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Minutes of the MEETING of the MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL held on  
WEDNESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2021 at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Khan (Mayor)  
Councillors Alexander, Baines, Baume, M Bradburn,  
R Bradburn, Brown, Carr, Clarke, Crooks, Darlington, De Villiers,  
Exon, Ferrans, Fuller, P Geary, Gilbert, Hall, D Hopkins, V Hopkins,  
Hosking, Hume, Hussain, Imran, Jenkins, Lancaster, Legg, Marland,  
Marlow, McLean, McPake, Middleton, Montague, Nazir, B Nolan,  
Z Nolan, Raja, Rankine, Reilly, Rolfe, Taylor, Townsend, Trendall,  
Verma, Walker, Wallis, Wardle and Wilson-Marklew.

Aldermen McKenzie and 17 members of the public.

**Apologies:** Councillors Balazs, Bowyer, K Bradburn, Cryer-Whitehead, A Geary,  
Hearnshaw, McQuillan, Minns, and Priestly and Aldermen Bartlett,  
Beeley, Bristow, Coventry, Henderson and Howell and Alderwomen  
Irons, Henderson, Lloyd and Saunders

**CL65 MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 15  
September 2021 and 21 September 2021 be approved and signed by  
the Mayor as correct records.

**CL66 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None.

**CL67 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor made announcements in respect of:

- (a) The murder of Sir David Amess MP;
- (b) New arrivals;
- (c) The 'City of Light' Festival; and
- (d) The Special Council meeting to be held on the 24 November.

**CL68 PETITIONS**

None

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

- (a) Question from Sally Crockett to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Sally Crockett, referring to a previous proposal for verge conversions in West Bletchley, asked Councillor Townsend, why had these improvements been blocked by Milton Keynes Council, could they be reinstated and if not why and why officers would not engage with the parish council?

Councillor Townsend indicated that she had asked the new Interim Head of Service to review the proposal and it was identified that the scheme did not progress due to concerns about safety and viability. However, the Council would like to engage with the parish council and residents associations to progress work on this issue.

As a supplementary question, Sally Crockett, asked Councillor Townsend if she would provide an update on this issue in time for the next parish council planning meeting which was due to be held on the 15 November?

Councillor Townsend indicated that she would ask the Interim Head of Highways to prepare an update on the matter for the parish council.

- (b) Question from Nana Oguntola to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Nana Oguntola was unable to attend the meeting and Councillor Townsend undertook to provide a written response.

- (c) Question from Bruhan Atesh to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Bruhan Atesh, referring to the closure of the V6 Grafton Street, asked Councillor Townsend, how they and other business owners will be compensated for the loss of business and how will you help regain business after the road is operational?

Councillor Townsend indicated that while the road had been closed from June, pedestrian and vehicular access had been maintained throughout this period.

As a supplementary question, Bruhan Atesh referring to the impact the closure of the road has had on what was a new business, asked Councillor Townsend, whether there was any support the Council could offer with respect to the Business Rates on the property?

Councillor Townsend indicated that she would ask the appropriate Cabinet member to provide a written response on this matter.

- (d) Question from Alderman Bartlett to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing & Healthy Communities)

Alderman Bartlett was unable to attend the meeting and Council Darlington undertook to provide a written response.

- (e) Question from Ken Whild to Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources)

Ken Whild asked Councillor Middleton, what are the plans and timeline to provide access to smaller parcel land to allow faster development by community led entities to deliver truly affordable homes?

Councillor Middleton acknowledged the ongoing correspondence on this matter and the discussions that had taken place around the small Council owned sites that could be used to deliver such schemes. A number of these small sites were currently being appraised with regard to whether they would be appropriate to support the delivery of the Council's ambitious house building programme. Once these site appraisals were completed then it would be appropriate to discuss the matter further.

More widely the Council had built into the local planning policy that 1 hectare per allocation of strategic residential allocation within Plan MK would be for self and custom building plots. Councillor Middleton indicated that he was happy to continue the discussions regarding the smaller sites and would ask the Leader of the Council and the Director of Planning and Placemaking to make contact regarding the strategic sites.

As a supplementary question, Ken Whild asked Councillor Middleton, whether there was any thought given to entities such as the Milton Keynes Community Land Trust taking over the responsibility to deliver affordable housing where larger developers had not delivered them?

Councillor Middleton agreed that it was disappointing when large private sector developers did not build out the planning

permissions they had been granted. Unfortunately the Council did not have any levers to apply to force developers to build out their permissions. Councillor Middleton indicated that he felt the most feasible route to achieve the organisations aspirations was via the strategic housing residential allocations or the smaller Council owned sites if they were not allocated for Council built housing.

**CL70 BUSINESS REMAINING FROM THE LAST MEETING**

None.

**CL71 REPORTS FROM CABINET AND COMMITTEES**

None.

**CL72 COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS**

- (a) Question from Councillor Baume to Councillor Townsend  
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Baume, referring to the increase in flytipping that occurred during lockdown, asked Councillor Townsend, whether there had been any improvement in flytipping.

Councillor Townsend. indicated that there had been a steady decline in the flytipping figures since May when a number of new measures had been introduced. These measures included increased publicity and investment in mobile CCTV and the environmental crime team. On average flytipping had decreased 12% with an 19% decrease since August.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Baume asked Councillor Townsend whether she agreed that if there was any correlation between flytipping and the tip booking system that it would be strange if one was falling when the other was still in place and could she confirm whether the review of the booking system would include on the day booking and registration changes.

Councillor Townsend advised that as stated earlier flytipping figures were continuing to decrease. The tip booking system had recently been reviewed and would now allow for same day booking and for bookings to be amended. Councillor Townsend advised that she would continue to review the accessibility of the booking system and look at any other methods that could be introduced going forward.

