

COUNCIL DECISIONS

20 MARCH 2013

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
1(b).	<p>Minutes</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 20 February 2013 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.</p>		Democratic Services Manager
1(c).	<p>Disclosure of Interests</p> <p>Councillor Brock disclosed a personal interest in Item 5(b)(ii) (NHS Privatisation) as a Council representative to the Council of Governors of the Milton Keynes NHS General Hospital.</p> <p>Councillor Wales disclosed a pecuniary interest in Item 5(b)(ii) (NHS Privatisation) as an employee of Milton Keynes Citizens Newspaper and withdrew to the public gallery during consideration of that Item.</p> <p>Councillor Morris disclosed a pecuniary interest in Item 4 (Statutory Pay Policy) as her partner was a senior officer of the Council, and left the Council Chamber during consideration of that Item.</p> <p>Councillor Bradburn disclosed a pecuniary interest in a question to be asked of the Leader of the Council at member Question Time, relating to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs proposal to close it network of enquiry centres.</p>		Democratic Services Manager
4(b)	<p>Questions from a Members of the Public – Housing Issues</p> <p>Responses from Councillor P Geary to be sent to Mr and Mrs Bobey.</p>		Democratic Services Manager

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4	<p>Statutory Pay Policy</p> <p>That the Pay Policy Statement for the Financial Year 2012/13 be approved.</p>		Strategic Human Resources Manager
5(a)	<p>Members' Questions</p> <p>(a) Councillor A Geary to request officers to consult with appropriate partner organisations with regard to formulating a potential response to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs proposal to close it network of enquiry centres.</p> <p>(b) Councillor Hopkins to look into the proposal to move the Central Milton Keynes Crown Post Office and respond to Councillor Wallis.</p> <p>(c) Councillor Brock to request officers to look at the appropriateness of charging for Blue Badges, bearing in mind the costs of administering the scheme.</p> <p>(d) Councillor Marland to be supplied with costs of final settlements for contracts relating to Secklow Gate Bridge and Wolverton Station Refurbishment.</p> <p>(e) Councillor Hopkins to provide Councillor Barney with details of the plans for the roll out of high speed Broadband across Milton Keynes.</p> <p>(f) Councillor Bint to supply Councillor Legg details of expenditure over the last three years on road resurfacing and pot hole repair in West Bletchley.</p> <p>(g) Councillor Bint to supply Councillor D McCall details of the programme of road sign replacement, including road signs replaced over the last year.</p>		<p>Director of Strategy / Leader of the Council</p> <p>Councillor Hopkins</p> <p>Corporate Director Community Wellbeing</p> <p>Assistant Director (Highways and Transport)</p> <p>Councillor Hopkins</p> <p>Assistant Director (Highways and Transport)</p> <p>Assistant Director (Highways and Transport)</p>

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5(a) (cont)	<p>(h) Councillor P Geary to advise Councillor Coventry as to the number of Council Tenants potentially affected by the 'spare bedroom tax' and whether the Council would be able to accommodate all those tenants in an appropriately sized house if the tenants wished.</p> <p>(i) Councillor A Geary to inform Councillor Miles of any actions being taken to limit any reputational damage to the image of Milton Keynes arising from recent press reports about performance of Milton Keynes Hospital.</p>		<p>Assistant Director (Housing) / Councillor P Geary</p> <p>Director of Strategy / Leader of the Council</p>
5(b)(i)	<p>Fire Service Privatisation</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. notes the Labour Party's policy positions on Mutuels before the last General Election, as referenced in the Guardian article dated 11 November 2009; 2. notes the hysteria that is being created by the Shadow Minister for Communities and Local Government (Chris Williamson MP) and the Fire Brigades Union over the decision by the Labour-controlled Cleveland Combined Fire Authority (13 Labour, 5 Conservative, 3 Independent and 2 Liberal Democrat) to explore options including a public sector employee-led mutual, as set out in a press release dated 20 September 2012 from Cleveland Combined Fire Authority; 3. notes that the Cleveland Chief Fire Officer, Ian Hayton, stated, 'It would be absolutely wrong to suggest that a public sector, employee-led mutual is privatisation and it is mere scaremongering to suggest so', adding, 'the brigade's purpose was not to make money but to keep communities safe'; 		

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5(b)(i) (cont)	<p>4. notes that the Fire Minister and Minister for the Cabinet Office stated, ‘attempts to characterise employee-led mutualisation as privatisation are wrong’, as set out in their press release dated 14 February 2013;</p> <p>6. notes that the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Combined Fire Authority has not received a request by employees to set up a mutual; and</p> <p>7. notes that the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Combined Fire Authority, which is responsible for the fire service that serves Milton Keynes, will remain statutorily responsible for this public service which is one of the best value in the country and, as long as its costs are low and the service provision reliable, is unlikely to risk adverse public reaction by introducing mutualisation of its vital emergency response teams.</p>		
5(b)(ii)	<p>Milton Keynes Hospital</p> <p>1. That this Council welcomes the launch of a campaign by the Citizen newspaper and local MPs to highlight the need for a new larger Accident and Emergency Unit, as supported by the Prime Minister, at Milton Keynes Hospital NHS foundation Trust (MKHFT) and the recent appointment of a full time Chief Executive.</p> <p>2. That this Council is concerned about the:</p> <p>(a) staff shortages at Milton Keynes Hospital highlighted by the Care Quality Commission and notes that details of additional nursing requirements will be presented to the MKHFT board at its March Meeting;</p>		

