

# LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK ADVISORY GROUP

15 DECEMBER 2009

## ADDITIONAL PAPERS

### ITEM 7 - MILTON KEYNES LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CORE STRATEGY: SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

- (a) A table of changes made to the Core Strategy in response to comments from Members made at the 17 November 2009 Local Development Framework Advisory Group meeting (**Pages 2 to 6**).
- (b) Officer response to the redraft by Councillors Ferrans and White, of the Delivering Economic Prosperity Chapter (Chapter 13) (**Pages 7 to 18**).



Councillor comments from LDFAG 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2009	Changes made to the Core Strategy
That references to business closures in the rural economy needed updating, especially with regards to Nampak	Foreword has been changed 'Embraces Evolution and champions change' (9 <sup>th</sup> bullet): The rural economy has suffered with closures in Newport Pagnell (Aston Martin) and Woburn Sands (Plysu/Nampak)
The role of Central Milton Keynes was not clear enough	Paragraph 7.1 has been revised: It (CMK) is already the main location in the city for retail, office and leisure development with the largest concentration of jobs and this should continue in the future. CMK should also become the focus for more hotel accommodation. It serves both as a sub-regional centre (for example for shopping and transport) and as a local centre (for example day to day shopping needs) for the immediate catchment population.
Transport should be identified as a Key Issue, rather than just referring to East West Rail	This has been added to key issues paragraph 1.3 (d): Retaining ease of movement across the city as the population grows. transforming the public transport system to provide attractive, fast, frequent, convenient and efficient movement in the city
That the scale of planned growth (paras 2.2 – 2.5) should be included in the Key Issues	Added to key issues paragraph 1.3 (b): Providing for the significant growth and change in the borough's population
The Core Strategy should aim to improve people's quality of life	Added to key issues paragraph 1.1: It aims to help improve people's quality of life.
That sport needs to be referred to as a key driver for leisure in the city and that sports facilities will need to be placed near major transport routes	Added to key drivers of change paragraph 3.4: Regionally important sports facilities-opportunities need to be sought for national or international events and added to paragraph 5.36: 'but this does not prevent such facilities being developed elsewhere within other district and town centres, or in special cases, elsewhere

	in the city, where good public transport is, or will become available. For example large sporting facilities such as the Stadium MK
The definition of town centres needed to be clear to avoid challenge in the future.	This is really a matter for the Development Management DPD and so the following text has been added to 5.41: the new Development Management DPD which will seek to identify and enhance the individual characteristics of each centre and assess whether their boundaries should be retained or revised. Town centres are listed in paragraph 5.30 and defined in Policy CS 4.
That the number of independent crafts people and societies within Milton Keynes needed to be recognised	This point is addressed in the Employment chapter 13 revisions submitted by Cllrs Ferrans and White (see below)
Improving skill levels was not just about better higher education, the retention and strengthening of key business sectors including, for example, highly skilled engineering jobs relating to the motor racing industry needed to be addressed	This point and the one above are addressed in the revisions to chapter 13. A separate paper covers these changes.
That paragraph 10.3 was possibly too detailed in its reference to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. However figures could be updated as new evidence came in, although the Core Strategy should indicate the scale of future housing needs.	Added reference to 'snap shot' and keeping this information under review to paragraph 10.3: The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (which is a 'snap shot' of housing need, will be kept under review)
The document did not recognise that not all small businesses could be accommodated or would want to be located in CMK	Added to paragraph 13.7 (subject to comments on revisions to this chapter)
New towns were often last in and first out of recession, which would have implications for the timing of infrastructure investment and housing delivery.	The text dealing with our response to the recession has been brought forward from the Monitoring chapter to the Development Strategy chapter in paragraphs 5.10 to 5.11. 5.11 refers to the councils excellent track record in reducing potential delays by providing infrastructure before and alongside development.

