

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair Carrera welcomed everyone to the meeting in the Chamber.

Expected visitors to the meeting were announced as the MKCC Chief Executive Michael Bracey and Deputy Mayor James Lancaster.

2. Apologies

Apologies received for non or late attendance for the meeting were received from Bisam, Maggie, Ashvin and Rasheed.

3. Minutes

Minutes were agreed and no amendments needed.

4. Update and Q & A with the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes City Council.

Michael Bracey attended and was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair Carrera.

- Michael introduced himself and explained a little bit about his background and his time working at MKCC, he also informed the group that he is a Youth worker though he hasn't done that role in a long time. He explained that there are around 250 services that fall under his directorate and how challenging it can be to pull it all together. Michael explained that he does not make up the direction for the organisation, this is up to the 57 councillors who set the policy and decide what things should change in MK, they then ask Michael to deliver those things.
- Carrera asked Michael if he could give the YC feedback on something they have done well and something we need to improve? Michael then asked Carrera to share her top achievement. Carrera explained that her personal achievement is being chair of MKYC, but an MKYC group achievement would be completing the campaign reports and having the first youth mayor of MK and lastly the publicity of MKYC it feels more people know about it. Michael then explained he felt the group have raised awareness of both the YC and their campaign work of the last year. He reflected positively on the promotional event the YC held on the MKCC landing to speak to councillors.
- Carrera then asked Michael where he feels the YC could best use their voices within the council. The YC showed Michael some slides of all the events, consultations, and meetings the YC have been part of to date. Michael responded advising the group to look at the council plan that has 117 things in it that the council want to do and if the YC spots something in the list and build on or piggyback on the back of it is a really good idea as the plan has been agreed that the council needs to do that. Maybe identify 10 to 15 of 117 things that matter to YP and then maybe make a YC version of the plan and let councillors know and ask them to work with you to do something about them.
Michael offered the YC to utilise him to receive some feedback outside of formal meetings on topics of interest to sharing ideas, as he might know someone in the council, he could refer them to, to make more links and some support with video work.
- Carrera asked Isla and Tyrelle the action group leads to introduce MKYC campaigns. Slides were used to share some key information.

Isla the Action Group Lead for the Youth crime campaign shared an update on this topic. Tyrelle the Action Group Lead for the Mental Health campaign shared an update on this topic.

- Michael asked Carrera if she felt the meeting with the police would lead to change. Carrera suggested that its now MKYC responsibility to share with YP the information the police shared with the action group for youth crime. She mentioned that it will take time to build on the relationship with the police and how to fix the relationship with the wider youth cohort of MK. Michael also mentioned that the council fund some organisations such as Healthwatch to obtain the feedback of the public and then champion the voices of the patience and give their report to decision makers that informs the hospital what needs to change to improve the service delivery. Maybe the YC could be more direct by asking services ‘How are you representing young people’s views through your organisation?’ as services want to do a good job, and don’t be afraid to ask them to do things for you, as they often have staff who might be able to help.
- Chase reflected on previous campaigns and suggested that some of the topics such as affordable things to do in MK, whereby working with other services we managed to negotiate reduced price cinema but then that stopped once the term of office came to an end this means the campaigns stop and change for each youth council. Chase wondered if there was a more sustainable way to keep the work from all the YCs going. Michael suggested to look early on ‘What you want to achieve’ and to work with services who might be able to take it on the work from the campaign and be realistic about what is achievable within your term of office. Additionally, he suggested that we have just had a GE and we have a new government and there is a focus on YP and messages about wanting to see Youth Hubs in every city. Michael asked the question; are youth hubs what young people want? Or do they want the money to be spent on lots of different things within their communities such as services and activities? Michael mentioned that he has seen lots of Youth Hubs that YP do not use because they are maybe in the wrong place or they do not like it, the opening times do not work for young people, or the staff are not good.
- Jonty mentioned about communication that most YP find it hard to access the right information such as where to find MH services, where is the nearest youth club to them, one of the ideas that the YC had was to create a podcast with different episodes on topics such as where to find MH support and youth clubs, to what the council does and inviting host speakers to and questions and answer session. Michael’s advice was to keep the podcast short up to 3 mins but offer lots of information that is clear and understandable, this could look similar to the One Council. Michael said, ‘People just need to know what it is you are offering so they can decide if they like it and if ‘yes’ where can they find more information’.
- Michael stayed for the remainder of the first half of the meeting.

5. Chair Monthly Updates

Carrera shared the following items.

- I. **MKYC Chair** – Carrera first announced her term as Chair is coming to an end at the end of this meeting and that Ellie Starkey will now succeed to the Chair and her first opportunity to Chair will be the September formal meeting. Her role will conclude January 2025.
However, this will leave the new YC without a Chair as they will be elected in February 2025. This is an experienced role that needs time to see how meetings are run and learn

the skills necessary to Chair successful meetings. Therefore, we would normally elect a new Vice Chair in September 2024 ready for them to Chair meetings January to July however, the next Vice Chair role is different due to the appointment of the new YC, whereby there will be no formal meetings until all induction processes such as training and residential are complete. Therefore, there has been some consideration around the best option for the new YC and Chair role, so the YC were asked their opinions on the following.

