

Unitary Councillor Report

(Snippets) Report from Cllr David Hopkins, Cllr Victoria Hopkins & Cllr Alice Jenkins – Representing Wavendon at MK Council

March 2019



I'm hoping that we'll have the briefing sessions arranged for that time when I return and certainly look forward to working with you and colleagues at Wavendon. I've recently spoken to them about the use of SIDs, etc so look forward to sharing the information on the Community Speedwatch scheme upon my return.

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The poster features a photograph of a group of people walking away from the camera on a path through a park. The trees are bare, suggesting a cool season. The sky is clear and blue. The text is overlaid on the image.

Spring

'NETWALKING'

Network whilst walking!

Join Community Action: MK and colleagues from the Voluntary Sector for a Spring networking event

COMMUNITY ACTION: MK

Tuesday 26th March 2019
10am - 12.30pm at The Parks Trust,
The Pavillion, Campbell Park, MK9 4AD
<https://camkspringnetwalking.eventbrite.co.uk>



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc (Chancellors Spring

Statement)

Government ambition and joint declaration between Government and local partners

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc: government ambition and joint declaration between government and local partners The document (attached) provides an update on government's overarching ambition for the Arc, including a joint declaration between government and local partners, signalling the importance of collaboration to achieve these aims. The document also provides an early update on the government's work to develop a robust economic evidence base for the Arc.

Plan:MK given the green light by Inspector (MK

Council News Release)

Green space, original MK design principles, and affordable homes underpin next chapter in MK's growth.

Plan:MK, the local plan setting out how Milton Keynes will grow until 2031, has been found 'sound' by a government Inspector; a crucial milestone before the plan can be adopted.

Plan:MK shows how the borough will grow over the next few years and is how the council determines how many homes and jobs, and what kind of infrastructure is needed to 2031. By then, the population of MK is expected to rise to more than 300,000, with 31,000 new homes in Plan:MK to meet this demand - of which almost 20,000 are already in the planning pipeline.

Plan:MK sets out a vision for MK as a green and spacious place with a thriving economy and new facilities including a state-of-the-art university in the city centre.

In preparing Plan:MK, the Council has gathered ideas and comments from residents and local groups as well as independent evidence about future population growth, job creation, retail, green infrastructure and other important issues. A public examination was held during 2018, with hearings before an Inspector in the summer of 2018.

