

MK Futures 2050 – Programme Update

Project One – Growth and Strategy Bundle

The MK Futures 2050 Commission recommended a project titled “Hub of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor” to realise the economic potential of the city’s position at the heart of a knowledge-intensive cluster, building on the work being done by the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC).

The Commission also recommended that a new Strategy for 2050 be prepared, as a non-statutory plan with a long term horizon, in order to build on the work of the Commission and support the delivery of the other MK Futures projects.

These workstreams, along with work on future options for developer funding and maintaining links with the Plan:MK process have been combined into a single project, titled the “Growth and Strategy Bundle”.

Strategy for 2050

- Starting with the indicative policy areas set out in the Commission’s report, the scope for the content of the Strategy for 2050 was developed. This was augmented to identify proposed policy objectives, gaps in evidence, delivery routes/strategies and which services and partners will need to be involved in further developing policy approaches.
- Five evidence studies are now being commissioned to inform the development of the policies in the Strategy for 2050.
- Internal workshops have been organised to test policy approaches and review evidence.
- Draft Strategy for 2050 proposed for engagement late Summer 2017. Intending to use innovative and interactive methods to engage widely.
- Final Strategy to be adopted in early 2018.

The development of the Strategy for 2050 is being closely aligned with the Plan:MK process. Plan:MK (and future reviews of the Local Plan) will provide the delivery mechanism for the spatial elements emerging from the Strategy for 2050 and other projects within the MK Futures 2050 Programme.

Hub of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor

- Engagement with the NIC through their Interim Report, both as an individual authority and as part of the Fast Growth Cities (FGC) group. The Interim Report and Autumn Statement included positive directions for MK, in particular in relation to the Cambridge-MK-Oxford Corridor and infrastructure schemes.
- Wider engagement also taking place with the NIC, HM Treasury and DCLG, including discussions around MK’s issues (e.g. restrictions on tariff, circumstances around local issues of housing delivery).
- Submission made to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on behalf of the FGC group on potential for a Lucas Amendment

deal to give additional planning freedoms to boost housing delivery. The FGC group have been invited by the Secretary of State to engage with DCLG officials to explore such a scheme.

- MKC is working with neighbouring authorities and others in the corridor to determine how to respond to the NIC's proposals for corridor-wide strategic plans, city centre mobility plans and governance arrangements.

Project Two – MK:U, A New University for Milton Keynes

The Commission recognised the opportunities that a resident undergraduate population could bring to Milton Keynes, ranging from creating a highly skilled workforce to meet the demands of knowledge intensive businesses in the area, to bringing a new sector of users to the city centre to create a diverse and independent cultural and leisure offer. The second project recommended by the Commission was therefore to develop a new university proposition for the city, MK:U¹.

- Local Higher Education providers were asked if they would be interested in taking a lead role in bringing forward the new university proposition. Open University and MK College stated they wish to be involved in the developing work, with Cranfield University expressing interest in leading the process.
- Cranfield University are now working with MKC to prepare a business case for MK:U, involving work on governance, finance, the physical requirements for a city centre university, possible subject areas and teaching structures.
- Project management is being led by Cranfield University, with a team seconded to work on the project. Regular meetings are held with the MK Futures team within the Council.
- Ongoing engagement through a series of discussions with stakeholder focus groups and student survey.
- The Business Case will be submitted to MKC in May 2017. Work will then begin to use the business case as a prospectus for getting international partner(s) involved in the project.

Project Three – Learning 2050

In their report, the Commission highlighted the importance of a strong education offer across the city, recognising that today there is considerable room for improvement in both attainment and aspiration. This is in the context of the amount of influence that Milton Keynes Council can have over this issue being minimal due to the increasing independence of schools.

Discussions with the School Improvement team in the context of MK's schools recent improvements in levels of attainment have indicated that existing projects and initiatives are now bedding in and demonstrating a positive impact, including subject forums to share best practice across schools. It is considered that further

¹ The Commission had originally titled this university MK:IT, building on the idea of an 'institute of technology'. However, in the Government's consultation on building the [Industrial Strategy](#), the phrase 'Institute of Technology' is used to describe an establishment delivering higher-level technical education. The project is now therefore using MK:U as the working title of the new university.

intervention through the Learning 2050 project would not add value to the improvement that is currently being achieved.

