

DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUESDAY 15 December 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council).
Councillors Darlington, Nolan, O’Neill, Townsend J Wilson-Marklew

Apologies:

Councillor Baume and Middleton

Officers:

M Bracey (Chief Executive), T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), S Gonsalves (Director Policy, Insight and Communications), M Heath (Director Children’s Services), G Snelson (Director Strategy and Futures), P Thomas (Director, Planning, Strategic Transport and Place Making), N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), J Kealey (Head of Legal), A Rulton (Joint Head of Finance and s151 Officer), F Robinson (MK 2050 Futures Programme Manager), P Brown (Head of Democratic Services) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager).

Also Present:

Councillors R Bradburn, Carr, Cannon, Crooks, A Geary, P Geary, Jenkins, D Hopkins, McLean, Rankine, Reilly, Trendall, Wales, Walker and 11 members of the public.

C30 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 September 2020 be approved and signed by the Leader of the Council as a correct record.

C31 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None declared.

C32 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader made announcements, copies of which would be uploaded to the CMIS pages of the Council’s website:

- (a) to make a statement about the planning application at 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands and the Council’s planning service; and
- (b) concerning the rising Covid-19 infection / transmission rates in Milton Keynes.

C33 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question from Tim Skelton (MK Forum) to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing services).

Referring to a number of previous submissions by MK Forum for inclusion onto the pending Council Heritage Register, Mr Skelton noted the continued replacement of distinctive street furniture without consideration for the design implications. Having discussed and agreed the merit of a coordinated design approach with a number of Milton Keynes Council officers over time, no progress had been made and it was suggested that a less civilised approach by the Forum might perhaps be more effective.

Councillor Darlington acknowledged the merit of a coordinated design approach, advising of ongoing discussions with officers and the additional need to balance heritage value, value for money and most importantly, sustainability, which was now a more important consideration than when the new town was designed.

As a supplementary question, Mr Skelton advised that whilst there had been much discussion with officers, it did not seem that the Forums views were really being considered and asked if the Forum would be involved and included in future decisions.

In response, Councillor Darlington advised that a number of sympathetic improvements had been made in Central Milton Keynes, including the restoration of block paving alongside innovative and sustainable improvements such as LED street lighting. Councillor Darlington also explained that officers had been understandably diverted to the Council's Covid-19 response, but that further discussion would take place in the new year.

C34 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS

None received.

C35 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

(a) Question from Councillor A Geary to Councillor Baume (Cabinet member for Economy and Culture)

Referring to the precarious financial situation of Middleton Pool and difficulties experienced by Newport Pagnell Town Council (NPTC) in securing additional support, Councillor Geary asked if Councillors Baume and Middleton would be prepared to meet with NPTC alongside Councillor Bowyer and himself to discuss the matter.

Councillor Marland answered in Councillor Baume's absence, confirming that a grant of £25,000 grant had been made to Middleton Pool and that in his view the Council did not have any moral obligation to fund a former asset, as the freehold had been transferred to NPTC in its entirety.

Notwithstanding this, the Council obviously wanted to assist to retain a community leisure asset where possible and that a Central Government Leisure Fund had opened to applications that week, albeit with a very short application window. The Council would therefore work with NPTC to ensure that any grant application had the Council's support and that Councillors Baume and Middleton would be willing to meet with NPTC to discuss the position in more detail.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Geary asked if, given the pressing applications deadlines, such a meeting could take place at the earliest opportunity and before the Christmas break. This was agreed by Councillor Marland.

- (b) Question from Councillor Wales to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources)

Councillor Wales, referring to a previous commitment by Councillor Middleton to retain an 18-hole golf course at Windmill Hill, asked Councillor Middleton if he was able to provide an update in respect of the project, noting the need to protect as much green open space on the site as possible.

Councillor Marland, answering in Councillor Middleton's absence, indicated that there was an item to consider the matter on the Forward Plan early in the new year, but that there was also an update in the meeting papers in response to a motion previously agreed by Council, which in particular addressed the funding and feasibility of the project. Councillor Marland reiterated the commitment to an 18-hole golf course and to retain as much green space as was practicable.

- (c) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services)

Councillor Geary, referring to fire safety issues at the Gables and Mellish Court, asked Councillor Darlington when she became aware of the fire safety issues at the buildings.

