

COUNCIL DECISIONS / ACTIONS – 16 SEPTEMBER 2020

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
1(b)	<p>Minutes</p> <p>That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 June 2020 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.</p>	-	-
1(c)	<p>Disclosure of Interests</p> <p>Councillor Jenkins disclosed a potential pecuniary interest in item 6(b)(iv) (Planning for the Future) as she had a business connection with one of the companies mentioned during debate.</p>	-	-
2	<p>Election of a Deputy Mayor</p> <p>That Councillor Mohammed Kahn be appointed Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes for the remainder of the Council year 2020/21.</p>	-	- Head of Democratic Services
3(a)	<p>Petitions</p> <p>None received.</p>	-	-
3(b)	<p>Questions from Members of the Public</p> <p>7 questions received.</p> <p>Councillor Townsend to arrange for Manish Verma to receive a response to his request that any potential Anti-Social Behaviour issues are taken into account before a final decision is made on the public art to be installed in the Oxley Park and Kingsmead Local Centre.</p>		- Councillor Baume / Director Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking

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4	<p>Business Remaining from Last Meeting</p> <p>None</p>	-	-
5(a)	<p>Corporate Parenting Panel – 23 June 2020</p> <p>The Council received the report of the Corporate Parenting Panel</p> <p>Councillor M Bradburn to supply Councillor Mclean with clarification of the following issues:</p> <p>(a) what was notable about the gang related violence in November 2019 that caused it to be referenced in the report; and</p> <p>(b) why did the Council rent six flats from the private sector which turned out to be unsuitable for young people leaving care and did the Council get any benefit from the flats, or did they remain empty.</p>	-	<p>-</p> <p>Councillor M Bradburn / Director Children’s Services</p>
5(b)	<p>Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – 25 June 2020</p> <p>That the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be renamed the Regeneration and Renewal Scrutiny Committee.</p>	-	Head of Democratic Services
5(c)	<p>Standards Sub-Committee - 10 September 2020</p> <p>That the apology submitted by Councillor Priestley be noted.</p>	-	Monitoring Officer
6(a)	<p>Councillors’ Questions</p> <p>(a) Councillor O’Neill to update Councillor Montague with any further information that becomes available relating to access to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), particularly with regard to whether it is currently operating a waiting list.</p>	-	Councillor O’Neill / Director Children’s Services

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6(a) (cont)	<p>Councillors' Questions</p> <p>(b) Councillor O'Neill to keep councillors and specifically Councillor Bowyer up to date in respect of the involvement of the Centre for Integrated Living in the development of the Council's Physical Disability Strategy.</p> <p>(c) Councillor Townsend to attempt to clarify the current position with regard to the Milton Keynes / Aylesbury link of the East / West Rail Line and inform Councillor Gowans.</p> <p>(d) Councillor Townsend to make representations to the Secretary of State for Transport regarding funding the electrification of the East / West Rail Line during the current build stage rather at a later stage once the Line is in use.</p> <p>(e) Councillor Marland to arrange to discuss the access to the new housing development in Woburn Sands, particularly the implications resulting from the limited access likely to be possible over the railway track with the Danesborough and Walton Ward Councillors and the relevant Parish / Town Councils. Councillor Marland to also request officer colleagues to make publicly available the feasibility study on options for access to the housing development over the railway line.</p> <p>(f) Councillor Darlington to discuss with officers both measures to encourage the large supermarket to collect shopping trollies removed from their premises and abandoned by shoppers and additional measures to encourage users of the open spaces in Milton Keynes to not litter.</p>		<p>Councillor O'Neill / Director Adult Services</p> <p>Councillor Townsend / Director Environment and Property</p> <p>Councillor Townsend / Director Environment and Property</p> <p>Councillor Marland / Director Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking</p> <p>Councillor Darlington / Director Environment and Property</p>

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6(a) (cont)	<p>Councillors' Questions</p> <p>(g) Councillor Middleton to consider access issues for local residents as part of any proposals to develop Windmill Hill Golf Course and retain an 18 hole course.</p> <p>(h) Councillor O'Neill to make representations to the Secretary of State for Health with regard to the availability of Covid-19 testing facilities for Milton Keynes residents and increasing provision, referring particularly the impact testing not being easily available could potentially have on the education of children in Milton Keynes.</p> <p>(i) Councillor Darlington to discuss with Councillor D Hopkins and Woburn Sands Town Council issues regarding the closing of the pedestrian crossing of the railway track in Woburn Sands.</p>		<p>Councillor Middleton / Director Environment and Property</p> <p>Councillor O'Neill / Director of Public Health</p> <p>Councillor Darlington / Director Environment and Property</p>
6(b)(i)	<p>Continuation of Virtual Meetings</p> <p>That this Council notes:</p> <p>(a) As part of the Government's lockdown measures, councils are permitted to hold meetings and committees virtually, which Milton Keynes Council has been doing successfully.</p> <p>(b) The hard work and support put in by the Democratic Services and IT Teams to help in the set up and running of virtual meetings and committees.</p> <p>(c) Virtual meetings make Milton Keynes Council a more inclusive and flexible Council.</p>	-	-

