

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

23 AUGUST 2016

7.00 PM

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES,
CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES**

A G E N D A

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/scrutiny

Councillor C Williams (Chair)
Councillors Ganatra and Wallis (Vice-Chairs)
Councillors Burke, Ferrans, Geaney, Hosking, Jenkins, Khan, D McCall, and Webb

For more information about the meeting please contact Elizabeth Richardson on (01908) 252629 or e-mail: Elizabeth.Richardson@milton-keynes.gov.uk

What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Each local authority is required by law to establish an overview and scrutiny function to support and scrutinise its executive arrangements.

Each scrutiny committee or task and finish group has its own remit as set out in its terms of reference but they each meet to consider issues of local importance and have a number of key roles:

1. Providing a critical friend challenge to policy makers and decision makers
2. Enabling the voice and concerns of the public
3. Driving improvement in public services.

The scrutiny committees consider issues by receiving information from, and the questioning of, both council officers and external witnesses / partners to develop an understanding of proposals or practices. As scrutiny committees have no executive powers they often present their conclusions in the form of recommendations to the Cabinet, full Council, council officers, or external partners that they believe will improve performance, or as a response to public consultations. The Committee will often request a formal response and progress report on the implementation of recommendations that they have provided to various parties.

Attending Meetings of Scrutiny Committees / Task and Finish Groups

Meetings of scrutiny committees and task and finish groups are held in public and are open for everyone to attend. If you would like to attend then please just turn up. However, if you would like to make a representation to councillors on behalf of yourself or others, then let us know you are attending before the meeting so that the Chair can be advised in advance.

If there are specific issues that the meeting must consider in private then they will be asked to agree this at the meeting.

After the meeting the recommendations and Minutes of the meeting, as well as agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings are available via the Council's website at:

(<http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic/>).

The Scrutiny process aims to promote the vision, values and objectives set out in the Milton Keynes Council Plan

The Council Plan 2016-20 ([Council Plan 2016-20](#)) sets out how Milton Keynes Council will work to achieve its ambitions for Milton Keynes. Within it are the priorities the Council will address between 2016 and 2020, together with a detailed delivery plan showing what will be done and the main milestones along the way.

Milton Keynes Council wants to enable a 21st Century city whilst preserving what makes us special; an internationally recognised centre of prosperity, economic innovation and cultural creativity, in a high quality green space and built environment.

Vision:

To develop a thriving, dynamic European Destination City and to ensure a fair, hardworking and more equal Milton Keynes for all.

Values:

To become a co-operative borough where customers are put first, everyone works as team and makes a difference every day.

Objectives:

A City of Opportunity

Milton Keynes has limitless potential. We want every person to have the chance of a good, well paid job and the skills to do it in a more equal society; a prosperous Milton Keynes with a strong, diverse economy that has an international reputation for innovation. We are in the right place to succeed, taking advantage of our excellent links to the wider regional, national and international economies, building on our success in the service and professional industries and taking advantage of new opportunities in a knowledge-based, high skilled economy. We will support people to succeed, develop the skills they need to access well paid employment and have the opportunity to meet their potential.

An Affordable City

We want to create communities that can attract, retain and enable people from every background. Milton Keynes has been built on meeting the aspirations of people to live in a good home at a price they can afford to rent or buy, and businesses being able to access high quality, affordable premises that meet their needs. We will promote more affordable good quality housing and create the space for business to thrive. We want to ensure citizens have access to high quality services, a well maintained built environment and green space, and a range of facilities and cultural offers that are the fabric of any modern diverse and successful city.

A Healthy City

We will ensure lifelong wellbeing for all. We want Milton Keynes to be an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives. We will support people and invest in services that promote prevention, choice and empowerment. We will reform public services to encourage aspiration, independence and resilience; ensure children and vulnerable people are protected from harm and neglect and work with partners to integrate services, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

General Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Committees and Task and Finish Groups

- (a) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (b) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or to the Cabinet with respect to the discharge of any of the Executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group
- (c) To review or scrutinise any decision made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (d) To make reports or recommendations to the Council or any Committee of the Council with respect to the discharge of any of the Non-executive Functions within the remit of the committee or task and finish group.
- (e) To make reports or recommendations to the Council, to the Cabinet or to a regulatory committee on matters within the remit of the committee or task and finish group
- (f) To consider any representations made in connection with the work of the committee or review group by a Member of the Council on behalf of her/his constituents.
- (g) To appoint advisers from outside the Council to advise the committees or task and finish groups.

Housing and Community Committee Terms of Reference

1. To scrutinise the planning and provision of housing services in Milton Keynes and the Council's role as landlord, to ensure that these services provide good quality, affordable accommodation for the Council's tenants and to create a sense of place for all citizens of Milton Keynes.
2. To review the availability and provision of housing in Milton Keynes, including the impact of the Council's planning policies.
3. To review and assess measures to address homelessness and rough sleeping in Milton Keynes.
4. To seek to ensure that the anticipated needs and aspirations of future Milton Keynes' residents are met in the planning and delivery of new housing developments.
5. To scrutinise the planning and provision of leisure and cultural services provided by the Council and its partners.
6. To scrutinise the involvement of the Council in regional and national organisations operating within the remit of the Committee to ensure that the involvement provides value and benefit to Milton Keynes.

Health and Safety

Please take a few moments to familiarise yourself with the nearest available fire exit, indicated by the fire evacuation signs. In the event of an alarm sounding during the meeting you must evacuate the building immediately and follow all instructions provided by the fire evacuation officer who will identify him/herself should the alarm sound. You will be assisted to the nearest designated assembly point until it is safe to return to the building.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that your mobile phone is switched to silent or is switched off completely during the meeting.