Councillor Darlington advised that following a small fire at the Gables, detailed investigations had taken place in the late summer, which had exposed significant issues with cavity walls at both buildings. Officers had received the results in early September.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Geary asked Councillor Darlington if she could provide the exact date that the investigatory work had been commissioned by officers.

In response, Councillor Darlington indicated that she would provide this information to Councillor Geary in due course.

- (d) Question from Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Referring to rising Covid-19 infection rates in Milton Keynes, Councillor Jenkins asked Councillor Marland if he remained committed to working on a cross party basis in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Marland, indicated that this continued to be the case. Additionally, and having very recently attended a video conference with the leaders of Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils, Councillor Marland gave a commitment to work collaboratively on a cross party basis across the region, in addition to the Borough.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Jenkins asked Councillor Marland if he wished to provide any advice to residents in relation to rising infection rates.

Councillor Marland stressed that it was everybody's responsibility to follow the guidance and that indifference to the messages was likely to cause ongoing transmission. Therefore, it was very important that everybody stayed at home and avoided mixing with other people.

- (e) Question from Councillor Carr to Councillor Baume (Cabinet member for Economy and Culture) / Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources)

Thanking Councillor Geary for his earlier question about Middleton Pool, Councillor Carr asked Councillors Baume / Middleton if they remained open to the possibility of an interest free loan to support the facility as she had suggested earlier in the year.

Councillor Marland, answering on behalf of Councillor Baume and Middleton, indicated that whilst he was not aware of the earlier discussions, in his view an interest free loan was not optimal, given that it would need to be repaid. However, the Council would look for the best outcome, as it was in everybody's interests that an important leisure asset be supported through the pandemic. Councillor Marland committed that Councillor Middleton would keep Ward Councillors in Newport Pagnell South, and Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope apprised of discussions.

C36-45 REFERENCES FROM OTHER BODIES

- (a) Referral from Covid-19 Task and Finish Group – 29 October 2020

The referral was introduced by Councillor Hopkins, Chair of the Task and Finish Group, who thanked the Leader for the positive written response. Also thanking the witnesses received by the Group, including the Leader and Chief Executive, alongside his fellow Group Members and the Group's support officer, Councillor Hopkins presented the report; emphasizing the contribution of the broader community, the voluntary sector, Milton Keynes Council colleagues and the National Health Service.

Noting that infection rates were presently as bad as at any time during the pandemic, Councillor Hopkins reflected that whilst the Council had the benefit of experience from the first wave of infections and that progress with vaccinations was promising, it remained important for everybody to be vigilant and responsible especially over the festive period.

Councillor Hopkins outlined that the Group would be meeting again in February, by when it would be possible to understand the impact of a relaxation of rules over Christmas, in addition to progress with the vaccination roll out and the longer term effects of the pandemic on the Borough. Reflecting on some of the issues from the Group's Report, Councillor Hopkins also indicated that the Group would consider the broader need for secure and fast broadband and digital infrastructure, given the likely need for online learning, business communication and working. The likely implications of the pandemic on the Strategy for 2050 and Plan:MK2 as well as combatting loneliness and the broader socio-economic impacts of the pandemic would also be considered.

Councillor McLean, Chair of the Scrutiny Management Committee endorsed Councillor Hopkins words of thanks to those who had contributed the Group's work, alongside the report recommendations.

Councillor Marland noted the written response and the accompanying action tracker, again highlighting the recent and rising infection rates in the Borough and reflecting on the Council's immediate role in suppressing infection rates, which including securing testing kits for schools, its local communications to support social distancing and the regulatory role to ensure workplaces were safe.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) be noted.

(b) Referrals from Council – 16 September 2020

(i) Motion - The Impact of Covid-19 on BAME Communities

The referral was introduced by Councillor Reilly, the motion owner, who thanked the Cabinet member for her comprehensive written response, and those initiatives already implemented, particularly those supporting culturally appropriate communications to different ethnic groups. Councillor Reilly indicated that there were underlying health inequalities prior to the pandemic and that the commitment to tackle these must remain a priority for the Council, both during the recovery and in the longer term.

Councillor O'Neill, referring to the published response, agreed the importance of tackling health inequality which included mental health and assured Councillor Reilly of her continued commitment to tackle the issue. Further, Councillor O'Neill suggested that whilst new practices were beginning to be embedded, some of the benefits might not be seen for some time.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) be noted.

