

MEETING of MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2010
7.30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

For more information about the meeting please contact Simon Heap on (01908) 252567 or by e-mail simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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Agenda

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Meeting Attended: Council

Date of Meeting: 12 January 2010

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AGENDA

Item No:

1. Procedure

(a) Apologies

(b) Minutes

To approve, and the Mayor to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 December 2009 (Item 1) (**Pages 5 to 15**)

(c) Disclosure of Interests

Members to disclose any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted and officers to disclose any interest in contracts to be considered by the Council.

(d) Announcements

To receive announcements, if any.

2. Public Involvement

(a) Deputations and Petitions

No deputations have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.

(b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

3. Business Remaining from Last Meeting

None

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

Cabinet – 5 January 2010

Milton Keynes Local Development Framework - Core Strategy: Submission Document

RECOMMENDED –

Details of the recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet will be circulated following its special meeting on 5 January 2010.

A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 4 (**Pages 16 to 36**).

A copy of the Core Strategy document has been circulated as a separate document.

5. Members' Matters

(a) Members' Questions

- (i) Members to ask questions of the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.
- (ii) Members to ask questions of the representative of the Police Authority appointed to answer questions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996 (in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5, 7 clear days notice is required for Police Authority questions).

No questions have been submitted for this meeting.

(b) Notices of Motions

Notices of motion submitted by the deadline of noon on 30 December 2009 will be circulated as a separate document.

6. Ward Based Budgets – October to December 2009

To receive details of Grants awarded from the Members' Ward Initiatives Budget (Item 6) (**Pages 37 to 40**)

7. Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions

In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.3, to note that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, were used once during the period October 2009 to December 2009, to allow the Leader to take a decision on the 'World Cup 2018/2022 – Final Bid Stage'.

Access to Information Procedure Rule 16 provides for key decisions to be taken within the usual 5 day notice period, subject to the agreement of the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

Contact Officer: John Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services) - MK252314

Background Papers: None



Minutes of the meeting of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor E Henderson (Mayor)
Councillors Barry, Bint, Box, Brock, Burke, Butler-Ellis, Campbell, Carstens, S Clark, U Clarke, Coventry, Crooks, Dransfield, Drewett, Exon, Ferrans, Fraser, Galloway, A Geary, P Geary, Gerrella, I Henderson, Hopkins, Hoyle, Irons, Jury, Klein, Mallyon, I McCall, McPake, Miles, A Morris, C Morris, O'Neill, Potts, Small, Tallack, Tamagnini-Barbosa, Turnbull, Wharton, White, Williams and Wright.

Aldermen Howell and Saunders were also present

Apologies: Councillors Bristow, Edwards, Latham, Lloyd, D McCall, Richards and Tunney and Alderman Ellis

Also Present: 14 members of the public

CL70 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 10 November 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CL71 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillors A Geary and Jury declared a predetermined position on Item 4 [Gambling Act 2005 –Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy (2010-2013)].

Councillor White declared personal interests in Item 5(b)(i) as secretary of North Bucks Federation of Small Businesses, as Chair of the National Energy Foundation and as Chair of United Sustainable Energy Agency.

CL72 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. Rifleman Andrew Fentiman

The Mayor announced that he would be sending condolences on behalf of the Council to the family of Rifleman Andrew Fentiman, a soldier from 7th Battalion The Rifles TA Unit based at Blakelands, who had been killed in Afghanistan during the weekend of 14 and 15 November.

2. Fred Foster

The Mayor announced that he had sent condolences on behalf of the Council to the family of Fred Foster, who had been a Member of Weston Underwood Parish Council for 53 years, 31 as Chairman, and had died on 1 December 2009.

3. Jeff Punter

The Mayor announced that former Councillor Jeff Punter had died recently. Former Councillor Punter had served as a councillor from 1994 – 1998, representing Linford South Ward.

Other Members spoke in memory of Mr Punter.

4. Alderman Bert Tapp

The Mayor announced that Alderman Bert Tapp, who had served on Milton Keynes Council from 1973 to 1976 and again from 1981 to 2002, being elected Mayor of Milton Keynes during 1986/87, had died suddenly that morning. Alderman Tapp had also served for 10 or more years on Newport Pagnell Rural District Council as well as serving many years on Castlethorpe Parish Council. He became an Alderman in 2002.

Other Members, and the Chair of Castlethorpe Parish council, spoke in memory of Alderman Tapp.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect to those who had died.

5. Young People of the Year Awards for Buckinghamshire

The Mayor congratulated Chelsie Brown of Oakgrove School who had won the Junior Young Person of the Year Award for Buckinghamshire. The Mayor announced that Chelsie had been caring for her mother for a number of years, Chelsie was also a Student Leader at school, and a member of the England Korfball squad.

6. "I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here"

The Mayor welcomed Yasmin Purcell from Shenley Brook End School who had been adjudged by the organisers of the "I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here" event as the student to have been the most active and enthusiastic participant in the event.

In recognition of Yasmin's enthusiastic participation the Mayor presented Yasmin with a £20 gift voucher and a certificate.

The Mayor also presented Councillor Potts with his winner's certificate.

CL73

REPORTS FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES

Licensing Committee – 11 November 2009

Gambling Act 2005 –Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy (2010-2013)

Councillor Tallack moved the following recommendation from the meeting of Licensing Committee on 11 November 2009, which was seconded by Councillor Butler-Ellis:

“That the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2010-2013, as set out in the Annex to the report, be approved.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried with 33 Members voting in favour, 0 Members voting against and 9 Members abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED –

That the Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy 2010-2013, as set out in the Annex to the report, be approved.

(Councillors A Geary and Jury declared a predetermined position on this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration and took no part in the voting thereon.)

CL74

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor Dransfield to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Dransfield asked Councillor Crooks if, following his outburst in answer to the question at the last meeting about the examination performance of the secondary school children in Milton Keynes, he was now able to provide a more measured, conciliatory response.

Councillor Crooks emphasised that Milton Keynes had great children and it was important to give them a great future. Councillor Crooks expressed the need to put the children first and work with partners to address any barriers to improving examination results.

Councillor Dransfield asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Crooks.

- (b) Question from Councillor White to Councillor Ferrans (Cabinet Member for Community Strategy and Regeneration)

Councillor White asked Councillor Ferrans, in light of the announcement of Silverstone signing a 17 year deal to stage the British Grand Prix, what strategy was there to maintain an engineering base and encourage engineering innovation in the area.

Councillor Ferrans indicated that a strategy was being developed in conjunction with the Milton Keynes Economy

and Learning Partnership and would be subject to consultation. Councillor Ferrans reported that the need to strengthen industry in the area had been recognised and accepted by SEERA.

Councillor White asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Ferrans.

- (c) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Member for Transport and Highways)

Councillor Geary asked Councillor Mallyon to confirm that the additional Council Tax raised to fund the repair of potholes had been allocated for that use.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that all that had been allocated for pothole repairs had been used, together with an additional sum from Reserves. However, potholes in the roads was an ongoing problem.