	The Local Investment Plan will carry this forward and the summary of this will be attached as an appendix to the Core Strategy.
In relation to the South West Strategic Development Area, the Strategy should include a statement setting out where there was disagreement with Aylesbury Vale's policy for the area.	Added to paragraph 6.12: there remain some concerns of the Council in relation to the potential impacts of the development on Bletchley. These matters will be considered at the public examination into the Aylesbury Vale Core Strategy in 2010. In summary they are: The provision of both local and strategic infrastructure within and beyond the boundary of the SDA, as well as mechanisms for delivery; Traffic and transport modelling to fully assess the traffic impacts of the SDA on the road network in the city, in particular the A421, the B4034 and the Bletchley Town Centre; Safeguarding a future link road between the A421 and the A4146 and The inclusion of grid road principles in the SDA.
The Strategy should state that energy standards were above the norm.	Objective 10 includes: Implementing higher than national requirements for sustainable homes and buildings, under the mitigating climate change and reducing CO2 emissions Addition to paragraph 12.19: 'D4 has already driven up construction standards above the national level' to strengthen this point as suggested.
Competitions should be encouraged on how to deliver new energy solutions for the future to ensure innovative and imaginative ideas were at the forefront of Milton Keynes' future	Paragraph 12.29 refers to showcasing best practice. Added reference to the Milton Keynes case study in the Concerto project which was launched by the European Commission.

<p>There was a danger of large monopolistic housing developments, a way should be found of ensuring diversity of supply and a range of housing designs.</p>	<p>Verbal response at 17 November meeting explained we do not have the ability to influence this, but the market generally delivers smaller land parcels of development, e.g. the Eastern Expansion Area.</p>
<p>There was a risk of losing the understanding of the design principles of Milton Keynes. For example the multi-purpose nature the linear parks for flood defence, recreation, nature and amenity.</p>	<p>Added to SWOT: Loss of design history concepts from 1970 Master Plan</p>
<p>Key Issue (a) on the principles and standards for new development should be strengthened, and many people would not agree with (b) regarding the Strategic Development Areas</p>	<p>High standards for new development are addressed in more detail later in chapter 12. Opponents to the Strategic Development Areas can test the soundness of the location choices through the Public Examination process.</p>
<p>That paragraph 10.7 with regards to the proposal for cars, had not incorporated points previously submitted by Cllr Bint.</p>	<p>This section was reviewed by the Planning Officers Society (POSE). The points made in Cllr Bint's redraft of this specific paragraph which are omitted in the POSE redraft concerned enhancing the appearance of new neighbourhoods and encouraging residents to leave their cars behind. These points are made elsewhere in the Core Strategy, specifically in policy CS 13 (Well Designed Places) and Chapter 11 (paragraphs 11.2 to 11.7, which cross refer to CS 13). They can be added here to repeat the points made elsewhere, so revise this paragraph to read: To reduce on-street parking, encourage residents to leave their car at home and to enhance their appearance, new neighbourhoods should provide sufficient parking spaces for the projected car ownership levels for the type of dwellings (plus spaces for visitors).</p>
<p>That the notion that there was an abundance of car parking spaces in CMK was false</p>	<p>The adopted CMK Parking Strategy for growth states: there are 20,962 public car park spaces in CMK and this compares with approx 4,000 in Northampton and Luton and 7,000 for Peterborough.</p>

<p>That the 20% social housing figure was above the national average and there didn't seem to be a reason for it being so high</p>	<p>The "Housing in England 2007 – 08" report published in September 2009 shows that the national average for social rented properties (includes RSL and Local Authority rented properties) was 18% <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1346249.pdf">http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1346249.pdf</a> For MK the percentage is 19.1% (MKC rented + RSL rented). The national average disguises the local needs within well defined housing markets and it is this information which provides the evidence of need, rather than comparison with national average.</p>
<p>That 12 key spatial components had been articulated in the past, but were not represented within the document.</p>	<p>In the revisions made by the POSE there are now 13 spatial components in the Spatial Vision.</p>
<p>Newport Pagnell as an example was described as being rural, when it was part of the conurbation. It was not correct to assume that where an area's deemed as being out of town it was rural, when in fact it was within the conurbation.</p>	<p>Newport Pagnell has consistently been described as part of the rural area of the Borough, recognising its 'local distinctiveness' and history – i.e. unlike the towns of Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Wolverton, Newport Pagnell was not part of the new town. While the two settlements are closely related, the M1 motorway provides a clear and distinctive boundary between Newport Pagnell and the city.</p>
<p>The Strategy should ensure district centres are retained.</p>	<p>This is confirmed by the Retail Capacity Study, which justifies the approach to retaining district centres in the hierarchy as set out in the Core Strategy.</p>
<p>The Strategy should address the need for the spectrum of job skill, in order to ensure that Milton Keynes did not come to rely on one type of industry.</p>	<p>This is addressed in the revisions to the Delivering Economic Prosperity chapter 13, (see separate paper on this chapter).</p>



