

Minutes of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor McLean (Mayor)

Councillors Alexander, Bald, Baume, Betteley, Bint, Brackenbury, Bradburn, Bramall, Brunning, Buckley, M Burke, Cannon, Clancy, Clifton, Coventry, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, E Gifford, R Gifford, Gowans, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, Khan, Legg, Lewis, Long, Marland, D McCall, I McCall, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Morla, Morris, Nolan, O'Neill, Patey-Smith, Small, Walker, Wallis, Webb, White, C Williams and Wilson

Alderwoman Saunders

Apologies: Councillors McDonald, McKenzie and P Williams and Aldermen Bartlett, Beeley, Bristow, E Henderson and Howell and Alderwomen I Henderson, Irons and Lloyd

Also Present: circa 100 members of the public

CL96 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

CL97 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Councillor McKenzie

The Mayor announced the recent death of Councillor McKenzie's wife Maureen and that funeral would be held on Friday 19 February 2016 at Crownhill Crematorium.

The Mayor also indicated that he would be sending a letter expressing the Council's condolences to Councillor McKenzie and his family.

(b) Alderman James Dewick

The Mayor, also announced the death of Alderman Jim Dewick who died in January at the age of 89.

The Mayor informed the Council that Alderman Dewick was a Councillor for over 20 years and was the last Chairman of the Wolverton Urban District Council, before it changed to Milton Keynes Council. He was also a long term Governor of many local schools.

The Mayor indicated that the Deputy Mayor attended the funeral to represent the Council and he had sent a letter of condolence to Alderman Dewick's family.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect.

CL98**DEPUTATION AND PETITIONS**

- (a) The Council received a deputation, the object of which was to highlight the serious impact on trade in Milton Keynes Market following a recent increase in car parking charges in a nearby parking area.

The Council noted that the objects of the deputation would be referred to the next meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

- (b) The Council received a petition in respect of the appeal against the planning permission for development at Church Farm.

The Council noted that the petition would be referred to the next meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

CL99**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- (a) Question from Mr M Allsopp to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Mr Allsopp, referring to the period in excess of 14 months since the street lamp outside number 25 Willey Court, Galley Hill was first reported as out of order, asked Councillor Marland to arrange for the repair to be completed immediately and not leave the people that live in Willey Court in the dark any longer.

Councillor Marland referred the question to Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm) who indicated that, the delay had largely been as a result of an issue between the Council and the electricity supplier, however, he understood that the work would be completed during the week ending 21 February 2016. Councillor Legg undertook to provide a more detailed response in writing.

Mr Allsopp, as a supplementary question, asked why the new street lamp posts being installed had no identifying numbers and the stumps of the old lamps were not being removed.

Councillor Legg indicated that the stumps of the old lamp posts should be removed once the new posts were installed and connected. Councillor Legg undertook to raise the issue with officer colleagues with a view to the work being completed.

- (b) Question from Mr P Griffiths to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Mr Griffiths, recognising the income brought into Milton Keynes by the Rugby World Cup, asked Councillor Marland how much the World Cup had cost Milton Keynes Council, particularly bearing in mind that the Council's budget monitoring was reporting an overspend of £0.194m against budget.

Councillor Marland indicated that the three matches hosted at StadiumMK had attracted more than 87,000 spectators and had brought in a considerable amount of income both to the country and Milton Keynes. The cost to the Council had been £721,000, with income of £40,000. The overspend of £194,000 was as a result of fewer tickets being sold for the Fan Zone than anticipated, but the Cabinet had agreed to underwrite the cost and had established an Event Contingency Fund to cover any potential shortfall in income. Therefore, technically there was actually an underspend on the Rugby World Cup Operations Budget.

Mr Griffiths, suggesting that the over spend on the Rugby World Cup event and the reported overspend on the Cyclocross event in 2014 called into question the Council's ability to manage larger scale vanity events within the allocated budget, which was of concern, particularly bearing in mind the plans for events to mark MK50 and a possible bid for European Capital of Culture, asked Councillor Marland as a supplementary question, what reassurances could be given to Council Tax payers that such overspends would not occur again in the future.

Councillor Marland indicated that that there were no comparisons to be made between the Rugby World Cup and the Cyclocross event, as circumstances were very different. Councillor Marland also challenged the suggestion that such large scale events were vanity events and stressed that they played an important part in raising the profile of Milton Keynes both nationally and internationally.

Councillor Marland suggested that lessons had been learnt as a result of the Council's involvement with the Rugby World Cup and in future when the Council was underwriting similar events, it was important to fully understand the risks and to seek more certainty on the organiser's income projections.

