



WATCH LIVE
on MK Council's YouTube channel
www.youtube.com/MiltonKeynesCouncil



Minutes of the MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on
WEDNESDAY 9 MARCH 2022 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Khan (Mayor)
Councillors Alexander, Baines, Balazs, Baume, Bowyer, M Bradburn,
R Bradburn, Brown, Carr, Crooks, Cryer-Whitehead, Darlington,
De Villiers, Exon, Ferrans, Fuller, Gilbert, Hall, Hearnshaw, D Hopkins,
V Hopkins, Hume, Hussain, Imran, Jenkins, Lancaster, Marland,
Marlow, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Montague, Nazir, Priestly,
Rankine, Reilly, Rolfe, Taylor, Trendall, Townsend, Verma, Walker,
Wallis, Wardle and Wilson-Marklew.

Alderman McKenzie and Miles and 5 members of the public.

Apologies: Councillors K Bradburn, Clarke, Legg, Minns, B Nolan, Z Nolan,
P Geary, Hosking, McQuillan, and Raja and Aldermen Bartlett,
Beeley, Bristow, Coventry, Henderson, Howell and McCall and
Alderwomen Irons, Henderson, Lloyd and Saunders.

CL116 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 February
2022 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

CL117 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Hume and Jenkins both disclosed a pecuniary interest in
item 5(b)(iv) (Great British Rail Headquarters).

CL118 ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor made announcements in respect of:

- (a) The Olney Pancake Race;
- (b) The war in Ukraine; and
- (c) Acknowledging those councillors who were not standing for re-
election

CL119 PETITIONS

None

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

Godwin Michael, referring to the School Streets Scheme trial at Cold Harbour School, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, what plans did the Council have to tackle displaced parking and bad parking in the neighbouring streets?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that the scheme was a trial and was about encouraging parents to stop using cars to take their children to school and to start using other forms of transport. It was a six month trial and as part of that an initial displacement of parking into neighbouring streets was anticipated and this was communicated in advance to those residents. It was hoped that over time the scheme would reduce car usage and improve safety and air quality around the school. The scheme would be reviewed to assess whether these improvements had occurred.

As a supplementary question, Godwin Michael asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, was there anything that could be done to tackle those parents arriving before the scheme came into effect each morning and who were keeping their car engines running while they waited?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she was not aware of this and she would ask officers to follow up on this matter.

- (b) Question from Town Councillor Brady to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Town Councillor Brady, referring to the installation of car charging points in Tees Way and the Traffic Restriction Order that residents had recently received, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, who had the idea to install these as it does not work practically for residents and they do not support the proposal?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew acknowledged that the Council could have done a better job of communicating this proposal more clearly with residents. She indicated that the Council had received funding from the Government for this trial. The charging points were effectively a pole coming out of the ground and they would only take up a minimal amount of space and would not decrease the number of parking spaces available. As part of the funding the Council had to issue a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) to propose limiting the space to electric vehicles.

The Cabinet member encouraged residents to respond to the TRO saying that they did not want the restrictions on non-electric vehicles to be put in place. The Council was anticipating that this would be the feedback that would be received from residents and they did not intend to enforce the TRO.

Town Councillor Brady was asked if he would like to ask a supplementary question but instead he reiterated that the residents did not want it. As he did not ask a question Councillor Wilson-Marklew was not required to answer.

(b) Question from Alan Francis to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Alan Francis, referring to the major expansion of Milton Keynes as described in the MK2050 report, asked Councillor Marland, did he still support this expansion given the Ox-Cam Arc target of one million new homes appeared to have been dropped by the government, the government team working on the Arc was reported to have been disbanded and that the government appeared to be leaving it up to each local council to decide on its own future development?

Councillor Marland indicated that yes, the administration did support the aims of the MK2050 strategy. The Arc was not the construct of the government it was about the proper growth between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge and the growth aspirations of Milton Keynes were not contingent on the Arc. What was clear was that Milton Keynes expands over the next thirty years there was a need for pre-requisite investment in infrastructure, health, community facilities and things like East West Rail to support this growth. The Council would continue to make the case to government for the investment needed in the organic growth of Milton Keynes.

As a supplementary question, Alan Francis asked Councillor Marland, how would Milton Keynes control this process, would it not be a developers charter with property developers being able to decide where, what and when to develop?

