



Minutes of the meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2000 at 7.30 pm

Present : Councillor Swepston (Chair)
Councillors Bartlett, Barton, I Henderson, Irons (substitute for Councillor Turnbull), Long, Tallack, Tilley, I Wilson and Woodcock

Officers : D Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services), D Nickless (Head of Neighbourhood Services - Housing), M Jones (Head of Legal and Property Services), T Huff (Finance Manager), C Chapman (Neighbourhood Services Commissioning Unit Co-ordinator), D Moore (Principal Manager, Regulation and Commissioning), K Page (Head of Neighbourhood Services Adult Social Care), M Legg (Lead Commissioner Adults), J Reed (Strategy and Performance Manager), S Graham (Older People Services Manager), B Pratt (Development and Maintenance Manager), W Marsden (Senior Committee Manager) and S Stares (Committee Manager)

Apology: Councillor Turnbull

NS41/00 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 1999, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

NS42/00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Irons declared a pecuniary interest as an employee of the Freemantle Trust.

NS43/00 ADJOURNMENT TO HEAR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Standing Order P29, the Committee adjourned to hear the views of the public during consideration of:

Review of Mental Health Day Services - Clubhouse Development

General Fund Budget - 2000/2001 and Effect on Other Years

Future Direction of Neighbourhood Services: Next Stages

NS44/00 WARD MATTER – BUCKLAND LODGE SHELTERED HOUSING SCHEME

At the request of Councillor Long, the Committee considered the short term and long term provision necessary to the maintenance of the Buckland

Lodge Sheltered Housing Scheme on Netherfield, especially in the context of its coexistence with the Langland House scheme.

The Committee noted that the provision had already been made with regard to the heating system at Buckland Lodge, and would be included in proposals to be submitted to the meeting of the Housing Committee on 1 February 2000.

RESOLVED -

1. That officers attend to the immediate need to repair guttering and to improve fencing around the site, subject to full consultation with residents.
2. That suitable capital provision be made at the appropriate time for the long-term maintenance of Buckland Lodge.
3. That officers decide in consultation with Councillor Long whether to bring this matter back to Committee.

NS45/00

REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH DAY SERVICES – CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENT

The Committee considered a process of consultation with partners and users to achieve a reconfiguring of mental health day services, to enable the revenue costs of the 'Clubhouse' to be included within existing mental health service budgets.

The Committee noted that the Clubhouse Scheme was to be developed as part of, not instead of, an integrated mental health day service.

RESOLVED -

1. That rather than re-tendering the services, a process of working together with partners and users be undertaken to determine the long term configuration of mental health day services, in accordance with the report approved by the Committee in February 1999.
2. That further work be undertaken to progress the potential of integration of some of the functions of Keystone with aspects of the Campbell Day Hospital.
3. That the management oversight of the tendering process should be delegated to the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services, in consultation with the Clubhouse Steering Group.
4. That the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services consult with the Chair and Opposition spokespersons on the development of the strategy, and particularly on the revenue implications of the scheme.

NS46/00

DEVELOPING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

The Committee was informed of the current service arrangements for people with learning disabilities and those who care for them. In addition, the Committee considered an outline of the Strategic Direction for service

developments needed to bring services in line with national best practice, and some of the actions required to ensure that the Council's services are configured to meet service users needs effectively.

It was noted that the proposals were consistent with the Neighbourhood Services Strategic Plan, agreed by the Committee on 7 July 1999 (Minute NS9/00 refers).

RESOLVED -

1. That the commitment to partnership working to develop a range of services for people with learning disabilities be supported.
2. That the move to consult with service users and carers in order to develop a Resource Centre approach that will meet service users' individual needs within their own communities, be approved.
3. That a costed plan with proposals be provided.

NS47/00

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOCAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Committee considered proposed changes to local Health Services which were currently the subject of consultation between 4 January 2000 and 31 March 2000.

The Committee noted the three strands to the consultation process of Primary Care Trust, Mental Health Services and Learning Disability Services.

The Committee also noted that the views of the next meeting of the Health Forum would be reported to the next meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That the creation of a Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust from 1 October 2000, including Mental Health, Learning Disability and all local Primary Care Services, be supported.
2. That the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services be authorised, once further local consultation has taken place, to finalise the Council's response with the Spokespersons of the main parties.
3. That all opportunities open to Milton Keynes Council be used to influence the decision-making process on mental health services, including:
 - (a) participating in local, county and regional consultation processes;
 - (b) talking to local MPs; and
 - (c) lobbying appropriate people.

NS48/00

GENERAL FUND 1999/2000 PROJECTION

The Committee was advised of actual expenditure to date against profiled estimate and the projected position for the year 1999/2000.

RESOLVED -

That the latest projections of the 1999/2000 budget, be noted.

