



Minutes of the meeting of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on TUESDAY
13 OCTOBER 2009 at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillor E Henderson (Mayor)
Councillors Barry, Bint, Box, Bristow, Brock, Burke, Butler-Ellis, Campbell, Carstens, S Clark, U Clarke, Coventry, Crooks, Dransfield, Drewett, Edwards, Exon, Ferrans, Fraser, Galloway, A Geary, P Geary, Gerrella, I Henderson, Hoyle, Irons, Jury, Klein, Lloyd, Mallyon, D McCall, McPake, Miles, A Morris, C Morris, O'Neill, Potts, Richards, Small, Tallack, Tamagnini-Barbosa, Tunney, Turnbull, Wharton, White, Williams and Wright.

Alderman Connor was also present

Apologies: Councillors Hopkins, Latham and I McCall and Aldermen Ellis and Howell

Also Present: 41 members of the public

CL47 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8 September 2009 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record, subject to the following wording being substituted for the wording of Councillor Potts' question to the Chair of the Development Control Committee at Minute CL42(f):

"Councillor Potts referred to his question asked at the previous meeting of the Council and a number of other requests, including to her predecessor, requesting the outcome of the review on what he believed to be the poor procedure used for the wind farm application. Councillor Potts accordingly asked Councillor Morris when she would be coming forward with the conclusions of the review previously promised."

CL48 **DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Councillor Butler-Ellis declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(iv) [Low Carbon Strategy] as a director of the United Sustainable Energy Agency.

Councillor U Clarke declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(iii) [A Plan for Bletchley] as Chair of a residents association in Bletchley.

Councillor White declared a personal interest in Item 5(b)(iv) [Low Carbon Strategy] as a member of the Government's Renewable Fuels Agency, as Chair of the United Sustainable Energy Agency and as Chair of the National Energy Foundation.

CL49

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Exam Success – Looked After Children

The Mayor congratulated a number of children looked after by the Council who had been successful in recent public examinations. The Mayor announced the following 13 young people who had been successful in their GCSE or equivalent exams and had obtained the grades they needed to continue to the next stage of their education:

Ardil Adris
Kurtus Avery-Hawkins
Liam Batchelor
Edith Dzre
Yousef Farhadi
Jacob Holt
Ally Gillan
Henry Keech
Nic Marshall
Gwen Reece
Stuart Rose
Claire Starr
Karl Walker

In addition, the Mayor announced that Pina Liongo had secured A Level Grades of ABB and had moved on to study at the University of Surrey and Edmund Quazimi, a Care Leaver, had recently completed an MA in International Relations.

2. Remembrance Day

The Mayor announced that on 11 November at 11.00am he would be leading a two minutes' silence in the entrance foyer at the Civic Offices in memory of those service men and women killed and injured in the service of their country. The Mayor invited other Members and Senior Officers to join him.

3. Britain in Bloom

The Mayor announced that Milton Keynes had been awarded a gold medal in the 'Best Large City' in the Thames and Chiltern Region of the Britain in Bloom Competition and that Campbell Park had been awarded a regional award for 'Best Park'.

The Mayor also announced that Stony Stratford had received a number of awards, including the Regional Trophy winner and a Silver Gilt Award in the Urban Community Category. Stony Stratford had also received a Regional Award for Best Community Involvement.

The Mayor congratulated all involved and thanked them for making a contribution to achieving such an impressive list of awards.

4. "I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here"

The Mayor announced that Councillors Butler-Ellis, Drewett, A Geary, Irons, Potts and White were competing in "I'm a Councillor Get Me Out of Here" 2009.

The Council noted that each Councillor had prepared a 'manifesto' and had been answering questions from students on line and that there would be evictions throughout the week with the winner becoming the Council's 'Youth Champion'.

5. Milton Keynes Open for the World - World Cup Run

The Mayor announced that on Saturday 31 October a 5 kilometre run was being organised as part of Milton Keynes' bid to become a Candidate Host City for the 2018 World Cup.

The Mayor encouraged all to enter the run and support the bid.

CL50 THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF BLETCHLEY – PARKING ISSUES / RE-DESIGNATION OF LAND BEHIND PENN ROAD

The Council received two petitions which related to Parking Issues in Central Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and the re-designation of land behind Penn Road, Fenny Stratford as open space land.

The petitions were referred to the responsible Cabinet Members.

CL51 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(a) Question from Mr P Gladwin to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Mr Gladwin asked Councillor Crooks to advise:

- (a) how much the review had cost the MK tax payer to-date; and
- (b) how much of that total had been paid to the Working Group's Councillors?

Councillor Crooks commented that there had been no additional cost with regard to Councillors' expenses as they received a flat rate allowance which was not dependent on how many meetings they attended. With regard to other costs incurred as part of the review he would provide a written response.

(b) Question from Mrs J Tremarco to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Mrs Tremarco asked Councillor Mallyon to consider weight and parking restrictions on Staplehall Road, Bletchley due to problems being experienced by residents.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that he had spoken to Mrs Tremarco and had agreed to request a report from officers on the issues raised and carry out a site visit.

- (c) Question from Mr S Jones to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Mr Jones asked Councillor Mallyon why he had not received a response to telephone calls and letters sent to the passenger transport section in 2008.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that he would investigate and provide a written response.