Councillor Marland indicated that this was the whole point of the Arc to avoid unplanned and haphazard growth. Planning growth across the Arc would coordinate energy and water needs and increase biodiversity. Campaigning against the Arc ended the opportunity to achieve these objectives. The aim of the Council was for properly funded and planned growth which was in the control of the Council.

CL121 BUSINESS REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING

None.

CL122 REPORTS FROM CABINET & COMMITTEES – LICENCING COMMITTEE – 9 FEBRUARY 2022

Councillor McLean (Chair of the Licencing Committee) moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Licencing Committee held on 9 February 2022, which was seconded by Councillor Wallis.

“Consideration of Statement of Gambling Principles 2022/2025 (Gambling Act 2005)

That the Council adopt the Statement of Gambling Principles 2022/2025 (Gambling Act 2005).”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Council adopt the Statement of Gambling Principles 2022/2025 (Gambling Act 2005).

CL123 REPORTS FROM CABINET & COMMITTEES – JOINT NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE EMPLOYERS SIDE – 21 FEBRUARY 2022

Councillor Middleton (Chair of the Joint Negotiating Committee Employers Side) moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Joint Negotiating Committee Employers Side held on 21 February 2022, which was seconded by Councillor Bowyer.

“Statement of Pay Policy Financial Year 2022-23

That the Council approve the Pay Policy Statement.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Council approve the Pay Policy Statement.

CL124 COUNCILLORS’ QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor Clarke to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Clarke, referring to the knife crime incidents that had happened recently, asked Councillor Townsend, while tackling crime was the responsibility of Thames Valley Police what work was the Progressive Alliance doing with partners to help reduce

the cause of crime?

Councillor Townsend indicated that crime was indeed the responsibility of Thames Valley Police however there was a strong history of partnership working in Milton Keynes which included a long term plan to support preventative actions including funding to Hazard Alley, street art and parkour sessions at the MK Gallery and local projects to stop young people being drawn into exploitive practices. It was clear that more police were needed in Milton Keynes however there continued to be partnership working with police, health and children's services.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Clarke asked Councillor Townsend, was there any concern regarding the current situation with knife crime?

Councillor Townsend. indicated that serious violence was a concern for all across Milton Keynes and it was more concerning that this was missing from the Police and Crime Commissioners 'five point plan'. The Council would keep working with other partners to continue to ask for an increase in policing numbers and to do more to support intervention and prevention services.

(b) Question from Councillor Balazs to Councillor Townsend
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Balazs, referring to the Conservative Group budget amendment to secure additional funding for flooding prevention, defence and recovery schemes, asked Councillor Townsend, would she provide assurance that there would be sufficient investment to avoid a repeat of the serious flooding experienced in Milton Keynes and surrounding areas in December 2020?

Councillor Townsend indicated that the Councils total spend on flooding including drainage clearance was over £1.6 million. There was flood prevention work taking place in Stony Stratford and Loughton, a feasibility study had taken place in the rural area, there was a SUDs pilot underway in Coffee Hall and the flood officer was working with local community groups.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Balazs asked Councillor Townsend, would it be possible to be sent a full breakdown of flood prevention work by ward?

Councillor Townsend indicated that officers had already started this work and it would be made available as soon as it had been completed.

- (c) Question from Councillor Fuller to Councillor Middleton
(Cabinet member for Resources)

Councillor Fuller, referring to the cost of living crises, asked Councillor Middleton, what was the Progressive Alliance doing to help our struggling residents?

Councillor Middleton indicated that the Council had £18 million funding to support our low income residents. This support included our generous Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, concessionary public transport fares, support with energy bills and the local welfare provision scheme to help with providing household basics.

- (d) Question from Councillor Rolfe to Councillor Wilson Marklew
(Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Councillor Rolfe, referring to the four streets in Bletchley that had been selected for installation of on-street electric charging points, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, could she clarify that the parking spaces would not be restricted to electric vehicles only?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew reaffirmed that the Traffic Restriction Order consultation was to determine whether residents wanted the spaces restricted to electric vehicles or not. It was anticipated that they would not want them restricted and therefore the TRO would not be enforced. Councillor Wilson-Marklew noted that 3,000 of these spaces will be needed across Milton Keynes by 2030.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Rolfe asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, why had work to install the charging points started before the consultation with residents had ended?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that the consultation was to do with the Traffic Restriction Order and whether the spaces should be restricted to electric vehicles only. The consultation was not about the actual installation of the electric charging points which would go ahead regardless.

