To:  The Mayor and Members of  
the Milton Keynes Council

6 June 2005

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL to be held at the Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes on TUESDAY 14 JUNE 2005 at 7.30 pm when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Head of Democratic Services

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact: Simon Heap (Democratic Services Manager) - Tel: (01908) 252567  e-mail: simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.
AGENDA

Item No:

1. Procedure
   (a) Apologies
   (b) Minutes
       To approve, and the Mayor to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2005 [Item 1(b)] (Pages 9 to 32).
   (c) Declarations of Interest
       Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted and officers to declare any interest in contracts to be considered by the Council.
   (d) Announcements
       To receive announcements, if any.

2. Public Involvement
   (a) Deputations and Petitions
       No deputations have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.
       Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.
   (b) Questions from Members of the Public
       To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting
   None.

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees
   (a) Cabinet – 19 April 2005
       Housing Strategy – “Fit for Purpose” Rating
       RECOMMENDED –
       That the Housing Strategy for the period April 2005 to March 2008 be adopted.
       A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 4a (Pages 33 to 110).
(b) Business Management Group – 2 June 2005

(i) Statement of Accounts

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Business Management Group be authorised to sign off the Statement of Accounts for 2004/05.

2. That the Council receive a presentation on the 2004/05 Accounts at its meeting in September 2005.

A copy of the report considered by the Group is attached at Item 4b(i) (Page 111).

(ii) Dependent Carers’ Allowance Scheme

RECOMMENDED –

That the revised Paragraph 7 of the Scheme of Allowances for Members 2005/06, amended to reflect revisions to the Dependent Carers’ Allowances, as set out in Annex B of the report to the Business Management Group, be adopted.

A copy of the report considered by the Group is attached at Item 4b(ii) (Pages 112 to 122).

(iii) Membership of Executive Scrutiny Panel

RECOMMENDED –

That the Constitution be revised to prevent a member of the Executive Scrutiny Panel from participating in meetings scrutinising decisions he/she has called in.

A copy of the report considered by the Group is attached at Item 4b(iii) (Page 123 and 124).

(c) Cabinet - 7 June 2005

(i) Corporate Plan 2005/08

RECOMMENDED -

That the Corporate Plan 2005/08 be approved.

A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 4c(i) (Pages 125 and 126) and the draft Plan is available in Group Rooms for inspection.

(ii) Financial Regulations – Strategic and Financial Regulations – Operational

RECOMMENDED -

That the revised Financial Regulations - Strategic be approved.
A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 4c(ii) (Pages 127 and 156). Any change to the recommendation will be reported at the meeting.

5. Members’ Matters

(a) Notices of Motions

(i) Ice Facility – Milton Keynes

Councillor Bartlett – 4 April 2005

“That this Council requests the Cabinet to seek to provide the means to promote a new ice sport facility in Milton Keynes.”

(ii) Designation of Dog Free Areas

Councillor Bartlett – 4 April 2005

“That the Cabinet be requested to consider designating special dog free areas such as school fields and recreation grounds so that families and others can enjoy their facilities without walking in dog mess and also that a special dog poo awareness event be co-ordinated to raise public awareness of the foul nature of dogs pooing on pavements, especially on walk to school routes, and the need for responsible dog ownership.”

(iii) Review of the Graffiti Removal Service

Councillor Bartlett – 4 April 2005

“That the Performance Review and Audit Panel be requested to undertake a review of the graffiti removal service in Milton Keynes and especially in Central Milton Keynes.”

(iv) Affordable Housing

Councillor Long – 30 May 2005

1. That this Council welcomes:

(a) the action the Government is taking to increase the supply of affordable housing;

(b) the allocation of the Renny Lodge site in Newport Pagnell for affordable housing; and

(c) the development by English Partnerships of new communities with affordable housing and the progress made to increase affordable homes completions to 32% of completions last year.

2. That this Council supports the work of the Milton Keynes Partnership Committee backed by English Partnerships to deliver more affordable homes on appropriate identified growth areas.”
(v)  Town and Parish Council Charter

Councillor Long – 30 May 2005

"1. That this Council is concerned that:
   (a) a number of parish councils have found it difficult to sign the Charter after 2 years of discussion; and
   (b) the Council’s aspiration for further devolution of services will not progress without a positive relationship and without acceptance of the varying resource needs of different parish areas.

