



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE
SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDLANDS
EAST OF ENGLAND

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

February 2006, issue 5

This is the fifth in a regular series of updates to keep key partners and stakeholders in touch with news, initiatives and developments across the Milton Keynes & South Midlands growth area. It is produced by the Government Offices for the South East, East Midlands and East of England. Editions of the e-bulletin are archived at www.gose.gov.uk/gose/ourRegion/growthAreas/mksmGrowth/?a=42496

If you have any questions or comments about this update, or any potential contributions for the next edition, please contact: Urselle Mumford, email: urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01908 353733

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Growth Areas and Community Infrastructure Funds

On 16th February the Government announced funding for projects aiming to ensure continued sustainable growth in the MKSM growth area. The £235m Growth Area Funding allocations and £60m investment from the Community Infrastructure Fund are part of the continuing commitment to ensure that building new homes goes hand in hand with the provision of infrastructure.

The Growth Areas Fund covers the three newer Growth Areas including Milton Keynes & South Midlands and the Community Infrastructure Fund covers all four growth areas. This second round of Growth Areas Funding was announced on 17 March 2005 for key infrastructure to support the creation of sustainable communities. Over 400 Expressions of Interest were received in the summer and on 24 August 2005 provisional approval was given for over 70 capital projects to submit fully worked up bids for funding. February's announcement confirms that 77 projects, worth £222.16m, have been formally approved for Growth Areas Funding. Projects approved for MKSM include:

- Milton Keynes General Hospital (£7.2m) - which will unlock land for future hospital development and additional key worker housing;
- Corby's Parkland Gateway project (£9m), which will help to unlock the town's huge potential and support sustainable growth with the creation of a new civic hub as the focus of a town centre mixed use development;
- Aylesbury Vale's Aston Clinton Major Development Area (£5.99m) which will facilitate a new business park and country park.

The Community Infrastructure Fund is a £200m fund (announced in 2004) to support transport projects across the growth areas. It is jointly administered by the Department for Transport and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

A number of projects, including a package of projects in Northamptonshire, are still being appraised for the CIF and further allocations from the remaining £72m are anticipated before the parliamentary Easter recess. A small number of projects which originally bid for CIF funding are being taken forward with GAF funding.

The funding period for both CIF and GAF runs from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008. Funding agreements will be concluded with projects over the coming weeks so as to allow projects to proceed as from 1 April 2006. A Press Notice, including a full list of projects that have been awarded GAF and CIF funding is available at: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2080>

Architecture and the Built Environment Centre

The MKSM ABEC Board met for the second time on 24th January and agreed the process for recruitment of a Director for the Centre. An advertisement for the post appeared in *The Guardian* on 1st February and in the 3rd February edition of *Regeneration and Renewal*. Interviews are being held on 28th February with second interviews planned for early in March. An office base for the post is being identified; this is likely to be in Milton Keynes, although 'hot-desking' and travel throughout the growth area is envisaged as an essential part of the role.

Contact: Urselle Mumford at: urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk Tel:01908 353733

MKSM Growth Area Event - Moving Forward

23rd March 2006 12pm - 4.30pm (including lunch) Kents Hill Conference Centre, Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes Council will host a conference for senior stakeholders in MKSM on 23rd March, with support from ODPM and GOSE. A panel of prominent speakers will give their opinions on the 'state of the Growth Area'. This event provides an opportunity to discuss issues relating to planning & cross-border infrastructure delivery, transport, environment, health and social care, funding, housing, culture and economy with other key decision-makers, planners and business and community leaders.

There will also be a briefing on the Milton Keynes Tariff on the morning of the conference 10.30-12pm (also at Kents Hill). You do not have to attend the conference to attend the briefing. The conference is free. To book a place please contact Jill Dewick by the 10th March 2006, but early booking is recommended. Telephone: 01908 253326; Fax 01908 252768; Email Jill.Dewick@milton-keynes.gov.uk Please mention if you book as a result of reading this e-bulletin to reduce duplication of invitations.

Ministerial visits to MKSM

Baroness Andrews visited Northampton on 2nd February, where she received an update from West Northamptonshire Development Corporation on plans and proposals. The Minister then took a tour of the town centre including the Rennie Mackintosh house in Derrigate.

