

# Agenda Item 5(b)

## Notices of Motion

	<b>Document</b>	<b>Pages</b>
1.	Councillor Ferrans – 17 September 2020 The Economic Impact of Brexit and COVID-19	43-44
2.	Councillor Crooks – 25 September 2020 Becoming the World’s Greenest City	44-45
3.	Councillor Trendall – 25 September 2020 Community at Work	45-46
4.	Councillor Bint - 8 October 2020 Urgent Planning Improvements	46-47
5.	Councillor Rankine - 8 October 2020 Saving Golf at Windmill Hill will benefit all MK Citizens	47-48

### Enquiries

Please contact Peter Brown on 01908 253671 or [peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

This agenda is available at <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Committees.aspx>

## 1. The Economic Impact of Brexit & COVID-19

Councillor Ferrans (17 September 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:
  - (a) on 31 December 2020 the Brexit transition period finishes, ending British membership of the EU single market and customs union.
  - (b) the ending of this transition period and the potential of a no-deal Brexit, combined with the fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic, will have drastic economic impacts on Milton Keynes, the country and worldwide trade as:
    - (i) Milton Keynes has a high number of small businesses who trade internationally; bureaucracy and restrictions on the movement of people and goods, as well as tariffs, will impact heavily on them as they struggle with the impact of COVID-19;
    - (ii) many local companies and organisations draw on the skills and expertise of people worldwide, and a return to work permits is likely to cause delays to, or to prevent, recruitment;
    - (iii) Milton Keynes has a large financial services sector that will be impacted by the expected move of European and American businesses to mainland Europe, with no trade agreement covering services or free movement of personnel;
    - (iv) Milton Keynes has many companies who are world leaders in international research and extra conditions, involving guarantees against the possible effects of Brexit, for which companies can get no insurance, are now routinely being imposed on UK participants even before the end of the transition period. In addition, the viability of some contracts may be damaged by restrictions on movement and possible tariffs on research material movement; and
    - (v) many Milton Keynes residents aspire to study or get work experience abroad; the lack of funding agreements and freedom of movement will impact them heavily.
2. That this Council also notes that worldwide trade and freedom of movement will be severely impacted. The effect of ending British membership of the EU single market and customs union is not just on business and freedom of movement in relation to the EU, but on international arrangements. Many of our international agreements depend on EU-wide agreements; when Britain exits those agreements, the country also exits the subsidiary agreements.

3. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
    - (a) work with Milton Keynes businesses and service organisations to identify their particular concerns and lobby the government alongside them;
    - (b) factor in the ending of the transition period, and the potential of a no-deal Brexit, in the COVID-19 recovery plan for Milton Keynes; and
    - (c) lobby the Conservative Government to financially support councils during this time to help mitigate the impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 

## **2. Becoming the World's Greenest City**

Councillor Crooks (25 September 2020)

1. That this Council:
  - (a) is fully committed to its ambition to be the world's greenest city, carbon neutral by 2030 and carbon negative by 2050;
  - (b) believes that there is a once in a lifetime opportunity offered by the COVID-19 emergency to change the lifestyle of residents in ways that will reduce carbon emissions;
  - (c) is supportive of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's announcements in July and August this year launching the Green Homes Grant scheme; and
  - (d) is aware of the Council's bid for funding under the Local Authority Delivery (LAD) arrangements to set the grant scheme up locally on which a decision is expected shortly.
2. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
  - (a) With regard to homeowners:
    - (i) publicise as widely as possible the availability of vouchers under the scheme, and to do as quickly as possible in view of its end date on 31 March next year; and
    - (ii) ask Trading Standards to publicise a list of TrustMarked traders on the Council website with a local email and telephone address for enquiries rather than the present national numbers.
  - (b) With regard to public assets to welcome the Council's intention to apply for further funding under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund, including the retro-fitting of social housing, taking advantage of the Re:fit Energy Performance contract already in place through the Local Partnerships Framework.

3. That locally, this Council further resolves to request Cabinet to:
    - (a) to establish without delay the Milton Keynes citizens' action panel envisaged in clause 17 of the Council Plan as a means of promoting resident engagement with the task ahead;
    - (b) to work with local schools and parents to embed the practice of a carbon-neutral lifestyle within the curriculum;
    - (c) to work with the College of Education in enhancing training and apprenticeships for young people to work in green industries, such as renewable energy, home insulation, tree planting and rewilding and encourage the employing body to pay at least the National Living Wage for young people after their first year and the Real Living Wage from 24 upwards;
    - (d) to investigate and take further new schemes for local electricity generation; and
    - (e) insofar as is legally possible, to build on the results of the Council's BEIS study to determine whether Council Tax and/or business rate incentives would encourage local people to be more energy efficient.
  4. That nationally, this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
    - (a) urge the Government to raise capital by introducing a new system of climate bonds;
    - (b) promote tax incentives on savings and pensions for investing in green areas;
    - (c) advocate zero-rating VAT on home insulation and other energy saving products and services; and
    - (d) play a full part in raising the national ambition to the level commensurate with the scale of the crisis facing us.
- 

### **3. Community at Work**

Councillor Trendall (25 September 2020)

1. That this Council:
  - (a) applauds the work done by individuals and informal local groups who, during the current Covid-19 emergency, have undertaken litter picking and basic landscape maintenance work in their towns, villages and estates, including areas unadopted by the Council which have been ignored and neglected by developers and managing agents; and
  - (b) acknowledges that they have rendered valuable assistance to their communities and to the Council by undertaking work which needed to be done or was overdue, at no cost to the Council.

