

NOTES

**CROSS BOUNDARY MEMBERS' REFERENCE GROUP  
21<sup>st</sup> February 2007  
MKP OFFICES**

**Attendees:**

Elected Members

Cllr Cec Tallack	-MKC/SEERA
Cllr Chris Williams	-MKC
Cllr Richard Holden	-Mid Beds DC
Cllr David Rowlands	- BCC (in the Chair)
Cllr Carol Paternoster	- AVDC/SEERA
Cllr Ken Matthews	- Mid Beds DC
Cllr John Scott	- Beds CC
Andrew Peck	- MKPC Member
Malcolm Brighton	- MKPC Member

Officers

Rob Haslam	- MKC
Rachel Jones	- BCC
Trevor Saunders	- Mid Beds DC
Martin Dalby	- AVDC
Richard Watts	- Beds CC
Sheila Keene	- MKP
Cheryl Montgomery	- MKP

**Item No.**

**Action**

**1. Minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006**

1.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

**2. Revised Terms of Reference:  
Cross boundary Members' Reference Group**

2.1 Terms of Reference

At the November meeting of the Reference Group, it was agreed that as the task of the Group would be changing, fresh terms of reference would be required. The Officers' Steering Group had prepared a draft for discussion. Issues discussed included:

- The Group should be clear about its role. Members had previously been solely focused on the growth of Milton Keynes. In future there is likely to be the need to reflect upon what joint actions will be required by each local authority to ensure that all Local Development Frameworks present a seamless approach to development across the MK/AVDC area.
- Similarly, each Local Development Scheme should highlight what action is being taken to address the growth proposed for Milton Keynes which could/would be accommodated within other administrative areas.
- By the time the Group next meets, many of the issues surrounding the scale and location of development will have

been resolved through the EiP process.

- Although MKP has provided secretarial support in the past, there is no on-going resource for this. The Group expects clarity on the next stage of work to emerge from the EiP, including advice on appropriate types of approach to joint working. The Group recognised that MKP may not have a role in leading any future cross-boundary working which may be required. It was agreed that East of England Regional Assembly should be invited to send an observer to future meetings.
- MK Council offered to act as host to future meetings, subject to resources being available. MKC agreed to provide Agenda, Action Notes and a central contact point for the Group. Some members felt that more formal minutes of the meetings should be kept. Members agreed to take this point back to their own authorities and consider the issue at the next meeting from a more informed position.
- MKP agreed to continue to provide the venue for the meetings.

CM  
RH

Revised Terms of Reference were agreed as a working document for the time being. The amended document will be circulated with these notes.

## 2.2 Planning Policy Liaison Group Option for Officers

Rob Haslam explained that MKC and MKP co-ordinated planning matters between them by way of a bi-monthly Liaison meeting arranged by MK Council. It would be possible to make use of these existing meetings to incorporate the co-ordination work previously undertaken by the Officer Steering Group. MKC will consider how the Terms of Reference for this Planning Policy Liaison (PPL) meeting should be amended to take into account cross-boundary discussions. The next PPL meeting will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> March and information will be distributed thereafter.

RH

## 3. **On Going Work**

### 3.1 East West Rail Study

The Group noted that the work had now reached the option testing stage (GRIP 3) which includes economic feasibility; the subsequent stage (GRIP 4) would work up a preferred option to planning application. The Aylesbury arm is still in this testing stage but the work does not look further east than Bedford. The study is focused on areas where there is no existing track or track way.

Cllr Paternoster reported that Advantage Aylesbury had agreed a contribution on 19<sup>th</sup> February. Sheila Keene explained that English Partnerships would make a £300,000 contribution which secures

the work for this stage. She noted any EP/MKP contribution toward the next stage (including the possible consideration of forward funding) would require underpinning through the project's inclusion in the Regional Plan.

### 3.2 MKC Core Strategy Issues & Options

Rob Haslam noted that MKC's LDF Core Strategy issues and options is out to consultation until 8<sup>th</sup> March and that all the partner authorities are asked to participate in this consultation.

**ALL**

Cllr Paternoster asked whether the LDF will consider growth outside MKC's administrative boundary. Martin Dalby noted that a cross-boundary approach has not previously been used in England and the authorities are unsure about the process.

Rob noted that the MKC LDF only addresses the MKC area; he agreed, however, that advice is urgently needed on how growth in adjoining administrative areas may be considered.

### 3.3 Green Infrastructure

Rachel Jones reported that BCC had commissioned Chris Blandford Associates to prepare a Green Infrastructure Plan for the County. A prospectus had been prepared to engage partners and stakeholders in the process and a good level of response had been received. Some data sets had been completed and a final report is expected by the end of March, which would be the subject of much wider consultation. The GI Plan would consist of definitions, a vision for the County and a series of technical assessments with policy and delivery based action plans which link with existing plans. Cllr Paternoster was concerned that a single set of policies applicable to all of the County would not be robust enough for specific area work and she preferred the area-based approach taken in the prospectus.

The Group agreed that cross-boundary working is crucial to ensure and integrated approach to green policies that are not limited by administrative boundaries. Bedfordshire has published its own proposals and is checking to ensure co-ordination with BCC. MKC has made substantial comments on the prospectus and Northamptonshire has also been included in the consultation.

BCC agreed to provide a copy of the prospectus to MKP.

**RJ**

### 3.4 Transport Strategy Review

The Group noted that the on-going transport work has come about as an outcome of preparing the MK2031 Growth Strategy. It is being overseen by a steering group comprising MKP, MKC and

other interested parties. The final report will be presented to MKPC at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Members were circulated with the draft conclusions on a confidential basis for information.

Cllr Williams noted to the Group that the report will be shared with the all party Corporate Policy Development Committee prior to any final decision on next steps being taken. MKC Cabinet believes that the Council should take more visible ownership of the review and be robust in pursuing action. This would include working more closely with other authorities as part of the on-going discussion. BCC found this approach encouraging.

The final report will be circulated to Reference Group members when it has been through the process outlined above. **RH**

#### **4. Next Steps**

27<sup>th</sup> June was agreed as the proposed date for the next meeting, to be confirmed in early June once the outcome of local elections is known. The EiP Panel Report is expected in July and some flexibility on the date of the next meeting is required pending information from the Panel.

MKP will provide the notes of this meeting to MKC who will take on the role of Secretariat. **CM**  
**RH**