- (e) Question from Councillor Wallis to Councillor Townsend
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Wallis, referring to those that think it is acceptable to litter, asked Councillor Townsend, could she provide an update on actions being taken to tackle littering?

Councillor Townsend indicated that the Council currently spends £3.7 million on litter and street cleansing. Litter Enforcement Officers had been in post since the beginning of January and over 1,600 fixed penalty notices had been issued with 80% if these already having been paid. Any money saved from reducing littering and not having to send out the litter picking and street cleansing teams meant that funds could be spent elsewhere. It was also important to note that this was not just about enforcement and that officers were undertaking education and engagement activities as well.

- (f) Question from Councillor McPake to Councillor Townsend
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor McPake, referring to the commitment made in June to fill an additional 7,500 potholes this year, asked Councillor Townsend, how close was the Council to meeting this promise?

Councillor Townsend indicated that so far 5,500 potholes had been filled before work had stopped over winter. The remainder were due to be filled by the end of March. The Council was working to complete full repairs as soon as soon as possible versus emergency patches.

As a supplementary question, Councillor McPake asked Councillor Townsend, could she investigate whether pothole filling could be tied into road re-surfacing work?

Councillor Townsend indicated that where road resurfacing had been carried out soon after pothole work this was likely to have been because an emergency repair had been carried out.

- (g) Question from Councillor Baume to Councillor R Bradburn
(Cabinet member for Economic Recovery & Renewal)

Councillor Baume, noting that it had recently been International Woman's Day, asked Councillor R Bradburn, what was the Council doing to support female entrepreneurs and to help women back into work?

Councillor R Bradburn indicated that over 220 women had been helped back into employment or training via the 'Women into Work' scheme, part of the Council's covid economic recovery programme. The Love Local Hub had been part of the scheme and provided space for over 100 creative and retail businesses and had contributed over £350,000 to the Milton Keynes economy. The Local Government Association had highlighted the scheme as an exemplar for other local authorities.

- (h) Question from Councillor Baines to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Councillor Baines, referring to the continued use of e-scooters on footpaths and redways, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, was there any update regarding restricting the use of rental e-scooters?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that there had been ongoing work with the companies involved in the e-scooter trial to improve their use she would enquire as to whether geofencing would work to restrict the areas they were being ridden.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Baines asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, what more could be done to ban the sale of private e-scooters?

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would write to the Department of Transport to request they progress with banning the sale of private e-scooters.

CL125

INVASION OF UKRAINE

Councillor Marland moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Walker:

- “1. That this Council:
 - a) Expresses its shock and sadness over the hostile and unprovoked attack on Ukraine by Russia.
 - b) Supports the Ukrainian people in their fight to maintain democracy and self-determination as a nation.
 - c) Welcomes the sanctions placed on Russia by the government of the United Kingdom and other nations to target those Russian individuals responsible for the aggression and the organisations which benefit from, and fund, the corrupt and oppressive Russian regime.
2. That this Council therefore agrees and affirms:
 - a) We stand with Ukraine and offer our full support for the people and their government in the face of unprovoked aggression.
 - b) To provide any reasonable help and support to all Ukrainian nationals living in Milton Keynes.

- c) To request the Director of Finance and Resources review the Treasury Management policy of the council to ensure we divest of any financial interest it may hold in Russian companies and investments.
- d) To call on the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Government Pension Fund to divest of any such similar interests, particularly in gas, oil and energy.
- e) To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities to clarify the powers open to the council on the actions it may take, and information that it can be provided, to ensure that no pathway is left available for opaque Russian financial investment.
- f) Call on the government to impose even tougher sanctions on oligarchs and individuals who benefit from the patronage of the Russian leadership.”

The Council heard from one member of the public during consideration of this item.

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council:
 - a) Expresses its shock and sadness over the hostile and unprovoked attack on Ukraine by Russia.
 - b) Supports the Ukrainian people in their fight to maintain democracy and self-determination as a nation.
 - c) Welcomes the sanctions placed on Russia by the government of the United Kingdom and other nations to target those Russian individuals responsible for the aggression and the organisations which benefit from, and fund, the corrupt and oppressive Russian regime.
2. That this Council therefore agrees and affirms:
 - a) We stand with Ukraine and offer our full support for the people and their government in the face of unprovoked aggression.
 - b) To provide any reasonable help and support to all Ukrainian nationals living in Milton Keynes.
 - c) To request the Director of Finance and Resources review the Treasury Management policy of the council to ensure we divest of any financial interest it may hold in Russian companies and investments.