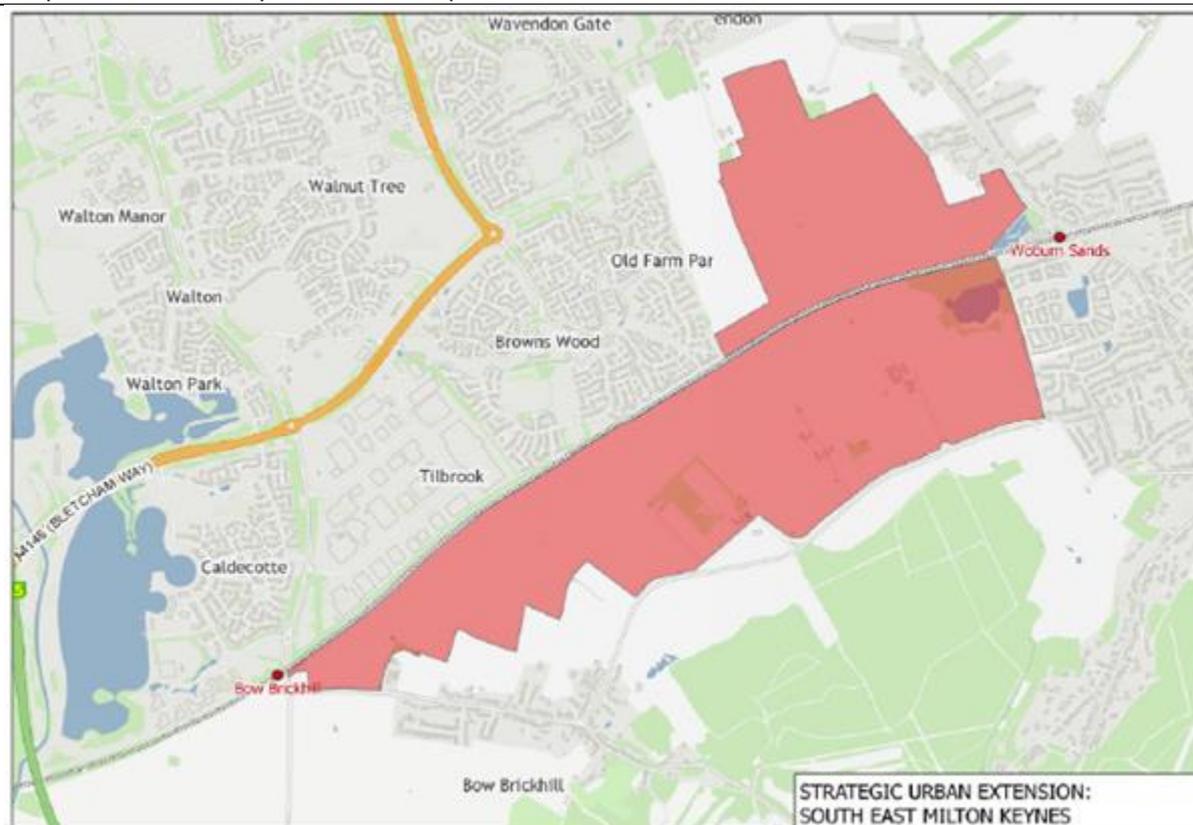
This month MK Council's Cabinet will receive a recommendation to adopt Plan:MK as part of MK's

formal Development Plan which will shape the outcome of future planning applications. Plan:MK sets out important conditions for new development which include:

- Development should be based on the original principles of Milton Keynes, to keep what makes MK distinct and special.
- Green space must be protected - and residents of new housing should have the same access to open space and parkland as current communities.
- Development that makes the most of the East-West Growth Corridor and national infrastructure projects – which will create more investment and high quality jobs in MK.
- 31% of homes to be as affordable homes, with new high-quality and sustainable homes, good schools, and the utilities people need (including high speed broadband).

Council Leader Cllr Pete Marland said: “Planning for the future is essential to get the right balance of housing and other development. We want everyone in MK to have a good home at a price they can afford, a decent job and a long and healthy life. We also want to keep what makes MK special - our green open spaces, unique design and the right infrastructure such as schools and health services. Plan:MK will help map out the growth we need.

“Our thanks go to everyone who gave their feedback as the plan was developed. You’ve helped shape how Milton Keynes will develop and thrive.”



South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Extension (or SEMK) is a draft allocation within Plan:MK, covering an area of land approximately 210 hectares in size encompassed by Tilbrook, Browns Wood and Wavendon to the North, Woburn Sands to the East, the Green Sands Ridge to the south, and Bow Brickhill to the west.

The draft allocation within Plan:MK, under Policy SD13, allocates the land for around 3,000 homes, 7 Gypsy and Traveller pitches, and a range of social and green infrastructure

provision.

Contact: Andrew Turner - Senior Planning Officer | Development Plans (T: 01908 254892)