## Key

### Existing text

### **New Text submitted by Cllrs Ferrans and White**

*[Text to be deleted in italics and brackets]*

### Officer comments/proposed actions underlined

## 13 Delivering Economic Prosperity

[I have little knowledge of the initiatives you have reported plan in this section]

### Economic Vision

**13.1** The Council comes together with many of the key local and regional stakeholders in the MK Economy and Learning Partnership (MKELP). *[The MK Economy and Learning Partnership (MKELP) is made up of many of the key local and regional stakeholders,]* It is responsible for improving the performance of the local economy, including the 'Economic Vision' for MK (May 2004) which states that: "In 2034 Milton Keynes will be a major free standing city with a diverse, high value business base offering well paid employment opportunities to all those living within the city."

#### Agree change:

Old para 13.3 moved to become para 13.1, proposed changes emphasises the "leadership" role of the Council in joining with other key local and regional stakeholders in MKELP. Revised wording is fine but suggest, "comes together" be deleted and replaced by "works" as it reads better.

Revised para 13.1 to read

Para 13.1 The Council works with many of the key local and regional stakeholders in the MK Economy and Learning Partnership (MKELP). It is responsible for improving the performance of the local economy, including the 'Economic Vision' for MK (May 2004) which states that:

"In 2034 Milton Keynes will be a major free standing city with a diverse, high value business base offering well paid employment opportunities to all those living within the city."

**13.2** The Economic Vision and associated action plans which comprise the Borough's high level economic development strategy is being refreshed and should be finalised early in 2010. The Vision is expressed in diagrammatic form in Figure 13.1

Colin Fox (MKELP) has e-mailed the Council to point out the need to distinguish in new para 13.2 formerly old para 13.4 between the overall architecture of the Long Term Economic Vision for Milton Keynes (and the accompanying illustrative diagram) which have been agreed and the overall strategy and action plans for the Economic Vision for MK, which have not been finalised and will not be until May /June 2010.

In the light of his e-mail agree change - para 13.2 revised to read:

13.2 The Long Term Economic Vision for Milton Keynes, which represents the Borough's high-level economic development strategy, is being refreshed. The overall architecture of the Economic Vision for Milton Keynes has been agreed and is expressed in diagrammatic form in figure 13.1. The Vision's strategy and action plans are expected to be finalised in 2010.

#### **Picture 12 Economic Vision 'Architecture'**

The Vision will need periodic refreshment during the life of this core strategy to ensure that the strategy adapts to the changing environment of both business and the city.

Agree change: add this to paragraph 13.2

**13.3** The SWOT table *on page 11, [reference]* identifies many of the factors that attract business to Milton Keynes, which has one of the fastest growing economies in the South East region. The city is identified as a 'regional hub', a centre for economic activity in the SEP (*policy SP2*) [reference]. [*There are more jobs than residents of working age, resulting in net inward commuting to the city.*] Text on in commuting moved to para 13.4 **In practice, the sub-region spans four administrative regions.** The Regional Economic Strategy identifies a number of measures to enable MK to develop to its full economic potential. (57). It includes 'Improving the climate for investment, Stimulating an entrepreneurial and innovative economy and Ensuring learning and skills provision responds to population and business demands'.

