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Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUESDAY 7 JUNE at 6.30pm.

**Present:** Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)  
Councillors R Bradburn, Carr, Darlington, Middleton, Z Nolan, Trendall  
and Wilson-Marklew.

**Apologies:** Councillor Townsend.

**Officers:** M Bracey (Chief Executive), T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive),  
S Bridglalsingh (Director of Law and Governance), S Proffitt (Director of  
Environment & Property and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager).

**Also Present:** Councillors Ferrans, D Hopkins and McLean.

#### **C03 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Marland made an announcement in respect of the award of City Status to Milton Keynes and welcomed members of the Youth Cabinet to the meeting.

#### **C04 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 1 February 2022 and 18 May 2022 be approved and signed by the Leader of the Council as correct records.

#### **C05 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None.

#### **C06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None Received.

#### **C07 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS**

None received

## **C08 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

- (a) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Referring to the recent award of city status, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland whether this was an opportunity to look at the governance of our city and whether he would consider the possibility of a directly elected mayor model?

Councillor Marland advised that he had not had prior notice of the question but indicated that the proposal to move to a directly elected mayor was not in any of the Labour or Liberal Democrat election manifestos. Councillor Marland noted that a number of places that had moved to a directly elected mayor were now considering moving away from this model as they did not consider that democracy was best served by having a single person heading the city. Councillor Marland undertook to respond to Councillor Hopkins with his views on the directly elected mayor proposal, after the meeting.

- (b) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Referring to areas within his ward that had been encouraged to install signs to indicate they were within the Greensand Ridge Area, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Marland why Little Brickhill Parish Council had been advised that it was not Council policy to install additional signage on existing signs and could he advise why the policy had changed and could it be reversed?

Councillor Marland advised that he had taken steps to look into this issue and indicated that this work takes time and resource and was not currently a priority for the contractor. However, the parish council may wish to fund the work themselves. Councillor Marland indicated that in Highways there tended to be a catch all policy and that decisions like this should be taken on an individual basis on the understanding that no decision set a precedent.

## **C09-10 REFERENCES FROM OTHER BODIES**

- (a) Referral from the Community & Housing Scrutiny Committee – 2 March 2022

Councillor Ferrans introduced the referral noting that the Committee had looked at the issue of private landlords and the support the Council gives to renters in private accommodation.

Councillor Darlington noted her written response to the referral and that a response to the letter that had been sent to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had not yet been received.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

(b) Referral from Scrutiny Management Committee – 22 March 2022

Cabinet were advised that the Scrutiny Management Committee were satisfied with the written response.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

**C11 MILTON KEYNES: BLETCHLEY & FENNY STRATFORD TOWN DEAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

Councillor Marland introduced the item indicating that plans to regenerate the Bletchley Town Centre and Bletchley and Fenny Stratford areas more generally were progressing including the opening of new play areas on the Lakes Estate and the development of new Redways. There was a focus on the town centre of Bletchley including the purchase of the Brunel Centre and ongoing discussions with the East West Rail Consortium. Plans for the Alan Turing memorial would also move forward as part of the Council Plan. The £2m investment in public realm improvements was noted as bringing immediate benefits to local residents.

RESOLVED:

- 1 That the latest progress of the Town Deal programme, governance arrangements for the Town Deal projects and 'next steps' as set out within the report be noted.
- 2 That a further report on the progress of the Town Deal programme be added to a suitable Cabinet agenda in 6 months time.

**C12 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DOOR SIGNAGE**

Councillor Trendall introduced the item indicating that this had been recommended to the Cabinet for adoption from the Licencing and Regulatory Committee. Councillor Trendall noted that the priority aim of the Council was to ensure that passengers using private hire vehicles could do so with confidence. Inspections by the licencing team had shown that the current procedures were not being followed consistently and therefore the proposal would ensure a consistent standard was adopted.

The Cabinet heard from two members of the public and from the Chair of the Licencing & Regulatory Committee.

RESOLVED:

1.1 That the Council's taxi policy (Part 1) be amended to state the following:

- a) Vehicle licence holders and drivers must display Council supplied private hire door signage. The signage will state:
  - i) MKC Logo
  - ii) It is a licensed private hire vehicle
  - iii) If the vehicle is not pre-booked it is not insured (Advanced Booking Only)
  - iv) Council complaint/contact information

Council door signs will be magnetic however should a vehicle be unable to display a magnetic door sign then an adhesive must be used to secure the door sign to the vehicle.

- b) Private hire operators may, in addition to Council approved door signage, display their own door signs. The door signs must be approved by the Council and meet the guidelines and procedures set out by the Regulatory Committee in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Procedures & Conditions (Part 2) document.

1.2. That the new private hire vehicle fees as set out in Annex A be approved to take effect from 29 June 2022 under Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Each fee has increased by £7.00 to cover the cost of two new vehicle door signs per year.

### **C13 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY GROUPS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Councillor Marland introduced the item regarding appointments to Outside Bodies and it was noted that Councillor Hearnshaw would replace Councillor McLean as the substitute on the South East Employers.

RESOLVED:

1. That appointments be made to the various Organisations, Advisory Groups and Strategic Partnerships for 2022/23.
2. That Councillor Hearnshaw be appointed as the Conservative substitute in place of Councillor McLean for the South East Employers.
3. That the Director Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree appointments to any vacancies that remain.

## **C14 WHEELED BIN PROCUREMENT AND STORAGE**

Councillor Middleton introduced the item noting that he was taking the decision on behalf of Councillor Townsend. The decision was required due to the impact of inflation and the war in Ukraine on the price of producing the wheeled bins and the cost of leasing a storage facility for the bins.

The Cabinet heard from one member of the public and from Councillors D Hopkins and McLean.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the revised resource allocations and amended capital programme for the purchase of wheeled bins as set out in the report is approved
2. That the 18 month lease of the site at The Wheelhouse in Wolverton for the temporary storage of wheeled bins, in preparation for the start of the new Environmental services contract is approved.
3. That authority be delegated authority to the Director of Environment and Property, and the Director of Finance and Resources (s151 officer), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Realm to reallocate further resources (either via budget virements or from reserves) up to a maximum of 10% of the amended capital and revenue budget should further market pressures or price volatility impact delivery of the programme.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.25 PM.