M: 07775 110432 - E: andrew.turner@milton-keynes.gov.uk

W: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/>

PLANNING	
Wavendon Arms Planning	<p>Dear Cllr Hopkins,</p> <p>Further to our discussion last week regarding The Wavendon Arms, progress has been made in regard to the two matters we discussed; an increase in on-site parking and a designated space for deliveries on the site to prevent HGVs mounting the kerb on adjacent roads.</p> <p>Firstly, in regard to the revised parking scheme, please see attached for the proposed, additional parking area that would be provided as part of the works. It is thought that the surfacing of this car parking area would be grasscrete or another no-dig alternative to tarmac / concrete in the interest of the character and appearance of the area and to support the remaining trees. The submission of a landscaping plan / replacement planting plan would be a condition to any permission.</p> <p>With reference to the issue of deliveries, significant deliberation has taken place with the applicant and our Enforcement Team regarding how to solve this issue. Clearly, the use of Walton Road for HGV parking is an existing problem and, for the avoidance of doubt, we cannot completely prevent HGVs using Walton Road as anyone with a valid registration and drivers' licence is able to use the highway- unless of course double yellow lines were implemented, which is not something we could action via this application.</p> <p>Therefore, it has been agreed with the applicant that a condition could be implemented to ensure that deliveries made outside of the hours of 10am to 4pm shall be made within the main parking area forward of the north facing elevation of the public house. Whilst I appreciate that this does not totally remove the prospect of HGVs using Walton Road, I hasten to point out that this would restrict deliveries on the road to hours that one would expect it to be at its most quietist without prejudicing residential amenity during the night time or early morning. I also wish to point out that our Enforcement Team, whilst accepting of the fact that it could be enforced, did state that it would not be the most straight-forward condition to monitor should the applicant breach it as it would likely require multiple site visits to establish whether or not they were.</p>

	<p>Ultimately, I believe that this solution strikes the appropriate balance between mitigating the intensification of the use of the site whilst also recognising that some of the issues that have been raised are existing problems that cannot be resolved, completely, through this application.</p> <p>I shall be re-consulting on the application today for a further 14 days and publishing the revised plans online shortly.</p> <p>Chris Walton (Planning Officer – Development Management, East Team) Our chatbot can help with a range of planning questions why not click here to test her knowledge? 07795475586 - 01908 253435 - christopher.walton@milton-keynes.gov.uk www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building</p>
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Planning Development Update: 08/03/19

7 March 2019: Development Control Committee Outcome: Deferment

The Development Control Committee of Milton Keynes Council met on 7 March 2019 to consider the planning application 18/01304/REM for 134 residential units to the West of The Stables in Wavendon, Milton Keynes.

At the start of the meeting, The Stables set out concerns with the recommended conditions, including the omission of window performance standards recommended for the whole scheme by the Council's appointed acoustic consultants. The Stables also reiterated its call for the Developer, Abbey Homes Limited to enter into a Deed of Easement for sound waves to be permitted over the adjoining land to ensure that all future residents were given sufficient robust notice of the rights of the neighbouring music venue to continue its existing level of operation.

Whilst not a planning matter, the Deed of Easement is a legal instrument which has been applied in several high profile cases including The Ministry of Sound and The George Tavern in London.

The Stables welcomed the range of measures which had been agreed as noise mitigation for the scheme including the introduction of a 30m buffer zone, acoustic fence and some remodelling of the scheme. However, there remains a residual risk that the proposed measures will not work.

There is a risk that a future resident complains to the Environmental Health Officer on the grounds that a statutory nuisance is occurring. The EHO has the power to take action if the noise “unreasonably and substantially interferes with the use and enjoyment of a home or other premises...”. If upheld, the Council could take abatement action including a restriction of operating hours or requiring the venue to make suitable further noise adjustments to its site to prevent future disturbance. For this reason robust mitigation measures are required as conditions – helping to reduce this risk, but with no guarantee they will be 100% successful.

A second risk is that one of the residents of the scheme seeks to claim that a private nuisance is occurring and claims either an injunction or damages. The simplest way to ensure such a claim can't succeed is for the Developer to enter into a Deed of Easement which would effectively allow The Stables to continue to create noise on its land in the normal course of its business. Any future occupier buying a property in the Development would be made aware of this deed from the outset and go into the transaction with their eyes open.

For clarity, the Deed of Easement is not a planning matter and can only be agreed between The Stables and the Developer. To date, the Developer has not agreed to The Stables proposal to enter into such a deed.

