



Minutes of the meeting of the NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES CHAIRS held on WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1999 at 5.00 pm in Room 4, Civic Offices

**Present:** Councillor Swepston (Chair)  
Councillors Barton, K Wilson and Woodcock

**Officers:** D Jones (Strategic Director Neighbourhood Services), D Nickless (Head of Neighbourhood Services), T Huff (Finance Manager), D Moore (Principal Manager Regulation and Commissioning) and W Marsden (Senior Committee Manager)

**Apologies:** Councillors Conchie and Kilkenny

## **ACTION**

### **1.0 BUDGET PROPOSALS**

**REPORTED:** By Councillor K Wilson, the savings required by Neighbourhood Services.

Councillor K Wilson illustrated the position by using two models that involved increased spending on schools next year.

#### Schools 7% Model

The total budget figure for next year is £23.496m, the “dream” budget figure, which took in to account demographic growth, was £26.849m, which required savings of £3.353m.

Savings identified amounted to £2.345m, requiring further savings of £1.008m and total savings still required amounted to £1.376m.

#### Schools 5.8% Model

The total budget figure for next year is £23.712m, the “dream” budget figure was £26.849m, which required savings of £3.137m.

Savings identified amounted to £2.345m, requiring further savings

of £.792m and total savings still required amounted to £1.16m.

Councillor K Wilson said that balances needed to be at a £3 million figure as soon as possible. An outstanding court case relating to the payment of Car Allowances had been settled with the County Council, and a sum totalling £579,480 had now been received from the County Council and effectively increased the reserves.

**STATED:** By D Jones, that Neighbourhood Services officers had scrutinised the budget thoroughly; and the budget could not be dealt within departmental boundaries, it is a corporate issue.

**AGREED:** That the Neighbourhood Services Committee budget projections for 2000/01 be examined, to identify potential corporate, rather than Neighbourhood Services costs.

**DJ**

**AGREED:** That a greater proportion of the Single Status costs should be borne corporately; and costs attributed to MK Energy Agency funding and MK Energy Agency Funding rollover should be a Resources problem.

**NOTED:** That demographic growth figures were based on planning departments projection, and that only three local authorities in the country had spent at SSA on children's services.

In previous years, Milton Keynes Council had received £1m STG money to offset demographic growth, but this was now in the form of partnership and organisation grants.

**NOTED:** With regard to inflation and increments, 2.5% was built in to pay inflation, income and other inflation.

**NOTED:** That the budget breakdown comprised 50% of placement costs, which could not be touched, and 50% on salaries and wages. The £1.16m required savings would have to be found out of an £8m salaries budget.

**STATED:** By D Jones, there must be a sensible timescale for a revised structure to deliver a different service. Officers would examine and refine the budget figures and produce a model for service delivery.

**DJ**

## **2.0 DEVELOPMENT OF DAY CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE IN OLNEY AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

**INTRODUCED:** By D Nickless, a paper regarding the development of a purpose built day centre for older people in the grounds of Clifton Court Sheltered Housing Scheme, Olney, which will provide personal care and support for, on average, 15 older people a day, Monday to Friday, between approximately 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.

The capital scheme for the Day Centre building, furnishing and equipment would be funded by the £157,200 planning gain money, arising from proposed developments on land in Wellingborough Road, Olney, plus the £3,000 pledge from Olney Town Council and the £5,000 to date in pledges from local people.

Milton Keynes Age Concern had been requested to submit proposals for operating the Day Centre on behalf of Milton Keynes Council. The revenue costs of the Service Agreement with Age Concern to operate the Day Centre, were estimated at £64,589 for the first 56 weeks, which included a six week period for staff induction/training and preparation prior to the Day Centre opening in April 2000.

Offset against this figure would be day care charges income for an average of 15 people a day, times five days a week, times 50 weeks, generating £12,750 income. Revenue of just over £50,000 would, therefore, be required in the financial year 2000/01 to operate the Day Centre facility in Olney for older people.

**STATED:** By D Nickless, that a contract with Age Concern needed to be tied up, and a report would be going to the next Neighbourhood Services Committee. **DJ**

**NOTED:** That a similar paper would be coming forward to a future Neighbourhood Services Chairs meeting, regarding another scheme at Shenley. **DJ**

**AGREED:** That this be taken to the Labour Group in October 1999, to obtain a view. In addition, the other scheme at Shenley would be flagged up at the Group meeting.

### 3.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Gurnards Avenue, Fishermead

REPORTED: By D Nickless, that a fire had occurred at a property in Gurnards Avenue, Fishermead, and an 11 month old child had died, however, details surrounding this were not yet known.

(b) Disabled Adaptations - HRA Stock

REPORTED: By D Nickless, that additional funds of £90,000 had been identified on a one-off basis for this year from the Partnership Fund; and these extra funds would be sufficient to fund 46 outstanding Priority 1 requests.

NOTED: That no additional funds are likely to be available this financial year; and there would be a need to advise those waiting, especially Priority 2 category requests, that the wait is likely to be a long one.

**DJ/DN**

REQUESTED: By Councillor Barton, that some form of guidance to the priority classifications would be helpful, and D Nickless said that the Housing Improvement Team dealing with disabled adaptations, would look at areas such as criteria.

**DJ**

(c) Tower Drive Day Centre

REPORTED: By D Nickless, that staffing problems had existed at Tower Drive, and that there had been a need to use temporary and agency staff.

Staff shortages had resulted in an unsafe service: service providers, such as MENCAP and Fremantle, had responded in a positive manner; but it would take some six weeks to be back to normal service.

Councillor Barton asked if there were transport problems and D Nickless responded saying that there was a transport related issue.

### 4.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Chairs meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 October

1999 at 5.00 pm in Room 2 at the Civic Offices.