- (d) Question from Mrs G Jones to Councillor Mallyon (Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport)

Mrs Jones asked Councillor Mallyon if taxi drivers undertaking school transport contracts for children with disabilities required enhanced criminal records checks and whether anybody from the Council's passenger transport section checked that the criminal records checks were clear.

Councillor Mallyon indicated that all taxi drivers were checked by the police and interviewed by the Council's Licensing Section. Councillor Mallyon also indicated that he would investigate whether taxi drivers undertaking school transport contracts for children with disabilities required enhanced criminal records checks and provide a written response.

- (e) Question from Ms K Hayter to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Ms Hayter asked Councillor Clark if she was aware of problems with school transport for children with Special Educational Needs and that cost cutting was putting these children at risk.

Councillor Clark agreed to discuss the issue with Ms Hayter outside the meeting.

CL52

REPORTS FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES

- (a) Children's Services Scrutiny Commission

Councillor Miles moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor I Henderson:

"That in view of the fact that the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Commission is not yet ready for submission to the Council, and noting the heavy agendas of Council and Select Committees, the Council agrees that the report, when ready, should now be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for decision on what further consideration, if any, should be given to the report."

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

RESOLVED –

That in view of the fact that the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Commission is not yet ready for submission to the Council, and noting the heavy agendas of Council and Select Committees, the Council agrees that the report, when ready, should now be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for decision on what further consideration, if any, should be given to the report.

(b) Cabinet – 22 September 2009

Treasury Management Outturn Report 2008/09

Councillor Crooks moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet on 22 September 2009, which was seconded by Councillor Williams:

- “1. That the Council’s Treasury Management Performance in 2008/09 be noted.
2. That the Council’s Treasury Management staff be complimented on their work.”

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

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council’s Treasury Management Performance in 2008/09 be noted.
2. That the Council’s Treasury Management staff be complimented on their work.

(c) Standards Committee – 23 September 2009

Article 9 of the Constitution

Councillor P Geary moved the following recommendation from the meeting of the Standards Committee on 23 September 2009, which was seconded by Councillor Richards:

“That the revision to Article 9 of the Constitution be adopted.”

On being put to the vote the recommendation was declared carried with 43 Members voting for, 1 Member voting against and 4 Members abstaining from voting.

RESOLVED –

That the revision to Article 9 of the Constitution, as set out at in the **Annex** to these Minutes, be adopted.

(d) Audit Committee – 23 September 2009

Statement of Accounts 2008/09

The Mayor ruled that this matter be referred to the next meeting of the Council on 10 November 2009.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

- (a) Question from Councillor Wright to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Councillor Wright asked Councillor Clark to let her know when a decision would be made as to the future of the resident units at Gatehouse School.

Councillor Clark indicated that there were no specific proposals to change the provision made by Gatehouse School, despite the review of Special Educational Needs provision finding that there was a higher than average provision of residential accommodation across Milton Keynes than that provided by statistical neighbours and other authorities in the South East.

An Inclusion Strategy was currently being prepared which would include the level of residential provision for children with Special Educational Needs. It was intended that the Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan would be issued for consultation by the end of the current school term. If adopted, proposals would be developed for each individual school affected by the adoption of the Strategy.

- (b) Question from Councillor Tunney to Councillor Dransfield (Chair of the Children and Young People's Select Committee)

Councillor Tunney asked Councillor Dransfield if, bearing in mind the change in policy by the Liberal Democrat Party that the Conservative and Labour Groups on the Council were right to vote against Councillor Potts' motion on the issue of tuition and top up fees.

Councillor Dransfield agreed and indicated that it showed that the Conservative and Labour Groups on the Council clearly knew more about Liberal Democrat Party national policy than the Liberal Democrat Group on the Council.

- (c) Question from Councillor Campbell to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Councillor Campbell asked Councillor Clark if she could explain why the residents close to Barlyhurst Primary School in Bletchley were not consulted about the installation of floodlights and also when would the lights be turned off at night.

Councillor Clark indicated that she would take up the matter with officers and provide a written response.

- (d) Question from Councillor U Clarke to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Councillor U Clarke asked Councillor Clark what was the Council's current policy with regard to the installation of sprinkler systems in the Council's schools.

Councillor Clark indicated that she would take up the matter with officers and provide a written response.

- (e) Question from Councillor Coventry to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council).

Councillor Coventry asked Councillor Crooks what measures could be put in place to ensure Members were made aware of matters going on in their Wards.

Councillor Crooks agreed how important it was for Members to be aware of issues affecting their local areas, if they were to be able to fully undertake their representational role on behalf of the communities they represented.

Councillor Crooks agreed to discuss with the Chief Executive how Members could be better informed and better involved.

- (f) Question from Councillor Hoyle to Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Social Care).

Councillor Hoyle asked Councillor Williams how many tests had been set by the Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust to ensure that doctors and nurses from the European Union are competent in English.

Councillor Williams indicated that he was unable to give a specific answer, but would investigate and provide a written answer.

Councillor Hoyle asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Williams.

- (g) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Councillor P Geary indicated that in June he asked a question about when Olney would be able to benefit from the provision of the WiMax Broadband service, to which Councillor Crooks had agreed to provide a written answer. As he had still to receive an answer Councillor Geary asked as to when he would receive an answer and Olney the WiMax Broadband service.

