



Minutes of the meeting of the PERFORMANCE REVIEW PANEL held on TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2007 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Wilson(Chair)  
Councillors Barry, Carruthers, Long, Morris and Tunney

**Officers:** G Snelson (Assistant Chief Executive [Strategy and Performance]), M Hood (Corporate Manager [Improvement]), J Harper (Transport Policy Manager), J Boothroyde (Overview and Scrutiny Manager) and S Parker (Senior Committee Manager)

**Also Present:** Councillors Crooks, Geary and Williams

**Apology:** Councillor Eastman

**PR16 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Performance Review Panel held on 5 December 2006 and the reconvened meeting held on 15 December 2006, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**PR17 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT**

Further to Minute PR38, the Panel received details of progress over the last twelve months on the Local Transport Plan. The Panel noted details of the Local Transport Plan Settlement for 2007/08, which detailed the Council's transport capital funding allocation for 2007/08, the planning guideline allocations for 2008/09 to 2010/11 and an assessment of delivery of LTP1.

In response to Members' questions, John Harper (Transport Policy Manager) reported the following:

- Within the past twelve months the Council's Transport Department had been reorganised to improve delivery, with further staff appointed.
- All sections of the Transport Department would shortly move into one area, which should further improve the service and co-ordination between sections of the Department.

- Consideration was being given to the introduction of a Management Delivery System, like one in operation in Sheffield.
- The Council's delivery of LTP1 was assessed by the Department for Transport as 'good', compared to last year's assessment as 'weak'. This placed Milton Keynes in the same category as Bedford and Luton.
- The provisional settlement for maintenance for the next financial year had increased by £1/4 m.
- The forthcoming implementation of real time transport information.

The Cabinet Member reported to the Panel on the following:

- His efforts to bring about change in the Transport Department were continuing to improve the service.
- His confidence that the reorganisation of the Transport Department, the formation of the project groups, and the ability of officers which could help deliver the extra points necessary to further increase the Council's assessment.
- 'Face to Face' working of colleagues in the same section would lead to better working and more cohesion.
- The setting up of the Transport Stakeholder Group which met monthly, which included representation from the Parish Councils and Centre:MK.
- The successful introduction of project groups, for example, the group overseeing developments at Junction 14 (for which the Council had charge).
- The Council had been commended for increased bus ridership and the outlook was expected to be further improved with an increase in bus ridership above the percentage of growth (which would be aided by the arrival of Arriva).

RESOLVED -

1. That the Cabinet Member and the Transport Policy Manager be thanked for their attendance at the meeting.
2. That the progress in the delivery of LTP1 be noted.
3. That the importance of the work of the project management groups in helping to make further progress, be recognised.
4. That the Panel receive an update on the progress of the new Plan (LTP2) in two year's time.

**PR18**

## **BEST VALUE SATISFACTION SURVEY 2006**

The Panel considered the results of the Council's Best Value Satisfaction Survey 2006, which had been conducted between September and December 2006.

The Panel noted the following:

- The survey was carried out using a postal questionnaire.
- The Council carried out the survey within Audit Commission guidelines and had a 45.6% response rate.
- The overall satisfaction with the Council was 54%. The Panel noted the difficulty in comparing satisfaction results from different years when there were changes in methodology.

Comments from Members included the following:

- The need for consistent methodology.
- Information should be as up-to-date as possible.
- The sample taken and weighting applied will affect the result.
- Any further analysis possible of sub sets, for example, age groups, areas of deprivation and ethnicity.
- That corporative (benchmarking) data be made available to the Panel.
- Maximum information should be extracted from the survey results, and any further analysis should also be made available to the Panel.
- That the survey should be conducted annually in Milton Keynes and use the same methodology as the 2006 survey, and be conducted at the same of year.

RESOLVED -

That the report be noted.

**PR19**

## **PLANNING ENFORCEMENT REVIEW GROUP FINAL REPORT**

The Panel received the Planning Enforcement Review Group's final report.

The Panel also noted that the Development Control Committee had recently considered a report on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HIMO's) and the relationship between the licensing provisions of the Housing Act 2004, and the determination of planning applications for HIMO's. The Panel noted that the Development Control Committee had invited the Environment Policy Development Committee and the Social Care and Housing Policy Development Committee to examine the HIMO's issue.