(ii) Motion – Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTN)

Councillor Hopkins, the motion owner, introduced the referral and advised Cabinet that a petition would be presented to Council in January 2021, representing the support of the community for a LTN pilot in Danesborough and Walton Ward.

Councillor Darlington responded, underlining the effect of traffic emissions on health and climate change and committed to work alongside Councillor Hopkins to seek interested communities and government funding for appropriate schemes.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services) be noted.

(iii) Motion – Planning for the Future

As the Cabinet member responsible for Development Control, Councillor Marland referred Cabinet to the written response and thanked Councillor Crooks for both having brought the motion and having declined to introduce the referral in order to save time, especially given that the Council's consultation response had been submitted and published as part of the meeting papers.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) be noted.

(c) Referral from Budget and Resources Scrutiny Committee – 15 September 2020

The referral was introduced by Councillor Bradburn, the Chair of the Committee, who thanked the Cabinet member(s) for the written response, highlighting the benefits of disaggregating the debt pool for the Housing Revenue Account and General Fund, and noting the willingness of the Cabinet Member(s) to accept the recommendations.

Councillor Marland responded on behalf of Councillor Middleton, noting the written response and that the disaggregation had effectively been backdated, allowing a much clearer picture, immediately.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources) / Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services) be noted.

(d) Referral from Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – 30 September 2020

The referral was introduced by Councillor Jenkins, the Chair of the Committee, who set out the effect of the pandemic and associated economic impact on children and especially those living in poverty. Reflecting on increasing infection rates and the likely continued impact, Councillor Jenkins encouraged that child poverty should continue to be foremost in the Council's actions.

Responding, Councillor O'Neill agreed that unemployment was a priority for the Council, especially given the link with health inequality and the wellbeing of communities generally, that this would be reflected in forthcoming policies and activity, and would be considered later during the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) / Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing) be noted.

(e) Referral from Council – 21 October 2020

(i) Motion - The Economic Impact of Brexit and Covid-19

The referral was introduced by Councillor Bradburn, on behalf of Councillor Ferrans, the motion owner, who was not able to be present. Councillor Bradburn, reflected on the debate when Council considered the motion and noted the continuing trade negotiations between Great Britain and the European Union.

Responding on behalf of Councillor Baume, Councillor Marland referred the meeting to the written response, noting the work of the Economy team and in particular the advice and financial support provided to struggling local businesses.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Baume (Cabinet member for Economy and Culture) be noted.

(ii) Motion - Becoming the World's Greenest City

The referral was introduced by Councillor Crooks, the motion owner, who thanked the Cabinet member for her response and particularly the commitment to write to government about the initiatives contained in the motion.

In response, Councillor Wilson-Marklew referenced the written reply set out in the meeting papers, particularly the ongoing development of innovative engagement tools, which it was hoped would give the Council greater reach in consulting on green initiatives.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability) be noted.

(iii) Motion - Community at Work

The referral was introduced by Councillor Trendall, the motion owner who noted the unanimous support of Council when the motion was considered. Councillor Trendall suggested that it would be helpful if a single point of contact (SPOC) at Milton Keynes Council could be agreed for communities to make contact for advice to progress local initiatives.

In response, Councillor Darlington agreed to consider the possibility of agreeing a SPOC and reiterated her commitment to help communities with local sustainability initiatives.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Public Realm and Housing Services) be noted.

(iv) Motion - Saving Golf at Windmill Hill will benefit all MK Citizens

The referral was introduced by Councillor Rankine, the motion owner, who welcomed a firm commitment from Cabinet to retain an 18 hole-golf course. Suggesting that the written response did not fully consider alternative options, Councillor Rankine submitted that the financial position of the current provider was not transparent as it should be. Councillor Rankine suggested that in addition to the solution proposed, the existing course could be retained if there were a greater focus on golf enterprise by the contract management team and that residents would like to see a model similar to the Abbey Hill site be developed and costed.

Responding on behalf of Councillor Middleton, Councillor Marland noted a recent delegated decision to provide additional financial support to the current operator and the report provided by Colliers International, who were market leaders in golf brokerage and appraisal and had concluded that an Abbey Hill solution was not feasible at Windmill Hill.

