

ANNEX A – MK Futures 2050 Programme – delivery highlights 2016-2021

The original MK Futures 2050 programme was developed following the publication of the MK Futures 2050 Commission report “[Making a Great City Greater](#)” in July 2016. The programme was subsequently approved by [Cabinet](#) in October 2016 as a way of managing the delivery of the Six Big Projects recommended by the Commission. Since 2016, regular progress updates have been presented to Cabinet.

- 4th April 2017 – [CMIS link](#), Item 13
- 7th November 2017 – [CMIS link](#), Item 13
- 5th June 2018 – [CMIS link](#), Item 13
- 8th January 2019 – [CMIS link](#), Item 13
- 9th July 2019 – [CMIS link](#), Item 11

Updates about specific elements of the programme were also presented through various Cabinet and Delegated Decision reports relating to MK:U and the Strategy for 2050, briefings with Members and other stakeholders and a briefing note to Councillors in June 2020.

Following the adoption of the Strategy for 2050 in January 2021 and the requirement to approve a new work programme (recommendation 1.3 from the [Cabinet report](#) December 2020 and [Council](#) in January 2021), it is a timely opportunity to review some of the milestones achieved since 2016.

Project 1 – Growth and Strategy

- Secured £493k of funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG, Planning Delivery Fund) for a Strategic Growth Study and internal project management resource, prepared to inform the Strategy for 2050.
- Published a draft Strategy for 2050 for engagement (18 weeks between January and May 2020), and a review of the potential implications of the COVID-19 pandemic (June-July 2020), with more than 300 comments received across both periods, in addition to the points raised at public and online meetings. A summary of the engagement process for the Strategy for 2050 is available at www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page.
- Adoption of the [Strategy for 2050](#) as an annex to the Council Plan, with cross-party agreement (January 2021)
- Submission made to the MHCLG Delivery Vehicles competition to secure funding to consider options for future delivery mechanisms (February 2021)
- Ongoing positive engagement with a range of government departments and national and regional organisations, including the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, the National Infrastructure Commission, Homes England, Infrastructure and Projects Authority, the Fast Growth Cities Groups, the Central Area Growth Board, the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership, England’s Economic Heartland, the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and Centre for Cities.

Project 2 – MK:U

- Cranfield University appointed to develop initial business case to test MK:U concept (2017)
- OJEU-compliant procurement process to secure Cranfield University as lead Higher Education partner (2018)
- International design competition, with Malcolm Reading Consultants, to appoint Hopkins Architects as lead architect team for Block B4 scheme, with public exhibition of schemes by shortlisted teams (2019)
- Major curriculum development programme funded by £2.7 million grant from The Office for Students and £3.3 million match-funding from Cranfield University and partners, with subject advisory boards in place to inform course development

- Full Business Case/Green Book appraisal prepared to support funding bid to central government for MK:U delivery
- Funding secured from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) for the MK:U Accelerator, with four degree apprenticeships to commence in 2021 and the Smart City Living Lab/Innovation Hub, to be located in Bouverie House, CMK.
- Business Supporters Group established and growing, now with 111 members representing 780,000 employees in the UK
- £30 million capital and operating support commitment from Santander

Project 3 – Learning 2050

- The Learning 2050/MK Education Partnership Strategic Board is in place and is working to implement the recommendations of the Learning 2050 Report. This is supported by a development plan including actions for the period 2020-2023 and five working Boards which take responsibility for specific areas. Current priorities include:
 - o the development of an Apprenticeship recruitment structure involving schools, MK College and businesses locally
 - o initiatives to improve the recruitment and retention of teachers and other school staff
 - o development of a learning skills structure to respond to the stated needs of businesses locally
 - o Milton Keynes Curriculum project including curricula based on the theme of Milton Keynes as a classroom
 - o development of school improvement structures and initiatives in Milton Keynes.

