

COUNCIL DECISIONS – 9 JANUARY 2007

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
1(b)	<p>Minutes</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 December 2006, be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services
1(c)	<p>Disclosure of Interests</p> <p>Councillor Sandra Clark declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5(b)(i) as an employee of Milton Keynes Hospital.</p> <p>Councillor Gerrella declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5(b)(i) as his spouse was an employee of Milton Keynes Hospital.</p> <p>Councillor Tamagini-Barbosa declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5(b)(i) as his partner was an employee of Milton Keynes Hospital.</p> <p>Councillor E Henderson declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(i) as an Non-Executive Director of the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Geary declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(ii) as an owner of land in the area in question.</p> <p>Councillors Williams declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(vi) as Board Member of a Registered Social Landlord.</p> <p>Councillors Burke, Carruthers, Sandra Clark, Stephen Clark, Crooks, Drewett, Eastman, Eaton, Ferrans, Fraser, Gerrella, E Henderson, I Henderson, D McCall, I McCall, Pugh, Seymour, Snell, Tallack, Tamagnini-Barbosa and Williams declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 (Providing Indemnities to Members) having contributed to the legal costs incurred by Councillor I McCall.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services

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2(b)	<p>Public Questions Councillor Sandra Clark to respond to questioner regarding admission to Giles Brook Primary School.</p>		Councillor Sandra Clark
4	<p>Waste Development Plan Document Submission That the Submission Draft of the Waste Development Plan Document be approved for submission to the Secretary of State.</p>	-	Head of Planning and Transport
5(a)	<p>Members' Questions Head of Abbeys School to be informed of retraction by Councillor Long of comments made at meeting of the Council held on 12 December 2007. Council's Cycling Officer to ensure schools are aware of the Council's Redway Code and to consider how the Redway Code may be promoted more widely. That schools be encouraged to offer training and the opportunity for children to take the Cycling Proficiency Test. The Learning and Development Policy Development Committee Planning Group to consider whether the Committee should input into the review of the thresholds for 'School Action Plus' currently being undertaken. The Social Care and Housing Policy Development Committee Planning Group to consider whether the Committee should undertake a review of Council's processes for dealing with housing voids. Officers to review Councillor Long's claims that the Council's Lettings Policy is potentially open to legal challenge.</p>	-	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Planning and Transport</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Director of Housing Services / Councillor I Henderson</p>

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5(b)(i)	<p>Funding of NHS Services in Milton Keynes</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. notes that the Government is funding the NHS in Milton Keynes at only 95% of what the Government itself says is Milton Keynes' fair funding share; 2. deplors the cuts that are being forced on both hospital and community health services in Milton Keynes as a result of this unfair funding; 3. resolves to convey to the Strategic Health Authority and to Government that Milton Keynes's growing population needs more health services, not less; and 4. welcomes the work being done by many groups and individuals to lobby for fair funding for Milton Keynes, including by 'People's Voices', questions asked in the House of Commons by the Member of Parliament for Milton Keynes North-East, and petitions collected by local Conservative and Liberal Democrat activists. 		Head of Democratic Services
5(b)(ii)	<p>Olney Campus of Ousedale School</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. welcomes the development of the Olney Campus of Ousedale School, which will provide superb educational and community facilities for Olney and neighbouring villages for many years to come; 2. acknowledges the invaluable collaboration with, and support from Olney Town Council which made this project possible; 	-	

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5(b)(ii) (cont)	<p>3. notes with concern the continued delays to the Olney Campus of Ousedale School that are forcing students to either travel to a temporary school at Oakgrove or to be educated in less than satisfactory temporary classrooms at the Ousedale Campus in Newport Pagnell;</p> <p>4. apologises to the parents of the affected students for the disturbance and disruption this has caused them and their children, and for any inadequacies in the communication that has come from this Council during this time;</p> <p>5. requests the Audit Committee to appoint an experienced, independent person / company to investigate the Olney Campus project, with the investigation looking into the whole scheme from conception to completion, paying particular attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the efficiency of the acquisition of the land on which the campus is being built; (b) the design and planning process and the efficiency with which these were undertaken; (c) the awarding of contracts for the design and construction phase of the project; (d) the monitoring of external contractors at all stages by this Council; and (e) who the Council can/should pursue for damages 	Audit Committee	<p>Group Director (School Improvement and Planning) / Corporate Communications Manager Head of Democratic Services</p>