- (b) Question from Councillor Gilbert to Councillor Townsend  
(Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Gilbert asked Councillor Townsend, if she would inform the Council how many times she had fined Serco for

issues with waste collection and under performance.

Councillor Townsend indicated that Serco had been fined once as the contract only allowed them to be fined £500 once per year.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Gilbert asked Councillor Townsend when this fine was issued and what other specific steps had been taken to improve the performance of Serco within the current contract?

Councillor Townsend advised that when there were problems in the summer and food and garden waste had to be suspended there were meetings nationally with Serco which resulted in a new management team appointed locally. They were working hard on recruitment of drivers and incentives programmes. Councillor Townsend indicated she did not have to hand the specific date the fine was issued but she would provide Councillor Gilbert with a written response on this matter.

- (c) Question from Councillor Montague to Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families.)

Councillor Montague, referring to the Government's decision to cut universal credit, the end of the furlough scheme and rising prices would mean that many families would be struggling during October half term, asked Councillor Z Nolan, would she let the Council know how we are supporting these vulnerable families so that no child goes hungry.

Councillor Z Nolan indicated that the Council would be providing £15 supermarket e-vouchers for those children on free school meals over the October half term. The Council did not want to see children going hungry in the holidays.

- (d) Question from Councillor Fuller to Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children & Families)

Councillor Fuller, referring to parents and care givers who were struggling to go back to work due to rising childcare costs, asked Councillor Z Nolan, how were the Council supporting them to get back into work?

Councillor Z Nolan indicated that this was an issue that had come up during the Child Poverty Commission and the evidence they collected that people struggled to get back into work due to the high up front costs of childcare. This had led to the launch of a childcare deposit scheme to cover these up front costs. These would be direct payments from the Council to the childcare

provider on the confirmation of a job offer.

- (e) Question from Councillor Lancaster to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Lancaster, referring to concerns from residents and councillors on Milton Keynes western flank that Aylesbury Vales Draft Local Plan would put significant pressure on Milton Keynes services and roads, asked Councillor Marland, whether he would support residents and ask Milton Keynes planning department to work with ward councillors and Buckinghamshire planners to ensure that residents' concerns were fully taken into consideration during the planning application process.

Councillor Marland indicated that he had already reached out and had arranged to meet with representatives of the developers.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Lancaster asked Councillor Marland, whether he would keep ward and parish councillors up to date as it was a major issue on the western flank.

Councillor Marland recognised the concerns of residents and local councillors that Buckinghamshire Council continued to place their growth on the Milton Keynes border, placing pressure on services delivered by Milton Keynes Council and other organisations such as Milton Keynes Hospital. Councillor Marland called on Buckinghamshire Council to engage fully with this Council particularly where they had proposals to build on the border.

- (f) Question from Councillor Clarke to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Clarke, referring to the commitment to install 20 smart bins across Milton Keynes, asked Councillor Townsend, whether she would provide an update on progress with the smart bins.

Councillor Townsend indicated that 15 smart bins had been installed. Of the 20 pledged in the Council Plan, 19 had been installed across Milton Keynes with one due to be installed once building works were completed where it was to be located.

- (g) Question from Councillor Baines to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Councillor Baines, referring to the increased use of electric scooters and the mis-use of these, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, how could this Council deal with the issues raised and

would she join with him to put pressure on Thames Valley Police to deal robustly with the matter.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that the Council had few levers to enforce this matter but agreed that the Council should be discussing the matter with Thames Valley Police for more support with dealing with the illegal use.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Baines. asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew with regard to the rental scooters could the Council check with the operators how children were able to hire the scooters.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew advised that these points were being raised with the operators and they were being asked to deal with the matter robustly.

- (h) Question from Councillor Hussain to Councillor Carr (Cabinet member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty)

Councillor Husain, referring to the Child Poverty Commission revealed that 23,000 children and young people were living in poverty in Milton Keynes, asked Councillor Carr, what the Council was doing to combat this.

Councillor Carr indicated that the Council continued to work through the 21 for 21 recommendations for this year. At the moment the Council was launching 'Love Exploring' which was an App that provided free activities for children during the half term. The big uniform drop took place over the summer holidays providing reduced cost school uniforms for purchase by those in need. The Council was looking at supporting the wider voluntary sector community to build on the successful programmes offered to provide sustainable resilience to deliver ongoing programmes. The projects reduce stress, improve health and bring families together when they have time off.

- (i) Question from Councillor P Geary to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor P Geary, referring to the reintroduction of planning applications being signed off by the team leader before planning permission was granted, asked Councillor Marland, while this was a significant improvement to the process it had also lead to delays and could Councillor Marland advise how many planning applications were awaiting sign off and what was the average delay in that sign-off.

Councillor Marland indicated that he would provide Councillor P Geary with a written response to his question as he did not

have those figures to hand.

As a supplementary question, Councillor P Geary indicated that he had been advised that part of the delay was due to a lack of resources and would Councillor Marland assure him that in the run up to the budget process that he was looking at the resourcing of this to make sure that this improvement to the process would continue and that it was resourced so that planning permissions were able to be granted in a timely manner.

Councillor Marland advised that he did not have any concerns that planning applications were not being granted in a timely manner and this was shown by the performance indicators for the service. There was not a resourcing issue within the planning department however there was a recruitment and retention issue within planning in general across local authorities. The Director of Planning and Placemaking and the Deputy Chief Executive was looking at the planning department to ensure that the pay scales and structure were right and that there was better resourcing in terms of the administration support to allow planners to carry out planning work rather than administrative work.

- (j) Question from Councillor Ferrans to Councillor Darlington (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing & Healthy Communities)

Councillor Ferrans, referring to the commitment to tackle rough sleeping, asked Councillor Darlington, if she could provide an update as to what support was available for our homeless residents now that the government had ended their 'All-In' policy?