Project 4 – Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility

- £8.7m of SEMLEP and partner funding secured for dedicated 5G infrastructure and creation of a data hub facility to enable MK to operate as a testbed environment for 5G mobility projects, including partnering with BT, CityFibre, TechMahindra, the Open University, Satellite Applications Catapult and the Connected Places Catapult.
- A further £4.4m investment is being made into deploying autonomous vehicle trials and services at the MK Don stadium as part of a joint initiative with DCMS to explore the use of 5G technology.
- 12-month trial of E-scooters launched in August 2020, with three operators and 1,300 scooters now deployed in the city and approaching 250,000 rides taken to date.
- As part of the development of the Strategy for 2050, we developed initial proposals for a mass rapid transit network for Milton Keynes. Further research is to be commissioned to develop more detailed propositions for routes, phasing, vehicles etc.
- Starship delivery bots introduced in Milton Keynes, and now serving 50,000 homes within MK. Deliveries have covered over 500,000 miles, replacing an estimated 410,000 miles of car trips
- Electric Vehicle Experience Centre launched July 2017 as part of Go Ultra Low project receiving 60,000 visitors per year and providing users with practical demonstrations of electric vehicles.
- Install over 400 charge points at workplaces, on street and key destinations. Delivered two major charging hubs and a network of community charging hubs making MK one of the most densely covered areas for electric vehicle charging.
- The Go Ultra Low programme is also launching new wireless charging infrastructure to support car share in CMK and two communities (Ashland and Stoney Stratford)
- Via Van launched a new demand responsive transport service using 30 electric minibuses, the service designed to deliver hard to reach communities
- Working with Cranfield and MK University Hospital we are demonstrating how autonomous drones could support critical medical deliveries

- Car club scheme where residents and businesses can access a low emission car on 'pay as you go' basis is launching in summer 2021 along with two inductive charging points.
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan that will prioritise and develop plans to improve the local walking and cycling network is being delivered in 2021.
- 21 E-cargo bikes have been purchased with government grant and are being used by council landscaping services and a local foodbank operation, with the remainder being leased by the council to local enterprises and councils.

Project 5 – Renaissance CMK

- Sector studies prepared to review baseline status of residential, retail, leisure and office markets in CMK (commissioned by MKDP) and stakeholder workshop to consider CMK issues and inputs to the preparation of a city centre prospectus (2017)
- Renaissance CMK Prospectus launched January 2019, focussed on the principles of 'Innovation', 'Success' and 'Vibrant'.
- Progress on proposals for the Open Market, with stakeholder engagement on an emerging scheme and pre-application submitted, and Station Square, where £275,000 of funding has been secured from West Midlands Trains for a temporary revitalisation and public art scheme for the square
- Other city centre schemes completed or progressing, including MK Gallery extension (2019), 101 Avebury Boulevard (2020), YMCA (2020), Hotel La Tour (due to complete in 2021/22), Santander Digital Hub (due to complete in 2022/23, as the bank's UK HQ), Saxon Court/MK Gateway (planning application to be submitted 2021) and Aubrey Place (due to complete in 2021).

Project 6 – Creative and Cultured City

- 50th birthday celebrations in 2017, with more than 110 official events attended by around 1 in 3 Milton Keynes residents.
- Established the ongoing 'Design City' Programme to develop projects that celebrate, reinvent and exploit Milton Keynes international USP as a designed city and largest new town in Europe for resident and visitor benefit.
- After the initial CityFest held in 2017, a [Festival of Creative Urban Living](#) was held in 2019 with a major programme of free events, exhibitions, creative workshops and performances held in a temporary campus of playful buildings and structures in CMK.
- Milton Keynes awarded [European City of Sport 2020](#)
- Working with the City Discovery Centre to develop a [New Town Heritage Explorers](#) project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to engage a wide audience in the city's modernist heritage and support the Council's nationally innovative [New Town Register](#)
- Delivering [Homeworld](#) 'Heritage' and Homeworld 'Future' in May and September 2021 respectively to celebrate the original 1981 exhibition and explore how MK can use its heritage and cultural programmes to engage residents in and highlight new technologies to design homes and communities of the future.

Programme wide

- A 'Forging the Future' engagement programme working with young people from schools across the city on the various issues raised by the MK Futures programme, including specific workshops on the design of new communities and the future of autonomous vehicles. Workshops and discussion groups at other events with young people including YCAB (youth cabinet) and MySayMK.
- A four-day 'Journey to 2050' exhibition held in Middleton Hall, July 2017, with a comprehensive programme of talks, exhibitors, displays (including the MK:U design competition entries) and film

screenings, seen by more than 100,000 visitors to the shopping centre and with extensive local media coverage.

- Ongoing communications and engagement, including regular briefings with key stakeholder groups on emerging research and presentations at a range of conferences and seminars.