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All Local Councillors and Clerks
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils
Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils

Sent by email

22 December 2022

Dear Councillors, Clerks and Colleagues

Re: Council Motion, 23 November 2022 - Community, Town and Parish Councils

I write further to the Council motion of 23 November 2022, which was unanimously agreed. Some of you may already be aware of the details of the motion, which is set out in full overleaf.

On behalf of the Chief Executive, Michael Bracey, I am delighted to pass on the thanks of all at Milton Keynes City Council to all Councillors, Clerks and officers involved in the excellent work that Local Councils undertake all year round. I know from personal experience the important role you all play, working alongside Ward Councillors in your local communities. That much of the time invested, particularly by Councillors is voluntary is even more commendable. Officers at MKCC are always immensely proud to tell colleagues from elsewhere that Milton Keynes is fully parished, and has a well-established programme of asset devolution. More important though is the difference that our Local Councils make in their communities – this is something you should all be immensely proud of.

As the Returning Officer, I was particularly interested in clause 2 of the motion and I have begun working with colleagues to look at practical steps we can take to help encourage more residents to stand for election in May. I was also pleased to join Michael Bracey recently at his Clerk's Forum to share some ideas and understand existing good practice.

We will be back in touch early in the new year with further details of our plans, but for now, can I thank you all again for your hard work and take the opportunity to wish you a restful Christmas and a peaceful new year.

Yours faithfully



Sharon Bridglalsingh
Director of Law and Governance
Returning Officer for Milton Keynes City Council

Council motion – 23 November 2022

Community, Town and Parish Councillors

Moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Raja

(Minor amendment moved by Councillor Hume, seconded by Councillor Smith and accepted by Councillor Hall)

1. That this Council:
 - a) notes the good work undertaken by Community, Town and Parish councillors in communities across Milton Keynes;
 - b) acknowledges that this work is predominantly on a voluntary basis and can often go unrecognised;
 - c) understands the valuable role played by Community, Town and Parish Councils across Milton Keynes and formally places on record its appreciation; and
 - d) asks the Chief Executive to write to our County and City Parish Associations (BMKALC and MKALC) and to our parish and town clerks to formally pass on the recognition and thanks of Milton Keynes City Council, alongside the details of this motion.
2. That this Council:
 - a) notes that around half of its Parishes have elections in May 2023 , and that at the last ordinary elections of these Parishes in May 2019, only 9 of 61 areas were contested, although 208 of 221 vacancies were filled;
 - b) understands the difficulty in attracting residents to stand for election to Community, Town and Parish Councils, but expresses concern about the potential number of uncontested parish elections in 2023; and
 - c) asks the Returning Officer and local parish associations to consider what practical and reasonable steps could be taken to encourage and support more Milton Keynes residents to stand for election for their local Community, Town and Parish Councils.