- d) To call on the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Government Pension Fund to divest of any such similar interests, particularly in gas, oil and energy.
- e) To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities to clarify the powers open to the council on the actions it may take, and information that it can be provided, to ensure that no pathway is left available for opaque Russian financial investment.
- f) Call on the government to impose even tougher sanctions on oligarchs and individuals who benefit from the patronage of the Russian leadership.

CL126

RECRUITMENT OF FOSTER CARERS

Councillor M Bradburn moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Brown:

- “1. That this Council recognises:
 - a) the best place for our children in care and looked after children, where suitable, is with families in Milton Keynes;
 - b) Milton Keynes Council utilises the early help model, ensuring that families receive proper support as soon as possible, and that children coming into care is a last resort;
 - c) Milton Keynes Council thinks carefully about the placements of our looked after children; and
 - d) Milton Keynes Council has many unique selling points to offer people who become foster carers.
2. That this Council also recognises:
 - a) there has been a recruitment crisis of foster carers nationally and the situation is worsening;
 - b) there is stiff competition in the market to recruit the best foster carers and we must take action to sustain our service; and
 - c) outsourcing of fostering placements is costly and often takes our children away from Milton Keynes.
3. That this Council resolves to:
 - a) highlight the recruitment of foster carers as a priority for Children’s Services;
 - b) encourage every councillor as a corporate parent to help the Council recruit the best for our children; and

- c) request the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, the Chair of Corporate Parenting and the Champion for Fostering to work with the Fostering team on a new marketing campaign and recruitment drive for foster carers, while also considering the whole offer for foster carers.”

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council recognises:
 - a) the best place for our children in care and looked after children, where suitable, is with families in Milton Keynes;
 - b) Milton Keynes Council utilises the early help model, ensuring that families receive proper support as soon as possible, and that children coming into care is a last resort;
 - c) Milton Keynes Council thinks carefully about the placements of our looked after children; and
 - d) Milton Keynes Council has many unique selling points to offer people who become foster carers.
2. That this Council also recognises:
 - a) there has been a recruitment crisis of foster carers nationally and the situation is worsening;
 - b) there is stiff competition in the market to recruit the best foster carers and we must take action to sustain our service; and
 - c) outsourcing of fostering placements is costly and often takes our children away from Milton Keynes.
3. That this Council resolves to:
 - a) highlight the recruitment of foster carers as a priority for Children’s Services;
 - b) encourage every councillor as a corporate parent to help the Council recruit the best for our children; and
 - c) request the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, the Chair of Corporate Parenting and the Champion for Fostering to work with the Fostering team on a new marketing campaign and recruitment drive for foster carers, while also considering the whole offer for foster carers.”

CL127

THE COST OF LIVING CRISIS AND THE RIGHT TO FOOD

Councillor Carr moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Darlington:

- “1. That this Council notes:
 - a) the pandemic has highlighted the significant health, wellbeing and the economic inequalities in our city;
 - b) the increase in the cost of living will impact on that vast majority of residents of the borough;
 - c) the tax burden is the highest today than at any point since World War Two and that the Conservative Government have consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families;
 - d) those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by inflation and increased taxation;
 - e) the government ended the uplift in Universal Credit and that the changes to the taper will not compensate for the reduction in income of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society;
 - f) an estimated 11million people in the UK live in food poverty;
 - g) an estimated 4000 households in MK go without food once a week and 10,000 households are eating smaller meals; and
 - h) if you cannot afford food, you will be unable to buy clothes, pay bills and have less money to spend supporting the wider economy.

2. That this Council also notes:
 - a) the support the Progressive Alliance is giving residents living in poverty through its crisis support helping with food, rent and fuel bills, but that the Conservative Group voted against an additional £500,000 to help those in the worst fuel poverty;
 - b) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to children in school holidays;
 - c) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to partners to help tackle food poverty; and
 - d) the amazing work that other organisations such as Food Banks, Community larders, parish and town councils and charities do to help people eat.

3. That this Council further notes:
 - a) the National Food Strategy was a wasted opportunity to tackle this issue;
 - b) the plan lacks a clear vision and strategy on how to improve the crisis; and
 - c) that opportunities to set out legal ways to enforce the strategy have been missed and need to be enshrined in law.
4. That this Council agrees:
 - a) no one should go hungry in Milton Keynes;
 - b) food poverty in the United Kingdom is disgraceful and a shaming indictment of the policies of the Conservative government;
 - c) it is time to enshrine the human right to food into law;
 - d) to continue efforts to reduce and mitigate the impact of food poverty;
 - e) to express concern that the Conservative Cost of Living Crisis will increase the levels of food poverty, hungry children and malnutrition in Milton Keynes;
 - f) to write to government to ask that the right to food should and National Food Strategy be enshrined in law; and
 - g) to continue to work with local partners to support the campaign for the national right to food.”