This places even greater emphasis on the need for high specification windows throughout the scheme. The Council omitted this from its conditions and noted it would appear as an informative for the Developer. This is a material matter as it means the specification is purely advisory and the Developer may opt not to install the higher specification windows. Secondly, as it was not imposed as a condition, even if the Developer opted for these higher specification windows, it gives residents the option to replace windows in the future without putting adequate insulating windows into the property, thereby creating a risk that the noise insulating properties of the scheme will be degraded over time. This creates further risk to The Stables operation over a longer period.

Accordingly the Development Control Committee determined that the decision should be deferred until its June meeting to allow time for the parties to agree further measures to mitigate the risk to The Stables and safeguard the residential amenity of future residents.

We are grateful to the Committee for allowing more time to pursue these important discussions and to all those who continue to support our efforts to safeguard The Stables future.



Snippets –



How to get help with heating bills

HELP WITH HEATING BILLS

A long-established Charity in the Wavendon/Woburn Sands/Aspley Heath area (The Three Parishes Charity) provides a grant towards heating bills for the less well-off, for instance those on small fixed incomes, pensioners or people living with disability.

To qualify for a grant, applicants need to:

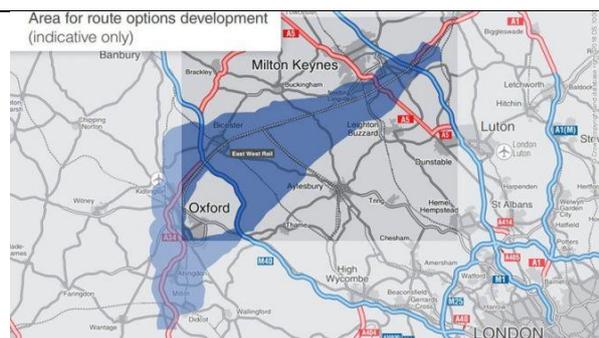
- have lived in Wavendon Parish, Aspley Heath or the town of Woburn Sands for at least one year;
- have an annual income which the trustees feel would qualify for a grant;
- be prepared to provide, on the application form, details of their income and any additional financial support they receive. This information will be held in confidence and not disclosed to any other party:

Note: If approved, the award is paid directly to the applicant's energy supplier.

For an application form, please write or email, before 31st July 2019 to:

Mrs Susan Hopkins
80 Walton Road
Wavendon
MK17 8LW
Email – sueanne.hopkins@gmail.com

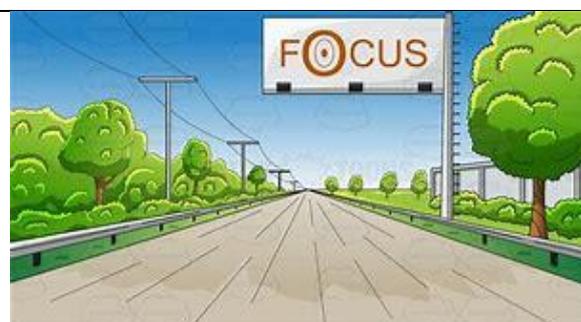
DO YOU KNOW OF ANYONE YOU THINK MIGHT QUALIFY?
IF SO, WE CAN FOLLOW UP!
PLEASE CALL PETER BALLARD ON 01908 585855



Expressway Timeline

Date	Event
Autumn 2017	Commitment by the Chancellor for construction to commence on the missing link before the end of the Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) in 2025
2018	Corridor announcement
Autumn 2019	Public consultation on route options*
2020	Preferred route announcement*
2025	Construction starts*
2030	New link opens to the public

*Indicative timetable, subject to preferred route options



East West Rail – Timeline

What is being proposed?

East West Rail Western Section will re-establish a passenger and freight railway between Oxford, Bedford, Milton Keynes, and Aylesbury. Phase 2 involves improving

and reconstructing underused and disused sections of the former railway and represents a significant piece of infrastructure investment.

Why do we need to build this?