- a. Appoint a Vice Chair who will shadow the Chair from September 2024 to January 2025. They will act as Chair from January to July 2025. The Chair will have no meetings in January, February, or March 2025. However, the Chair would be required to attend and deliver a workshop on the residential. The first option to Chair a meeting would be April 2025 and there will be just four meetings whereby a Vice Chair from the new YC can shadow the chair. The concern with this option is that the 4 meetings will be the first meetings the Chair would have delivered. However, it does give another representative the opportunity to be Chair.
- b. For the current Chair Ellie to retain her position and not appoint a Vice Chair in September 2024. There would however be opportunities for other YC representatives to shadow the Chair during formal meetings to expand their self-growth in this area. The Chair would be expected to commit to a longer term and take on extra roles such as delivering workshops at the new YC residential. The benefit to this option is that the Chair is experienced and would be able to support the new YC representative in learning and understanding this role.

Carrera asked the room for their thoughts on the two options.

Chase raised a concern of there not being any Vice Chair to cover the Chair in case of absences due to illness. They shared the option of the new Vice Chair term being shorter and not succeeding as Chair.

Parisa also shared value in still having a Vice Chair that will not succeed as Chair.

Jonty suggested to have a deputy Chair instead of vice therefore they would be able to cover if the Chair is not in attendance at the formal meetings.

Carrera asked the group to vote on having Deputy Chair(s) to shadow Ellie in the Chair role and to stand in when she is absent. The group voted this in by showing hands, whereby 18 representatives voted for.

Carrera then shared a farewell speech of her time as Chair. She touched on fond memories of her first meeting and being very scared, attending the Radio One Interview and took some time to thank members of the YC for their support during her term.

- II. Ellie the Vice Chair gave an update on the General election, this consisted of informing the YC the number of votes cast, turnout, and elected candidates for each constituency from Buckingham and Bletchley, MK North, and MK Central.
- III. Youth summit – At the last action group meeting representatives selected 8 November 2024 for the event. The wider group were asked to think of ideas and to consider any conflicts that might arise with that date. Isla suggested that the event will be held in school time, but permission to attend could be obtained from schools or there would be the option to attend with your school. Some concerns were raised about the potential

of some schools doing mocks in November, so the YC have been asked to speak to their school. YC suggested organisations that they would like to take part in the event, and these were Mental Health charities such as MIND, White ribbon, MPs. Hands raised to be part of the working group for the Summit are Melania, Jonty, Adeola, Ellie, Carrera, Chase, Kwaku, Rasheed, Zara, Cody, Anne-Marie, Jade, Quevin, and Rohan.

6. Youth Mayor Update

Lisa gave an update for Maggie as she was on an engagement. Lisa shared engagements attended and upcoming in Maggie's diary.

- 7 July - Spectrum Summer Showcase 2024
- 7 July - 10th Anniversary of the MK Rose
- 12 July - Milton Keynes Music Hub Summer Concert
- 13 July - Lord Lieutenant unsung heroes Garden Party with the Mayor and her consorts.
- 13 July - The West Bletchley Carnival – Mary-Oliver will attend in the YM place due to overlap of booking.

Upcoming Youth Mayor events:

- 14 July - Islamic Exhibition
- 16 July - The Secret Garden installation of a mosaic bird bath
- 21 July - Willen Church Patronal festival
- 28 July - Girl Pack Craft fair

Maggie has been supporting the work of the Skate project in Wolverton and has recruited some MKYC members to host a stall and to be part of the live music on the day to promote MKYC. There has been an opportunity to sponsor the project and Maggie has put together a pack for the YC to read the information on the sponsorships, this was added to the agenda pack.

There are four options of sponsorship to be considered. The first step was to identify if the YC wanted to participate in the event and hold a stall. The YC agreed they wanted to participate in the event. The second step was to ask the YC if they wanted to use part or none of the MKYC budget to sponsor the project. These are the options available:

- 1) Gold sponsor 1 x available £3,000
- 2) Silver sponsor 5 x available £1,000
- 3) Bronze Sponsor £500
- 4) Local Hero £100

The YC agreed on the bronze sponsor of £500, Maggie is to work with Lisa to put together a Briefing paper to obtain permission to use some of the MKYC budget for this purpose.

7. Updates from Action group leads

Tyrelle and Isla the Action Group Leads gave updates on the upcoming actions of the Campaign groups. Both groups are designing posters that they hope to share in their school to support young people. These should be ready by the end of September 2024

8. Update from Member of Youth Parliament

Adeola MKYC MYP shared information on the following outreach work achieved over the last month, MP update, Make your Mark and an update on the status of Youth Parliament.

