

Environment and Transport Select Committee

MONDAY 19 JANUARY 2015

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, Green, McPake (Vice-Chair), Petchey Wilson and
2 Labour Group vacancies

This meeting is open to the Public

For more information about the meeting please contact Simon Heap on (01908)
2522567 or by e-mail simon.heap@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://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/>

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.
4. To appoint a planning group to oversee the implementation of the Committee's work programme, as agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.
5. To be the Council's designated Flood and Water Scrutiny Committee.

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. Appointment of Vice-Chair

To appoint a second Vice-Chair of the Committee for the remainder of the Council year 2014/15

4. 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 21 October 2014 (Item 4) (**Pages 9 to 16**) .

5. 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.

6. Highways – Prioritisation of Works

The Committee to consider how highway works are prioritised. Details of the financial model supporting the prioritisation will also be given.

A report is attached at Item 6 (**Pages 17 to 194**).

A representative of the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Programme has been invited to the meeting to give evidence on how work is prioritised by other authorities.

7. Referrals from the Business Management Group - Council Budget 2015/16

(a) Reduction in Bus Subsidies

At the request of the Budget Review Group to receive details on reduction in bus subsidies of £907k included in the Council's draft budget, which will result in a loss of some routes and changes to others including:

- an update on negotiations with bus companies;
- details of which bus route subsidies are proposed to be cut;
- an update on consultations with users on the potential reductions;
- the political rationale for the reductions in terms of the budget strategy, and for the specific routes chosen to be cut; and
- transition arrangements where bus route subsidies are to be cut.

(b) Concessionary Fares

At the request of the Budget Review Group to receive details of reductions included in the Council's draft budget to senior non-statutory peak travel concessions and junior fare concessions to half fare with would achieve savings of £785k, together with an update on consultations with users on the potential reductions.

8. Highways Contract Sub-Group

To consider appointing a replacement for Councillor E Gifford to the Highways Contract Sub-Group.

Other Councillors currently appointed to the Sub-Group are Councillors Bint and Cannon.

The next meeting of the Sub-Group is scheduled to take place on 3 February 2015 at 6.00 pm.

9. Responses from Cabinet – 10 November 2014

At its last meeting on 21 October 2014, the Committee made recommendations to Cabinet on the following matters. The Cabinet's responses are set out below:

(a) Flood and Water Risk Management

Committee recommendation:

"That the Cabinet be requested to ensure that there was no reduction in budgets related to flood and water risk management."

Response from Councillor Legg, the responsible Cabinet Member

Councillor Legg indicated that the Cabinet took its responsibilities under the under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 seriously and the findings of the Select Committee would be noted and taken into account as part of the Budget 2015/16 setting process.

(b) Review of Personal Injury Collisions Data

Committee recommendation:

"That the Cabinet be requested to ensure that adequate resources, including staff resources, are available to support the Review and the findings of the review."

Response from Councillor Legg, the responsible Cabinet Member

Councillor Legg, indicated that the Cabinet took the issue of road safety very seriously and the Cabinet was due to consider a report on the Comprehensive Review of Accident Trends in Milton Keynes at its meeting in January 2015.

Councillor Legg also indicated that the request from the Select Committee would be taken into account as part of the Budget 2015/16 setting process.

Health and Safety

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an 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.

Mobile Phones

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

Agenda

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.** <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/> Wi Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

Users of Windows 7 and above can simply click the link to any documents you wish to see. Users of Windows XP will need to right click on the link and select 'open in browser'.

Recording of Meetings

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, you can film, photograph, record or use social media at any Council meetings that are open to the public. If you are reporting the proceedings, please respect other members of the public at the meeting who do not want to be filmed. You should also not conduct the reporting so that it disrupts the good order and conduct of the meeting. While you do not need permission, you can contact the Council's staff in advance of the meeting to discuss facilities for reporting the proceedings and a contact is included on the front of the agenda, or you can liaise with staff at the meeting.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and local government can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/140812_Openness_Guide.pdf

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.

Please use the slip overleaf by detaching it and passing it to the Committee Manager. Alternatively the slip can be returned by post to Democratic Services, Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ, or you can e-mail your comments to meetings@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address. A formal complaints / compliments form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/>

Meeting Attended: Environment and Transport Select Committee

Date of Meeting: 19 January 2015

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