

# HOUSING AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**14 JULY 2016**

**7.00 PM**

**ROOM 2  
CIVIC OFFICES,  
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

**A G E N D A**

**[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny)**

Councillor C Williams (Chair)  
Councillors Ganatra and Wallis (Vice-Chairs)  
Councillors Burke, Ferrans, Geaney, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, D McCall, Petchey and Webb

For more information about the meeting please contact Elizabeth Richardson on (01908) 252629 or e-mail: [Elizabeth.Richardson@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Elizabeth.Richardson@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise its executive arrangements.

Each scrutiny committee or task and finish group has its own remit as set out in its terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance and have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy makers and decision makers
2. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public
3. Driving improvement in public services.

The scrutiny committees consider issues by receiving information from, and the questioning of, both council officers and external witnesses / partners to develop an understanding of proposals or practices. As scrutiny committees have no executive powers they often present their conclusions in the form of recommendations to the Cabinet, full Council, council officers, or external partners that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. The Committee will often request a formal response and progress report on the implementation of recommendations that they have provided to various parties.

## **Attending Meetings of Scrutiny Committees / Task and Finish Groups**

Meetings of scrutiny committees and task and finish groups are held in public and are open for everyone to attend. If you would like to attend then please just turn up. However, if you would like to make a representation to councillors on behalf of yourself or others, then let us know you are attending before the meeting so that the Chair can be advised in advance.

If there are specific issues that the meeting must consider in private then they will be asked to agree this at the meeting.

After the meeting the recommendations and Minutes of the meeting, as well as agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings are available via the Council's website at:

(<http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/>).

## **The Scrutiny process aims to promote the vision, values and objectives set out in the Milton Keynes Council Plan**

The Council Plan 2016-20 ([Council Plan 2016-20](#)) sets out how Milton Keynes Council will work to achieve its ambitions for Milton Keynes. Within it are the priorities the Council will address between 2016 and 2020, together with a detailed delivery plan showing what will be done and the main milestones along the way.

Milton Keynes Council wants to enable a 21<sup>st</sup> Century city whilst preserving what makes us special; an internationally recognised centre of prosperity, economic innovation and cultural creativity, in a high quality green space and built environment.

### **Vision:**

To develop a thriving, dynamic European Destination City and to ensure a fair, hardworking and more equal Milton Keynes for all.

### **Values:**

To become a co-operative borough where customers are put first, everyone works as team and makes a difference every day.

### **Objectives:**

#### **A City of Opportunity**

Milton Keynes has limitless potential. We want every person to have the chance of a good, well paid job and the skills to do it in a more equal society; a prosperous Milton Keynes with a strong, diverse economy that has an international reputation for innovation. We are in the right place to succeed, taking advantage of our excellent links to the wider regional, national and international economies, building on our success in the service and professional industries and taking advantage of new opportunities in a knowledge-based, high skilled economy. We will support people to succeed, develop the skills they need to access well paid employment and have the opportunity to meet their potential.

#### **An Affordable City**

We want to create communities that can attract, retain and enable people from every background. Milton Keynes has been built on meeting the aspirations of people to live in a good home at a price they can afford to rent or buy, and businesses being able to access high quality, affordable premises that meet their needs. We will promote more affordable good quality housing and create the space for business to thrive. We want to ensure citizens have access to high quality services, a well maintained built environment and green space, and a range of facilities and cultural offers that are the fabric of any modern diverse and successful city.

#### **A Healthy City**

We will ensure lifelong wellbeing for all. We want Milton Keynes to be an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives. We will support people and invest in services that promote prevention, choice and empowerment. We will reform public services to encourage aspiration, independence and resilience; ensure children and vulnerable people are protected from harm and neglect and work with partners to integrate services, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

## **General Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Groups**

- (a) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (b) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group
- (c) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (d) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or any Committee of the Council with respect to the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (e) To make reports or recommendations to the Council, to the Cabinet or to a regulatory committee on matters within the remit of the committee or task and finish group
- (f) To consider any representations made in connection with the work of the committee or review group by a Member of the Council on behalf of her/his constituents.
- (g) To appoint advisers from outside the Council to advise the committees or task and finish groups.

## **Housing and Community Committee Terms of Reference**

1. To scrutinise the planning and provision of housing services in Milton Keynes and the Council's role as landlord, to ensure that these services provide good quality, affordable accommodation for the Council's tenants and to create a sense of place for all citizens of Milton Keynes.
2. To review the availability and provision of housing in Milton Keynes, including the impact of the Council's planning policies.
3. To review and assess measures to address homelessness and rough sleeping in Milton Keynes.
4. To seek to ensure that the anticipated needs and aspirations of future Milton Keynes' residents are met in the planning and delivery of new housing developments.
5. To scrutinise the planning and provision of leisure and cultural services provided by the Council and its partners.
6. To scrutinise the involvement of the Council in regional and national organisations operating within the remit of the Committee to ensure that the involvement provides value and benefit to Milton Keynes.

## **Health and Safety**

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

## **Mobile Phones**

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

## **Agenda**

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/> Wi-Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

Users of Windows 7 and above can simply click the link to any documents you wish to see. Users of Windows XP will need to right click on the link and select 'open in browser'.