Councillor Marland also referred to the work of the local organisers who had done a fantastic job in using the Rugby World Cup to promote Milton Keynes.

- (c) Question from Mr K Geaney to Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Mr Geaney, in connection with the proposed trials of an alternative system for the collection of recyclable domestic materials, asked Councillor Legg if the following implications had been considered:

- the replacement cost of lost, damaged or destroyed reusable bags;

- the amount of recycling that would be contaminated or become non-recyclable due to weather damage and need to go to landfill, or to the new waste disposal plant,;
- the limited capacity of the new bags, the equivalent of one and half sacks per household, and the potential that recycling will be put in black sacks;
- how elderly and less able people would move these weighted bags when full.

Councillor Legg indicated that the issues raised were largely operational and it was intended that the trials would identify the potential problems.

Councillor Legg also referred to the Task and Finish Group to be established by the Scrutiny Management Committee which would review the outcomes of the trials.

- (d) Question from Ms J Richards to Councillor Clifton (Cabinet member for Economic Growth and Inward Investment)

Ms Richards, referring to the budget proposal to reduce the 24/25 bus service, asked Councillor Clifton to make it clear that he understood the importance of this service, particularly for the local users, many of whom were elderly, and the implications the service reductions would have, and as a result would review the proposal.

Councillor Clifton indicated that the Cabinet did take the implications on service users very seriously and the Council would be discussing the issue later in the meeting.

- (e) Question from Ms G Bariah to Councillor E Gifford (Cabinet member for Community Services)

Ms Bariah, referring to the proposal in the budget to charge £25 per session for use of open space, asked Councillor Gifford to reconsider the proposal as some community groups would not be able to afford the charge.

Councillor Gifford indicated that the Council would be discussing the issue later in the meeting.

- (f) Question from Mr J Orr to Councillor Clifton (Cabinet member for Economic Growth and Inward Investment)

Mr Orr, referring to the recent changes to the parking tariffs around market square which had seen them quadruple from 50p to £2 an hour and the impact on Central Milton Keynes Market, asked Councillor Clifton what analysis was done before the decision was made.

Councillor Clifton indicated that officer colleagues had undertaken a detailed analysis in coming forward with the trial changes to car parking arrangements to try and address the demand for employee parking. The full impact of the trial would be assessed later in the year, however, there were lots of free or low cost parking spaces available in the vicinity of the Market.

Mr Orr as a supplementary question, asked Councillor Clifton if he would reconsider the decision in the light of the detrimental consequences of the decision.

Councillor Clifton indicated that in assessing the outcome of the trial arrangements he would be willing to listen to the concerns of the Market Traders.

- (g) Question from Mr A Francis to Councillor Bald (Leader of the Conservative Group)

Mr Francis, referring to the criticism by both the Prime Minister's mother and aunt of the cuts to services being made by Oxfordshire County Council because of reductions in Government Grant, asked Councillor Bald if she would join the Prime Minister's mother in condemning the Government's cuts and apologise on behalf of her Group to the residents of Milton Keynes for the hardship that the Conservative Government was inflicting on residents of Milton Keynes by reducing the Council's Grant by more than £10m.

Councillor Bald indicated that Mr Francis might want to check his sources of information and not believe everything he reads in the Daily Mail. Councillor Bald suggested that sensible people should listen to their mothers and aunts, as the Prime Minister had clearly done, as extra resources had been made available to county councils.

Councillor Bald clarified that the reduction to the Council's Revenue Support Grant was £7.5m not £10m and it was a matter for the Administration to address the impact on vulnerable people. However, if the overspend in the current year had been corrected there would potentially have been more money available for services for vulnerable people.

Mr Francis, suggesting that Councillor Bald had not answered his question, asked Councillor Bald, as a supplementary question, to confirm that her Group supported the cuts being imposed by the Government and the resulting cuts being proposed to the Council's Budget.

Mr Francis also explained that he believed that the figure of £10m he had quoted with regard to a reduction in Government Grant had come from the Leader of the Council,

Councillor Bald indicated that she would be moving a number of changes to the Budget that would address the reductions being proposed by the Administration. Councillor Bald added that what was needed was sound financial management of the Council's Budget.

CL100 COUNCIL TAX AND BUSINESS RATE BASELINE 2016/17 (FUNDING CONTRIBUTION TO PARISH AND TOWN COUNCILS)

The Council noted that the recommendation from the Cabinet's meeting on 9 November 2015 (Minute C86 refers) had been superseded by the recommendation from the Cabinet's meeting on 8 February 2016 in connection with the Budget 2016/17.