Further, that all options would be considered by Councillor Middleton when the decision was taken about the future of the site, early in the new year.

RESOLVED:

That the written response provided by Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources) be noted.

C46 STRATEGY FOR 2050

The Cabinet considered the Strategy for 2050. Councillor Marland introduced the item, setting out that the Strategy had been commissioned as a supplementary piece of work arising from the MK Futures 2050 work, which would support the City to continue to develop in a way that best harnessed automation and innovation. Reflecting on the societal changes accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic, such as home working, digital and remote business, and artificial intelligence, Councillor Marland argued that the 2050 work positioned the city to best respond to these changes.

Cabinet heard that the Strategy would benefit Milton Keynes by setting the vision for long term sustainable growth, by taking back control from developers, poor planning policies and short-term spatial frameworks, and deliver growth that would benefit current residents of the Borough. Noting the growth that would arise from an expanding population and the Borough's success and advantageous location, Councillor Marland explained that the Strategy for 2050 set an ambitious vision for healthy, fulfilled and productive communities.

Thanking the Director for Strategy and Futures, the 2050 Programme Manager and the Strategic Lead for Economy and Policy for the work that had gone into the Strategy, Councillor Marland also noted the numerous changes incorporated as a result of consultation during the year.

In consideration of the item, the Cabinet heard from Councillors Rankine and Walker, alongside ten members of the public, which included Councillor Ian McCourt, the Leader of South Northamptonshire Council and Councillor John Baker, an Independent Councillor for Central Bedfordshire.

In response Councillor Marland:

- thanked Councillor McCord for his support in addition to his work on the Central Area Growth Board and collaboration on the regional work linked to the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Growth Arc;
- advised that in his view, a Mass Rapid Transport system was fundamental to the Strategy and whilst the pandemic was currently affecting demand for transport, the vision was much longer term;
- noted that part of the recommendation of receiving a revised futures programme would include how a Mass Rapid Transport System could be delivered, which would incorporate assessing viability and funding;

- agreed that culture was as much the life blood of Milton Keynes as the built environment and that a strong and thriving cultural scene formed part of the attraction to the types of industry, jobs and people needed to visit and settle in the City;
- argued that the success of Milton Keynes was in part due to its diversity of place, which was a saleable commodity and an excellent basis for economic growth and recovery from Covid-19;
- explained the fundamental point of MK Futures and the Strategy was to take advantage of the City's developing connectivity, to address issues such as health inequality which were in part due to employment, training and skills prospects, but also to consider and learn from design failures of the original new town in the built environment;
- argued that engagement with neighbouring Councils was reflected in the participation of South Northamptonshire and Central Bedfordshire Councillors and it was simply not true that Buckinghamshire Council had not be consulted;
- emphasised the importance of regional collaboration and that joining up growth effectively across authorities was important and needed to be coordinated;
- set out that consultation had been genuine and effective, and had resulted in significant changes and improvements to the Strategy;
- noted that it was reflected in the Council plan that it was the Council's ambition to be a Transport Authority, but there was no legal provision to do so as a single authority;
- confirmed the Council was committed to working with Parish and Town Councils and had engaged with them over a number of meetings, both as groups and individually; and
- reiterated that the 'quantum number' for growth in the Strategy was unchanged, but now reflected internal growth within the administrative boundaries of Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland proposed one amendment to the recommendations, so that a review mechanism would be built into the Strategy after three years, which would address any fundamental changes to transportation, mobility, or the green, sustainability and climate change agendas.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 be approved.
2. That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Strategy become an Annex to the Council Plan and is approved as such.
3. That Cabinet commits to receiving a revised MK Futures 2050 programme by the end of June 2021.

4. That a partnership approach to implementing the strategy with government and its agencies, including Homes England, be agreed.
5. That the Strategy be subject to a review after 3 years.

C47 CHILD POVERTY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet considered the report of the Child Poverty Commission. Introducing the item, Councillor Nolan thanked the Chair of the Commission, Hannah Markham QC and all Commissioners, including Councillors Carr and D Hopkins, which reflected the cross-party nature of the work undertaken. Councillor Nolan also acknowledged the work of the Councils' Policy & Equality Manager Officer and Director of Policy, Insight and Communications.

