

NOTES OF MEETING

CROSS BOUNDARY MEMBERS' REFERENCE GROUP
Wednesday 3rd December 2008 at 12:00
ROOM 306/7, HCA OFFICES, CBX II, CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES

Attendance:

Members

CLlr John Scott	Beds CC (Chair)
CLlr Fiona Chapman	Mid Beds DC
CLlr Douglas McCall	MKC
CLlr Cec Tallack	MKC / SEERA
CLlr Martin Tett	Bucks CC
Andrew Peck	MKPC

Officers

Ian Haynes	MKC
John Lewis	MKP
Rachel Jones	Bucks CC
Simon Andrews	Mid Beds DC
Andy Barton	AVDC
Bruce Stewart	MKC
Diane Webber	MKC
Sheila Keene	MKP
Cheryl Montgomery	MKP
Tim Earthy	Beds CC
Patrick O'Sullivan	MKP

Regional organisations

David Paine	GOSE
Neil McKillen	GO - East

Item

Action

1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

1.1 Apologies

CLlr Carole Paternoster - AVDC
 Richard Harrington – AVA

1.2 Welcome from the Homes and Communities Agency

John Lewis, Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Partnership, extended a welcome to all from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and its Chief Executive, Sir Bob Kerlake.

The HCA has been formed by the merger of English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation. There will be no immediate change in the operation of the HCA and most business operations will be maintained. The majority of the £5b budget of the HCA will remain directed at the provision of affordable housing.

As far as Milton Keynes Partnership is concerned, it will be “business as usual” and all local structures will remain in place.

2 Minutes of Meeting Held on 8 September 2008

2.1 The minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
 Matters arising:

2.2 South East Plan – Proposed Changes

It was noted that most members had submitted representations to the South East Plan Proposed Changes.

David Paine reported that all representations were being evaluated in anticipation of responding to such representations. A final decision by Government on the Proposed Changes can be expected sometime in the New Year.

3 Transport Review Update

3.1 Report on East West Rail Developments

Patrick O'Sullivan introduced the item and reported on 3 main points:

1. GRIP Stage 4 has been commissioned by MKP and EWR Consortium by the appointment of Atkins Consultancy to undertake the work. Funding for this work has been provided by CLG (£1m) and the local planning authorities.
2. Chiltern Railways have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with MKP and EWR Consortium to integrate their proposed new London Marylebone to Oxford route with East West Rail. This includes additional GRIP Stage 3 work, before undertaking the GRIP Stage 4 work. This could result in a saving of £70m to EWR Consortium for the East West Rail Project.
3. A joint funding strategy for the western section route, to deliver the implementation phase of the project, is being developed by SEERA, MKP and local planning authorities.

Ongoing consultation will take place with all stakeholders as the various projects proceed.

Cllr. John Scott: Is there likely to be any slippage as a result of the economic downturn?

Patrick O'Sullivan: Notwithstanding the economic downturn the prospects of implementing the project on-time and on-budget still look good.

Sheila Keene: SEERA are looking into the possibility of forward funding of East West Rail via the RIF, with the repayment of these costs through developer contributions.

Andrew Peck: Will the Marston Vale Eco-Town affect progress on East West Rail and the capacity and efficiency of the Bedford/Bletchley line?

Patrick O'Sullivan: This is considered unlikely (and could be an advantage) but EWR Consortium continues to talk to the Eco-Town developers concerning progress and capacity and efficiency issues.

Cllr. Fiona Chapman: Is EWR Consortium talking to EERA stakeholders?

Patrick O'Sullivan: EERA are members of EWR Consortium, but have not made any contribution nor attended any meetings.

{Cllr. Fiona Chapman will take this up with EERA/Adrian Cannard.}

Sheila Keene: SEERA and EERA should consult and communicate with each-other.

Cllr. FC

Neil McKillen: Renaissance Bedford have an infrastructure delivery group in place that supports East West Rail and which is also involved and has links to other sub-regional stakeholders.

Cllr. Douglas McCall: MKC support East West Rail, especially the positive aspects of the SE and SW SDAs. The South East Plan Proposed Changes recommendation of a new SDA to the East of the M1 Motorway does not support East West Rail.

Andy Barton: AVDC are anticipating further planning applications close to East West Rail (Winslow Green – 3,000 dwellings).

Cllr Cec Tallack: Pleased to know that Network Rail (and Chiltern Rail) are now involved with East West Rail and acknowledge that it is now a real project. The future of East West Rail looks positive, including the added capacity of the Bedford/Bletchley line. Supports the view that the Marston Vale Eco-Town should contribute to East West Rail.

David Paine: Reminded all members of the Eco-Town consultation and the opportunity to make representations. (Closing date for representations: 19 February 2009) **All**

Sheila Keene: MKP still need to decide whether to make further representations to the Eco-Town consultation, having made representations to the earlier consultation, and enquired whether any other members were likely to make representations.

Item noted: no action required.

3.2 **Report on Citizens Advisory Group on Transport (CAGoT)**

Ian Haynes, together with Cllr. Douglas McCall, introduced the item. CAGoT, made up of a cross-section of MK residents, was set up by MKC a year ago to report on the future of transport in Milton Keynes. The CAGoT report contains 6 primary recommendations, the most important being the retention of grid roads together with the provision and promotion of an efficient public transport system. The CAGoT report was accepted by the MK Cabinet at its meeting held on 25 November 2008 and these recommendations are now being fed into all existing and future Council strategies.

Reference was also made to a decision taken by the MKC Council at its meeting held on 14 October, in which a recommendation was adopted to ensure the preservation of the grid road principle when preparing future development briefs for future expansion areas. Cabinet colleagues in the adjacent local authority areas have been advised of the MKC Council decision.

