

Minutes of the SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY
21 NOVEMBER 2018 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Brackenbury (Chair)
R Bradburn, Brown, Crooks, Ferrans, A Geary, D Hopkins, Marklew,
Miles, Morris (substitute for Councillor Jenkins), Patey-Smith,
Walker, Wallis and C Wilson

Officer: S Gonsalves (Director of Policy, Insight and Communications),
M Kelleher (Service Director [Housing and Regeneration]),
E Richardson (Overview and Scrutiny Officer) and S Heap
(Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Bint, Jenkins and K Wilson

SM28 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

No interests were disclosed.

SM29 MINUTES

Further to Minute SMC24(2), the Committee noted that LGSS Law was a separate company and that as the Council's Legal Service was not provided by LGSS Law the Council had no financial interest in the company.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Scrutiny Management Committee held on 10 October 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.


SM30 SCRUTINY OF THE COUNCIL'S REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Further to Minute SMC24(2) of the Committee's meeting on 10 October 2018, the Committee considered a briefing note prepared by the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee's Planning Group which set out its proposals for scrutiny of the Council's Regeneration Programme.

The Committee also received a presentation from the Service Director (Housing and Regeneration) which set out the various stages of the process which would be used as each area went through the regeneration process, particularly emphasising that each of the regeneration projects would be community lead.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

- (a) every effort would be made to minimise any disruption to the education of children who were required to move from the locality during regeneration works;



- (b) a timeline for the regeneration of Fullers Slade had still to be developed;
- (c) oversight of the regeneration schemes by the Council's scrutiny function could add value by monitoring the achievement of the targets / outcomes in the Regeneration Strategy and by helping in identifying any weaknesses;
- (d) YourMK was still responsible for delivering regeneration, but the Cabinet had decided to bring a number of the functions back in house, particularly planning and resident engagement;
- (e) the first engagement phase would be commenced in five different areas during 2019, including Bradwell North, which would be commenced by March 2019, and Fullers Slade; and
- (f) the financial modelling for each scheme would be undertaken by the Council, using external expertise as necessary, alongside YourMK.

Councillor Ferrans, Chair of the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, suggested that the two main areas where scrutiny could potentially add value was by ensuring that adequate support was being given to residents by the Council and whether the outcomes were producing the changes / improvements envisaged.

Councillor Ferrans also suggested that it was important that there was some scrutiny, particularly of support being given to residents, in advance of the Cabinet Regeneration Sub-Committee's meeting on 12 December 2018, in order to help identify lessons that could be learnt from the process so far.

The Committee was of the view that scrutiny of what was a massive project, which would require a sizeable financial commitment from the Council, was imperative and recognised that it could potentially swamp the existing programme of scrutiny requiring the programme to be realigned to provide the required resources, both at councillor and officer level, particularly if additional resources were not made available.

The Committee accordingly considered how best it thought the regeneration project could be scrutinised, either by establishing a new committee, by an existing committee, a sub-committee or a panel of an existing committee, or by a Task and Finish Group.

It was also suggested that the Cabinet should be receiving regular progress reports which would allow other councillors and the public to challenge the responsible Cabinet member if they had concerns.

The Committee heard from a member of the public during consideration of this item and considered a written submission from the Residents of Regeneration Estates Group.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee's Planning Group be authorised to organise a working group to look at a range of regeneration issues in advance of the

meeting of the Regeneration Sub-Committee on 12 December.

2. That the Council be recommended to appointment an additional scrutiny committee from May 2019 to scrutinise the Council's Regeneration Programme.
3. That, noting that the Scrutiny Management Committee is recommending to Council the appointment of an additional scrutiny committee from May 2019 to scrutinise the Council's Regeneration Programme and the need for sufficient officer support for the current scrutiny structure including task and finish groups, the Cabinet is requested to include in the draft Budget 2019/20 provision for an additional Overview and Scrutiny Officer.

SM31

REPORTS FROM CHAIRS ON ISSUES WHICH HAVE ARISEN AT MEETINGS OF THEIR COMMITTEE

The Committee received reports from the Chairs of the Scrutiny Committee on issues which had arisen at recent meetings of their committees, or they were expecting to arise at forthcoming meetings.

The Committee noted that:

- (a) the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee which had been held on 30 October 2018, had not been well attended, possibly because it had been scheduled during school half term; and
- (b) it might be necessary to reschedule consideration of the new Housing Strategy by the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee as it had become evident that additional consultation was needed. The Committee had also scrutinised the Housing Business Plan at its meeting on 14 November 2018.

The Chair of the Committee emphasised the importance of scrutiny committees only considering matters where they could add value, and should not be receiving items for noting.

The Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee raised the issue of scrutiny of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and his concerns that the work was not being scrutinised.

RESOLVED –

That a briefing be provided to the Scrutiny Management Committee's Planning Group on the Committee's previous consideration of requests for scrutiny of the work being undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

SM32

WORK PROGRAMME UPDATES

The Committee considered possible changes to the work programmes of the various scrutiny committees.



With regard to the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee, the Management Committee considered:

- (a) moving consideration of s106 Opportunities from 11 December 2018 meeting to the Committee's meeting scheduled for 13 March 2019; and
- (b) whether it was necessary to consider the draft Housing Revenue Account Budget, recognising that the Account was responsible for a sizeable amount of the Council's income and expenditure.

The Management Committee was advised that the Children and Young People Committee, at its meeting on 30 October 2018:

1. in response to the Committee's request for the Planning Group to bring forward a proposal as to how the Committee considers School Admissions (Minute SMC22[6] of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 refers), a workshop, open to all ward councillors, was to be organised to carry out this scrutiny; and
2. the Committee had endorsed the Management Committee's suggested wording for the Call for Evidence in relation to education and skills (Minute SMC25[2-4] of the meeting held on 10 October 2018 refers).