Councillor Darlington indicated that she shared Councillor Ferrans concerns and that the Council was preparing for a harsh winter. However work was taking place in partnership with the voluntary and community sector. As part of this the old bus station was being converted to overnight accommodation and one-stop service provisions to support people into appropriate accommodation. Expanding the Council Housing First provision, independent skills and how to maintain a housing tenancy. The Council has also brought 30 homes which were now being used to house those that were previously rough sleeping.

- (k) Question from Councillor Hume to Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)

Councillor Hume asked Councillor Townsend, had the tip booking system saved or lost the Council money since its

implementation?

Councillor Townsend indicated that the total annual cost of operating the tips was £2.14 million compared to £2.37 million before the tip booking system was introduced. Around £220,000 has so far been saved since the implementation. Savings had been made from preventing cross border transfer of waste, commercial waste no longer being disposed of as household waste, no longer having to process hazardous waste and income at the New Bradwell site almost doubling.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Hume asked Councillor Townsend whether she thought that the figure of £3 million to operate the tips that had been released to the press was misleading to the public of Milton Keynes.

Councillor Townsend advised that she did feel that it was misleading. The tip booking system had in fact saved money and there was also no additional cost to clean up fly tipping as this was a fixed cost.

- (l) Question from Councillor Bowyer to Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Councillor Bowyer, referring to the Youth Cabinet some of whom felt that whilst they received some answers and actions to issues raised that there were a considerable number of other issues where they felt side-lined or ignored, asked Councillor Marland, what measures could the Council put in place to ensure that we respond more comprehensively to the time and effort that these young people put in so that they feel that their investment and time was worthwhile

Councillor Marland indicated that the Council appreciated the work of the Youth Cabinet in raising concerns of not just young people but all people in general in Milton Keynes. The issue of how to better support the Youth Cabinet has already been raised with a number of senior officers.

- (m) Question from Councillor McPake to Councillor Wilson-Marklew (Cabinet member for Climate & Sustainability)

Councillor McPake, asked Councillor Wilson-Marklew, would she contact bus operators and private hire car taxi operators and ask that they recommend to their drivers that they continue to wear masks.

Councillor Wilson-Marklew indicated that she would ask the bus companies to make that recommendation to their drivers and she would find the appropriate person to share that message

with taxi drivers.

- (n) Question from Councillor Legg to Councillor (Cabinet member for Adults, Housing & Healthy Communities)

Councillor Legg, referring to residents concerns regarding accessing a place with an NHS Dentist, asked Councillor Darlington, was she aware of this issue and had she raised it with the NHS.

Councillor Darlington indicated that she was aware of this issue and it had been raised by MK Together. The services were provided by NHS England who advised that dentist practices were operating at a significantly reduced capacity due to Covid-19 and there were long waiting lists. Patients with urgent needs should call 111 to get an appointment.

As a supplementary question, Councillor Legg asked Councillor Darlington whether she could ask the commissioners or our Health Scrutiny Committee to look at ways we could push the NHS to provide more NHS funded places and why this wasn't happening.

Councillor Darlington indicated that she would be very happy to do that as prevention was such an important element of our dental health and that private treatment should not be the alternative.

### **CL73**

#### **URGENT MOTION**

Councillor Walker moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Marland:

- "1. That this Council:
- a) mourns the loss of Sir David Amess MP, who was murdered performing his constituency duties on 15 October 2021;
  - b) recalls the tragic murder of Jo Cox MP in 2016 and the attack on Stephen Timms MP in 2010;
  - c) understands the death of Sir David represents the third such attack on a British parliamentarian in a little over a decade;
  - d) acknowledges with concern that members of this council and local MPs have received unacceptable threats and abuse as a result of their position, while serving the people of Milton Keynes; and
  - e) restates the power of a democracy to make a positive difference to people's lives and recognises that politicians

of all parties, from Parish, Town and Ward Councillors to Members of Parliament, are overwhelmingly dedicated, decent hardworking people; discharging their democratic duties as best they can.

2. That this council resolves to:
  - a) ask that Leaders of Political Groups collectively convey our condolences on the loss of Sir David Amess to the Speaker of the House of Commons;
  - b) ask that Leaders of Political Groups write to the Leaders of all political parties in Westminster to support measures that would see politicians at all tiers of government kept safe and secure so that they continue working hard on behalf of their constituents; and
  - c) request that the Chief Executive to review safety arrangements for members of this council with the Council's Health and Safety Team, and local police, in light of recent events."

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council:
  - a) mourns the loss of Sir David Amess MP, who was murdered performing his constituency duties on 15 October 2021;
  - b) recalls the tragic murder of Jo Cox MP in 2016 and the attack on Stephen Timms MP in 2010;
  - c) understands the death of Sir David represents the third such attack on a British parliamentarian in a little over a decade;
  - d) acknowledges with concern that members of this council and local MPs have received unacceptable threats and abuse as a result of their position, while serving the people of Milton Keynes; and
  - e) restates the power of a democracy to make a positive difference to people's lives and recognises that politicians of all parties, from Parish, Town and Ward Councillors to Members of Parliament, are overwhelmingly dedicated, decent hardworking people; discharging their democratic duties as best they can.

2. That this council resolves to:
  - a) ask that Leaders of Political Groups collectively convey our condolences on the loss of Sir David Amess to the Speaker of the House of Commons;
  - b) ask that Leaders of Political Groups write to the Leaders of all political parties in Westminster to support measures that would see politicians at all tiers of government kept safe and secure so that they continue working hard on behalf of their constituents; and
  - c) request that the Chief Executive to review safety arrangements for members of this council with the Council's Health and Safety Team, and local police, in light of recent events.

