

Environment and Transport Select Committee

WEDNESDAY 30 JULY 2014

7.00 pm

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC OFFICES,
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

A G E N D A

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny

Chair: Councillor P Geary

Councillors: Bint, Cannon, Clifton, L Gifford (Vice-Chair), Green, McPake (Vice-Chair), Petchey and Wilson

This meeting is open to the Public

For more information about the meeting please contact Lesley Sung on (01908) 252325 or by e-mail lesley.sung@milton-keynes.gov.uk

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise the Council's executive arrangements.

Each select committee has its own remit as set out in its terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance.

They have a number of key roles:

- Providing a critical friend challenge to policy makers and decision makers
- Enabling the voice and concerns of the public
- Driving improvement in public services.

The select committees consider issues by receiving information from and questioning officers and external partners to develop an understanding of proposals or practices. They then develop recommendations to provide to officers, Members or external partners that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations.

As select committees have no executive powers they often present their conclusions in the form of recommendations that can be provided to the Council, Cabinet or external agencies. Members will often request a formal response and progress report on the implementation of recommendations that they have provided to various parties.

Attending Meetings of Select Committees

Meetings of the select committees are held in public and are open for everyone to attend. If you would like to attend then please just turn up but if you can, please let us know you are attending in advance of the meeting and whether or not you would like to make a representation to Members on behalf of yourself or others.

If there are specific issues that the meeting must consider in private then they will be asked to consider this at the meeting.

After the meeting the recommendations and Minutes of the meeting, as well as agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings are available via the Council's website at:

<http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/>

The Overview & Scrutiny process aims to promote the five themes and priorities set out in the Milton Keynes Council's Corporate Plan

The **Corporate Plan** and framework sets out the vision for Milton Keynes. It captures what type of place Milton Keynes aspires to be for all those who live, work, learn and visit here. The plan sets out ambitious new objectives for Milton Keynes including achieving world class status for its design, new approaches and technologies and as a sporting city.

It has five key themes which help communicate all the work the Council does on behalf of the residents of the borough.

The five themes are:

Cleaner, greener, safer, healthier MK:

Improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities and work with partners to reduce crime and disorder to improve quality of life in MK.

Visiting MK:

Aim to make Milton Keynes a highly regarded visitor destination with a safe and effective transport system which is easily accessible regionally, nationally and internationally.

Working in MK:

To improve the skills and opportunities of everyone in Milton Keynes and help jobseekers into work, while attracting and retaining businesses to provide new opportunities and to bring people, jobs and industries to MK to improve the strength and resilience of the local economy.

Living in MK:

Ensuring people are satisfied with Milton Keynes as a place to live, and to support them effectively through the provision of high quality and efficient public services.

World Class MK:

Our ambition is to increase the international and national standing of Milton Keynes in several areas including our economic success, thriving communities and a high quality environment.

GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEES/PANELS

- (a) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (b) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (c) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (d) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or any Committee of the Council with respect to the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the Committee/Panel.
- (e) To make reports or recommendations to the Council, to the Cabinet or to a regulatory committee on matters within the remit of the Committee/Panel which affect the Council's area or the inhabitants of the Council's area.
- (f) To consider any representations made in connection with the work of the Committee/Panel by a Member of the Council on behalf of her/his constituents.
- (g) To appoint advisers from outside the Council to advise the Committees/Panels.

Environment and Transport Select Committee - Terms of Reference

1. To assist in the planning and provision of services to enhance the environment of the Borough.
2. To assist in the planning and provision of transport services throughout the Borough.
3. To scrutinise the provision of services, the achievement of targets and the provision of resources to this end.

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair to welcome Members, officers and the public to the meeting and introduce Members and officers who are present.

2. Apologies

3. Minutes

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment and Transport Select Committee held on 11 February 2014 (Item 3(a)) (**Pages 8 to 13**) and 11 June 2014 (Item 3(b)) (**Page 14**).

