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Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUESDAY 1 JUNE 2021 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillors R Bradburn, Carr, Darlington, Z Nolan, Trendall and Wilson-Marklew

Apologies: Councillors Middleton and Townsend,

Officers: M Bracey (Chief Executive), T Aldworth (Deputy Chief Executive), P Thomas (Interim Director Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking), J Kealey (Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer), P Brown (Head of Democratic Services), F Robinson (MK Futures Programme Manager) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager).

Also Present: Councillors M Bradburn, Ferrans, P Geary, D Hopkins, Walker and 1 member of the public

C03 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Leader of the Council made an announcement welcoming Councillors R Bradburn, Carr and Trendall to the Cabinet and thanked Councillors O'Neill and Baume for their contribution to their portfolios. The Deputy Leader of the Council made an announcement in respect of the Milton Keynes International Festival.

C04 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 2 February 2021 and the 19 May 2021 be approved and signed by the Leader of the Council as correct records.

C05 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

None declared.

C06 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Question from Councillor John Baker (Central Bedfordshire Council) to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate and Sustainability)

Referring to concerns raised with him by his residents and also those that live in Woburn Sands, Councillor Baker asked Councillor Wilson Marklew to address the three major issues he was aware of with Demand Responsive Transport which were: the time it takes for a member of the public to book a journey by phone; a lack of collection points in Woburn Sands; and the journey time to popular destinations which is frequently longer than the previous bus journey.

Councillor Wilson Marklew advised that she was aware of a number of the issues that had been highlighted and that actions were being taken to improve issues with phone bookings and the number and location of collection points.

Further to this, Councillor Marland advised that Milton Keynes Council was under no obligation to fund services for those residents who lived in Central Bedfordshire. Councillor Marland advised that he was however having conversations with the Leader of Central Bedfordshire about their public transport procurement exercise.

As a supplementary question Councillor Baker, noted that he was pleased to hear that cross boundary communication was taking place and suggested two collection points.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew confirmed that she had passed those suggestions to officers.

C07 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS

None received

C08 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

(a) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Referring to reducing grass verge cutting to improve environmental outcomes, Councillor D Hopkins asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew what consideration the Council had given to reducing grass verge cutting to increase the delivery of our climate emergency credentials.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew advised that on the advice of officers the Council cuts back a certain amount of the verges to ensure sight lines are maintained. However, there was other work taking place to look at areas that could be left uncut or planted with wildflowers.

C09-14 REFERENCES FROM OTHER BODIES

- (a) Referral from Council – 20 January 2021

Motion – Helping Care Leavers in their next steps

The referral was introduced by Councillor M Bradburn, the motion owner, who indicated that she was here to champion the needs of care leavers and was honoured to move the motion and was pleased that it had been agreed by Full Council. The motion and the agreed budget amendment set out to achieve a ground breaking way forward to help the Council's children on the next stage of their journey in adulthood.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and written response provided, be noted.

- (b) Referral from the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee – 13 January 2021

The referral was introduced by Councillor P Geary, the former Chair of the Committee, who welcomed the written response but indicated that MK East was not the only area of development and there was also concerns about the wider delivery of infrastructure in growth areas.

Councillor Marland, indicated that the Council was committed to a growth deal with the Government to properly fund infrastructure.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

- (c) Referral from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee – 10 February 2021

The referral was introduced by Councillor D Hopkins, on behalf of the Chair of the Committee, who thanked Councillor Z Nolan for her written response. However, Councillor D Hopkins, asked Councillor Z Nolan if she would re-examine the recommendation from the Committee with regard to the proposed Lifelong Learning Strategy and whether resourcing could be found to at least start some preliminary work in this area.

Councillor Carr, answering on behalf of Councillor Z Nolan, indicated that it would be difficult in this financial year to start work on this but she saw this work coming under a number of portfolios and she would be happy to engage further on the issue going forward.