CL101 NHS SERVICE PLANNING

Councillor Bramall moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Committee held on 5 January 2016, which was seconded by Councillor I McCall:

"That the Council as a whole be encouraged to develop better working relationships with both the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS England Area Team so that all parties benefit from mutual co-operation and a meaningful and positive exchange of data and other information across the range of services."

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

That the Council as a whole be encouraged to develop better working relationships with both the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group and the NHS England Area Team so that all parties benefit from mutual co-operation and a meaningful and positive exchange of data and other information across the range of services.

CL102 PROCEDURAL MOTION / ANNOUNCEMENT

The Mayor moved the following Procedural Motion in respect of the forthcoming debate on the budget, which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor:

"That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.1, Council Procedure Rule 13.6(e) [Ownership of motion to pass with a successful amendment] be suspended in respect of Item 4(c)(ii) [Budget Report 2016/17]."

On being put to the vote the procedural motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.1, Council Procedure Rule 13.6(e) [Ownership of motion to pass with a successful amendment] be suspended in respect of Item 4(c)(ii) [Budget Report 2016/17].

The Mayor announced, that in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13.4, he would allow the speech from the Leader of the Council to exceed the limit of 4 minutes, and then allow each of the Leaders of the Opposition Groups to speak for a similar time.

CL103

BUDGET REPORT 2016/17

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet held on 8 February 2016, which were seconded by Councillor Middleton:

- “1. That the Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 to be approved.
2. That the Council Tax at Band D of £1,206.05, for the Milton Keynes element of the Council Tax, be approved, this being an increase of 3.95%, consisting of a 1.95% general increase plus a further 2% precept specifically related to Adult Social Care.
3. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 9 November 2015, the Cabinet approved a Tax Base of 80,360.69 equivalent Band D properties for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
4. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council’s own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £96.919m, be noted.
5. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 [the “Act”] (note these will be confirmed once all precepts have been received):
 - (a) £576.574m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils.
 - (b) £473.839m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3).
 - (c) £102.735m As its Council Tax requirement for the year, being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4).
 - (d) £1,278.43 As the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts), being the amount at (c) above, divided by the Council Tax Base agreed on 9 November 2015.

- (e) £5,816,467 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (f) £1,206.05 Being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the Council Tax Base agreed on 9 November 2015, as the basic amount of Council Tax for the year for Milton Keynes Council, excluding Parish and Major Precepting Authorities.

6. That the following amounts be calculated for Milton Keynes Council Tax:

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
MKC With 1.95% Increase	788.57	919.99	1,051.42	1,182.85	1,445.71	1,708.56	1,971.42	2,365.70
ASC Levy Further 2% Increase	15.47	18.04	20.62	23.20	28.36	33.51	38.67	46.40
MKC Total	804.04	938.03	1,072.04	1,206.05	1,474.07	1,742.07	2,010.09	2,412.10

* Small changes due to rounding on the ASC levy.

7. That the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (f) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to all dwellings listed in each particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act.
8. That for the year 2016/17, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has stated the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

VALUATION BANDS							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
111.31	129.86	148.41	166.96	204.06	241.16	278.27	333.92

9. That for the year 2016/17, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has stated the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

VALUATION BANDS							
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
39.80	46.43	53.07	59.70	72.97	86.23	99.50	119.40

10. That as a result of the above, the amounts of Council Tax shown in Annexes A and B be set in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown in the Schedule.
11. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21 and the Treasury Policy Statement, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.
12. That the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure and the Capital Financing Requirement, the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt, the Affordability Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the years 2016/17 to 2019/20, be approved.
13. That the Authorised Limit for external debt of £743m for 2016/17 to be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved.
14. That the resource allocation for the 2016/17 Tariff programme be approved.
15. That the equalities impact assessment for the budget be considered (at paragraphs 15.6 - 15.10 of the report) and used to inform the Council's decision in respect of the Budget 2016/17.
16. That in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, it be noted that the Corporate Director Resources is of the view that this Budget is robust and the forecast reserves are adequate (at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 of the report).
17. That the fees and charges for 2016/17 (including those fees and charges which are exceptions to the Income and Collection Policy) be approved.
18. That officer colleagues be delegated flexibility in the setting of fees and charges for commercial services, as set out in paragraph 4.19 of the report.
19. That the estimated position for Dedicated Schools Grant for 2016/17 be noted.
20. That a funding contribution for 2016/17 to parish and town councils of £530,000 be adopted, as consistent with the Budget.
21. That the charge for residents on housing benefits as part of the alternative approach to delivering saving proposal S24 (reducing the cost of sheltered housing), as reflected in the Schedule of Fees and Charges be amended to a per week and not per month basis, as indicated in the Budget."