Councillor Walker moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Jenkins

1. That clause 1.(c) be amended by adding the words “according to the Office for Budget Responsibility” to the beginning of the clause and the words “the 1950s” be added after the word ‘since’.
2. That the words “World War Two and that the Conservative Government have consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families;” be deleted from clause 1.(c)
3. That a new clause 1(d) be added as follows:

“despite a huge increase in spending to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK is still taxed relatively lightly compared with most other Western countries such as France and the U.S. “
4. That the wording in clause 1.(f) be deleted and replaced with:

“the government ended the temporary uplift in Universal Credit, which it introduced to support households during the pandemic and cut the Universal Credit taper rate from 63% to 55%, benefitting 1.9 million households who will gain on average £1000 per year.”

5. That a new clause 1.(j) be added as follows:

“the government have delivered a £150 council tax rebate for 80% of households in the country to help offset some of the rise in gas and electricity costs”
6. That a new clause 1.(k) be added as follows:

“the government is providing a £200 discount on energy bills this autumn as part of the Energy Bills Rebate”
7. That a new clause 2.(e) be added as follows:

“but recognises the Council has raised Council Tax every year for eight years with the average band d household now around £500 a year worse off than they were in 2014”
8. That a new clause 2.(f) be added as follows:

“the Labour and Liberal Democrat coalition has not published a credible economic recovery plan to help grow businesses and nurture new start-ups, which is likely to have a negative effect on our employment market and reduce the Council’s business rates revenue”
9. That the wording in clause 3.(a) be deleted and replaced with the following:

“the independent National Food Strategy was published on 15 July 2021”
10. That the wording in clause 3.(b) be deleted and replaced with the following:

“the report outlined a series of recommendations for government to consider”
11. That the wording in clause 3.(c) be deleted and replaced with the following:

“the government is yet to deliver on its commitment to publish a white paper in response to the independent National Food Strategy. “
12. That the wording in clause 4.(b) be deleted and replaced with the following:

“more needs to be done to tackle food poverty in the UK;”

13. That the word “Conservative” be deleted from clause 4.(e)
14. That the words “that the right to food should and National Food Strategy be enshrined in law” be deleted and replaced with “for the white paper in response to the National Food Strategy be published as soon as possible” in clause 4 (f)
15. That a new clause 4.(h) be added as follows:
“the Cabinet should do everything it can to keep Council Tax low to ease the local tax burden on residents”
16. That a new clause 4.(i) be added as follows:
“Cabinet consider what additional funding could be needed as we go through the budget year to help residents most impacted by the cost of living crisis”

On being put to the vote the amendment to the motion was lost.

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
 - a) the pandemic has highlighted the significant health, wellbeing and the economic inequalities in our city;
 - b) the increase in the cost of living will impact on that vast majority of residents of the borough;
 - c) the tax burden is the highest today than at any point since World War Two and that the Conservative Government have consistently increased the direct and indirect tax burden on families;
 - d) those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by inflation and increased taxation;
 - e) the government ended the uplift in Universal Credit and that the changes to the taper will not compensate for the reduction in income of the poorest and most vulnerable people in society;
 - f) an estimated 11million people in the UK live in food poverty;
 - g) an estimated 4000 households in MK go without food once a week and 10,000 households are eating smaller meals; and
 - h) if you cannot afford food, you will be unable to buy clothes, pay bills and have less money to spend supporting the wider economy.

