

## COUNCIL DECISIONS – 13 MARCH 2007

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
1(b).	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13 and 27 February 2007, be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services
1(d).	<p><b>Announcements</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mayor to write to Craig Pickering congratulating him on his recent success in receiving a silver medal in the 60m final at the European Indoor Championships.</li> <li>2. Mayor to write to Central Milton Keynes Swimming Club congratulating the Club on its recent success in coaching a number of its swimmers to national qualifying times and to the individual swimmers concerned</li> </ol>	-	Head of Democratic Services
3.	<p><b>Changes to the Constitution – Annual Council Meeting</b></p> <p>That the revised Council Procedure Rule 1 be adopted.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services
5(a).	<p><b>Members' Questions</b></p> <p>Councillor Williams to supply any correspondence relating to charging for out of town parking to Councillor Dransfield.</p>	-	Councillor Williams / Head of Planning and Transport

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5(b)(i).	<p><b>Restructuring</b></p> <p>That this Council requests the Chief Executive to consult the relevant Policy Development Committees about any proposed restructuring of Directorates, or proposals that will involve a significant re-allocation of functionality between Directorates.</p>	Policy Development Committees	Chief Executive
5(b)(ii).	<p><b>The Future of Local Elections within Milton Keynes</b></p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. notes with interest the information in the Government White Paper, supporting the principles of "All out" four yearly elections, and the move to single member wards;</li> <li>2. agrees to investigate further the advantages and disadvantages of elections by thirds, biennial elections and the "all out" four yearly system;</li> <li>3. requests the Head of Democratic Services to prepare a briefing paper outlining all of the implications that these changes will have on the local democratic structure, both the benefits and the drawbacks, and to include in any such report a breakdown of the cost implications;</li> <li>4. authorises the Group Leaders and Deputies Meeting, assisted by the Head of Democratic Services, to take this item as part of its work programme, and produce a report for consideration by the Council in the Autumn of 2007;</li> </ol>	-	Head of Democratic Services

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5(b)(ii) (cont)	<p>5. looks forward with interest to the Scottish local elections in May and congratulates the Scottish Parliament for its fairness in introducing proportional representation for local elections in Scotland;</p> <p>6. makes representations to the English government to amend the proposed White Paper to allow English local authorities to follow the Scottish example and use the same system in England;</p> <p>7. looks forward to elections to Milton Keynes Council under proportional representation at a future date;</p> <p>8. believes that enhancing this local community leadership role is essential and desirable and calls for a report on ways to help achieve this including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) greater consultation rights and involvement for Local Members on matters and decisions affecting only a single Ward or two adjoining Wards</li> <li>(b) improvements in support, training and resource arrangements for Local Members to be able to perform this role effectively; and</li> <li>(c) enhancing the Ward Member role in scrutiny as envisaged in the 'call for action' proposals highlighted in the White Paper.</li> </ul>		

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5(b)(iii).	<p><b>Post Office Closures</b></p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. regrets the loss of nine post offices between 1999 and 2006 in Milton Keynes and notes with concern the announcement by the Government on 14 December 2006 of Ministers' plans to close 2500 Post Office branches across the UK;</li> <li>2. further notes the social importance of Post Offices to the well being of both communities and individuals in Milton Keynes;</li> <li>3. believes that the recently announced closure programme is unnecessary and calls on the Government to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) end the branch closure programme;</li> <li>(b) remove the Royal Mail restrictions on Post Offices to open up further business opportunities for the network;</li> <li>(c) stop removing Government business from Post Offices;</li> <li>(d) carry out a review of which additional Government functions could be carried out through Post Offices; and</li> <li>(e) invest in the Post Office network</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. welcomes the decision of the Government to withdraw its previous proposals to scrap completely the Post Office Card Account, but calls on Ministers to ensure that any replacement Post Office Card Account should be open freely to all pensioners and benefit recipients who want one;</li> </ol>	-	Head of Democratic Services

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5(b)(iii) (cont)	<p>5. calls on the Government to avoid putting pressure on current and future Post Office Card Account users to switch to having benefits and pensions paid directly into bank accounts;</p> <p>6. calls on both MPs for Milton Keynes to lobby Ministers to save the Post Office from gradual demolition and to protect this vital service for the people; and</p> <p>7. further calls on the MPs to report back to this Council on their actions.</p> <p><b>Other Action</b></p> <p>That officers consider the practicality of undertaking a survey of the communities of Milton Keynes to ascertain their needs for post office counter services, and report back to Cabinet in due course.</p>	-	Parish and Locality Services Manager
6.	<p><b>Policy Development Committees and Scrutiny Panels Annual Report</b></p> <p>That the report be received.</p> <p><b>Other Action</b></p> <p>That consideration be given to receiving Annual Reports from the Council's other committees.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services
7.	<p><b>Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions</b></p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	-	-
8.	<p><b>Councillor A Mabbott</b></p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	-	-