Councillor Brackenbury, Chair of the Budget Scrutiny Committee presented the Committee’s report on the Budget 2016/16.

Councillor Bald moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor A Geary and on which a recorded vote was requested:

“That the following words be added to the end of recommendation 1 from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2016:

“, subject to:

Pink Sacks and Green Waste

The Council noting and accepting that the following saving proposals amount to significant changes to the Council’s waste strategy, and as such should go through the proper process to propose and agree changes to the waste strategy before being included in the Council’s budget, agrees to:

- (a) the removal of savings proposal S111 (the introduction of charges for garden waste), pending a full review of the Council’s waste strategy via a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group set up specifically for this purpose, with recommendations from this review identifying savings for inclusion in next year’s budget proposal and this amendment to the Budget being funded by the following alternative proposals:

	Item	2016/17	Proposal
S126	Savings from re-tendering food and garden waste treatment	£0.115m	The contract for disposal of food and garden waste has been retendered during late 2015, tenders have been returned and evaluated and recommendations will be made to award a new contract at PCC in March 2016. The charges in the new contract are lower and will, therefore see a reduction in overall cost of this amount.
S127	Increase recycling rates	£0.090m	Waste composition data demonstrates that 75% of food waste currently ends up in black bags. There also remains room for improvement in other recyclates e.g. shampoo bottles and yoghurt pots etc. A concerted and targeted campaign to improve these areas of recycling is predicted to increase income by this amount.

S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.095m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred
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- (b) the removal of the Resource allocation of £1.070m for Food Waste Bins, to be funded from the Weekly Collection grant from the Capital Programme; and
- (c) one-off funding of £0.400m being provided to continue with pink sacks provision during 2016/17, pending recommendations from the waste strategy review about recycling containers (S92), to be funded from the £0.350m available one-off funding in the draft 2016/17 Budget and an additional £0.05m from a reduction to OP24, following a review of the potential pay costs in 2016/17.

Reduction in Bus Subsidies

- (a) the Council noting the considerable hardship to residents in Little Brickhill, some of whom have no other means of transport except by bus, that would result from the discontinuation of the route taken by the X31 via Little Brickhill and agreeing to bus route X31 (Luton-Dunstable-Bletchley-CMK), remaining unchanged, so reducing the saving identified at S120 by £25k, with this being funded by new budget proposals as follows:

S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.05m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred
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S128	Utility trench reinstatement additional income (Coring) an increase to S89	£0.02m	Early sampling of utilities trench reinstatements has demonstrated a higher than anticipated failure rate therefore the level of fine income that MKC is able to levy can be reliably predicted to increase by this amount.
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- (b) the Council's concern being noted that residents, who rely on the 24/25 bus running from and from Central Milton Keynes through Shenley Church End, Shenley Lodge and Shenley Brook End to the Westcroft District Centre, will see services cut as a result of this budget, leaving some residents stranded and unable to get their shopping or to visit friends and agreeing that this proposal is withdrawn from Saving Proposal S120, with this amendment being funded by a reduction in the one-off pressure OP21 MK Futures 2050 Programme in line with the revised expected cost of the delivery.

Car Parking

- (a) the Council noting and accepting that there is a serious shortage of affordable parking in the right places in Central Milton Keynes, especially in the business district, and that the current Administration has failed to address this shortage adequately in 2015/16 despite promises made during the 2015/16 budget debate at Council;
- (b) the Council noting the Cabinet's decision in January to rephrase to 2016/17 the £9m allocated to parking from the 2015/16 Capital Budget;
- (c) the Council noting that the resource allocation for this scheme is included in the Capital Programme financed through prudential borrowing, with the costs of borrowing being funded from a combination of additional income from parking and the Base Budget (as proposed in the 2016/17 Budget);
- (d) officer colleagues being required to develop a proposal by September 2016, for a Multi-storey car park in the centre of Milton Keynes, or the business district.

Countess Way

- (a) the Council noting the difficulties experienced by residents living beside and using Countess Way in Broughton;

- (b) Council being grateful for the measures introduced to reduce speeding on Countess Way, while noting that they have created further problems by cars swerving around speed bumps and lorries breaking, then accelerating, to navigate speed bumps causing noise and disturbance to the residents alongside the road;
- (c) the Council further noting that policy has now changed as a result of the experiences on Countess Way, and agrees that it owes it to residents of Countess Way to do whatever is feasible to improve things for them;
- (d) a sum of £60k being included for a feasibility study, together with an allocation of £240k for a scheme of Highways improvement works at Countess Way, funded subject to an improvement in the outturn position compared to the forecast outturn as at January 2016.”