Councillor Crooks indicated that he had provided a response soon after the June Council meeting and would forward to Councillor P Geary his earlier e-mail regarding the provision of WiMax Broadband service in Olney.

Councillor P Geary asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Crooks.

- (h) Question from Councillor White to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council).

Councillor White asked Councillor Crooks what were the weaknesses identified by the Football Association during its recent visit concerning the bid for Milton Keynes to become a

2018 host venue and what measures were being put in place to address those weaknesses.

Councillor Crooks indicated that the bid was due to be submitted by 9 November 2009, and this would pick up some of the issues raised by the Football Association, such as accommodation and completion of other matters within a prescribed timescale.

The Football Association had also raised the financial implications for Milton Keynes and a report would be submitted to the meeting of the Cabinet on 27 October 2009 which would address these issues.

The decision on the bid was likely to be announced on 14 December 2009.

Councillor White asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Crooks.

- (i) Question from Councillor A Geary to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group).

Councillor A Geary asked Councillor Crooks if the Liberal Democrat Group would accept the challenge to field a team in the Milton Keynes Open for the World - World Cup 5 Kilometre Run on Saturday 31 October and pay a significant contribution to the Mayor's Charity if either he failed to raise a team, or the Liberal Democrat team failed to beat the Conservative Group team.

Councillor Crooks accepted the challenge.

- (j) Question from Councillor Potts to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group)

Councillor Potts asked Councillor Crooks if he was disgusted when he heard about the comments of a Leading Conservative Party Spokesperson regarding the appointment of a distinguished former senior army officer to the Conservative Party Shadow Cabinet as a political gimmick.

Councillor Crooks indicated that there had been a long held tradition in the country that senior public servants did not enter political life until an appropriate period had elapsed. The announcement of Sir Richard Dannatt being likely to do so was unfortunate and not in the traditions of this country.

- (k) Question from Councillor Box to Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Social Care)

Councillor Box asked Councillor Williams if he was able to reply to her recent query regarding a Council tenant.

Councillor Williams indicated that he had acknowledged the query and would provide a full response once officers had concluded their investigations.

- (l) Question from Councillor Bristow to Councillor Galloway (Cabinet Member for Environment, Planning and Growth)

Councillor Bristow asked Councillor Galloway for an assurance that a specific clause would appear in the Core Strategy referring to the 2018 Bid in order for the Bid to proceed to the next stage.

Councillor Galloway indicated that he was able to give that assurance.

- (m) Question from Councillor Miles to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Miles asked Councillor Crooks to comment on the comments of the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party on the need for deep cuts in public expenditure and if he supported those comments what did he think would be the affect on Milton Keynes.

Councillor Crooks acknowledged that public spending would be difficult over the next few years and hoped that it would not result in a bidding war between the parties in Milton Keynes to see who could cut the most. Councillor Crooks called for a considered review of the Council's services with savings being made from reviews of processes and not from frontline services to the most vulnerable members of the community.

- (n) Question from Councillor C Morris to Councillor Crooks (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Morris asked Councillor Crooks, in light of a number of reported problems with some Members appearing not to receive e-mails, if he could ask officers to undertake a review of the e-mail system to identify any underlying problems.

Councillor Crooks indicated that the IT Advisory Panel was scheduled to meet in the next few weeks and would be considering possible areas of investigation. Also the Cabinet, at its meeting in late July, had agreed to possible further investment for IT being included in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- (o) Question from Councillor Dransfield to Councillor S Clark (Cabinet Member for Children)

Councillor Dransfield asked Councillor S Clark if she would join with him in congratulating primary schools in Milton Keynes on their excellent results at Foundation Stage, which were above the national average, and sharing in his concern that the number of students achieving the A and B grades at A Level was still ten percent behind the national average.

Councillor Clark indicated that she agreed that the primary schools in Milton Keynes should be congratulated on their excellent results at Foundation Stage and acknowledged that that there was still work to be done to close the gap on the

national average at A Level.

- (p) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Williams (Cabinet Member for Housing and Adult Social Care)

Councillor P Geary, referring to a previous answer from Councillor Williams regarding the transfer of land and property between the Housing Service and the Environment Directorate, asked how much land had been transferred.

Councillor Williams indicated that to date about 30% of the land and property had been transferred, and a condition survey was being undertaken before any transfer and any necessary work was being undertaken.

Councillor Williams reported that in the meantime, before it was possible to complete the full transfer, where roads were in joint ownership they would be maintained as if in the ownership of one directorate and not in a piecemeal way.

Councillor Williams indicated that it was expected that that transfer would take approximately 2 years to complete.

Councillor Williams agreed that a report would be provided in Weekly News of transfers from the Housing Service to the Environment Directorate and a bi-monthly report would be provided to keep Members informed of transfers.