**CL74**

### **MISSED COLLECTIONS**

Councillor Gilbert moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Wardle:

- "1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the number of refuse bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and failing to meet MK Council targets for quarter 1;
  - (b) the number of food and garden waste bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and failing to meet MK Council targets for quarter 1;
  - (c) the number of recycling bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and double the target set by MK Council for quarter 1;
  - (d) that out of 9 months in 2021, there were 3 months where food and garden waste collections were not operating; and
  - (e) the impact of the HGV/LGV shortage in Europe and COVID-19 has affected staff in other local authorities and we must be mindful of it here.
2. That this Council:
  - (a) understands that residents expect consistent and non-disrupted waste collection;

- (b) recognises that Council Tax has risen for 7 years and residents deserve value for money that includes reliable and regular waste collection; and
  - (c) has a responsibility to be assiduous in its contract management with Serco and has a number of levers it can use to defend tax-payer's interests.
- 3. That this Council resolves to request that the Cabinet:
  - (a) prepare emergency plans for a shortage of refuse collectors to avoid disruption due to the HGV/LGV shortage being experienced across Europe;
  - (b) ensure that there are more robust processes in place to challenge any future operator of MK's waste collections including significant fines; and
  - (c) prepare a comprehensive winter plan to pre-empt and mitigate potential waste collection disruption over the coming months."

Councillor Townsend moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Trendall:

- "1. That the words 'we must be mindful of it here' be removed and replaced with the words 'Milton Keynes Council is already aware of the impact' in clause 1(e).
- 2. That the words 'and thanks residents for their understanding of the difficulties being faced by services during the current unprecedented circumstances' be added at the end of clause 2(a).
- 3. That the words 'and has a number of levers it can use to defend tax payer's interests' be replaced with the words 'but has very few meaningful contract management options available due to the contract agreed by the previous Conservative administration in April 2014 during a local election period' in clause 2(c).
- 4. That the words 'resolves to request that the Cabinet' be replaced with the word 'requests' in clause 3.
- 5. That the words 'prepare emergency plans for' be replaced with the words 'The Head of Environmental Services reports on work

being undertaken by Milton Keynes Council to plan for, and mitigate, the impact of' in clause 3(a).

6. That the words 'to the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee' be added to the end of clause 3(a).
7. That clause 3(b) be deleted and replaced with 'The Head of Environmental Services reports to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate time the measures being put in place to ensure the upcoming refuse commissioning process results in a more robust and effective contract being agreed'.
8. That the words 'that a report be prepared for Cabinet, setting out the steps already being undertaken to' be added at the start of clause 3(c)."

On being put to the vote the amendment to the motion was won.

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

RESOLVED –

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the number of refuse bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and failing to meet MK Council targets for quarter 1;
  - (b) the number of food and garden waste bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and failing to meet MK Council targets for quarter 1;
  - (c) the number of recycling bins reported as missed collections per 100k as a service performance indicator is 'red' and double the target set by MK Council for quarter 1;
  - (d) that out of 9 months in 2021, there were 3 months where food and garden waste collections were not operating; and
  - (e) the impact of the HGV/LGV shortage in Europe and COVID-19 has affected staff in other local authorities and Milton Keynes Council is already aware of the impact.
2. That this Council:
  - (a) understands that residents expect consistent and non-disrupted waste collection and thanks residents for their understanding of the difficulties being faced by services during the current unprecedented circumstances;

- (b) recognises that Council Tax has risen for 7 years and residents deserve value for money that includes reliable and regular waste collection; and
  - (c) has a responsibility to be assiduous in its contract management with Serco but has very few meaningful contract management options available due to the contract agreed by the previous Conservative administration in April 2014 during a local election period.
3. That this Council requests:
- (a) The Head of Environmental Services reports on work being undertaken by Milton Keynes Council to plan for, and mitigate, the impact of a shortage of refuse collectors to avoid disruption due to the HGV/LGV shortage being experienced across Europe to the Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee;
  - (b) The Head of Environmental Services reports to Strategic Placemaking Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate time the measures being put in place to ensure the upcoming refuse commissioning process results in a more robust and effective contract being agreed; and
  - (c) a report be prepared for Cabinet setting out the steps already being undertaken to prepare a comprehensive winter plan to pre-empt and mitigate potential waste collection disruption over the coming months.

**CL75**

**BEAUTIFUL BLETCHLEY – CREATING A VISITOR EXPERIENCE**

Councillor Rankine moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Nazir:

- “1. That this Council understands the regeneration of Central Bletchley is a significant strategic opportunity for Milton Keynes and is supported by Councillors from all parties and our MPs.
- 2. That this Council, having committed to the regeneration of Central Bletchley, believes a critical part of that regeneration will be the creation of an attractive gateway experience around the railway station that leaves a positive impression on visitors and commuters and increases pride in our community.
- 3. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the development of East West Rail and the re-establishment of Bletchley Station as a major transport interchange presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for the people of Bletchley and Milton Keynes;

- (b) the development of Central Bletchley will be shaped via the Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document, a Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Investment Plan and a new Transport and Parking Strategy;
  - (c) that Bletchley is already a significant destination for visitors to Bletchley Park, MK Stadium, Marshall Arena, MK1, Windmill Hill Golf Club, and MK College; and
  - (d) that East West Rail investment at the Station, further investment at Bletchley Park, the College and Queensway plus new connections to an improved Blue Lagoon/country park will see visitor numbers increase dramatically.
4. That this Council agrees:
- (a) that the current visitor experience around Bletchley Station is not attractive and leaves a very poor impression of Bletchley;
  - (b) that the derelict land around the old cricket pavilion and the metal security fencing stands in a prominent and important gateway location that currently leaves a very bad impression on travellers coming off the train at Bletchley Station or via Buckingham Road/Sherwood Drive;
  - (c) there is no attractive green space or plaza around the station area for visitors to relax and linger;
  - (d) that the association of Bletchley with Alan Turing is a strong cultural asset and yet Milton Keynes has no suitable memorial to celebrate the life of this national hero and that such a feature would strengthen Milton Keynes bid to become a city;
  - (e) on the importance of visitor spending to sustain a strong local economy, jobs and high-quality public infrastructure that will benefit all of Bletchley; and
  - (f) that maximising the opportunity of East West Rail and the successful regeneration of Bletchley will in part be dependent on creating an attractive investment environment for business and a positive experience for visitors.
5. That this Council calls on the Cabinet, Officers and Towns Fund Board to consider as part of our regeneration plans:

- (a) the acquisition of the old cricket pavilion site for the benefit of the people of Bletchley, Students and visitors;
- (b) the potential to convert the cricket pavilion site into an attractive memorial garden dedicated to Alan Turing, the commissioning of a Turing statue and the reclamation/reconstruction of the fire damaged pavilion building into a café and visitor centre serving residents, visitors and students and assisting with directions to all of our existing and future attractions; and
- (c) a large plaza area to the west of the station, incorporating a redesigned, pedestrian friendly section of Sherwood Drive to enable a safe crossing for visitors and students to the Turing Pavilion, the College and Bletchley Park.”

Councillor Marland moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Hume:

- “1. That the word ‘Central’ be removed from clause 1 and 2.
- 2. That the words “and Fenny Stratford” be added after the word ‘Bletchley’ in clause 1, 2, 4(e) and 4(f).
- 3. That the word ‘is’ in the last line of clause 1 be replaced by the words ‘should be’.
- 4. That the words ‘for Central Bletchley’ be added after the word ‘experience’ in clause 2.”

The amendment to the motion was accepted.

The Council heard from two members of the public during consideration of this item.

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

RESOLVED:

- 1. That this Council understands the regeneration of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford is a significant strategic opportunity for Milton Keynes and should be supported by Councillors from all parties and our MPs.
- 2. That this Council, having committed to the regeneration of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, believes a critical part of that regeneration will be the creation of an attractive gateway experience for Central Bletchley around the railway station that leaves a positive impression on visitors and commuters and increases pride in our community.

3. That this Council notes:
  - (a) the development of East West Rail and the re-establishment of Bletchley Station as a major transport interchange presents a once in a lifetime opportunity for the people of Bletchley and Milton Keynes;
  - (b) the development of Central Bletchley will be shaped via the Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document, a Neighbourhood Plan, the Town Investment Plan and a new Transport and Parking Strategy;
  - (c) that Bletchley is already a significant destination for visitors to Bletchley Park, MK Stadium, Marshall Arena, MK1, Windmill Hill Golf Club, and MK College; and
  - (d) that East West Rail investment at the Station, further investment at Bletchley Park, the College and Queensway plus new connections to an improved Blue Lagoon/country park will see visitor numbers increase dramatically.
  
4. That this Council agrees:
  - (a) that the current visitor experience around Bletchley Station is not attractive and leaves a very poor impression of Bletchley;
  - (b) that the derelict land around the old cricket pavilion and the metal security fencing stands in a prominent and important gateway location that currently leaves a very bad impression on travellers coming off the train at Bletchley Station or via Buckingham Road/Sherwood Drive;
  - (c) there is no attractive green space or plaza around the station area for visitors to relax and linger;
  - (d) that the association of Bletchley with Alan Turing is a strong cultural asset and yet Milton Keynes has no suitable memorial to celebrate the life of this national hero and that such a feature would strengthen Milton Keynes bid to become a city;
  - (e) on the importance of visitor spending to sustain a strong local economy, jobs and high-quality public infrastructure that will benefit all of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford; and
  - (f) that maximising the opportunity of East West Rail and the successful regeneration of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford will in part be dependent on creating an attractive

investment environment for business and a positive experience for visitors.

5. That this Council calls on the Cabinet, Officers and Towns Fund Board to consider as part of our regeneration plans:
  - (a) the acquisition of the old cricket pavilion site for the benefit of the people of Bletchley, Students and visitors;
  - (b) the potential to convert the cricket pavilion site into an attractive memorial garden dedicated to Alan Turing, the commissioning of a Turing statue and the reclamation/reconstruction of the fire damaged pavilion building into a café and visitor centre serving residents, visitors and students and assisting with directions to all of our existing and future attractions; and
  - (c) a large plaza area to the west of the station, incorporating a redesigned, pedestrian friendly section of Sherwood Drive to enable a safe crossing for visitors and students to the Turing Pavilion, the College and Bletchley Park.

**CL76**

#### **FIRE SAFETY AND SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS**

Councillor B Nolan moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Ferrans:

- “1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) it has now been more than four years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy which claimed the lives of 72 people;
  - (b) the disaster continues to have an impact on the lives of those affected and the estimated two million people that continue to live in unsafe buildings, whilst many residents are subject to unfair costs to make buildings safe and are financially trapped in properties they are unable to relinquish or sell; and
  - (c) thousands of those impacted by the need to replace cladding or undertake other essential property maintenance are residents of buildings such The Hub in CMK and others across Milton Keynes.
2. That this Council welcomes the government have set aside £5billion for the Building Safety Fund to replace dangerous cladding in the ‘most high-risk buildings’ but notes with concern that:
  - (a) the level of funding is substantially below the figure given by all independent estimates on the costs to make

