

# EXECUTIVE SCRUTINY PANEL

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2012  
6.00 PM

ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES  
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

## Members of the Panel:

Councillor Tallack (Chair)  
Councillors Barney, Brackenbury, Coventry, Hoyle, Jury, Klein, Lloyd, Maric and Shafiq

If you have any enquires about this agenda please contact Simon Heap (Democratic Services Manager) on (01908) 2525967 or e-mail: [simon.heap@milton-keynes.co.uk](mailto:simon.heap@milton-keynes.co.uk)

## Terms of Reference

1. Consideration of all called-in Cabinet, individual Cabinet Member or officer decisions in accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.
2. The assessment of the effectiveness of existing policies and practices.

### **Types of Call-In Considered by the Executive Scrutiny Panel**

1. Procedural Call-In: When a decision is called-in on the basis of an alleged procedural anomaly.
2. Policy Call-In: When a decision is called-in on the basis that a decision is allegedly flawed in policy terms.

## **AGENDA**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Apologies**

### **3. Minutes**

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 28 September 2011 (Item 3) (**Pages 6 to 11**)

### **4. 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 interests they may have in any contract.

### **5. Call-In of Cabinet Decision – Fenny Lock Review (Minute C158)**

The Cabinet, on 28 February 2012 considered the outcome of the Fenny Lock Review and resolved:

- “1. That the scheme to develop a travellers’ site at Fenny Lock be stopped as the site represents poor value for money in terms of meeting priority housing need.
2. That the £1.2m be invested in new Council-owned ‘wheelchair standard’ bungalows, targeted to release social rented family homes units for households in the highest level of need (i.e. “Band 1”).
3. That the commitment to meet the needs of gypsies and travellers in a cost effective and sustainable manner be re-affirmed.
4. That, in the Site Allocations/Development Management part of the Core Strategy process, alternative sites to Fenny Lock and Bottle Dump which are capable of cost-effective and sustainable development, be considered.
5. That the needs of the three gypsy and traveller households in the highest need (“Band 1”) be met by making a more cost-effective bid to the Homes and Communities Agency to refurbish/expand the existing site at Willen Road.”

The report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 5(a) (**Pages 12 to 172**). Additional information circulated at the meeting of the Cabinet relating to the number of households who are accepted as “band one” cases is attached at Item 5(b) (**Page 173**)

This decision has been called-in by 20 residents of the Borough. The reasons cited for the call-in are that:

- “1. The site has full planning permission.
2. The decision offends the principles of equality and diversity.
3. The decision not to build a travellers site is contrary to the local plan.
4. The money was awarded specifically for a travellers site.
5. £600,000 has already been spent on preparing the site.
6. The money allocated was ring-fenced in the Council’s Budget for the Site.
7. Financial comparisons on which the outcome of review is based are misleading as they exclude consideration of the New Homes Bonus, cost of land for Council houses and other already identified funding for other schemes.”

The Panel is requested to consider the item considered by the Cabinet and the reasons for the call-in, in accordance with the Council’s Constitution, and either:

- (a) refer the item back to the Cabinet, setting out the nature of the Panel’s concerns;
- (b) not refer the item back; or
- (c) refer its views directly to the Council.

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**Meeting Attended:      Executive Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of Meeting:      21 March 2012**

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Contact details:.....