Councillor Geary asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Mallyon.

- (d) Question from Councillor Hopkins to Councillor Galloway (Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Growth)

Councillor Hopkins suggested to Councillor Galloway that the process to approve the Core Strategy had stalled because of the unavailability of the minutes of the meetings of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group and asked when the minutes would be available.

Councillor Galloway indicated that the minutes would be available for the meeting of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group on 15 December 2009.

- (e) Question from Councillor Miles to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Miles asked Councillor Crooks, if consideration had been given to bringing back contracts in house?

Councillor Crooks indicated that the Council should look at all options for the provision of the services when the contracts were next up for renewal.

- (f) Question from Councillor Klein to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Member for Transport and Highways)

Councillor Klein asked Councillor Mallyon if it was possible for him to report on his negotiations with the developers and owners of the former Bletchley Leisure Centre Car Park for it to be open for public use over the Christmas period, following the assurance given at the last meeting of Cabinet.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that it had been agreed with the developers that the car park would be opened up for December. Councillor Mallyon undertook to investigate why the car park was not yet open and reply in writing.

Councillor Klein asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Mallyon.

- (g) Question from Councillor A Geary to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council).

Councillor Geary asked Councillor Crooks why, despite the extensive cross party working which was now taking place, had the proposed extension of the Grid Road system into the Western Expansion Area been leaked to the press, before discussion with the other political groups on the Council.

Councillor Crooks indicated that a formal press statement was being prepared, and was currently being checked by the developers.

Councillor Geary asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Crooks.

- (h) Question from Councillor Coventry to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Member for Transport and Highways)

Councillor Coventry asked Councillor Mallyon if adequate measures were in place to cope with any snow falls.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that the Council should have sufficient road salt for the winter and agreed to make available the gritting schedule. Councillor Mallyon also agreed to provide a written response on the measures in place for clearing Redways.

Councillor Coventry asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Coventry.

- (i) Question from Councillor Bint to Councillor Galloway (Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Growth)

Councillor Bint drew attention to the view that there were a number of flaws and weaknesses in the Local Plan and asked Councillor Galloway when the Council would be considering taking measures to overcome them.

Councillor Galloway indicated that the current priority was to finalise the Core Strategy, after which he hoped to address issues arising from the Local Plan.

- (j) Question from Councillor Wright to Councillor McPake (Cabinet Member for Communities)

Councillor Wright, asked Councillor McPake if she could provide information on the current position with regard to the transfer of the former Bradville Housing Office to Stantonbury Parish Council and Thames Valley Police.

Councillor McPake agreed to look into this issue and report back as soon as possible.

- (k) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Councillor Geary drew the attention of Councillor Clark to the high level of vacancies being experienced in the Youth Service and particularly the effect this was having on the service provision in the rural areas and asked if action could be taken to rectify the position.

Councillor Clark indicated that she would provide a written answer.

- (I) Question from Councillor Dransfield to Councillor McPake (Cabinet Member for Communities)

Councillor Dransfield asked Councillor McPake to confirm that she would be doing everything she could to ensure that budgets for sports were increased and not cut.

Councillor McPake, in recognising the wish to continue the excellent levels of achievement in sport, indicated that the Cabinet would be discussing the Council's budget over the next few weeks.

Councillor Dransfield asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor McPake.

CL75

POLICE AUTHORITY QUESTIONS

Councillor C Morris asked the following question of the Councillor Crooks, the representative of the Thames Valley Police Authority appointed to answer questions under Section 20 of the Police Act 1996:

"On the 16 October I was witness to a very serious assault, at lunchtime, in Central Milton Keynes. As the assault was taking place I rang 999, this was at 12.37. As requested by the 999 operator I, the other witnesses and the victim remained at the scene. At 1.20 I rang the control room at Milton Keynes Police to find out what was happening. I was told they were busy but would send someone imminently and if no-one was available, I would be called straight away. At 1.50, having received no phone call and no officers having arrived we all left the scene, having given the victim everyone's details.

Does the Police Authority think the Thames Valley Police failing to respond within 1 hour and 10 minutes to a serious assault, some 500 yards away from Central Milton Keynes Police Station is acceptable for the people of Milton Keynes?

What assurances can be given that this failure on behalf of Thames Valley Police will be investigated thoroughly, an acceptable explanation received and steps put in place to ensure this does not occur again?"

Response from Councillor Crooks:

"As Members know the Thames Valley Police Authority does not carry responsibility for operational matters concerning the Thames Valley Police Force – these fall strictly within the remit of the Chief

Constable with the exception of those for which the Home Secretary is responsible.

For this reason a new procedure concerning operational issues was introduced into Milton Keynes earlier this year following a question about seat belt checks in Olney. Essentially – where their concerns are operational - Members are invited to address their questions directly to Chief Superintendent Baldwin who will reply on behalf of the Force. If Members wish to place their question and the reply in the public domain that is fully acceptable. I think my suggestion at the time was that we could circulate it with Weekly News.

The Police Authority's powers are as follows:

- to secure the maintenance of an efficient and effective police service - in part through regular performance monitoring
- in consultation with the Chief Constable, to produce a three year rolling strategy and delivery plan
- to approve an annual budget
- to set the police element of the Council Tax and to levy a precept upon billing authorities in the Force area
- to approve the annual accounts
- to monitor and review budget performance
- to appoint and dismiss the Chief Constable, Deputy Chief Constable and Assistant Chief Constables
- to ensure that arrangements are in hand for consultation with local communities regarding the policing of their areas and to monitor its effectiveness
- to monitor the implementation of the Force and the Authority Equality and Diversity Schemes
- to monitor the police use of Stop and Search and Stop and Account powers and to help publicise an individual's rights to receive a written record if they are stopped
- to work co-operatively with partner bodies who are also working to reduce crime, disorder and deliver safer communities
- to oversee arrangements for independent custody visiting ensuring that detainees are treated properly
- to keep itself informed on Force investigations of complaints by the public about members of the Force - and to be responsible for determining the outcome of complaints against senior police officers
- to produce a policing summary and annual report

Questions about any of the powers above are dealt with, not by the Chief Superintendent, but by the Authority under the Section 20 (of

the Police Act 1996) procedure that appears on our agenda.

In respect of Councillor Morris' question I have two suggestions as to a way forward:

- 1 With her permission I will place a copy of Chief Superintendent Baldwin's reply to her original mail in this Friday's Weekly News.
- 2 I understand that the Chief Constable will be appearing before the Safer and Stronger Communities Select Committee on either 3 February or 30 March and the concerns that Councillor Morris expresses in the closing paragraph of her question would be an appropriate matter to take up with the Chief Constable at that meeting."

