

Minutes of the meeting of the PLANNING CABINET ADVISORY GROUP held on THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Marland (Chair)
Councillors Bint, Ferrans, D Hopkins and Trendall
H Chipping (SEMLEP), K Fraser (Youth Cabinet), D Hegde (Youth Cabinet), R Kurth (CMK Town Council), and R Mascarenhas (Youth Cabinet).

Officers: J Palmer (Head of Planning), A Turner (Planning and Transport Policy Manager) and R Tidman (Committee Services Manager).

Apologies: None

CAG09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In the interest of transparency, Councillors Ferrans and D Hopkins advised that they were on the board of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership.

CAG10 MINUTES

There was a question raised as to how Councillors and other standing members appeared in the Minutes. Councillor Marland undertook to review this.

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet Advisory Group held on 9 DECEMBER 2020 be agreed as an accurate record and the Chair to sign them as such.

CAG11 PREPARATION OF A NEW LOCAL PLAN FOR MILTON KEYNES

The Planning and Transport Policy Manager introduced the report on the preparation of a new Local Plan for Milton Keynes.

He highlighted that there were two typographical errors in the report that was circulated with the agenda which were:

- Paragraph 5, bullet point (d) – 2024 should read 2023.
- Paragraph 6 – 2025 should read 2024.

The Planning and Transport Policy Manager explained that this report set out the background that informed the plan review from the point Plan:MK was examined and adopted. Policy DSO was included in Plan:MK which was a commitment to submit a new plan in 2022. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was published in 2019 which set out the broad programme of how the Council would take forward a new plan to this time frame. Unfortunately, since then a number of circumstances have changed. These included the delay to the adoption of the Strategy for 2050, delays in neighbours progressing their Local Plans through examination, timeframes for the preparation of the Spatial Framework for the ARC, timescales for preparing key evidence studies, and a degree of uncertainty that the Planning White Paper may create.

However, officers considered that taking account of the above delays and uncertainties, that it was reasonable and realistic to look to submit a new plan in 2024. Over the next two years evidence would be gathered to inform a consultation draft for 2023 and for this work then to inform a proposed submission plan in 2024.

Officers had also assessed the risks associated with this delay but on balance they considered that the risk was lower in taking a plan for submission in 2024 versus in 2022.

The Head of Planning provided additional context including:

- that the Council does have an up to date Local Plan which sets out a strategy for growth up to 2031;
- there was a sufficient 5-year land supply within Milton Keynes;
- the housing targets had been met for the last two years;
- The governments 'housing delivery test' had been met this year; and
- It would be challenging to progress with a review until officers understand what the growth aspirations were for the Arc area.

In response to questions from members of the Group, the following was noted:

- The Minister for Planning had recently written to the Council to indicate that any plan making processes should in no way be delayed by anything that may come from the Planning White Paper;

- Advice from the Department for Transport and Highways England for transport modelling was to base this on 2019 data and use sensitivity testing as to how Covid-19 may affect travel movements. The alternative would be to wait until Spring 2022 to make progress with gathering this evidence;
- A scoping process was currently under way for an MRT study. This work would take the information from the Strategy for 2050 a step further to look at what were the right routes, phasing and costs. This data would feed into a business case to bid for funding for the project;
- An integrated water management study would be commissioned which would look at flood risk, demand and supply of potable water and wastewater. This was due to be commissioned later in the year. However, recent flooding events may mean that elements of this would be commissioned sooner;
- There had been work done previously on the 'first and last mile' but this would also be part of the considerations of the MRT study;
- Timing of commissioning of the evidence was important so that it was still considered up to date when the plan was submitted;
- All indications were that the ARC spatial framework was not going to be a 'masterplan' in the general sense but would be a high-level spatial strategy. It was anticipated that it would not contain housing numbers or allocate sites.
- Councillor Marland would consider who was a standing member of the CAG;
- There were no plans to take forward the name Innovate MK for the next Local Plan;
- Milton Keynes had a healthy projected five-year land supply through the allocations made in Plan MK. However, progress needed to continue to be made with the delivery of these allocations;
- With regard to the briefs that were developed for each of the evidence studies, Councillor Marland was minded to allow a limited number of people to comment on these before they were finalised. It was noted that there was specific information required to inform the preparation of a sound plan;

- Councillor Marland indicated that he would consider how strategic transport could be best incorporated into the CAG;
- The input and influence of stakeholders was considered essential prior to the preparation of a first draft. This could include providing answers to:
 - What has worked particularly well in Plan:MK;
 - What if anything has not been as successful; and
 - What were the main political choices facing decision makers.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.24 PM

[The recording of this meeting is available to view on the Council's YouTube Channel at: https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil/videos](https://www.youtube.com/user/MiltonKeynesCouncil/videos)