This scheme will enhance the rail network, create more journey opportunities with reduced journey times and better connections to the Great Western, West Coast and Midland Main Line services, avoiding the need to travel via London. It will reconnect major centres including, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Bicester, Oxford.

What are the main benefits?

The East West Rail scheme will support economic growth through residential and commercial development along the line of route, boosting business growth and attracting new business and inward investment. The upgrade of the route will provide additional network capacity to accommodate growth in freight and passenger markets by connecting the Oxford to Bedford railway with the Great Western, West Coast and Midland Main Lines.

Who pays for it?

The project is funded by the Department for Transport and by a £45m contribution from the East West Rail Consortium.

What is the new EWR Company? And what is their role in delivering the project?

The East West Railway Company has been formed by the Secretary of State for Transport to optimise the delivery of the East West Railway. This team reviewed the East West Rail proposals and led a value engineering and programme delivery review that identified how the value and benefits from this project can be realised as quickly as is possible. The new EWR Company will run Britain's first integrated rail operation for decades and be a separate organisation to Network Rail. The Company is looking at how the EWR route can be delivered and maintained.

How many EWR2 trains will run and to what destinations?

In addition to existing train services, there will be new services from:

Oxford and Milton Keynes; stopping at Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow and Bletchley. There will be two trains each way per hour.

Oxford and Bedford; stopping at Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley, Woburn Sands and Ridgmont. There will be one train each way per hour.

Milton Keynes and Aylesbury with stops anticipated at Bletchley, Winslow, and Aylesbury Vale Parkway. There will be one train each way per hour.

When will construction start and trains begin to run?

Depending on funding, construction of the line between Bicester and Bletchley will start at the end of 2019 with trains operating from 2023.



Milton Keynes Council will spend an extra £500,000 this year on tackling fly tipping, deep cleans, tree management, roundabout improvements and replacing broken grid road name signs. An additional £100,000 has been set aside for MK's seven priority regeneration neighbourhoods for residents to determine how best to improve their local public space.

In the 2019/20 budget, 1% was added to MK's Council Tax to fund public realm improvements under the heading of 'Getting the Basics Right'.

Local councillors, parish councils and residents associations will help MK Council determine the best locations and timing for the improvement work.

Initial plans include:

Piloting CCTV in fly tipping hot spots, plus dash cams on council vehicles to help capture evidence of fly tipping. The fine for fly tipping can be up to £50,000 and/or a prison sentence up to 5 years.

- Buying a new dedicated street deep clean vehicle.
- Using state of the art ultrasonic devices to detect internal tree decay. This will help the council make more informed decisions about how to manage mature trees.
- Replacing missing V and H signs on the grid roads.
- Several roundabouts to be smartened up and have other essential work.
- A survey of regeneration estates to check the condition of litter bins, benches and other street furniture, as well as the need for graffiti removal and pest control.

Council Leader Pete Marland said: "I recognise that some of MK is looking a little unloved as we've had to make £144m of cuts since 2011 while dealing with massive extra demand for our services, especially from MK's most vulnerable people. But we've listened to what residents are telling us. We all want to be proud of where we live which is why we're putting half a million pounds back in to make MK cleaner and greener."



Funding

MK Council's Cabinet approves three-year highways improvement programme

MK Council's Cabinet has given the green light to a substantial investment for a three-year highways programme which will see major improvements in road resurfacing, street lighting and road safety measures.

The £28m investment (identified to date) – around £11m of which will be spent this financial year - comes on top of recent additional budget commitments to replace broken road signs and paint worn white lines across MK.

The council is also on track to repair 20,000 potholes and other issues by April 2019, which was a commitment made in last year's budget.

In October, MK Council changed its criteria for determining whether a pothole needed a repair. Potholes just 40mm deep are now repaired (previously 50mm).

Works in the new programme include:

- Road resurfacing to fix potholes and damage
- Upgrading footways/redways to improve pedestrian access and cycling routes
- Upgrading street lighting to energy efficient LED lights

By planning its highways repairs well in advance, the council hopes to minimise disruption on the roads. Additional road resurfacing should prevent costly short term repairs.

