



Minutes of the special meeting of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2006 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor Carstens (Mayor)
Councillor Barry (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors Box, Burke, Butler-Ellis, Campbell, Carruthers, Sandra Clark, Stephen Clark, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman, Eaton, Edwards, Exon, Ferrans, Fraser, Geary, Gerrella, I Henderson, Holroyd, Hoyle, Jury, Latham, Long, D McCall, I McCall, Miles, Morris, Morsley, Seymour, Tallack, Tunney, Wharton, Williams and Wilson

Alderman Howell was also present.

Apologies: Councillors Coventry, E Henderson, Hopkins, Irons, Legg, Lloyd, Mabbott and Tamagnini-Barbosa, and Alderman Ellis

CL55 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors declared personal interests in Item 2 – Statement of Accounts, as set out in the schedule attached as an **Annex** to these minutes.

CL56 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Clarke

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor congratulated Chris Clarke who had recently won a Bronze medal at the World Junior Championships in Beijing for the 4 x 400m Relay. The Mayor also announced that Chris was also ranked number one in the UK for the 200m and 400m in his Under 17 age group.

CL57 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2005/06

Councillor Crooks moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 26 September 2006, which was seconded by Councillor Tallack:

- “1. That the Council be recommended to note the Audit Commission’s unqualified opinion on the 2005/06 accounts.
2. That the updated 2005/06 accounts be recommended to Council for approval.
3. That the Statement of Internal Control, that is included in the statement of accounts, be recommended to Council for approval.
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4. That a letter of representation be provided by management to the Audit Commission following Council's approval.
5. That the Council be recommended to authorise the Head of Finance to agree any further amendments, unless material, in consultation with appropriate Members."

In moving the recommendation Councillor Crooks drew attention to the comments of the Audit Commission that the Council (supported by its partners HBS) had made considerable improvements both in the quality of the accounts and working papers presented for audit and in dealing with queries through the audit process. Councillor Crooks paid tribute to the work of the staff involved, particularly for meeting the tight deadlines set by the Audit Commission.

Councillor Crooks also drew attention to issues raised by the Audit Commission in its report, which included:

- (a) post balance sheet disclosure regarding the Special Parking Account Surplus;
- (b) the misstatements identified in the Statement of Accounts, particularly those which had been corrected, relating to an understatement of fixed assets in respect of school buildings and the treatment of Section 106 monies; and
- (c) the Council's treatment of software licences.

Councillor Dransfield, as Chair of the Audit Committee, referred to the Committee's consideration of the Statement of Accounts, which had noted the Council's Accounts for 2005/06 and the Statement of Internal Control, together with the Audit Commission's intention to issue an unqualified opinion. Councillor Dransfield also drew attention to the Committee's recommendation that the Head of Finance should be authorised to agree any further amendments to the Statement of Accounts, unless material, in consultation with the Chair and Spokespersons of the Audit Committee, but noted that this recommendation would fall if the Cabinet's recommendation was carried.

On being put to the vote the recommendations were declared carried with 33 Members voting in favour, 1 Member voting against and 1 Member abstaining from voting. Councillor Edwards requested that his vote against be recorded.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Audit Commission's unqualified opinion on the 2005/06 accounts be noted.
2. That the updated 2005/06 accounts be approved.
3. That the Statement of Internal Control, that is included in the statement of accounts, be approved.
4. That a letter of representation be provided by management to the Audit Commission.

5. That Head of Finance be authorised to agree any further amendments, unless material, in consultation with appropriate Members.

(Councillors declared personal interests, as set out in the **Annex** to these Minutes.)

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.25 PM