

Minutes of the meeting of the CABINET held on TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2017 at 6.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Marland (Chair)  
Councillors Gifford, Gowans, Legg, Long, Middleton, Nolan and O'Neill

**Present:** M Bracey (Corporate Director People), N Jones (Corporate Director Resources), D Sharkey (Corporate Director Place), S Bridglalsingh (Service Director [Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer]), S Bailey (Parking Strategy and Implementation Manager), E Nickless (Housing Services Manager [ASB]), F Robinson (MK Futures Programme Manager), P Van-Geete (Tariff Programme Manager), A Ward (Senior Practitioner – Taxi Licensing) and S Heap (Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager)

**Also Present:** Councillors Bald, Bint, Crooks, Ganatra, A Geary, D Hopkins, McDonald and Miles, J Blakesley and P Eagles (Milton Keynes University Hospital) and 7 members of the public

## **C143 CABINET ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Adult Care and Housing) announced that:

- (a) both Hungerford House and Petworth House sheltered housing schemes had recently received national awards; and
- (b) the Council had received a positive peer review of its home care service, which had praised both the quality of the service and the staff delivering the service.

## **C144 MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

1. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 21 February 2017 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record, subject to the name 'Burnett' being amended to 'Baker' in the first paragraph of Minute C126.
2. That consideration of the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7 March 2017 be deferred to allow officer colleagues to review the content.

**C145 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

None.

**C146 DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

The Cabinet received a petition from c300 people requesting a pedestrian crossing outside the Fen Street Campus of Brooklands Farm School, which was discussed as part of the following item received from Councillor Crooks.

**C147 FEN STREET AND THE NEWPORT ROAD, BROOKLANDS**

At the request of Councillor Crooks the Cabinet considered:

- (a) the provision of a pedestrian crossing on Fen Street outside Brooklands Farm Primary School; and
- (b) the condition of Newport Road, particularly with regard to the number of potholes, which was creating considerable vehicle noise which caused distress to nearby residents.

Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm) undertook to:

- (a) organise a condition survey of Newport Road, Broughton to be undertaken once the majority of construction traffic had ceased using the road; and
- (b) request officer colleagues to urgently review the provision of a pedestrian crossing outside the Fen Street Campus of Brooklands Farm School.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillor Bint during consideration of this item.

**C148 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) Question from Councillor D Hopkins to Councillor Gowans (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor D Hopkins, referring to the removal of the 20 mph speed limit outside Wavendon Primary School and Little Oaks Nursery from the traffic calming scheme for Walton Road, Wavendon as a result of Thames Valley Police objecting to the speed limit on the grounds that the Police did not have the resources for enforcement, asked Councillor Gowans if he could intervene to have the speed limit reinstated.

Councillor Gowans was of the view that if the Council considered 20 mph speed limits in key locations was a priority it should be making representations to Thames Valley Police.

As a response to the supplementary question from Councillor D Hopkins, Councillor Gowans agreed to work with Councillor Hopkins to make representations to Thames Valley Police regarding the enforcement of a 20 mph speed limit as part the traffic calming scheme on Walton Road in Wavendon so that the 20 mph speed limit might be reinstated in the scheme.

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

Councillor Bint, referring to recent advice he had received from officer colleagues that there was no budget available for the replacement of white road markings, or the replacement or repair of direction signs, asked Councillor Gowans to confirm whether this was in fact the case and, if so, when the budgets were removed.

Councillor Gowans indicated that there was currently a £100,000 budget pressure relating to white road markings and as a result there was no budget available for white lines. However, he was working with officer colleagues to try and identify funding that might be available from other highway budgets.

With regard to the removal of monies for the replacement of white road markings, or the replacement or repair of direction signs from the budget, Councillor Gowans indicated that as he did not know the history he could arrange for a written answer.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) clarified that there had been an extra £100,000 in the 2016/17 Budget for white lines which was not in the 2017/18 Budget, but as this was a safety issue there was still monies available in the 2017/18 Budget.

As a supplementary question Councillor Bint asked for a written explanation as to the budget available during 2017/18 for the replacement of highway direction signs and white lines.

**C149**

**CONSULTATIONS TAKS AND FINISH GROUP - REFERENCE FROM SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Cabinet received the report of the Consultations Task and Finish Group which was introduced by Councillor D Hopkins, Chair of the Task and Finish Group.