NS49/00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2000/2001

The Committee considered the Council's latest overall budget and resources forecasts to set the context for the discussion on the Neighbourhood Services Committee's own budget.

RESOLVED -

1. That the targets for reducing the budget as they affect the Neighbourhood Services Committee's services, be adopted.
2. That the Committee is not minded to consider further options for reducing its budget for recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee, to assist in bridging the overall gap between resources and anticipated budget.

NS50/00

GENERAL FUND BUDGET – 2000/2001 AND EFFECT ON OTHER YEARS

The Committee considered the latest projected draft budget for Neighbourhood Services and the policy changes required to achieve this.

Councillor I Wilson moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor I Henderson, and on which a recorded vote was requested:

“That it be noted that the Committee's funding position is not the only issue to be taken into account when considering the proposals in Annexes B, C, D and E.”

The voting on the amendment was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bartlett, I Henderson, Tallack, Tilley and I Wilson (5)

AGAINST: Councillors Barton, Irons, Long, Swepston and Woodcock (5)

The motion was declared lost on the Chair's casting vote.

Councillor I Wilson moved the following amendment with was seconded by Councillor I Henderson, and on which a recorded vote was requested:

“That officers bring back a further report outlining the financial effects of the proposals on service users and whether they meet users needs.”

The voting on the amendment was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bartlett, Barton, I Henderson, Irons, Tallack, Tilley and I Wilson (7)

AGAINST: Councillors Long, Swepston and Woodcock (3)

The motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED -

1. That the draft budgets be noted.

2. That the savings proposals be approved.
3. That the Home Care proposals be approved.
4. That the Non Residential Charging Policy be noted, and a further report be submitted to the Committee after the proposals have been modelled to show the effects of the new policy.
5. That the proposed eligibility criteria be approved, and be monitored with a review after nine months.
6. That officers bring a further report to this Committee outlining the financial effects of the proposals on service users and whether they meet users' needs.
7. That a report be submitted to a future meeting on the setting up of an Appeals Panel to hear appeals from people who are not satisfied with the decision on whether they meet eligibility criteria or on the level of service they are offered.

NS51/00 FUTURE DIRECTION OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES: NEXT STAGES

The Committee considered a report on the development of proposals for an integrated local service.

The Committee noted that a letter from UNISON outlining a number of concerns with the proposals had been circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED -

1. That the detailed development work be delegated to the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services and a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.
2. That the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services meet with Trade Unions to resolve any difficulties.
3. That, should either side wish, the Chair of the Neighbourhood Services Committee be invited to be involved in these discussions.

NS52/00 TRAVELLERS ISSUES

The Committee was updated on progress on Travellers' issues since the last Committee meeting.

The Committee noted the recent launch of the Travellers Management Unit in January 2000.

RESOLVED -

That the current levels of unauthorised encampments and the progress made so far on a number of initiatives, be noted.

**NS53/00 MILTON KEYNES CARERS STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS
1999 – 2002**

The Committee was updated on the consultation process on the Milton Keynes Carers Strategy and Action Plans 1999-2002, and the likely financial implications of implementing the Strategy.

It was noted that consultation on the draft Strategy was not yet completed, and that the results of the consultation would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That the progress in consulting upon and implementing the Strategy be noted.
2. That it be recognised that there may be additional financial implications of implementing the Strategy and supporting carers to continue in their caring role in Milton Keynes.

**NS54/00 ACTION PLAN ON SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE DEAF
OR HARD OF HEARING**

Further to its consideration of a review of services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing (Minute NS35/00 refers), the Committee considered an Action Plan detailing outcomes and resourcing of the recommendations of the review report.

RESOLVED -

That the progress being made on the Action Plan be noted.

**NS55/00 CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF A HOT DELIVERED
COMMUNITY MEALS SERVICE**

The Committee noted that the contract for the provision of a hot delivered community meals service had been tendered.

RESOLVED -

1. That a Contracts Sub-Committee be established to award the contract for the provision of a hot delivered community meals service.
2. That the membership of the Sub-Committee comprise three Labour Members, two Liberal Democrat Members and one Conservative Member.

NS56/00 INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS

The Committee was informed of reports made by the Internal Audit Service in the last five months, from August 1999 to December 1999, and any actions arising in respect of areas falling within the remit of the Committee.

RESOLVED -

That the recommendations made in the reports and the officer comments, be noted.

The Committee received an update on the Shenley Common Farm Sheltered Housing Scheme and authority was sought for a tender process for an integrated housing and social care provider.

RESOLVED -

1. That Housing and Social Care services be provided directly, subject to a benchmarking exercise to ensure that such services are cost-effective and efficient.
2. That the Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services be authorised to tender the services if not satisfied with the benchmark information.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.05 PM