Agree to change, but as the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy (March 2005) defines the MK & SM sub-region as covering 3 regions the South East, East Midlands and East of England, it does not cover London.  
Agree para 13.2 be revised to be clear which sub-region is being referred to and the number of regions it covers. Amended text to read,  
"In practice, the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-region spans three administrative regions."

One of the difficulties in compiling chapter 13 is the lack of an agreed up to date Economic Vision strategy and action points identifying what measures are to be undertaken locally. To address this problem the new text in para 13.3, (formerly para 13.1), is proposed with the following changes. It refers to the specific measures in the absence of any agreed actions and a strategy for the MK Economic Vision.  
Following text revised in paragraph 13.3:

The Regional Economic Development Strategy (REDS) identifies the measures proposed by the three regional development agencies SEEDA, EEDA and EMDA to enable Milton Keynes and the wider MKSM sub-region to develop to its full economic potential under the three agreed priorities for action:

1) Improving the climate for investment,

- 2) Stimulating an entrepreneurial and innovative economy and
- 3) Ensuring learning and skills provision responds to population and business demands

The specific actions identified in the REDS under these three headings include:

- Improving the climate for investment - by influencing and lobbying on infrastructure, promoting new investment and retaining existing investors, promoting sustainable development and regeneration and influencing ICT infrastructure.
- Stimulating an entrepreneurial and innovative economy - by supporting and promoting the concept of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, supporting the creation of a network of innovation and incubation centres across MKSM, providing enhanced business support and supporting business-to-business collaboration in key clusters and sectors.
- Ensuring learning and skills provision responds to population and business demands - by acting upon the skills implications of the growth strategy, developing the Higher Education Institutions (HEI) provision, strengthening the links between education and business and enabling improved access to employment for the disadvantaged.

These measures parallel what the Council and its partners will be seeking to achieve locally.

There are also a number of key factors, which have contributed to MK's success to date which should be maintained, including accessibility to the UK and Europe, ease of transport within the Borough, and the co-ordinated provision of houses, jobs and key infrastructure in the development plans.

Para 13.3 Although the Transport and Accessibility comments are covered in the SWOT table and the co-ordinated provision point less so, agree the above text be added.

Recent research by both SEEDA and the MKSM regional group has highlighted the strengths of the Milton Keynes economy in areas such as retail, leisure, the creative industries and financial services, but has also brought more data on weaknesses that make the economy fragile and vulnerable in recessions.

A recent SEEDA report on the growth in jobs in MK from 1998 to 2007 identifies that the growth in jobs has been primarily in business and financial services +15,000, transport and communications +4400, Health + 4200, Education +4200, Leisure-hotels and restaurants +1300, but by comparison jobs in construction, retailing and the public sector have hardly grown at all. Construction has grown by 600 jobs and retailing by 200 jobs and public administration has declined -75 jobs. However, at over 30,000 jobs the retail sector is the second biggest employment sector in the Borough. Ephraidge is checking figures for the numbers and growth of jobs in the

creative industries but our current data suggests any contribution from this sector is likely to be small.

In view of the above, suggest this text is amended to reflect specific research and should now read:

“Recent research by SEEDA has highlighted the strengths of the Milton Keynes economy in areas such as financial and business services, transport and communications, health & education, leisure and retailing, but has also brought more data on weaknesses that make the economy fragile and vulnerable in recessions.”

The coming Economic Assessment will give the chance for all partners to review the data in more detail and to add to the strategy the factors that will help to build a more balanced economy, such as more support for knowledge-based industries and the environment that their staff look for, and more training in the skills relevant to our more practical industries.

As the Core Strategy has not referred to the Economic Assessment before we need to clarify what the Economic Assessment is, its purpose and when it will be produced

Revised text to read

“Between April and December 2010, the Council and its partners will produce an Economic Assessment assessing economic conditions within Milton Keynes. It will help develop the evidence base and provide a sound understanding of local economic conditions to inform existing local strategies. Its production will give the chance for all partners to review the data in more detail and to add to the relevant strategy, the factors that will help to build a more balanced economy, such as more support for knowledge-based industries and the environment that their staffs look for, and more training in the skills relevant to our more practical industries.”