Councillor Marland also indicated that Lifelong learning may be picked up further in the work that the Council is undertaking with regard to skills and employment and the MK2050 Learning strand.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

- (d) Referral from the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee – 23 February 2021

The referral was introduced by Councillor Ferrans, as Chair of the Committee, who advised that the Committee had looked at the position of housing for young people and a number of issues had been raised including problems with HIMO's.

Councillor Darlington indicated that there was an interesting set of evidence that was presented at the meeting and that there was a need for more work in this area. Councillor Darlington advised that she would like to do more work on this issue and would bring a strategy back to the Committee later in the year.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

- (e) Referral from the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee – 3 March 2021

The referral was introduced by Councillor P Geary, as the former Chair of the Committee, who welcomed the written response but indicated that there were still concerns about those that did not have room or could not use wheeled bins and also there remained a need for a policy on side waste.

Councillor Darlington confirmed that there was a lot of work being undertaken in this area including those that might need additional assistance.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

- (f) Referral from the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Sub Committee – 31 March 2021

The referral was introduced by Councillor P Geary, as the Chair of the Sub Committee, who noted a number of issues around process and procedures and that similar issues could be avoided if the process is made absolutely clear and that all sides followed the procedures in place.

Councillor Marland indicated that in this case there had been a misunderstanding about the guidance and the advice that officers were able to provide to Neighbourhood Plan Groups.

RESOLVED:

That the referral and the written response provided, be noted.

C15 MAKING THE STANTONBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Marland introduced the item and indicated his thanks to those involved in developing the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan and that after a successful referendum recommended that the Plan be made and that the Plan therefore becomes part of the policy of the Council.

Councillor Walker re-iterated the thanks to residents and the Stantonbury Parish Council for their work in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan to this point.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to make the Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

C16 MAKING THE NEWPORT PAGNELL NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Marland introduced the item and indicated that this was a modified Neighbourhood Plan and that as the changes were considered minor and not material it did not need to proceed to referendum. Councillor Marland thanked Newport Pagnell Council for their work on the Plan. And recommended that the Plan be made and that the Plan therefore becomes part of the policy of the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to make the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38(A)(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

C17 REVISED MK FUTURES 2050 PROGRAMME

Councillor Marland introduced the item, referring to the adoption of the Strategy for 2050 and put on record his thanks to Geoff Snelson for his work on this project. The work programme presented to cabinet sets out how the ideas in the Strategy would be turned into action.

Councillor D Hopkins requested the Leader of the Council, to provide an update on 'Action 19 – support the delivery of a fully electrified East West Rail' and asked whether the Council would withdraw its support for the project if it was not fully electrified. Councillor D Hopkins also asked what actions were being undertaken with regard to 'Action 33 – take back control from developers'.

Councillor Marland indicated that it was the position of every local authority within the East West Arc to support electrification of the project. With regard to 'taking back control by developers', a number of changes around permitted development and the five year land supply move a level of local control back to the Council.

Councillor Walker welcomed the actions in the report but indicated that it would be helpful to understand the status of the bid of the delivery vehicle and requested further information on the Central Arc Growth Deal. Councillor Marland indicated that the Strategy received cross party support and any future growth deal would be subject to agreement by the Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Cabinet endorsed the role of the MK Futures 2050 programme and its renewed focus on delivery as being fundamentally important in securing a successful long-term future for Milton Keynes.
2. That the Cabinet recognised the progress made in delivery of the Six Big Projects originally identified by the MK Futures 2050 Commission in their report "Making a Great City Greater".
3. That the Cabinet approved the updated MK Futures 2050 programme and the priority areas of focus for the next 24 months.
4. That the Cabinet agreed to consider further revisions to the MK Futures 2050 programme through future update reports as appropriate over the lifetime of the programme.

C18 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF ADVISORY GROUPS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Marland introduced the item regarding appointments to Outside Bodies and noted a change to recommendation 1.2 in that authorisation of any vacancies would be in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Director Law and Governance.

RESOLVED:

1. That the appointments to the various Organisations, Advisory Groups and Strategic Partnerships for 2021/22 be approved.
2. That the Director Law and Governance, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to agree appointments to any vacancies that remain, or arise.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.17 PM.