Councillor P Geary asked a supplementary question which was answered by Councillor Williams

CL54

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Councillor Bristow moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Edwards:

“1. That this Council:

- (a) whilst recognising there is still much work yet to be completed, is pleased to note the improved approach to all party Member involvement in the production of the Local Development Framework document under the new Administration of the Council;
- (b) expresses its deep concern and dismay at the attitude taken by the previous Liberal Democrat Administration of the Council from the notes of the meeting of ‘The Cross Boundary Members’ Reference Group’ held on 16 March 2009 in room 304/5, at the Housing and Communities Agency’s offices, CBX Building, Central Milton Keynes;
- (c) is further dismayed that the Liberal Democrat representatives of that Administration opposed the majority of Members of this Council from knowing what was being done and said in its name, by way of deliberately obstructing a wider , and possibly, an all-party representation on that body;

- (d) notes with deep concern, that those representatives have done a grave disservice to the people of this Borough, this Council and to future generations of this city, by their actions on that body;
 - (e) notes that those representatives have also failed to recognise that their views did not represent, or may not have represented, the majority view of this Council on that body;
 - (f) notes that those representatives probably did not wish other Members of this Council to find out what was being done, or agreed in the name of Milton Keynes Council, by trying to block the release of the notes of that and future meetings;
 - (g) confirms its gratitude to those Members who did speak and vote in favour of the Council Members being afforded a copy of the notes of this and future meetings; and
 - (h) recognises that it is important to Council Members to have all the facts made known to them on such important issues, in order that they may make rational, considered and sound judgements on possibly the most important decision facing this Authority and its future generations.
2. That, as this Council does not know what has been said and/or done in the past in its name, the Council resolves:
- (a) that it is not its intention to be obstructive, or counter productive, but asks Members of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' to recognise that this Council has a duty of care to the people it represents, and to the future;
 - (b) that for the avoidance of doubt, it makes clear to all other Members of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' that as of this date, all statements, undertakings, understandings or guarantees, howsoever given by the previous Administration are hereby set aside and cannot, or will not, be honoured until the minutes of all such meetings are agreed and endorsed by the full body of this Council;
 - (c) that any future meetings of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' will not be considered as a valid meeting unless and until this Council is represented by an all-party group from this Council; and
 - (d) that it is the desire of this Council to work to the common good of all people of the area in and around Milton Keynes."

Councillor Crooks moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor Galloway:

- “(a) That the paragraph 1 (a) to (g) and 2 (a) to (c) of the motion be deleted and the remaining paragraphs of the motion namely 1(h) and 2 (d) be re-numbered as (1) and (2).
- (b) That the following paragraphs be added to the motion:
 - (3) That, in line with matters highlighted for consideration at the meeting of the Local Development Framework Cabinet Advisory Group held on 18th June 2009 that formal boundary changes need to be addressed at some point, officers are asked to pursue options in consultation with other appropriate authorities for revising the formal boundary of Milton Keynes better to reflect the areas now served by, and which look to, Milton Keynes including those covered by the South East and South West Special Development Areas (SDAs) and to report back to the Council by February 2010 with a view to submitting a request to the Secretary of State and the Boundary Committee for a formal review.
 - (4) That the concept of a single ‘local delivery vehicle’ based on the current Milton Keynes Partnership also be explored to co-ordinate growth delivery across the current expansion areas and the South-East and South-West SDAs.
 - (5) That, as a means of bringing more democratic control to planning decisions affecting the South East and South West SDAs, as well as the existing expansion areas, officers are asked to explore options for Joint Development Control functions for these areas, including, as appropriate, representatives from Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Partnership, Central Bedfordshire Council, Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council, and to report back to the Council by December 2009.
 - (6) That place-making groups and stakeholder forums be established for each of the SDA areas on a similar basis to those already existing in the Eastern and Western Expansion Areas which bring together parish and ward councillors for the areas involved, as well as representatives of residents’ associations and appropriate statutory bodies.
 - (7) That consideration be given to the establishment of a Consultative Assembly or similar body covering the whole of the current Milton Keynes area and that of the two SDAs, representative of all of the principal councils affected, which would provide democratic oversight for functions such as children’s services, health, housing,

social care, policing, fire and rescue and transport which have to date benefited from co-terminosity of boundaries.

A recorded vote on the amendment was requested. The voting was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Barry, Burke, S Clark, Crooks, Drewett, Exon, Ferans, Fraser, Galloway, Gerrella, E Henderson, I Henderson, Mallyon, D McCall, McPake, Potts, Richards, Tallack, Tamagnini-Barbosa and Williams (20)

AGAINST: Councillors Bint, Box, Bristow, Brock, Butler-Ellis, Carstens, U Clarke, Coventry, Dransfield, Edwards, A Geary, P Geary, Hoyle, Irons, Jury, Klein, Lloyd, A Morris, C Morris, O'Neill, Small, Tunney, Turnbull, Wharton, White and Wright (26)

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

The amendment was declared lost.

A recorded vote on the motion was requested. The voting was as follows:

FOR: Councillors Bint, Box, Bristow, Brock, Butler-Ellis, Carstens, U Clarke, Coventry, Dransfield, Edwards, A Geary, P Geary, Hoyle, Irons, Jury, Klein, Lloyd, A Morris, C Morris, O'Neill, Small, Tunney, Turnbull, Wharton, White and Wright (26)

AGAINST: Councillors Barry, Burke, S Clark, Crooks, Drewett, Exon, Ferans, Fraser, Galloway, Gerrella, E Henderson, I Henderson, Mallyon, D McCall, McPake, Potts, Richards, Tallack, Tamagnini-Barbosa and Williams (20)

ABSTENTIONS: (0)

The amendment was declared carried.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council:

- (a) whilst recognising there is still much work yet to be completed, is pleased to note the improved approach to all party Member involvement in the production of the Local Development Framework document under the new Administration of the Council;
- (b) expresses its deep concern and dismay at the attitude taken by the previous Liberal Democrat Administration of the Council from the notes of the meeting of 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' held on 16 March 2009 in room 304/5, at the Housing and Communities Agency's offices, CBX Building, Central Milton Keynes;

