

**South Northamptonshire Council**  
**Planning Policy and Regeneration Strategy Committee**

**18 March 2020**

<b>Milton Keynes Council – Strategy for 2050</b>
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**Report of the Assistant Director – Planning and Economy**

This report is public

**Purpose of report**

For Members to consider Milton Keynes Council's engagement draft of its Strategy for 2050.

**1.0 Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended:

- 1.1** To note the content of Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 and agree that the Assistant Director for Planning and the Economy can provide a formal response to the to the Consultation on behalf of the Council noting the contents of the Strategy.

**2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1** In July 2016, the MK Futures 2050 Commission published its report '*Making a Great City Greater*'. The report included a recommendation to prepare a Strategy for 2050 which would take a long-term view of the future of the city.
- 2.2** In January Milton Keynes Council published its engagement draft of the *Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050* which sets out proposals for the development of Milton Keynes and the surrounding area for the next 30 years. Consultation runs until Friday 17 April 2020.
- 2.3** This report provides an overview of the Strategy for 2050 which it asks members to note and to agree to the Council making its formal response to the engagement thought the Assistant Director for Planning and the Economy noting the content of the Strategy.

**3.0 Report Details**

**Background:**

- 3.1 In 2015, Milton Keynes Council established the MK Futures 2050 Commission to help it plan for the future. The Commission's report *'Making a Great City Greater'* was published in July 2016 and the general vision and direction of the Commission's findings received unanimous support from the different political groups on the Council. It proposed a high rate of growth to 2050 as the best way of providing the greatest benefit for the boroughs population.
- 3.2 Milton Keynes Council set out a long-term ambition in its Council Plan 2016-2022 that anticipates continued growth of the city to a population of 500,000 people by 2050. The Strategy for 2050 defines that ambition as applying to the 'metropolitan' Milton Keynes area, for which there are already plans to deliver homes for a population of around 400,000 people by 2040.
- 3.3 The term 'metropolitan' Milton Keynes, is used to describe the whole of the administrative borough of Milton Keynes plus adjacent settlements in the neighbouring local authority areas of Aylesbury Vale, Central Bedfordshire and South Northamptonshire. The strategy has been prepared on a 'boundary blind' basis and presents what it considers to be a sensible and sustainable pattern of growth which in some cases includes recommendations for areas outside of Milton Keynes Council's control.
- 3.4 The document is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for the Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit those Local Authority areas also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed.

### **The Strategy:**

- 3.5 The Strategy sets out six ambitions for people living in Milton Keynes today and those who will want to live there in the future and shows how these will be delivered. This under the following themes:
- 3.6 **Sustainable Homes and Places for All:** This includes the provision of affordable homes for all, creating healthy neighbourhoods, active travel and a green and blue city. The Council has an aspiration to become a globally leading green city and a 'National Park City' committed to protecting and promoting biodiversity.
- 3.7 **An Economy of Opportunity for All:** An inclusive economy, recognising that the population of the city has on average fewer qualifications and lower skills than those nationally and that local companies struggle to find workers with the right skills to fill positions. Growing the knowledge economy, attracting knowledge intensive jobs in the high tech, high performance engineering and innovation-led businesses. In addition, creating further growth in the logistic sector through future investment in east-west rail recognising the towns strategic location on the M1.
- 3.8 **Mobility for All:** Making cycling and walking the attractive choice for shorter journeys and developing a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) network for the future city. This, it is proposed, will take the form of a public transport system that connects and frequently serves key destinations in the city and is capable of carrying many passengers at times of peak demand.

- 3.9** The Strategy continues by discussing the implications of the above on both Central Milton Keynes and Bletchley as places that will benefit significantly from being locations where new transport opportunities connect.
- 3.10** The document goes on to further present its recommended strategy for growth for the metropolitan area of Milton Keynes to 2050. This is a three part spatial strategy being:
1. Completing sites allocated in the existing Milton Keynes Local Plan, along with sites allocated in the adopted and emerging South Northamptonshire Local Plan, The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan and the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan.
  2. Sensitive and selective development within or adjacent to existing communities within the Milton Keynes Borough.
  3. The development of new communities beyond the existing urban area of Milton Keynes which:
    - a. Are based around new transport links, including MRT;
    - b. Maximise links with existing planned infrastructure: and
    - c. Continue some existing directions of growth.
- 3.11** The later includes reference that development within South Northamptonshire to the north-west of Stony Stratford could help support infrastructure schemes to relive pressure on the A5, perhaps with a park and ride service to further encourage more sustainable forms of transport.
- 3.12** The Strategy concludes by noting that its recommended framework includes growth propositions within neighbouring council areas and that it will be for the relevant local authority to take those growth options forward, which may be through a joint local plan across boundaries. Milton Keynes Council express and desire to work closely with partners as it develops its proposals for the future.

## **4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

- 4.1** Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for either MKC or South Northamptonshire Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated and owned by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit South Northamptonshire Council as an area also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed.

## **5.0 Publication and Consultation**

- 5.1** None

## **6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

**Option 1 – To object to the content of the study**

Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for either MKC or South Northamptonshire Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated and owned by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit South Northamptonshire Council as an area also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed. There is no basis to object to it at this stage.

### **Option 2 – To offer suggestions on the content of the study**

Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for either MKC or South Northamptonshire Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated and owned by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit South Northamptonshire Council as an area also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed. There is no basis to object to it at this stage. Officers consider that there is no reason to offer suggestions on the content of the study at this stage.

## **7.0 Implications**

### **7.1 Financial and Resource Implications**

Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for either MKC or South Northamptonshire Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated and owned by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit South Northamptonshire Council as an area also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed. As such the Strategy has no financial implications for South Northamptonshire Council.

Comments checked by:

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### **7.2 Legal Implications**

Milton Keynes Council's Strategy for 2050 is not a formal planning policy document and has no weight in the planning process and is not a material consideration in the determination of planning applications for either MKC or South Northamptonshire Council. The proposals are draft proposals generated and owned by Milton Keynes Council on its own and do not commit South Northamptonshire Council as an area also referenced in the Strategy to bring forward growth in the manner proposed.

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## 8.0 Decision Information

### Wards Affected

All

### Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework

To preserve what is special  
To protect quality of life  
Support the District Growth

### Lead Councillor

Councillor Phil Bignell – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning

### Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	None
Background Papers	
None	
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