

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING CABINET ADVISORY GROUP held on THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021 at 5.00 pm

Present: Councillor Marland (Chair)(Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Planning)
Councillors Ferrans, D Hopkins, Trendall and Walker.
H Chipping (SEMLEP), K Fraser (Youth Cabinet), R Kurth (CMK Town Council), R Mascarenhas (Youth Cabinet chaperone), K Fraser (Youth Cabinet) and C Walton (Community Action).

Officers: P Thomas (Director of Planning and Placemaking), J Palmer (Head of Planning), A Turner (Planning and Transport Policy Manager) and P Brown (Head of Democratic Services).

Apologies: D Hegde (Youth Cabinet)

CAG01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor D Hopkins asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests.

Councillor Marland asked that the meeting note his declared interests in the register of members interests.

In the interest of transparency, Councillors Ferrans advised that she was on the board of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership.

CAG02 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Advisory Group held on 28 JANUARY 2021 be agreed as an accurate record and the Chair to sign them as such.

CAG03 LOCAL PLAN 'SCENE SETTING'

Councillor Marland reminded the Group of the function of the Cabinet Advisory Group. He further advised that the recording of the meeting would be made available on the Council's You Tube channel.

The Planning and Transport Policy Manager gave a presentation on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Milton Keynes.

The Group was reminded that since PlanMK was adopted there had been changes to National Policy and there were also major regional transport initiatives that would impact on the existing plan.

The Chair articulated his view that the Council should start with a firm and clear understanding of what it was intended to achieve through a local plan despite the technical requirements in drawing it up, as such

he hoped to get an understanding from the Group about their aspirations for 2050 and what would make Milton Keynes unique. This would then help to identify what would be required to achieve that, and subsequently the wider requirements that would need to be proposed in a Local Plan to have it approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

Members of the Group made the following comments;

- It needed to be recognised that whilst the Local Plan should provide a degree of certainty as to what development should look like up until 2050 the experience previously has been that future Government Policy changes would provide anything but certainty.
- The underlying strategies to tackle climate change, child poverty and mental and physical health initiatives should dictate the content of the Plan in respect of housing provision and job creation.
- The Council must be clear of the impact of the Oxford/Cambridge arc and the East/West rail links when drawing up plans. Account needed to be taken of initiatives and plans that neighbouring Authorities will be taking. The Council needed to ensure that transport modelling was accurate and provided firm evidence to support the Plan.
- The Local Plan should take account of the content of Neighbourhood Plans and should not contradict them.
- There was a need to ensure that all departments of the Council coordinated their preparatory work and that no later exceptions to the Plan were put forward.
- Account of the changing situation with regard to East Milton Keynes needed to be considered in respect of how the expansion was now a clear initiative that was not fully understood when PlanMK was drawn up.

The group heard from the Head of Planning who gave an explanation of how the local plan could be drawn up alongside Government Legislative changes and the transitional arrangements that were likely to be put in place to take account of Local Planning, he further explained the rationale for an early review of PlanMK.

The Chair welcomed a suggestion that a workshop be undertaken to establish what the aspirations were for Milton Keynes in 2050, he further suggested that the Group needed to have;

- An understanding of what could or could not be influenced, at what stage key gateway decisions would be made and what influenced other factors and in what order.
- An understanding of the key top-line aspirations for 2050 of the various stakeholders.
- An early broad indication of the trade-offs and compromises that might be required to deliver the key top-line aspirations.

Councillor D Hopkins told the Group that he believed it was essential to know what stage neighbouring Authorities were with their plans to better assess the potential impact on Milton Keynes.

The Chair suggested that Officers contact neighbouring Authorities to establish whether there was any appetite for a co-ordinated Plans, not withstanding the fact that it was known that there would not be support for a joint plan.

RESOLVED

1. That the presentation be noted
2. That the points raised be considered by the Head of Planning and scoping of members views be undertaken in advance of the September meeting of the Group
3. That the September meeting be taken as a workshop to consider the outcomes of the scoping and set out aspirations for the development of Milton Keynes 2050.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.25 PM