4. Disclosures of Interest

Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

5. Landscaping / Grass Cutting Contract

At this meeting, the Committee will have the opportunity to consider issues relating to the 5 year Landscaping Contract which is due to commence in November 2014. The Landscaping contract will cover landscape maintenance and associated services, which includes, grass cutting, shrub planning and maintenance, weed control within the parks, open spaces and highways, grave digging and landscape maintenance of graveyards, cemeteries and the crematorium and arboriculture services. The annual value of the contract is approximately £2.1, with the term value being £11.2m (potentially £21.7m over a possible 10 year contract period). Approximately 30% of the previous in-house work will be devolved to the parishes.

The Council's Head of Environment & Waste will be present at the meeting to provide a brief presentation on the structure of the contract, the current tender position, the intended reporting systems and the proposed measures of performance and key performance indicators. A report providing an executive summary of the landscaping contract and what it covers will be published as soon as possible (**report to follow**).

There will be an opportunity for the Committee to ask questions about the contract and also an opportunity to consider how the Council will work in partnership with the contractor (Serco) and the Parks Trust. Representatives from Serco, Mark Sturgeon (Lead Contract Manager), Tony Draper (Assistant Contract Manager) and Roy Clark (Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager) will be present at the meeting and the Parks Trust have been invited to attend.

6. Establishing an Environment and Transport Sub-Group - Highways Contract

The Committee is requested to establish an Environment & Transport Sub-Group to consider issues relating to the Highways contract, in

particular, monitoring and implementation of the contract. The intention is for the sub-group to meet on a regular and on-going basis and consider the monitoring reports that are published regularly on a 3 month basis.

The Committee is requested to approve the establishment of the sub-group. Terms of Reference and the scope of the sub-group will be given further consideration once the group has been established. The Planning Group has suggested that the sub-group be constituted as a cross-party group on a 2:2:2 basis.

7. Environment and Transport Select Committee Work Programme 2014/2015

To consider and approve a Work Programme for the remainder of the 2014/2015 (Item 7(a)) (**Pages 15 to 16**)

8. Responses from Cabinet / Responsible Cabinet Member on Recommendations Made by the Committee / Review Groups

To note the response of Cabinet / responsible Cabinet Member to recommendations made by this Committee in respect of flood and water management and recommendations made by the 2012/2013 Major Event Management Review Group (Item 8) (**Pages 17 to 21**).

Health and Safety

Any persons attending meetings in the Council Offices are requested to take a few moments to familiarise themselves with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of a continuous alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Any persons unable to use the stairs will be assisted to the nearest safe refuge. The yellow call point alarm will be sounded to alert the fire service as to your presence.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

A form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/> or is obtainable at the meeting.

Please detach the slip below and return it to one of the officers attending the meeting.

THE PROCEEDINGS AT THIS MEETING MAY BE RECORDED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREPARING THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

Meeting Attended: Environment and Transport Select Committee

Date of Meeting: 30 July 2014

Comments:.....
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Contact details (optional):

Minutes of the meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE held on TUESDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2014 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Tallack (Chair)
Councillors Hawthorn, Legg (Vice-Chair), D McCall, I McCall, McKenzie, Wallis and Wharton (Vice-Chair)

Witnesses: G Snelson (Director of Strategy), James Williamson (Planning Officer) and L Sung (Overview and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillor Klein

Number of Public: 1

ET11 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Transport Select Committee held on 26 November 2013 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

ET12 MILTON KEYNES AS AN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING CITY

The Committee received the Milton Keynes as an International Sporting City Strategy and the Sports and Active Communities Strategy which builds upon the International Sporting City Strategy, helping to raise the profile of sport in Milton Keynes and increase co-operation and participation.

The Committee also received the draft report of the Major Event Management Review Group and heard a short presentation from the Director of Strategy based upon a presentation made by Four Communications at one of the Review Group's meetings.

Many places are known for particular things and may become famous for how well they perform on particular dimensions and for a relatively new place like Milton Keynes, there is an issue about where to focus direction and how to build a reputation. Becoming a destination rather than a place is essential if Milton Keynes wants to become an area where people will want to visit and spend their time and money in Milton Keynes which will help to improve the local economy. Becoming a destination will also benefit people who reside in Milton Keynes by providing a strong identity and building a sense of community pride.