Discussions have revealed concerns with the post-16 offer, both through school provision and MK College. There is potential to change the focus of the Learning 2050 project to instead explore the opportunities to improve the quality of post-16 education. This option is currently being reviewed.

Project Four – Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility

The Commission was clear that for the city to be successful in the future, everyone who lives, works, studies or does business here must be able to move freely and on demand, and not be reliant on access to a private car. The Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility project reflects the growing move towards ‘mobility as a service’² and the use of autonomous and electric vehicles, and the opportunities that these trends could create for Milton Keynes.

This project is aligned with the preparation of a new Mobility Strategy to support Plan:MK, which will replace the existing Local Transport Plan 3.

- Shared understanding of project scope developed between relevant teams, including links between Plan:MK, Mobility Strategy (which will fulfil the requirements of a Local Transport Plan, provide the transport planning basis for Plan:MK) and Strategy for 2050.
- Transport issues paper setting out the scope and broad aims of the Mobility Strategy has been prepared and shared with Members
- An Innovative Mobility Roadmap is being commissioned which will identify opportunities for developing innovative modes of mobility in the city, the timescales for when they could be implemented and integrated into the wider mobility offer, and spatial and land-use implications. The conclusions of this Roadmap can be reflected in the Strategy for 2050 and the Mobility Strategy. Discussions are underway with the Transport Systems Catapult to determine the scope for collaboration on creating a Roadmap.
- A £175,000 grant has been secured from DfT for sensor deployments to provide provision of real time transport and parking information (key to the City Motion Map project). This award will be supplemented by additional funding from the Open University of up to £60,000. A further grant of £50,000 has been secured from Innovate UK to develop a business case for city-wide deployment of parking and traffic motion sensors.
- UK Autodrive project on track with fleet of 40 driverless pods now in production with operational plan established for demonstration service. Tender process initiated for operator. First public trial of UK Autodrive pod on 23rd January as part of MK50 – attended by Secretary of State for Transport. Further acceptance trials are now underway

² Mobility as a Service is the move away from personally owned modes of transport towards mobility solutions that are consumed as a service. This might mean users combine services from both public and private providers through a single gateway that creates and manages the trip (accessed through an app on a mobile phone or tablet), which users pay for with a single account rather than an account for each different mode or provider. This payment could be on a pay as you go basis, or as a monthly subscription.

- MKC are anticipating a further funding award to be secured from Innovate UK to extend the POD operation beyond the UK Autodrive programme. This c.£2m project will increase the capability (intelligence) of the PODS. The Council will receive funds to support its involvement in supporting this work.
- A first of a kind 3-D laser sensor has been installed in CMK for evaluating its capabilities to detect traffic and pedestrian movement over a wide area, in all weather and lighting conditions. This sensor capability can provide benefits in mixed use highway environments and can help with POD and autonomous vehicle operation.
- Electric car charging programme progressing well with city centre Experience Centre on track for summer opening. The second MK electric bus route is also progressing, with the consortium for delivering the project being established.

Project Five – Renaissance: CMK

The Renaissance:CMK project aims to create an even stronger city centre that is fit for the challenges of the mid-21st century. Through investment in new employment, residential, retail and leisure opportunities, drawing on the benefits that could be created by a new city centre university, and (re)developing vacant or underused buildings and land, Renaissance:CMK will help to create a prosperous city centre and capitalise on our position on the Cambridge-MK-Oxford corridor.

This project is being managed by the Council's Infrastructure Delivery and Coordination Service, working with a steering group of officers from the Place directorate, MK Futures team and Milton Keynes Development Partnership meeting on a regular basis to guide and contribute to the project.

- Work has progressed to identify the key themes and work areas for the project, including deliverables, and setting up suitable governance arrangements.
- Sector studies to develop a baseline understanding of current market demand and patterns of development, and forecasting for future trends have been commissioned by Milton Keynes Development Partnership from Savills, looking at retail, residential, employment and leisure uses.
- Work is being commissioned to prepare the Renaissance CMK Prospectus, which is intended to encourage and stimulate investment in key CMK development sites and drive increased values in CMK. This will build on the vision for CMK as envisaged in the MK Futures 2050 Commission Report.
- The Renaissance:CMK Prospectus will inform the Plan:MK policies for CMK.

