

MILTON KEYNES LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2006 - 09

Accountable Cabinet Member: Councillor Chris Williams

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 Members of the panel are invited to discuss the 3 year programme of work for the Milton Keynes Local Development Framework as set out in the Milton Keynes Local Development Scheme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Panel endorse the revised Local Development Scheme (as detailed in Annex A) for consideration at Cabinet.
- 2.2 Note the role of the Advisory Group in the revised procedures for the production of the Council's Local Development Framework.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a critical part of the Milton Keynes Local Development Framework. It is a public statement setting out the details of which Local Development Documents the Council will produce over the next 3 years, in what order, and when. It provides the starting point for the local community and stakeholders to find out about the timetable for the production of Local Development Documents.
- 3.2 Local Authorities are required to keep the Local Development Scheme under regular review. Once agreed at Cabinet the Local Development Scheme will be submitted to the Government Office for the South East, the Planning Inspectorate and published on the Council's website.
- 3.3 Cabinet considered and approved a revision to the MK Local Development Scheme (2005 – 08) at its meeting on the 11th April 2006. Following the submission of this document, the Government Office (GOSE) suggested a number of changes and requested the MK Local Development Scheme (2006 – 09) be resubmitted.
- 3.4 Having discussed the issues with the Government Office it has been concluded that the amendments will be of benefit to the Council. The LDS is being resubmitted to Cabinet as some of the changes to the programme amend the Council's priorities for document production and timetable. An

overview of the changes made to the Local Development Scheme are listed in paragraph 4.8.

4. **Public Consultation Details**

Council Procedures

- 4.1 The Government Office identified that the Council's procedures for the preparation of Development Plan Documents are unnecessarily convoluted and can be streamlined to better relate to the scope of Government regulations.
- 4.2 Officers have held discussions with the Government Office and have accepted that in an environment where there is increasing pressure to meet deadlines and deliver policy documents it is preferable to try to shorten decision-making processes and expedite decisions, but without reducing the opportunities for Councillors to engage in the process.
- 4.3 It is important that Members continue to have the opportunity to lead and be fully engaged with the development of Development Plan Documents and also that the community and local stakeholders continue to have the fullest opportunity to participate in the preparation of planning documents.
- 4.4 This all party LDF Advisory Group meets to advise the Cabinet member on the content of new Development Plan Documents.
- 4.5 In the first Local Development Scheme the Council acknowledged that the procedures for preparing DPDs were to be kept under review as the requirements of the new process are clarified. The existing Local Development Scheme (2005/08) lists the Council Procedures for Preparing Documents as:

For each Development Plan Document, Cabinet recommendation to Full Council will be sought and obtained at each of the main stages of the process (ie. Issues and options, preferred option and submission draft).

- 4.6 The Council's procedures set out in the revised Local Development Scheme propose that this be amended to:

Document	Approval Mechanism	Reason
Issues and Options	Lead Cabinet member (Transport and Planning) to agree document for consultation.	This stage of the process is seeking views on a range of issues and requires no decision to be made by Cabinet.
Preferred Option	Cabinet to agree document for consultation.	Document is considered by the LDF Advisory Group and approved for consultation by Cabinet.
Submission	Full Council to agree document for submission	The regulations require the approval of the document by Full Council before submission to the Government. The LDF

		Advisory Group will consider the document prior to Full Council.
Adoption	Full Council to agree document for adoption.	The regulations require the approval of the document by Full Council before adoption

4.7 The planning regulations do not require the document to be considered by Cabinet at Preferred Option stage, but this approach allows greater involvement for Cabinet in the preparation of key planning documents prior to consultation. The above amendments to the LDS will continue to be consistent with the Council's submission Statement of Community Involvement.

4.8 Attached to this paper (Annex A) is the revised Milton Keynes Local Development (2006 – 09). In summary the main changes to the document from the report approved by Cabinet on the 11th April are as follows:

- Core Strategy timetable: The revisions to the Council's Procedures (para 3.5) has enabled the timetable for the preparation of the Core Strategy to be revised back to that in the original LDS (2005/08) and no longer proposes a 9 month delay.
- Allocations (Housing and Employment) Development Plan Document: Amendments to the Core Strategy timetable has resulted in minor changes being made to the timetable for the production of the Allocations DPD.
- Joint Development Plan Documents: The role of joint Development Plan Documents (or Area Action Plans) with the neighbouring authorities to deliver any growth of Milton Keynes that may take place in the neighbouring authorities has been clarified.
- Status of Documents: The LDS has been updated to bring the Local Development Scheme up to date (as at August 06) to detail the adoption of Minerals Local Plan, production of new Supplementary Planning Documents, completion of MK2031 study etc.
- Reserve Documents: Identification of a 'reserve document' list that the Council will introduce to the Local Development Scheme should it achieve good progress against the milestones for DPD preparation set out in this Local Development Scheme. The timetable for the preparation of these documents will be confirmed and introduced through a partial review of the LDS.
- Risk Management: Table 5 - risk management has been amended to reflect the changes listed above and to provide an update of the current political balance of the Council.

5. **Implications**

Policy

- 5.1 The Local Development Framework will eventually replace the Milton Keynes Local Plan. This process will be incremental and does not have to be completed by the end of the period covered by the LDS (3 years).

Resources and Risk

- 5.2 *Financial:* the preparation of the LDF will be funded largely from Development Plans budgets and it is anticipated that any costs arising through the period covered by the LDS will be contained within the directorate's overall budget. Consultants' studies will need to be commissioned as part of the evidence base. In the past such studies have often been jointly funded with Milton Keynes Partnerships and others and this will continue to be necessary.
- 5.3 The use of Planning Delivery Grant to fund additional capacity or consultants studies may need to be applied for from the 2007 / 08 settlement to assist in delivering to the timetables set out in this LDS. The Council's performance against the milestones set out in this Local Development Scheme, which may have an impact on future Planning Delivery Grant settlements.
- 5.4 Changes to the planning system will involve more frequent Public Inquiries but they should be shorter and more focussed. An annual Planning Inquiries budget is in place to fund Public Inquiries. This position will be kept under review.
- 5.5 *Staffing:* The preparation of the LDF will involve a commitment of both officer and member time. The LDS has been revised and refocused to make assumptions about the level of continuous staffing available to the Development Plans Team over the 3 year period covered by this document.

Legal

- 5.6 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 has changed the statutory basis for drawing up development plans in England and Wales. The Milton Keynes Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Guidance will eventually be replaced by a Local Development Framework.

E-Government

- 5.7 The LDS will be made available through the Council's website. We intend to inform people using emails and the Internet during the preparation of the Local Development Framework.

Equalities

- 5.8 There is no statutory requirement for public consultation on the draft LDS, although a number of local partners including the Government Office and the Milton Keynes Partnership have been informally consulted and comments incorporated into the draft.

Background Papers:

1. Cabinet Paper – 11th April 2006: Milton Keynes Local Development Scheme 2006 - 09
2. PPS12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM, 2004)
3. Creating Local Development Frameworks: A Companion Guide to PPG12 (ODPM, 2004)
4. Milton Keynes Annual Monitoring Report (December 2005):
[www.mkweb.co.uk/local_plan_review/documents/annual_monitoring_report_2004 - 05.doc](http://www.mkweb.co.uk/local_plan_review/documents/annual_monitoring_report_2004_-_05.doc)