CAPPING WARNING, JUNE 21 VISIT TO MINISTER AND UNDUE BURDEN GRANT

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1.   Purpose

1.1   To report on the Capping Warning issued by the Department of Environment, Transport and the Regions [DETR], and the subsequent meeting with the Minister for Local Government, Hilary Armstrong.

2.   Summary

2.1   During the meeting with the Minister, the Council were invited to submit an application for Undue Burden Grant.

3.   Background

3.1   The Deputy Prime Minister announced on April 13, that he would not cap any local authority in 1999, but would call in the twelve with the largest increase in budget to the Department to discuss why they had made such large increases and put them on warning for next year.   The Council were one of the twelve and submitted a case (see **Annex**) which was discussed with the Minister on 21 June 1999.

4.   Issues and Choices

4.1   The Council's Leader, accompanied by the Chief Executive and the Treasurer, presented the written case, emphasising the unique characteristics of Milton Keynes.   During the meeting, the Minister invited the Council to submit a case for 'Undue Burden Grant' under the provisions of the New Towns Act 1981, S36 and S37.   This is being prepared.

5.   Implications

5.1   Environmental

These are set out in the **Annex**.

5.2   **Equalities**

Equalities issues are mainstreamed and part of the overall case.

3.3   **Financial**

These are set out in the **Annex**. The Council would be unwise to presume, at this stage, that any payment will be made.

5.4   **Legal**

These are set out in the Annex.

5.5   **Staff and Accommodation**

As part of the programme of continuous improvement, every effort is being made to maximise the use of the Council's own accommodation

6.   Conclusions

6.1   A case is being prepared for 'Undue Burden Grant' that will be submitted in early September 1999.

Background Papers: The Submission to the Minister for Local Government