Four Communications, over a period of a month did a media search of where Milton Keynes was being mentioned in the press and the main stories were around the MK Dons, the Centre for Cities Reports, growth and communities, autonomous vehicles and references to the success of the Red Bull team. This indicates that

Milton Keynes has some strengths on which to build, but these are likely to be reasons to live or work in Milton Keynes and may not necessarily attract many tourists to Milton Keynes. A gap analysis had identified some of the values, aspirations and ambitions of Milton Keynes and how could best it could build upon its strengths. Considering what Milton Keynes can develop in terms of assets and opportunity, Milton Keynes would do well to promote and develop one or more areas of sporting events, technology, events, venues and education and to consider how these area can reinforce an overall branding of Milton Keynes.

Four Communications had suggested that Milton Council could develop as an international sporting city by an associating through sport, by hosting major sporting events, development of excellent sporting facilities and high performance centres, provision of excellent grassroots and attracting sports governance bodies to locate in the area and attracting visitors by providing a positive experience around sport.

The Committee considered the report of the Major Event Management Review Group which had been set up to consider all aspects of major event management and to seek out the best approach to ensure that people visiting and attending events in leave the area with a good impression of both the event itself and of Milton Keynes.

The Committee discussed the issues around those events that are unsuccessful and the ensuing reputational damage that may subsequently occur. The Council's involvement in the holding of such events would be limited to licensing and safety advice to the event organiser and the Committee particularly endorsed the recommendation at 9.2 of the report to develop a low cost guide for event organisers on some of the major issue to consider when hosting an event in Milton Keynes.

The Review Group had acknowledged that Milton Keynes was not the easiest of places to travel around, particularly people visiting Milton Keynes who come to Milton Keynes by train.

RESOLVED –

1. That 'Milton Keynes as an International Sporting City' Strategy be welcomed and noted.
2. That the Major Event Management Review Group report be endorsed and submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.

ET13

FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT

The Committee received details of the Council's flood and water management responsibilities.

As reported in March last year at the Environment & Transport Select Committee, Milton Keynes Council was now a Lead Local

Flood Authority (LLFA) and responsible for the management of flood risk from surface runoff ordinary watercourses and groundwater.

Milton Keynes continues to have a low flood risk profile both nationally, and regionally and this is the final year in which the Council will receive DEFRA funding to put into place and the carrying out of the new responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

In light of the recent levels of rainfall, Milton Keynes was coping quite well and with the exception of the area of Willen Lake, it is testament to effective drainage systems in place in Milton Keynes area.

Over the last year there have been some concerns arising around the issue of priority and maintenance of ordinary watercourses (those that are not the Environment Agency's responsibility) and a budget has now been agreed as part of the Highways contract, to address those issues as from April 2014.

From a planning perspective and as part of the evidence base for the new Plan:MK, work is being carried out to update the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and following that, a water-cycle study that will be looking at the supply of water and in particular, the supply to specific growth sites as they come about as part of the plan.

The Surface Water Management Plan will be produced over the next year. As the drainage authority, the document will highlight areas of water management issues and suggest possible ways of mitigating those issues.

The Council will also be helping the Environment Agency complete a Water Framework Directive which will indicate the work to be undertaken by the Environment Agency on watercourses under their responsibility. In the event that there is a water quality issue within the Council's area of responsibility, both agencies will work together to formulate a solution. The Council is also working with the Environment Agency to produce some local guidance for developers, local businesses etc on what the Council's expects from them in terms of water quality.

Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires the LLFA to establish a SuDS Approval Body (SAB) which will have a range of responsibilities including the evaluation and approval of proposed surface water drainage systems in new and re-developments and, adopting and maintaining SuDS which serve more than one property, where they have been approved by the SAB. Applications to the SAB will be separate to planning applications and a separate SAB approval will be needed before development can occur. It is the intention that Schedule 3 will only apply to major planning applications for a period of 3 years before being implemented for all developments over 1 dwelling. Planning applications already within the planning system will not need to

apply for SAB approval, providing they have discharged conditions attached to the planning permission within a year of Schedule 3 being implemented. Both Building Control and Planning have been working together to plan for the establishment of a Milton Keynes Council SAB and it is the intention that Building Control will take on the responsibilities that goes alongside this.