CL76

BROADBAND SERVICES

Councillor Crooks moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Hopkins:

"That this Council:

1. warmly welcomes the recent decision of BT Openreach to launch a pilot project on higher speed broadband which will cover half the city;
2. confirms that the Council's longer term vision must be to make Milton Keynes a national digital leader harnessing broadband for uses such as:
 - (a) access to Council services;
 - (b) shared services with other organisations
 - (c) small businesses and other general business use on employment areas
 - (d) Telecare and Telehealth
 - (e) Community networking
 - (f) Individual access;
3. notes that, insofar as technically possible, the same provision must be available throughout the city and the rural parts of the Borough, and that individual and voluntary sector access must also be fully available through an extension of the work of ConnectMK;
4. requests the Cabinet to take forward this work as part of the citywide and internal ICT Strategies that are currently being prepared."

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

RESOLVED –

That this Council:

1. warmly welcomes the recent decision of BT Openreach to launch a pilot project on higher speed broadband which will cover half the city;
2. confirms that the Council's longer term vision must be to make Milton Keynes a national digital leader harnessing broadband for uses such as:
 - (a) access to Council services;
 - (b) shared services with other organisations
 - (c) small businesses and other general business use on employment areas
 - (d) Telecare and Telehealth
 - (e) Community networking
 - (f) Individual access;
3. notes that, insofar as technically possible, the same provision must be available throughout the city and the rural parts of the Borough, and that individual and voluntary sector access must also be fully available through an extension of the work of ConnectMK;
4. requests the Cabinet to take forward this work as part of the citywide and internal ICT Strategies that are currently being prepared.

CL77

RADCLIFFE SCHOOL

Councillor A Geary moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor C Morris.

"That this Council

1. commends and thanks the Chair and members of the IEB and the Headmaster and Staff of the Radcliffe School for all of the effort and hard work put in over the last 22 months to enable the School to reach the point of now being removed from Special Measures;
2. notes with concern the fact that the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is still to make a decision with regard to the future governance and administrative arrangements for the future of the School;
3. expresses its concern and dismay that, at a time when the School is in a very sensitive position and in need of some security and reassurance, the DCSF is still failing to make the necessary decisions with due haste and timeliness. This despite backing this Council into a very tight timescale over decisions it had to make regarding the proposed academy status;
4. notwithstanding the efforts of officers and the Corporate Director Children and Young People's Services to get

answers to some of these questions, requests that the Chief Executive now intervenes and writes directly to the Minister in order to try and establish a firm future position; and

5. requests that the Chief Executive communicates in writing with all Members and stakeholders immediately upon receipt of any response from the Minister.”

Councillor Miles moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor S Clark and accepted by the mover of the motion:

- “1. That all in paragraph (a), after ‘IEB’ be deleted and the following words added:

‘the headteacher, staff and pupils for all the hard work put in over the last 22 months to enable the Radcliffe School to reach the point of now being removed from special measures and the National Challenge. The Council recognises the invaluable support of parents and carers in achieving this process;’

2. That paragraphs 2 to 5 be deleted and the following paragraphs added to the motion:

- ‘2. welcomes the announcement from the Schools Minister that The Radcliffe School is no longer being considered for academy status;

3. expresses its concern that, despite this School being a major part of the improvement plan for Milton Keynes, it took 10 weeks from the announcement to remove the School from special measures for the announcement to be made of the decision that the School is no longer at risk of academy status;

4. pledges its continued support and assistance to The Radcliffe School in establishing suitable and sustainable governance arrangements in a timely manner in order that the School may build on the newly established foundations which are now firmly in place; and

5. requests that the Chief Executive write to the Chair of the Children and Young People’s Improvement Board to express the messages contained within this motion.”

The Mayor ruled that, as a result of the amendment from Councillor Miles being accepted, the amendment submitted by Councillor Dransfield fell.

The Council heard from a member of the public on this item.

On being put to the vote the motion, as amended, was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

That this Council:

1. commends and thanks the Chair and members of the IEB, the headteacher, staff and pupils for all the hard work put in over the last 22 months to enable the Radcliffe School to reach the point of now being removed from special measures and the National Challenge. The Council recognises the invaluable support of parents and carers in achieving this process.
2. welcomes the announcement from the Schools Minister that The Radcliffe School is no longer being considered for academy status.
3. expresses its concern that, despite this School being a major part of the improvement plan for Milton Keynes, it took 10 weeks from the announcement to remove the School from special measures for the announcement to be made of the decision that the School is no longer at risk of academy status.
4. pledges its continued support and assistance to The Radcliffe School in establishing suitable and sustainable governance arrangements in a timely manner in order that the School may build on the newly established foundations which are now firmly in place.
5. requests that the Chief Executive write to the Chair of the Children and Young People's Improvement Board to express the messages contained within this motion.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.40 PM

Report considered by Cabinet – 5 January 2010

Abstract:

To approve the Core Strategy Development Plan Document for the purpose of publication and consultation, and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

Purpose:

To recommend the approval of the Core Strategy to Council for publication purposes.

The Core Strategy will help to deliver Council priorities 1 to 4 from the Council Plan 2008 and 6 out of 7 of the Council Priorities for 2009-2011. It will affect all Wards within the Borough as it will help influence strategic planning decisions in the future.

CORE STRATEGY: PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION DOCUMENT AND PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION AND CONSULTATION

Accountable Cabinet Member: Councillor Galloway

Author: Bob Wilson (Development Plans Manager) - (01908) 252480

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Council be recommended to approve the Core Strategy for the purposes of pre-submission publication and consultation, and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.
- 1.2 That, subject to approval of the Core Strategy by Council:
 - (a) the accountable Cabinet Member be authorised to agree the detailed publication and consultation arrangements on the Core Strategy prior to submission to the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) the Corporate Director, Environment be authorised to agree any updating, clarification or factual corrections to the Core Strategy, either prior to the pre-submission consultation period, prior to submission to the Secretary of State, or in the lead up to the Public Examination.

2. Issues**Background**

- 2.1 The Cabinet considered the Core Strategy: Pre-Submission Publication version at their meeting of 24 November, and agreed a resolution “that the Core Strategy be submitted to a Council meeting for consideration on, or before, 12 January 2010, subject to any discussions that are necessary to achieve a strategy around which the Council is likely to coalesce”. Following this resolution, a further Local Development Framework Advisory Group

meeting has taken place (15 December 2009) to discuss additional changes to the Core Strategy to address any outstanding concerns that Members' had with the draft document.

