

MK FUTURES 2050 PROGRAMME UPDATE

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)

Report Sponsor: Geoff Snelson (Director of Strategy and Futures)

Author and contact: Fiona Robinson (MK Futures 2050 Programme Manager) Tel: 01908 252318

Executive Summary:

This report updates Cabinet on the progress made with the projects that form the MK Futures 2050 Programme since the approval of the initial programme plan at the Cabinet meeting of 10 October 2016.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That the progress to date in delivering the Six Big Projects forming the MK Futures 2050 Programme be noted.

2. Issues

2.1 The MK Futures 2050 Programme has been set up to manage the delivery of the Six Big Projects recommended by the MK Futures 2050 Commission in their report 'Making a Great City Greater', which was unanimously supported by Council at the meeting of 20 July 2016.

2.2 On 10 October 2016, Cabinet approved the initial plan for the MK Futures 2050 Programme, which set out the proposed governance arrangements for the programme, and funding requirements and proposed next steps for the individual projects. It was agreed that a six-monthly progress update would be provided detailing the individual projects.

2.3 The annex to this report provides an update on each of the individual MK Futures projects, plus the overall programme in relation to governance arrangements and stakeholder engagement.

2.4 The MK Futures 2050 Programme has a very long-term planning horizon so, whilst delivering against near term project milestones, the projects are also focused on creating the mechanisms needed to help deliver that vision.

2.5 In general, good progress has been made across the programme, especially with the development of a business case for the new university proposition, with Cranfield University taking a lead role to explore options for governance arrangements, course structures, potential topics for study and research, physical requirements, funding options and business engagement.

2.6 The success of the MK50 birthday celebrations, submission to the Great Places Scheme and the development of a new City Fest to be held in June 2017 in partnership with the Academy of Urbanism and the International New Towns Institute have been particularly important early steps in progressing the

Creative and Cultured City concept. While the bid to the Great Places Scheme was ultimately unsuccessful, opportunities to secure alternative funding for parts of the proposal are now being explored.

2.7 The Council’s continuing involvement with the National Infrastructure Commission’s work on the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor is helping to raise the profile of Milton Keynes as the hub of this knowledge-intensive corridor, allowing us to engage with the Government about the issues facing the city, the opportunities that exist for growth in this location and the support that is needed to make that growth deliverable and sustainable.

2.8 In contrast, the scope of Project 3 – Learning 2050 and the potential for this to add value to existing work on school improvement has not yet been resolved. This issue is discussed further in the Annex.

2.9 A two-year contract has been put in place with Community Action: MK (CA:MK) who will lead on stakeholder engagement for the MK Futures programme. Building on the approach taken through the Commission process, this arrangement will allow engagement to remain independent from the Council. The role of CA:MK is explained further in the Annex.

3. Options

3.1 This report is provided for information, as the first of a series of regular six-monthly updates on the progress of the MK Futures 2050 Programme. Since no decisions are to be made, there are no alternative options proposed.

4. Implications

4.1 Policy

The MK Futures 2050 Commission Report was unanimously supported by the Council in July 2016. While this does not make the report Council policy, the future work of the Programme will help to develop new Council policy, through the Strategy for 2050 and in informing Plan:MK and future iterations of the Local Plan.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The October 2016 Cabinet report set out the resource and budget requirements to deliver the short term outputs of the MK Futures 2050 Programme. At this early stage in the process these resources, including the total budget of £345k over the next two years is still considered to be adequate and spend is forecast to remain within budget.

N	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	N	Asset Management

4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

Some of the products delivered by the MK Futures 2050 Programme will include policies relating to sustainability and carbon and energy management, but the decision recommended by this report has no direct impact.

4.4 Legal

The projects within the MK Futures 2050 Programme are not governed by statutory regulations or guidance. Should any legal issues be identified through the development of any of the projects, legal advice will be sought on a case-by-case basis.

4.5 Other Implications

As set out in the Annex, stakeholder engagement across the Programme will be hosted by Community Action: MK ensuring it is independently led and thereby impartial. One of the Council's principles for engagement on the MK Futures 2050 Programme is that it should be wide-ranging and open to everyone – with special attention paid to encouraging new contributors that reflect diversity and youth, and local community groups including parish and town councils. Engagement will also make full use of innovative approaches and social media to help share messages more widely.

Y	Equalities/Diversity	N	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
N	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: Milton Keynes Futures 2050 Commission Report "Making a Great City Greater", July 2016
www.mkfutures2050.com/read-our-report

Annex: Annex – MK Futures 2050 Progress Report, October 2016 - March 2017