- buildings safe, including the figure given by the Housing Select Committee as 'at least £15billion';
- (b) the government definition of 'most high risk' only covers buildings over 18 metres high and fails to protect people living in properties under that height from being passed costs by landlords;
  - (c) the scheme only covers cladding costs and does not cover the costs of making right other fire safety defects such as missing internal fire breaks or insulation removal;
  - (d) in April 2021 the Leader of the Conservative Group and the two Conservative Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes issued a press statement using the words 'they would do whatever it takes' to support locally affected residents; and
  - (e) the two Conservative Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes voted against amendments to the Fire Safety Bill that would have increased the size and scope of the scheme to protect residents, ensure safety work was carried out quickly and restrict landlords from imposing unfair costs on tenants.
3. That this Council welcomes government promises to assist those who are financially trapped in properties they are unable to relinquish or sell but further notes that:
- (a) despite the government indicating to banks and lenders that EWS1<sup>1</sup> certificates are no longer required for properties under 18 metres, that many banks and lenders are still requesting an EWS1 certificate to obtain mortgages or loans; and
  - (b) the government has no plans to legislate to make this guidance law.
4. That this Council believes:
- (a) that the system that allows private and developer appointed Building Control approvals is flawed;
  - (b) that the system of permitted development rights to convert offices to residential apartments is deeply concerning in regard to fire safety;
  - (c) that the government should ensure adequate funding for local authority Building Control services; and

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<sup>1</sup> [www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/latest-news/fire-safety/cladding-qa](http://www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/latest-news/fire-safety/cladding-qa)

- (d) that the government should ensure proper funding for fire services and fire safety inspections.
5. That this Council endorses the ‘End Our Cladding Scandal’<sup>2</sup> campaign, which is supported by a range of organisations as diverse as Grenfell United, The Sunday Times, The Daily Mail, Inside Housing and many resident groups, and which has the following aims:
- (a) the urgent requirement to make all buildings safe by June 2022;
  - (b) to ensure the Building Safety Fund covers all buildings;
  - (c) that residents should be protected from unfair costs;
  - (d) that social housing providers should have equal access to the funds;
  - (e) that building owners must pass on information on fire safety risks and defects to occupiers;
  - (f) that the government should provide underwriting assurances for insurance premiums and lending; and
  - (g) that legislation is passed to ensure reform of the EWS system.
6. That this Council therefore resolves that it supports:
- (a) the ‘Justice4Grenfell’<sup>3</sup> campaign;
  - (b) the ‘End Our Cladding Scandal’ campaign;
  - (c) residents in their fight to achieve fairness on this issue and be protected from costs;
  - (d) the return of the primary role of the local authority in building control;
  - (e) better government funding for Building Control and Fire Services; and
  - (f) a greater statutory role for the fire service in the planning system.
7. That this Council asks the Leader, to write to the new Secretary of State for Housing making the above points.”

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<sup>2</sup> [www.endourcladdingscandal.org](http://www.endourcladdingscandal.org)

<sup>3</sup> <https://justice4grenfell.org/>

The Council heard from four members of the public during consideration of this item.

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) it has now been more than four years since the Grenfell Tower tragedy which claimed the lives of 72 people;
  - (b) the disaster continues to have an impact on the lives of those affected and the estimated two million people that continue to live in unsafe buildings, whilst many residents are subject to unfair costs to make buildings safe and are financially trapped in properties they are unable to relinquish or sell; and
  - (c) thousands of those impacted by the need to replace cladding or undertake other essential property maintenance are residents of buildings such as The Hub in CMK and others across Milton Keynes.
2. That this Council welcomes the government have set aside £5billion for the Building Safety Fund to replace dangerous cladding in the 'most high-risk buildings' but notes with concern that:
  - (a) the level of funding is substantially below the figure given by all independent estimates on the costs to make buildings safe, including the figure given by the Housing Select Committee as 'at least £15billion';
  - (b) the government definition of 'most high risk' only covers buildings over 18 metres high and fails to protect people living in properties under that height from being passed costs by landlords;
  - (c) the scheme only covers cladding costs and does not cover the costs of making right other fire safety defects such as missing internal fire breaks or insulation removal;
  - (d) in April 2021 the Leader of the Conservative Group and the two Conservative Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes issued a press statement using the words 'they would do whatever it takes' to support locally affected residents; and
  - (e) the two Conservative Members of Parliament for Milton Keynes voted against amendments to the Fire Safety Bill that would have increased the size and scope of the

scheme to protect residents, ensure safety work was carried out quickly and restrict landlords from imposing unfair costs on tenants.

3. That this Council welcomes government promises to assist those who are financially trapped in properties they are unable to relinquish or sell but further notes that:
  - (a) despite the government indicating to banks and lenders that EWS1<sup>4</sup> certificates are no longer required for properties under 18 metres, that many banks and lenders are still requesting an EWS1 certificate to obtain mortgages or loans; and
  - (b) the government has no plans to legislate to make this guidance law.
4. That this Council believes:
  - (a) that the system that allows private and developer appointed Building Control approvals is flawed;
  - (b) that the system of permitted development rights to convert offices to residential apartments is deeply concerning in regard to fire safety;
  - (c) that the government should ensure adequate funding for local authority Building Control services; and
  - (d) that the government should ensure proper funding for fire services and fire safety inspections.
5. That this Council endorses the 'End Our Cladding Scandal'<sup>5</sup> campaign, which is supported by a range of organisations as diverse Grenfell United, The Sunday Times, The Daily Mail, Inside Housing and many resident groups, and which has the following aims:
  - (a) the urgent requirement to make all buildings safe by June 2022;
  - (b) to ensure the Building Safety Fund covers all buildings;
  - (c) that residents should be protected from unfair costs;
  - (d) that social housing providers should have equal access to the funds;
  - (e) that building owners must pass on information on fire safety risks and defects to occupiers;

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<sup>4</sup> [www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/latest-news/fire-safety/cladding-qa](http://www.rics.org/uk/news-insight/latest-news/fire-safety/cladding-qa)

<sup>5</sup> [www.endourcladdingscandal.org](http://www.endourcladdingscandal.org)

- (f) that the government should provide underwriting assurances for insurance premiums and lending; and
  - (g) that legislation is passed to ensure reform of the EWS system.
6. That this Council therefore resolves that it supports:
- (a) the 'Justice4Grenfell'<sup>6</sup> campaign;
  - (b) the 'End Our Cladding Scandal' campaign;
  - (c) residents in their fight to achieve fairness on this issue and be protected from costs;
  - (d) the return of the primary role of the local authority in building control;
  - (e) better government funding for Building Control and Fire Services; and
  - (f) a greater statutory role for the fire service in the planning system.
7. That this Council asks the Leader, to write to the new Secretary of State for Housing making the above points.

