



Head of Democratic Services
John Moffoot

To: The Mayor and Members of
the Milton Keynes Council

3 July 2006

Dear Councillor

Your attendance is requested at a meeting of the **MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL** to be held at the Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes on **TUESDAY 11 JULY 2006 at 7.30 pm** when the business set out overleaf will be transacted.

Yours faithfully

Head of Democratic Services

If you have any enquiries about this agenda please contact: Simon Heap (Democratic Services Manager) - Tel: (01908) 252567 e-mail: simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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) Minutes

To approve, and the Mayor to sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the:

(i) Annual Council held on 23 May and reconvened on 6 June 2006 (Item 1(b)(i)) (**Pages 9 to 18**); and

(ii) Council held on 13 June 2006 (Item 1(b)(ii)) (**Pages 19 to 29**).

(c) Disclosure of Interests

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

(d) 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 Last Meeting

None.

4. Reports from Cabinet and Committees

(a) Audit Committee – 22 June 2006

(i) Audit Committee Work Programme and Terms of Reference

RECOMMENDED –

1. That the Audit Committee may co-opt non-voting members that hold specialist knowledge and to commission expert support to assist the Committee to

achieve its technical capability in particular subject areas to discharge its audit responsibilities.

2. That the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference include the following:

“Constitution

- (i) The Committee will be a fully constituted committee and act independently of the Authority's Executive and scrutiny functions.
 - (ii) It will meet at least 4 times per year.
 - (iii) The Committee will maintain the technical capability to discharge the Audit Committee responsibilities of the Council.
 - (iv) The Committee will have a policy on matters that will be considered in public and those considered in private.
 - (v) The business of the Committee will be conducted apolitically”.
3. That the Chair of the Standards Committee be appointed as one of the two independent voting co-optees of the Audit Committee.

A copy of the report considered by the Committee is attached at Item 4a (**Pages 30 to 39**)

- (ii) Statement of Accounts 2005/2006

RECOMMENDED –

1. That the Statement of Internal Control be adopted.
2. That the 2005/2006 Statement of Accounts be adopted.

A copy of the Minute from the meeting of the Audit Committee is attached at Item 4a(i) (**Pages 40 and 41**).

A copy of the report considered by the Committee is attached at Item 4a(ii) (**Pages 42 to 45**).

The Statement of Accounts **annexed** to the report of the Audit Committee has been updated to incorporate the comments of the Committee.

Responses to the questions raised at the Audit Committee meeting are attached at Item 4a(iii) (**Pages 46 to 48**)

A Schedule showing the amendments is at Item 4(a)(iv) (**Page 49**)

(b) Cabinet – 27 June 2006

Council Plan 2006/09

RECOMMENDED –

That the Council Plan 2006-09 be adopted.

A copy of the report considered by the Cabinet is attached at Item 4b
(Pages 50 to 225)

5. Members' Matters

(a) 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 the representative of the Police Authority appointed 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).

(b) Notices of Motions

(i) Area 11 – Public Inquiry

Councillor Long – 4 June 2006

"1. That this Council is concerned about the impact of proposals for Area 11 upon the people of Stony Stratford, Calverton, the Wealds, Fullers Slade, Two Mile Ash, Great Holm, Crownhill, Grange Farm and the West of Milton Keynes generally and believes the poor consultation with residents is a feature of Milton Keynes Council's present approach.

2. That, having regard to the inadequate public consultation that occurred prior to the inclusion of Area 11 in the Adopted Local Plan, this Council resolves that if the current legal challenge to that feature of its Adopted Local Plan is successful, it will fully consult the public on the proposed allocation of Area 11 for development and hold a public local planning inquiry under an independent Inspector to enable objectors properly to be heard, and will reconsider its decision to allocate Area 11 in the light of the findings of that inquiry."

(ii) Written Questions

Councillor Wilson – 9 June 2006

- “1. That a procedure for Members of the Council to submit written questions to be answered by Cabinet Members and Chairs of Committees and Panels be adopted, based on the following principles:
 - (a) that Cabinet Members or Chairs may decline to answer any question where the cost of doing so is found to be prohibitive;
 - (b) that any Member be limited to asking a maximum of 20 questions in any one Council Year;
 - (c) that all such formal questions and answers be published on a weekly basis; and
 - (d) that answers to questions be provided within 15 working days of the question being submitted, except in exceptional circumstances where it is not possible, in which case the Member submitting the question to be advised as to the reasons within 15 working days.
2. That the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make any consequential changes to the Constitution.”