It is expected that draft guidance and standards will be released in April 2014 and implementation is likely to be around October 2014. The Environment Agency have decided to continue to pull out of providing advice on planning applications as from April irrespective of the Schedule 3 implementation date being pushed back to around October this year. This means that the Planning section will require some drainage expertise within the section for the time being and this may come in the form of consultants or for the IDB to provide planning application advice on schemes that currently meet the threshold for Environment Agency advice. In addition, planning and building control officers will be undertaking relevant training to ensure there is knowledge within each section to ensure the appropriate advice is being collected.

A Council working group has been established which consists of Development Plans, Development Management, Building Control and the Growth & Infrastructure Team to go through any new guidance and information from Defra about the way forward. The Council is also in discussions with Bedfordshire Councils about what can potentially be done on a tri-partnership basis. Central Bedfordshire Council was currently advertising a vacancy for a SuDS engineer.

Members raised the following concerns/issues:

- Flood defence has been working well in Newport Pagnell where, historically, the Town has been prone to flooding.
- There has been some localised flooding on roads which are not usually prone to flooding such as the H3 coming into Newport Pagnell and on the V7 north side of the city centre.
- Funding was allocated for flood prevention in Stoke Goldington following flooding in 2006 and work is progressing extremely slowly.
- A considerable time has passed since the last dredging of the river in Newport Pagnell.
- Important that the Council's planning policies continue to indicate the avoidance of building on flood plains.
- The future lack of advice from the Environment Agency as from April 2014.

The Planning Officer reported that the Council's drainage team has responded to the flooding of the H3 and V7 and are dealing with the

issues in respect of these areas. In respect of the H3, there has been some works being carried out at the quarry and ditch infill had impacted on the ability to clear water. Following discussion, the matter has been dealt with and there should no longer be any further issues regarding flooding along that road.

The area of Stoke Goldington, in terms of flooding, is an ongoing issue and subject to many consultations in respect of land ownership and the cost of the land allocated for flood defence.

In terms of river maintenance in Newport Pagnell, funding for the clearance of vegetation on the banks of the river has been allocated from April 2014. The Environment Agency are happy with the way the flood defences are working in Newport Pagnell and the matter of dredging the river has been mentioned to them.

The Council's current policy is to avoid any development in flood zone 3 or development that would create a flood risk in another area. In flood zones 2, the Council would expect appropriate works to be undertaken and details of any surface water works included in any planning application submitted by a developer. Milton Keynes has sufficient land available in areas that would not be prone to flooding and it is likely that Council will continue its policy of no development in high risk flood zones. Flood risk is one of the main elements the Council should address when considering large land allocations and in the unlikely event that the matter was under consideration, any proposal would be subject to the sequential assessment under the national planning policy framework.

Other concerns raised by the committee were:

- In respect of schedule 3, the timescales involved in for any approval by the SAB.
- Whether or not developers are aware of the proposed changes.
- How this would impact on the viability of development schemes and whether this could be used by developers as a means of providing fewer affordable housing units.
- Flood mitigation transferring flooding problems to other areas.

The Planning Officer reported that the turnaround time is not as yet known as guidance is still to be produced, but the suggestion is that the approval route will follow the timescales of each planning application.

The House Building Federation should have been involved in the discussions with Defra and so developers should be fully aware of the changes.

The Planning Officer reported that he did not think the changes would have any impact on the level of housing development in

Milton Keynes. Developers will still be required to carry out the same process at the outline and pre-planning application stage of a planning application, but the difference may be that at outline permission stage, SAB approval may not have been received, however SAB will be a statutory consultee in the planning process and their full approval or their recommendation of conditions to be placed on the developer to ensure an appropriate drainage scheme was in place, would be required at full planning application stage.

The Planning Officer reported that any flood mitigation measures should not be undertaken if the impact is then transferred to another area. These matters are fully considered within the Council's planning policies. In the event that any flood mitigation measures was to be carried out without the consent of the Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, and which cause flooding in another area, then those carrying out the flood measures would be liable under enforcement and appropriate action could be taken against them. The works would need to be removed and be responsible for any insurance issues that came about from those measures.

