

Minutes of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on WEDNESDAY 17 JANUARY 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor D Hopkins (Mayor)
Councillors Alexander, Bald, Betteley, Bint, Brackenburg,
M Bradburn, R Bradburn, Brunning, Burke, Cannon, Clancy, Clifton,
Coventry, Crooks, Dransfield, Eastman, Exon, Ferrans, Ganatra,
A Geary, P Geary, Gifford, Gowans, V Hopkins, Jenkins, Khan,
Legg, Long, Marland, D McCall, I McCall, McDonald, McKenzie,
McLean, McPake, Middleton, Miles, Morris, Nolan, O'Neill, Patey-
Smith, Petchey, Small, Walker, Wales, Wallis, Webb, C Williams,
P Williams, C Wilson and K Wilson

Apologies: Councillors Buckley, Geaney, Hosking and Morla and Aldermen
Bartlett, Beeley, Bristow, E Henderson and Howell and Alderwomen
Irons, I Henderson, Lloyd and Saunders

Also Present: 12 members of the public

CL78 MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

CL79 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillor Long disclosed, in connection with his role as a Cabinet member for Adult Social Care, that he was a member of a Safeguarding Board for a London Borough.

CL80 ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire

The Mayor welcomed Peter Kara the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire to the meeting.

(b) New Year Honours

The Mayor and the Council congratulated Kathleen Keillor, who had been awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours for services to Education in Milton Keynes and who was in attendance at the meeting.

(c) Former Councillors

The Mayor announced with great sadness the deaths of three former councillors:

Ron Daniels who died on Saturday 30 December 2017 and served from 1976 to 1983, representing the Loughton Ward. Mr Daniels was also Chairman of Shenley Church End Parish Council for many years.

Isabella Fraser, who died on Thursday 28 December 2017, served as a Borough Councillor between 2002 and 2012, and also served on Woolstone-cum-Willen and Campbell Park Parish Councils from 1990.

Mrs Fraser was a member of the Buckinghamshire Association of Local Councils for some years during which time she served as a representative of the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils and represented Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes at National and Regional level.

Alderman Luing Cowley MBE who died on 3 January 2018, having been elected in 1976 served the Church Green Ward until 1992. Alderman Cowley was also Mayor of Milton Keynes during 1985/86 and had the title of Alderman conferred on him in 1992.

Alderman Cowley was also a former Chair of the Milton Keynes District Health Authority, a Board member of Milton Keynes Development Corporation between 1978 and 1991, a magistrate, a founder member of Bletchley Rotary Club and a supporter of the city orchestra.

In 2014 Alderman Cowley was awarded his MBE for services to the community.

The Council heard from a number of councillors before standing in silence as a mark of respect.

CL81

QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- (a) Question from Mr A Francis to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Mr Francis, referring to the planned closure of Marlborough Gate (between Midsummer Boulevard and Silbury Boulevard) from 15 January to 22 September for the construction of the new Multi-Story Car Park, outlined that this required several bus routes to be diverted, meaning delayed journeys, and some stops not being served. Mr Francis asked Councillor Gowans why was the closure not mentioned at the time of the planning application, why the closure was for such a long period and who approved the road closure.

Councillor Gowans indicated that road closures were delegated to the Head of Highways. With regard to the rest of the question he would respond to Mr Francis in writing.

Mr Francis, as a supplementary question, asked Councillor Gowans how the potential increase in car usage resulting from the disruption of public transport was compatible with the sustainable transport aspirations of the Local Transport Plan.

Councillor Gowans indicated that he would include an answer in his written response.

- (b) Question from Mr T Baines to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Mr Baines, referring to comments received from a resident suggesting that the Council no longer provided large green waste bins free of charge, asked Councillor Gowans to clearly spell out the Council's current policy.

Councillor Gowans indicated that damaged green waste bins would be replaced with a 140 litre bin free of charge.

CL82

DEALING WITH AMENDMENTS TO RECOMMENDATIONS AND MOTIONS

Further to Minute CL70 of the Council's meeting held on 22 November 2017, the Council noted that the following recommendation from the Constitution Commission, moved by Councillor R Bradburn and seconded by Councillor Marland, had, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2 stood adjourned since that meeting:

"That the Council be recommended to adopt the revised approach to dealing with Amendments to Recommendations and Motions as set out in the revised Council Procedure Rule 13."