College registration event:

- I. Adeola attended MK and Bletchley College with Lisa to promote registering to vote ahead of the General Election (GE) this was to encourage and help young people register to vote so they were ready to participate in the GE. On the Monday 17 June she attended Milton Keynes College. The Fawcett society and two of the candidates Emily Darlington and Jonny Luk were there. The MKYC had a stand which had leaflets on how to register to vote as well as the two pull up 'How do I vote' banners. On Tuesday 18 the stand was moved to Bletchley College. This day was slower due to the location of the event being in a side building and not the main canteen.

New Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes:

The city now has three new MPs as the city is in three constituencies, which are Buckingham and Bletchley, MK North, and MK Central. The three MPs are from the Labour party, and they are:

- Buckingham and Bletchley – Callum Anderson
- MK North – Chris Curtis
- MK Central – Emily Darlington

Mary and Lisa will contact the new MPs to arrange a meeting to have a discussion on what they are going to do for YP in MK.

The National Youth Agency:

There has been some uncertainty about the MYP role due to the closure of the British Youth Council (BYC). Danny Brown the original regional worker for BYC has now been employed by the National Youth Agency (NYA) to continue UK Youth Parliament. Mary and Adeola have been invited to attend the following:

- 1) The annual UK Youth Parliament conference – This is set to take place Saturday 26 to 27 Oct in the west midlands. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.
- 2) Online MYP introduction training – The training date is yet to be confirmed, but it great to be happening as the last training was cancelled.
- 3) House of Commons – Arrangements are being made for the next House of Commons sitting for UKYP, it is normally held in November, but because the UKYP is now classed as a new parliament of the NYA and not BYC, MPs must now vote to allow UKYP to sit in the House of Commons and to ensure that all MYP are an elected member. A motion is expected to take place over the summer, and we will be looking for a possible sitting to be held in March 2025.

Make Your Mark (MYM)

Danny Brown has obtained all the stats from the BYCs MYM. He has been able to share with us the completed stats that we were missing, and Danny has put together a MYM report 2024 and this

has been shared in the agenda pack. The results show MK has a population of 32 thousand young people of 11-18yrs and 10 thousand of those voted in the MYM 2023 which was the highest turnout in the Southeast. It also showed the next topics that are important to YP to be:

- 1) Health and wellbeing – National
- 2) Crime – Local
- 3) Culture, media, and sport – Local

The YC want to share this information with Schools, young people and other agencies that took part. It was agreed that the YC will design a flyer and Lisa will draft an email to schools to let them know, additionally certificates could be given to the schools who participated. YC reminded Lisa that they were promised Pizza for getting over 3,000 YP voting – Lisa to organise.

9. Forward Plan of MKCC Decisions and Committees

Carrera previewed the forward plan and identified a few areas were MKYC could attend.

- Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee (CYPSC) Tues 16 July. MKYC members who are interested in attending the meeting with Maggie are Jonty, Zara, and Cody.
- Full Council Wednesday 17 July. Maggie will be attending to share the MKYC annual report.
- Bletchley and Fenny town deal board 18 July. Cody was interested in attending this meeting.
- Corporate Parenting Panel 24 July – Cody and Carrera were interested in attending this meeting.
- Planning Committee - 1 Aug
- Council Budget - Dec

Michael advised the group that they do not have to make every meeting sometimes it might be easier to read the plan and email the Chair with your comments and opinions.

10. Update / Announcements from the democratic participation officer.

Lisa had several topics to share with YP about upcoming actions and tasks.

- The group were invited to assist the development of the annual MKYC report ready for full council there is a google doc for it and anyone wishing to access contact Carrera or Maggie.
- Lisa has emailed the Democracy café however has not had any reply from them attending the summit.
- Danny Brown is offering accreditations, membership and also bursaries for new youth worker training through NYA, YC to let Lisa know if they are interested mostly in the accreditations.

- Shared a request from David Huckle the community safety officer who would like to attend the next action group. YC agreed Lisa will liaise with a time and date.

11. Youth Strategy

Lisa introduced this item.

A few months ago, the youth services had a review and the YC had the opportunity to speak with the NYA about the things that are important to YP. In the report that was later sent out it advised that the service should have a Youth strategy document that will feed into the youth plan. The participation Strategy group are keen to produce these documents. Mac Heath the Director of Childrens services is the identified strategic lead and Richard Lee Participation and Engagement team manager is the identified operational lead for the youth strategy. The NYA have developed a toolkit to ensure local authorities meet the requirements of the S507B. The NYA toolkit shares 9 essentials of the Youth Work offer and suggests this should be done in partnership with YP. The group worked in small groups to look at the toolkit and to make suggestions on the offer, these suggestions will be collated and shared back to Richard Lee and Mac Heath.

12. Working groups for the Milton Keynes Youth Council Report

MKYC representatives took some time to work through the report ready for full council.

13. Working group Youth Summit

MKYC split up into priority areas and worked on them for the planning of the Youth summit.

14. Meeting Close 2:30