

# Agenda Item 5(b)

## Notices of Motion

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### Enquiries and Amendments

Amendments to motions must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday 15 January 2021.

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## 1. **Helping Care Leavers in Their Next Steps**

Councillor M Bradburn (12 November 2020)

1. That this Council notes that:
  - (a) looked after young people travel a difficult path in their time in local authority care;
  - (b) there is no common age at which young people are ready to leave the structure of care; this is never more apparent than when considering accommodation, and the access to it;
  - (c) as the Corporate Parent to looked after children and care leavers, this Council has a duty to prepare young people for the reality of housing options;
  - (d) most young people cannot afford rent deposits when they first leave home; and
  - (e) around 25% of all our households in temporary accommodation are headed by people under the age of 25, often following a failure to transfer successfully to independent living, demonstrating that young people, whether or not they are in care, can sometimes struggle with accommodation.
  
2. That this Council resolves to request Cabinet to:
  - (a) ensure looked after children and care leavers are given the opportunity to consider their housing options in detail, including information about the housing market and entitlement to housing, which comprises:
    - (i) the deposits required for all types of rented housing;
    - (ii) how to access waiting lists for Registered Provider and Council housing; and
    - (iii) support to engage with any Choice Based Letting (CBL) scheme, when it is introduced.
  - (b) ensure when young people are ready to leave care, they are supported to choose the accommodation that will best suit them (given the constraints on local provision), and that they are given as much notice as possible;
  - (c) ensure thorough training and mentoring for looked after children and care leavers, so that they are supported to gain the skills for increasing independence, including managing a household and budgeting/finance skills;

- (d) encourage schools to include this information and training for all children; and
  - (e) consider providing an information pack to young people as they register to vote at 18, or via the schools, and parents educating at home, at 16.
3. That to achieve these aims, this Council also resolves to request Cabinet to:
- (a) accelerate the planned review into the current process of how looked after children and care leavers move into their next stage of accommodation, and involve the Care Leavers Housing Champion, the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee, and the Corporate Parenting Panel in reviewing any proposals;
  - (b) investigate whether care leavers would be entitled to bonds for rent deposits in the private or social housing sectors, and consider plugging any gaps in entitlement, while still helping with the selection of alternative accommodation, often more suitable, such as shared occupancy and supported accommodation; and
  - (c) consider whether more supported accommodation is needed.
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**2. Motion submitted under Council Procedure Rule 15 to rescind the resolution of the Audit Committee (1 December 2020)**

Councillors Walker, Bint, Jenkins, Marlow & Raja (9 December 2020)

1. That the Council notes the decision of the Audit Committee, held on 1 December 2020 at 6.30 pm.
2. That Council agrees to set aside the decision due illegality, irrationality and procedural impropriety, for the following reasons:
  - (a) The Committee failed to consider that it is irrational to place arbitrary time constraints on Mr Dorfman without prior discussion or agreement. As Mr Dorfman explained at the meeting, there was a large amount of work that was still necessary to be undertaken and things needed to be checked. The Committee did not ask Mr Dorfman whether it would be feasible to undertake all of this work and to produce a complete report by the deadline as set out in the resolution.
  - (b) The Committee failed to take into account the comments of Mr Dorfman that he felt it was time for a line to be drawn under his work and for someone else to takeover. The Committee also did not ask or consider whether Mr Dorfman did not want his name to be the centre of the resolution.
  - (c) The Committee failed to take into account the comments of the two independent members, who expressed their views that further work needed to be undertaken and investigated by external individuals.
  - (d) The Committee failed to exercise the Council's statutory duty of care towards Mr Dorfman who has acknowledged that he has recently been suffering from personal issues and ill health.
  - (e) The Committee passed a resolution which is factually inaccurate and misleading. Paragraph 3 of the resolution is irrational in relation to the internal audit report because it did not conclude the decision to grant planning permission was sound. The scope of the internal audit did not include the decision-making of Development Control Committee Members to resolve to grant planning permission for the warehouse.
  - (f) The Committee failed to consider the petition submitted by 587 people. Councillor Cannon explained at the outset of the meeting that he had received the petition and the Committee would need to discuss it and consider its response. There was a failure to do so and the petition was not discussed or debated at all by Members.

- (g) The Committee failed to consider the legitimate expectation given to the residents of Blakelands by Milton Keynes Council's former Deputy Chief Executive, Paul Simpson, over the external review and the letter from him dated 17 May 2019.
  - (h) The committee failed to comply with Standing Orders, finishing after 4 and a half hours and the chair did not reasonably attempt to conclude business at 4 hours.
  - (i) The committee failed to consider the 'court of public opinion' when it came to Councillor Legg and Councillor Petchey voting on final motion given they were members of the original DCC meeting. Legal advice should have been sought.
3. That Council asks Audit Committee to reconsider the matter in line with their normal procedures.
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### **3. Mellish Court and The Gables**

Councillor Walker (7 January 2021)

1. That this Council notes that:

- a) the fire safety report published in September 2020 by Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service which outlined in the event of a fire, Mellish Court and The Gables do not meet the standards now expected to prevent the risk of smoke and fire spreading between flats and floors;
- b) since 2016, the Council has consistently underspent on the Capital Programme allocations for fire safety improvements at Mellish Court and the Gables;
- c) in July 2017, at a Labour Cabinet meeting, £300,000 was promised to 'retrofit sprinklers' at Mellish Court and The Gables with a timeframe promised of 'as soon as they practically can be';
- d) actual spend to date on retrofitting sprinklers at Mellish Court and the Gables is £0.00; and
- e) Cabinet members were aware of the fire safety challenges in regards to the two buildings as far back as 2016.

2. That this Council therefore:

- a) believes MK Council has failed to be a responsible landlord to the tenants of Mellish Court and the Gables;
- b) wholeheartedly apologises to the tenants of The Gables and Mellish Court for disruption to their lives and their communities;
- c) welcomes the action plan published at a Delegated Decisions meeting on 1st December 2020 and encourages the Cabinet member to do everything possible to stick to the outlined timeframe; and
- d) requests that the Cabinet member responsible undertake a comprehensive review into the actions and progress of fire safety upgrades at Mellish Court and The Gables and provide recommendations and lessons learned so that the Council can avoid similar scenarios occurring in the future.