

AUDIT COMMITTEE

DECISIONS / ACTIONS – 22 MARCH 2021

Present:	Councillors Bint (Substituting for Cllr Gilbert), R Bradburn, Cannon (Chair), Lancaster, Legg, Minns, Montague, Petchey (Vice Chair), Rankine and Wales. Mr W Bush and Mr I Farookhi (Independent members) T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), P Thomas (Interim Director, Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking), D Wilkinson (Chief Internal Auditor), P Brown (Head of Democratic Services) and D Imbimbo (Committee Manager).
Also present:	Councillors Carr, A Geary and Hosking and Mr I Kirby (Independent Auditor) C.Co.
Apologies:	Councillor Gilbert

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
3.	Disclosure of Interests None were made.	-	Committee Manager
4.	Suspension of Council Procedure Rules RESOLVED – That Council Procedure Rules 9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 9.7,9.8,9.10 and 9.11 in respect of Public Participation; and 11.1, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3 and13.5 in respect of motions and amendments be suspended for the duration of the meeting.	-	

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5.	<p>Audit Review of Preliminary Findings of The M Dorfman Report on Warehouse Redevelopment at 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands</p> <p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>That the Committee;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recognises and welcomes the introduction of the Planning Improvement Board, intended to create a Planning Service that everyone in MK can trust and be proud of; 2. recognises that a big percentage of all planning applications, appeals and enforcement matters are dealt with in a proper and timely way, and thanks the officers involved for this important work; 3. notes the report from C.Co; 4. notes the report’s conclusions that Mr Dorfman has the planning knowledge and skills to be able to reach an independent view on the matter; 5. notes the report’s conclusion that Mr Dorfman has reached conclusions based on the evidence he has taken and that they are based on his professional opinions; 6. notes the report’s concern over the continued expansion of scope and continued input into the report; 7. acknowledges that Mr Dorfman has a desire to answer as many questions as possible, but that in doing so further delays to the report have been required; 		

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	<p>8. asks Mr Dorfman to concentrate on completing his review and setting out the evidence base for his conclusions (Report recommendation R1);</p> <p>9. notes the recommendation of the report that administrative support would assist in this request and asks the Deputy Chief Executive to liaise with Mr Dorfman on how this could be undertaken without compromising the independence of the report (R4);</p> <p>10. asks the Deputy Chief Executive, the Interim Director of Planning and Transport and the Cabinet Member for Planning to provide a report to the next Audit Committee on the impact of the Planning Improvement Board and its work (R2 and R5);</p> <p>11. notes the report’s categorical statement that at no point has any current officer of MKC sought to improperly influence the report;</p> <p>12. notes the further considerations in the report and asks the Head of Audit and Risk to bring forward a set of proposals at the appropriate time on any improvements that can be made to the future management of projects;</p> <p>13. notes that many of the concerns from stakeholders have arisen from lack of clarity around the specific scope of ‘The Dorfman Report’ and that the scope appears to have crept and changed over time;</p> <p>14. notes that many of the positive comments of the C.Co report can be attributed to it meeting, and sticking within the boundaries of, a tight scope; and</p> <p>15. therefore requests that specific consideration of FC1 from the C.Co report is given high priority by officers when considering responses and actions arising from the C.Co report.</p>	-	<p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Internal Auditor</p> <p>Deputy Chief Executive</p>