Agenda

Agendas and reports for the majority of the Council's public meetings can be accessed via the Internet at: <http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/> Wi-Fi access is available in the Council's meeting rooms.

Users of Windows 7 and above can simply click the link to any documents you wish to see. Users of Windows XP will need to right click on the link and select 'open in browser'.

Recording of Meetings

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

In accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, you can film, photograph, record or use social media at any Council meetings that are open to the public. If you are reporting the proceedings, please respect other members of the public at the meeting who do not want to be filmed. You should also not conduct the reporting so that it disrupts the good order and conduct of the meeting. While you do not need permission, you can contact the Council's staff in advance of the meeting to discuss facilities for reporting the proceedings and a contact is included on the front of the agenda, or you can liaise with staff at the meeting.

Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government can be viewed at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/343182/14_0812_Openness_Guide.pdf

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

Milton Keynes Council welcomes comments, complaints and compliments from members of the public in order to make its services as efficient and effective as possible. We would appreciate any suggestions regarding the usefulness of the paperwork for this meeting, or the conduct of the meeting you have attended.

Please e-mail your comments to scrutiny@milton-keynes.gov.uk

If you require a response please leave contact details, ideally including an e-mail address. A formal comments / compliments / complaints form is available online at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/complaints/> .

AGENDA

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair to welcome councillors, officers of the Council, witnesses and the public to the meeting and introduce councillors, officers and witnesses who are present.

2. **Apologies**

3. **Disclosures of Interest**

Councillors to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests, or personal interests (including other pecuniary interests), they may have in the business to be transacted, and officers to disclose any interests they may have in any contract to be considered.

4. **Minutes**

To approve, and the Chair to sign as a correct record, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Housing and Community Committee held on 14 July 2016 (Item 4) (**Pages 9 to 33**).

5. **Alternative Forms of Housing**

The current homelessness crisis is not just about individuals sleeping rough on the streets of Milton Keynes. The vast majority of applicants to the Council seeking housing provision are family units with varying needs. There is a shortage of social / affordable housing in the area and many of those seeking help from the Council have to be housed in temporary accommodation, very often outside the Milton Keynes area.

It is no longer the case that one solution will fit all circumstances and although the Council is committed to building 28,000 new homes over the next ten years and the Leader has announced that 35% of all new developments in Milton Keynes will be affordable or social housing, there is a need to seek innovative, cost effective alternative housing provision in the short to medium term.

The attached briefing note looks at some of these solutions and gives examples of where they have been used successfully elsewhere (the list is by no means exhaustive). However, it is not just a case of identifying a scheme for the provision of such homes, other issues such as land availability, planning permission and the impact on established local communities all need to be considered.

The Committee is invited to consider possible alternative forms of housing which might be suitable for use in Milton Keynes and if appropriate, make recommendations to Cabinet for progressing these schemes (Item 5) (**Pages 34 to 41**).

6. **Draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy**

To review and comment on the Council's draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy.

At its meeting on 11 July, the Cabinet considered the new draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy, making the following recommendations:

1. That the draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy be agreed for consultation.

2. That the Housing and Communities Committee be requested to provide comment on the draft Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy.
3. That the Council aim to achieve a significant cultural shift across the service away from being a path into social housing towards helping people to find housing solutions.
4. That the Council seeks to work differently with a range of partners to prevent homelessness, and to increase advice and information, including considering a “One Stop Shop” to bring help and support together.
5. That an additional recommendation be inserted into the draft Strategy to read *“Consider how the Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy aligns with the emerging work on non-statutory homelessness and the implementation of the Homelessness Task and Finish Group Report to ensure a single unified approach to all Homelessness across the Council and wider City’.*
6. That an additional recommendation be inserted into the draft Strategy to read *‘Consider developing a scheme with the private rented sector to secure longer term assured tenancies’.*
7. That an additional recommendation be inserted into the draft Strategy to read *‘Consider ways to prevent homeless applicants from the parental family home, with the exception of violent situations’.*
8. That an additional recommendation be inserted into the Draft Strategy to read *‘To consider how applicants should be required to access training and education opportunities, where appropriate’.*
9. That a further report be submitted to the next meeting of the Cabinet that sets out an approach towards meeting the housing needs of other, non-statutory households.

The Strategy will be going out for public consultation and it is therefore important for the Committee to scrutinise the Strategy and ensure that its comments and recommendations are included in the consultation process (Item 6) (**pages 42 to 51**).

7. Task and Finish Group Action Plans

To review and comment on the progress made against the recommendations made by the Housing Allocations Scheme and Homeless Task and Finish Groups in 2015/16

Council officers have been working on the implementation of the said recommendations and have charted their progress against the recommendations which are included as Items 7(a) and 7(b) (**Pages 52 to 62**).

8. Work Programme

To receive and note the updated Work Programme for 2016/17 (Item 8) (**pages 63 to 65**).

Please note that this is a provisional Work Programme which may change at the discretion of the Committee’s Planning Group if an urgent matter arises.

9. Site Visit to Emmaus Community, Carlton, Bedfordshire

Emmaus Village, Carlton, is a charity providing active support to formerly homeless people. It provides a workable alternative to homelessness, offering people a home as part of a thriving community, as well as meaningful work in its social enterprise activities.

A group of councillors and Council officers visited the Emmaus Community at Carlton on 4 August. A short note on the findings from the visit is included as Item 9 of this agenda **(pages 66 to 68)**.