The Panel noted the cross-departmental work being carried out in areas covered by the report, and the need for Departments across the Council to be signed up to an integrated common approach.

RESOLVED -

1. That the following conclusions of the Review Group be endorsed:

Signs and Advertisements

- (a) Training on the National Guidelines to be included in any training programme for Members of the Council's Development Control Committee.
- (b) The Enforcement Section to work with Parish Liaison and with Safer Communities Unit to improve publicity.
- (c) Any signage that is Milton Keynes specific and not covered by National Guidelines be identified and added to the training programme.

Retrospective Planning Permission Refusals

- (a) English Partnerships clearly identify ownership of all developed and amenity land to assist potential enforcement actions.
- (b) The Planning Enforcement Team should be adequately resourced to enable progress reports on refused retrospective permissions to be made to the Council's Development Control Committee.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

- (a) Details of every landlord registered by the Housing Department should be passed on to the Planning Department to cross-reference for planning permission.
- (b) A structured training programme should be ensured for both established and substitute Members of the Development Control Committee, and there should be flexibility in its timing so that all can attend.
- (c) There is a real need to regularly clarify and update Members of the Development Control Committee on all issues relating to Houses in Multiple Occupation.
- (d) Issues surrounding Houses in Multiple Occupation should be more explicitly set out in the next Local Plan.
- (e) All Houses in Multiple Occupation considered by the Development Control Committee should be accompanied by a map with current approved and licensed Houses in Multiple Occupation marked.

- (f) The Development Control Committee, as a body, should have an input into the Local Plan, reflecting its role in the implementation of its provisions.
  - (g) Parking standards should be amended to account for the requirements of Houses in Multiple Occupation.
  - (h) An assessment of the parking needs of the average House in Multiple Occupation should be kept under review. The review to include input from Ward Members and an assessment report be presented to the Development Control Committee.
2. That the recommendations of the Review Group, particularly on Houses in Multiple Occupation, be forwarded to the Environment Policy Development Committee, along with the Development Control Committee's recommendations, before being presented to Cabinet.

## **PR20**

### **CRIME REDUCTION - DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Panel considered the draft recommendations arising out of its previous deliberations on crime reduction.

#### **RESOLVED -**

1. That the following draft recommendations arising out of the Panel's previous deliberations on crime reduction be endorsed:
- (a) That the Panel helps identify a venue for Milton Keynes' self-help drugs group.
  - (b) The Panel encourages the Council and the Police to work together to identify and find solutions to situations where tenants repeatedly approach the Council to repair their properties, when it is likely that the damage is self inflicted.
  - (c) That an arrangement be made to give Parish representation on the Joint Area Tasking and Co-ordination group.
  - (d) That the Council and partners bring pressure to bear on the Primary Care Trust to contribute to the Community Safety Partnership on a par with other partner agencies.
  - (e) There is a need for more resources to enable the Community Safety Team to fully carry out its co-ordinating and implementation role, in particular, through the provision of dedicated analytical support.
  - (f) The co-operation of the press was recognised and should be utilised in publicising actions / results of the

work of the Community Safety Team / Enforcement Team.

- (g) That the Council secure continued funding to ensure upgraded CCTV is implemented.
  - (h) That planners ensure that “secure by design” elements are incorporated into new builds, for which Milton Keynes Partnership has control, especially car parks.
  - (i) That changes in the future funding of the Local Strategic Partnership do not have an adverse effect on funding allocated to the Community Safety Partnership.
  - (j) That the issue of Equalisation of Parishes be reviewed.
  - (k) That the Community Safety Team, in conjunction with the Police, publish statistics on criminal activity in the Borough that are more locally relevant / appropriate and thus more meaningful to local people.
  - (l) There is a concern about the extent to which English Partnerships (EP) addresses Crime and Community Safety in its plans. The Panel requests the External Scrutiny Panel to question EP about its consideration of Crime and Community Safety.
  - (m) That the Panel, recognising the breadth of issues relating to crime reduction, identifies specific issues for further investigation.
2. That the recommendations be forwarded to the appropriate Cabinet Member and appropriate bodies.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.23 PM