

Council Decision Notice

The following decisions were taken by Council at its meeting held on Wednesday 24 January 2024 at 19:30

1(b) Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 22 November 2023 and 5 December 2023 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

2(a) Petitions

ACTIONS:

The Leader of the Council, noting that the Council had previously debated a motion on the conflict in Israel and Gaza and recently considered a question on the subject from Councillor M Khan, agreed to consider the petition appropriately, on behalf of the Council.

2(b) Questions from Members of the Public

ACTIONS:

Councillor Townsend re-committed to forming a Working Group for the purpose of discussing the community investment in the Galley Hill Placemaking proposals, once the feasibility study had completed, which was likely to be in the Spring.

4(a) Making the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan - Delegated Decisions (19 December)

RESOLVED:

That the Council makes the Emberton Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

5 Councillors' Questions

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Wilson-Marklew, agreeing in principle to explore an extension of a 20 mph zone in Newport Pagnell to Marsh End Road, Tickford Street and Wolverton

Road, asked Councillor Oyakhire to support residents to bring a petition on the subject.

2. The Leader of the Council, noting his preference for the phasing of strategic residential development to enable the opening of more permanent community facilities earlier in the building process, agreed that the principle of temporary facilities could be explored as part of the framework for the new local plan, but also set out that this would place further pressure on planning gain funds, and that discussions would be required about the Council's priorities for this limited funding.
3. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to write to government requesting that legislation to ban zombie-style knives and machetes be brought forward as soon as possible.
4. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to speaking with officers to resolve outstanding landscaping issues raised in Milton Keynes Village.
5. Councillor Wilson-Marklew committed to review the number of street lights out across the City, and noting the route / example provided by Councillor McLean, committed to understanding whether this area was already on a programme of works and when works would be completed.

6(a) Motion 1 - Demand the Government hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that:
 - a) In September 2023, the NHS issued a National Patient Safety Alert (NatPSA) about the shortage of certain medication used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
 - b) The shortage of medication has been caused by multiple factors, including changes to manufacturers, reduced production of some medications, delays in distribution, Brexit red-tape, and increased demands on stocks of medication with rapid rises in the number of ADHD diagnoses made.
 - c) ADHD is a condition that affects people's day to day lives in many different ways. People with ADHD can be inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive, or a combination of both. Traits include restlessness, difficulties with organisation and concentration, and a tendency to act on impulse.
 - d) ADHD can be a serious and impairing condition that affects children, young people, and adults across Milton Keynes.

- e) Although other medication remains available, they may not be suitable for everyone and the availability of this medication is not enough to meet the demands created by the shortage.
 - f) The ADHD Foundation revealed that just over 200,000 (10%) of an estimated 2 million UK citizens with the condition are receiving medication.
 - g) For people with ADHD stopping their medication can lead to withdrawal symptoms, leaving them feeling jittery.
 - h) Many people are used to managing their ADHD traits with medication, thereby reducing the impact ADHD can have on their educational/professional life, relationships, and finances. Without this medication, people are left to navigate modern life which is geared towards neurotypical people, and this has the potential to negatively impact the day to day lives of people with ADHD in many different ways.
 - i) Many people have been left without medication since September and will likely remain unable to access medication until Spring 2024.
2. This Council believes that:
- a) The severe shortage of medication is causing stress and worry among children, young people, and adults diagnosed with ADHD across the city.
 - b) ADHD medication is a lifeline for many, and without access to medication it can have a significant impact on their everyday lives, for children and young people this could mean struggling to attend or stay focused at school, and for adults struggling at work and with their everyday routines such as managing household chores, sleeping, and eating. The shortage is also negatively impacting people's mental and physical health.
 - c) People in Milton Keynes with ADHD are being let down and are being left stranded without support, with some only finding out there is a shortage of their medication when their pharmacy can no longer supply it.
3. That this Council resolves to:
- a) Ask the Chief Executive of the City Council to write to the Department of Health and Social Care and the city's MPs to demand they hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication.
 - b) Call on residents across the city to sign the online petition demanding the Government hold a public inquiry into the shortage of ADHD medication <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/650973>

6(b) Motion 2 - Recognising the contribution of Tamil people to Milton Keynes

RESOLVED:

1. That Milton Keynes is a thriving place that has consistently welcomed people from diverse backgrounds that have enhanced our city and contributed to the dynamism of our economic and social fabric.
2. That this Council notes that:
 - a) Tamil people have made significant contributions to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the UK; from serving in the Royal Air Force during the World War Two, Tamil scientists working on ground-breaking Covid vaccines, and an estimated 15,000 Tamil people working in the NHS, amongst other achievements;
 - b) the number of Tamil speaking people in Milton Keynes is increasing, with the 2021 census highlighting 1 in 100 people in the city can speak Tamil; and
 - c) many Tamil people came to Milton Keynes have experienced persecution and have rebuilt their lives here while contributing and enhancing our city.
3. That this Council further notes:
 - a) that January each year marks Tamil Heritage Month;
 - b) Pongal, the Harvest Festival, takes place from January 14 each year; and
 - c) that Tamil people make a rich contribution to social, economic and cultural life in Milton Keynes.
4. That this Council resolves to:
 - a) thank the Tamil community for their contribution to Milton Keynes and our country;
 - b) mark Tamil history month in an appropriate way;
 - c) highlight the celebration of Pongal; and
 - d) use the communications channels of the Council to raise awareness of these actions.

7 Report on Changes to the Council's Constitution

RESOLVED:

1. That in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2, the following recommendation, having been proposed and seconded, stand adjourned to the next ordinary meeting of the Council:
 - a) That revised Rule 19.5 of the Council Procedure Rules (shown with track changes), be agreed (Annex A)
 - b) That all councillors will attend mandatory refresher training in interests before the end of May 2024.

8 Electoral Review - Council Size Submission

RESOLVED:

1. That Council note the prepared overall local government electorate forecast of 220,000 by 2030.
2. That given the forecast increase in local government electorate by 2030, the Council confirms its position:
 - a) that 'no increase' to the Council's size, neither secures appropriate representation for the residents of Milton Keynes, nor is sustainable from a Councillor workload perspective; and
 - b) a modest increase in Council size should be supported, recognising that there are arguments for and against an increase of plus 3 and plus 6 Councillors.
3. That the submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England attached at Annex A, with a proposed Council size of 63 (plus 6 Councillors), be agreed.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make minor changes to the submission, in consultation with the Leaders of Political Groups.

9 Scheme of Councillors Allowances for 2024/25

RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations of the IRP to index allowances by 4.48% be noted and agreed for 2024/25 only.
2. That the revised Scheme of Councillors' Allowances attached at Annex A to the report be agreed to take effect from 1 April 2024.
3. That the recommendations of the IRP that (where paid) Town, Parish and Community Councils, allowances should also be indexed by 4.48% for 2024/25 only, be noted.

10 Ward Based Budgets 2023/24

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

11 Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