- (c) is further dismayed that the Liberal Democrat representatives of that Administration opposed the majority of Members of this Council from knowing what was being done and said in its name, by way of deliberately obstructing a wider , and possibly, an all-party representation on that body;
- (d) notes with deep concern, that those representatives have done a grave disservice to the people of this Borough, this Council and to future generations of this city, by their actions on that body;
- (e) notes that those representatives have also failed to recognise that their views did not represent, or may not have represented, the majority view of this Council on that body;
- (f) notes that those representatives probably did not wish other Members of this Council to find out what was being done, or agreed in the name of Milton Keynes Council, by trying to block the release of the notes of that and future meetings;
- (g) confirms its gratitude to those Members who did speak and vote in favour of the Council Members being afforded a copy of the notes of this and future meetings; and
- (h) recognises that it is important to Council Members to have all the facts made known to them on such important issues, in order that they may make rational, considered and sound judgements on possibly the most important decision facing this Authority and its future generations.

2. That, as this Council does not know what has been said and/or done in the past in its name, the Council resolves:

- (a) that it is not its intention to be obstructive, or counter productive, but asks Members of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' to recognise that this Council has a duty of care to the people it represents, and to the future;
- (b) that for the avoidance of doubt, it makes clear to all other Members of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' that as of this date, all statements, undertakings, understandings or guarantees, howsoever given by the previous Administration are hereby set aside and cannot, or will not, be honoured until the minutes of all such meetings are agreed and endorsed by the full body of this Council;
- (c) that any future meetings of the 'The Cross Boundary Members' Reference Group' will not be considered as a valid meeting unless and until this Council is represented by an all-party group from this Council; and

- (d) that it is the desire of this Council to work to the common good of all people of the area in and around Milton Keynes.

CL55 ENFORCEMENT ACTION AT THE PAIN ARTISAN SITE, 15 TANNERS DRIVE, BLAKELANDS

With the consent of the Council the motion was withdrawn.

CL56 A PLAN FOR BLETCHLEY AND FENNY STRATFORD

Councillor Edwards moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Lloyd:

- “1. That this Council recognises that in and around Bletchley and Fenny Stratford there has been a massive new build initiative of housing and large commercial buildings over recent years and the development of thousands of properties is on-going, but unfortunately it appears that very little thought has been given to the highways, parking provision and drainage infrastructure that is desperately needed to cope with the magnitude of further development.
2. That this Council notes that as a result of thousands of additional properties in and around Bletchley and Fenny Stratford the representatives of Leon, Water Eaton, Lakes Estate, Fenny Stratford and The Mill Residents Associations wish this Council to adopt ‘A Plan for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford’ with the following issues being included in the plan:
 - (a) Southern Bletchley Bypass;
 - (b) B&Q Roundabout;
 - (c) Tavistock Street;
 - (d) One way traffic systems where necessary;
 - (e) 20 MPH Traffic restrictions in areas where necessary;
 - (f) Possibility to purchase land to create more car parking areas e.g. George Street, Bletchley Central Co-operative and the land where St Martin’s Hall is situated; and
 - (g) Traffic congestion:
 - (i) Fenny Stratford – Watling Street;
 - (ii) Little Chef roundabout - Fenny Stratford;
 - (iii) H8 Standing Way – Watling Street; and
 - (iv) Buckingham Road.”

Councillor Galloway moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor McPake and accepted by the mover of the motion:

“That the following additional clauses be added to the end of the motion:

3. That the Council recognises that “Strengthening community involvement” was a key part of the Government’s planning reforms and wishes to ensure the active, meaningful and continued involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
4. That the Council further recognises that parish and community plans, (whilst under revised Government planning guidance PPS12 issued in June 2008, cannot be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)) can be extremely important to both rural and urban areas and bring significant benefits in terms of deepening community involvement and increasing a sense of belonging and of ownership of policy.
5. That in order to contribute as effectively as possible such plans must be drawn up with the rigorous requirements of the statutory planning process in mind, to help local communities take charge of their own destinies, and strengthen the most local form of government.
6. That parish and community plans have demonstrated their value by bringing whole communities together to set out a vision for the future and ways of achieving it. Thus they are able to influence the Local Strategic Partnership and the preparation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and other Council strategies. They present an opportunity to assist in the production of the new Local Development Framework which is replacing the Local Plan.
7. That the Council, with these considerations in mind, requests officers to bring a report to the November meeting of Cabinet, with proposals:
 - (a) to address the issues raised in this motion and looking forward to continuing to work with the Consortium of Bletchley Residents Associations (COBRA) on these matters.
 - (b) more generally on how the Council can best support Parish and Town Councils and communities that wish to produce Parish Plans (or similar documents such as Village/Town Design Statements, Health Checks or Place Checks) for best use within the statutory planning process.”

