

# Agenda Item 5(b)

## Amendments to Motions

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### Enquiries

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

Councillor Brackenbury moved the following amendment:

- “1. That the words ‘request that the Cabinet consider factoring in the ending of the transition period, and the potential of a no-deal Brexit, in the COVID-19 recovery plan for Milton Keynes’ be deleted and replaced with ‘request that the Cabinet factor in the effect of the Government’s replacement for furlough, as well as the potential of a no-deal Brexit in their continuing work on the COVID-19 recovery plan’ in clause 3. b)
2. That additional clause 3. d) be added after clause 3. c):
  - d) lobby the Government for continued support of viable businesses forced to remain closed by Government COVID restrictions, and for more honesty and clarity on the terms of Brexit”

### **The motion, if amended would read:**

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.

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 effect of the Government's replacement for furlough, as well as the potential of a no-deal Brexit in their continuing work on the COVID-19 recovery plan;
    - (c) lobby the Conservative Government to financially support councils during this time to help mitigate the impact of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic; and
    - (d) lobby the Government for continued support of viable businesses forced to remain closed by Government COVID restrictions, and for more honesty and clarity on the terms of Brexit.

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

Councillor Rankine moved the following amendment:

- “1. That the word 'drastic' be deleted from clause 1. b)
2. That additional clause 1.b) be added:
  - b) UK and EU negotiators are currently working to conclude a free trade deal that will be mutually beneficial to both parties and which would give back UK control of its laws, its borders and its trade with the rest of the world.

and existing clause 1. b) be renumbered 1. c) accordingly
3. That the words 'will impact heavily on them' be deleted and replaced with 'may impact them' in renumbered clause 1. c) i)
4. That the words 'However, the UK's new immigration system will allow the UK to access more of the skills it needs from around the world.' be added at the end of renumbered clause 1. c) ii)

5. That the words 'that will be' be deleted and replaced with 'that may be' and the words 'with no trade agreement covering services or free movement of personnel' be deleted and replaced with 'if no trade agreement covering services is agreed by EU-UK negotiators' in renumbered clause 1. c) iii)
6. That the words 'the lack' be deleted and replaced with 'a lack' and the word 'will' with be replaced with 'would' in renumbered clause 1. c) v)
7. That the words 'will be severely impacted' be deleted and replaced with 'will change' in clause 2.
8. That clause 3. a) be deleted and replaced with a new clause 3. a):
  - a) work with Milton Keynes businesses and service organisations to identify new Brexit opportunities and work with them to help deliver these opportunities."

**The motion, if amended would read:**

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) UK and EU negotiators are currently working to conclude a free trade deal that will be mutually beneficial to both parties and which would give back UK control of its laws, its borders and its trade with the rest of the world.
  - (c) 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 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, may impact 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. However, the UK's new immigration system will allow the UK to access more of the skills it needs from around the world;
    - (iii) Milton Keynes has a large financial services sector that may be impacted by the expected move of European and American businesses to mainland Europe, if no trade agreement covering services is agreed by EU-UK negotiators;

- (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; a lack of funding agreements and freedom of movement would impact them heavily.
2. That this Council also notes that worldwide trade and freedom of movement will change. 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 new Brexit opportunities and work with them to help deliver these opportunities;
  - (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 COVID19 pandemic.

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

Councillor Marland moved the following amendment:

- “1. That the word ‘perceived,’ be inserted after ‘The,’ and that the additional words “by the main opposition party do not take into account the improvement work taking place across the service, which should be highlighted to alleviate those concerns,’ be inserted after the word ‘department.’ in clause 1. b)

- 2) That additional clause 1. c) be inserted:

The work of the Planning Improvement Board, welcomes the Planning Improvement Action Plan as noted by Development Control Committee, highlights the recent improvement on enforcement issues and the current consultation taking place on the restructure of the Planning Department to address performance issues, and believes these improvements should be welcomed.