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5(b)(ii) (cont)	<p>(b) pressures upon the hospital Accident and Emergency Unit highlighted in Parliament on 15 January 2013 and notes that the existing provision was originally built in 1984 to care for 20,000 patients per year, but sees now 70,000 (200 patients per day);</p> <p>(c) financial constraints on the Hospital and notes commissioners' support for the sustainability of the local acute provision for the long term;</p> <p>(d) potential damage that misguided scaremongering about privatisation of the NHS has to public confidence and notes that MKHFT is seeking to join with another NHS partner, Bedford Hospital;</p> <p>(e) findings from the Mid Staffordshire public inquiry which highlighted that many patients were let down by a culture that put cost-cutting and target-chasing ahead of the quality of care; and</p> <p>(f) privatisation of the excellent NHS Direct service in Milton Keynes and its replacement with a new service based on using fewer trained medical staff; and that the new privatised contractor may reduce standards of advice given the evidence from its other contracts covering Wiltshire, Bristol and Gloucestershire, which in turn may put extra pressure on our excellent hard working GPs, Accident and Emergency Unit and Ambulance service and put patient safety at risk.</p>		

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5(b)(ii) (cont)	<p>3. That this Council:</p> <p>(a) welcomes the excellent work of Milton Keynes Hospital staff and MKHFT's commitment to get all clinical pathways working efficiently and to maximum effect, supports the excellent partnership working to achieve that end, in addition to physical improvement in the built environment across emergency care;</p> <p>(b) supports the Citizen newspaper campaign for the re-provision of accident and emergency accommodation to manage projected patient volumes and improve quality as part of the Hospital's Common Front Door project;</p> <p>© believes that the quality of care should be paramount;</p> <p>(d) agrees to write to the Secretary of State for Health seeking extra funding for a larger Accident and Emergency Unit and notes that following a motion to Cabinet in April last year, both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive wrote to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Health expressing how much Milton Keynes Hospital was valued and that the Council would wish to see these services supported and improved into the future, asking them to work to this aim;</p> <p>(e) also agrees to ask both Milton Keynes MPs to write to the Secretary of State for Health expressing concern about the privatisation of NHS Direct and the potential adverse impact this may have on patient safety, GPs, the Accident and Emergency Unit and the ambulance service; and</p>		<p>Director of Strategy</p> <p>Democratic Services Manager</p> <p>Democratic Services Manager</p>

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5(b)(ii) (cont)	(f) notes that the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Foundation Trust Hospital, Mr Joe Harrison, has been invited to attend the next meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee on 23 April 2013.		
5(b)(iii)	<p>'Blacklisting'</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That this Council believes 'Blacklisting' is an unacceptable practice which cannot be condoned. 2. That this Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) notes the GMB campaign to highlight that 3,213 workers were blacklisted by construction firms and call for all of those affected to be given an unreserved apology and compensation by the firms; (b) notes that in 2009 the Information Commissioners Office seized a database of 3,213 construction workers used by 44 companies to vet new recruits and keep out employment trade union and health and safety activists; (c) notes that of the 3,213 workers identified on the blacklist only 194 have been informed that they appeared on the list of the people identified as featuring on the 'blacklist', and 20 of these were based or attempting to find work in Buckinghamshire; (d) notes that some companies have admitted that they did employ a system of 'blacklisting' workers and have apologised, but have refused to pay any compensation to those workers affected by this; 		

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5(b)(iii) (cont)	<p>(e) is of the view that the construction firms which engaged in 'blacklisting' should apologise to those who have been affected and denied jobs as a result of the list;</p> <p>(f) is of the view that the Information Commissioner's Office should inform all those who feature on the blacklist; and</p> <p>(g) notes and welcomes the swift action already taken by the Head of Corporate Procurement on this matter, including the amendment of the Council's terms and conditions of contract and other terms used, to reflect our rejection of any bidder who uses an illegal blacklist. Additionally the Council notes that all suppliers registered on the procurement e-tendering system have been sent a statement of the Council's position and all future bidders will be advised of this as they engage with us on contracts.</p> <p>3. That this Council resolves to:</p> <p>(a) support the GMB campaign against the blacklisting of construction workers;</p> <p>(b) ensure that it is made clear to all construction companies bidding for Council contracts that any unlawful 'blacklisting' of workers will not be tolerated; and</p> <p>(c) ask the Council's Assistant Director (Law and Governance) to explore how to enable the Council to not contract with companies which have engaged in 'blacklisting' and have failed to pay compensation to workers.</p>		<p>Director of Strategy</p> <p>Head of Corporate Procurement</p> <p>Assistant Director (Law and Governance)</p>
6.	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report</p> <p>That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report be received.</p>		-

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7.	<p>Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions</p> <p>The Council noted that in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.3, that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, were used once during the period 1 December 2012 to 28 February 2013, for the agreement to the Wolverton Station Settlement.</p> <p>The Council also noted that in accordance with Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16.1, the Chief Executive, when making the decision on 1 March 2013, on the settlement of the Wolverton Station Contract decided, with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, to waive the call-in process as failure to make the decision would have seriously prejudiced the Council's interests by jeopardising the negotiated settlement.</p>		