The following amendment, moved by Councillor Brackenbury and seconded by Councillor McPake, which had also stood adjourned, was accepted by the mover of the motion:

"That clause 13.8 (b)(ii) of Council Procedure Rules not be deleted."

The following amendment, moved by Councillor Dransfield and seconded by Councillor Marland, which had stood adjourned, was accepted by the mover of the motion:

1. That the words 'to move or second a motion' be deleted from the first line of clause 13.5 of Council Procedure Rules.
2. That a comma be added after the word 'moved' in the first line of clause 13.6(c) of Council Procedure Rules and the letters 'es' removed from the word 'speeches' in the second line."

On being put to the vote the recommendation, as amended, was declared carried unanimously.

RESLOVED -

That the revised approach to dealing with Amendments to Recommendations and Motions as set out in the revised Council Procedure Rule 13 be adopted, subject to:

- (a) clause 13.8 (b)(ii) of Council Procedure Rules not being deleted;
- (b) the words 'to move or second a motion' be deleted from the first line of clause 13.5 of Council Procedure Rules; and
- (c) a comma being added after the word 'moved' in the first line of clause 13.6(c) of Council Procedure Rules and the letters 'es' removed from the word 'speeches' in the second line.

CL83

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Further to Minute CL72 of the Council's meeting held on 22 November 2017, the Council noted that the following recommendation from the Constitution Commission, moved by Councillor R Bradburn and seconded by Councillor Marland, had, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 21.2 stood adjourned since that meeting:

"That the Council be recommended to amend:

- (a) Council Procedure Rule 19.5; and
- (b) Cabinet Procedure Rule 3

so that they clarify the actions to be taken by councillors when disclosing a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, a personal interests or other conflict of interest."

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Council Procedure Rule 19.5 and Cabinet Procedure Rule 3 be amended so that they clarify the actions to be taken by councillors when disclosing a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, a personal interests or other conflict of interest.

CL84

CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

Councillor R Bradburn moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Constitution Commission held on 4 October 2017, which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

"That the revisions to Contract Procedure Rules to reflect changes to financial limits of authority, as agreed at the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017 (Minute CL71 refers), be adopted."

The Leader of the Council reiterated his undertaking, given at the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017 (Minute C71 refers), that any decision on a contract which was not a Key Decision would be taken by the Cabinet or a Cabinet member if requested by another councillor, until such time as the Constitution Commission had the opportunity to review the call-in arrangements.

On being put to the vote the recommendation from the Constitution Commission was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That the revisions to Contract Procedure Rules to reflect changes to financial limits of authority, as agreed at the meeting of the Council held on 22 November 2017 (Minute CL71 refers), be adopted.

CL85

LOCAL COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (MINUTE C84)

Councillor Middleton moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 November 2017, which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

“That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as adopted by the Council on 11 January 2017, be continued for 2018/19, with amendments that reflected changes to related benefits and to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations; retaining the delegation to the Corporate Director Resources to make technical legislative changes.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation from the Cabinet was declared carried with 36 councillors voting in favour, 0 councillors voting against and 13 councillors abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED -

That the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme, as adopted by the Council on 11 January 2017, be continued for 2018/19, with amendments that reflected changes to related benefits and to the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements) Regulations; retaining the delegation to the Corporate Director Resources to make technical legislative changes.

CL86

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 15 NOVEMBER 2017

Councillor Marland moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 15 November 2017, which was seconded by Councillor D McCall:

“That the updated Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation from the Health and Wellbeing Board was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That the updated Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved.

CL87

REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 13 DECEMBER 2017

Councillor Morris moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on 13 December 2017, which was seconded by Councillor C Williams:

“That the revised Taxi Fees and Charges be adopted.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation from the Regulatory Committee was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That the revised Taxi Fees and Charges be adopted.

CL88

COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor McPake to Councillor Gifford
(Cabinet member for Place)

Councillor McPake, referring to the intention of the Bletchley to Bedford Train Operator to replace the rolling stock in approximately a year's time, asked Councillor Gifford, bearing in mind the increasing passenger numbers, to confirm with the Train Operator that seating capacity would be significantly increased by the introduction of the replacement rolling stock.

Councillor Gifford indicated that she would look into the matter and arrange for Councillor McPake to receive a response.

