

Head of Democratic Services  
John Moffoot

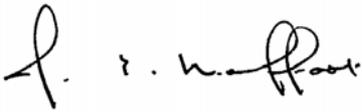
To: The Mayor and Members of  
the Milton Keynes Council

23 December 2002

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a extraordinary meeting of the **MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL** to be held at the Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes on **MONDAY 6 JANUARY 2003 at 7.30 pm** when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully



Head of Democratic Services

The proceedings at this meeting may be recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes of the meeting.

## AGENDA

Item No:

### 1. Procedure

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in the business to be transacted and officers to declare any interest in contracts to be considered by the Council.

Note: Unless there is an item on the Agenda which directly affects a Parish or Town Council of which you are a Member, you need not declare your membership of that Parish or Town Council.

- (c) Announcements

To receive announcements, if any.

### 2. Public Involvement

- (a) Deputations and Petitions

No deputations have been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

Any petitions received will be reported at the meeting.

- (b) Questions from Members of the Public

To receive questions and provide answers to questions from members of the public.

### 3. Business Remaining from 12 November 2002 Meeting

- (a) Members' Matters

- (i) Notices of Motion - Public Private Partnership: Consultation with Parish Councils

Councillor Bristow - 31 October 2002

"That Milton Keynes Council, recognising the true value of Partnership Working with the Parish Councils, in its area, hereby confirms it will defer further consideration of its Public Private Partnership programme until it has undertaken proper and meaningful discussions with ALL Parishes, within this Council's area, on an individual basis, on all aspects and elements, of the current Public Private Partnership negotiations now in progress, that may or could be provided, or any part thereof, of services now provided by Milton Keynes Council and that it may wish to include within any Public Private Partnership contract, which could or might, be inherited by any Parish, by devolution or any

other means, of that service, during the lifetime of any agreed contract by this Council, or one that this Council is minded to enter into, and:

1. hereby gives an undertaking that any such negotiations or discussions on the Public Private Partnership will not be concluded until such discussions have been completed with **ALL** Parishes within the Milton Keynes Borough;
2. confirms that all documents connected or associated with the Public Private Partnership process, will be made available and explained to **ALL** Parishes when entering into such negotiations, and that Milton Keynes Council agrees to provide, and pay for, any independent assessment of those papers if so requested by any Parish;
3. that such discussions be conducted on a full and 'equal partnership' basis and not one of 'this is what we have decided you are having';
4. confirms that if any Parish Council objects to the adoption of such services as are reasonably offered, or that are instructed by any other body, i.e. Central Government, neither the Parish, nor the electorate represented by that Parish will be penalised in any way whatsoever; and
5. includes within ALL elements of any final contract document agreed between Milton Keynes Council and the provider of any and all such service provision under the Public Private Partnership agreement, clauses and adequate safeguards that will permit any Parish to terminate on reasonable grounds, any or all provision of elements of that agreement entered into by Milton Keynes Council under this arrangement, without any penalty or liability whatsoever falling upon that Parish."

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 15.1, this motion has been signed by Councillors Bristow, Campbell, Lloyd, Long and Saunders.

(ii) Forward Plan and Performance Information

Councillor K Wilson - 28 October 2002

"That the Council notes the latest Forward Plan and the performance information considered by the Cabinet on the 29 October and asks the Cabinet to listen to Members' comments made at this meeting".

The Council is advised that Councillor K Wilson has withdrawn this motion.

(b) Members' Questions

- (i) Members to ask questions of either the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.
- (ii) Members to ask questions of Councillor S Coventry, the Member appointed by the Police Authority to answer questions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act

The following questions have been submitted for this meeting:

**Question from Councillor Eastman to Councillor Coventry:**

“A resident has provided evidence of alleged drug dealing from a house close to where they live but no action has been taken. This alleged drug dealing has been going on for some months and there are numerous visitors to the house, including school children:

1. What is the Police policy in dealing with such cases where there is evidence that drug dealing is taking place?
2. What support do the Police offer residents when they report such incidents, in particular by bringing such dealing to an end?
3. If the reason to be provided is lack of resource, when do the Police expect to have sufficient resource to remove this menace from society?”

**Answer from Councillor Coventry:**

- “1. Police receive information on almost a daily basis from numerous sources: members of the public, schools, other public bodies and neighbourhood watch, to name but a few. This information may concern drugs, burglary, vandalism or indeed other community safety issues, such as nuisance youths etc. Every effort must be made to validate this information before it is acted upon.

In the case of alleged drugs offences it is common for Officers to observe the activity for themselves for evidential and identification purposes before arrests can be made. Good evidence is vital to secure convictions and can take some time to collect.