The reports also highlight the opportunities locally to develop the sustainable transport and construction sectors, and the service sector to the automotive industries close by.

Clarification being sought about which reports are being referred to.

Once known agree new text on collaboration in key clusters and sectors in para 13.3.

13.4 Milton Keynes has historically had a high level of economic activity, and economic and demographic trends will bring a demand for part-time work [for older people] as well as work for the expanding population. At present, there are more jobs than residents of working age, resulting in net inward commuting into the city (56).

Agreed MK has a high level of economic activity and as it grows, it will generate full time and part time jobs. Suggest the reference to demand for part-time work for older people be removed, as part-time jobs are potentially suitable for a large number of groups in society not just older people.

Agree revised para 13.4 to read

13.4 Milton Keynes has historically had a high level of economic activity, and economic and demographic trends will bring a demand for part-time work as well as work for the expanding population. At present, there are more jobs than residents of working age, resulting in net inward commuting into the city (56).

The intention is to continue to provide 1.5 jobs per household as the city grows. Although there is enough employment land to meet our job targets, we need to attract the right type of employment that will strengthen and diversify the local economy and help it to flourish in the future, while maintaining the current strengths. We will also consider reallocating some sites [between] from industrial and distribution purposes [and] to office and high technology uses (58) where experience indicates that the sites are more suitable. Accept revision to text but replace 'where experience indicates that the sites are more suitable' with 'where marketing and investment advice suggests this is appropriate'.

#### **A Learning City and Skilled Work Force**

**13.5** Raising educational attainment is a key priority (59). The skills of the resident population (NVQ 4 or higher, equivalent to a degree) are slightly lower at 28.2% than for the South East region (30.8%); the proportion of people with no qualifications is relatively high; 13.4% compared to 9.6% in the South East (60). To develop a balanced economy, Milton Keynes needs to move further towards a knowledge-based economy, with a range of employment opportunities covering the whole career path, in order to improve the supply, demand and retention of skilled workers. [To move to a knowledge-based economy, we need to improve both the supply and demand for skilled workers]

Agree new text

56 From 1996 to 2006, the size of the MK economy doubled in cash terms from £3.1 billion to £6.3 billion making it one of the top ten sub-regional economies in the region- SEEDA: Milton Keynes Economy Review-Jan2009.

57 The Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016. A Framework for Sustainable Prosperity. SEEDA p.37.

58 As set out in Policy CS 3 'Employment Land Supply'.

59 Milton Keynes Sustainable Community Strategy, Our Handbook for Change 2004-2034 (Refreshed 2008), MK Council Plan 2009-2011 and MK Children and Young People Plan 2009 .

60 SEEDA: Milton Keynes Economy Review-January 2009

**13.7** Milton Keynes has three universities located nearby each of which attracts a national and international student base. But until recently, there has been no undergraduate provision in Milton Keynes itself. An important element of the Core Strategy Spatial Vision is the development of the University Centre Milton Keynes (UCMK) to full university status by 2020. Although the university's estates strategy is still being developed, the working assumption is for a strong Central Milton Keynes

presence but with some dispersed provision. The Milton Keynes Higher Education Strategic Development Board, consisting of key civic, educational and business interests, is taking forward the establishment of the University of Milton Keynes of which UCMK is the first significant step (61).

Agree new text.

As well as providing degree courses, the Council will seek to ensure that the University Centre and other HE facilities locally provide a good range of professional development courses to meet industry's needs.

Agree new text.

(Many of the workforce will not aspire to HE, or will need craft and technical skills alongside the theoretical.)

The point being made here is covered and better expressed below; suggest the sentence above be deleted because as presently worded the Council could be seen as preventing people grasping higher education opportunities.

Diplomas and other practical and vocational education will be encouraged in schools, and the range of FE courses relevant to the local economy will be further developed.

Agree new text in paragraph 13.7.