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6(b)(i) (cont)	<p>Continuation of Virtual Meetings</p> <p>(d) Virtual meetings play a role in increasing the attendance record of all Members.</p> <p>(e) Live-streaming virtual meetings can increase public awareness and participation in local government.</p> <p>(f) Live-streaming virtual meetings increases the openness and transparency of the Council.</p> <p>(g) That the ‘place’ of the meeting is set by the Monitoring Officer for Council/Committee Meetings and by the Leader for Executive meetings.</p> <p>That this Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Request that the Monitoring Officer and Leader of the Council, continue the hosting of virtual, live-streamed meetings and committees where appropriate, alongside the option to physically attend, where legislation and guidance allows. 2. Lobby the Government to continue to allow virtual meetings and remote attendance in local government. 	Group Leaders	<p>Director Law and Governance / Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER	SUBJECT AND DECISION	DECISION REFERRAL	PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION
6(b)(ii)	<p>The Impact of COVID-19 on Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities</p> <p>That this Council notes:</p> <p>(a) The first NHS England report into COVID-19, which found that compared to white people, people of Black and Asian ethnic origin were found to be at a higher risk of death from coronavirus.</p> <p>(b) The second NHS England report into understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups which found:</p> <p>(i) Individuals from BAME groups are more likely to work in occupations with a higher risk of COVID-19 exposure.</p> <p>(ii) They are more likely to use public transportation to travel to their essential work.</p> <p>(iii) Historic racism and poorer experiences of healthcare or at work may mean that individuals in BAME groups are less likely to seek care when needed or as NHS staff are less likely to speak up when they have concerns about Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) or risk.</p> <p>(c) In some BAME communities, households may be disproportionately hit by the pandemic economically, for instance if members of the household are carers or are self-employed. This may lead to BAME workers having to continue to work in jobs that are higher risk.</p>		

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6(b)(ii) (cont)	<p>The Impact of COVID-19 on BAME Communities</p> <p>(d) The Milton Keynes Local Outbreak Control Plan, which acknowledges the disparities of COVID-19 in BAME groups and aims to reduce those inequalities and protect vulnerable groups.</p> <p>That this Council resolves to:</p> <p>(a) request that Cabinet consider implementing the recommendations from the Public Health England report ‘Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups’ where possible and appropriate.</p> <p>(b) request that Cabinet to consider investigating whether there is a need for extra support for BAME communities as part of the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy, undertaking a more targeted, specific response.</p> <p>(c) Write to the two Milton Keynes MPs, asking they acknowledge the two Public Health England reports and hold the Conservative Government to implementing the recommendations.</p>	<p>Cabinet</p> <p>Cabinet</p>	<p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p> <p>Head of Democratic Services</p>
6(b)(iii)	<p>Low Traffic Neighbourhoods</p> <p>That this Council supports the concept of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods and requests the Cabinet investigates introducing them when and where feasible and appropriate, and where available funding allows, in locations where they have the support and involvement of the local community.</p>	Cabinet	Head of Democratic Services

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6(b)(iv)	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <p>That this Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) supportive of the Government's commitment that more houses be built; (b) mindful of its noting of the MK Futures Commission report on 20 July 2016, which has been used to inform the Cabinet's growth ambitions as outlined in the Council Plan; (c) aware that in Milton Keynes under successive administrations, local government has not failed the city - some 16,000 houses have already been granted planning permission, but developers have failed to build them; (d) committed to the principles behind the 2011 Localism Act and the importance of Neighbourhood Plans; and (e) convinced of the value of a comprehensive democratic input from residents and businesses at all stages of the planning process, <p>Resolves to encourage the Cabinet to prepare a response to the Government's consultative White Paper Planning for the Future which includes the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the dangers in grounding the Local Plan process on a reduced evidence base, on a potentially inadequate time for public consultation and meaningful involvement, and of introducing the threat of sanctions to already financially challenged councils; 	Cabinet	Head of Democratic Services

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6(b)(iv) (cont)	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. the removal of the opportunity for local community input and democratic accountability by the proposed increase (within Renewal Zones) of automatic permitted development rights together with the threat to democratic scrutiny by the inclusion of an option to remove the Public Examination process from the approval of a Local Plan and the removal of democratically accountable decision-making on the balancing of competing requirements that emerges at detailed application stage for most developments; 3. the undesirability of removing the "duty to cooperate" with neighbouring councils in the preparation of Local Plans, particularly pertinent in Milton Keynes where local boundaries follow historic divisions long overtaken by the city's development; 4. the renewal of nationally imposed top down housing targets based on a standard method for calculating housing need regardless of local circumstances, with no indication of any local planning authority's ability to determine key elements of outline plans such as housing size and tenure mix, and access arrangements together with the impact on the principle of mixed neighbourhoods and community cohesion by allowing block allocations of affordable housing and executive housing to be considered on separate planning applications; 5. the need to ensure that any housing allocations deliver the required number of bedrooms, not homes with too few bedrooms, to house our population; 		