2. Some people contacting the police wish to remain anonymous whilst others are happy to reveal their identities. However, it is recognised that people who supply such information may be concerned for their own safety and every attempt is made to ensure that these people are given as much support as deemed necessary, and that their identities are not made known, should a fear of reprisals exist. The Milton Keynes Police Area takes a

very serious view of drug dealing on any level, but also recognises the important role that partnership agencies can play in addressing the problem in a holistic way.

3. The overall level of resources is determined by the Police Authority and not the Police and in view of the finite nature of those resources, strategic operational priorities will be determined by the Chief Constable. The issue of drugs is taken very seriously at both Force level and at Area level and resources are apportioned appropriately to reflect this. The issue of Tackling Drugs is likely to be a key feature of the Thames Valley Police Three-Year Policing Strategy.

Any person who has any queries or concerns regarding the issue of drugs within the Milton Keynes Police Area should refer them to the Area Commander. Any person wishing to do so will be given complete confidentiality and anonymity.”

**Question from Councillor Eastman to Councillor Coventry:**

“In the last three months over 4000 graffiti tags have been removed, but the vandals return and apply more graffiti:

1. What is the Police policy in managing the problem of graffiti vandals?
2. How many graffiti vandals have been ‘caught’ in the past three months?
3. What is the most common action taken against them?
4. What action do the police take when residents or the council provide them with leads on graffiti vandals and what support can the residents expect?

If the reason to be provided is lack of resource, when do the Police expect to have sufficient resource to manage this vandalism from society ?”

**Answer from Councillor Coventry:**

- “1. Police policy is to deal robustly with criminal damage, in particular any which might be construed as falling into the category of ‘hate crime’. In addressing the problems the Police work with its partners, principally the Graffiti Team at Milton Keynes Council.
2. Over 150 people have been arrested in the last three months in relation to various offences of criminal damage.
3. Of these, a good number have been bailed pending further enquiries, in 41 cases there was insufficient evidence to justify proceedings and 55 have been

charged and 7 cautioned.

4. Dependent upon such factors as the severity of the offence, the nature of the victim and the offender details the Police respond appropriately based upon the National Intelligence model. The information is evaluated and tasked to the most appropriate resource, which could range from the Graffiti team to photograph (for possible later evidence) and remove, to detectives to investigate the damage involving serious racist graffiti. All residents now have a Beat Officer covering their area and as such we would expect the Beat officer to be involved and to be aware of all local issues, including graffiti. If the issue is school related the new Safer Schools Partnership police officer covering that school would also be involved.
5. In view of the finite resources available to the Police, all demands have to be prioritised accordingly. Issues such as graffiti are best tackled through working in partnership with other agencies."

**Question from Councillor Mabbutt to Councillor Coventry:**

"Can the Council's representative on the Thames Valley Police Authority please confirm, or deny, that Thames Valley Police has taken a policy decision to reduce the level of policing in the rural areas of Milton Keynes in favour of increasing police presence in Central Milton Keynes?"

**Answer from Councillor Coventry:**

"I am advised by the Area Commander, who has responsibility for operational matters, that there is no policy decision to reduce levels of policing in rural areas. On the contrary, all but one of the officers freed-up as a result of the ongoing Police Redeployment Programme, have gone to the 'sectors' which include our rural areas. Additional city-based patrols, which are particularly required at the weekends when up to 40,000 people come to the area for evening entertainment, have been resourced by 'visibility patrols', which use staff who normally perform office-based duties."

(c) Membership of Committees

The Council is asked to note that Councillor Geary has replaced Councillor Bartlett on the Development Control Committee and Councillor Jury has replaced Councillor Geary on the Appeals Commission.

(d) Councillor P Bartlett

The Council is advised that Councillor P Bartlett has served notice, in accordance with Regulation 10 of the Local Government (Committee and Political Groups) Regulations 1989, that he no longer wishes to be

treated as a member of the Conservative Group.

Accountable Officer: John Moffoot (Head of Democratic Services) MK252314.

Background Papers: E-mail from Councillor Bartlett

#### **4. Business Remaining from 10 December 2002 Meeting**

##### **(a) Members' Matters**

##### **(i) Notices of Motions**

##### **1. Traffic Management - Junction 14 of M1 Motorway**

Councillor Bartlett - 12 November 2002

"That the Council is asked to note that Junction 14 of the M1 is subject to very poor traffic management and it will often take one hour to travel from Northfield roundabout to the junction at peak times, a distance of about 300 yards.

That the Council is further asked to note that:

1. as a result, there are delays to coaches and schedules become meaningless so operators may pull out of Milton Keynes;
2. passengers (many of whom may be elderly or have a disability) exit from cars and taxis laden with their luggage to stagger across the carriageway so as not to miss their coach;
3. coach and commercial vehicle drivers could find themselves having to stop work due to hours of work constraints;
4. car drivers become frustrated;
5. air quality is poor;
6. businesses will pass on additional costs to their customers; and
7. emergency vehicles to Newport Pagnell and to the M1 become snarled up in the congestion.