### **Stimulating an Innovative and Entrepreneurial Economy**

**13.a** The Council will seek to identify and build on the key sectors of the local economy, such as finance, logistics and the creative industries, and to encourage emerging sectors where there is an obvious local opportunity, e.g. environmentally friendly construction and transport, and technical support to the automotive sectors in nearby areas.

A wide range of measures, from taking part in major initiatives such as the Electric cars project, or strengthening opportunities for professional development, to reviewing the factors that attract professional staff to the area are under discussion as part of the MKSM sub-regional economic development strategy and will feed into the detailing of the MK Economic Vision and subsequent strategies during the Economic Assessment process.

Para 13a is a new paragraph, there is no disagreement that MK should build on its strengths and encourage emerging sectors of the economy but what is proposed seems more appropriate for the economic vision document rather than a spatial plan. The forthcoming Economic Assessment may comment on sector strengths and weaknesses, identify their problems and what should be done to combat those problems but this will not be finalised until late next year (2010).

Identifying specific sectors finance, logistics and the creative industries as key sectors is potentially risky and could be a hostage to fortune if economic

circumstances change. Encouraging warehousing and logistics is also counter to the strategy of redeveloping some warehousing land for office and R&D uses.

Agree to inclusion of second paragraph starting 'A wide range of measures...'

## Culture

**13.b** A key part of a strong and innovative economy is the role played by the cultural sector, both in improving the quality of life in the area, in offering innovative techniques to use in planning, engagement and market research, etc. and in offering a very varied range of employment opportunities. [The] Regional Economic Strategy recognises the important role that environmental and cultural improvements can play in improving the quality of life of the city and locally, the creative arts sector is an identified strength that should be nurtured.

Agree subject to confirmation from Ephraidge Rinomhota. Add reference to MK Arts and MK Community Foundation.

**13.b** High quality and major events also improve the city's profile nationally and internationally, and bring large numbers of visitors into the local economy. The vision of the Council's Cultural Strategy is that by 2012, MK will be a leading European city for creativity, excellence and participation in cultural activities, capable of staging major events or participating in world level events, with the infrastructure that that implies.

Agree new text.

## Improving the Climate for Investment

**13.c** Inward investment is essential in a growing city and a continually evolving economy. Invest Milton Keynes (IMK) seeks to attract and retain new and existing businesses, positioning the city as a premier investment location. It now targets high growth and high value businesses, including knowledge-based industries.

Agree new text.

In order to stimulate the focus on Milton Keynes as a centre for investment, to continue to offer our businesses the chance to grow and develop, we will be seeking to develop a range of local capital sources to strengthen our local economy.

This statement does not have any spatial implications and is more appropriate for the Economic Assessment and/or Vision.

In order to encourage industry to come to the area, research has been carried out to identify the factors, which influence the attraction and retention of major companies, as discussed above. Progress on these factors, and on making them visible to prospective investors, through strategies identified during the local Economic

Assessment process and the city marketing initiative, will be essential in maintaining the level of investment.

Agree to the message of this text, but suggest a more concise expression would be: “Research has been carried out to identify the factors, which influence the attraction and retention of major companies. Through a variety of documents strategies will be developed and implemented to attract and retain companies in the Borough.”

## Infrastructure

**13.8** Parts of MK have poor access to high-speed internet, which discourages investment and home working. The Council will work with partners on an Information and Communications Technology Strategy to ensure all main employment sites and population centres have high-speed internet available.

**13.8a** The accessibility of the rest of the UK and Europe, and the quality of links into the national networks has been key to the success of Milton Keynes and must be retained. Similarly, the ease of transport across the Borough has also been critical to business success and should be maintained and weak links improved. Duplication of comments in para 13.3 but agree adding this text.

**13.8b** Marketing the city is a vital part of its growth plans, and the marketing image of the city as it grows and changes must reflect the full depth and diversity of its offering in order to allow the economy to flourish. Agree text. NB May draw attention to low levels of funding for marketing in MK.