Project Six – the Creative and Cultured City

Project Six recognises the significant economic role that culture plays, proposing that more is done to establish Milton Keynes as a place known by visitors, workers and residents for its distinctive culture whether for art, heritage, sports, creativity, innovation, business and community. The Creative and Cultured City project helps to bring together related cultural opportunities, including the preparation of Milton Keynes' bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2023, building on the momentum of the MK50, the 50th birthday celebrations and ongoing review of cultural policy and strategy so it is fit for purpose.

- £300k Cultural Destinations funding secured from Arts Council and Visit England to enhance access to culture and cultural mobility through linking our venues, places and spaces to the innovative transport work throughout the city
- Milton Keynes was shortlisted to make a full submission to Great Places Scheme³ in January 2017, but was not successful in securing funding in the final round. Partners are now planning to discuss with Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund whether elements of the scheme can still be taken forward through some other arrangement or funding regime.
- MK is preparing a bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2023 following the announcement of the competition launch in December 2016. The bid will be submitted in October 2017 with a shortlist announced by the end of 2017.
- The launch and delivery of MK50, Milton Keynes 50th birthday celebrations, in January 2017 received outstanding media coverage across major local and national TV, radio and newspaper providers. A further programme of events is planned for throughout the year.
- The first MK50 conference seminar also took place in January 2017 (AHRC New Town Research Network) with around 90 attendees. Upcoming conference/seminars are also planned with the Academy of Urbanism (AoU) and International New Towns Institute (INTI) in June 2017, and a further event (with a focus on local attendees) in planning for October 2017.
- Scope for a new week-long City Fest is being developed, incorporating the Academy of Urbanism and International New Towns Institute events, as a prototype for a biennial Festival of Creative Urban Living that was suggested by the MK Futures Commission.
- Other major events programme is being planned for the autumn led by the arts sector including MK Gallery and The Stables.

Programme-Wide

The October 2016 Cabinet report proposed a governance structure to maintain oversight, ownership and management of the MK Futures 2050 Programme. This has been put in place and regular meetings are taking place, in accordance with the proposed arrangements.

The programme management arrangements have been reviewed and approved by the Portfolio Office and Integrated Assurance Group. Regular programme highlight reports are also provided through the Corporate Project Dashboard.

³ The Great Places Scheme will pilot projects in areas where there is a commitment to embed arts, culture and heritage in local plans and decision-making, funded by Arts Council England, Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England

Stakeholder Engagement

In order for stakeholder engagement on the MK Futures programme to remain independent, the Council has agreed to work with Community Action: MK (CA:MK).

- CA:MK will host and manage a MK Futures Assembly of stakeholders from wide range of backgrounds. The MK Futures Assembly will help to maintain an oversight of the projects, give some stakeholder ownership of what the programme is delivering and have a role in helping to disseminate information more widely.
- CA:MK will manage social media, providing regular updates through platforms including the MKFutures2050.com website, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.
- They will also organise and host annual city meetings, to get a wider input into the MK Futures programme.
- The partnership with CA:MK will be a two-year contract, with main focus on first twelve months through preparation of the Strategy for 2050.

Fred Roche Foundation will be hosting an MK Futures 2050 update event on 19 May 2017 at MK Gallery.

The MK Futures 2050 team also provide regular updates to other stakeholder groups, including the Fred Roche Foundation, MK Forum, Business Leaders, Voluntary and Community Sector Leaders and MKC staff.