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5(b)(iv)	<p>New Equality Duties</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council welcomes the new duties placed on local authorities as a result of the passing of the Equality Act 2006 and in particular: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the new Disability Equality Duty that came into force in December 2006; (b) the pending commencement of the Gender Equality Duty that comes into force in March 2007; (c) that these new duties build upon the Race Equality Duty introduced by the 2001 Race Relations Act; (d) that all three duties require local authorities to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination in the defined areas of race, disability and gender; and (ii) promote equality of opportunity in the defined areas of race, disability and gender. 2. That the Council further welcomes the publication by this Council of its Disability Equality Scheme. 3. That the Council agrees to ask the Cabinet to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) bring forward proposals setting out how the new duty on gender will be implemented; and (b) publish for Members and the public progress in meeting the Race Equality Duty. 	Cabinet	Head of Democratic Services

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5(b)(v)	<p>Community Cohesion</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) that in many areas there is a growing challenge of diversity and often a need to face challenges of deprivation, poor housing and social exclusion; (b) the importance of strong inclusive communities that value all residents; (c) that Milton Keynes is becoming an increasingly diverse community and this is to be welcomed; and (d) that the development of cohesive communities requires action at both a strategic and a local level. 2. This Council supports the initiatives already being taken to promote community cohesion including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Council's establishment of and support for the Council of Faiths which brings faith communities together and provides a mechanism for consultation on issues affecting them; (b) proposals in the Cabinet's budget for 2007/08 to establish a new fund of £50,000 for community cohesion, which was endorsed by the other political groups; (c) the commissioning of a review of race infrastructure through the Local Strategic Partnership, which will result in the setting up of a Race Equality Partnership by the Racial Equality Council; 		

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5(b)(v) (cont)	<p>(d) the holding of three community cohesion events, with a fourth to take place this month to look at best practice models for community cohesion; and</p> <p>(e) specific projects such as “Streetdreams” and “Valued Friends”.</p> <p>3. That this Council asks:</p> <p>(a) the Local Strategic Partnership to make community cohesion an even higher priority in the community strategy when it is reviewed this year;</p> <p>(b) the Cabinet to ensure that community cohesion and the needs of a diverse community are taken into account in the development of the Council’s new planning policies; and</p> <p>(c) Milton Keynes Partnership to raise community cohesion much higher up its agenda as it takes forward plans for growth areas.</p>		<p>Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Performance)</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>
5(b)(vi)	<p>Council Submission to the Cave Review of Social Housing Regulation</p> <p>That this Council agrees to ask the Responsible Cabinet Member to make a submission to the recently announced review and to promote within the submission support for:</p> <p>1. social housing regulation to pass from the Housing Corporation to local authorities;.</p>		<p>Director of Housing Services / Councillor I Henderson</p>

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5(b)(vi) (cont)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the transfer of social housing investment from the Housing Corporation to local authorities along the same lines as the new London Mayoral role on investment; and 3. making appropriate resources available to local authorities to take on this role. 		
5(b)(vii)	<p>Ward Member Involvement</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council notes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the provisions in the Local Government Act 2000 and the proposals in the Local Government White Paper for increased involvement of ward councillors in decision making and in 'community leadership'; and (b) Milton Keynes Council's longstanding position at the forefront of innovation in the evolution of democratic structures, particularly over the development of parishes and effective partnership arrangements. 2. That this Council believes that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to continue to be at the forefront of democratic renewal, Milton Keynes Council needs to constantly review its way of working and, where necessary, make changes; and (b) to complete the democratic circle, work needs to be done to strengthen the role of individual ward members, in line with the national context and local priorities. 		Head of Democratic Services