That the Council calls on the Cabinet Member for Environment (Transport) to convene an emergency meeting of all interested stakeholders (Coach operators, emergency services, Council Officers, English Partnerships, Chamber of Commerce, road users, interested Milton Keynes Council Councillors) prior to Christmas 2002, the site to be visited by car or minibus so as to experience the problems first hand, in order that urgent consideration to this problem can be given, with a defined programme for action and improvement being

produced and implemented by the end of the financial year 2002/03”.

2. Central Milton Keynes - Pay and Display Parking Scheme  
Councillor Dransfield - 27 November 2002  
“That the Council, recognising the tremendous damage being done to the retail sector in Central Milton Keynes and the potential for significant job losses, by the recently imposed extended parking regime, agrees to suspend immediately all parking charges in Central Milton Keynes, East of Saxon Gate, until the next meeting of this Council”.
3. Milton Keynes Transport Partnership - Parking Sub-Group  
Councillor Dransfield - 27 November 2002  
“That the Council strongly urges the Cabinet Member responsible for Pay and Display parking to attend future meetings of the Parking Sub-Group of the Milton Keynes Transport Partnership so that he can face up to the realities of the damage being done to the economy of Milton Keynes by the extended Pay and Display scheme in Central Milton Keynes”.
4. Parish Council Precepts  
Councillor K Wilson - 28 November 2002  
“That the Council requests that the Cabinet address the issues identified by the MK13 Group of Parish Councils within the forthcoming years budget considerations.  
That the Council recognises the unfairness created to Parish Councils with low Council Tax valuations being forced, as a consequence, into setting higher precept levels than areas with relatively high Council tax valuations.”
5. Performance Data and Cabinet Plans, Proposals and Policies  
Councillor K Wilson - 28 November 2002  
“That the Council notes all the latest performance data as well as the pressures and problems facing the Authority and notes the latest plans, proposals and policies of the Cabinet.”  
A copy of the latest report on Performance Indicators considered by the Cabinet on 19 November 2002 is attached at Item 4 (**Pages 11 to 39**).

(ii) Members' Questions

1. Members to ask questions of either the Leader, a Cabinet Member, the Chair of any Committee, or the Leader of a Political Group on the Council.
2. Members to ask questions of Councillor S Coventry, the Member appointed by the Police Authority to answer questions, in accordance with Section 20 of the Police Act 1996. (In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 10.5, 7 clear days notice is required for Police Authority questions.)

**Questions from Councillor Bartlett to Councillor Coventry :**

1. "How many prosecutions and or penalty tickets have been issued in the Milton Keynes area in the last twelve months for:
  - (a) Car Tax evasion;
  - (b) non wearing of seat belts;
  - (c) driving without headlights on in relevant weather conditions;
  - (d) speeding but not caught by speed cameras;
  - (e) driving with fog lights on in inappropriate conditions; and
  - (f) failing to have headlights on in appropriate conditions?"
2. "What percentage of police officer time is spent 'walking the beat' per officer in the Milton Keynes area each calendar month?"
3. "What is the average number of police officers on duty and able to respond to calls for assistance or instances per head of the population in Milton Keynes in any 24 hour period?"

**Answer from Councillor Coventry:**

- "1. The totals for the Milton Keynes Police Area from 1 November 2001 to 30 October 2002 are as follows:
  - (a) Car tax evasion statistics are not held by the Police Area and need to be obtained from the DVLA.
  - (b) Non-wearing of seatbelts - 446.

- (c) Driving without headlights on in relevant weather conditions - 0.
  - (d) Speeding but not caught by speed cameras:
    - Excess speed above 30 miles per hour - 332.
    - Excess speed above 40 miles per hour - 5.
  - (e) Driving with fog lights on in inappropriate conditions - 102.
  - (f) Failing to have headlights on in appropriate conditions - this is the same question as (c) above.
2. The only formally recorded information held regarding police officer patrol time is from an activity analysis which was obtained during a two week shapshot in October 2001. This particular study showed that 13.9% of police constable time was spent on visible patrol and 2% on targeted patrol.
3. An estimated average number of police officers on duty responding to calls for assistance would be as follows:
- (a) 45 Core Reactive Shift Officers
  - (b) 8 CID officers
  - (c) 10 Traffic officers
  - (d) 2 Dog Handlers
  - (e) 20 Area Beat Officers

This provides a total of 85 officers. Milton Keynes currently operates a three shift system and so the numbers of officers actually on duty can vary due to, for example, court commitments, deployments elsewhere, training courses, etc. In addition, the shifts pattern is geared to demand and it is expected to have more officers on duty during these busier periods.”