2. This Council agrees to:
   (a) develop a model of resource allocation within the Medium Term Financial Strategy of the Council to ensure that the poorest parishes of Milton Keynes receive a fair share of resources to meet their identified needs; and
   (b) commission an audit of service spending (both capital and revenue) to identify resource or funding gaps faced by the poorest parishes of Milton Keynes."

(vi) National Identity Cards and a National Identity Database

Councillor Eastman – 2 June 2005

"1. That this Council opposes the Labour Government’s plans to introduce National Identity Cards and a National Identity Database.

2. That this Council is concerned at:
   (a) the amount of information that will be gathered in the National Identity Database,
   (b) the ability for the Home Secretary to require more information on a whim;
   (c) the lack of clarity of just who will have access to it; and
   (d) the purpose for which it may be used.

3. That this Council believes:
   (a) that the Labour Government’s plans will fail to deal with many of the reasons for which it wishes to introduce Identity Cards, as they will have little or no affect in fighting terrorism, crime or illegal immigration; and
that the estimated cost of £3 billion for the introduction of the National Identity Card and its related database could be better used elsewhere.

4. That this Council therefore urges the Labour Government to abandon its Identity Card plans and reassign the funds allocated for their introduction to the front-line services that will have a real impact on the safety and security of the residents of Milton Keynes, and throughout the Country. These include higher visibility community policing and greater crime prevention.

5. That this Council requires the Chief Executive to write to the two Members of Parliament for each of the Milton Keynes Constituencies to request them to vigorously oppose the introduction of National Identity Cards and a National Identity Database."

(b) Members’ Questions

(i) Members to ask questions of either the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.

(ii) Members to ask questions of the representative of the Police Authority appointed to answer questions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5, 7 clear days notice is required for Police Authority questions).

The following questions have been received from Councillor Bartlett, the answers are set out below the questions:

1. How many of Milton Keynes police officers (PC and WPC grade) are in full service of one year or more (%)?

   Answer: “233.86 Full Time Equivalents, this represents approximately 80% of the total constable strength (293 Constables) in the Milton Keynes Base Command Unit”.

2. How many officers are probationers in Milton Keynes (%)?

   Answer: “As at 24 May 2004 there were 65 Probationary Constables, this represents approximately 22% of the total Constable strength in the Milton Keynes Base Command Unit”.

3. What is the average 24hr time spent on the beat. (%)?

   Answer: “18.2% of uniform constables’ time is spent specifically on visible and targeted patrol. However, more time is spent dealing with specific incidents while officers are ‘on the beat’ - so they are actually more visible to the public than the 18.2% would imply. Actual ‘visibility’ is not
something that is measured in the Accessibility and Availability studies undertaken, the criteria being determined nationally”.

4. What is the average time taken for an officer to do paperwork on one case (hours)?
   Answer: “It is not possible to answer this question as the amount of time spent on case preparation varies according to the type of case, its individual complexity etc., and therefore there is a wide fluctuation in the time spent on paperwork”.

5. How many ASBOs have been issued in Milton Keynes?
   Answer: “A total of 17 Anti Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs) have been issued to this point (there are currently a couple more in the pipeline.) This does not show the true level of activity against anti-social behaviour because locally they are only used as a last resort. Many steps are taken to address anti-social behaviour prior to application for an ASBO, such as Acceptable Behaviour Contracts etc. In the vast majority of these cases those steps are successful, negating the need to go as far as ASBOs”.

6. How many parenting orders have been issued in Milton Keynes?
   Answer: “Two Parenting Orders have been issued to date, both originating with Local Authority Education Department”.

6. Presentation from the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police
   To receive a presentation from Mr Peter Neyroud, the Chief Constable of Thames Valley.

7. Policy Development Committees / Scrutiny Panels Annual Reports
   To receive the annual reports from the Council’s Policy Development Committees / Scrutiny Panels, which were deferred from the meeting of the Council on 12 April 2005.

   Each report will be presented by the Chair.
   (a) Environment Policy Development Committee (Item 7a) (Pages 157 to 160) (Councillor Hopkins)
   (b) Learning and Development Policy Development Committee (Item 7b) (Pages 161 to 164) (Councillor Dransfield)
   (c) Social Care and Housing Policy Development Committee (Item 7c) (Pages 165 to 168) (Councillor Coventry)
8. Committees – Membership: Appeals Commission

To note that Councillor Bartlett has been appointed to the vacancy for the Labour Group on the Appeals Commission.

Contact Officer: John Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services) - MK252314

Background Papers: None