2. That this Council therefore resolves to request that Cabinet actively support these individuals and informal groups by providing:
    - (a) mentoring, so that the work may continue to be carried out correctly;
    - (b) the loan of equipment wherever possible; and
    - (c) logistical support, primarily in regard to the removal of collected litter and green waste.
- 

#### **4. Urgent Planning Improvements**

Councillor Bint (8 October 2020)

1. That this Council notes:
  - a) The concerns voiced by Blakelands Residents Association, former planning officers, Ward Councillors, Town & Parish Councillors and other groups and individuals regarding the performance of our planning department over the past three years.
  - b) The absence of visible action from the Leader of the Council (in that capacity and in his additional capacity as Portfolio-holder for planning), and his apparent reluctance to take any measures to restore faith in the planning department.
  - c) The recent occurrence of multiple further problematic instances across all 4 main aspects of the Planning Service (plan-writing, determining planning applications, planning enforcement, and planning appeals), highlighted most recently by the Walnut Tree Reserve A & D, Hindhead Knoll application that illustrates many of the same things that went wrong with the Blakelands application.
  - d) The lack of public trust and confidence in the independent report into the 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands, development due to severe delays and alleged officer interference.
  - e) The importance of an effectively functioning planning department that has the confidence and trust of MK's residents and their elected representatives, ahead of any large-scale contentious infrastructure projects such as the proposed new bridge over the M1.
  - f) That the two MK MPs and the leader of the largest opposition group on the Council have written to the Secretary of State asking for an external review into the planning service and expressing concerns over the ability of this Council to deal with systematic failures within the planning department.
2. That this Council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council:
  - a) to give a written statement at Cabinet on 15th December, on the Blakelands review, and

- b) to give a written statement at Cabinet on 15th December of his plans to improve the Council's planning service and repair its reputation, whether or not the Dorfman report has been published.
- 

#### **4. Saving Golf at Windmill Hill will benefit all MK Citizens**

Councillor Rankine (8 October 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:

- (a) Milton Keynes is the 2020 European City of Sport with the aim that this will allow MK Council to unlock more opportunities for investment into sports and physical activity that will provide local people with enjoyable, active and healthy lifestyles;
- (b) golf is a popular sport in England just behind football in terms of levels of participation. Golf is not in decline, in fact over the last five years the number of people playing golf in England has slightly increased;
- (c) golf courses in the UK and locally have seen a surge in memberships and levels of participation since being given a green light to reopen after lockdown;
- (d) properly managed, affordable full-size municipal 18-hole golf courses with family oriented supporting facilities are recognised as being the most economically sustainable and play an important role in promoting social interaction, health, fitness and wellbeing from young to old;
- (e) full size 18-hole golf is a popular sport but is under threat in Milton Keynes with only two courses in the city to serve a growing and ageing population;
- (f) the cost of building a new course on a green field site is prohibitive due to the high cost of land and is unlikely to happen in Milton Keynes;
- (g) Milton Keynes will be left with only one full size 18-hole golf course if the course at Windmill Hill is lost; and
- (h) inter-club league competition is not possible without the facility of a full size 18-hole golf. Competition golf is essential for growing young sporting talent.

2. This Council agrees that:

- (a) Windmill Hill Golf Course is an important community asset and green space for Bletchley and Milton Keynes and provides affordable golf in a convenient location for local citizens;
- (b) Windmill Hill Golf course has suffered from a lack of investment and strategic direction and, as a result, has performed poorly compared to other local courses;

- (c) Windmill Hill golf course is dependent on pay and play. Membership numbers alone are not a good financial performance indicator for this golf course;
- (d) Windmill Hill plays an important role in promoting social interaction, health, fitness and wellbeing across all sections of the community and golf is one of the few sports that provides an active social outlet for an ageing demographic;
- (e) it is important that this Council commits to preserving the remaining two full size 18-hole golf courses in Milton Keynes for the benefit of the local community;
- (f) all options to redevelop the Windmill Golf course site should guarantee the retention of a full size 18-hole golf course and investment to secure the golf course's long-term economic viability; and
- (g) the redevelopment of the Windmill Hill site should be sympathetic to the concerns of neighbouring residents and not add unnecessary access restrictions.

3. That this Council calls upon the Cabinet to:

- (a) acknowledge that golf as a participation sport is NOT in decline and to acknowledge that participation of this sport exceeds that of most other sports;
- (b) recognise the social and wellbeing benefits of retaining more than one affordable, full size 18-hole golf course within the boundaries of an ageing and growing city;
- (c) acknowledge the importance of retaining full size, competitive 18-hole golf as a means to enable young talent and future golf professionals to emerge. To potentially put Milton Keynes on the international golfing map;
- (d) conduct a full independent investigation into the finances of the Windmill Course that includes analysis of membership and pay and play / tee occupancy data;
- (e) unreservedly commit to the retention of a 18-hole full size golf course on the Windmill Hill site; and
- (f) ensure that all commercial options for the regeneration of the Windmill Site are fully explored to find a proposal that satisfies the commercial viability of the site, delivers for golfers and properly addresses the concerns of Windmill Hill neighbours.