

# Cabinet – Tuesday 7 February 2023

## Agenda Item 8 (References from Other Bodies)

### Notes:

1. Only the Chair of the referring body / motion owner may speak on a referral from Council, a Committee, or Scrutiny Committee (Cabinet Procedure Rule 2.3 (d) & (e)).

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**(a) Regeneration and Renewal Scrutiny Committee (15 December 2022)**

**i) Annual Review of the Work of the Estate Renewal Forums (ERFs)**

1. That the Council acknowledges that the needs of residents will vary from estate to estate and that an Estate Renewal Forum in the current format might not be the most appropriate mechanism by which to consult and communicate with residents about new regeneration and renewal projects.

*Responses from Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities)*

*We agree that the needs of residents will vary community by community and that different mechanisms or structures will be required to consult and communicate with residents. There is not a set way in which ERFs have to operate and it is for the ERF to work together with the Council to design and implement how it operates for the best local outcomes. Our community engagement team has worked with existing and developing ERFs to help support and facilitate how they want to operate.*

2. That the Council, via the Community Engagement Team, discusses with residents which model of forum would best suit their needs and whether those needs could be best met by already existing groups or by the establishment of a new group such as an Estate Renewal Forum.

*Please see our response above*

3. That the Cabinet reviews how it can facilitate more targeted investment in young people on regeneration and renewal estates to improve their life chances.

*Our regeneration community engagement and Youth Services teams have been focusing effort on Fullers Slade, which includes a dedicated youth worker being appointed for the estate and several engagement sessions being undertaken with young people on the estate. We are also working with the local Town Council to help apply for a National Lottery, Reaching Communities, grant in order to continue this work when the existing funding expires after one year. Alongside this our Community Engagement Manager has successfully supported a range of organisations in securing grant funding in order to help support young people across our regeneration and renewal estates. Some examples of this include the Somali Outreach Project who have secured a £45,000 BBC Children in Need grant and Boxing Clever who have secured funding from both the Hargreaves Foundation and LEAP. Please see the attachment for further information.*

4. That when residents raise complaints with the Council, officers respond quickly and keep complainants updated as to progress and manage expectations as to how long resolution may take and what the possible outcomes may be.

*As an organisation, we are committed to providing a quality service for our customers, workers and suppliers. When complaints are received officers should follow our corporate Compliments, Comments and Complaints policy. All complaints should be investigated and responded to in a timely manner and*

*with any learning received from the feedback use to improve our services moving forward.*

5. That the Cabinet be encouraged to provide ERFs with their own budgets – which it is recognised would have to be very limited - to enable them to fund their own events such as residents’ workshops, community activities, local consultations etc without having to apply to the Council for funding.

*Budgets have been allocated to each ERF and we have also been successful in our Shared Prosperity Funding bid, within which we highlighted the need for this funding in future years.*

6. That all parties involved in regeneration and renewal, ie the Council, ERFs, residents’ groups, town and parish councils etc, publicise their successes more and sharing what is going well with the wider community.

*We agree, thank you. The Portfolio Holder and Officers will be more mindful and work on this with our communications team.*

## **ii) Review of the Council’s Regeneration and Renewal Strategy and How to Take it Forward to Other Areas**

1. That - particularly in the light of the Council’s current financial position, - the Cabinet revises the *Community-Led Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy* to accommodate provision for part-estates, to include smaller projects that do not necessarily respond to all of the Strategy’s six strategic priorities, and to permit future such projects to be established without Estate Renewal Forums provided that sustained and effective consultation takes place at every stage.

*We consider projects across all our estates as part of our investment programme or if specific grant funding becomes available but as highlighted this needs to be considered in light of the current financial position..*

2. That should the Cabinet wish it, the Regeneration and Renewal Scrutiny Committee could prepare a first draft of a revised Strategy for submission to the Cabinet.

*The Portfolio Holder thanks the Committee for their consideration. The Portfolio Holder wishes to progress the important work underway on the 7 estates before developing a revised strategy. The timings of this will be confirmed in 2023/24. The Portfolio Holder is happy to receive representations from the Committee but any revised strategy will be written by the officers responsible with the leadership of the Portfolio Holder and considering the economic situation and government initiatives.*

3. That the revised Strategy set as its priority consolidation of progress in the seven original regeneration estates rather than adding any new estates at the present time.

*We agree that this is a pragmatic and sensible view but again, unfortunately this needs to be considered considering the current financial position and the likelihood of a further rent cost cap in 2024/25..*

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**(b) NHS GP and Dentists Task and Finish Groups (December 2022)**

**Final Report of the Task and Finish Group**

To receive the report of the NHS GP and Dentist Task and Finish Group.

GP and Dentistry Task and Finish Group Final Report (attached as an **Annex**)

[GP and Dentistry Task and Finish Group Evidence Report](#)

*Response from Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities)*

*I welcome the receipt of this report which investigates the provision of NHS GP and dental services in Milton Keynes. I note there are a number of recommendations directed to the Health and Care Partnership, Scrutiny and to myself as Cabinet member. Specially in relation to the recommendation regarding fluoridation and recommendations of action to BLMK ICB I undertake in consultation with officers to follow up directly on those particular recommendations. I agree with the findings of the report that as a local authority and as Councillors we have an increasing role to play in improving the services provided by the NHS to our residents and would commend those identified to give due consideration to the recommendations within this report .*

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**(c) Corporate Parenting Panel (4 January 2023)**

**Proposal to Dissolve Corporate Parenting Panel as a Committee of Council**

That a referral be made to the Cabinet member to constitute a new body comprising a broader range of partners, maintaining political membership on a 2:2:2 basis, with the Cabinet member additionally sitting as a non-voting member, in order to enable a stronger development in the role of responsible Councillors and partners as Corporate Parents.

