

# Agenda Item 5(b)

## Notices of Motion

### Notes:

1. The first four motions shown were submitted and received at the same time and were therefore tied. All are shown as motion 1 and the order of presentation is alphabetical by motion title.
2. In the event that Groups are unable to reach agreement about the order the first four motions are taken in, then Council will decide at the meeting.
3. Amendments to motions must be submitted by no later than 12 noon on Friday 19 November 2021.

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## 1. Local Electricity Bills

Councillor R Bradburn (20 October 2021)

- “1. That this Council acknowledges the efforts that this Council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy.
2. That this Council recognises that:
  - a) very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
  - b) making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier’s operation would create significant opportunities for local companies, community groups and councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, if they wished; and
  - c) revenues received by such local companies, community groups or councils that chose to become local renewable electricity providers could be used to help improve the local economy, local services and facilities and to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions.
3. That this Council notes that the Parliamentary Environmental Audit Committee, as a result of its 2021 Technological Innovations and Climate Change inquiry, recommended that a Right to Local Supply for local energy suppliers be established to address this.
4. That this Council therefore resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 278 MPs and which, if made law, would establish a Right to Local Supply which would promote local renewable electricity supply by making the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate to the size of the supply company.
5. That this Council further resolves to:
  - a) inform the local media of this decision; and
  - b) ask the Chief Executive to write to:
    - i) local MP Iain Stewart, who has not yet expressed support<sup>1</sup>, asking him to support the Bill; and
    - ii) the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at Camden Collective, 5-7 Buck Street, London NW1 8NJ or [info@powerforpeople.org.uk](mailto:info@powerforpeople.org.uk)) expressing its support.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/the-local-electricity-bill/support>

## 1. Planning Enforcement

Councillor Walker (20 October 2021)

“1. That this Council notes that:

- a) planning enforcement is an essential function of development management within a local authority;
- b) effective planning enforcement is critical for ensuring public confidence in the planning system;
- c) local planning authorities have responsibility for taking whatever enforcement action may be necessary, in the public interest, in their administrative areas;
- d) there are an extensive range of statutory powers for local authorities to investigate and take action against unauthorised development;
- e) unauthorised development can take a wide range of forms, of differing scales and it can occur over varying timeframes;
- f) the effects of unauthorised development can be harmful and undesirable to the public and the wider environment and affect the amenity of a neighbourhood; and
- g) unauthorised development can result in irreparable harm to our heritage assets.

2. That this Council welcomes the recent appointment of a new Senior Enforcement Officer and Team Leader as steps taken to improve the enforcement service.

3. That this Council recognises:

- a) the response of the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning at the Full Council meeting of 16 September 2020 where he accepted that planning enforcement had not always performed adequately in the past;
- b) the recent finding of maladministration by the Local Government Ombudsman over a failure to ensure adequate enforcement record-keeping;
- c) the recent judgement of the First-tier Tribunal (General Regulatory Chamber) Information Rights which found that ‘the [Council’s] enforcement team failed to keep proper records of site visits between January 2018 and August 2019’; and
- d) the concern expressed by members of the public and Members of the Development Control Committee at the meeting of 3 June 2021 over repeated failures to deal with unacceptable unauthorised development which was now immune from enforcement action due to the passage of time.

4. That this Council acknowledges that:
  - a) there remain serious concerns expressed by the public, Parish Councils and Ward Councillors over the effectiveness of planning enforcement in Milton Keynes;
  - b) it is not acceptable for harmful unauthorised development to become immune from enforcement action due a failure to take action within the statutory timeframes; and
  - c) enforcement failures can have a significant impact on peoples' lives and cause damage to the Council's reputation as the local planning authority.
5. That the Council resolves to request that the Cabinet Member for Planning:
  - a) bring forward a report at the next Cabinet meeting setting out the steps taken to improve the planning enforcement function in light of the recent Ombudsman decision and Tribunal findings; and
  - b) ensure the right resources are available for Development Management at the Council, to enable a more effective planning enforcement service whilst also providing sufficient resource to deliver an efficient and effective planning service."

#### **1. Timely Adoption and Pre-adoption Maintenance of New Roads**

Councillor Walker (20 October 2021)

- "1. That this Council notes that:
- a) when a new area is built, the land including roads and footways still belong to the developer until they are adopted by MK Council;
  - b) the Council will only adopt them if they have been constructed to an acceptable standard, these roads and streets are then classed as Highways Maintainable at Public Expense, which means that the Council pays for repairs, cleaning and gritting;
  - c) there are roads and streets that are unadopted and the Council does not have the responsibility to carry out maintenance works on these works such as gritting, repairing, cleaning and cutting back vegetation;
  - d) there are many roads in MK that have not yet been adopted, despite adjacent house-building having been finished years ago;
  - e) unadopted roads (and adjacent landscaping) can be poorly maintained by the developers with potholes, uncut vegetation obstructing safe views at junctions, poor drainage and no or inadequate street lighting which can affect residents' quality of life and safety;
  - f) often people who live on unadopted roads struggle to get the developers to do even basis maintenance to the roads and verges, year after year; and
  - g) there is a commitment to substantial housebuilding in and around MK for at least the next 15 years, during which time tens of thousands of new residents will experience the problems already facing similar numbers of existing residents, unless MKC does something to improve the situation.

2. That this Council asks the Cabinet member for Public Realm to:

- a) undertake an investigation into the numbers of unadopted roads and streets in Milton Keynes that have been unadopted for more than 5 years after the first homes on those roads were occupied, recognising that many communities find unadopted roads a problem;
- b) adopt a policy of requiring all roads and accesses contained in planning proposals to be of an adopted standard if at all possible, and requiring all roads allocated for adoption (and the relevant highway verges especially vision splays) to be properly maintained, by the developers, until the roads have been adopted, including provisions for the work to be done by the Council as the developers' expense if the developers fail to maintain the area properly; and
- c) write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities requesting that Councils be allowed to insert planning conditions about when roads should be adopted.”

### **1. White Ribbon Campaign**

Councillor Darlington (20 October 2021)

“1. That this Council notes that:

- a) Milton Keynes has a higher recorded rate of domestic abuse compared to any other area covered by Thames Valley Police;
  - b) in Milton Keynes last year (2020/21), Thames Valley Police recorded 4,338 domestic abuse-related crime incidents, which is a 29% increase compared to 2018/19 (3,356);
  - c) for the year ending March 2020, the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) estimated that approximately 7 in 100 women and 4 in 100 men had experienced domestic abuse in the last year while 82% of victims in criminal prosecutions of domestic abuse were women (ONS 2020);
  - d) in 2019/20, 867 individuals were referred to MK ACT – an increase of 262 (43.3%) from previous years and more than a quarter (26%) were assessed as high risk;
  - e) the number of repeat victims of a domestic abuse crime reported to Thames Valley Police increased from 34.6% in 2018/19 to 40.3% in 2020/21 while 8.5% of individuals referred to MK Act in 2020/21 were repeat victims;
  - f) 92% of rape cases recorded in the Thames Valley in the year to March 2020 involved female victims; and
  - g) just 1.6% of rape allegations nationwide result in someone being charged.
2. That this Council recognises that the White Ribbon Campaign is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's violence against women, by encouraging men to pledge never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

3. That this Council believes that:

- a) raising awareness plays a huge part in changing the cultural and social norms which are recognised as being highly influential in shaping individual behaviour, including the use of violence;
- b) the Council, its Members and Staff, are influential in shaping social norms in our city and therefore have a leadership role in calling out unacceptable behaviour;
- c) abuse and violence are a choice and there is no excuse for them; and
- d) domestic abuse happens throughout every level of society, regardless of health, wealth and status.

4. That this Council resolves to:

- a) arrange awareness training for councillors on male violence against women;
- b) encourage staff and members to become Ambassadors and Champions by taking the PROMISE never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women;
- c) make White Ribbon Day (25<sup>th</sup> November) part of the civic calendar with ambassador-led activities involving staff, members and the public;
- d) work towards becoming a White Ribbon Accredited Authority; and
- e) work closely with local agencies and organisations involved in tackling male violence against women to work towards making Milton Keynes a White Ribbon City.”

## **5. More Support for Education Catch Up Schemes**

Councillor M Bradburn (5 November 2021)

“1. That this Council notes that:

- a) children and young people’s education has been impacted massively since the start of the pandemic and during subsequent lockdowns;
- b) for some children and young people, the lack of social interaction with their peers was an emotional struggle that affected their social skills;
- c) some pupils struggled to learn from home due to a lack of equipment, with the government’s laptop distribution scheme suffering delays and missed targets;<sup>2</sup>
- d) others will have spent lockdown in households where abuse was happening;
- e) in Milton Keynes, pupils missed more than 200,000 days of teaching due to COVID-19;<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/education/education-news/government-laptops-coronavirus-pandemic-pledge-b1830764.html>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/files/1616/3343/0712/Vital\\_Signs\\_2021.pdf](https://www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/files/1616/3343/0712/Vital_Signs_2021.pdf)

- f) nationally the Liberal Democrats are proposing a three-year programme of education catch up vouchers worth £200 for every school child in the country as part of a £15 billion programme; 44,236 children in Milton Keynes would benefit;
  - g) the government's education recovery package is £5 billion<sup>4</sup>; and
  - h) the former education recovery commissioner for England, Sir Kevan Collins, resigned from his post in June 2021, saying the government's funding 'falls far short of what is needed'.<sup>5</sup>
2. That this Council resolves to request the Leader and Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Education, Nadhim Zahawi, to request that education catch up schemes are sufficiently funded, and that pupils' individual needs are at the heart of any programme.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-schools-and-colleges-to-receive-extra-funding-for-catch-up>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-57335558>