

# COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken by COUNCIL at its meeting held on WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm.

## **CL48 PROCEDURE**

RESOLVED:

That under Council Procedure Rule 2, Motion 6 (Afghan Refugees) be brought forward to become Motion 3 and that existing Motion 3 (Fireworks) be moved back to become Motion 6.

## **CL49 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14 July 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the addition of the following words being added immediately before the resolution of Minute CL42 (g) (Question from Councillor McLean to Councillor Marland):

‘Prior to asking his question, and noting Councillor Wilson-Marklew’s absence, Councillor McLean enquired when he might receive an answer to his supplementary question to Councillor Wilson-Marklew from the previous Council meeting on 16 June’.

## **CL52 PETITIONS**

One petition requesting the introduction of a 20 MPH speed limit on Watling Street and Great Brickhill Lane in Little Brickhill, was received.

ACTIONS:

Councillor Wilson-Marklew undertook to ask officers to investigate further and undertake a consultation with local residents.

(Councillor Wilson-Marklew / Director of Environment & Property)

## **CL53 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

Questions were received from four members of the public.

ACTIONS:

Councillor Wilson-Marklew undertook to ask officers to investigate when physical intervention will take place to the bridge between Stony and Old Stratford and will provide a written response with this information.

(Councillor Wilson-Marklew / Director of Environment & Property).

Councillor Darlington undertook to investigate any homeless applications where residents had been advised that their application has been put on hold if they contacted her with their information.

(Councillor Darlington / Director of Adult Services)

Councillor Marland undertook to provide the member of the public with his written response to the question related to Edgewick Farm and nearby allotments.

(Councillor Marland / Head of Democratic Services)

#### **CL55 MAKING THE CASTLETHORPE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW**

RESOLVED:

That the Council makes the Castlethorpe Neighbourhood Plan Review pursuant to the provisions of Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

(Councillor Marland/ Director of Planning & Placemaking)

#### **CL56 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

Questions were received from Councillors Alexander, Rankine, Reilly, Hussain, Rolfe, Hall, P Geary, Hume, Walker, D Hopkins, McLean and Wardle.

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Wilson-Marklew advised that if Councillor Alexander provided her with details of his DRT journey she would look into the information that he was provided with and ensure that all drivers have the correct information about the service.

(Councillor Wilson-Marklew / Director of Environment & Property)

2. Councillor Marland indicated that he would ask Councillor Middleton to provide Councillor Rankine with a written update on the current status of proposals for Windmill Farm.

(Councillor Middleton / Director of Environment & Property)

3. Councillor Darlington indicated that she would ask officers to confirm details about the exclusion zones and road closures around Mellish Court and would provide Councillor Rolfe with a written response particularly addressing any impact on neighbouring streets, the local community and school.

(Councillor Darlington / Director of Environment & Property)

4. Councillor Nolan indicated that she would investigate whether the start date of the contract for Home to School Transport was the same day as the first day of school and would provide Councillor P Geary with a written response.

(Councillor Nolan / Director of Children's Services)

5. Councillor Marland indicated that he would ask officers to provide Councillor Walker with an update related to road adoption and the roll out of fibre optic broad band at Oakridge Park.

(Councillor Marland / Director of Planning & Placemaking)

6. Councillor Marland advised that he would ask Councillor Middleton to provide a written response to Councillor McLean's question on the recent major IT system outage.

(Councillor Middleton / Director of Finance & Resources)

7. Councillor Townsend advised that if councillors are aware of any streets that have missed waste collections that they should email these to allow the system to flag them for the catch-up crews.

(Councillor Townsend / Director of Environment & Property)

#### **CL57 PROPOSED PLANNING REFORMS**

1. That this Council notes the widespread opposition to the Government's proposed planning reforms, as evidenced in the Chesham & Amersham by-election result.
2. That this Council re-iterates its commitment in the September 2020 'Planning for the Future' motion, to build more houses approved through a community-led planning system where decisions throughout the process are taken by elected councillors balancing policies in Neighbourhood Plans with a Council-wide Local Plan, and the views of residents.
3. That this Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to send this motion to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, and to the city's two Members of Parliament, to invite their comments.