*Response from Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families)*

*Following an LGA Diagnostic Review into our Corporate Parenting approach in Milton Keynes, we received positive feedback on our work with our looked after children and care leavers in MKCC. They considered there is an 'energy and commitment' alongside the 'ambition and intention' to be the very best corporate parent. However, there were areas for consideration which included 'the need to encourage stronger constructive challenge at CPP, with high expectations/high challenge for children; supporting an open and honest culture and strengthening the effective voices of cared for and care experienced children'. They considered, alongside the approach taken by most other local authorities, this would be best achieved in constituting a new body that was able to be more inclusive for children and partners to help drive further improvement in the outcomes for our children and young people. The LGA peer review were clear that the change to the meeting in no way dilutes the*

*democratic oversight or scrutiny of the process, as the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee will continue, with the critical role they have in relation to Children's Services and ensuring Corporate Parenting Principles continue to be owned and acted upon. This proposal was therefore considered by Members of the CPP and it was positive to receive unanimous support to this proposal as we continue to strive to do the best we can for our children and young people. A Delegated Decision is therefore planned to be taken on 28 February, including a revised Terms of Reference, with a view to establishing these new arrangements.*

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**(d) Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee (11 January 2023)**

**Central Milton Keynes Car Parking Strategy**

1. That the Cabinet be asked to consider how the car parking strategy in Central Milton Keynes fits into the wider vision and policy objectives for Milton Keynes, including the need for sustainable growth of the city.
2. That the relevant Cabinet members and officers be requested to give due consideration to the issues raised by the Committee during the scrutiny of this item when considering any future changes to the parking strategy in Central Milton Keynes and in the wider city area.

*Response from Councillor Trendall (Cabinet member for Customer Services)*

*Thank you for the discussion and issues raised at the scrutiny meeting. Parking controls are an intrinsic and vital part of how Milton Keynes operates both for residents and businesses. It is clear that matters relating to parking cannot be considered in isolation and should form part of the wider transportation offer as well as much wider considerations such as land allocation. I will ensure that any future considerations relating to parking matters take into account and look to balance both the need to incorporate parking strategy into the newly emerging Local Transport Plan 5, but also supports both the local economy and the councils fiscal costs.*

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**(e) Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee (17 January 2023)**

**Draft 2023/24 Budget**

That the Committee's report on the work done to scrutinise the proposals in the draft 2023/24 budget, incorporating the findings of the Committee and presenting its recommendations, be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration on 7 February 2023.

*Response from Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member Resources)*

*Written response provided as part of the 2023-34 Budget Papers (Annex B (Part B)).*

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**(f) Council (18 January 2023)**

**Taking Back Control of Planning**

1. 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.

*Responses from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)*

*The New City Plan process, which will deliver the 2050 Strategy for Milton Keynes, will ensure that we achieve “our ambition for low-carbon growth and an excellent quality of life for everyone in Milton Keynes, especially the children and young people who will be our future citizens, and those who choose to move here and join us in the ongoing story of our great city.” The New City Plan will, by definition, put the communities of MK first.*

2. 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.

*Response from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)*

*The Cabinet Advisory Group has overseen - and will continue to oversee - the evidence-gathering stage, as well as the overall programme, for the New City Plan. The work of the CAG will be enhanced, through a conference on 1<sup>st</sup> March, by experts in the fields of health, housing and sustainability as well as expert input from the Office of National Statistics who will help us to understand the current and future demands of our citizens. As long as the City Council has an up-to-date Local Plan (currently PlanMK, and – in the near future – the New City Plan) and continues to deliver against it (particularly in respect of housing numbers) then we will be able to make decisions according to our own policies.*

3. 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.

Response from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Government is currently consulting on the New Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. Officers are preparing a detailed response to these documents and can emphasise the Council's view that Local Planning Authorities should be able to set their own Development Management Policies if they disagree with, and can provide evidence of the negative local impact of, National Development Management policies.

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**(g) Planning Cabinet Advisory Group (25 January 2023)**

**i) Planning Committee (06 October 2022)**

1. To consider policy options in respect of alternatives to at-grade crossings beside, or adjacent to schools, for the development of Plan MK:2.

Responses from Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

This will be considered through the preparation of the New City Plan and subject to public consultation. Any policy options included in the plan will need to be evidence based and deliverable. Otherwise, it will not be found sound by a planning inspector at the examination of the plan.

2. To consider the economic benefit of policy to require necessary infrastructure such as bus lay-bys, as part of initial road delivery.

The provision of, and need for, new infrastructure will be assessed through our new Infrastructure Study and Strategy. We can only secure new infrastructure at the time it is needed to mitigate the impacts of a development and this would be set out in the s106 agreement. We proactively use conditions to ensure initial road layouts are delivered and maintained to an acceptable standard prior to their adoption by MKCC.

**ii) Planning Committee (5 January 2023)**

That the Planning Committee request the Planning Cabinet Advisory Group to review policy CT8 of Plan:MK, with a specific focus on grade crossings in Section D, Paragraph 3.

This will be considered through the preparation of the New City Plan and subject to public consultation. Any review of the policy will need to be evidence based and deliverable. Otherwise, it will not be found sound by a planning inspector at the examination of the plan.

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