- (b) Question from Councillor Jenkins to Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Housing and Adult Care)

Councillor Jenkins, referring to the data released before Christmas by Action for the Elderly, which identified this Council's Adult Safeguarding Procedures as the worst in the Country, asked Councillor Long what action he had taken following the release of the figures.

Councillor Long indicated that, on the release of the figures, he had immediately discussed the issues with officers and sought a meeting with the Chair of the Safeguarding Board. Going forward he would be requesting the Health and Adult Social Care Committee to review the issue. Also today the matter had been discussed by the Safeguarding Board and a new manager was in place who would be conducting a technical review of the Council's procedures.

Councillor Long also indicated that all referrals were investigated, but not all proceeded to the next stage.

Councillor Long pointed out that the last four inspections by the Quality Care Commission of Council facilities had rated the facilities as being of a good standard, offering safe services.

Councillor Long stated that the press release had been released with no prior notice to the Council and he believed that the media reporting sought to sensationalise the issue.

Councillor Jenkins, indicating that safeguarding was one of the most important tasks carried out by the Council and any failure was a cause for concern, asked Councillor Long as a supplementary question, how was Cabinet proposing to rebuild confidence in the Council and regain the public's trust.

Councillor Long reiterated that the Safeguarding Board was conducting a detailed review, the new manager would be reviewing procedures and the Health and Adult Social Care Committee would be asked to help work through the issues.

Councillor Long also indicated that he believed the Council's procedures and practices to be good and safe.

- (c) Question from Councillor R Bradburn to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Bradburn, referring to the recent failure of Carillion, asked Councillor Marland to ensure that any outsourcing contracts were reviewed to ensure that staff and frontline services were protected.

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council had many outsourced contracts and he was not sure whether a review as suggested would achieve the desired outcome because of the differing nature of the various contracts and the companies operating them. However, the Council needed to ensure that contracts were deliverable and seek assurances from contractors that they are financially sound.

Councillor Marland indicated that he would ask Councillor Middleton (the Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation) to raise with the Corporate Director Resources the importance of the Council's contractors being reminded to strictly apply the agreed payment terms to any sub-contractors they used to provide services for the Council.

- (d) Question from Councillor Bint to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Bint, referring to the recent National Infrastructure Commission's report regarding the provision of large numbers of extra homes, asked Councillor Marland if he had given any undertakings whatsoever as to the number of homes Milton Keynes would take.

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council's position had always been that it would take a share of growth in return for investment from the Government, but there was not a figure for the number of additional homes Milton Keynes would accept.

- (e) Question from Councillor Bald to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation)

Councillor Bald, referring to the recent performance of the Benefits Service and particularly the levels of performance during November which saw at least a 50 day turnaround affecting some of the most vulnerable people in Milton Keynes, asked Councillor Middleton to release the most up to date performance figures so that councillors could find out if performance was still declining.



Councillor Middleton indicated that he was happy for the current performance figures to be made available and recognised the urgent need to improve.

Councillor Middleton outlined the difficulties being experienced in recruiting staff and that measures were being taken to address those difficulties. However, in the meantime a private provider was to be used to provide additional resources to help address the backlog.

Councillor Bald, indicating that she had been receiving similar assurances for over six months and there had been no improvement, asked Councillor Middleton, as a supplementary question, if he was happy with the situation.

Councillor Middleton indicated that he didn't have the statistics to hand, but performance had been on a downward trend over the last six months, which was unacceptable. Work was taking place to improve the situation, but because of better paid jobs available in Milton Keynes it was proving difficult to recruit to the many vacant posts.

- (f) Question from Councillor Wales to Councillor O'Neill (Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Healthier and Stronger Communities)

Councillor Wales, referring to recent figures published by the NHS which showed that tooth decay was the most common reason children between the ages of 5 and 9 years were receiving treatment in hospital, with over 26,000 cases last year, asked Councillor O'Neill if she was able to update the Council on the position in Milton Keynes.

Councillor O'Neil indicated that there had been a 17% reduction in tooth extractions amongst children in Milton Keynes and a universal service which included health education continued to be offered to all families in Milton Keynes.

- (g) Question from Councillor Brackenbury to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Brackenbury, referring to the missed waste collections over the Christmas period and missed collections during November, which had coincided with changes to the waste collection rounds, asked Councillor Gowans if he was satisfied with the Council's management of the issues arising from the round changes and associated problems.

