

CMK Town Council's Response to the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 Published Document

CMK Town Council welcomes many of the changes which have been made to the MK 2050 strategy since the consultation draft, especially as they pertain to Central Milton Keynes. Removing much of the detailed proposals for CMK and proposing a separate framework for the area is a wise decision and one the Town Council supports.

Notwithstanding this, there remain a few significant issues with the strategy regarding CMK:

Surface Parking in CMK

On page 42 the claim is made that “more than one fifth of the valuable space in our city centre is car parking”. This fails to differentiate between car parking and classic infrastructure, which are two distinct things. Development of surface car parking within city blocks, which is not classic infrastructure, such as the sites adjacent to The Pinnacle and The Point or the sites behind the buildings on either side of Station Square, should be encouraged, and such sites account for a significant proportion of the surface parking in CMK. Redevelopment of classic infrastructure, meaning the rows of parking alongside Gates and Boulevards, should not be encouraged except in exceptional circumstances like those set out in CMK Alliance Plan Policy G11.

Classic infrastructure is not just parking; it is a system of “slow streets” which provide pick up and drop off areas, as well as cycle routes, away from the main roads and keep these clear to function as the primary movement network for CMK. They are essential to the design and character of CMK and should be retained. Furthermore, increasing the density of development in CMK should be achieved by increasing the height of buildings. Even if car ownership and usage decline significantly, this will be offset by the increase in demand from the densification of existing development. Parking demand is likely to remain constant or increase as a result. **The strategy needs to be modified to acknowledge the difference between classic infrastructure and other surface parking in CMK and limit proposed redevelopment to the latter.**

Existing Wording:

“More than one fifth of the valuable space in our city centre is car parking so attractive alternatives to the car will create possibilities to use some of that space differently.”

Proposed Wording:

“There are two types of surface parking in Central Milton Keynes: Classic infrastructure, which consists of a system of “slow streets” which provide pick up and drop off areas, as well as cycle routes, away from the main roads, and surface parking areas which occupy development sites within the city blocks. Classic infrastructure should be retained to maintain the flexibility offered by the original design of CMK and accommodate future growth in parking demand as the density of CMK increases, whereas parking areas within

blocks should be brought forward for alternative uses to increase the activity and vitality of the city centre.”

Parish Council Involvement

While the Town Council welcomes the proposal to create a separate framework for Central Milton Keynes on page 52, there is a disappointing lack of any mention of working with CMK Town Council on this framework. As the Parish Council for CMK and the drivers of the CMK Alliance Plan the Town Council should have significant input into this framework.

There is also no mention of working closely with Parish Councils across the Borough in implementing the aims of the strategy. **A clear commitment needs to be added to the strategy to work closely and collaboratively with Parish Councils in delivering these ambitions.**

Existing Wording:

“Through our Renaissance:CMK project we are working with Milton Keynes Development Partnership to create a new framework for growth and investment in CMK.”

Proposed Wording:

“Through our Renaissance:CMK project we will work closely with CMK Town Council and Milton Keynes Development Partnership to create a new framework for growth and investment in CMK.”

Under “partnership working” on page 73, insert new paragraph at end of section:

Proposed Wording:

“We will work closely with Parish Councils across Milton Keynes in delivering the strategy to ensure local involvement at all stages.”