The voting was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bald, Bint, Bramall, Brunning, Buckley, Clancy, Dransfield, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, McLean, Morla, Morris, Patey-Smith, Small and Walker (21)

AGAINST: Councillors Alexander, Baume, Betteley, Brackenbury, Bradburn, M Burke, Cannon, Clifton, Coventry, Crooks, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, E Gifford, R Gifford, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Lewis, Long, Marland, D McCall, I McCall, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Nolan, O’Neill, Wallis, Webb, White, C Williams and Wilson (33)

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

The amendment was declared lost.

Councillor A Geary moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Green, on which a recorded vote was requested:

“That the following words be added to the end of recommendation 1 from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2016:

‘, subject to:

the removal of proposed application fees of £25 for Events on Public Open Space (on p59/p60 in the budget papers) for parish, community, and not-for profit applications.”

The voting was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bald, Bint, Bramall, Brunning, Buckley, Clancy, Dransfield, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, McLean, Morla, Morris, Patey-Smith, Small and Walker (21)

AGAINST: Councillors Alexander, Baume, Betteley, Brackenbury, M Burke, Cannon, Clifton, Coventry, Crooks, Eastman, Ferrans, E Gifford, R Gifford, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Lewis, Long, Marland, D McCall, I McCall, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Nolan, O'Neill, Wallis, Webb, White, C Williams and Wilson (31)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Bradburn and Exon (2)

The amendment was declared lost.

Councillor Hosking moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor P Geary, which was accepted by the mover of the motion:

"1. That the following words be added to the end of recommendation 1 from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2016:

‘, subject to the description of the "external service delivery impact" being changed to:

“Bring services for older people with dementia and/or physically frail onto 2 sites. These should be focussed around 2 hubs a northern and a southern hub with the northern hub being based at the Kitchener Centre Olney.”

2. That the following additional recommendation be added:

‘That this Council actively engage with Olney Town Council and other local groups to protect and develop a service for older people with dementia and/or physically frail for the benefit of all.’”

Councillor Brackenbury moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor D McCall, which was accepted by the mover of the motion:

"1. That the following additional clause be added as the first clause of the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2016:

‘That the Council affirms the following strategic principles guiding its budget decision-making process:

- That the Council should prioritise the vulnerable and avoid targeting savings proposals at those least able to bear them.

- That the hard-earned improvement in recycling rates in Milton Keynes should not be put at risk.
 - That significant policy changes should be made outside of the budget process so that full reviews and consultation can be carried out.
 - That proposals affecting local areas should be open to public consultation and challenge before funding reductions are agreed.'
2. That the following additional clause be added as the second clause of the recommendation from the Cabinet meeting on 8 February 2016, with all existing clauses being renumbered:
- 'That the Council therefore agrees the following changes to the Revenue Budget 2016/17 as recommended by Cabinet are needed in order to make it acceptable:
- No new charges for residents of council sheltered accommodation;
 - Green waste collections to remain free of charge;
 - Pink sacks to be kept until the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group has reported, all evidence from pilots has been gathered and a fully informed decision can be made;
 - The whole of the 24/25 bus service shall be retained;
 - No administration fees for parishes, charities, not for profit groups and community groups putting on events in public open space;
 - No removal of play areas or other public assets without costed plans, consultation and accountable decision making;
 - A new fund to repaint faded white lines at road junctions.'
3. That the following clause be added to the end of clause 3 (previously clause 1):
- "subject to the following changes:
- (a) Pressure OP36 (transition fund for Sheltered Housing Officers) to be increased by £139k to £232k, to ensure charges for residents of sheltered accommodation will remain as they are currently. This will allow for the Living Independently review to develop a new model for sheltered accommodation and the support service. This will be funded by a £50k reduction in the one-off pressure OP21 MK Futures 2050 Programme in line with the revised expected cost of delivery and a reduction of £89k to OP32 maximising housing supply

and reducing housing demand; this will require the investment to address these issues to be delivered by a reduced level of extra staff resource than originally proposed in OP32 or within existing staff resource. If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, the reduction to one-off pressure OP32 will be reinstated. This is the second priority for any available funding.

- (b) The removal of savings proposal S111; the introduction of charges for garden waste. This amendment will be funded the following alternative proposals:

	Item	2016/17	Proposal
S126	Savings from re-tendering food and garden waste treatment	£0.115m	The contract for disposal of food and garden waste has been retendered during late 2015, tenders have been returned and evaluated and recommendations will be made to award a new contract at PCC in March 2016. The charges in the new contract are lower and will, therefore see a reduction in overall cost of this amount.
S127	Increase recycling rates	£0.090m	Waste composition data demonstrates that 75% of food waste currently ends up in black bags. There also remains room for improvement in other recyclates e.g. shampoo bottles and yoghurt pots etc. A concerted and targeted campaign to improve these areas of recycling is predicted to increase income by this amount.