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Customer Services), indicated that he had held initial discussions with officer colleagues on the recommendations from the Task and Finish Group and would be submitting a detailed written response addressing the recommendations to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

**C150**

**APPLICATION `16/02721/LBC, 5 THE GREEN, WOUGHTON-ON-THE GREEN - REFERENCE FROM DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE: 16 MARCH 2017**

Further to the meeting of the Development Control Panel held on 16 March 2017, the Cabinet considered a request from the Panel for the Council to compulsory purchase 5 the Green, Woughton-on-the-Green, which was currently in a poor state of repair, to ensure that it did not fall into further disrepair.

The request was introduced by the Chair of the Development Control Committee, Councillor A Geary.

The Cabinet heard from Councillors Bint and McDonald and a member of the public during consideration of this item.

**RESOLVED –**

That Cabinet receive a report at its July 2017 meeting on the possibility / implications of either compulsorily purchasing 5 the Green, Woughton-on-the-Green, or other options available to the Council to address the property's current poor state of repair, to ensure that it does not go into further disrepair.

**C151**

**CALLING FOR ACTION TO BUILD MORE HOMES - REFERENCE FROM COUNCIL: 22 MARCH 2017**

Further to Minute CL118 of the Council's meeting on 22 March 2017, the Cabinet considered the referral from Council which requested the Cabinet to embrace the learnings from other councils and come forward urgently with proposals to build a significant number of new homes on Council land, combining a mix of housing types for rent (social, affordable, market rents) drawing on all available funding sources.

The referral was introduced by Councillor Bald who moved the original motion at the Council meeting who suggested that the Council should look at good practice adopted by other councils and also retain as much of its existing stock as possible within the constraints of 'Right to Buy'.

The Cabinet, acknowledging the need to increase the housing supply, considered a response from Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Adult Care and Housing) which set out the principles he believed should be followed in future Council housing development, which included:

- (a) retained ownership of current Council stock;
- (b) mixed tenure estates to encourage social inclusion and the provision of choice;
- (c) retaining the Housing Revenue Account as the principle manager of Council housing, whoever owned that stock;

- (d) new council housing being secured through new build, acquisition and planning gain.

Councillor Long also outlined number of outcomes he would encourage the Council to aim for as follows:

- (a) a choice of Council housing across the city;
- (b) all old and new estates to be mixed tenure;
- (c) provision of 30,000 Council houses by 2050 through both new build and acquisition;
- (d) sustainable, balanced communities with good schools and working households; and
- (e) funding for a range of new housing through General Fund related borrowing as well as the investment of a range of Housing Revenue Account resources.”

The Cabinet also received contributions from Councillors A Geary and Marland during consideration of this matter. Councillor A Geary suggested that the Council should make use of land in its ownership for development and Councillor Marland suggested that the Council should make representations to Government for the Housing Revenue Account Borrowing Cap to be relaxed to allow the Council to build more properties.

RESOLVED –

That the recommendations of the Council with regard to progressing proposals to significantly increase the housing supply using Council land, combining a mix of housing types and delivery models, be adopted

**C152**

### **AMENDMENT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE (TAXI) LICENSING POLICY**

It was reported that the Council had a legal responsibility to licence Hackney Carriage vehicles and Hackney Carriage and private hire drivers, private hire vehicles and private hire. As a matter of good practice the Council had in 2014 adopted a Taxi Licensing Policy which set out how the Council would consider applications for those who wished to be licensed as drivers and proprietors of Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles and those who wished to operate them. The Policy also set out the conditions for licence holders and their vehicles.

The Cabinet noted that the Policy was reviewed regularly to ensure it met current demands.

The Cabinet accordingly considered adopting a revised version of the Taxi Licensing Policy, which had been amended to allow for:

- (a) vehicle licences to be granted for 12 months (the maximum duration permitted by law);

- (b) vehicles to be tested twice a year;
- (c) Hackney Carriages to be rear-loading;
- (d) a maximum age limit of 10 years for all vehicles (subject to an exemption);
- (e) a maximum age of 6 years for vehicles to be first licensed;
- (f) a relaxation on tinted windows;
- (g) a refresh of how the Council considered the relevance of convictions;
- (h) revised licence conditions; and
- (i) additional operator licence conditions.

The Cabinet also noted that a formal consultation on the revised Policy had taken place during January and February 2017 before being considered by the Regulatory Committee on 15 March 2017.