Council Leader Councillor Pete Marland said: "Roads inevitably suffer wear and tear, and we know some do need extra attention. We've approved this significant investment as we want MK's roads to be and stay in good shape. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians alike should notice a big improvement."



Speed Reduction Plan

Please note that the website is now live and accepting applications for 20mph speed limits:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/road-safety/introduction-of-20-mph-speed-limits-into-residential-areas>



Clear Sacks

The Council is confident with the changes in the delivery method for sacks that they are now on top of the requests that are coming through, if however you have properties that have experienced issues with receiving them prior to the changes last week then please let me know as I will be happy to arrange delivery of these myself.

Tony Brown - Waste Services Officer

Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park, 9 Dickens Road, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5QF

email: Tony.Brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Contacts

- For all Serco Landscape contract works enquiries, please contact Euan Darling or Mansour Moini - Please contact the helpline via the link below for new issues.
- For Tree (TPO TCA and Insurance related) enquiries contact Robert Widd.
- For Rights of Way, please contact Rosie Armstrong or James Walsh.
- For High Hedges enquiries and development related Tree issues please contact Stephen Narborough.
- For Planning, S106, Biodiversity and Ecology issues please contact Diane Evans or Phil Snell.
- For Flood Strategy please contact Ashish Patel.

To log a new issue or enquiry, go to: <https://my.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>



MK Gallery are seeking volunteers

MK Gallery reopens to the public on Saturday 16 March following a major development that will see double the exhibition space of the previous building, a new purpose-built auditorium that will show independent film and host live events, and a new dedicated learning studio. This week, the Gallery launches details of volunteer opportunities that will be available when the building reopens.

The range of roles include gallery invigilators, ushers for film and events, learning support and marketing opportunities



Roadworks - The new interactive service allows you to search for any planned works by area, road name, ward or parish, road type or reason. You can also see the current closures and those scheduled for the next two weeks.

Area	Road name	Start Date Start Time		End Date Finish Time	Type
WOBURN SANDS	Station Road	18/03/19 9:30am		18/03/19 3:30pm	TRAFFIC SIGNALS (Two- Way)
WOBURN SANDS	High Street	18/03/19 11:00pm		19/03/19- 6:00am	TRAFFIC SIGNALS (Multi-Way)
WOBURN SANDS	Station Road	06/03/19 9:30am		19/03/19- 4:30pm	TRAFFIC SIGNALS (Multi-Way)

This tool will help you check what is planned for a particular route or area so you can avoid any issues that may affect your journey. The information is updated every week.

Some works may be subject to changes due to unforeseen circumstances such as a road traffic collision or incident, weather conditions or operational reasons. Check the Highways View as an

Alternatively you can view the information shown in the Highways Register through a Google map based system on www.roadworks.org

Steven Shearer - Network Support Officer (Highways Services)

Direct: +44 (0)1908 253428

Switchboard: +44 (0)1908 691691

Email : Steven.Shearer2@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Visit Online : <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/streets-transport-and-parking>



Armed Forces Covenant survey

Could you spare a couple of minutes to take part in a short survey on MKC's involvement in the Armed Forces Covenant? We'd like to understand what you know about the covenant before activity and training rolls out over the summer.

We also want to find out how many people at MKC are or used to be in the Armed Forces Family. Thanks in advance.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NNFQHBB>



School Place Planning: Forward View 2019 and Early Years Place Planning Forward View 2019 - Secondary school places

Thousands of MK pupils found out on 1 March which secondary school they'll be moving to in September. A record number of applications (3,701) were received by the deadline and 95% of pupils will be going to one of their top four preference schools, which is even higher than last year's good result. Well done to the team for making sure every child is offered a school place despite the increase in demand.

