

**MK Futures 2050 – Programme Update
November 2017 – May 2018**

Project One – Growth and Strategy Bundle

The Growth and Strategy bundle brings together work on the MK Futures 2050 Commission's (the Commission's) recommendations to build the economic potential of the city as the "Hub of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Corridor" with the preparation of a long-term, non-statutory "Strategy for 2050".

The Strategy for 2050 will set out a framework of policies to deliver the long-term future vision identified in "Making a Great City Greater". The Strategy will inform future iterations of the Local Plan and other strategies and policy documents, and will include policies to support the delivery of the other MK Futures 2050 projects, helping to identify and strengthen the links between them. The scope of the Strategy for 2050 will be wider than a planning policy document, taking a more holistic approach to the future development of the city rather a purely spatial focus. It will be sensitive to Plan:MK by focussing on the post-2031 period.

A suite of five evidence papers were prepared during 2017 covering areas which needed further research following the Commission's work. These studies have now been published online at www.MKFutures2050.com:

- Scale and Directions of Growth – future directions of growth for MK and the potential for development along the East-West corridor
- Innovative Mobility Roadmap – the implementation of smart, shared, sustainable mobility in MK. This study is also part of the work on Project Four, and aligns with the Mobility Strategy.
- Future Communities and Meeting Housing Need – how can the design and development of neighbourhoods be more attractive, accessible, sustainable and healthy.
- Building on a Culture of Innovation – the potential to be more proactive in sustainability and design building in particular on the legacy of MK as a pioneer in sustainability policy.
- Future of Employment and Workforce Structure – implications of the future of employment and MK's future workforce structure.

These studies were prepared to explore the opportunities for growth of Milton Keynes to a population of around 400,000 people by 2050. In November 2017, the [National Infrastructure Commission](#) published their final report on the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor, "Partnering for Prosperity". Alongside a series of formal recommendations to the Government, the report also highlights the opportunity for "*the re-establishment of Milton Keynes as a development location of national significance, through the intensification and expansion of the town to a population of at least 500,000, in line with local aspirations. This presents an immediate opportunity for growth*" (Partnering for Prosperity, page 36).

In order to assess the opportunity of growth to a population of 500,000 within and adjacent to the existing city, a Strategic Growth Study is now being prepared,

working with Aylesbury Vale District and South Northamptonshire Councils. This study will look at how, when and where growth of metropolitan Milton Keynes could be delivered, including modules on economic forecasting, the options for mobility and developing a mass rapid transit system to serve the city, and delivery models and funding mechanisms to ensure growth happens at the right scale and pace, and supported by the necessary infrastructure and services. This work is being funded by a successful bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Planning Delivery Fund scheme, and will be led by David Lock Associates.

The Strategic Growth Study will be prepared over the coming months, incorporating stakeholder engagement on emerging issues as appropriate with a final report due in December 2018. This will allow recommendations from the study to be incorporated into the development of the Strategy for 2050 for consultation and adoption in early 2019.

In March 2018, MKC formally agreed to become a member of the Central Area Growth Board, a joint committee currently being established with 16 other Local Authorities in the centre of the Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford corridor, focussed on collaboration on strategic planning, economic development and infrastructure planning across the sub-region.

The Growth Board will be a forum for discussions on cross boundary matters where Local Authorities can proactively shape the collective future of the area, helping to avoid growth being imposed from above. MKC has played a leading role in the establishment of the Growth Board.

In the visioning document '[Helping the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor reach its potential](#)' published at Autumn Budget, government announced its ambition to work with authorities in the centre of the corridor on housing and growth deals throughout 2018. MKC will continue to work proactively with neighbouring authorities and government to develop a housing and growth deal which will provide the funding and flexibilities required to deliver the homes, jobs and infrastructure to support the long term development of Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes Council remains an active and engaged member of the Fast Growth Cities network, and is working with partners in the cities of Cambridge, Oxford, Swindon and Norwich to establish a vision for the cities within the east/west growth corridor.