Councillor Gowans indicated that he was unhappy with recent performance and had raised the matter with officer colleagues and was awaiting a detailed report back on the difficulties that had been experienced with the waste collection service.

Councillor Brackenbury, referring to a specific problem that had now been resolved following the intervention of Councillor Gowans and the Chief Executive, asked Councillor Gowans, as a supplementary question, whether he thought the report Councillor Gowans had requested was purposefully being delayed.

Councillor Gowans indicated he would follow up the report.

- (h) Question from Councillor Dransfield to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Dransfield, indicating that only tonight was his attention drawn to the lockers which had been provided for councillors and expressing concern that he had found a Christmas card that had been left in his locker, asked Councillor Marland to give an assurance that in future any post left for councillors in the lockers would be collected and forwarded in a timely manner.

Councillor Marland indicated that the issue of delivery of councillors' post had been looked at by Group Leaders, and it was considered important that councillors used their lockers and checked regularly for items of post, as in some circumstances this would be the best way to get items of post to councillors.

As a supplementary question Councillor Dransfield referred to his concerns that the lockers were not secure for councillors to leave valuables if there was access allowed for delivery / collection of post.

Councillor Marland indicated that the lockers were intended as secure spaces for councillors to store papers and only the councillor would be able to access them, unless the councillor agreed otherwise. However, he would ask officer colleagues to look at the issues raised by Councillor Dransfield.

- (i) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Gifford (Cabinet member for Place)

Councillor P Geary, referring to money being agreed as part of the Council budget 201/18 for grants to parish and town councils, asked Councillor Gifford why applications for grants were not being processed and none were to be awarded.

Councillor Gifford indicated that she was surprised at the question as she was scheduled to take decisions on the award of grants on 20 February 2018. Councillor Gifford undertook to check that the decisions were still to go ahead.

Councillor P Geary, referring to specifically to parish parking fund grants and an email received by Olney Town Council saying no grants were to be awarded, asked Councillor Gifford for clarification.



Councillor Gifford indicated that she was not sure whether parking fund grants were to be awarded on 20 February 2018, along with other grants to parish and town councils, but she would seek clarification.

- (j) Question from Councillor Bint to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Bint, referring to the backlog in replacing missing and damaged road signs, asked Councillor Gowans if the proposed budget allocation would clear the backlog.

Councillor Gowans indicated that it was proposed that £500k would be allocated to replacing missing and damaged road signs. However, the backlog was estimated at £750k so while the backlog would not be cleared it would be considerably reduced. Going forward it was intended to review the available budget to try and ensure it was sufficient to match the number of signs which needed replacing each year.

Councillor Bint, as a supplementary question, sought clarification from Councillor Gowans that the Council would now be replacing the signs faster than it was losing them.

Councillor Gowans reiterated that the budget allocation would make considerable inroads into the backlog and help the Council replace signs faster than they were disappearing.

- (k) Question from Councillor Bald to Councillor Gifford (Cabinet member for Place)

Councillor Bald, referring to what appeared to be a lack of progress in in devolving landscaping to parish and town councils, asked Councillor Gifford if she could clarify the position.

Councillor Gifford indicated that the Parishes Advisory Group, which included a parish council representative, had met earlier this week and the Group was working hard to get clarity. The Group now understood the constraints and the time pressures.

Councillor Gifford also indicated that the landscaping budget would be retained next year at a similar level to 2017/18, so the status-quo would prevail, but she recognised that some parishes wanted to provide an enhanced service and that was part of the discussions going forward.

NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION

Councillor Crooks moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor McPake:

“That the Council:

1. welcomes the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) report ‘Partnering for Prosperity’ published in November 2017 with its emphasis on how the United Kingdom’s world class research, innovation and technology can succeed internationally through a Cambridge - Oxford knowledge arc with Milton Keynes at its hub;
2. welcomes the Chancellor of the Exchequer’s endorsement of the report’s commitment to building 1 million new homes in his budget speech on 22 November including a specific reference to the global reputation of Milton Keynes;
3. wishes to contribute to the overall spatial vision for the knowledge arc to be completed no later than the summer of 2019;
4. notes with pride the report’s reference to Milton Keynes as a development location of national significance, and the choice of the Parks Trust as an exemplar of how good stewardship can be designed into new settlements;
5. emphasises the importance of all new development building on the strengths of the present city including its green infrastructure, grid road system, commitment to regeneration, flood control, and reduction of carbon emissions;
6. therefore supports the need highlighted in the report for adequate infrastructure to unlock the development of new settlements including a ready supply of affordable housing, the early completion of the east west rail link and the Oxford Cambridge Expressway, opportunities for local bus franchising and smart ticketing, genuinely superfast broadband, and a more flexible approach to the deployment of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 agreements; and
7. is supportive of establishing a Central Area Growth Board to work with neighbouring authorities to provide the governance and leadership required to take the NIC report forward towards the development of a sub-regional strategic spatial plan by April 2020 underpinned by an investment strategy and delivery plan, and working through appropriate structures.”