Recognising that resource constraints had meant that the Task and Finish Group established to review Alternative Education Provision for Pupils Excluded from School in the Primary School Sector was not likely to be able to report until March, the Management Committee considered rearranging the work programme for the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in order that the Committee might receive the Task and Finish Group Report at its March meeting.

The Management Committee also considered bringing forward scrutiny of Choice Based Lettings by the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee to its 30 January 2019 meeting from the Committee's March meeting. The Management Committee also noted that the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee planned to defer any scrutiny of the Housing Mix in Milton Keynes to 2019/20.

At the request of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee's Planning Group the Management Committee considered by which scrutiny committee any scrutiny of transport to health facilities should be carried out.

The Committee was also advised that as the integration of the Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan were moving on a pace, it was likely that the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee would need an extra meeting possibly in March, because of the potential implications on Council policy and also general services.

At the request of the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee the Management Committee considered allowing the Committee to:

- (a) receive regular reports on progress in the implementation of the MK Futures 2050 Report recommendations; and
- (b) invite officer colleagues working on the recommendations arising from the MK Futures 2050 report to make a presentation to the Committee which addressed infrastructure capacity issues arising from a population of 500,000, including broadband, electricity, drainage capacity, gas, sewage and water.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee Planning Group discuss how best to scrutinise Housing Revenue Account 2019/20.
2. That the item on s106 expenditure be deferred to the to the March meeting of the Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee.
3. That an additional meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 2 April 2019 to consider the Contribution of education and skills specifically to the Renaissance of Central Milton Keynes and aspirations arising from the National Infrastructure Report, be agreed.
4. That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee's consideration of the item on Home Education scheduled on the work programme for 9 January 2019 be moved to the 6 March 2019 meeting and the items on MK:U and Child Poverty scheduled for 6 March 2019 be moved to the 9 January 2019 meeting.
5. That consideration of the 2019/20 work programme be added to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee's 6 March meeting.
6. That scrutiny of Choice Based Lettings be considered at the 30 January 2019 meeting of the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee.
7. That potential scrutiny of transport to health facilities be considered at the next meeting of the Management Committee.
8. That continued scrutiny of the infrastructure implications of growth be added to the work programme for the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee going forward.
9. That the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee be advised of the Management Committee's Planning Group's request for a briefing on the implementation of the MK Futures 2050 recommendations to be provided for all councillors.



SM33

REFERRALS

The Committee noted the response from the Constitution Commission with regard to the ability of the scrutiny committees when reviewing decisions called in, to make additional recommendations. The Committee specifically noted that a committee could not caveat its decision not to refer a matter back to the decision maker in any way, but it could make additional recommendations, perhaps on matters of policy.

The Committee also noted that the referrals from the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee's meeting on 14 November 2018, had been dealt with as part of earlier items.

SM34

QUARTER TWO 2018/19 - CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee considered the quarter two position 2018/19 for corporate performance based on the Council Plan 2016-2020, measured using indicators and projects from all Service Groups.

The Committee specifically considered details of performance across all corporate indicators and the Corporate Project Dashboard, which provided a snap-shot of progress of major projects and programmes.

In response to questions the Committee was advised that:

- (a) ways of monitoring the implementation of Plan:MK were being worked on and would be included in the performance reports in due course;
- (b) the number of persons reporting as homeless was improving as a result of measures being taken and potentially it could be a seasonal trend;
- (c) the potential indicators relating to Children's Services, raised at the last meeting of the Committee (Minute SM22(4) refers) were being considered and would be discussed with the Chair of the Children and Young Peoples Scrutiny Committee;
- (d) the performance data received a number of challenges before it was published, although the checks could not be considered as a formal audit process; and
- (e) the Project Dashboard showing the progress of Capital Schemes as a 'snap shot' and therefore did not necessarily show the current position when reported to the Committee, but it was possible to review the format of the Dashboard to add greater context.

The Committee, in considering the performance data, made a number of comments which included concerns:

- (a) at the number of staff vacancies, the time it appeared to take to fill vacancies and the potential impact on service delivery; and



- (b) the performance of the Revenue and Benefits Service and the accuracy of the data being provided, which, it was noted, was currently being looked at by the Council's Internal Audit Team, at the request of the Audit Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Director of Policy, Insight and Communications be requested to consider how:
 - (a) the delivery of Plan:MK can be monitored; and
 - (b) the Project Dashboard can be clarified with regard to the reporting of performance of capital projects.
2. That the Director of Policy, Insight and Communications be also requested to meet with the Chair of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to discuss the inclusion of performance indicators for a range of children and young people issues.
3. That the Corporate Leadership Team be advised of the Committee's concerns at potential corporate performance and service delivery issues caused by staff vacancies / delays in the recruitment process.

SM35

**SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – PLANNING GROUP:
6 NOVEMBER 2018**

The Committee considered the outcomes from the meeting of the Committee's Planning Group held on 6 November 2018.

The Committee received an update from the Chair of the Task and Finish Group established to review Alternative Education Provision for Pupils Excluded from School in the Primary School Sector on progress.

The Committee noted that the planning Group had requested officer colleagues to make a presentation, to which all councillors were invited, on progress in implementing the recommendations arising from the Milton Keynes 2050 report.

RESOLVED –

That the outcomes from the meeting of the Committee's Planning Group held on 6 November 2018 be confirmed.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.35 PM