RESOLVED -

1. That this Committee expresses its concern about the slow progress of flood defence measures in Stoke Goldington and that the Cabinet consider ways in which the project could progress at a faster rate.
2. That during the review of Plan:MK, the Cabinet provide an assurance that the Council continues its policy of not building on land with a high risk of flooding.
3. That the Environment Agency's maintenance and dredging programme for the river in Newport Pagnell be submitted to appropriate Ward Councillors.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.30 PM

Minutes of the special meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2014

Present: Councillors Bint, Cannon, Clifton, P Geary, L Gifford, Green, McPake, Petchey and Wilson

Also Present: Councillors Alexander, Bald, Betteley, Brackenbury, Bramall, M Burke, S Burke, Cannon, Clancy, Clifton, Coventry, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman, Exon Ferrans, A Geary, R Gifford, Gowans, D Hopkins, V Hopkins, D Hosking, Khan, Legg, Lewis, Long, Marland, D McCall, I McCall, McDonald, McKenzie, McLean, Middleton, Miles, Morla, Morris, Nash, Nolan, O'Neill, Pallett, Patey-Smith, Priestley, Shafiq, Small, Wallis, White and P Williams

ET01 ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED -

That Councillor P Geary be elected Chair of the Environment and Transport Select Committee for the Council Year 2014/15.

ET02 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS

RESOLVED -

That Councillors L Gifford and McPake be appointed as Vice-Chairs of the Environment and Transport Select Committee for the Council Year 2014/15.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

30 JULY 2014

PROPOSED ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

This proposed work programme for the Environment & Transport Select Committee for 2014/2015 year has come out of the setting priorities for scrutiny workshop, further discussion by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Committee and refinement by the Environment & Transport Select Committee.

The Committee is asked to comment and approve a Work Programme for the 2013/2014.

Date –	Item	Statutory Items / Items Identified from elsewhere	Action / Possible Witnesses
30-07-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grass Cutting / Landscaping To consider the landscaping contract which was awarded and due to commence in November 2014. To consider such issues as the current tender position, the structure of the contract, intended reporting systems, proposed measures of performance and key performance indicators (KPIs). To consider how the Council will work in partnership with Serco and also the Parks Trust. Management of devolved services to the parishes. 2. To establish a Review Group to consider all aspects of the Highways Contract (inc. KPIs) 3. Agree and finalise the Work Programme for 2014/2015. 	<p>New Item – Setting priorities workshop on 18-06-14</p> <p>New Item – Setting Priorities Workshop on 18-06-14</p>	<p>Andy Hudson (Head of Environment & Waste) / Serco / Parks Trust</p>
21-10-14	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flood and Water Risk Management 2. To consider project management / working in partnership / Implementation of ‘Schedule 3’ of the Flood & Water Management Act 2010 – establishing an effective SuDs Approval Body / impact of withdrawal of DEFRA monies in 2015. 	<p>Statutory Item</p> <p>New Item</p>	<p>James Williamson (Planning Officer) / Anglian Water / Parks Trust / Internal Drainage Board</p>

	3. Potential Item: Review of Road Accident Trends. Item to be considered at Cabinet on 22 July with recommendation for a review to come back to the Cabinet in the Autumn. Cabinet Member requested to delay reporting back to the Cabinet until September so that the Select Committee could comment and feed into the review.		Brian Mathews (Head of Transportation Services) Councillor Mick Legg
07-01-15	1. Highways / Redways – defects / potholes / safety / maintenance and renewing infrastructure.	New Item – Setting Priorities Workshop on 18-06-14	Rachael Kingsley (Head of Highways)
24-03-15	<p>1. Transport Strategy / policy</p> <p>2. Transport costs, punctuality and scheduling, including affordable transport for young people.</p> <p>3. Rail Service – level agreements</p> <p>4. Community Transport – post scrutiny of revised arrangements</p> <p>Note: This above may be moved to Special Meeting in February 2014 and this date allocated to a meeting reporting the achievements of the responsible Cabinet Member (s) and what is planned for the following year.</p> <p>5. Report of the responsible Cabinet Member (s).</p>	New Item – Setting priorities Workshop on 18-06-14	Brian Matthews Councillors Mick Legg and Nigel Long

Potential Sub-Group: To undertake the monitoring of the Highways contract KPIs

To commence monitoring of the contract in October 2014 following monitoring reports published as part of the highways reporting procedure (3 monthly). To look at implementation and monitoring, reporting structures and customer feedback. To also consider issues around planning and reactive maintenance and potential for contract creep. The Environment & Transport Planning Group have suggested a cross party Group be established on a 2:2:2; basis and specific terms of reference to be considered by the Group once membership has been established.