(Chief Executive)

#### **CL58 BETTER RESOURCING FOR MK'S POLICE**

1. That this Council notes that:
  - a) Milton Keynes is the largest town in the eastern region by both size and population;
  - b) Milton Keynes has a unique urban environment which includes over 1,200 km of roads, 1,400 km of footpaths, 350 kms of redways, and over 200,000 homes, whilst still being 40% rural in nature;
  - c) complaints concerning drug-related crime, theft from and of vehicles, distraction thefts from homes, street racing on the grid roads, excessive speed on our estate roads, illegal parking on our streets, and violent offences, including knife crime, are on the increase;
  - d) police stations have been closed to the public or had their operating hours curtailed;
  - e) policing numbers have failed to recover, as promised, from the disastrous

- headcount cuts inflicted on all police services by the Government; and
- f) the fear of crime in the borough is rising, and as it does quality of life declines.
2. That this Council resolves to request the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley to ask by when the police service in Milton Keynes will be sufficiently resourced commensurate with a town of its size and population and fit for purpose.

(Councillor Marland / Chief Executive)

## **CL59**

### **AFGHAN REFUGEES**

1. That this Council notes:
  - a) Milton Keynes grew from families who came from somewhere else, searching for a better life, just like those who are fleeing the Taliban. In Milton Keynes they have been met with love, and open arms and received with an open mind. We are already home to the Hazarra community and so many others which enrich our culture.
  - b) As a city which welcomes, it was no surprise that the most recent arrivals would be met with immense generosity; and the scale of donations has been unprecedented. Families who have arrived with little but the clothes on their backs have found a city which has channelled the spirit of the foodbank and the community fridge into donations ranging from clothes to toys and toiletries to telephones.
  - c) We cannot expect local charity to sustain our new citizens over the long-term. The Council has responded, but emergency accommodation needs to be followed by sustainable support.
  - d) Many will move on to new cities, after their welcome to Britain in Milton Keynes, but the Government must support councils to support, resettle and integrate them fully into the communities in which they will start their new lives. If these needs are not met with new and additional funding, councils will be forced to make cuts in order to provide for new arrivals.
2. That this Council calls on the Government to:
  - a) Immediately update the official guidance on whether people from Afghanistan are accepted as refugees in the UK to reflect the new context ensuring those fleeing persecution are granted rapid protection.
  - b) Implement a fast-track procedure producing rapid decisions through safety-first processes to provide protection to the approximately 3,000 Afghans already in the UK asylum system, and for those lodging new claims for protection.
  - c) Immediately suspend all forcible returns of Afghans who have sought asylum in the UK to Afghanistan, and release any in detention given that we cannot return anyone now.
  - d) Commit that no Afghan will have their claim for asylum ruled inadmissible or face extradition to a third country, regardless of how they have had to

travel to the UK.

- e) Allow family members from Afghanistan to join those already settled in Britain; and ensure existing applications for family reunion are fast-tracked.
- f) Provide emergency humanitarian visas for people who need to get out of Afghanistan and come to the UK safely to claim asylum.
- g) Ensure funding for councils to help house their fair share of families.
- h) Additional support for schools to ensure English catch up especially for girls.
- i) Adequately fund councils and the NHS to provide mental health programmes focussing on post-traumatic stress being experienced by these families.
- j) Ensure that those Afghans that also have British citizenship receive the same housing financial support from the government as the Afghan refugees.
- k) The Council recognises these arrivals are heroes, and they deserve a hero's welcome. Many refugees must risk their lives to escape from the horrors they face. Many are simply not able to do this through official schemes such as a resettlement programme.
- l) The Council calls upon the Government to listen to the United Nations concerning asylum and withdraw the Nationality and Border Bill before it becomes law and costs people seeking protection in the UK their lives.
- m) Now that the Kabul airlift is over, the Government needs to agree to a fundamental rethink of the Bill which would criminalise genuine refugees fleeing for their lives anyway they can.