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

The recommendation to establish a new technology-focussed university in Central Milton Keynes was a flagship project in “Making a Great City Greater”. The project is interlinked with the other MK Futures projects, recognising the opportunities that a resident undergraduate population could bring to MK, ranging from creating a highly skilled workforce to meet the future demands of knowledge intensive businesses, to creating a diverse and independent cultural and leisure offer.

In June 2017, Cranfield University completed a [Business and Development Plan](#) for the MK:U proposition. The Business and Development Plan demonstrated that the

MK:U proposition is viable and initial discussions with the development industry indicated that it would be financially attractive to prospective investors.

The MKDP (Milton Keynes Development Partnership) Board have given their support for the use of Block B4 in CMK as the site for the university, subject to an acceptable transactional structure being agreed. The use of Block B4 for the university is also supported by a proposed allocation in the submission version of Plan:MK.

Following approval by the Procurement and Commissioning Committee on 14 September 2017, an OJEU compliant Invitation to Tender (ITT) process was initiated to select a lead Higher Education (HE) institution to partner with MKC on the development of MK:U. The opportunity was advertised to an international audience in the Times Higher Education journal and on their website.

One response to the ITT was received, from Cranfield University. The submission was reviewed by an evaluation panel which included independent experts alongside senior officers from MKC and MKDP. Cranfield University were also asked to present to a panel of stakeholders from across the city, who were given the opportunity to question the bidding team on their proposition. The bid met the required standard for each of the assessment criteria set out in the ITT.

A [Cabinet](#) decision was made on 6 March 2018 to appoint Cranfield University as the lead Higher Education partner for the project. As part of that decision, Cabinet agreed to commit Tariff funding of up to £11 million to the project, with the initial funding over the first 18 months contingent on match funding from other partners. The Council and Cranfield University have committed to a formal project review point at 18 months to consider a completed Feasibility Study which will provide the basis for a decision in consultation with the Council to continue or cease the project. Assuming the go ahead is given at this stage, the intention is to open the new university in 2023, with the potential to start some teaching in 2022.

Cranfield University is now leading on setting up formal governance arrangements for the project, and putting in place programme management capacity to steer the project. MKC's interest in the project will be represented through membership of the MK:U Steering Group.

MKC officers will also lead on the work to organise an international competition to appoint an architectural team to develop the design concept for MK:U. It is proposed that this process will involve a public exhibition of competition submissions, and will provide an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the MK:U project.

Project Three – Learning 2050

The Commission identified that education would be a key determinant of the future success and competitiveness of the city and ensuring that the local workforce has the skills necessary to be able to meet the needs of knowledge-intensive businesses. To that end, the Learning 2050 project will explore how MK's schools and college can give a greater focus to STEM subjects; science, technology, engineering and maths. This includes both what is taught as part of the curriculum and how it's taught - how opportunities to engage with business can be harnessed and demonstrating how STEM subjects are essential in some high-profile industries.

The project's core objectives are to help students be able to access future employment opportunities by developing transferable skills and knowledge; for students to be able to access higher education at MK:U with its emphasis on STEM-related subjects; and to have a highly-skilled workforce in the city creating an environment that is attractive to knowledge-intensive business sector employers.

A group of headteachers, governors and other education partners met on 22 November 2017 to develop a more detailed scope for this project and consider how they can work together to make a sustainable change in how the MK education system approaches STEM.

A working group with members from primary schools, secondary schools, MK College and the Local Authority has been established and meets each half-term with a brief to comment on and guide progress as well as to help to develop and improve ideas and possible actions as they emerge.

There has been considerable contact with schools, businesses, those involved in the development of MK:U and other bodies in Milton Keynes. The purpose of this is to raise awareness of as well as to get commitment and support to the project. These contacts have been a key source of ideas which will underpin the work of Learning 2050 in underpinning and supporting the success of the other projects. There has been significant and support from all areas for MK Futures and the role of the Learning Project within it.

Milton Keynes Secondary Heads have the project as a regular agenda item at meetings. There have been meetings with primary headteachers to discuss the project in detail and the response of business has been very favourable.

The aim of the project is to produce papers on curriculum and teaching and learning by Easter 2019. There will also be an action plan produced by this date on school-business links, preparation for apprenticeships and working life and preparation for higher education, particularly in relation to MK:U. Actions will be mainly completed within three years and all within five years so that learning in schools and colleges in Milton Keynes is such that it can support the wider development of the other projects within MK Futures from an early stage.

Project Four – Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility

The Mobility Strategy was adopted by Cabinet in March 2018, and is available as a supporting document for the submission of Plan:MK for examination.

The Innovative Mobility Roadmap report was developed as an evidence study for the development of the Mobility Strategy and is helping shape the programme of Smart Shared Sustainable Mobility applicable to MK. It takes a longer-term view of the sorts of interventions and policies that might be needed to support future transport provision

The work on the First-Last Mile Strategy submitted to the NIC was recognised in the final report issued by the NIC in November 2017. One focus was to develop an innovative mass transit solution. Milton Keynes has subsequently commissioned a

feasibility study of developing proposals for an Advanced Rapid Transit System which potentially could introduce Rapid Mass Transit to corridors in MK.

The Go Ultra Low programme is making good progress. The new [Electric Vehicle Experience Centre](#) in the Centre:MK is proving very successful, with increases in EV sales in MK. Delivery of the extended electric charging infrastructure continues including commissioning of rapid charging HUBS where vehicles can be fully charged in around 30 minutes.

It was previously reported that Vivacity Labs secured a total of £3m in funding to install a city network of sensors. This project has been completed and we have an operational network of around 2,500 sensors providing monitoring at all major junction points across the MK urban area and across some 13,000 city centre car parking spaces. Vivacity Labs creates sensors with in-built machine-learning that can identify individual road users and manage traffic. A deployment on this scale is the first of its kind in the UK and its scale and the nature of the technology also makes it internationally significant.

The UK Autodrive autonomous mobility project remains on track. The fleet of 40 driverless PODs is in production and a trial public transport service remains on track to start in June 2018. An operator has been selected for the POD service and work is underway to develop the supporting booking app. Further funding has been secured to enhance the capability of the PODs and retain the service in MK until mid-2019. This includes incorporating into the PODs an increased “Swarm” machine learning (Artificial Intelligence) component across the fleet. MKC has also convened a consortium of partners to create a proposal for a further autonomous mobility programme.

MK hosted a demonstration of self-driving cars in spring 2018. The vehicles from JLR, Ford and Tata demonstrated a range of capabilities on open roads in CMK. The demos impressively included a circuit of CMK, ending with a demonstration of collaborative and valet parking, using the vehicles to detect empty spaces and then self park.

Project Five – Renaissance: CMK

Renaissance:CMK represents a programme of projects that aims to create an even stronger and more successful 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.

A stakeholder workshop was held in December 2017 that considered the various drivers for change likely to impact on the future development of CMK.

The key drivers impacting CMK identified by the workshop were:

- Business, work and technology
- Changing patterns of retail behaviour

- Improving city centre vibrancy
- Cultural offering
- Living in the city and social inclusion, and
- Transport.

Based on the impacts of these drivers a series of principles for future development have been developed and are currently being embedded into a Prospectus for CMK. It is intended that the Prospectus will provide a stimulus for an increased pace of the right development that helps the city centre meet these challenges and continue to deliver its role as the economic and cultural engine for the whole of Milton Keynes.

A bid for capital funds to enable the initial stages of the Midsummer Boulevard East project to commence is currently being developed. Those initial works will aim to realign existing street levels and make the area more accessible and attractive by removing clutter and repaving the area between Secklow Gate and the INTU shopping centre.

Project Six – the Creative and Cultured City

Project Six recognises the significant economic role that culture plays, proposing that more is done to establish MK as a place known by visitors, workers and residents for its distinctive culture whether for art, heritage, sports, creativity, innovation, business and community.

Milton Keynes' new Creative and Cultural Strategy 2018-2027, launched in February 2018, sets out the delivery proposals for Project Six. The Strategy has been created with partners across the city; multiple organisations, stakeholders and partnerships have helped form it, with MKC as strategic lead in delivering cultural growth.

The Creative and Cultural Strategy identifies three priorities:

- A. Developing our Cultural Offer
- B. Creative Development and Growth of Skills
- C. Enabling Delivery through Cultural Sector Platforms

The Creative and Cultural Strategy builds on the Commission's recommendations for sustainable models, festivals celebrating our urban design and building our asset base. The main route for the delivery of Project Six is through the Design City strand of the Strategy. This also helps to embed the delivery of European Capital of Culture (ECoC) 'Plan B' (following the announcement that UK cities were no longer eligible to apply for the scheme).

- Design City USP – Celebrating and exploiting the three USPs of Milton Keynes (its Grid, its Green and its People) to position Milton Keynes internationally as a Designed City on a scale unique across the UK and Europe, and a future model for how to live well in cities.
- Major Events – Building Cultural step-change to 2023 by supplementing International Festival and MK Fringe with an annual cultural programme – a legacy of the MK50 year – and a major new Festival of Creative Urban Living biennial (a MK Futures 2050 Commission recommendation) commencing in Autumn 2019 and with iterations in 2021 and 2023.
- Infrastructure – Ensuring through clever design, architecture and consultation the best quality spaces, places and public venues possible so our organisations and residents can actively produce and/or take part in culture,

contributing to delivering the Creative and Cultural Strategy Platform strand which will deliver training, skills and talent development.

To help guide and deliver this, a Design City Advisory Group has been set up, with members from a range of organisations, with independent Chair and Vice-Chair. This work is also being coordinated with European partners, especially the city of Almere, which has raised excellent opportunities for a joint cultural programme and engaging with their Floriade 2022 World Expo.

As part of a two-year, £300k programme to enhance MK as a visitor destination, specifically to cultural venues, e-car charge stations are being installed at up to ten cultural sites; three artists have been commissioned to create vinyl artworks for part of the electric car fleet; and cultural venues have been included in the revised redways and canal/ towpath maps. In summer 2018, artists and performers will animate the redways through the [Pedalling Culture](#) programme.

Programme-Wide

The October 2016 Cabinet report proposed a governance structure to maintain oversight, ownership and management of the MK Futures 2050 Programme. This structure continues to operate effectively, with regular meetings taking place in accordance with the proposed arrangements. This includes monthly updates to the Programme Sponsors (Leader of the Council and CEO); a monthly Executive Coordinating Group (in effect the MK Futures 2050 Programme Board); regular meetings of the individual project managers/leads; and project team meetings for the individual projects, generally on a monthly basis.

The programme management arrangements have been reviewed and approved by the Portfolio Office and Integrated Assurance Group. Quarterly programme highlight reports are also provided through the Corporate Project Dashboard, plus this six-monthly report to Cabinet.

Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout the MK Futures 2050 programme, effective stakeholder engagement is important in ensuring that local communities understand issues and opportunities facing the future of their city and for their views to be fed into the process. MKC has been working with Community Action: MK (CA:MK) who host and manage the MK Futures Community Connectors, a group of stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds, including many communities that do not normally get involved in similar projects. The Connectors group was set up as a trial for a new model of community engagement across the Six Big Projects. In order to maximise the effectiveness of the group, to make sure the individuals find their involvement meaningful and for them to be able to have most impact on policy making, it has been decided to focus their role on the development of the Strategy for 2050.

MKC has been included as an associate member of Nesta's "Everyone Makes Innovation Policy" scheme to explore opportunities for engaging the public in issues relating to innovation. The objective of this work is to empower young people to fully engage with discussions about the future of the city to ensure a wide range of views

are heard in civic debates. We propose to work with the Youth Cabinet, MK Gallery and other partners to co-design and host a two-day design hackathon exploring issues being considered in the Strategy for 2050.

The individual projects will also undertake stakeholder engagement at key points in their development. Over this six month period, this stakeholder engagement has included a one-day workshop on the issues facing the city centre for Renaissance: CMK; a panel of local partners meeting with Cranfield University to examine their bid to lead on Higher Education for the MK:U project; and consultation on the now adopted Creative and Cultural Strategy which will guide Project Six. This commitment to effective engagement will be maintained as these projects continue to develop.

Programme Highlight Report – MK Futures 2050 Programme November 2017 – May 2018

Programme Name	MK Futures 2050	Reporting period	From:
Programme Sponsors	Pete Marland Carole Mills		November 2017
Programme Lead	Geoff Snelson		To:
Programme Manager	Fiona Robinson		May 2018

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"> - Award of funding from MHCLG – commissioned joint Strategic Growth Study for metropolitan Milton Keynes area, in partnership with South Northamptonshire and Aylesbury Vale District Councils, led by David Lock Associates <p>Hub of the Corridor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final NIC report published in November 2017. - Agreed terms of reference to be part of Central Area Growth Board with 16 other authorities in the Cam-MK-Ox corridor.
2. MK:U, a new university for Milton Keynes	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submission received from Cranfield University in response to Invitation to Tender to secure Higher Education lead for MK:U project. Cabinet report on 6 March 2018 confirmed appointment of Cranfield University and gave commitment of allocation of tariff funds to the project, subject to conditions. - Work underway to put in place governance and project management arrangements for MK:U. Internal project team in place with regular meetings to guide MKC interest in the project.

3. Learning 2050	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project manager in place to lead on Learning 2050 and alignment with other MK Futures projects. - Regular meetings held with working group (including primary schools, secondary schools, MK College and MKC) - Liaison and ongoing discussion with local businesses, community groups and MK:U colleagues. - On track to produce papers on curriculum and teaching and learning by Easter 2019
4. Smart, Shared, Sustainable Mobility	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility Strategy adopted by Cabinet in March 2018 - Feasibility study of developing proposals for an Advanced Rapid Transit System commissioned as part of DLA Strategic Growth Study. - Go Ultra Low programme – Electric Vehicle Experience Centre proving very successful; increases in EV sales in MK. Rapid charging HUBS to fully charge vehicles in around 30 minutes commissioned. - £3m Vivacity Labs project to install city network of sensors completed; operational network of around 2,500 sensors monitoring all major junction points across the MK urban area and across 13,000 city centre car parking spaces. Sensors with in-built machine-learning can identify individual road users and manage traffic. - UK Autodrive autonomous mobility project; fleet of 40 driverless PODs in production and a trial public transport service remains on track to start in June 2018. Further funding secured to enhance the capability of the PODs and retain service in MK to mid-2019. - Hosted demonstration of self-driving cars (JLR, Ford and Tata) in spring 2018.
5. Renaissance CMK	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft version of the CMK Prospectus will be reported to a Delegated Decision this Summer. Subsequently, the agreed text will be designed into a publishable document that sets the vision and aspiration for CMK to and beyond 2050. - Phase 1 of the Renaissance CMK project that will re-design and re-purpose the area of Midsummer Boulevard East between Secklow Gate and INTU Shopping Centre is developing a bid for Council funding to cover the preliminary works required to re-align and re-pave the area in anticipation of the upcoming International Festival of Creative Urban Living.

6. The Creative and Cultured City	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creative and Cultural Strategy launched February 2018 - Focus on Design City USP as part of that Strategy as delivery mechanism for Project Six - Ongoing work with international partners, especially Almere, and opportunities for joint cultural programme.
7. Programme-wide engagement	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Action: MK (CA:MK) hosting MK Futures Connectors as a stakeholder engagement group to focus on Strategy for 2050 development. - CA:MK managing social media for the MK Futures programme - Regular updates given to stakeholder groups, including Ward Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors, MKC staff, interest groups including civic societies, business, arts and heritage, and community development groups.
Overall MK Futures 2050 Programme	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme management arrangements continue to work effectively, including regular Programme Sponsor briefings, meetings of the Executive Coordinating Group and regular Programme Highlight Reports. - Overall programme is on track, with linkages between individual projects being recognised and strengthened through regular discussions of key officers including a monthly Project Leads meeting. - Additional funding secured for major study, plus to support MK:U involvement. Therefore, delivery of the programme is currently within the budget allocated by Cabinet in October 2016.