Councillor McLean moved the following procedural motion which was seconded by Councillor Walker:

“That the debate be adjourned to a later meeting.”

On being put to the vote the procedural motion was declared lost with 16 councillors voting in favour and 37 councillors voting against.

The Council heard from one member of the public.

On being put to the vote the motion, as amended was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That the Council:

1. welcomes the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) report Partnering for Prosperity published in November 2017 with its emphasis on how the United Kingdom's world class research, innovation and technology can succeed internationally through a Cambridge - Oxford knowledge arc with Milton Keynes at its hub;
2. welcomes the Chancellor of the Exchequer's endorsement of the report's commitment to building 1 million new homes in his budget speech on 22 November including a specific reference to the global reputation of Milton Keynes;
3. wishes to contribute to the overall spatial vision for the knowledge arc to be completed no later than the summer of 2019;
4. notes with pride the report's reference to Milton Keynes as a development location of national significance, and the choice of the Parks Trust as an exemplar of how good stewardship can be designed into new settlements;
5. emphasises the importance of all new development building on the strengths of the present city including its green infrastructure, grid road system, commitment to regeneration, flood control, and reduction of carbon emissions;
6. therefore supports the need highlighted in the report for adequate infrastructure to unlock the development of new settlements including a ready supply of affordable housing, the early completion of the east west rail link and the Oxford Cambridge Expressway, opportunities for local bus franchising and smart ticketing, genuinely superfast broadband, and a more flexible approach to the deployment of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and s106 agreements; and

7. is supportive of establishing a Central Area Growth Board to work with neighbouring authorities to provide the governance and leadership required to take the NIC report forward towards the development of a sub-regional strategic spatial plan by April 2020 underpinned by an investment strategy and delivery plan, and working through appropriate structures.

CL90

WASTE COLLECTION

Councillor P Geary moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Walker:

- “1. That the Council notes that:
 - (a) over recent weeks the quality of the waste collection has dropped with numerous missed rounds all across the city;
 - (b) some areas have not been collected for consecutive weeks; and
 - (c) although there was some snow throughout this time and disturbance for Christmas these failings occurred before these dates and are still ongoing (at the time of writing).
2. That this Council requests a full briefing paper to all councillors and parish councils covering why the changes were made, the budgetary impacts of these changes on the Council's budget, the actions taken to resolve the issue and the corporate learning currently understood so this will not happen again.
3. That the Council further requests that the Cabinet member gets a grip of the situation and uses all possible efforts to ensure that no future failures such as those seen in the past few weeks happen again.”

The Council heard from one member of the public.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Council notes that:
 - (a) over recent weeks the quality of the waste collection has dropped with numerous missed rounds all across the city;
 - (b) some areas have not been collected for consecutive weeks; and



- (c) although there was some snow throughout this time and disturbance for Christmas these failings occurred before these dates and are still ongoing (at the time of writing).
2. That this Council requests a full briefing paper to all councillors and parish councils covering why the changes were made, the budgetary impacts of these changes on the Council's budget, the actions taken to resolve the issue and the corporate learning currently understood so this will not happen again.
3. That the Council further requests that the Cabinet member gets a grip of the situation and uses all possible efforts to ensure that no future failures such as those seen in the past few weeks happen again.

CL91

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL ON COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES

The Council received the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors' Allowances and considered adopting a Scheme of Councillors' Allowances for 2018/19, having taken account of the Panel's recommendations.

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded:

- "1. That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors Allowances be received.
2. That the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances, based on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors Allowances be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2018."

Councillor Dransfield moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

"That the following words be added to clause 2 of the recommendation:

'subject to:

- (a) a cap of £66,000, increased by 2% for each year 2018 to 2021, being applied to the Special Responsibility Allowances for Cabinet members, excluding the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; and
- (b) Clause 12 being deleted and the remaining paragraphs renumbered, as the legislation to which Clause 12 applied had been repealed."