## Policy CS 16

### Delivering Economic Prosperity

*[I suggest that there must be more actions that the Council and others have planned for this important activity] seeking clarification from MKEPL and will add any other actions relevant*

*This should cover the transformational projects from the Vision (GS) Agreed – but can't find them! (JF)*

The transformational projects were

- 1) The development of an integrated marketing, inward investment and business support function for Milton Keynes.

Response: Already achieved. Role of Invest MK in seeking to attract and retain new and existing businesses, positioning the city as premier investment location is referred to in existing para 13.6/13c.

- 2) The establishment of an undergraduate university in MK

Response: Establishment of the University referred to throughout CS document and specifically in policy CS16 below.

- 3) Capitalising on the strengths of the OU and Cranfield to make MK a thriving centre for knowledge based businesses. Key outputs were establishment of science and high technology parks and R&D portal for knowledge transfer.

Response: Policy CS16 refers to the development of knowledge based businesses, including new science parks and the Science and Innovation initiative for knowledge transfer. Strategic locations for science parks include Kents Hill/Walton adjacent to OU identified in policy CS3 and accompanying text.

- 4) Creating diversity in CMK and elsewhere throughout the city through new styles of housing and cultural development.

Response: Covered by housing policies CS10 proposing an appropriate range of sizes, values, styles tenures etc and CMK policy CS7 which proposes mixed use development within CMK

- 5) Development of a “can do” culture by all key stakeholders endorsing an economic vision for MK and are clear about their role in delivering it.

Response: Para 13.2 already refers to current state of the MK Vision. The Vision’s strategy and action plans are expected to be finalised in 2010.

Milton Keynes will develop as a Learning City with a highly skilled workforce. Key projects include:

The delivery of 15 new primary schools and 4 secondary schools as part of growth plans

The expansion of further and higher education to provide support for the key sectors of the local economy, including the development of a University of Milton Keynes

The provision of training facilities to improve the skills and qualifications of the resident workforce and to help sections of the community that are disadvantaged in the labour market

**Commitment to a continuing process of joint working between skills providers and local employers to ensure the provision of skills training to match the requirements of local employers**

Agreed add text to Delivery section of chapter.

The allocation of a range of employment land opportunities to suit the variety of employers the city needs to attract. Duplicates policy CS3: suggest deletion

The development of knowledge related businesses, including new science parks and the Science and Innovation Habitat initiative (formerly the Technopole)  
Improved broadband / high-speed internet access across the whole Borough

The strengthening of the business environment for our key sectors via a range of support mechanisms such as inward investment support, local capital sources, marketing, professional development, new arrivals information and support, etc.  
Agreed add text to Delivery section of chapter.

Support for the regeneration programme across all sectors to ensure that prosperity and quality of life is spread throughout the borough and not concentrated on the new areas

The Core Strategy already covers regeneration in chapter 14 e.g. policy CS19 and para 14.9, which commits the Council “to reducing health inequalities and deprivation across the city”. Staffing and resource constraints mean that regeneration initiatives are currently prioritised and targeted to specific neighbourhoods rather than across all sectors. Agree to add cross reference to Chapter 14 here.

## **Delivery**

**13.10** The new school provision will be planned as part of the work on the South East SDA. Schools in the Eastern and Western Expansion Areas are already planned and in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. The delivery of these schools at an appropriate time will be ensured through close working between the education department and the Joint Housing Delivery Team, who will advise on the timing of future housing delivery.

**13.11** MK Higher Education Strategic Development Board is taking forward the proposal for a full university in Milton Keynes. The UCMK is the first significant step (62). The operational needs of the University are currently uncertain. These will be investigated in a review of the CMK Development Framework if necessary.

**13.12** The potential for new science parks will be investigated with key stakeholders. Work on this and on the need for varied sites to support different employment needs will feed into the Site Allocations DPD.