And original clauses 1. c) – 1. f) be renumbered 1. d) – 1. g)
- 3) That all words before ‘highlighted,’ in original clause 1. c) are deleted and replaced with ‘Concerns’
- 4) That all words after ‘application,’ in original clause 1. c) are deleted and replaced with ‘and asks the Chair of Planning to make a statement at the next Development Control Committee on the matter.’
- 5) That all words after ‘delays,’ in original clause 1. d) are deleted and replaced with ‘and apologises unreservedly to residents for that delay.’
- 6) That additional clauses 1. f) – 1. h) be inserted:
  - f) The work of the Newport Pagnell South ward councillors in seeking the answers the residents want on the issue of 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands and their disappointment with the delay in the review.
  - g) The finding by Internal Audit that there is no basis to corroborate a specific allegation of officer interference in the independent report.
  - h) The public statement by Mr Dorfman that he has not encountered any undue interference in his investigation and awaits his report.

and renumbered clauses 1. e) and 1. f) be renumbered as 1. i) and 1. j) accordingly.
- 7) That the word ‘contentious,’ be deleted in original clause in 1. e)
- 8) That the words ‘although they did not approach the council, Leader or Chief Executive before doing so with their concerns, did not provide Milton Keynes Council with a copy of the letter which was then circulated to the media and expresses disappointment at this poor behaviour’ be inserted after the word ‘department’ in original clause 1. f)
- 9) That additional clauses 1. k) – 1. m) be added after renumbered clause 1. i):
  - k) The failure of the immediate former Chair of Development Control Committee to bring forward any clear actions to address issues within the planning department and their failure to constructively address these issues with all councillors and officers and welcomes the more constructive and positive approach by the new Chair of the Development Control Committee.

- l) That there have been clear problems in the planning service in the past and reiterates the commitment of this council to improve the service and address any issues that may arise from the independent report.
  - m) That the Development Control Committee exercises a quasi-judicial function and the creeping attempts to politicise its proceeding, or to use it as a forum to criticise council officers who have no right of reply, impedes its ability to function properly and badly services MK residents.
- 10) That the words 'or before if appropriate,' be added after the word 'December' in clause 2. a)"

**The motion, if amended would read:**

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 perceived 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 by the main opposition party do not take into account the improvement work taking place across the service, which should be highlighted to alleviate those concerns.
  - c) The work of the Planning Improvement Action Plan as noted by Development Control Committee, highlights the recent improvement on enforcement issues and the current consultation taking place on the restructure of the Planning Department to address performance issues, and believes these improvements should be welcomed.
  - d) Concerns highlighted most recently by the Walnut Tree Reserve A & D, Hindhead Knoll application and asks the Chair of DCC to make a statement at the next Development Control Committee on the matter.
  - e) The lack of public trust and confidence in the independent report into the 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands, development due to severe delays and apologises unreservedly to residents for that delay.
  - f) The work of the Newport Pagnell South ward councillors in seeking the answers the residents want on the issue of 1 Yeomans Drive, Blakelands and their disappointment with the delay in the review.
  - g) The finding by Internal Audit that there is no basis to corroborate a specific allegation of officer interference in the independent report.
  - h) The public statement by Mr Dorfman that he has not encountered any undue interference in his investigation and awaits his report.

- i) 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 infrastructure projects such as the proposed new bridge over the M1.
  - j) 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 although they did not approach the council, Leader or Chief Executive before doing so with their concerns, did not provide Milton Keynes Council with a copy of the letter which was then circulated to the media and expresses disappointment at this poor behaviour.
  - k) The failure of the immediate former Chair of Development Control Committee to bring forward any clear actions to address issues within the planning department and their failure to constructively address these issues with councillors and officers, and welcomes the more constructive and positive approach by the new Chair of the Development Control Committee.
  - l) That there have been clear problems in the planning service in the past and reiterates the commitment of this council to improve the service and address any issues that may arise from the independent report.
  - m) That the Development Control Committee exercises a quasi-judicial function and the creeping attempts to politicise its proceeding, or to use it as a forum to criticise council officers who have no right of reply, impedes its ability to function properly and badly services MK residents.
2. That this Council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council:
- a) to give a written statement at Cabinet on 15th December or before if appropriate, 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.
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