Councillor Legg (Cabinet member for Customer Service) indicated that the suggested revisions to the Policy had been made in liaison with the Taxi Trade.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillors Bint and Marland (Leader of the Council), together with two members of the public during consideration of this item.

It was further reported that officer colleagues were reviewing current Rank provision and the officers were of the view that 50% tinted glass did not present any safety concerns.

RESOLVED -

That the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire (Taxi) Licensing Policy be adopted with effect from 1 May 2017.

## **C153**

### **HOMELESSNESS (STATUTORY NEEDED) STRATEGY**

The Cabinet noted that tackling the growing problem of homelessness was a top priority for the Council as set out in the Council Plan 2016 - 2020. As a result the Council had commissioned the Housing Quality Network to develop a Homelessness Strategy to improve the Council's ability to discharge its responsibilities to those the Council had a statutory duty to house.

It was reported that there had been wide consultation on the draft Strategy, although responses had been limited.

The Cabinet considered the draft Strategy.

In introducing the draft Strategy Councillor Long (Cabinet member for Adult Care and Housing) indicated that, while homelessness remained a considerable challenge, the numbers in bed and breakfast accommodation were reducing. The Strategy would help the homeless by targeting resources better.

The Cabinet heard from Councillors Bald and Ganatra during consideration of this item noting their comments relating to the need for timely action which provided value for money and the need for a limited number of key milestones to be included in the action plan.

In response Councillor Long indicated that it was his intention to bring forward proposals at a later date on the Council's relationship with private landlords, recognising the need to reduce the cost of temporary accommodation. Councillor Long also undertook to review the action plan.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) praised the efforts of officer colleagues to reduce the use of bed and breakfast accommodation.

RESOLVED -

That the Homelessness (Statutory Need) Strategy be adopted.

**C154**

**TARIFF INVESTMENT - MILTON KEYNES UNIVERSITY  
HOSPITAL CANCER THERAPY CENTRE**

It was reported that Milton Keynes University Hospital Foundation Trust was seeking financial support from the Milton Keynes Tariff to help address capacity, quality issues and enhance the work and patient environment through the re-provision of oncology, clinical haematology and cancer related chemotherapy (Cancer Services) within a dedicated Cancer Therapy Centre on the current Hospital site at Eaglestone West.

The Cabinet noted that the Milton Keynes Tariff raised funding from development within the Eastern and Western Expansion Areas, the Strategic Land Area and development at Tattenhoe Park and Kingsmead South. In total the Tariff aimed to raise £311m which was to be allocated across 18 different spending portfolios, including Acute Healthcare which had been allocated £16.23m of which £5.73m has already been invested in the Hospital site.

Councillor Middleton, Cabinet member for Resources and Innovation, emphasised the potential benefits for the residents of Milton Keynes of all cancer treatment being located on one site within the borough.

J Blakesley and P Eagles from Milton Keynes University Hospital outlined the increasing demand for cancer treatment from within the borough and the long term vision to also provide Radiotherapy services from the Hospital.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillors Bald, Bint, Long and Marland who referred to the importance of good transport links to the Hospital, how the Hospital Trust and the Council could learn from each other and the importance of investment in health provision.

RESOLVED -

1. That the Council enter into a Funding Agreement with Milton Keynes University Hospital.
2. That the Council agrees within the Funding Agreement to provide £10m from the Tariff, towards the cost of development of the Cancer Therapy Centre provided that the Milton Keynes University Hospital Board approves the final Business Case which demonstrates to the Council's satisfaction that the balance of funding required to complete the Cancer Therapy Centre, as proposed, be available and the project can be delivered.

**C155**

**MK FUTURES 2050 PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Cabinet received an update on the progress made with the projects that formed the MK Futures 2050 Programme since the approval of the initial programme plan at the Cabinet's meeting on 10 October 2016.

In summary the Cabinet noted that in general, good progress had been made across the programme, especially with the development of a business case and the identification of a site for the new university proposition. The success of the MK50 birthday celebrations, the submission to the Great Places Scheme and the development of a new City Fest to be held in June 2017 in partnership with the Academy of Urbanism and the International New Towns Institute, had been particularly important early steps in progressing the Creative and Cultured City concept. While the bid to the Great Places Scheme was ultimately unsuccessful, opportunities to secure alternative funding for parts of the proposal were now being explored.

