

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING CABINET ADVISORY GROUP held on WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillor Marland (Chair)(Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning)
Councillors Ferrans, D Hopkins, Trendall and Walker.

K Fraser (Youth Cabinet), R Kurth (CMK Town Council), R Mascarenhas (Youth Cabinet chaperone) K Fraser (Youth Cabinet) and V shah (Youth Cabinet)

Officers: J Palmer (Head of Planning), A Turner (Planning and Transport Policy Manager) and D Imbimbo (Committee Manager).

Apologies: Cllr Legg, H Chipping (SEMLEP), C Walton (Community Action) and P Thomas (Director of Planning and Placemaking)

CAG04 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed members and reminded the Group of the function of the Cabinet Advisory Group. He further advised that the recording of the meeting would be made available on the Council's You Tube channel.

CAG05 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Hopkins asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests.

Councillor Marland asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests.

In the interest of transparency, Councillor Ferrans advised that she was on the board of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership.

CAG06 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Advisory Group held on 8 JULY 2021 be agreed as an accurate record and the Chair to sign them as such, subject to the additional bullet point at minute CAG03 Members Comments 'Affordable Housing should remain a high priority'.

CAG07 ASPIRATIONS AND TRADE-OFFS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN – MEMBERS WRITTEN FEEDBACK

The Planning and Transport Policy Manager reminded the Group that the Chair had asked that members consider what their aspirations were for the content and focus of the emerging Local Plan and to provide written feedback and also what the Group would be willing to trade-off to achieve their priorities, he further told the Group that he

had received written feedback from Councillor D Hopkins which set out 17 points which were primarily aspirations. It was noted that comment had been made that there was a difficulty in discussing trade-offs without there being some specific aspirations being identified and this was something that may be better discussed once a full list was drawn up.

The Chair thanked Councillor Hopkins for his contribution and invited any additional written comment from members to be forwarded to The Planning and Transport Policy Manager.

RESOLVED

That the update be noted

CAG07

GROUP DISCUSSION IN RESPECT OF ASPIRATIONS AND TRADE-OFFS FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

The Chair invited members of the Group to indicate what their 2 or 3 primary aspirations for the Local Plan focus were, noting that ultimately the Council would have to submit to the Planning Inspector a Plan that was both legal and deliverable, there was therefore a need to be realistic in what was aspired to and it would be essential to accept that to achieve some of the aspirations there would likely be others that would have to be traded off to accommodate those given priority.

The Group members listed the following as their primary aspirations.

Councillor Trendall

- For development generally a desire to see proper mixed developments, rather than estates, fully serviced communities that can live locally with all necessary facilities.
- Green Developments in terms of construction methods, sustainability and the final appearances of development, being desirable as living areas, and inclusive of the wider Milton Keynes.

Councillor Walker

- A continuation of the regeneration programme.
- 'Beautiful Places' desirable as a living environment.
- Provision of affordable housing.

Councillor Ferrans

- Affordable housing provision, including the right sized affordable homes (i.e 3+ bed homes).
- Climate Change initiatives.

Councillor Kurth

- Affordable housing and maintaining that as affordable for future occupants.
- Well-designed good quality and efficient Public Transport.
- A model for financial sustainability of public realm initiatives.
- A strategic approach to the delivery of cultural facilities.

Councillor D Hopkins

- To take back control of planning for Milton Keynes rather than being driven by a fear of what Developers or the Planning Inspectors will do if the Council sticks to its principles and policies.
- Policies must be evidence-based negating a risk of having them challenged.
- Need a proper debate over the locations for growth, such as north of Milton Keynes.
- To build communities, also taking account of the Plans of neighbouring Authorities which can and do significantly impact on the Councils Local Plan.
- To have a robust set of policies to address climate change.
- Looking at Brownfield sites through redeveloping some of the 1970's style industrial estates that are no longer fit for purpose and are close to Central Milton Keynes.
- Practical and realistic transport solutions that benefit residents of Milton Keynes and deliver on local growth, including exploring the expansion of Grid Roads beyond the presently defined urban area.

Councillor Hopkins further commented that he believed it was essential to introduce a 'Planning Holiday' for those areas such as the eastern flanks of Milton Keynes, that were experiencing continuous development with the associated noise and dust etc. it was further commented that an assessment of the impact of that development should be undertaken on a wider geographical basis to establish what the effect on the infrastructure in rural areas was from that activity.

K Fraser and V Shah (Youth Cabinet)

- A need to provide community spaces for young people and communities in general.
- Encourage Public Facilities, Private Businesses and Developers to emphasise the renewability of its day to day operating.
- Revisit the potential for a monorail as part of a sustainable and efficient public transport system, including a review of the Redway routes and design to ensure that they remain a central transport

link also providing for new means of transport such as electric scooters.

- The long-term provision and retention of affordable housing taking account of the impacts on affordability by inflation and other market pressures.
- Expand the initiative to encourage the growth of wildflowers and plants as a part of the initiative to enhance ecology within the Town.

The Chair thanked the Group for the input and commented that it was a useful exercise as already it became clear that grouping the various aspirations into three main categories there were conflicts;

- a. Affordability of housing.
- b. Sustainability (including Public Transport).
- c. Growth Options/directions (including renewal).

The Chair gave the example that the provision of both Green Spaces and a desire for more affordable housing could mean the need to consider high rise and high-density housing and again reminded the Group that there remained the need to ensure that all contents of the Local Plan must be deliverable and where there were conflicts of aspirations, clear policy was required.

The Chair asked that members of the Group consider putting in writing their thoughts and any further comments and submitting them to the Planning and Transport Policy Manager for inclusion in future considerations.

The Planning and Transport Policy Manager also told the Group that some work was needed to consider changes in respect of Social Behaviour following the Pandemic. It was also commented that the aspiration for quality Placemaking should not be traded off as it was something that should be delivered in all development.

The Chair also asked that some research be conducted to identify other development schemes nationally that may or may not have been implemented and what barriers or benefits may have been realised in those.

CAG08

FUTURE MEETINGS DATES

13 October 2021 Final Draft of South East MK SPD

10 November 2021

12 January 2022

02 March 2022.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 5:58 PM