The Council heard from three members of the public on this item.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council recognises that in and around Bletchley and Fenny Stratford there has been a massive new build initiative of housing and large commercial buildings over recent years and the development of thousands of properties is on-going, but unfortunately it appears that very little thought has been given to the highways, parking provision and drainage infrastructure that is desperately needed to cope with the magnitude of further development.
2. That this Council notes that as a result of thousands of additional properties in and around Bletchley and Fenny Stratford the representatives of Leon, Water Eaton, Lakes Estate, Fenny Stratford and The Mill Residents Associations wish this Council to adopt 'A Plan for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford' with the following issues being included in the plan:
 - (a) Southern Bletchley Bypass;
 - (b) B&Q Roundabout;
 - (c) Tavistock Street;
 - (d) One way traffic systems where necessary;
 - (e) 20 MPH Traffic restrictions in areas where necessary;
 - (f) Possibility to purchase land to create more car parking areas e.g. George Street, Bletchley Central Co-operative and the land where St Martin's Hall is situated; and
 - (g) Traffic congestion:
 - (i) Fenny Stratford – Watling Street;
 - (ii) Little Chef roundabout - Fenny Stratford;
 - (iii) H8 Standing Way – Watling Street; and
 - (iv) Buckingham Road.
3. That the Council recognises that “Strengthening community involvement” was a key part of the Government’s planning reforms and wishes to ensure the active, meaningful and continued involvement of local communities and stakeholders.
4. That the Council further recognises that parish and community plans, (whilst under revised Government planning guidance PPS12 issued in June 2008, cannot be adopted as Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)) can be extremely important to both rural and urban areas and bring significant benefits in terms of deepening community involvement and increasing a sense of belonging and of ownership of policy.

5. That in order to contribute as effectively as possible such plans must be drawn up with the rigorous requirements of the statutory planning process in mind, to help local communities take charge of their own destinies, and strengthen the most local form of government.
6. That parish and community plans have demonstrated their value by bringing whole communities together to set out a vision for the future and ways of achieving it. Thus they are able to influence the Local Strategic Partnership and the preparation of the Sustainable Community Strategy and other Council strategies. They present an opportunity to assist in the production of the new Local Development Framework which is replacing the Local Plan.
7. That the Council, with these considerations in mind, requests officers to bring a report to the November meeting of Cabinet, with proposals:
 - (a) to address the issues raised in this motion and looking forward to continuing to work with the Consortium of Bletchley Residents Associations (COBRA) on these matters.
 - (b) more generally on how the Council can best support Parish and Town Councils and communities that wish to produce Parish Plans (or similar documents such as Village/Town Design Statements, Health Checks or Place Checks) for best use within the statutory planning process.”

(Councillor U Clarke declared a personal interest in this Item.)

CL57

LOW CARBON STRATEGY

Councillor Crooks moved the following motion, which was seconded by Councillor Mallyon:

- “1. That the Council notes that Milton Keynes must accommodate a significant expansion in its population, whilst reducing its carbon footprint and without damaging the appeal of its original concept. At the same time the borough must further its reputation as an economically successful and progressive community.
2. That the Council further notes that Milton Keynes was designed to be a sustainable community and has in the past enjoyed a reputation as a national leader for innovation in environmental policy and practice, including the country’s first door-to-door recycling scheme. This spirit of innovation has continued but the time is now ripe to take us further as a global and international leader in low carbon living.

3. That the Council therefore proposes that a Low Carbon Living Strategy be developed under the leadership of the Council, which should:
 - (a) be ambitious and place Milton Keynes at the forefront of low carbon living nationally and internationally;
 - (b) be broad based, covering sustainability objectives for housing, energy, water and transport;
 - (c) build on existing and emerging initiatives such as the electrification of transport, low carbon housing development, retrofitting insulation in older properties, “smart” power grids, local green power generation and new waste reduction and treatment facilities;
 - (d) engage local communities and be a partnership project that draws on local expertise and capacity, including the local centres of academic excellence and the Zero Carbon Hub;
 - (e) achieve economic advantage for the borough through its high profile and support the development of the “green” economy and jobs; and
 - (f) ensure an integrated approach to the borough’s rural and urban areas.
4. That the Council charges the Cabinet to develop such a Strategy including its resource implications in consultation with the relevant Select Committees, its partners and other appropriate bodies.”

Councillor Galloway moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Councillor D McCall and accepted by the mover of the motion:

- “1. That the words ‘Policy D4 on sustainable development, which also offers the opportunity to improve existing housing stock from new development through the carbon offset fund and’ be added after the word ‘including’ and the word ‘technology’ be added before the word ‘policy’ in paragraph 2.
2. That the words ‘and Action Plan’ be added after the words ‘Low Carbon Living Strategy’ in paragraph 3.
3. That the word ‘education’ be added after the word ‘housing’ in paragraph 3(b).
4. That following new paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 be added to the motion:
 - (5) That the Council shall:
 - (a) Sign up to the recently launched national 10:10 campaign which aims to reduce the UK’s domestic emissions by 10% in 2010, to commit to cut the Council’s own emission by 10% next

year, along with encouraging individuals, organisations and businesses to do so.