- 2.2 The Cabinet report for 24 November and the Advisory Group report for 15 December provide more background to the ongoing process of preparing the Core Strategy Pre-Submission Publication version. A copy of the Cabinet report from 24 November is attached as an **Annex** to this report.
- 2.3 The Core Strategy: Pre-Submission Publication version dating from 18 December 2009 was discussed at a reconvened meeting of the Advisory Group on 23 December, and revised version of the Core Strategy will be circulated to all Members of the Council prior to this meeting.
- 2.4 Following consideration of this report by the Cabinet, it is intended that the Council will be asked to endorse the recommendation to approve the Core Strategy for publication and consultation purposes, and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

Issues Raised by the Local Development Framework Advisory Group

- 2.5 The main issues discussed at the Advisory Group meeting on 17 November are set out below. Officers have addressed the concerns raised by Members at this meeting, and changes have been made, as necessary, to the Core Strategy.
- 2.6 The full schedule of comments from the series of Advisory Group meetings and the changes resulting from those comments was included as a paper for the Advisory Group meeting of 15 December (reconvened on 23 December). It can be accessed from the Committee web page: <http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CmisWebPublic/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=9100>
- 2.7 In summary, the changes incorporated into the Core Strategy after the 17 November meeting include:
 - (a) Identifying transport and the scale of planned growth as key issues
 - (b) Adding an objective that the Core Strategy should aim to improve people's quality of life
 - (c) Recognising the risk of losing an understanding of the design principles that have guided the development of the city
 - (d) Addressing queries about the scale of growth proposed in Central Milton Keynes and its impact on transport into the city centre.
 - (e) Under economy and employment, recognising that not all small businesses could or would want to be accommodated in CMK; and that we need a wide range of jobs and skills to ensure MK does not come to rely on one type of industry.

- (f) Interpreting the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) as indicating the scale of future housing needs, while recognising that the exact figures will need to be reviewed regularly
- (g) Highlighting MK's record of achieving energy standards in new development that have been above the norm, and continuing to promote higher standards in future
- (h) Flagging up the role of sport as a key driver for leisure in the city, with major sports facilities to be located near key major transport routes
- (i) In relation to the South West Strategic Development Area, which will be in Aylesbury Vale, identifying where we disagree with AVDC's current policies for the area.

2.8 The Core Strategy will allocate the South East Strategic Development Area (SDA), and this must be shown on the Proposals Map for the Borough. An alteration to the Adopted Local Plan Proposals Map has been prepared which changes the designation in this area from open countryside to SDA, with reference to Core Strategy Policy CS5.

2.9 The existing settlements of Wavendon and Woburn Sands are not included in the SDA and their designations do not change. No other allocations and designations outside the South East SDA will be altered as a result of the Core Strategy, and the Adopted Local Plan Proposals Map should still be referred to for all areas outside the SDA. It is intended that this alteration will sit alongside the Adopted Local Plan Proposals Map.

3. **Alternative Options**

3.1 Should the Council decide to defer or not approve the Core Strategy: Pre-Submission Publication version the implications would be far-reaching:

- (a) To ensure it does not run into Easter or the pre-Election purdah period, the publication and consultation of the Core Strategy must start in early/mid February. To allow sufficient time for preparation and printing of final documents, correspondence and advertising, the Council meeting of 12 January is the last feasible meeting date to approve the Core Strategy for publication purposes to meet the February consultation start-date.
- (b) Some of the background work (the evidence base) will become out of date and it will take more time and more money to update
- (c) The Council's performance in producing the Core Strategy is monitored through national indicators, with good performance rewarded through Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG)
- (d) Other statutory planning policy documents would be delayed - for example, the update of Development Control policies which will

address (amongst other things) the need for a new policy on Houses in Multiple Occupation

- (e) The development industry may decide to progress sites by planning application and appeal; these sites may not be consistent with the Council's strategy for the Borough.

3.2 Once the Core Strategy has been agreed and published, people will have the opportunity to comment on the 'soundness' of the document. When the Core Strategy is examined by an independent inspector, he/she will assess the document against the tests of soundness set out in government policy. This is a different process to that used in the past at Local Plan inquiries; officers will prepare guidance for the public on what this means, to be published with the Core Strategy.

3.3 The Council will not be able to make any further changes to the Core Strategy once it has been agreed and published. However, if there are changes that the Council would be happy to make, in response to public comments on the Pre-Submission version, the Council can submit those changes to the independent inspector and ask him to consider them as part of his examination of the Core Strategy.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

The Core Strategy is a key document within the Local Development Framework, setting the spatial vision and development strategy until 2026. It is a document that is specifically required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004).

Upon adoption, the Core Strategy and forthcoming Development Plan Documents (DPD) will replace existing, saved policies in the adopted Milton Keynes Local Plan. A full list of which policies will be replaced by which DPD is included in Appendix C of the Core Strategy.

4.2 Resources and Risk

Financial: The preparation of the Core Strategy has been funded largely from the existing Development Plans budget. Further consultants' studies may need to be commissioned as part of the evidence base to support the Core Strategy in the run up to examination. Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) has been used to fund some of these studies in the past. Some studies have also been jointly funded with Milton Keynes Partnership (MKP) and opportunities will continue to be explored. The 2008 study on the SDAs was jointly funded by all of the affected local authorities (Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire County Councils, Aylesbury Vale and Mid Beds District Councils, this Council and MKP). Joint working on the SDAs is ongoing and may result in jointly funded technical work to support the preparation of more detailed planning for these areas.

The timetable for producing the Core Strategy is set out in the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved by Cabinet on 17 March 2009. In

terms of future grant settlements, HPDG will be based on (amongst other things) the delivery of new housing rather than just related to performance against the LDS.

The new examination process will involve more frequent Public Examinations but they should be shorter and more focussed. An annual Planning Inquiries budget is in place to fund Public Inquiries / Examinations. This position will be kept under review.

Staffing: The preparation of the Core Strategy involves considerable officer and Member time. It is key service priority of the Development Plans Team. Internal promotions, secondments and staff departures meant that the Development Plans Team was short staffed between September 2007 and summer 2008. This had an inevitable impact on original timetable for the Core Strategy. The Team is now close to full strength and has been able to progress the Core Strategy during 2009.

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

In order to minimise the impact of new development, the Core Strategy includes a chapter and policies for Building Sustainable Communities. It sets high standards for sustainable construction, the use of renewable energy and sustainable design.

4.4 Legal

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has changed the statutory basis for drawing up development plans in England and Wales. The Milton Keynes Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance will eventually be replaced by the Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents.

4.5 Other Implications

- (a) *Equality:* Consultation on the Core Strategy has been and will be in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, including an Equalities Audit to help target under-represented or hard-to-reach groups. Equality issues have been considered through the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies the Core Strategy and also in preparing policies in the document itself.
- (b) *E-govt:* The Core Strategy will be available via the Council's website. People will be able to comment online and read other people's comments using the Limehouse system. The documents that make up the evidence base, including the MK Growth Strategy documents (including the report on consultation) are available on the Council's website.