## **Recording of Meetings**

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

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, you can film, photograph, record or use social media at any Council meetings that are open to the public. If you are reporting the proceedings, please respect other members of the public at the meeting who do not want to be filmed. You should also not conduct the reporting so that it disrupts the good order and conduct of the meeting. While you do not need permission, you can contact the Council's staff in advance of the meeting to discuss facilities for reporting the proceedings and a contact is included on the front of the agenda, or you can liaise with staff at the meeting.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/343182/14\\_0812\\_Openness\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/14_0812_Openness_Guide.pdf)

## **Comments, Complaints and Compliments**

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please e-mail your comments to [scrutiny@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address. A formal comments / compliments / complaints form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/> .

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair to welcome councillors, officers of the Council, witnesses and the public to the meeting and introduce councillors, officers and witnesses who are present.

### **2. Apologies**

### **3. Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

### **4. Minutes**

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Housing and Community Committee held on 25 May 2016 (Item 4) (**Page 9**).

### **5. Presentations**

#### **MK YMCA**

To receive a short presentation from Simon Green, Director of Operations at the MK YMCA, about its work, the situation regarding young homeless people in Milton Keynes, and what the MK YMCA is planning to do in response to this.

Simon has been at MK YMCA for 7 years and in August will take up the role of Chief Executive. Before joining the YMCA, he worked as a Housing Manager at the Aldwyck Housing Association and as an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer and Housing Officer at South Beds District Council.

MK YMCA has been providing supported housing to young people and the homeless in Central Milton Keynes since 1981. Milton Keynes YMCA is one of 114 YMCAs affiliated to the national body – YMCA England - but it remains a financially independent local charity governed by its own Board of Trustees. At its site in Central Milton Keynes the YMCA houses 150+ young people at any one time – most of whom come to them whilst experiencing a period of homelessness.

#### **Homeless Support**

To receive a short presentation from Daniel Haydon on the support work he does with the homeless. Daniel has been working with the homeless in Milton Keynes for the past 3 years and is currently employed by Christ the Cornerstone Church as a homeless support worker. He works with individuals on both ends of the scale from those in threat of homelessness to long term rough sleepers.

He has also worked for organisations such as the YMCA, Winter Night Shelter and various other homeless outreach programmes. He has a very good understanding of the homeless landscape in Milton Keynes and is well connected with those who are actively working to combat this issue.

Daniel will share with the Committee his experience and understanding of the various issues intertwined within homelessness, identifying many of the barriers faced on a day to day basis and also some solutions for moving forward.

## 6. Draft Strategy for Meeting Statutory Housing Need – A Response to the Homelessness Task & Finish Group

To review and comment on the Council's draft *Strategy for Meeting Statutory Housing Need*.

Two housing related task and finish groups met during 2015/16; the first one looked specifically at the Council's Housing Allocations Scheme ([Housing Allocations Scheme TFG - Report](#)) the other at the issue of homelessness in Milton Keynes and possible ways this could be alleviated ([Homelessness TFG - Report](#)). Both Task and Finish Groups made a series of recommendations to Cabinet.

On 6 June 2016, the Cabinet approved the 2016-20 Council Plan which highlights the need to tackle homelessness as a priority for the Council; full Council approved the plan on 8 June 2016 ([Council Plan 2016-20](#)). Both Cabinet and full Council acknowledge the need to develop a short to medium term strategy to alleviate homelessness until such time as the longer term strategy of building more Council houses can be achieved.

With this in mind, the Council commissioned the Housing Quality Network (HQN) to assist it in meeting this challenge. HQN carried out an independent review of homelessness (as required by Section 1(a) of the Homelessness Act 2002) in order to help the Council develop a Homelessness Strategy for Milton Keynes (Section 1(b) of the Homelessness Act 2002) ([HQN Report](#)).

A report presenting the work done by HQN and the Draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy was presented to Cabinet on 11 June 2016 ([Cabinet Report](#)), with the recommendation that the Housing and Community Committee be asked to review and comment on the new draft strategy (Item 6) (**Pages 10 to 19**).

The Committee is therefore requested to consider the Strategy and identify any comments it would like to present to the Cabinet.

## 7. Work Programme 2016/17

The Committee's proposed Work Programme was presented by Councillor C Williams, as Chair of the Housing and Community Committee, to the Scrutiny Management Committee on 22 June 2016. The Scrutiny Management Committee made the following recommendations in respect of the Work Programme:

1. That a programme of six meetings for the Housing and Community Committee be agreed.
2. That the Housing and Community Committee be requested to review the Work Programme to ensure that scrutiny of all of the items listed is essential.
3. That the Housing and Community Committee be requested to provide objectives against each of the items it wishes to scrutinise.
4. That the Scrutiny Management Committee's Planning Group be requested to consider whether any of the items listed in the Work Programme could more appropriately be scrutinised elsewhere.
5. That the Scrutiny Management Committee monitor resources available to support the scrutiny process to ensure that demand does not exceed resources available.

The Scrutiny Management Committee's Planning Group met on 30 June and suggested that the item on "Land Banking" and the under development of sites by developers be considered by the Scrutiny Management Committee at a future meeting. The Planning Group also considered the Council's Regeneration Plans (RegenerationMK) to be a cross-cutting, long term project and that the Scrutiny Management Committee should consider how this can be most effectively scrutinised for the duration of the project.

The Committee is invited to consider recommendations 2 and 3 above in order to refine the Work Programme for 2016/17 (Item 7) (**Pages 20 to 21**).

Revised meeting dates are:

- Tuesday 23 August 2016
- Monday 10 October 2016
- Wednesday 30 November 2016
- Tuesday 17 January 2017
- Thursday 9 March 2017
- Wednesday 26 April 2017 (provisional)