- (b) Register its interest in the Covenant of Mayors and that officers consider the implications in detail and recommend further action to the November Cabinet meeting.
- (6) That the Council recognises that climate change will have far reaching effects on the local economy, its people and its environment and is determined to play its part in rising to this challenge.
- (7) That the Council recognises that in the current economic climate, that budgetary implications of any proposals need to be carefully considered. As a priority, consideration needs to be given to those items which have little or no cost implications and which can be done within existing resources. A report should be brought to the November Cabinet meeting, detailing action which:
- (a) may be taken by the Council in the short term, involving little or no expenditure such as:
- improving the advice given to residents and businesses locally on the Council's website and in Live MK.
 - highlighting the success of local businesses in taking sustainable technology forward on the Council's website and News Releases.
- (b) requires more detailed consideration, particularly of resource implications, before implementation, such as:
- Budgeting – implement a carbon budget process, whereby all services are to plan their activities according to their carbon budget.
 - Energy generation from biomass sources - Utilise biomass from landscaping and other areas of landscaping owned by the Council.
 - Waste minimisation - Set up a trade waste recycling scheme.
 - Energy Efficiency – Continue to carry out water management surveys and institute measures to make savings.
 - Energy Efficiency – Continue to install sensors to switch off lights in un-occupied rooms in all Council buildings.

- Education - reduce food miles, grow your own and use local produce.
- Education – produce newsletters in collaboration with local partners highlighting all the climate change initiatives in Milton Keynes and encouraging local participation in schemes and this Council as community leader.
- Education and skills - strengthen Milton Keynes' offering of school, Further and Higher Education courses in science and technology to ensure that residents continue to take forward the research and development of sustainable technology, and its operation and maintenance
- Energy Efficiencies – explore partnership with utility companies to provide free/subsidised energy/water saving devices.
- Education – Eco Schools Awards – Work with schools to achieve Eco Schools awards.
- Issue a leaflet about energy reduction measures and grants along with the Council Tax leaflet.
- Energy Efficiencies – Explore schemes to loan electricity consumption meters to residents from local libraries.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared carried unanimously.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Council notes that Milton Keynes must accommodate a significant expansion in its population, whilst reducing its carbon footprint and without damaging the appeal of its original concept. At the same time the borough must further its reputation as an economically successful and progressive community.
2. That the Council further notes that Milton Keynes was designed to be a sustainable community and has in the past enjoyed a reputation as a national leader for innovation in environmental technology, policy and practice, including Policy D4 on sustainable development, which also offers the opportunity to improve existing housing stock from new development through the carbon offset fund, and the

country's first door-to-door recycling scheme. This spirit of innovation has continued but the time is now ripe to take us further as a global and international leader in low carbon living.

3. That the Council therefore proposes that a Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan be developed under the leadership of the Council, which should:
 - (a) be ambitious and place Milton Keynes at the forefront of low carbon living nationally and internationally;
 - (b) be broad based, covering sustainability objectives for housing, education, energy, water and transport;
 - (c) build on existing and emerging initiatives such as the electrification of transport, low carbon housing development, retrofitting insulation in older properties, "smart" power grids, local green power generation and new waste reduction and treatment facilities;
 - (d) engage local communities and be a partnership project that draws on local expertise and capacity, including the local centres of academic excellence and the Zero Carbon Hub;
 - (e) achieve economic advantage for the borough through its high profile and support the development of the "green" economy and jobs; and
 - (f) ensure an integrated approach to the borough's rural and urban areas.
4. That the Council charges the Cabinet to develop such a Strategy including its resource implications in consultation with the relevant Select Committees, its partners and other appropriate bodies.
5. That the Council shall:
 - (a) Sign up to the recently launched national 10:10 campaign which aims to reduce the UK's domestic emissions by 10% in 2010, to commit to cut the Council's own emission by 10% next year, along with encouraging individuals, organisations and businesses to do so.
 - (b) Register its interest in the Covenant of Mayors and that officers consider the implications in detail and recommend further action to the November Cabinet meeting.
6. That the Council recognises that climate change will have far reaching effects on the local economy, its people and its environment and is determined to play its part in rising to this challenge.

7. That the Council recognises that in the current economic climate, that budgetary implications of any proposals need to be carefully considered. As a priority, consideration needs to be given to those items which have little or no cost implications and which can be done within existing resources. A report should be brought to the November Cabinet meeting, detailing action which:
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- Budgeting – implement a carbon budget process, whereby all services are to plan their activities according to their carbon budget.
 - Energy generation from biomass sources - Utilise biomass from landscaping and other areas of landscaping owned by the Council.
 - Waste minimisation - Set up a trade waste recycling scheme.
 - Energy Efficiency – Continue to carry out water management surveys and institute measures to make savings.
 - Energy Efficiency – Continue to install sensors to switch off lights in un-occupied rooms in all council buildings.
 - Education - reduce food miles, grow your own and use local produce.
 - Education – produce newsletters in collaboration with local partners highlighting all the climate change initiatives in Milton Keynes and encouraging local participation in schemes and the Council as community leader.
 - Education and skills - strengthen Milton Keynes' offering of school, Further and Higher Education courses in science and technology to ensure that residents continue to take forward the research and development of sustainable technology, and its operation and maintenance.

- Energy Efficiencies – explore partnership with utility companies to provide free/subsidised energy/water saving devices.
- Education – Eco Schools Awards – Work with schools to achieve Eco Schools awards.
- Issue a leaflet about energy reduction measures and grants along with the Council Tax leaflet.
- Energy Efficiencies – Explore schemes to loan electricity consumption meters to residents from local libraries.

(Councillors Butler-Ellis and White declared personal interests in this Item.)

CL58 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Council noted the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Select Committees and changes in membership of the Development Control Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee.

CL59 PARISH REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Further to Minute CL138(c) of the meeting held on 14 April 2009, the Council noted that the Parish Review Working Group had not completed its work in time to report to this meeting.