The Cabinet also noted the Council's continuing involvement with the National Infrastructure Commission's work on the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor which was helping to raise the profile of Milton Keynes as the hub of this knowledge-intensive corridor, allowing the Council to engage with the Government about issues facing the city,

It was reported that the scope of Project 3 – Learning 2050 and the potential for this to add value to existing work on school improvement had not yet been resolved. Also a two-year contract had been put in place with Community Action: MK to lead on stakeholder engagement for the MK Futures programme.

The Cabinet also heard from Councillors Bald, Bint, D Hopkins and Marland who referred to:

- (a) The need for more information on the projects which were not progressing so well;
- (b) The importance of progressing a Milton Keynes University and the need for a robust business case; and

- (c) The impact of Government Policy on the Learning 2050 Project.

RESOLVED -

That the progress to date in delivering the Six Big Projects forming the MK Futures 2050 Programme be noted.

**C156**

**MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL - COUNCIL PLAN 2016/2020**

It was reported that at its meeting on 13 July 2016 the Council had approved the Milton Keynes Council Plan Delivery Plan, which set out the detailed activities and milestones that would deliver the aspirations in the Council Plan from now until 2020. The Delivery Plan contained three overall headline aims for Milton Keynes: to be a place of opportunity, an affordable place and a healthy place. To support these over-arching objectives there were sixteen priority themes, each with a number of specific actions.

The Cabinet considered the third quarterly update on how the Council was progressing against the commitments outlined within the Delivery Plan, noting that:

- (a) twenty actions were marked as complete;
- (b) Children's Services continued to deliver innovative models of service delivery;
- (c) good progress had been made in delivering the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Transformation Plan;
- (d) 92% of schools were judged good or better, which was the highest ever for Milton Keynes and one of highest in the South East Region;
- (e) the MK50 Spring programme delivery was underway following a strong start to the year, with many events planned for the remainder of the birthday year;
- (f) the majority of actions were currently showing a RAG rating of green, indicating that they were on track for scope, timeliness, cost and risk;
- (g) there had been an increase in the number of actions at amber primarily due to timescales slipping;
- (h) the Agora re-development in Wolverton remained red;
- (i) while the Homelessness Partnership was working well it had failed to create a One Stop Shop style service by the deadline giving it a red rating; and
- (j) further work was being done to look at how the increasing issue of street homelessness at a national level was having an impact in Milton Keynes.

Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) reported, in relation to matters in his portfolio, that generally all were progressing well, more specifically:

- (a) a new developer was being sought for the Agora, Wolverton redevelopment;
- (b) he had requested that the Economic Development Strategy be re-drafted and this would be released for consultation shortly;
- (c) the Business Engagement Plan was progressing; and
- (d) work with partners on a devolution deal was progressing, particularly with England's Economic Heartland, Fast Growing Cities and SEMLEP. However, the work involving the Oxford / Cambridge Arc was experiencing some difficulty as a result of the ongoing unitary council debate in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire.

Councillor Bint cautioned the Cabinet against letting those projects currently rated Green slip. Councillor Bint also suggested that the wording of some of the objectives cloaked a lack of progress, citing:

- (a) the consultation on the Budget, which had obtained a limited response;
- (b) a failure to factor in the true level of public concern about highway issues in the review of the Highways Asset Management Plan; and
- (c) the review of options for a multi-storey car park being marked as complete when there were still no firm plans for a multi-storey car park.

Councillor Long, noting that the one-stop shop for homeless issues had not been established, referred to the considerable number of homeless people who did not wish to engage with the Council and who would be better engaged by outreach services rather than a one-stop shop approach.

Councillor Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families) referred to the work being undertaken with schools to increase standards which were achieving significant improvements in results, despite the uncertainty caused by the Government's withdrawal of its recent White Paper.

Councillor Marland in summing up referred to the work being undertaken with partners on HIV awareness, sexual health promotion and combatting domestic violence.

Councillor Marland in response to a point raised by Councillor Bint praised the work done as part of the consultation on reshaping the Sheltered Housing Warden Service to ensure that service users were both aware of potential changes and were able to shape the service. Councillor Marland also referred to the limited resources available to support consultations undertaken by the Council.

RESOLVED -

That the progress on the implementation of the Council Plan Delivery Plan be noted.

**C157**

**PROCUREMENT AND COMMISSIONING**

RESOLVED –

That the Minutes of Procurement and Commissioning held on 17 January 2017 be received.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8:25 PM