Programme Highlight Report – MK Futures 2050 Programme October 2016 - March 2017

Programme Name	MK Futures 2050	Reporting period	From:
Programme Sponsors	Pete Marland Carole Mills		October 2016
Programme Lead	Geoff Snelson		To:
Programme Manager	Fiona Robinson		March 2017

RAG status	Explanation
Green	All key criteria (Time, Cost, Scope and Benefits) will be achieved without further intervention
Green/Amber	One of the key criteria cannot be delivered without further intervention
Red/Amber	Two of the key criteria cannot be delivered without further intervention
Red	Three, or all four of the key criteria cannot be delivered without further intervention

Project Name	Project RAG status	Project RAG Assessment Comments
1. Growth and Strategy Bundle	Green	<p>Strategy for 2050</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope of Strategy has developed, and evidence gaps identified - background evidence studies commissioned. - Ongoing work to develop policies for the draft Strategy ahead of engagement later in 2017. <p>Hub of the Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) interim report positive about opportunities for Milton Keynes. - Ongoing engagement with NIC, both as individual authority and as part of the Fast Growth Cities (FGC) group. <p>Delivery Mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FGC group invited to explore opportunities with Department for Communities and Local Government around a Lucas Amendment scheme to give additional planning freedoms to speed up housing delivery.
2. MK:U, a new university for Milton Keynes	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Higher Education providers asked if they wish to lead project on a new university for MK. - Cranfield University responded positively and now preparing a Business Case, looking at issues including funding options, governance, course structure, teaching specialisms and physical requirements. - Business Case to be presented to MKC at the beginning of May 2017.

3. Learning 2050	Red/ Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope of Project 3 Learning 2050 and the potential for this to add value to existing initiatives has not yet been resolved, since it is considered that sustainable improvement is being demonstrated in attainment levels. - There may be potential to re-focus this project to address issues around post-16 provision, but this has not yet been resolved.
4. Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility	Green/ Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed a shared understanding of the project's scope, and relationship with Plan:MK and the Strategy for 2050. - Commissioning an Innovative Mobility Roadmap to explore the opportunities for and implications of implementing innovative modes of transport in the city. - Grant funding secured for real time transport, parking and motion sensor deployment. - Successful trial of UK Autodrive driverless pods, and 40 pods now in production for demonstration service.
5. Renaissance CMK	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MKC working in partnership with MKDP to deliver R:CMK project - MKDP have commissioned Savills to prepare four sector studies to develop baseline understanding of current market demand and patterns of development, and forecasting for future trends for retail, leisure, residential and employment market in CMK. - Brief for R:CMK prospectus developed, intended to encourage and stimulate investment in key development sites, and drive increased values in CMK.
6. The Creative and Cultured City	Green/ Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £300k Cultural Destinations funding secured to enhance access to culture and cultural mobility through linking venues, places and spaces to innovative transport - MK made a full submission to the Great Places Scheme, but was unsuccessful at the final stage. The bid team are now exploring opportunities to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England to secure alternative funding in order to deliver elements of the scheme. - Preparing bid to be European Capital of Culture in 2023 to be submitted in October 2017 with a shortlist announced by the end of 2017. - The launch and delivery of MK50 in January 2017 received outstanding media coverage across major local and national TV, radio and newspaper providers. A further programme of events is planned for throughout the year. - The first MK50 conference seminar also took place in January 2017 with further conference/seminars planned in June and October 2017

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scope for a new week-long City Fest being developed, incorporating the Academy of Urbanism and International New Towns Institute events, as a prototype for a biennial Festival of Creative Urban Living. - Other major events programme is being planned for the autumn led by the arts sector including MK Gallery and The Stables.
7. Programme-wide engagement	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed to work with Community Action: MK (CA:MK) to deliver the stakeholder engagement programme. - CA:MK to set-up and host a MK Futures Assembly as a stakeholder engagement group, with regular meetings. - CA:MK will also manage social media for the MK Futures programme, and an annual city meeting. - Other events planned, including a talk with the Fred Roche Foundation, regular updates with interested stakeholder groups and linking with the June 2017 City Fest.
Overall MK Futures 2050 Programme	Green/ Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme management arrangements are now in place and working effectively, including regular Programme Sponsor briefings, meetings of the Executive Coordinating Group and regular Programme Highlight Reports. - Integrated Assurance Group (Jan 2017) confirmed they are satisfied with governance arrangements as part of a project spotlight process. Regular updates to be provided. - Overall programme is on track, with linkages between individual projects being recognised and strengthened through regular discussions of key officers. - Ongoing discussions taking place around future of Project 3: Learning 2050. The Green/Amber rating reflects the uncertainty about the delivery of this project.