(iii) Empty Homes

Councillor I Henderson – 14 June 2006

- “1. That this Council:
 - (a) notes the pressing need for more affordable homes for the people of Milton Keynes;
 - (b) welcomes the best ever figure of 40% affordable homes achieved in 2005 –2006;
 - (c) welcomes the recommendation of the new study of housing needs in Milton Keynes to increase the proportion of homes for social rent in new developments from 5% to 13%.
2. That this Council is, however, extremely concerned that many new homes in Milton Keynes that are designated for key workers remain empty because the Government's definition of "key worker" is too narrow.
3. That this Council therefore resolves to request the Cabinet to:

- (a) step up its lobbying to persuade the Government that, where homes designated for key workers are empty, they can be made available first to people who meet the Council's broader definition of "key worker" and then, if some still remain empty, to those people in most housing need;
- (b) enlist the support of local housing associations, English Partnerships and Milton Keynes MPs in this endeavour."

(iv) Stantonbury Garages

Councillor Morsley – 16 June 2006

"That the Cabinet be requested to consider acquiring the freehold of the derelict garages at Redbridge and Ormonde, Stantonbury, either by negotiation or by compulsory purchase, and then arrange for their demolition so as to reduce the level of vandalism in the area, the number of arson attacks and the risk of fire in nearby properties, and the illegal dumping of old tyres, and thereby to respond to the numerous complaints from the residents of the area."

(v) Draft Growth Strategy for Milton Keynes to 2026

Councillor Hopkins – 19 June 2006

1. That the Council notes and welcomes the Cabinet's proposal, at its meeting on 27 June, 2006, to agree to a period of public consultation on the draft Growth Strategy for Milton Keynes to 2026, to inform the Council's position at the Examination in Public into the South East Plan.
2. That the Council calls upon the Cabinet to take the outcome of the consultation exercise fully into account in formulating its response to the Plan."

(vi) National Identity Cards and Data Base

Councillor Tamagnini-Barbosa – 22 June 2006

"That the Council:

1. Notes that on the 14 June 2005 a motion was passed declaring this Council's opposition to a National Identity Card and Database scheme, to write to and enlist the support of our MPs to request the Government spend the money allocated for this scheme into local policing.
2. Regrets that despite overwhelming public opposition the Labour Government has continued its pursuit of such an Orwellian scheme and re-affirms its request that the funds being made available to this scheme should be spent supporting local policing.

3. Advises the residents of Milton Keynes to renew their passports before October 2006 in order to avoid being registered on the National Identity Database, to avoid having to attend a registration centre and to save nearly half the cost of renewal.
4. Calls upon the Cabinet to consider affiliating to the national NO2ID campaign and to assist the local NO2ID campaign in educating the residents of Milton Keynes about the dangers to privacy and freedom the scheme will create.
5. Invites the Cabinet to resist the new Identity Card scheme where legally possible by:
 - (a) refusing to take part in any pilot scheme; and
 - (b) accepting alternative and traditional methods of identification from residents wishing to access council services and benefits.”

(vii) Urban Potential Study

Councillor Long – 22 June 2006

- “1. This Council is concerned that:
- (a) the blocking of the release of the ‘*Urban Potential Study*’ until after the local elections has led to significant public concern and loss of trust in the Council.;
 - (b) the lack of clarity in ‘*A Strategy for Growth 2031*’ has added to public disquiet and created further uncertainty and insecurity amongst thousands of residents; and
 - (c) the lack of openness and clarity of proposals is leading to housing blight on Bradville, Stantonbury, Conniburrow and other estates along the V7 to the north of Central Milton Keynes
2. This Council requests the Cabinet to hold and fund independent secret postal ballots on any proposals for demolition of homes on any estate or group of estates in Milton Keynes.”

(viii) LiveMK

Councillor Dransfield – 22 June 2006

“That the Council calls upon the Cabinet to suspend the publication of LiveMK until all-party editorial control is put in place.”

6. **Appointment of Independent Member to the Standards Committee**

At its meeting on 9 November 2006 (Minute BMG37 refers), the Business Management Group agreed a process for the selection of an additional Independent Member of the Standards Committee.

The interviews for the Independent Member took place on 26 June 2006, when the Interview Panel appointed by Business Management Group agreed to recommend to Council that Christopher Rose should be appointed as the third independent member of the Standards Committee.

The Business Management Group, at its meeting on 9 November 2006, also recommended the Council to adopt a term of office for any appointee which expires immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2009.

A copy of the report considered by the Business Management Group (Item 6a) (**Pages 226 to 229**), and an extract from the Minutes (Item 6b) (**Page 230**) of the meeting is attached .

Contact Officer: Phillip McCourt (Head of Legal Services) -
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Background Papers: None