(Leader / Chief Executive)

## **CL60 TACKLING VIOLENT CRIME**

1. That this Council notes that:
  - (a) Milton Keynes has in recent months witnessed a number of disturbing incidents of violent crime in our communities;
  - (b) violent crime causes mental health repercussions, potentially life changing or life-altering injuries and in some cases, death;
  - (c) the impact that violent crime has on the families of the victims and the perpetrators of the crime.; and
  - (d) violent crime can cause communities to be fearful and anxious of safety in their areas and the affect this can have on mental wellbeing.
2. That this Council:
  - (a) welcomes that reported violent crime has fallen in the period July 2020 to June 2021, but notes this period includes extended periods of lockdown, during which crime fell nationally, largely because of the reduced number

of opportunities for violent incidents to occur or for people to associate in groups;

- (b) notes that in overall terms crime in Milton Keynes has reduced by 9% in the same period but notes also that this excludes fraud and accurately recorded incidents of domestic abuse which have both increased;
  - (c) is pleased the Government has brought forward “The Beating Crime Plan” focused on tackling serious violence and neighbourhood crimes, and wants to see this plan become reality; and
  - (d) acknowledges the Government’s efforts to tackle violent crime and the root causes of violent crime requires more funding to be effective, and the recent additional funding of £1.8m for 2021/22 for the Thames Valley Police Violence Reduction Unit must be increased to be effective.
3. That this Council resolves to:
- (a) request that the SaferMK board develops a strategy aligned with the police responsibility to combat violent crime and the root causes of violent crime;
  - (b) encourage the Cabinet to support the Police and Crime Commissioner in their efforts to adequately resource policing in Milton Keynes; and
  - (c) request that as part of the 2022/23 budget, the Cabinet looks at how best to use current resources to assist the Police and Crime Commissioner in fulfilling their duty to tackle violent crime, and the impact it has on victims and the communities in which it occurs, across the Borough of Milton Keynes.

(Councillor Townsend / Director of Policy, Insight & Communications)

## **CL61 CLIMATE CHANGE CALL FOR ACTION**

1. That this Council notes:
- a) the very real commitment across the chamber to support measures as set out in this Council’s unanimously agreed 2019 declaration of a climate emergency, the subsequent Task and Finish Group recommendations and the Council’s 2030 carbon reduction commitments: and
  - b) as recently set out in the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change working group report<sup>1</sup> that if left unchecked, climate change will render vast swathes of the world (including parts of the United Kingdom) uninhabitable and trigger a huge upsurge in poverty, mass migration and political instability that will have ramifications across the planet.
2. That this Council asks the leaders of all Political Groups to jointly sign a letter to the Prime Minister which reflects the above and that additionally:
- a) sets out the expectations of residents and businesses in Milton Keynes for

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<sup>1</sup> Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis (The Working Group I contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)

real, measurable, and accountable progress to be made at COP26;

- b) calls upon the Prime Minister and the COP26 President, Alok Sharma MP, to lead by example, by mandating priorities and enabling solutions, such as has been achieved with offshore wind (which is now proving to be cheaper than gas fired electricity generation);
  - c) calls upon the Government to support Milton Keynes in its desire to attract new emerging green technology-based companies to invest in the (so-called) Oxford / Cambridge Arc and in Milton Keynes in particular; and
  - d) calls upon the Prime Minister and COP26 President to fully support the three ambitions of COP26:
    - i) Secure global net zero by mid-century and keep 1.5 degrees within reach.
    - ii) Adapt to protect communities and natural habitats.
    - iii) Mobilise finance internationally.
3. That this Council further resolves:
- a) to add its voice to calls by all parties at the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport for the creation of a joint local and national government task force to plan action to reach net zero emissions; and
  - b) agrees that work of the task force should be focused on assisting and enabling local communities and economies to decarbonise whilst remaining resilient and sustainable by setting appropriate regulations, benchmarks and targets, and creating much-needed long-term funding mechanisms.
4. That this Council requests that the Cabinet commits to producing a Climate Emergency Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) as part of the Plan:MK 2 preparatory work that, among many other elements, would contain commitments to deploy nature-based solutions to tackle climate change such as extensive tree planting and the revitalisation of our hedgerows.

(Councillor Marland / Councillor R Bradburn / Councillor Walker / Councillor Wilson-Marklew / Director Planning & Placemaking)

**CL62 FIREWORKS**

1. That this Council resolves to ask the Cabinet member for Customer Services and the Director of Policy, Insight and Communications:
  - a) to encourage all public firework displays within our boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people;
  - b) actively to promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks; and
  - c) to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.
2. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Government urging it to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.

(Councillor Trendall / Chief Executive / Director of Policy, Insight & Communications)

**CL63 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY MATTERS**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**CL64 WARD BASED BUDGETS 2021/22**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.