**CL77**

#### **CHANGING PLACES TOILETS**

Councillor Carr moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Baume:

- "1. That this Council notes that:
- (a) For some people with a disability, standard or disabled toilets do not meet their needs; they may need toilets with extra space, a larger sink and/or shower and equipment such as a bench or hoist. These are known as Changing Places Toilets.
  - (b) Over ¼ million people in the UK need Changing Places Toilets, including 40,000 people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and 130,000 older people, including people with Dementia and Alzheimer's.<sup>7</sup>
  - (c) In 2020, the Government announced it would be making it compulsory for Changing Places Toilets to be included in new, publicly accessible buildings.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://justice4grenfell.org/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.changing-places.org/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changing-places-toilets-for-severely-disabled-people-to-be-compulsory-in-new-public-buildings>

- (d) Local disability blogger/influencer Kerry Thompson and the Milton Keynes Centre for Integrated Living have expressed their support for having as many Changing Places Toilets throughout Milton Keynes as possible.
2. That this Council therefore resolves to:
- (a) request that Cabinet to consider whether Changing Place Toilets can be incorporated on Council property, where possible and appropriate; and
  - (b) request the Leader, Cabinet Member for Economy, Recovery and Renewal and the Chief Executive to encourage retailers and leisure outlets to incorporate Changing Places Toilets, where possible and appropriate.

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

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes that:
- (a) For some people with a disability, standard or disabled toilets do not meet their needs; they may need toilets with extra space, a larger sink and/or shower and equipment such as a bench or hoist. These are known as Changing Places Toilets.
  - (b) Over ¼ million people in the UK need Changing Places Toilets, including 40,000 people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and 130,000 older people, including people with Dementia and Alzheimer's.<sup>9</sup>
  - (c) In 2020, the Government announced it would be making it compulsory for Changing Places Toilets to be included in new, publicly accessible buildings.<sup>10</sup>
  - (d) Local disability blogger/influencer Kerry Thompson and the Milton Keynes Centre for Integrated Living have expressed their support for having as many Changing Places Toilets throughout Milton Keynes as possible.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.changing-places.org/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changing-places-toilets-for-severely-disabled-people-to-be-compulsory-in-new-public-buildings>

2. That this Council therefore resolves to:
  - (a) request that Cabinet to consider whether Changing Place Toilets can be incorporated on Council property, where possible and appropriate; and
  - (b) request the Leader, Cabinet Member for Economy, Recovery and Renewal and the Chief Executive to encourage retailers and leisure outlets to incorporate Changing Places Toilets, where possible and appropriate.

**CL78**

### **SMOKING OUTSIDE SCHOOLS**

Councillor Trendall moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Z Nolan:

- “1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) Milton Keynes is a place committed to improving the health of its citizens, especially children;
  - (b) the danger to health caused by smoking whether active or passive is a well-researched and recognised health risk; and
  - (c) that children are placed at risk when they are close to adults who choose to smoke.
2. That this Council accepts that it can and should do more to protect children from the dangers of smoking.
3. That this Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to consider:
  - (a) placing signage outside every council-run school asking parents and carers not to smoke within 20 metres of the school gates, or any other place where children enter or exit the school premises;
  - (b) where appropriate replicate this request with pavement signage, especially where parents gather to wait for children; and
  - (c) using the Council’s influence to persuade academies to follow the example set by the council and do the same.”

The Motion was carried by acclamation.

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) Milton Keynes is a place committed to improving the health of its citizens, especially children;
  - (b) the danger to health caused by smoking whether active or passive is a well-researched and recognised health risk; and
  - (c) that children are placed at risk when they are close to adults who choose to smoke.
2. That this Council accepts that it can and should do more to protect children from the dangers of smoking.
3. That this Council resolves to ask the Cabinet to consider:
  - (a) placing signage outside every council-run school asking parents and carers not to smoke within 20 metres of the school gates, or any other place where children enter or exit the school premises;
  - (b) where appropriate replicate this request with pavement signage, especially where parents gather to wait for children; and
  - (c) using the Council's influence to persuade academies to follow the example set by the council and do the same.

**CL79**

**STOP THE CUT TO UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

Councillor Ferrans moved the following motion which was seconded by Councillor Darlington:

- "1. That this Council notes:
- (a) in October 2021, the Government plans to cut the £20 uplift to Universal Credit that has been in place throughout the pandemic;
  - (b) as of August 2021, there are around 5.1 million people across England receiving universal credit payments<sup>11</sup>;
  - (c) across Milton Keynes, 22,840 families will be impacted by the cut<sup>12</sup>;
  - (d) four Tory MPs voted for Labour's motion in Parliament to stop the cut, whilst our local MPs Ben Everitt and Iain

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<sup>11</sup> [https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=13379&mod-area=E92000001&mod-group=AllRegions\\_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup](https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=13379&mod-area=E92000001&mod-group=AllRegions_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup)

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.irf.org.uk/universal-credit-cut-impact-constituency>

Stewart didn't vote at all<sup>13</sup>; and

- (e) 100 organisations throughout the UK, including the Trussell Trust, Shelter, Save the Children and Mind, have signed an open letter to the Prime Minister<sup>14</sup> urging him to stop the cut, saying:
    - i) 'Imposing what is effectively the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since World War II will pile unnecessary financial pressure on around 5.5 million families, both in and out of work.'
    - ii) 'the latest independent analysis from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) shows it risks plunging 500,000 people into poverty, including 200,000 children. It will take the main rate of out of work support down to its lowest levels in real terms since around 1990.'
2. That this Council therefore resolves to request the Leader to write:
- (a) urgently to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking them to reverse the cut permanently in time for Christmas, and lift these families out of severe poverty for the new year; and
  - (b) to Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart asking them to fight for the cut to be reversed."