- (c) *Sustainability*: The Core Strategy is subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under statutory regulations. SA and SEA are iterative processes that run throughout all stages of Core Strategy production. The work is combined into one Sustainability Appraisal report which assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policies and proposals developed for the Core Strategy. A Sustainability Report encompassing all of the work to date will be published alongside the submission document. It is not a formal consultation document but its scope has been agreed with the relevant statutory consultees.
- (d) *Users, partners and stakeholders*: The Local Strategic Partnership and other key MK stakeholders have been involved throughout the stages for the preparation of the Core Strategy. MKP and the neighbouring local authorities have also been involved in shaping the submission document.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Y	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder
Y	Carbon and Energy Policy				

Background Papers:

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended.
- PPS12: Local Spatial Planning (CLG, 2008).
- Regional Planning Guidance for the South East (RPG9) (March 2001).
- Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Planning Guidance (March 2005)
- MK2031: draft Growth Strategy (June 2006).
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- Technical Background Papers: Housing Land Supply and Delivery (Milton Keynes City); Rural Area Spatial Options; Landscape Character.
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- LDF Advisory Group minutes available at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CmisWebPublic/CommitteeDetails.aspx?committeeID=2139>
- The Core Strategy evidence base available at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning%2Dpolicy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=61306>

Report considered by Cabinet – 24 November 2009

Key Decision	Yes
Listed on Forward Plan	No
Within Policy	Yes
Policy Document	Community Strategy

MILTON KEYNES LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY: SUBMISSION DOCUMENT AND CONSULTATION

Accountable Cabinet Members: Councillor Galloway
(Environment, Planning and Growth)

Contact Officer: Bob Wilson, Development Plans Manager),
Tel: (01908) 252480

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the Core Strategy Development Plan Document for the purpose of consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Council be recommended to approve the Core Strategy (**Appendix B – not attached**) for the purposes of pre-submission consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State, subject to:
- (a) delegation of authority to the accountable Cabinet Member to agree the detailed consultation arrangements on the Core Strategy prior to submission to the Secretary of State; and
 - (b) delegation of authority to the Corporate Director Environment to agree any updates, clarifications or factual corrections to the Core Strategy, prior to the pre-submission consultation period and submission to the Secretary of State or in the lead up to the Public Examination.

3. Issues

- 3.1 The Cabinet resolved to withdraw the Submission Core Strategy at their meeting held on 2 June to allow the Local Development Framework Advisory Group to consider comments made at the meeting prior to consideration of a revised document. It is useful to refer to this former report as that outlines the background to the Core Strategy and this is appended at **Appendix A**.

- 3.2 Meetings of the Advisory Group were held on 18 June, 19 August and 3 September to go through the comments made at the Cabinet meeting and also a number of subsequent suggestions made at the meetings of the Advisory Group. A further advisory visit with the Planning Inspectorate was held in July.
- 3.3 The Advisory Group completed their consideration of the Core Strategy after a series of meetings in 2009 concluding with their meeting on 3 September which was then reconvened, completing business on 29 September. The comments received from Councillors were set out in tables with an officer response against each comment. Most of the councillor comments were agreed and the Core Strategy was revised to incorporate these comments.
- 3.4 During the discussions after the June Cabinet it was agreed that an independent review of the Core Strategy (once revised to take on board councillors' comments), would consider:
- (a) An assessment of how the work undertaken to date stands against the tests of soundness;
 - (b) Observations on the clarity and internal consistency of the document in planning policy terms and its readability as Plain English;
 - (c) Recommendations on actions considered necessary to deal with any areas of weakness or where clarification is desirable; and
 - (d) Advice on approaches to the finalisation of the publication core strategy which are considered important in making it likely that it they be found to be sound.
- 3.5 The independent review was carried out by Planning Officers Society Enterprises Ltd (POSe) and this involved a full day workshop held on 13 October. It was attended by the Development Plans team and an officer from the Legal services.
- 3.6 Following the workshop a report was received on 26 October. This has a covering report and an Annex. The Annex contains the suggested changes to the Core Strategy as recommended by the POSe together with covering notes.
- 3.7 This report together with the Core Strategy (revised in accordance with the recommendations from POSe), was considered by the Local Development Framework Advisory Group on 17 November. Should there be any further changes recommended by the Advisory Group, they will be included in an addendum to this report.
- 3.8 Almost all of the changes to the Core Strategy have been incorporated into the document which is attached to this report as Annex A.
- 3.9 The key messages in the report from POSe are:
- (a) The scale and complexity of development covered in the Milton Keynes Core Strategy dwarfs most other local development frameworks in the country. The development plans staff is commended for impressive progress in preparing this plan. The PINS advisory visit revealed no significant flaws in the soundness of the plan's preparation and this was confirmed in the strategic research by the POSe consultant.

- (b) However, more work was recommended prior to the publication of the submission document and this included self assessment tests, checking the delivery of development and infrastructure and rigorous editing of the submission document.
 - (c) That work has been carried out by the Development plans team and the document appended to this report incorporates the revisions as suggested by the consultant.
- 3.10 Should the Council decide to defer or not approve the Submission Core Strategy the implications would be far-reaching:
- (a) The Secretary of State can use default powers under section 27 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and must hold an independent examination. The Secretary of State may also prepare or revise and approve the document and charge the authority for the costs incurred.
 - (b) Some of the background work (the evidence base) will become out of date and it will take more time and more money to update
 - (c) The Council's performance in producing the Core Strategy is monitored through national indicators, with good performance rewarded through HPDG
 - (d) Other statutory planning policy documents would be delayed - for example, the update of Development Control policies which will address (amongst other things) the need for a new policy on Houses in Multiple Occupation
 - (e) The development industry may decide to progress sites by planning application and appeal; these sites may not be consistent with the Council's strategy for the Borough.

4 Implications

4.1 Policy

The Core Strategy will help meet the following council priorities by including policies which address:

- (a) delivering development that will make better places and places better through good design and planning;
- (b) creating conditions for increasing the commercial potential for the public transport network;
- (c) providing a planning framework for the regeneration of priority estates and neighbourhoods and
- (d) ensuring the provision of affordable housing.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The preparation of the Core Strategy will be funded largely from the existing Development Plans budget. Further consultants' studies may need to be commissioned as part of the evidence base to support the Core Strategy in the run up to examination. Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) has been used to fund some of these studies in the past. Some studies have also been jointly funded with Milton Keynes Partnership (MKP) and opportunities will continue to be explored. The 2008 study on the Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) was jointly funded by all of the affected local authorities (Bucks and Beds county councils, Aylesbury Vale and Mid Beds district councils, MKC and MKP). Joint working on the SDAs is ongoing and may result in jointly funded technical work to support the preparation of more detailed planning for these areas.

The timetable for producing the Core Strategy is set out in the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved by Cabinet on 17 March 2009. In terms of future grant settlements HPDG will be based on (amongst other things) the delivery of new housing rather than just related to performance against the LDS.

The new examination process will involve more frequent Public Examinations but they should be shorter and more focussed. An annual Planning Inquiries budget is in place to fund Public Inquiries / Examinations. This position will be kept under review.