The Council accordingly considered arrangements for the Working Group to report on its review of parishing arrangements in the Borough.

RESOLVED –

That the final recommendations of the Parish Review Working Group be presented at a special meeting of the Council, to be convened as soon as the Working Group is able to report, but ensuring that Members and parish councils have at least four weeks notice of the meeting.

CL60 WARD BASED BUDGETS – OCTOBER 2009

The Council received details of Grants awarded by Ward Members' from the Ward Initiatives Budget.

It was noted that to date two councillors had awarded grants and that a further application was being processed.

CL61 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY DECISIONS

The Council noted that in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 17.3, the Provisions for Special Urgency, as set out in Access to Information Procedure Rule 16, had not been used in the period July 2009 to September 2009.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11.02 PM

ARTICLE 9 - THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

9.1 *Standards Committee*

The Council meeting will establish a Standards Committee as required under statute.

9.2 *Composition*

(a) *Membership*

The Standards Committee must be composed of at least:

- (i) two Milton Keynes Council Members (one of whom may be a Member of the Cabinet but may not be the Council Leader);
- (ii) two Parish Members, a Parish Member being a Member of a parish council for which the Standards Committee is responsible but who is not also a Member of Milton Keynes Council; and
- (iii) 25% membership of Independent Members, an Independent Member being a person
 - (1) whose appointment is—
 - (aa) approved by a majority of the Members of the Authority;
 - (bb) advertised in one or more newspapers circulating in the area of the authority, and in such other publications or websites as the authority considers appropriate;
 - (cc) of a person who submitted an application to the Authority; and
 - (2) who is not
 - (aa) a councillor or an officer of Milton Keynes Council or any other relevant authority;

- (bb) someone who has within the period of five years immediately preceding the date of the appointment been a Member or officer of the Authority; or
- (cc) a relative or close friend of a Member or officer of the Authority.

Independent members will be entitled to vote at meetings.

(b) *Chairing the Committee*

The Standards Committee must be chaired by an Independent Member.

(c) *Quorum*

A meeting of the Standards Committee, or Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee, shall not be quorate unless

- (i) at least three Members of that Committee or Sub-Committee are present for its duration;
- (ii) a Milton Keynes Council Member is present and entitled to vote where matters relating to Milton Keynes Council or its Members are being considered;
- (iii) A Parish Member is present and entitled to vote where matters relating to parish councils or their Members are being considered; and
- (iv) an Independent Member is present.

9.3 *Role and Function*

The Standards Committee will have the following roles and functions in respect of Milton Keynes Council and, where relevant, the parish councils wholly or partially within the area of Milton Keynes:

(a) *Main functions*

- (i) to promote and maintain high standards of conduct for Members
- (ii) to help Members to follow the Code of Conduct

- (b) *Specific functions*
 - (i) to give the Council advice on adopting a local Code
 - (ii) to monitor the effectiveness of the Code
 - (iii) to train Members on the Code, or arrange for such training
 - (iv) to assess and review complaints about Members
 - (v) to conduct determinations hearings
 - (vi) to grant dispensations to Members with prejudicial interests
 - (vii) to grant exemptions for politically restricted posts
 - (viii) to recommend to Milton Keynes Council arrangements for exercising functions jointly with one or more standards committees of other authorities.

- (c) *Additional functions and terms of reference*
 - (i) to undertake such other functions as Milton Keynes Council considers appropriate
 - (ii) to consider the arrangements for corporate governance to ensure the maintenance and promotion of good ethical conduct; and
 - (iii) as the Committee undertakes the above roles and functions, to consider any matters that relate to standards of probity and ethical conduct.

The Committee will have regard to the statutory and non-statutory Guidance produced by Standards for England in conducting its role and functions

9.4 Sub-Committees

(a) Assessment Sub-Committees

The Standards Committee shall appoint Sub-Committees to discharge the Committee's function to receive and assess a written allegation that a Member or Co-opted Member (or former Member or Co-opted Member) of a relevant authority has failed, or may have failed, to comply with the authority's code of conduct.

(b) *Review Sub-Committees*

The Standards Committee shall appoint Sub-Committees to review a decision made by an Assessment Sub-Committee that no action should be taken in respect of an allegation where the person who made the allegation has made a written request for a review

(c) *Consideration and Hearing Sub-Committees*

The Standards Committee may appoint Sub-Committees to

- (i) consider a report submitted by the Monitoring Officer, or an Ethical Standards Officer of Standards for England, on an allegation referred for investigation and which contains a statement as to his or her findings that there has, or there has not been, a failure to comply with the code of conduct of the authority concerned or, as the case may be, of any other authority concerned; and
- (ii) where it is considered the matter should be determined by a Hearing of the Standards Committee, conduct the Hearing.

A Sub-Committee of the Standards Committee must be chaired by an independent member.

9.5 Access to Information

- (a) Meetings of the Standards Committee shall accord with the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4(2) of this Constitution, subject to
 - (i) additional notice requirements which exist in respect of parish councils; and
 - (ii) the application of additional provisions concerning exclusion of public and press.
- (b) Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution do not apply in respect of meetings of the Assessment and Review Sub-Committees.

9.6 Reference

As may be amended from time to time:

- (a) Part III of The Local Government Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007);
and
- (b) The Standards Committee (England) Regulations 2008.