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

30 JULY 2014

RESPONSE FROM CABINET / RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER ON ANY RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE SELECT COMMITTEE / REVIEW GROUPS**Author: Lesley Sung (Overview & Scrutiny Officer)****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To report to the Select Committee any comments made by the Cabinet or responsible Cabinet Member in response to any recommendations made by the Select Committee.

2. Referral to Cabinet 12th March 2013 – Flood & Water Management

- 2.1 Following recommendations made by this Select Committee on the Council's Flood and Water Management, at its meeting on 11 February 2014, the Cabinet considered the recommendations on 12 March 2014 and recorded the following (Minute C156 refers):

2.2 FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT - REFERRAL FROM ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT SELECT COMMITTEE: 11 FEBRUARY 2014

The Cabinet considered a referral from the meeting of the Environment and Transport Select Committee held on 11 February 2014, which was present by Councillor Tallack, Chair of the Select Committee and was as follows:

- “1. That this Committee expresses its concern about the slow progress of flood defence measures in Stoke Goldington and requests that the Cabinet consider ways in which the project could progress at a faster rate.
2. That during the review of Plan:MK, the Cabinet provide an assurance that the Council continues its policy of not building on land with a high risk of flooding.”

The Cabinet Member for Public Realm and Performance welcomed the work of the Committee and updated the Cabinet on flood defence issues in Stoke Goldington. The Cabinet Member reported that 80% of the flood alleviation scheme was now complete and it would be further progressed when it can be possible to compulsorily purchase land at the southern end of the village for further flood alleviation measures to be built, this would then leave only a few minor works to be completed, which it was hoped would be complete within the next 12 months.

The Cabinet Member indicated that a project manager had recently been employed to oversee both the Stoke Goldington scheme and other flood alleviation schemes being installed across the borough.

The Cabinet Member also reminded the Cabinet that the area had just experienced one of the wettest periods since records were began and not one property in Milton Keynes had flooded.

The Cabinet member for Economic Development and Enterprise indicated that Milton Keynes was designed in order to reduce any risk of flooding with development not being permitted on flood plains and a series of balancing lakes being provided to take the run off from developed areas. Similar measures were included in the Core Strategy and would be applied to the expansion areas for which both a Water Systems Study and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment had been carried out. The Cabinet Member undertook to provide a written statement for the Select Committee.

3 Referral to Cabinet 12 March 2014 – Report of the Major Event Management Review Group

3.1 Following the Cabinet's receipt of the report of the Major Event Management Review Group at its meeting held on 12 March 2014, the following Cabinet Minute was recorded (Minute C155 refers):

3.2 MAJOR EVENTS MANAGEMENT REVIEW GROUP – RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED BY COUNCILLOR CEC TALLACK, CHAIR OF THE REVIEW GROUP

The Cabinet received the report of the Major Events Management Review Group, which was presented by Councillor Tallack, Chair of the Review Group.

Councillor Tallack reported that the Review Group had addressed how major events of both a national and international status could be attracted to Milton Keynes, which included the role of all stakeholders in providing the visitor with a positive experience.

The Leader of the Council undertook to provide a written response to each of the Review Group's recommendations for report to the Environment and Transport select Committee.

3.3 Written Response from the Leader of the Council

3.4 "The Review Group's work drew on advice and evidence from a range of sources including our own track record of hosting major events. The report is very timely as MKC are becoming increasingly successful in our strategy of attracting major event to MK:

- National Badminton Championships – February 2014
- FA Women's Cup Final – 1 June 2014
- Three major concerts at the Bowl over the summer 2014
- Rugby World Cup in Autumn 2015

- 3.5 Officer have been asked to review the recommendations of the Review Group in detail and advise how best to take them forward, including those recommendations that are best taken forward by the MK Events Board (the partnership bode that includes cross-party representation).
- 3.6 The recommendation about exploring the prospect of Milton Keynes becoming the European Capital of Culture in particular requires a partnership view as the whole city would need to get behind such a proposal.”
- 3.7 The recommendations of the Review Group are set out below with a summary of how the Review Group came up with those recommendations. The response is set out in bold italics:

4 Findings and Recommendations

- 4.1 Milton Keynes is an area providing a range of arts and heritage opportunities which help to support the visitor economy but recognises that visitors do not come to Milton Keynes specifically for those reasons. The Review Group acknowledged that Milton Keynes provided a strong local offer and assessed whether or not, facilities such as MK Theatre were being promoted to the best of their advantage. The Review Group recommended that the Council explores the prospect of Milton Keynes as a contender for the accolade of ‘Capital of Culture’ and the potential for marketing Milton Keynes arts and heritage attractions outside of MK.