Councillor Walker moved the following amendment which was seconded by Councillor Jenkins:

- “1. That the word ‘cut’ be removed and replaced with the word ‘end’ in clause 1(a).
2. That the word ‘temporary’ be added prior to the words ‘£20 uplift’ in clause 1(a).
3. That the words ‘along with other crisis support measures that have protected families and businesses’ be added to the end of clause 1(a).

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<sup>13</sup><https://votes.parliament.uk/Votes/Commons/Division/1099#ayes>

<sup>14</sup><https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/keep-the-lifeline-open-letter-to-the-prime-minister>

4. That the word 'cut' be removed and replaced with the words 'end to the temporary uplift' in clause 1(c).
5. That the words 'opposition day' be added after the word 'Labour's' in clause 1(d).
6. That the word 'cut' be removed and replaced with the words 'end to the temporary uplift' in clause 1(d).
7. That the words 'didn't vote at all' be removed and replaced with the word 'abstained' in clause 1(d).
8. That new clause 2(a) be added as follows:  
*the Government has launched a £500 million hardship fund to support vulnerable households over the winter*  
and that existing clause 2(a) be renumbered 3(a) accordingly.
9. That new clause 2(b) be added as follows:  
*since March 2020, the Government has delivered a comprehensive support package to those most likely to face financial disruption as a result of the public health emergency, including:*
  - i) *temporary increase to Universal Credit and Tax Credits*
  - ii) *over £400 billion invested in measures to create, support and protect jobs and businesses, including the furlough scheme that protected 52,500 jobs in Milton Keynes*
  - iii) *introduced measures such as mortgage holidays and additional support for renters*and that existing clause 2(b) be renumbered 3(b) accordingly.
10. That the words 'reverse the cut permanently in time for Christmas; and lift these families out of severe poverty for the new year' be removed and replaced with 'delay the end of the Universal Credit temporary uplift and review it in March as they approach the budget in order to retain support measures across Winter' in renumbered clause 3(a).
11. That the words 'for the cut to be reversed' be removed and replaced with 'to delay the end of the Universal Credit temporary uplift and review it in March' in renumbered clause 3(b)."

The amendment to the motion was accepted.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That this Council notes:
  - (a) in October 2021, the Government plans to end the temporary £20 uplift to Universal Credit that has been in place along with other crisis support measures that have protected families and businesses throughout the pandemic;
  - (b) as of August 2021, there are around 5.1 million people across England receiving universal credit payments<sup>15</sup>;
  - (c) across Milton Keynes, 22,840 families will be impacted by the<sup>16</sup> end to the temporary uplift;
  - (d) four Tory MPs voted for Labour's opposition day motion in Parliament to stop the ~~cut~~ end to the temporary uplift, whilst our local MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart abstained<sup>17</sup>; and
  - (e) 100 organisations throughout the UK, including the Trussell Trust, Shelter, Save the Children and Mind, have signed an open letter to the Prime Minister<sup>18</sup> urging him to stop the cut, saying:
    - iii) 'Imposing what is effectively the biggest overnight cut to the basic rate of social security since World War II will pile unnecessary financial pressure on around 5.5 million families, both in and out of work.'
    - iv) 'the latest independent analysis from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) shows it risks plunging 500,000 people into poverty, including 200,000 children. It will take the main rate of out of work support down to its lowest levels in real terms since around 1990.'
2. That this Council further notes:
  - a) the Government has launched a £500 million hardship fund to support vulnerable households over the winter;

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<sup>15</sup> [https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=13379&mod-area=E92000001&mod-group=AllRegions\\_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup](https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/lgastandard?mod-metric=13379&mod-area=E92000001&mod-group=AllRegions_England&mod-type=namedComparisonGroup)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/universal-credit-cut-impact-constituency>

<sup>17</sup> <https://votes.parliament.uk/Votes/Commons/Division/1099#ayes>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.jrf.org.uk/press/keep-the-lifeline-open-letter-to-the-prime-minister>

- b) since March 2020, the Government has delivered a comprehensive support package to those most likely to face financial disruption as a result of the public health emergency, including:
  - i) temporary increase to Universal Credit and Tax Credits;
  - ii) over £400 billion invested in measures to create, support and protect jobs and businesses, including the furlough scheme that protected 52,500 jobs in Milton Keynes; and
  - iii) introduced measures such as mortgage holidays and additional support for renters
- 3. That this Council therefore resolves to request the Leader to write:
  - (a) urgently to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking them to delay the end of the Universal Credit temporary uplift and review it in March as they approach the budget in order to retain support measures across Winter; and
  - (b) to Milton Keynes MPs Ben Everitt and Iain Stewart asking them to fight to delay the end of the Universal Credit temporary uplift and review it in March.”

**CL80**

### **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

The Council received a report on the Community Governance Review.

RESOLVED:

1. That the undertaking of a limited scope Community Governance Review in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and as set out in the Terms of Reference be authorised.
2. That a full consultation on the draft recommendations as proposed in Annex B of the report be authorised.

THE MAYOR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:43 PM

[The recording of this meeting is available to view on the Council's YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil](https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil)