

**Wards Affected:**

All Wards

**ITEM 10****CABINET****5 MARCH 2019****ADOPTION OF PLAN:MK**

Responsible Cabinet Member: Councillor Legg, Cabinet Member for Customer Services

Report Sponsor: Tracy Darke, Service Director, Growth, Economy and Culture

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**Executive Summary:**

The Planning Inspector's Report on the examination of Plan:MK (The Plan), which was received on 12 February 2019, has found the Plan to be 'sound' and legally capable of being adopted. The Plan can therefore be adopted by the Council as part of the formal 'Development Plan' for the Borough and thus be afforded full weight in the determination of planning applications and appeals.

**1. Recommendation(s)**

1.1 That the Cabinet recommends to Council that Plan:MK be adopted.

**2. Issues**

2.1 Plan:MK sets out a positive vision for where Milton Keynes wants to be by 2031, the plan period. The Plan allocates land for around 31,000 additional dwellings and other associated development. It provides a framework for addressing housing need and other economic, environmental and social priorities. The Plan commits the Council to undertake an early review with submission of a draft plan for examination containing strategic policies for the long-term growth of Milton Keynes, no later than December 2022.

2.2 Adoption of the plan means that the Council has demonstrated it has a five year supply of deliverable housing sites and will be able to resist speculative planning applications in the open countryside. However, the protection afforded by adopting it will only apply until 31 October 2019. After that date, the Council will still need to demonstrate it has a five year supply of housing land, if it is to resist speculative planning applications.

2.3 The plan has been in preparation since 2013 and has been subject to several previous public consultations as follows:

- (a) Plan:MK Topic Papers consultation (September 2014) and Vision Workshops consultation (Spring 2015)
- (b) Strategic Development Directions (January - April 2016)
- (c) Preferred Options (March - June 2017)

- (d) Proposed Submission Draft (November - December 2017)
- (e) Inspector's proposed 'main modifications' to the Plan (October - December 2018)

2.4 The most recent stage of the Plan's preparation process was the independent public examination before an Inspector. Public hearing sessions commenced on Tuesday 10 July and concluded on Thursday 30 August 2018. Following the examination, a consultation on the schedule of main modifications which were deemed to be necessary, in order to make the Plan 'sound' and compliant, was undertaken between 31 October and 12 December 2018.

2.5 The Planning Inspectorate issued the Inspector's Report on the examination on 12 February 2019 (**Annex A**). The Inspector found the Plan to be 'sound' and legally compliant subject to the inclusion of the proposed main modifications (**Annex B**). The effect of these modifications is to increase the number of sites allocated in the Plan and the supply of housing land within Milton Keynes. The Council is legally incapable of adopting the Plan without incorporating these modifications. The Plan as modified and proposed for adoption is at **Annex C**.

2.6 The plan now allocates Milton Keynes East for around 5000 dwellings, employment and associated uses. Previously this site was not expected to commence until after 2031, unless funding for strategic infrastructure could be secured. The allocation is now for a minimum of 1475 dwellings to be delivered before 2031 assuming funding for strategic infrastructure can be secured at a future date, with the remainder delivered after 2031. If the Council's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) bid for strategic infrastructure is successful, the allocation will deliver 3000 dwellings before 2031 with the remainder delivered after 2031.

### 3. **Options**

3.1 The alternative option would be not to agree to adopt Plan:MK. This is not recommended because it would leave the Borough vulnerable to 'planning by appeal' and speculative planning applications for housing. The importance of having a planned approach to development ensures that the right infrastructure is in place for growth areas.

### 4. **Implications**

#### 4.1 Policy

When adopted, the Plan will form part of the statutory 'Development Plan' for Milton Keynes and alter the Policies Map that indicates land use in the Milton Keynes. Adoption will directly deliver Objective 2.1 of the Council Plan 2016 - 2020 which states "Support Plan:MK through inspection and adopt it", and add additional land to supplement the supply of housing land within Milton Keynes.

#### 4.2 Resources and Risk

The Plan has been prepared through the resources identified in the existing Development Plans budget and money from reserves. Its adoption is not

expected to incur any significant additional costs. However, the Plan Review by 2022 will need to be budgeted for appropriately.

Y	Capital	N	Revenue	N	Accommodation
N	IT	N	Medium Term Plan	Y	Asset Management

#### 4.3 Carbon and Energy Management

The implementation of relevant policies within the Plan will improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

#### 4.4 Legal

The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) and associated guidance.

Any person aggrieved by the adoption of the Plan may make an application to the High Court under Section 113 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 on the grounds that the document is not within the appropriate powers and/or a procedural requirement has not been complied with. Any such application must be made no later than the end of a period of six weeks starting on the date on which the Plan was adopted.

#### 4.5 Other Implications

##### (a) Equalities/Diversity

The Plan was subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment which was published as part of the evidence base for its examination.

##### (b) Sustainability

In accordance with EU legislation, the Plan has been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive).

##### (c) Human Rights

Policies in the Plan should comply with human rights legislation.

##### (d) E-Government

All consultation and associated documentation has been available to view and comment on through the Council's website, the Civic Offices and public libraries.

##### (e) Stakeholders

Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders has been undertaken throughout the preparation of the Plan, in line with national regulations and guidance on the preparation of development plans, and local

guidance as set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement.

(f) Crime and Disorder

No direct implications.

N	Equalities/Diversity	Y	Sustainability	N	Human Rights
Y	E-Government	Y	Stakeholders	N	Crime and Disorder

Background Papers: None

**Annexes**

- Annex A [Inspector's Report](#)  
A copy will be available in each Group Room for inspection.
- Annex B [Schedule of the Inspector's 'main modifications' to Plan:MK](#)  
A copy will be available in each Group Room for inspection.
- Annex C [Plan:MK as proposed for adoption](#)  
A copy will be available in each Group Room for inspection.