

## COUNCIL DECISION NOTICE

The following decisions were taken by COUNCIL at its meeting held on WEDNESDAY 19 JANUARY 2022 at 7.30 pm.

### **CL99 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the special and ordinary meetings of the Council held on 24 November 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records, subject to the recording of Alderman McCall as an apology for both meetings.

### **CL105-106 REPORTS FROM CABINET & COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council makes the Astwood & Hardmead Neighbourhood Plan pursuant to the provisions of Section 38A(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

(Leader of the Council / Director of Planning & Placemaking)

2. That the Council accept the Public Sector Audit Appointments' invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal local government and police bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023.

(Cabinet member for Resources / Director of Finance & Resources)

### **CL107 COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS**

Questions were received from Councillors Baines, K Bradburn, Rankine, Hume, Hall, Clarke, Taylor, Baume, A Geary, Hussain, Raja and Minns.

ACTIONS:

1. Councillor Marland undertook to ask officers to consider how the provision of a secure truck park can be progressed via the Economic Study.

(Leader of the Council / Director of Planning & Placemaking)

2. Councillor Townsend undertook to ask officers to consider implementing a formal process for residents to submit parking complaints.

(Cabinet member for Public Realm / Director of Environment & Property / Director of Customer & Community Services)

3. Councillor Marland undertook to ensure that Councillor Taylor had a response from Councillor Wilson-Marklew by the end of the week to his question related to whether the Council will offer assistance to residents to insulate and update their properties.

(Leader of the Council / Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability / Director of Environment & Property)

**CL108 ASYLUM SEEKERS ACCOMMODATION IN MILTON KEYNES**

1. That this Council notes that:
  - a) The United Kingdom has a responsibility to house those seeking asylum in the UK in accommodation, which is safe, and where those so housed are accorded dignity whilst a decision on their status is made.
  - b) That the Home Office has decided without consultation with the council or the local people, to place asylum seekers in accommodation in the former Woughton House Hotel, Woughton-on-the-Green, in Campbell Park & Old Woughton Ward.
  - c) Recognises that Councillors' language on this sensitive issue can play an important role in reassuring communities and supporting asylum seekers.
2. That this council resolves that the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive, write to the Home Secretary and ask that they:
  - a) explain why this location (Woughton House Hotel) was selected;
  - b) explain why the Home Office contractor, Clearsprings, is asking for community volunteers to help with local transport when their director was paid £3.6m last year, and additionally shared in a £1.4m dividend bonus;
  - c) explain why Milton Keynes residents who wish to volunteer are being asked by Clearsprings to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements, and are being told it is a requirement of the Official Secrets Act;
  - d) praises the generosity of residents, charities, and other groups who have stepped up to support those who have been located at the hotel and seeks clarification from the Home Office contractor in relation to their role in the provision of clothing;
  - e) as a priority, the refugees should be offered vaccinations, because no one is safe, until everyone is safe;
  - f) engage with local faith group leaders to ensure that the asylum seekers are able to properly take part in their religious observances; and
  - g) agree to allow unannounced visits by council officers, including but not limited to those working in Public Health, Environmental Health and Adult Social Care and full access to the three Ward Councillors.

(Leader of the Council / Chief Executive)

**CL109 GRID ROADS**

On being put to the vote the motion was lost.

**CL110 YOUTH MAYOR**

1. That this Council:
  - a) recognises the Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet and praises the work of the 36 members, who have most recently run excellent campaigns on public safety, votes at 16 and affordable activities in Milton Keynes; and

- b) supports the principle of running elections as a way of engaging young people in democracy.
- 2. That this Council notes that over 14,000 local young people voted in the Youth Cabinet elections in 2019.
- 3. That this Council resolves to:
  - a) encourage officers to support the development of the youth democracy agenda, for example by exploring with young people the possibility of creating the role of a Youth Mayor, who would be elected by the Youth Cabinet for a term of 1 year and would represent the young people of the city at civic events, including accompanying the Mayor of Milton Keynes to various engagements; and
  - b) explore the possibility of creating the role of Councillor Youth Democracy Champion.”

(Cabinet member for Children & Families / Director of Children’s Services / Director of Law & Governance)

**CL111 SCHEME OF COUNCILLOR ALLOWANCES FOR 2022-23**

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors’ Allowances be received and noted.
- 2. That the Independent Remuneration Panel and its Clerk be thanked for its work.
- 3. That the revised Scheme of Councillors’ Allowances, based on the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel on Councillors Allowances be adopted to take effect from 1 April 2022.
- 4. That in respect of parental leave for Councillors, the following be agreed:
  - a) the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors; and
  - b) where Councillors take qualifying parental leave in accordance with the Policy, the period of such parental leave (‘the Period’) shall be treated as a good reason for the Councillor failing to attend any meeting or meetings during the Period for the purposes of section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 5. That authority be delegated to the Director of Law and Governance to make minor typographical and consequential amendments to the Scheme of Councillors’ Allowances and the Parental Leave Policy for Councillors.
- 6. That the Independent Remuneration Panel report on allowances for members of Parish and Town Councils, be noted.

(Director of Law and Governance)

**CL112 APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTees TO THE AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED:

That the individuals set out in the report, be Co-opted to the Audit, and Standards Committees of Milton Keynes Council, from 1 February 2022, for a period of 4 years from 1 February 2022.

(Director of Law & Governance)

**CL113 UPDATE TO FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

RESOLVED:

That the minor changes proposed to the Council's Financial Regulations be agreed.

(Director of Finance & Resources)

**CL114 QUARTERLY REPORT ON SPECIAL URGENCY PROVISIONS**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

**CL115 WARD BASED BUDGETS 2021/22**

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.