

COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken by COUNCIL at its meeting held on WEDNESDAY 18 JANUARY 2023 at 7.30 pm.

CL88 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 23 November 2022 and the meeting of Council held on 23 November 2022 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.

CL94 REPORTS FROM CABINET & COMMITTEES – CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL – 4 JANUARY 2023 – PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL AS A COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Parenting Panel be dissolved as an advisory committee of Council.

CL95 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

Questions were received from Councillors Smith, D Hopkins, Oguntola, Geary, Rolfe, Mahendran, Muzammil, B Nolan, Balazs, Clarke, Hosking, A Carr, Raja, D Hopkins and Hume.

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Mahendran undertook to provide Councillor Geary with a written response as to when the appeal on the 'Bletchley Landfill Site' would be reported to Planning Committee.
(Chair of Planning Committee / Director of Planning and Placemaking)
2. Councillor Darlington undertook to ensure Ward Councillors were kept aware of developments in their ward (and specifically in relation to the demolition of Mellish Court and the Gables) as required by the Councillor / Officer protocol, and to feedback to Councillor Rolfe.
(Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities / Director of Environment and Property)
3. Councillor Middleton undertook to ask officers to provide Councillor Balazs with a written response on the City Fibre broadband rollout in Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell.
(Cabinet member for Resources / Director of Planning and Placemaking)

4. Councillor Middleton undertook to ask officers to provide Councillor Hosking with a written response to his question on the Milton Keynes East development.

(Cabinet member for Resources / Director of Finance and Resources)
5. Councillor J Carr undertook to ask officers to follow up with the organisations that had set up the Cost of Living event and ask if a similar event could be held on a weekend.

(Cabinet member for Tackling Social Inequalities / Director of Customer and Community Services)
6. Councillor Marland undertook to explore what role the third, or private sector could play to ensure that there was a free to use cashpoint in Woburn Sands.

(Leader of the Council / Director of Planning and Placemaking)

CL96

TAKING BACK CONTROL OF PLANNING

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes plans to build a significant number of new homes in the next twenty-seven years as part of its MKFutures 2050 ambitions, and the impact this will have upon our existing residents, particularly while the development is taking place.
2. That this Council recognises its responsibility to minimise and mitigate impacts of construction, such as increased traffic disruption, noise pollution and pressure on our already stretched infrastructure, and shall work towards minimisation of these within the constraints set by the government.
3. That the Director of Planning and Placemaking be asked to ensure that where the law currently allows, the Council's approach to the assessment of construction management plans is sufficiently robust to offer enforceable protection or existing residents, to ensure that Milton Keynes remains a great place to live and work.
4. That Cabinet be asked to reiterate their commitment that Milton Keynes City Council will, in so far as they have the power to do so, prioritise the needs of MK residents, their communities and MK businesses first, deconflicting or prioritising these needs where necessary, when formulating policies and other strategic work, relating to the new City Plan.
5. That the Cabinet member for Planning be asked to ensure that the work of the Planning Cabinet Advisory Group is sufficient to advise development of the new City Plan, using knowledge of the relevant studies that will form part of the evidence base, in a way that delivers on the Cabinet's commitment to take back control of planning.

6. That Cabinet and the members of the City Council continue to lobby the government, and support the call for the amendment and repatriation of planning powers back to local authorities including but not limited to, the power to make locally appropriate decisions which digress from the National Planning Policy Framework, the power to make general local development management policies that override the national Development Management policies, and to restrict the right of appeal to the government's Planning Inspectorate so that planning appeals cease to be just another step in the planning application process.

(Director of Planning and Placemaking / Cabinet / Planning Cabinet Advisory Group)

CL97 BAITING THE SEWERS

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council believes that:
 - a) in common with all large cities Milton Keynes has a rodent population which is problematic to control in some areas;
 - b) control of the rodent population is a complex problem, which requires a multi-track approach, for which there is no one solution; and
 - c) whilst the efforts of the City Council have had some success, a concerted efforts by all the parties involved is essential for a permanent reduction of the rodent population.
2. That this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive of the Council to write to the Chief Executive of Anglian Water to request:
 - a) that the baiting of the sewers which they are responsible for be reinstated; and
 - b) that data concerning where baiting is taking place, and the outcomes resulting from that, be shared with the City Council's Environmental Heath function in order that a co-ordinated approach to the matter can be taken.

(Chief Executive)

CL98 VOTER ID

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council, mindful of its previous opposition to Voter ID which it still believes discriminatory and unnecessary in Britain, notes:
 - a) how many people were turned away from voting when first it was required in Northern Ireland in 1985; and
 - b) that regulations and associated guidance is still being laid and drafted less than six months prior to the elections, which is in contravention of the established and accepted Gould Principle.

2. That this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Government Minister responsible, to:
 - a) support the call of the Chair of the Local Government Association for new requirements to be introduced after elections in May 2023 so as to allow time for more publicity and staff training; and
 - b) call for a wider range of Photo ID to be permitted.
3. That this Council:
 - a) notes that a significant national communications campaign run by the Electoral Commission which will support key changes being introduced in May 2023, will commence from around the 9 January 2023, but that resources to support local campaigns were made available just days before Christmas 2022;
 - b) notes that the national application portal for residents to apply for Voter Authority Certificates will not be available until the 16 January 2023 at the earliest; and
 - c) requests that the Council's Returning Officer arrange for a comprehensive and proactive communication and resources programme, to supplement the national communications campaign as soon as is possible.

(Chief Executive / Returning Officer)

CL99 SCHEME OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES FOR 2023-24

RESOLVED:

1. That the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances be agreed to take effect from 1 April 2023.
2. That as Corporate Parenting Panel has been dissolved as a Committee of Council, the SRA for Chair of that Committee, be ceased immediately and once a successor body has been constituted the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to make a further recommendation as to whether the payment of an SRA to the Chair would be appropriate, and if so at what level.
3. That the Council note the recommendations of the IRP to index allowances by 4.69% for 2023/24 only.
4. That the Council note the recommendations of the IRP that (where paid) Town, Parish and Community Councils, allowances should also be indexed by 4.69% for 2023/24.

(Director of Law and Governance)

CL100 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY AND EXTERNAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council notes that the dissolution of Corporate Parenting Panel as an advisory Committee of the Council leads to an overall reduced number of committee seats (132) comprised of the following allocations to each political group; Conservative (53), Labour (46) and Liberal Democrat (33).
2. That the Council notes that the revised allocation of seats continues to achieve political balance as set out in Table 1.
3. That the Council notes the resignation of Councillor Peter Marland from the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority and agrees the appointment of Councillor Shanika Mahendran.
4. That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance in consultation with the Leaders of Political Groups and in accordance with the wishes of the relevant Political Group, to make appointments to the following bodies in the event that vacancies occur during the Council year:
 - a) Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority;
 - b) Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel; and
 - c) Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes (BLMK) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (or successor body).

(Director of Law and Governance)

CL101 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CL102 WARD BASED BUDGETS 2022/23

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.