2. That this Council also notes:
 - a) the support the Progressive Alliance is giving residents living in poverty through its crisis support helping with food, rent and fuel bills, but that the Conservative Group voted against an additional £500,000 to help those in the worst fuel poverty;
 - b) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to children in school holidays;
 - c) the support the Progressive Alliance has given to partners to help tackle food poverty; and
 - d) the amazing work that other organisations such as Food Banks, Community larders, parish and town councils and charities do to help people eat.
3. That this Council further notes:
 - a) the National Food Strategy was a wasted opportunity to tackle this issue;
 - b) the plan lacks a clear vision and strategy on how to improve the crisis; and
 - c) that opportunities to set out legal ways to enforce the strategy have been missed and need to be enshrined in law.
4. That this Council agrees:
 - a) no one should go hungry in Milton Keynes;
 - b) food poverty in the United Kingdom is disgraceful and a shaming indictment of the policies of the Conservative government;
 - c) it is time to enshrine the human right to food into law;
 - d) to continue efforts to reduce and mitigate the impact of food poverty;
 - e) to express concern that the Conservative Cost of Living Crisis will increase the levels of food poverty, hungry children and malnutrition in Milton Keynes;
 - f) to write to government to ask that the right to food should and National Food Strategy be enshrined in law; and
 - g) to continue to work with local partners to support the campaign for the national right to food.

GREAT BRITISH RAIL HEADQUARTERS

Councillor R Bradburn moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Priestley:

- “1. That this Council notes:
 - a) the recent announcement to form a single organisation, Great British Rail, to operate the national rail network; and
 - b) the announcement of a competitive process to host the headquarters of this new organisation.
2. That this Council further notes:
 - a) the current Network Rail operation at The Quadrant MK, currently hosting around 4000 skilled rail jobs;
 - b) the concern the announcement has created regarding the short, medium and long-term future of these jobs, and the concern this has caused current employees and the negative impact it may have on future recruitment;
 - c) the highly skilled rail workforce in Milton Keynes;
 - d) the long history of this area’s association with the rail industry;
 - e) that Wolverton was the world’s first purpose-built railway town;
 - f) the continued operation of rail works at Wolverton;
 - g) the long association of Bletchley with the rail industry;
 - h) the government’s stated aim of moving jobs out of London and the South East to ‘level up’ the economy;
 - i) significant inequalities exist in Milton Keynes;
 - j) the recent submission of a bid by Milton Keynes Council to host the new headquarters of Great British Rail; and
 - k) the support the bid has received from a broad range of partners including Members of Parliament, Town and Parish Councils, rail stakeholders and the public.
3. That this Council agrees:
 - a) that ‘levelling up’ should not mean ‘levelling down’ other areas;
 - b) to fully support the bid to host the headquarters of Great British Rail; and

- c) to oppose any future plans to reduce the operational size of Network Rail staff based in Milton Keynes.”

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
 - a) the recent announcement to form a single organisation, Great British Rail, to operate the national rail network; and
 - b) the announcement of a competitive process to host the headquarters of this new organisation.
2. That this Council further notes:
 - a) the current Network Rail operation at The Quadrant MK, currently hosting around 4000 skilled rail jobs;
 - b) the concern the announcement has created regarding the short, medium and long-term future of these jobs, and the concern this has caused current employees and the negative impact it may have on future recruitment;
 - c) the highly skilled rail workforce in Milton Keynes;
 - d) the long history of this area’s association with the rail industry;
 - e) that Wolverton was the world’s first purpose-built railway town;
 - f) the continued operation of rail works at Wolverton;
 - g) the long association of Bletchley with the rail industry;
 - h) the government’s stated aim of moving jobs out of London and the South East to ‘level up’ the economy;
 - i) significant inequalities exist in Milton Keynes;
 - j) the recent submission of a bid by Milton Keynes Council to host the new headquarters of Great British Rail; and
 - k) the support the bid has received from a broad range of partners including Members of Parliament, Town and Parish Councils, rail stakeholders and the public.
3. That this Council agrees:
 - a) that ‘levelling up’ should not mean ‘levelling down’ other areas;
 - b) to fully support the bid to host the headquarters of Great British Rail; and

- c) to oppose any future plans to reduce the operational size of Network Rail staff based in Milton Keynes.

CL129 REVIEW OF COMMITTEE PROPORTIONALITY

The Mayor moved the recommendation which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor:

“That the Council note the revised political makeup of the Council and agree the revised Committee allocations and appointments.”

The recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the Council note the revised political makeup of the Council and agree the revised Committee allocations and appointments.

CL130 RETURNING OFFICERS FEES

The Mayor moved the recommendation which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor:

“That the schedule of fees and disbursements for Principal Area and Parish elections be adopted for 2022/23”

The recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

That the schedule of fees and disbursements for Principal Area and Parish elections be adopted for 2022/23.

CL131 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS

The Council received a quarterly report on special urgency decisions.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

CL132 WARD BASED BUDGETS 2021/22

The Council received a report on the Ward Based Budgets for 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:00 PM

[The recording of this meeting is available to view on the Council's YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil)