that the Ombudsman believes that in dealing with the complaint and concerns the Council did not do so with sufficient empathy or understanding of the resident's situation; and
  - f) that the Council was instructed to both apologise and pay compensation of £5,500.
2. That this Council:
  - a) requests that the Chief Executive confirm the compensation has been paid and the apology has been sent;
  - b) places an apology on behalf of the Executive and whole Council for this matter on record publicly;
  - c) notes the issue was discussed at the meeting of the Housing, Planning and Placemaking Scrutiny Committee held on the 27 September 2023 (draft minute HPPSC15) in which the Director of Environment and Property, and the Head of Housing Maintenance, Investment and Corporate Health and Safety gave an extensive presentation on the actions the Council has taken

to improve the service in light of the LGO findings and that the committee made several recommendations on the matter, and asks that the information given at the meeting, and any subsequent actions taken, be made available to all Councillors;

- d) understands that in light of continued financial pressures on council services, caused by continued funding cuts and the chaos of a Conservative government, supported by a ramshackle, disorganised and incompetent local Conservative Group on MK City Council and two local Conservative Members of Parliament, investment into services such as housing and support services such as customer services is not at a level the Council would like, but reiterates that this case is unacceptable and requests that during the budget setting process the Cabinet be asked to ensure that appropriate resources are being provided to address the issues raised by this case so it is not repeated in future; and
- e) welcomes the findings of the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) into the matter, who is satisfied with the direction of the service, and that substantial improvements have been made over the last three years.

## **7 Report on Changes to the Council's Constitution**

RESOLVED:

1. That the Civic Honours Protocol attached at Annex B of the report, be agreed.
2. That revised constitution documents (shown with track changes), be agreed:
  - a) Introduction, Summary and Explanation (Annex C);
  - b) Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Annex D); and
  - c) Financial Regulations (Annex E).
3. That in respect of the Council's Protocol on Councillor-Officer Relations:
  - a) Appendix A (The Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity) be removed, on account of the fact it is guidance published by the Secretary of State and accessible online; and
  - b) Revised Appendix C (Councillors' Access to Information – A Hierarchy of Rights) (Annex F shown with tracked changes), be agreed and moved to become an Appendix to the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.
4. That fully revised Contract Procedure Rules (Annex G), be agreed.
5. That the changes to Planning Committee documents, endorsed by the Committee on 7 September (shown with tracked changes), be agreed:

- a) Officer Scheme of Delegation for Development Management Matters (Annex H); and
  - b) Procedure for Public Participation at Planning Committee (Annex I).
6. That authority be delegated to the Director – Law and Governance (in consultation with the Leaders of Political Groups) to make minor and consequential amendments to the following documents:
- a) Responsibility for Functions;
  - b) Officer Employment Procedure Rule; and
  - c) Statutory officers and Proper officer Functions

## **8 Limited Scope Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve the final proposals as set out in the report:

- a) To split the existing Polling District of Wavendon (HC) along the boundary shown in Annex B of the report with the effect that:
  - i. a new Polling District shown in Annex C of the report is created comprising the areas of Eagle Farm South and Glebe Farm (to the west of Newport Road / A1530); and
  - ii. the remainder of Wavendon Polling District (including land to the east of Newport Road / A1530) shown in Annex D will continue to vote at Wavendon Community Centre.
- b) The new Polling District will have its polling place designated as Glebe Farm all through School and its Polling Station will be the sports hall within the school.