Noting that this was the second report of the Child Poverty Commissioners, Councillor Nolan set out that the report was directed to the wider community as well as to the Council and its partners, highlighting the three recommendations made by the Commission:

- Establish a Child Poverty Challenge Board in Milton Keynes
- Help child poverty work to flourish
- Work to challenge child poverty through actions and influence

Cabinet heard some of the key issues reported by the Commission:

- Affordable childcare – families who were at risk of poverty, especially those in private rented accommodation were particularly poorly served by the childcare system. The Council would need to consider how it unlocked affordable childcare.
- Homelessness – living in temporary accommodation was expensive both for the local authority and affected families, and a risk factor for poverty and poor outcomes. The Council needed to continue to work with partners to prevent homelessness, tackle the gap between Local Housing Allowances and market rents and continue work to reduce domestic abuse.
- Children's Centres - families could be trapped in an emotional whirlpool and not able to be resilient and/or start employment. Continuing the use of Children's Centres as Action Hubs which would enable action-oriented family work, was therefore encouraged.

Councillor Nolan also explained that the Commission had encouraged the Council to lobby Central Government in a number of policy areas, but in particular to reduce the five-week waiting time for Universal Credit.

The Cabinet heard how the pandemic had made tackling poverty challenging, but more urgent and important than ever. There were twenty-one ideas for 2021, which would build on existing work and could be grown and expanded quickly.

In consideration of the item, Cabinet heard from Councillors Carr and D Hopkins, as well as one member of the public.

Responding, Councillor Nolan:

- agreed that school clothing was a key issue and that charities and schools had played an important role in making pre-owned school uniform accessible, but that the design and cost of school uniforms was an area that the Council would look to take action;
- acknowledged that the breadth and variety of evidence and information provided to the Commission was extremely helpful;
- resolved to work to make the recommendations happen and noted that this work was already reflected in the Council Plan; and
- acknowledged the importance of the Council's structure in key areas, noting the link between Adult Services, Children's Services and Housing.

RESOLVED:

1. That Hannah Markham QC and the Commissioners be thanked for their work in bringing together their final report.
2. That the second report of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission "Our Children Deserve Better 2" be commended to all services, partners and interested parties in Milton Keynes as a shared beginning to challenging child poverty.
3. That the Council will lead in the challenge to child poverty using the recommendations of the Commission be affirmed.
4. That the Director Policy, Insight Communications and Customer, be asked to develop a Communications Plan, as well as the details of Recommendation 1, 2 and 3 and report progress to the Cabinet in six months' time.
5. That working with a wide group of organisations, details of what help is offered and what projects are being delivered in Milton Keynes is available for parents online by April 2021.
6. That a report is published annually starting on the 21 April 2021.

C48 SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

The Cabinet considered the Sustainability Action Plan. Councillor Wilson-Marklew introduced the item, explaining that Cabinet had originally intended to receive the report in September but because of the pandemic and associated impact on officer resource, the work had been delayed slightly.

Thanking the Head of Regulatory Services and the Director of Environment and Property, alongside the Council's energy services provider, Engie and Councillor Townsend for progressing the project, Councillor Wilson-Marklew reflected on the volume and detail of work undertaken and particularly that the original Sustainability Action Plan had been consolidated with the recommendations from Climate Change Task and Finish Group.

Cabinet heard that the development of a local carbon baseline would be the first stage in developing measures to reach carbon neutrality by 2030 alongside an Energy Prospectus, which would outline how a proposed Energy and Carbon Hub could provide the skills and capacity to deliver the opportunities and projects highlighted in the Prospectus and Action Plan.

Noting that the Sustainability Strategy Action Plan was not the long term solution in itself, Councillor Wilson-Marklew explained that actions were identified as short, medium and long term which would be further developed in order to understand the full cost and likely energy and carbon reduction and then prioritised accordingly.

Cabinet heard from two members of the public in consideration of the item. In response, Councillor Wilson-Marklew agreed that she would continue to consider when measurable targets would be appropriate. Further, that a digital Citizens Engagement Panel was not deliverable in the required timeframe and that the alternative proposed solution was intended to reach a wider audience, but that work would be undertaken to ensure the insight reflected the wider view of Milton Keynes' residents.

An additional recommendation was agreed by the Cabinet to ensure that appropriate budget was identified to support the Action Plan.