The preparation of the Core Strategy involves considerable officer and member time. It is the key service priority of the Development Plans team. Internal promotions, secondments and staff departures meant that the Development Plans team was short staffed between September 2007 and summer 2008. This had an inevitable impact on the original timetable for the Core Strategy. The team is now close to full strength and has been able to progress the Core Strategy in line with the revised timetable in the LDS.

Risk is set out under the alternative options heading above.

N	Capital	Y	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

In order to minimise the impact of new development, the Core Strategy includes a chapter and policies for Building Sustainable Communities. It sets high standards for sustainable construction, the use of renewable energy and sustainable design.

4.4 Legal

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has changed the statutory basis for drawing up development plans in England and Wales. The Milton Keynes Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance will eventually be replaced by the Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents.

4.5 Other Implications

Equality: Consultation on the Core Strategy has been and will be in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, including an Equalities Audit to help target under-represented or hard-to-reach groups. Equality issues have been considered through the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies the Core Strategy and also in preparing policies in the document itself.

E-govt: The Core Strategy will be available via the Council's website. People will be able to comment online and read other people's comments using the Limehouse system. The documents that make up the evidence base, including the MK Growth Strategy documents (including the report on consultation) are available on the Council's website.

Sustainability: The Core Strategy is subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under statutory regulations. SA and SEA are iterative processes that run throughout all stages of Core Strategy production. The work is combined into one Sustainability Appraisal report which assesses the environmental, social and economic impacts of the policies and proposals developed for the Core Strategy. A Sustainability Report encompassing all of the work to date will be published alongside the submission document. It is not a formal consultation document but its scope has been agreed with the relevant statutory consultees.

Users, partners and stakeholders: The Local Strategic Partnership and other key MK stakeholders have been involved throughout the stages for the preparation of the Core Strategy. MKP and the neighbouring local authorities have also been involved in shaping the submission document.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Y	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder
Y	Carbon and Energy Policy				

Background Papers:

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004, as amended.
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- The Core Strategy evidence base available at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning%2Dpolicy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=61306>
- The POSe report - 25 October 2009 on the draft Core Strategy pre-submission document

Report considered by Cabinet – 2 June 2009

Key Decision	Yes
Listed on Forward Plan	Yes
Within Policy	Yes

MILTON KEYNES LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY

Accountable Cabinet Member: Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development

Contact Officer: Bob Wilson, Development Plans Manager,
Tel: (01098) 252480

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To approve the Core Strategy Development Plan Document for the purpose of consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend to Full Council approval of the Core Strategy as set out at the **Annex** for the purposes of pre-submission consultation and subsequent submission to the Secretary of State.
- 2.2 Subject to approval of the Core Strategy by Full Council:
- (a) To authorise the accountable Cabinet Member to agree the detailed consultation arrangements on the Core Strategy prior to submission to the Secretary of State
 - (b) To authorise the Corporate Director, Environment to agree any updating, clarification or factual corrections to the Core Strategy either prior to the pre-submission consultation period, prior to submission to the Secretary of State, or in the lead up to the Public Examination.

3. Issues and ChoicesBackground

- 3.1 It is a statutory duty for all unitary and district councils to prepare a Local Development Framework (LDF). The Core Strategy will be the most important of

all the documents in the LDF that will ultimately replace the adopted Milton Keynes Local Plan.

- 3.2 The Core Strategy sets out our vision for how we see the Borough in 2026 and how we are going to get there. It identifies the major areas for the growth of the city and is the spatial expression of the Sustainable Community Strategy¹, as well as linking together many other area or topic-based strategies adopted by the Council and our partners. Other more detailed documents will follow on from the Core Strategy.
- 3.3 The government regards Core Strategies for the Growth Areas as a top priority. As a result help has been provided by GOSE (detailed advice over the last 6 months), the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Advisory Service and CABA². Progress is monitored through BV200 and is rewarded through Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG). This year, councils reaching submission and adoption of their Core Strategy received about £500,000 each through HPDG.
- 3.4 An all party Local Development Framework Advisory Group, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, has overseen the preparation of the Core Strategy. The Advisory Group has met each month since January 2009 to discuss and shape the submission document attached at the Annex.

Previous Stages

- 3.5 Preparation of the Core Strategy has involved a significant amount of consultation with stakeholders and the community, as required by national planning guidance. There have been two previous rounds of public consultation as well as a continuous programme of engagement with stakeholders.
- 3.6 The Issues and Options stage (December 2006) identified issues for the Core Strategy to tackle and suggest options for the way forward. The results of this consultation were reported to Cabinet in June 2007. At that time Cabinet also approved the Preferred Options document for a further 6 week consultation. The Preferred Options document set out the Council's strategic direction on the various issues and the preferred way forward.
- 3.7 In July 2008, Cabinet considered the range of issues raised during the consultation on the Preferred Options and agreed a way forward for the Council in terms of the directions of future growth for the city and the allocation of strategic sites in the Core Strategy. The previous rounds of consultation, together with the MK2031 consultation are set out below:

Stage	From	To
Pre-production stage: MK Growth Strategy		

¹ Developed and produced by the MK Local Strategic Partnership

² Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

"Where and how MK could grow"	June 2005	August 2005
Options for Growth	November 2005	January 2006
Draft MK Growth Strategy	June 2006	September 2006
Issues and Options	7 September 2006	8 March 2007
Preferred Options	27 September 2007	8 November 2007

3.8 When the Council submits the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State, we are required to publish at the same time a statement setting out who was invited to be involved in its preparation, how they were invited to be involved, a summary of the main issues raised and how these have been addressed. We must also show how policies have evolved from the Issues and Options, through the Preferred Options to the Submission Version.

The changing national and regional policy context

- 3.9 Since the Council approved the Preferred Options document in June 2007, there have been significant changes to the national and regional policy context which means that some policies needed to be revised.
- 3.10 In June 2008, the Government published a revised Planning Policy Statement 12 (PPS12). This encourages local authorities to allocate strategic sites for development in the Core Strategy where these sites are central to the achievement of the overall spatial strategy. This advice has led to the inclusion in the Core Strategy of a policy allocating the South East Strategic Development Area (SE SDA).
- 3.11 Regionally, the policy context has also changed. The Preferred Options document was prepared in the context of the draft South East Plan. Cabinet approved the Preferred Options for consultation in June 2007, but in August 2007 the report of the Panel which examined the draft South East Plan was published. Although the Panel Report was largely consistent with the Preferred Options document it recommended a slight increase in housing targets for Milton Keynes overall, more development in the South East Strategic Development Area (SE SDA) with an accompanying reduction in the amount of housing proposed in the South West Strategic Development Area (SW SDA).³
- 3.12 Following the publication of the Panel Report, the Government published their Proposed Changes to the South East Plan in July 2008. The Proposed Changes complicated the planning of the SE SDA by discounting the housing proposed for the Mid Beds part of the SDA from the South East Plan and proposing a third SDA east of the M1 (5,600 homes). The Council objected strongly to this additional SDA.
- 3.13 The Government published the final version of the South East Plan on 6 May 2009. The proposal for a third SDA east of the M1 has been deleted. The Core

Strategy reflects the final version of the South East Plan, leaving the long term possibility of a further SDA east of the M1 as something to be examined further in due course, alongside other options for the growth of the city.