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6(b)(iv) (cont)	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <p>6. the expectation that "First Homes" will take priority over all other forms of affordable home ownership which may raise barriers to home ownership, not lower them, by lessening the opportunity for shared ownership, and reduce the supply of much needed affordable homes for rent resulting in homelessness;</p> <p>7. the likelihood that the design code provisions will produce either (i) too detailed a manual to be helpful with lots of options and hundreds of pages, or (ii) an "identikit Britain" manual with such limited options that community character will be reduced to a memory, and all innovation stifled, or (iii) a minimalist manual with so few policies that developers will be able to reduce standards;</p> <p>8. the threat to the rural economy, park-based leisure facilities, visitor buildings at historic sites and much else from the binary "development or none" approach to protecting sites;</p> <p>9. the implications for environmental protection and biodiversity of the proposal that sustainability appraisals be abolished;</p> <p>10. the threat to archaeology and heritage through the removal of consideration in the planning process for evaluation and mitigation of the effect of development on heritage assets;</p>		

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6(b)(iv) (cont)	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <p>11. the impracticality of determining the infrastructure requirements and practicality of all sites proposed in just 12 months from the close of the call for zoning proposals - let alone when every Planning Authority in the country will be doing so during the same 12 months;</p> <p>12. the difficulty for local councils that the proposed new national infrastructure levy will only be paid upon occupation leaving councils having to borrow in order to pay for and deliver any infrastructure needed up front, which is aggravated by the lack of any method for ensuring that the infrastructure levy actually covers the cost of the required infrastructure in an area, and by the White Paper's silence on how any infrastructure less unrelated to councils - for example medical facilities and public transport - is to be delivered; and</p> <p>13. that the housing delivery test be replaced by:</p> <p>(a) An agreed timescale for submitting reserved matters or equivalent, and for completion of each phase or parcel, at outline approval of plans on each major site.</p> <p>(b) Addressing the problem of developers who will not bring forward reserved matters or build housing on time through the tax system so that land approved for development does not lie untouched or incomplete as at present.</p>		

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6(b)(iv) (cont)	<p>Planning for the Future</p> <p>(c) A restriction on the sanctioning of Councils to those who fail to maintain a valid Local Plan that allocates sufficient housing, or who fail wholesale to determine plans within agreed timescales - councils should not be sanctioned when developers fail to build plans that they have assured councils are deliverable.</p> <p>That this Council further resolves that:</p> <p>14. that the Cabinet be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking that local councils be given access to sufficient resource to promote large scale investment in quality affordable housing to rent; and</p> <p>15. that the critical importance of development framework Supplementary Planning Documents and related design guides and codes under the proposed system be recognised, and that the Cabinet assess the resource implications of producing them independently of developers in order to retain control over future developments.</p>	Cabinet	Head of Democratic Services
6(b)(v)	<p>Covid-19 Economic Recovery</p> <p>On being put to the vote the motion was not agreed.</p>		

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8	<p>Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the report be noted. 2. That the following changes to the membership of the Council's committees be confirmed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Audit Committee Councillor Legg replaces Councillor Priestley (b) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee / Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Call-in Sub-Committee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) That the seat currently held by Councillor Townsend be allocated to Councillor Baines as an independent councillor. (ii) That Councillor Raja be appointed to the Conservative Group vacancy. (c) Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee / Community and Housing Scrutiny Committee Call-in Sub-Committee That Councillor Townsend be replaced by Councillor Gowans. (d) Development Control Committee / Development Control Panel That Councillor Baines be replaced by Councillor Cryer-Whitehead. 	-	Head of Democratic Services

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8 (cont)	<p>Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990</p> <p>(e) Licensing Committee / Licensing Sub-Committee That the seat currently held by Councillor Green be allocated to Councillor Baines as an independent councillor.</p> <p>(f) Regeneration and Renewal Scrutiny Committee / Regeneration and Renewal Scrutiny Committee Call-in Sub-Committee That Councillor Baines be replaced by Councillor Lancaster.</p> <p>(g) Regulatory Committee / Regulatory Sub-Committee That the seat currently held by Councillor Green be allocated to Councillor Baines as an independent councillor.</p> <p>(h) Scrutiny Management Committee / Scrutiny Management Committee Call-in Sub-Committee That Councillors Legg, Miles and Townsend be replaced by Councillors Brown, Gowans and Priestley.</p>		
9.	<p>Quarterly Report on Special Urgency Decisions</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	-	-
10.	<p>Ward Based Budgets 2020/21</p> <p>That the report be noted.</p>	-	-