S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.095m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred
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- (c) The removal of Resource allocation of £1.070m for Food Waste Bins, which was to be funded from the Weekly Collection grant from the Capital Programme.
- (d) One-off funding of £0.400m being provided to allow for a delay to changes to recycling containers (S92). This will allow for a potential second phase of pilots, full evaluation of the results of ongoing pilots, and scrutiny by the Waste Strategy Task and Finish group before committing to details of any replacement scheme.

This change will be funded from the £0.350m available one-off funding in the published 2016/17 Budget and an additional £0.05m from a reduction to OP24, following a review of the potential pay costs in 2016/17.

- (e) The reduction of saving S120 by £24k to ensure bus route 24/25 remains unchanged. This is to be funded by new budget proposals as follows:

S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.04m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred
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S128	Utility trench reinstatement additional income (Coring) an increase to S89	£0.020m	Early sampling of utilities trench reinstatements has demonstrated a higher than anticipated failure rate therefore the level of fine income that MKC is able to levy can be reliably predicted to increase by this amount.
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(f) The removal of proposed application fees of £25 for Events on Public Open Space (on p59/p60 in the budget papers) for parish, community, and not-for profit applications.

(g) An additional £120k of one-off funding being provided to delay the proposed savings from removal of play areas (S78) and redundant public assets (S103) to allow for a set of criteria for removal to be agreed, and a process of public consultation and accountable decision-making to be implemented, in advance of any assets being removed. This amendment is to be funded by:

- Deleting the one-off pressure OP26 Inward Investment Fund, which will remove the seed funding to promote and encourage inward investment and
- Reducing one-off pressure OP37 Public Health funding by £100k, this will require Public Health transformation to be delivered within existing staff resourcing and no reduction is to be made to delivery of front line Public Health services.

If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, these one-off pressures will be reinstated in the Budget, with the OP26 Inward Investment being the third priority and OP37 Public Health funding being the fourth priority.

(h) An additional one-off fund of £100k to deliver a targeted programme of white line repainting at road junctions across the Borough. This to be funded by:

- Reducing one-off pressure OP14 Resources for MK50 by £75k, this may reduce the capacity to leverage investment from partners for MK50 celebration events, and;
- A further reduction of £25k to OP32 maximising housing supply and reducing housing demand, this will require the investment to address these issues

to be delivered by a reduced level of extra staff resource than originally proposed in OP32 or within existing staff resource.

If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, these one-off pressures will be reinstated in the Budget, with the OP14 Resources for MK50 being the first priority and OP32 Maximising housing supply and reducing housing demand being the second priority.”

4. That the following additional clause be added to the end of the Cabinet’s recommendation: ‘Recognising that future Budget proposals will be subject to annual Budget decisions of the Council, that the medium term financial savings proposals, as set out in Annex D, are amended to:
 - (a) Confirm the deletion of saving S72 (Wider Use funding) to remove constraints on the promised review of Wider Use funding in 2016/17.
 - (b) Delete the £100k saving in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 for removing play areas (S78).”

During consideration of this motion and amendments the Council heard from 9 members of public.

The voting on the substantive motion was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Baume, Betteley, M Burke, Clifton, Coventry, E Gifford, R Gifford, Gowans, Khan, Legg, Lewis, Long, Marland, Middleton, Miles, Nolan, O’Neill, Wallis, Webb, White, C Williams and Wilson (22)

AGAINST: Councillors Bald, Bint, Bramall, Brunning, Buckley, Clancy, Dransfield, Ganatra, Geaney, A Geary, P Geary, Green, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, Hosking, McLean, Morla, Morris, Patey-Smith, Small and Walker (21)

ABSTENTIONS: Councillors Alexander, Brackenbury, Bradburn, Cannon, Crooks, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, D McCall, I McCall, McPake, (11)

The recommendation and motion were declared carried.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council affirms the following strategic principles guiding its budget decision-making process:
 - That the Council should prioritise the vulnerable and avoid targeting savings proposals at those least able to bear them.
 - That the hard-earned improvement in recycling rates in

Milton Keynes should not be put at risk.