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5(b)(vii) (cont)	<p>3. That this Council resolves that:</p> <p>(a) the Council consults and informs Ward Members in decisions affecting their Wards; and</p> <p>(b) the Council ensures that Ward Members receive all the information necessary to represent their constituents.</p>		All Heads of Service						
6.	<p>Scheme of Members' Allowances 2007/08</p> <p>1. That the report of the Independent Panel on Members' Allowances be received and that the members of the Panel be thanked for their work.</p> <p>2. That the overall expenditure on Members' Allowances be no higher, in real terms, in 2007/08 than it is in 2006/07.</p> <p>3. That the Basic Allowance for 2007/08 remain at £9,148.</p> <p>4. That the following Special Responsibility Allowances be approved for 2007/08:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; width: 100%;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">£</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(a) Leader of the Council</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27,769</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(b) Opposition Group Leaders</td> <td style="text-align: right;">582 per Group Member</td> </tr> </table>		£	(a) Leader of the Council	27,769	(b) Opposition Group Leaders	582 per Group Member	-	Head of Democratic Services
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6. (cont)	<p style="text-align: right;">£</p> <p>(c) Cabinet Members equal shares of (excluding the Leader of the Council) 70,566</p> <p>(d) Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Panels 5,082</p> <p>(e) Chair of Development Control Committee 7,623</p> <p>(f) Chair of Licensing and Regulatory Committees 7,623</p> <p>(g) Chair of Audit Committee 5,082</p> <p>(h) Spokespersons on Overview and Scrutiny Committees/panels and Audit Committee 1,035</p> <p>5. That the Chair of the Standards Committee receive a combined co-optee's and Special Responsibility Allowance of £3,055.</p> <p>6. That other voting co-optees on the Council's various committees receive a co-optee's allowance of £600 per annum for 2007/08.</p> <p>7. That all co-optees be eligible for travel and subsistence allowances at the Members' rate when carrying out the duties for which they are co-opted.</p> <p>8. That the Mayor's Allowance be increased in line with the increase in a Cabinet Member's Allowance, and that the Deputy Mayor's Allowance be 50% of the Mayor's Allowance.</p>		

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6. (cont)	<p>9. That, in the case of a Member who is in receipt of a Special Responsibility Allowance being unable to carry out the duty for which the Allowance is payable for a period of three months or more, requiring the duty to be carried out by a specific Member as deputy, the Council will consider the circumstances, with the option of ceasing the Special Responsibility Allowance payment to the Member concerned, and making a retrospective payment to the deputising Member for the whole of the three-month period, and continuing until the original Member is able to resume the duty concerned.</p> <p>10. That the total amount of money available for Members' allowances be increased with effect from 1 April 2008, and annually thereafter, by the lower of two retail price indices which respectively include and exclude property prices, measured at the previous September.</p> <p>11. That all elected Members continue to be eligible for admission to the Local Government Pension Scheme.</p> <p>12. That the definition of 'Approved Duty' be extended to include Ward Surgeries, and meetings in the Member's Ward called by a Council Officer or the Parish Council, thereby allowing child and dependent car allowances and travel and subsistence allowances to be payable.</p> <p>13. That, in the event of a councillor being suspended from duty following an investigation by the Council's Standards Committee or the Standards Board for England, allowances will not be paid to the councillor concerned during the period of suspension.</p>		

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6. (cont)	14. That, by 31 March 2007, statements of responsibilities for all Members be prepared to reflect their representative role and their positions of special responsibility; that Cabinet Members prepare and publish their key tasks for the year, and report on their achievements at the end of the year; and that all Members be invited to prepare annual reports on their achievements during the year for publication on the Council's web-site.		
7.	<p>Providing Indemnities for Members</p> <p>That the following costs incurred in responding to formal allegations of a breach of the Members' Code of Conduct pursuant to Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 by Councillor I McCall, be met:</p> <p>(a) those costs which fall within the conditions of any such indemnity granted under the Local Authorities (Indemnities for Members and Officers) Order 2004; and</p> <p>(b) those costs which would have met the terms of insurance, had such insurance for an indemnity been in place rather than the Council carrying its own risk, as now made available to all Members in respect of future events.</p>	-	Head of Legal Services / Head of Finance