RESOLVED:

1. That the update be noted and the action plan (Annex A) be approved as the starting point for an ambitious implementation programme.
2. That the progress against the action plan be reported annually to all Ward Councillors.
3. That sufficient budget be identified for the implementation of the action plan (Annex A).

C49 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2021/22

The Cabinet considered the Council Tax Base for 2021/22, noting the main assumptions used in calculating the Base and the level of funding paid to Town and Parish Councils for Local Council Tax Reduction alongside how funding would be distributed.

Councillor Marland explained that the Business Rates Baseline 2021/22 would be included with the Draft Budget, which would be taken as a Delegated Decision on 22 December 2020.

RESOLVED:

1. That the 2021/22 Tax Base be set at 86,213.75 Band D equivalent properties.
2. That the provision for uncollectable amounts of Council Tax for 2021/22 be set at 2.60% producing an expected collection rate of 97.4%.

3. That the proposed 2021/22 funding contribution to parish and town councils of £0.325m, as set out in Annex D, be noted and recommended to Council for approval as part of the final Budget in February 2021.

C50 GENERAL FUND REVENUE, HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT, DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME FORECAST OUTTURN REPORT FOR QUARTER 2

The Cabinet considered the General Fund Revenue, Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Capital Programme forecast outturn report for Quarter 2.

Introducing the report, Councillor Marland explained that the report was based upon income and expenditure at 30 September 2020 and that the financial impact of the pandemic could not be fully understood, given the level of uncertainty over the wider economic, social impacts and behavioural changes were yet to be felt. Therefore, the Council had modelled three different scenarios to illustrate the scale of the financial impact that the Council could face in 2020/21 and over the medium term, and that forecasts were based on a medium impact.

Councillor Marland highlighted the key forecasts:

- An estimated financial position of between £1.859m underspend and £3.441m overspend for 2020/21, based on the current level of financial support provided by government.
- A General Fund underspend of £0.182m. Whilst there was an underspend of £1.018m of non-COVID-19 related income and expenditure, the forecast included £19.029m of additional COVID-19 costs and loss of income, £28.783m of additional Government Grant funding and £10.590m of estimated loss of income from the Collection Fund.
- The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) outturn was £0.517m underspend, which would be offset by an increase in the planned level of Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO).
- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was an improved position with an estimated surplus carry forward £2.564m rather than estimated budgeted surplus of £1.937m.
- A Public Health budget underspend by £0.403m which would be transferred to the Public Health reserve.
- The Capital Programme was reporting an in-year underspend of £16.556m, of which £19.872m was planned to slip to later years, leaving an in year overspend of £3.316m. The total project cost was currently forecast to be £0.244m underspent after funding is brought forward from future years.

RESOLVED

1. That the GFRA forecast outturn of £0.182m underspend be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex A of this report.
2. That GFRA planned savings of £3.768m savings will be achieved (87% of budget) be noted, which is set out in Annex B of this report.
3. That the forecast outturn on the HRA is break even, after an increase in the transfer to reserves be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex C of this report.
4. That the DSG forecast surplus carry forward of £2.564m be noted, together with the management actions set out at Annex D of this report.
5. That the reserves position as detailed in Annex E are noted.
6. That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2020/21 capital programme, as detailed in Annex N be approved.
7. That the forecast outturn on the Capital Programme of £0.244m underspend for the total project of which £3.316m overspend is in 2020/21 as detailed in Annex F of this report be noted.
8. That the additions and amendments to resource allocation and spend approval for the 2020/21 Tariff programme, as detailed in Annex M be approved.
9. That the current position of the 2020/21 tariff programme as detailed in Annex G be noted.
10. That the debt position of the Council at the end of quarter 2 is detailed in Annex H are noted.
11. That the Treasury Management report as detailed in Annex I are noted.
12. That the virements to the original budget as detailed in Annex J are noted.
13. That the current position on the Collection Fund as detailed in Annex K are noted.
14. That the procurement waiver decisions as detailed in Annex L are noted.

C51 MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT

The Cabinet received and noted the quarterly update on progress with the Milton Keynes Council Plan (2016 – 2022) covering the period September 2020 – November 2020.

RESOLVED:

That the progress being made on the Council Plan 2016-2022 be noted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.56 PM.