- That significant policy changes should be made outside of the budget process so that full reviews and consultation can be carried out.
 - That proposals affecting local areas should be open to public consultation and challenge before funding reductions are agreed.
2. That the Council therefore agrees the following changes to the Revenue Budget 2016/17 as recommended by Cabinet are needed in order to make it acceptable:
- No new charges for residents of Council sheltered accommodation;
 - Green waste collections to remain free of charge;
 - Pink sacks to be kept until the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group has reported, all evidence from pilots has been gathered and a fully informed decision can be made;
 - The whole of the 24/25 bus service shall be retained;
 - No administration fees for parishes, charities, not for profit groups and community groups putting on events in public open space;
 - No removal of play areas or other public assets without costed plans, consultation and accountable decision making;
 - A new fund to repaint faded white lines at road junctions.
3. That the Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Capital Programme for 2016/17 to 2020/21 to be approved, subject to the following changes:
- (a) Pressure OP36 (transition fund for Sheltered Housing Officers) being increased by £139k to £232k, to ensure charges for residents of sheltered accommodation will remain as they are currently. This will allow for the Living Independently review to develop a new model for sheltered accommodation and the support service. This will be funded by a £50k reduction in the one-off pressure OP21 MK Futures 2050 Programme in line with the revised expected cost of delivery and a reduction of £89k to OP32 maximising housing supply and reducing housing demand; this will require the investment to address these issues to be delivered by a reduced level of extra staff resource than originally proposed in OP32

or within existing staff resource. If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, the reduction to one-off pressure OP32 will be reinstated. This is the second priority for any available funding.

- (b) The removal of savings proposal S111; the introduction of charges for garden waste, funded by the following alternative proposals:

	Item	2016/17	Proposal
S126	Savings from re-tendering food and garden waste treatment	£0.115m	The contract for disposal of food and garden waste has been retendered during late 2015, tenders have been returned and evaluated and recommendations will be made to award a new contract at PCC in March 2016. The charges in the new contract are lower and will, therefore see a reduction in overall cost of this amount.
S127	Increase recycling rates	£0.090m	Waste composition data demonstrates that 75% of food waste currently ends up in black bags. There also remains room for improvement in other recyclates e.g. shampoo bottles and yoghurt pots etc. A concerted and targeted campaign to improve these areas of recycling is predicted to increase income by this amount.
S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.095m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred

- (i) The removal of Resource allocation of £1.070m for Food Waste Bins, funded from the Weekly Collection grant from the Capital Programme.
- (j) One-off funding of £0.400m being provided to allow for a delay to changes to recycling containers (S92), to allow for a potential second phase of pilots; full evaluation of the results of ongoing pilots; and scrutiny by the Waste Strategy Task and Finish Group before committing to details of any replacement scheme.

This change being funded from the £0.350m available one-off funding in the published 2016/17 Budget and an additional £0.05m from a reduction to OP24, following a review of the potential pay costs in 2016/17.

- (k) The reduction of saving S120 by £24k to ensure bus route 24/25 remains unchanged, this change being funded by new budget proposals as follows:

S49	Further reduction in debt costs/additional asset income, reflecting the asset transfer between the HRA and GF (an increase to S49)	£0.004m	Recently finalised the last set of assets being transferred
S128	Utility trench reinstatement additional income (Coring) an increase to S89	£0.020m	Early sampling of utilities trench reinstatements has demonstrated a higher than anticipated failure rate therefore the level of fine income that MKC is able to levy can be reliably predicted to increase by this amount.

- (l) The removal of proposed application fees of £25 for Events on Public Open Space (on p59/p60 in the budget papers) for parish, community, and not-for profit applications.

(m) An additional £120k of one-off funding being provided to delay the proposed savings from removal of play areas (S78) and redundant public assets (S103) to allow for a set of criteria for removal to be agreed, and a process of public consultation and accountable decision-making to be implemented, in advance of any assets being removed. This amendment is to be funded by:

- Deleting the one-off pressure OP26 Inward Investment Fund, which will remove the seed funding to promote and encourage inward investment and
- Reducing one-off pressure OP37 Public Health funding by £100k, this will require Public Health transformation to be delivered within existing staff resourcing and no reduction is to be made to delivery of front line Public Health services.

If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, these one-off pressures will be reinstated in the Budget, with the OP26 Inward Investment being the third priority and OP37 Public Health funding being the fourth priority.

(n) An additional one-off fund of £100k to deliver a targeted programme of white line repainting at road junctions across the Borough, to be funded by:

- Reducing one-off pressure OP14 Resources for MK50 by £75k, this may reduce the capacity to leverage investment from partners for MK50 celebration events, and;
- A further reduction of £25k to OP32 maximising housing supply and reducing housing demand, this will require the investment to address these issues to be delivered by a reduced level of extra staff resource than originally proposed in OP32 or within existing staff resource.

If the outturn position improves from the position reported to January Cabinet, these one-off pressures will be reinstated in the Budget, with the OP14 Resources for MK50 being the first priority and OP32 Maximising housing supply and reducing housing demand being the second priority.