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared carried with 26 councillors voting in favour, 14 councillors voting against and 10 councillors abstaining from voting.

On being put to the vote the substantive recommendation was declared carried with 37 councillors voting in favour, 10 councillors voting against and 2 councillors abstaining from voting.

Councillors Bint, Brunning, Ganatra, P Geary, Jenkins, McDonald, Patey-Smith, Walker and C Williams requested that their votes against be recorded.

RESOLVED -

- 1 That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors Allowances be received.
2. That the Scheme of Councillors' Allowances, based on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors Allowances be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2018, subject to:
 - (a) a cap of £66,000, increased by 2% for each year 2018 to 2021, being applied to the Special Responsibility Allowances for Cabinet members, excluding the Special Responsibility Allowances for the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council; and
 - (b) Clause 12 being deleted and the remaining paragraphs renumbered, as the legislation to which Clause 12 applied had been repealed.

CL92

APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY OFFICER - OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The Mayor moved and the Deputy Mayor seconded:

- "1. That the designation of Paul Simpson as the Council's officer responsible for the administration of financial affairs (Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer) be confirmed.
2. That Don McLure be thanked for his service to the Council"

The Council noted that Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972 required every local authority to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and ensure that one of its officers had responsibility for the administration of those affairs. Article 13 of the Constitution designated the Corporate Director Resources, as the Council's Chief Finance Officer who also holds the Section 151 responsibilities.

It was reported that Paul Simpson took up the roles of Corporate Director - Resources and Chief Finance Officer on 4 December 2017, replacing Don McLure who was appointed in an interim capacity on 14 August 2017, and was formally confirmed in the statutory role by Council at its meeting on 20 September 2017 (Minute CL46 refers).



The Chief Executive, using the delegation agreed by Council on 28 November 2016 (Minute CL78[2] refers) designated Paul Simpson as the Council's Chief Finance Officer with effect from 4 December, his first day of employment with Milton Keynes Council, until the Council was able to consider the appointment.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

1. That the designation of Paul Simpson as the Council's officer responsible for the administration of financial affairs (Chief Finance Officer/Section 151 Officer) be confirmed.
2. That Don McLure be thanked for his service to the Council

CL93

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS

The Council considered the findings of the Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations.

It was reported that Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006) required the Council to divide its area into polling districts and keep the polling districts under review and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required a review to take place between 1 October 2017 and 31 January 2018.

The Council noted that in conducting the review notice had been published on the Council's website inviting electors for the area to make representations and all councillors, political parties and parish councils had been consulted. The comments of councillors and others have been carefully considered and taken into account in compiling the final proposal.

It was also reported that the Centre for Integrated Living had been commissioned to undertake a Disability Access Audit of seven polling stations and one potential polling station, this was in addition to the six stations which were subject to an Audit as part of the 2013 Review, eight stations in 2011 and the 11 stations in 2007. This rolling programme of Audits will continue in future reviews. Any recommendations from the Centre for Integrated Living would be passed to the locations concerned to be actioned as necessary.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Polling Districts, Places and Polling Stations be adopted for the purposes of the Representation of the People Act 1983.
2. That the Electoral Registration Officer be authorised to make any necessary adjustments in the light of availability in consultation with political party agents.

CL94 LEADERS EXECUTIVE SCHEME OF DELEGATION - REVISIONS

The Council received the revised Leaders Executive Scheme of Delegation.

CL95 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

In accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.4, the Council noted that the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, and Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 16(j) were not used during the period 1 September 2017 to 31 December 2017.

CL96 WARD BASED BUDGETS 2017/18

The Council noted that for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2017, applications totalling £14,209.97 had been approved.

CL97 MEMBERSHIP OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND MILTON KEYNES FIRE AUTHORITY

The Mayor ruled that, in accordance with Section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council should consider as a matter of urgency the appointment of a representative to replace Councillor Brunning, who had resigned from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, in order that the Council was fully represented at meetings of the Fire Authority, particularly at this important budget setting time.

Councillor A Geary moved and Councillor Walker seconded:

“That Councillor McLean be appointed to the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to replace Councillor Brunning.”

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED -

That Councillor McLean be appointed to the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority to replace Councillor Brunning.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11:00 PM