The Core Strategy Submission Document

- 3.14 The Core Strategy is the key document in the Milton Keynes Local Development Framework. It provides the vision, objectives and strategy for the spatial development of the city. It also provides the basis for the preparation of all the other documents in the Milton Keynes Local Development Framework.
- 3.15 Unlike a traditional local plan, the document is primarily a strategy setting out how change will be delivered over the next 20 years. The policies in the Core Strategy have been developed to deliver the strategic objectives, which have been identified in response to the vision for the future. Through the spatial strategy and supporting policies, the Core Strategy sets out how future development will be delivered in a sustainable way.
- 3.16 Key Issues that the Core Strategy addresses include:
- (a) The extent of and policy framework for the South East SDA (south of the A421 in the Wavendon / Woburn Sands area)
 - (b) The Council's requirements for the South West SDA, which is wholly within Aylesbury Vale District, particularly in terms of integrating this area into the city and dealing with its impact on nearby parts of the city (including Bletchley) and on the city as a whole.
 - (c) The policy basis for seeking financial contributions from developers towards East West Rail
 - (d) Principles and standards for new development
- 3.17 All Local Development Documents must be based on a robust, credible evidence base. The evidence base includes technical studies on specific issues such as flooding and sustainable construction as well as other strategies produced by the Council and partners. The key pieces of evidence have been discussed over recent months by the Local Development Framework Advisory Group.
- 3.18 Other supporting documents, which must be submitted to the Secretary of State with the Core Strategy, include the key pieces of evidence and supporting documentation, some of which will be in the form of Topic Papers (as with the Council's first Development Plan Document: the Waste DPD, submitted in January 2007).

Next Steps

- 3.19 The Core Strategy is now at the final stage of preparation and, subject to approval by Cabinet and Full Council, must be published for a further period of consultation before being submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

- 3.20 PPS12 has removed the maximum of 6 weeks for consultation, leaving the Council free to decide the length of the consultation period. It is therefore proposed to run the consultation period for 12 weeks in line with the Council's adopted consultation strategy, starting in July 2009 with final dates to be confirmed.
- 3.21 As with the Preferred Options, the Submission Version will be published using the Limehouse consultation system which allows representations to be made and viewed online. The document will be made available as paper copies and on CD.
- 3.22 The Submission Version of the Core Strategy is intended to be the Council's "final word" on the document. This consultation stage allows for representations to be made on the "soundness" of the document. All comments received will be summarised by officers and forwarded to the Secretary of State and the Planning Inspectorate. They will be taken into account by the independent planning inspector holding the public examination into the Core Strategy, rather than considered by the Council.
- 3.23 The main difference between this examination and the old Local Plan Inquiry system is that the Inspector does not have to consider every representation received but will look instead at the issues raised and addressed in the Core Strategy in the context of the Government's "tests of soundness". These tests relate to whether the preparation process has complied with the legal requirements and whether the document is justified, effective and consistent with national policy.
- 3.24 A further key difference between the Local Plan system and the new process is that the recommendations in the Inspector's Report will be binding on the Council.
- 3.25 As part of the consultation process, we will explain what people can comment on and how their comments will be considered.

4. **Implications**

4.1 Policy

- 4.2 The Core Strategy is a key document within the Local Development Framework, setting the spatial vision and development strategy until 2026. It is a document that is specifically required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004). Upon adoption, the Core Strategy and forthcoming Development Plan Documents will replace existing, saved policies in the adopted Milton Keynes Local Plan.

4.3 Resources and Risk

- 4.4 *Financial:* The preparation of the Core Strategy will be funded largely from the existing Development Plans budget. Further consultants' studies may need to be commissioned as part of the evidence base to support the Core Strategy in the run up to examination. HPDG has been used to fund some of these studies in the past. Some studies have also been jointly funded with Milton Keynes Partnership (MKP) and opportunities will continue to be

explored. The 2008 study on the Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) was jointly funded by all of the affected local authorities (Bucks and Beds county councils, Aylesbury Vale and Mid Beds district councils, MKC and MKP. Joint working on the SDAs is ongoing and may result in jointly funded technical work to support the preparation of more detailed planning for these areas.

- 4.5 The timetable for producing the Core Strategy is set out in the revised Local Development Scheme (LDS) approved by Cabinet on 17 March 2009. In terms of future grant settlements HPDG will be based on (amongst other things) the delivery of new housing rather than just related to performance against the LDS.
- 4.6 The new examination process will involve more frequent Public Examinations but they should be shorter and more focussed. An annual Planning Inquiries budget is in place to fund Public Inquiries / Examinations. This position will be kept under review.
- 4.7 Should the Council decide to defer or not approve the Submission Core Strategy the implications would be far-reaching:
- (a) Some of the background work (the evidence base) will become out of date and it will take more time and more money to update
 - (b) The Council's performance in producing the Core Strategy is monitored through national indicators, with good performance rewarded through HPDG
 - (c) Other statutory planning policy documents would be delayed - for example, the update of Development Control policies which will address (amongst other things) the need for a new policy on Houses in Multiple Occupation
 - (d) The development industry may decide to progress sites by planning application and appeal; these sites may not be consistent with the Council's strategy for the Borough.
- 4.8 *Staffing:* The preparation of the Core Strategy involves considerable officer and member time. It is key service priority of the Development Plans team. Internal promotions, secondments and staff departures meant that the Development Plans team was short staffed between September 2007 and summer 2008. This had an inevitable impact on original timetable for the Core Strategy. The team is now close to full strength and has been able to progress the Core Strategy in line with the revised timetable in the LDS.

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N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.9 Carbon and Energy Management

4.10 In order to minimise the impact of new development, the Core Strategy includes a chapter and policies for Building Sustainable Communities. It sets high standards for sustainable construction, the use of renewable energy and sustainable design.

4.11 Legal

4.12 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has changed the statutory basis for drawing up development plans in England and Wales. The Milton Keynes Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance will eventually be replaced by the Core Strategy and other Local Development Documents.

4.13 Other Implications

- (a) *Equality*: Consultation on the Core Strategy has been and will be in line with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement, including an Equalities Audit to help target under-represented or hard-to-reach groups. Equality issues have been considered through the Sustainability Appraisal that accompanies the Core Strategy and also in preparing policies in the document itself.
- (b) *E-govt*: The Core Strategy will be available via the Council's website. People will be able to comment online and read other people's comments using the Limehouse system. The documents that make up the evidence base, including the MK Growth Strategy documents (including the report on consultation) are available on the Council's website.
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- (d) *Users, partners and stakeholders*: The Local Strategic Partnership and other key MK stakeholders have been involved throughout the stages for the preparation of the Core Strategy. MKP and the neighbouring local authorities have also been involved in shaping the submission document.