4. That in respect of Saving S25, the description of the "external service delivery impact" being changed to:

"Bring services for older people with dementia and/or physically frail onto 2 sites. These should be focussed around 2 hubs a northern and a southern hub with the northern hub being based at the Kitchener Centre Olney."

5. That this Council actively engage with Olney Town Council and other local groups to protect and develop a service for older people with dementia and/or physically frail for the benefit of all.
6. That the Council Tax at Band D of £1,206.05, for the Milton Keynes element of the Council Tax, be approved, this being an increase of 3.95%, consisting of a 1.95% general increase plus a further 2% precept specifically related to Adult Social Care.
7. That it be noted that, at its meeting on 9 November 2015, the Cabinet approved a Tax Base of 80,360.69 equivalent Band D properties for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
8. That the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2016/17 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £96.919m, be noted.
9. That the following amounts be calculated for the year 2016/17 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 [the "Act"] (note these will be confirmed once all precepts have been received):
 - (a) £576.574m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by parish and town councils.
 - (b) £473.839m Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3).
 - (c) £102.735m As its Council Tax requirement for the year, being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4).
 - (d) £1,278.43 As the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish Precepts), being the amount at (c) above, divided by the Council Tax Base agreed on 9 November 2015.
 - (e) £5,816,467 Being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
 - (f) £1,206.05 Being the amount at (d) less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the Council Tax Base agreed on 9 November 2015, as the basic

amount of Council Tax for the year for Milton Keynes Council, excluding Parish and Major Precepting Authorities.

10. That the following amounts be calculated for Milton Keynes Council Tax:

	VALUATION BANDS							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
MKC With 1.95% Increase	788.57	919.99	1,051.42	1,182.85	1,445.71	1,708.56	1,971.42	2,365.70
ASC Levy Further 2% Increase	15.47	18.04	20.62	23.20	28.36	33.51	38.67	46.40
MKC Total	804.04	938.03	1,072.04	1,206.05	1,474.07	1,742.07	2,010.09	2,412.10

* Small changes due to rounding on the ASC levy.

11. That the amounts given by multiplying the amount at (f) by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to all dwellings listed in each particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in Valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act.
12. That for the year 2016/17, Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has stated the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

VALUATION BANDS							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
111.31	129.86	148.41	166.96	204.06	241.16	278.27	333.92

13. That for the year 2016/17, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Act 1992, has stated the following precepts to the Council for each of the categories of dwellings:

VALUATION BANDS							
A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
39.80	46.43	53.07	59.70	72.97	86.23	99.50	119.40

14. That as a result of the above, the amounts of Council Tax shown in Annexes A and B be set in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown in the Schedule.

15. That the Treasury Management Strategy for 2016/17 to 2020/21 and the Treasury Policy Statement, including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy be approved.
16. That the prudential indicators for Capital Expenditure and the Capital Financing Requirement, the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for External Debt, the Affordability Prudential Indicators and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators for the years 2016/17 to 2019/20, be approved.
17. That the Authorised Limit for external debt of £743m for 2016/17 to be the statutory limit determined under section 3(1) of the Local Government Act 2003 be approved.
18. That the resource allocation for the 2016/17 Tariff programme be approved.
19. That the equalities impact assessment for the budget be considered (at paragraphs 15.6 - 15.10 of the report) and used to inform the Council's decision in respect of the Budget 2016/17.
20. That in line with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2003, it be noted that the Corporate Director Resources is of the view that this Budget is robust and the forecast reserves are adequate (at paragraphs 4.11 to 4.13 of the report).
21. That the fees and charges for 2016/17 (including those fees and charges which are exceptions to the Income and Collection Policy) be approved.
22. That officer colleagues be delegated flexibility in the setting of fees and charges for commercial services, as set out in paragraph 4.19 of the report.
23. That the estimated position for Dedicated Schools Grant for 2016/17 be noted.
24. That a funding contribution for 2016/17 to parish and town councils of £530,000 be adopted, as consistent with the Budget.
25. That the charge for residents on housing benefits as part of the alternative approach to delivering saving proposal S24 (reducing the cost of sheltered housing), as reflected in the Schedule of Fees and Charges be amended to a per week and not per month basis, as indicated in the Budget.
26. That, recognising that future Budget proposals will be subject to annual Budget decisions of the Council, the medium term financial savings proposals, as set out in Annex D, are amended to:

- (a) Confirm the deletion of saving S72 (Wider Use funding) to remove constraints on the promised review of Wider Use funding in 2016/17.
- (b) Delete the £100k saving in both 2017/18 and 2018/19 for removing play areas (S78).

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11:35