*61 Details of the spatial requirements for adult learning centres in libraries up to 2012 are contained within the Learning and Development Accommodation Strategy and the Joint Community Infrastructure Development Plan of the Milton Keynes Partnership Business Plan.*

*62 Details of the spatial requirements for adult learning centres in libraries up to 2012 are contained within the Learning and Development Accommodation Strategy and the Joint Community Infrastructure Development Plan of the MKP Business Plan.*

**13.13** The Council will work with partners to target those who need to improve their skills and qualifications, particularly those with no qualifications.

**13.14** Planning obligations and local labour agreements between the Council and developers may be used to help people access training and employment opportunities (63)

**13.15** An Information and Communications Technology Strategy will be prepared to ensure all major employment sites and population centres have access to high-speed broadband internet services (MKC and partners)

13.15a The Council will work with partners to develop and provide a range of business support mechanisms.

## MKELP Economic Vision and Strategic Plan

### Support for Small Businesses

**13.16** The majority of businesses in the Borough are small businesses, which require suitable accommodation (64). They are the seeds from which larger businesses will grow. There are plenty of units for larger businesses in the city's employment areas but a lack of affordable, flexible accommodation for small and creative businesses, making it a strategically important issue. Smaller and older centres (both in the city and in the rural area) play an important role in providing small and affordable accommodation.

**13.17** Regeneration and redevelopment proposals may provide opportunities to increase the supply of small business premises. Conversely, preventing the redevelopment and loss of small business units to other uses is also important. New units could also be developed as part of employment developments identified in Table E.1 'Employment Land Allocations in Milton Keynes'.

**13.18** Home working, including live/work units, can provide a number of sustainability benefits including reduced peak hour travel and more flexible working hours and childcare possibilities.

**13.18b** Very small businesses face difficulties in obtaining routine facilities such as meeting rooms, and services such as waste disposal, often at levels only slightly above domestic levels. This will be taken into consideration when reviewing the provision of shared access facilities, regulations and service plans. Research from MKELP suggests that currently this may be less of a problem. However, given the timescale for the Core Strategy this situation could change so add text to policy CS 3 requiring serviced accommodation as part of new developments to assist small businesses.

## Policy CS 17

### Supporting Small Businesses

We will protect small business units across the Borough and require new small business units, **with the flexibility to support growing businesses, as part of:**

#### Agree new text

Schemes to redevelop existing areas of employment land for alternative use; and

Any significant new development in the city, including the Strategic Development Areas, and in the Key Settlements. We will encourage developers to provide live/work units in new developments with detailed advice set out in the Development Management DPD.

**We will seek to provide or stimulate a range of services and facilities appropriate to small businesses.**

Agree to add to policy where there are clear spatial requirements. Where there maybe additional support for small businesses without spatial implications, the delivery will be through other strategies linked to the Core Strategy.

### Delivery

**13.19** The Development Management DPD will include policies to prevent the change of use or loss of small business units, encourage the provision of small business units where redevelopment or change of use is not wholly to meet the operational needs of the occupier, and encourage live/work units in new housing schemes. Work on the Development Management DPD will investigate the appropriate level of provision of small business and live/work units in more detail. Measures to assist and support businesses are identified in the Regional Economic Strategy 2006-2016, A Framework for Sustainable Prosperity and MK Economic Vision referred to earlier.

*63 The Milton Keynes Long Term Economic Vision, Review of Transformational Projects and Strategic Action p.74, suggests that further and higher education providers should focus on meeting business needs to ensure graduates are qualified in the subject areas and at the level sought by employers.*

*64 82% of MK businesses employ 1-10 people, SEEDA MK Economy Review, Jan 2009. Small business units are defined as premises of up to 300 sq metres each*

**Culture – The rest of that bit needs to be a new section. And heritage needs to be extracted from the current chapter on heritage and environment and integrated into that.**

The regional economic development strategy identifies the importance of culture to issues such as the quality of life so it is appropriate to retain it in this chapter, where it can be put in its own section. The historic and natural environment chapter refers to Milton Keynes rich heritage of historic sites and buildings and their surrounding parks and gardens and landscape, which is an integral part of their setting and the need to conserve them.

Agree add text referring to MK Arts and Community Foundation and cross refer to Heritage chapter 15.