Y	Equalities / Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Y	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder
Y	Carbon and Energy Policy				

Background Papers:

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- The full South East Plan is available to view through the South East England Regional Assembly website at: www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/southeastplan
- Documents relating to the MK2031: draft Growth Strategy are available at: <http://www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031>
- LDF Advisory Group minutes available at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/CmisWebPublic/CommitteeDetails.aspx?committeeID=2139>
- The Core Strategy evidence base available at: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning%2Dpolicy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=61306>

WARD BASED BUDGETS

Contact Officer: Elizabeth Richardson (Member Services and Support Officer) –
01908 252629

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report on the uptake by Councillors of the Ward Based Budget scheme as at 11 December 2009.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the contents of this report be noted.
- 2.2 That Councillors be reminded of the existence of the Scheme and be encouraged to use budgets available to them.

3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 This year the Council has established Ward budgets to enable all Councillors to have the ability to make a small but vital contribution to projects carried out in their local communities by local organisations.
- 3.2 Each Councillor has been allocated a budget of £2,000 to spend during the 2009/10 Council year on Ward based issues.
- 3.3 Detailed Guidance Notes and an application form were issued to Councillors during the summer.
- 3.4 So far 35 applications, totalling £21,388 (approximately 20%), been received and approved. Details of the applications received are attached as an **Annex** to this report.

4. Implications**4.1 Policy**

As part of the budget setting process the Council agreed a budget of £2,000 for each Councillor to spend during the 2009/10 Council year on Ward based issues.

4.2 Resources and Risk

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Capital	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Revenue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accommodation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Medium Term Plan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Asset Management

4.3 Legal

None under the current guidance for use of the Ward Based Budgets.

4.4 Other Implications

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equalities / Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Human Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	E-Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Ward Based Budgets – Guidance Notes for Members

Ward	Councillor	Date Approved	Amount £	Balance £	Name of Organisation	Purpose / Objective
Bradwell	EXON, Robert	19/11/2009	500.00	2000.00	Heelands Rangers FC 1st Bradwell Common Brownies	Training balls & first aid kits Sports Kit & Clothing
		10/12/2009	500.00	1000.00		
Danesborough	HOPKINS, David	21/09/2009	500.00	2000.00	Woburn Sands Town Council Wavendon Parish Council Little Brickhill Resident's Assoc Bow Brickhill Parish Council	Preparation of Parish Plan Preparation of Parish Plan Preparation of Parish Plan Community Welcome Packs
		07/10/2009	500.00	1500.00		
		13/10/2009	500.00	1000.00		
		10/12/2009	500.00	0.00		
Eaton Manor	EDWARDS, Reg	23/07/2009	1,204.00	2000.00	East Bletchley Youth Community Group	Extra summer activities for young people on Lakes Estate
Eaton Manor	LLOYD, Jan	08/10/2009	500.00	2000.00	East Bletchley Youth Community Group	Annual Show Case Event - 5 Nov 2009
Emerson Valley	SMALL, Gerald	06/11/2009	750.00	2000.00	Friends of Long Meadow School 1st Emerson Valley Brownies 1st Emerson Valley Rainbows	Equipment for Trim Trail Centenary Polo Shirts Art & Craft Materials
		06/11/2009	300.00	1250.00		
		06/11/2009	200.00	950.00		
Furzton	WILLIAMS, Chris	21/10/2009	1000.00	2000.00	Shenley Brook End PC	Edison Square Flora & Fauna Project
				1000.00		
Linford North	RICHARDS, Alan	30/11/2009	200.00	2000.00	1st Giffard Park Scout Group Great Linford (St Andrews) Scouts Artwork-MK Juliet Ratnage Sschool of Dance	Creation of wetland area & access path Support for Spring Camp Attendance Support for Art Workshops: 8-16 year olds Replacement Dance Equipment - wall bars
		30/11/2009	240.00	1800.00		
		30/11/2009	250.00	1560.00		
		30/11/2009	250.00	1310.00		
Middleton	BINT, John	07/12/2009	285.00	2000.00	Kents Hill & Monkston PC	Spring Bulb Planting in Monkston
				1715.00		
Newport Pagnell North	BARRY, Mike	07/12/2009	1700.00	2000.00	Newport Pagnell Town Council	New Central Heating Boiler in Community Centre
				300.00		

Newport Pagnell North	HENDERSON, Euan	07/12/2009	726.00	2000.00 1274.00	Bernwode Fruit Trees	Fruit Trees for Newport Pagnell Community Orchard
Olney	BROCK, Debbie	20/10/2009 08/12/2009	500.00 350.00	2000.00 1500.00 1150.00	Lavendon Parish Council Weston Underwood PC	New Village Signs Fixings for New Village Signs
Olney	GEARY, Peter	09/11/2009 09/11/2009	500.00 700.00	2000.00 1500.00 800.00	MKC Traffic & Transport Dept MKC Traffic & Transport Dept	Bollards for High Street South, Olney Signs for Catholic Church in Olney
Sherington	POTTS, Sam	08/10/2009	1000.00	2000.00 1000.00	Sherington Parish Council	Feasibility Study into future of village shop
Stantonbury	WRIGHT, Barbara	22/10/2009 07/12/2009	50.00 589.00	2000.00 1950.00 1361.00	Stantonbury Parish Council Bradville Hall Community Centre	Campus "Trash for Cash" Campaign New Cooker for Community Hall Kitchen
Stony Stratford	BOX, Amanda	12/11/2009 10/12/2009	1000.00 1000.00	2000.00 1000.00 0.00	York House Youth Centre St Mary & St Giles School	New Chairs IT Equipment for Pupils
Stony Stratford	CARSTENS, Brin	08/10/2009 21/10/2009	770.00 750.00	2000.00 1230.00 480.00	Queen Eleanor Primary School Greek Orthodox Community of MK	Forest Schools Equipment for the Nursery Class Repair & renovation of Church Floor
Stony Stratford	WHARTON, Philip	07/12/2009	1452.00	2000.00 548.00	Calverton Residents' Association	New Notice Boards for Calverton Parish
Walton Park	BUTLER-ELLIS Edward	19/11/2009 07/12/2009	540.00 285.00	2000.00 1460.00 1175.00	Wavendon Gate Pavilion Kents Hill & Monkston PC	Venue Hire - The Squirrel Show Spring Bulb Planting in Kents Hill
Whaddon	TURNBULL, Camilla	04/11/2009 04/11/2009	647.00 650.00	2000.00 1353.00 703.00	1st Bleckley Scout Group West Bleckley Community Ass	Refurbishment of Scout Hut & Camping Equip Installation of new flooring in Gents/Disabled toilets
Total			21388.00		As at 11 December 2009	