



EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY PANEL

24 JANUARY 2005

6.00pm

**ROOM 4, CIVIC OFFICES,
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

A G E N D A

Councillor: Councillor Lloyd (Chair)
Councillors: Benning, Gerrella, Jury, Long, Seymour and Tamagnini-Barbosa

AGENDA

Item No:

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Members and officers to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted.

3 Call-in of Decision C113: Supplementary Planning Guidance on Eastern Expansion Area Development Framework

The Panel will note that at its meeting held on 21 December 2004, the Cabinet considered a report on the above, which is set out at Item 3 (**Pages 1 to 45**).

Following consideration of the report, the Cabinet resolved:

- “1. That the suggested changes to the Eastern Expansion Area Development Framework be approved.

2. That the Development Framework be adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance with the following minor amendment:

The Framework makes reference to Broughton Church as a Worship Centre. The Church is now in the care of the Church Conservation Trust and for legal reasons it is no longer used for regular services and should not be referred to as a Worship Centre.

3. That the Council supports in principle the provision of a Bedford to Milton Keynes canal and encourages British Waterways, developers and the Waterway Trust to get together to use their best endeavours to agree a way forward with regard to the canal issue.”

This decision made by the Cabinet has been called-in by 29 residents of the Borough for the following reasons:

“We who are members of the Milton Keynes Electorate request that the following two decisions of the Cabinet relating to Item 10 of the Cabinet agenda on 21 December 2004, Supplementary Planning Guidance on the Eastern Expansion Area, are taken into scrutiny:

- 1) The decision to change the EEA development framework and adopt it as SPG without safeguarding either of the routes for the Waterway shown in the consultation documents
- 2) The resolution to charge British Waterways, developers and the Trust to get together to use best endeavours to resolve the Waterway issue.

Reasons

Our reasons for calling in these decisions are four-fold:

- 1 There are points of procedure which we think have been handled wrongly.
- 2 There are many questions left unanswered by the Council's current stance, which we believe the electorate and the Council's partners in the B&MK Partnership (member organisations listed below) have a right to have clarified.
- 3 There are factual errors in the documents created by officers which have led to mis-perceptions by the Council, not least that the aim was to have the waterway built rather than simply at this stage have the line protected.
- 4 We believe that the Cabinet could have chosen to pass alternative resolutions which would have safeguarded the future of the Waterway, but has instead chosen in effect to prematurely and single-handedly consign it to almost certain failure at this stage.

The Waterway has extensive, all-party electoral support not only in Milton Keynes, but all along the proposed route to Bedford, proven through surveys, a Citizen's Jury, and ongoing consultation with the public. The scheme will bring substantial economic, environmental and social benefits. We therefore call upon the Council to exert its authority, and find a mechanism to safeguard a route for the Waterway, rather than allow developers, lawyers and planners to dictate the future shape of our communities."

For Information: Members of the B & MK Partnership:

Milton Keynes Council	B & MK Waterways Trust	British Waterways	Forest of Marston Vale
Bedford Borough Council	Inland Waterways Association	Sport England	Country Land & Business Assoc. & NFU
Mid Beds Council	Bedford Group of Drainage Boards	East of England Tourist Board	Sustrans
Beds County Council	Bedford River Users Group	Environment Agency	Wildlife Trust
EEDA	Great Ouse Boating Association	English Nature	GUSAC
SEEDA	British Marine Federation	Cranfield University	The Waterways Trust
			Countryside Agency

The Executive Scrutiny Panel is asked to consider the item received by the Cabinet and the reasons for the call-in, in accordance with the Council's Constitution, and either:

- (a) refer the item back to the Cabinet, setting out the nature of the Panel's concerns;
- (b) not refer the item back to the Cabinet and the decision to take effect from the conclusion of the meeting; or
- (c) refer its views directly to the Council.

If you have any enquiries about this meeting please contact Lesley Hay, Senior Committee Manager (Tel: MK 252325 or email: Lesley.Hay@milton-keynes.gov.uk)