Be a School Governor**School governors needed**

Do you know someone who would make a great school governor? The hard working colleagues in governor services recruited 21 amazing people to join one of our local school governing bodies last year. They're always on the lookout for people with the right skills and experience. If you know someone who would make a great school governor, please encourage them to contact Judith Cumino at judith.cumino@milton-keynes.gov.uk to find out more about available roles and opportunities.

David Hopkins / Victoria Hopkins / Alice Jenkins



The Great British Spring Clean kicks off on 22 March. It's a national campaign aiming at getting half a million people out for a litter pick near to them.

You can get involved and help make MK a little cleaner by joining an existing event or even organising a pick of your own

MKC Senior Staff List Corporate Core - MKC Senior Team 2019

Chief Executive	Michael Bracey	01908 252200
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Contact Us www.milton-keynes.gov.uk	Email: <i>firstname.surname@milton-keynes.gov.uk</i>	Tel: 01908 691691
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Resources Corporate Director	Paul Simpson	01908 253374
Service Director: Legal and Democratic Services	Sharon Bridglalsingh	01908 252095
Service Director: Finance and Resources	Steve Richardson	01908 252756
Head of Revenues and Benefits	Robin Bates	07738 636820
Assistant Director: Audit & Risk Management	Duncan Wilkinson	01908 252089
Service Delivery Manager: ICT	Hazel Lewis	01908 254117
Capital Programme Director	Kamran Rashid	07792 540523
Head of HR	Musrat Zaman	01908 254278
Head of Customer Service, Digital and Transformation	Vacant from November 2017	
People Corporate Director	Michael Bracey	01908 258041
Director of Public Health (Shared with Bedford & Central Bedfordshire Councils)	Muriel Scott	01908 254241
Service Director: Children's Services	Mac Heath	01908 253121
Service Director: Adult Services	Victoria Collins	01908 253270

Assistant Director: Joint Commissioning	Mick Hancock	01908 252091
Place Corporate Director	Duncan Sharkey	01908 253411
Service Director: Housing & Regeneration	Michael Kelleher	01908 254167
Service Director: Public Realm Services	Tom Blackburne-Maze	01908 252213

Service Director: Planning, Culture and Infrastructure	Vacant from August 2017	
Head of Economy and Culture	Pam Gosal	01908 252192
Head of Placemaking	Neil Sainsbury	01908 252708
Head of Development Management	Brett Leahy	01908 252609
MKDP Chief Executive	Charles Macdonald charles.macdonald@mkdp.co.uk	01908 253899
Independent Chair	John Duggan john.duggan@mkdp.co.uk	01908 253405
Director of Strategy & Futures	Geoff Snelson	01908 252665

Acting Service Director: Policy, Insight & Communication s	Sarah Gonsalves	01908 252275
Head of Communications	Kellie Evans	01908 252413

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

I'd like to update you on some proposed changes to the council's senior management structure.

Our current three directorate model plus small 'corporate core' was put in place four years ago. While this has helped teams share some closer practices and standards, we're yet to achieve our ambition for fully joined up thinking and working across the whole organisation. This can be frustrating for us, for councillors and for service users.

A new senior management structure is being developed that will help us operate more effectively as one council. The proposals are:

A new Deputy Chief Executive role will lead our critical support services, as well as a number of other business areas.

Instead of the current structure of three Corporate Directors and ten Service Directors, services will be led by nine Directors, who would all be regarded as 'chief officers' and full members of our Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). As you may be aware Duncan Sharkey has left the Council and we will not be replacing either his former role (Corporate Director – Place) or the role of Corporate Director – People.

The corporate core would be replaced with a new Chief Executive's Office, led by an Assistant Chief Executive (replacing the current role of Service Director – Policy, Insight and Communications), whose focus will be on improving organisational effectiveness and performance. Public Health will move into the Chief Executive's Office.

Subject to political agreement, the new structure could be in place by early March. The CEO (Michael Bracey) will share full details then, including a detailed breakdown of who will be leading on specific areas.