Item noted: no action required.

Ian Haynes advised that the MKC Environment Policy Development Committee will be hosting a workshop on the Future Design of Milton

Keynes at the Open University on 24 February 2009. All members and officers of adjacent local authorities will be invited to the workshop in due course.

Cllr. Fiona Chapman: Is not able to commit Mid-Beds Council, but will appreciate an invitation.

Cllr. Martin Tett; Will pass on the invitation to his Council.

Cllr. Cec Tallack: The workshop will be covering very important issues for Milton Keynes and adjoining local authorities, especially the need for integrated planning, access, movement, public transport and green infrastructure.

Cllr. Douglas McCall: Informed the meeting that the construction of the dual-carriageway of the A421 between Milton Keynes and J13 of the M1 had been brought forward from 2013 to 2011. This initiative was welcomed and supported by the meeting.

4 Progressing the Strategic Development Areas (SDAs)

4.1 SW SDA

- **Progress Report on AVDC Core Strategy**

The AVDC Core Strategy has been delayed.

Currently AVDC are consulting on growth options around Aylesbury town, which closes on 12 December. The Core Strategy will include major site allocations, around Aylesbury town and the SW SDA. (AVDC also expect a planning application for the SW SDA at Salden Chase in Autumn 2009.)

AVDC hope to have Council approval of the Core Strategy at the end of April 2009. Pre-submission consultation will follow. Thereafter, the Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State in August 2009 and the Examination is expected to take place by the end of December 2009.

Item noted: no action required.

John Lewis: Is the consultation for the SW SDA to be as extensive as the consultation for the growth options around Aylesbury town, and will Milton Keynes stakeholders be consulted.

Andy Barton: There would not be a single consultation on this issue, Combining the existing level of public consultation and technical evidence base, AVDC feels it can make a decision under the proportional consultation approach in PPS12. This is supplemented by ongoing stakeholder consultation (both sides of the border), and by the ongoing work of the applicant for the site. Respondents will, of course, have the ability to make representations to the submission version of the Core Strategy consultation in Spring 2009. The allocation of the SW SDA site will be based on an extensive existing evidence base that has already involved extensive public consultation.

Douglas McCall: Questioned the invitation by David Lock Associates to Urban Eden a pressure group, to attend the Salden Chase workshops.
Andy Barton: The invitation list to the Salden Chase workshops is very extensive and includes many groups.

- **Progress Report on Joint SW SDA Steering Group Meetings**

Regular monthly meetings of the officer led Joint SW SDA Steering Group are taking place.

Regular meetings are also planned to take place with the Developer's Consultants.

Item noted: no action required.

- **Report Back on SW SDA Infrastructure Schedules**

Ongoing work is taking place with the Infrastructure Schedules by AVDC and MKC for the SW SDA. Mid Beds are undertaking an Infrastructure Study that may be relevant to the SE SDA. Mid-Beds will look at their study to see whether it covers the MK area and to identify what further work might be required.

AVDC, MKC, and Mid-Beds to consolidate infrastructure work to refine and finalise the Infrastructure Schedules to identify gaps, to scope additional work and to clarify any necessary assistance from MKP.

Item noted: no action required.

**AVDC/MKC/
Mid-Beds**

- **Report on MKOB "Dragons Den" Bids for Funding**

Joint AVDC/MKC bids to be made for funding for two projects:

- Maintaining and consolidating the evidence base for the SW SDA.
- Training workshops for capacity building/leadership for Members.

Closing date for submissions: 5 December; evaluation: 15 December; funds to be spent: end-March 2009.

**AVDC
MKC**

Item noted: no action required.

Ian Haynes: The Member capacity building/leadership training workshops for Members will also assist in the setting up of the SW SDA Member Steering Group.

4.2 **SE SDA**

- **Progress Report on Mid-Beds Core Strategy**

The Mid-Beds Core Strategy pre-submission consultation closed: on 24 November. The Core Strategy will be submitted to the Secretary of State in February 2009 and the Examination is expected to take place in May 2009.

Item noted: no action required.

- **Report Back on Joint Working/Memorandum of Understanding**

A draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been prepared by MKC and Mid-Beds, but there is uncertainty relating to Central Beds local government reorganisation (LGR) and approval of the Mid-Beds Core Strategy, which may result in delays in finalisation.

The draft MoU is to be finalised on the basis that it will potentially be reviewed after April 2009 due to LGR. MKC wish to proceed with implementation sooner rather than later, especially in relation to MK SRAs as part of the SE SDA.

Item noted: no action required.

5 Any Other Business

Nothing.

6 Agenda Items for Future Meetings

6.1 Public Transport and Cross Boundary Implications

Joint report on Public Transport to be prepared by MKC, AVDC and Mid-Beds.

**AVDC/MKC/
Mid-Beds**

6.2 Substantive Cross Boundary Infrastructure Requirements

Report-back from SW SDA Joint Working Steering Group. Consider the need to invite other infrastructure providers to attend MRG/ CBOG to discuss implications of growth on them.

AVDC/MKC

6.3 Presentation from MK Hospital Trust

MKP to invite MK Hospital Trust to make a presentation on their activities and their links to the SW SDA.

MKC

7 Date of Next Meeting

16th March, 12-2pm at MKP Offices.

MKC

Chair for the next meeting –

A Member from Milton Keynes Partnership Committee

MKP

Provisional dates for future meetings:

- ***Thursday 7 May 2009: 12:00 - 14:00: MKP Offices***
- ***Thursday 9 July 2009: 12:00 – 14:00: MKP Offices***

Please diarise