Response:

This relates to the prospect of bidding for European Capital of Culture 2023. A bid for this would need to be made in 2017. It could present a major opportunity for Milton Keynes but would also require major effort across all partners to deliver, and some significant resources, so it is important that we assess the opportunity thoroughly and together. The MK Events Board has had some early discussions about this issue.

- 4.2 The Review Group acknowledged that the role of the Safety Advisory Group was to encourage and promote the safe management and organisation of events in Milton Keynes and not to comment on the quality of events. Keeping in mind the reputational damage that may ensure from the staging of a poor quality event, the Group would recommend the development of a low cost guide, providing advice to event organisers on some of the major issues to consider when hosting a major event in Milton Keynes.

Response:

This came out of the Winter Wonderland debacle over Christmas 2013. It is a helpful suggestion as we do not have the capacity to be directly involved in all the events that take place in MK. This recommendation makes reference to ‘major events’ but such a guide would provide advice for all events organisers.

- 4.3 The Group acknowledge the lack of accommodation available for visitors to Milton Keynes, particular during the week. The Group recommended that the Council explores ways to facilitate an increase in hotel provision within the

area and the potential for increased campsite and camping facilities located close to sports and event venues.

Response:

The need to boost hotel provision is something to consider as part of the development of Plan:MK. The Parks Trust already provides camping for events at the Bowl (eg. Willen Lake) and this can be promoted as part of future events, with the use of camping perhaps developed more over time if there is evidence of sufficient demand.

- 4.4 The Review Group considered how Milton Keynes could capitalise upon the Olympic Legacy and looked at how this could enhance the development of grassroots sport and encourage resident engagement in developing Milton Keynes as a major sporting and events city. The Review Group recommended that the Council assess the capacity to build upon the Olympic legacy and explore the potential for developing, in consultation with Community Action:MK, a major sports / events volunteer pool.

Response:

A volunteer strategy is part of the city's Rugby World Cup preparations and we are working closely on that with Community Action:MK and MK Dons Sports and Education Trust. For each event, we can add to our pool of volunteers.

- 4.5 The Review Group recognised that there were some difficulties for visitors to navigate around Milton Keynes and that any attempts for the city to be a truly international sporting and events base, it was important that visitors had access to accurate and up to date travel and directional information. The Group welcomed the work being undertaken as part of the SMART cities initiative and so too, the development of a bespoke visitor phone app, the Group recommended that the Council investigate the provision of appropriate and effective way-finding and signage to sporting / event venues and other places of interest; the provision of information points at advantageous locations, up to date bus and coach information and location maps at CMK station, bus shelters and the coachway.

Response:

The MK Smart project will create a city motion map that will help residents and visitors plan their journeys within MK – avoiding congestion, finding parking and making transport connections. Wayfinding is a distinct challenge – for both specific events and more generally. Officers will need to explore this more fully, as recommended by the Review Group, to find out what is planned and where any gaps are.

- 4.6 The Review Group recognised the reputational value of hosting events such as the International Festival. Some of the events taking place under its banner this year would be re-located to areas outside of Central Milton

Keynes (e.g. Willen Lake). Taking into account the potential difficulties of navigating between venues, the Group was of the opinion that this could create a possible disconnect between events, which may have a detrimental impact on Milton Keynes reputation as a good place for hosting well-planned events. The Group recommended that the Council enter into discussions with the event organiser for them to provide free transport to and from major event venues. The Group further recommended that a similar approach be adopted for the Rugby World Cup 2015 and that free transport be provided to and from events from appropriate locations.

Response:

We would need to take a case by case approach to events generally. The planning for the Rugby World Cup in 2015 includes some additional (free) transport to and from specific locations.