Renaissance Bedford also welcomed Baroness Andrews to Bedford on February 16th where she announced funding for Castle Lane which is set to become a cultural quarter for the town incorporating affordable housing, restaurants and cafes. The Minister also visited the Forest of Marston Vale and officially opened the Bedford iLAB, a pioneering business centre in Bedford offering workspace for entrepreneurs and small businesses in the region.

Local Delivery Vehicles

Milton Keynes Partnership

Public consultation on the six options on how and where Milton Keynes could grow to 2031 closed on 12th January 2006. There were almost 2,000 responses and these are now being analysed as part of the option appraisal process. When Milton Keynes Partnership Committee meets on 20th March they will discuss the evaluation report, including the public response. The consultants will also present the findings of the sustainability appraisal and further work which has been done on urban potential. This will enable the Committee to identify their preferred broad directions for growth and to make an initial submission to Government with respect to the South

East Plan. From the end of March to June 2006 these broad directions will be developed into a more detailed strategy prior to public consultation in June. Further information can be found at: www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031.

Contact:

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Milton Keynes Partnership
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Keynes, MK9 2EA
janehamilton@englishpartnerships.co.uk
Tel: 01908 353628

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

Consultation events for the WNDP Prospectus were held on 31st January in Daventry, 6th February in Northampton and 20th February in Towcester. The Prospectus and further information on the consultation are available at: www.wndc.org.uk, by email to: natasha.sole@wndc.org.uk, Tel: 01604 586600, or in writing at the address

below. Responses are also acceptable by post or online.

Contact:

Roger Mendonca
P.O. Box 355
Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road
Northampton NN5 5WW
roger.mendonca@wndc.org.uk
Tel: 01604 586605

North Northamptonshire Together

Consultation on the proposals to merge North Northants Together and Catalyst Corby has now closed and responses are under consideration. Further information is available at: www.nntogether.co.uk. The initial phase of Corby's Central Business Park has been completed. The new business quarter has benefited from

£1.5m of ODPM funding through the Growth Area Funding initiative.

Contact:

Martin Hammond
Interim Chief Executive
North Northamptonshire Together
SATRA House, Rockingham Road
Kettering, Northants NN16 9JH
info@thenp.org.uk
Tel: 01536 414645

Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade

The local authorities' Joint Planning and Transport Committee met for the first time on 24th November and will shortly be seeking to establish itself as a statutory body. The local authorities continue to support the case for a UDC as the most appropriate vehicle for delivering growth. In the meantime, ODPM and GO East

have been discussing with the local authorities options for adding capacity.

Contact:
Ian Slater
Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton LU1 2BQ
slateri@luton.gov.uk
Tel: 01582 546 329

Aylesbury Vale Advantage

Aylesbury Vale Advantage (AVA) has appointed two new members of staff to assist in the delivery of the economic and residential growth within Aylesbury vale. Liz Thomas has joined AVA as Project and Development Manager and Kathy Russell as Project and Development Officer. AVA works in partnership with Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, SEEDA, The Aylesbury Vale Primary Care trust and English Partnerships.

Further information is available at:
www.aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk

Contact:
Greg Lomax
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Aylesbury Vale Advantage
Office 25, Kingfisher Exchange
Kingfisher House
Walton Street
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greg.lomax@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk
Tel: 01296 585896

Renaissance Bedford

Renaissance Bedford is a partnership of local stakeholders working together through its Board and adopted Business Plan to re-invigorate and renew the town of Bedford and the northern Marston Vale through sustainable housing and employment growth. Richard Arthur (Chairman) and Chris Watts (Executive Director) have now recruited the first members of a delivery team to co-ordinate and support the work of local partners to deliver growth in the Bedford area. They are Simon Jackson, who will lead on the

marketing and promotion of Bedford to secure more inward investment, and Kathryn Askew Smith, who will lead on the housing developments and their programmes, risk and delivery strategies.

Contact:
Chris Watts
Executive Director
Renaissance Bedford
Salamander House, 2-10 St John's Street
Bedford MK42 0DH
chris.watts@renaissancebedford.org.uk
Tel: 01234 440053

Strategic groups supporting delivery

Inter-regional Board

Chaired by an ODPM Minister, the Inter-regional Board brings together local authority leaders, senior management from Government agencies and other key stakeholders in the Growth Area. The most recent meeting of the Board took place on 21st February, at The Northampton Saints Rugby Ground and was chaired by ODPM Minister Yvette Cooper. Meetings are open to the public, who may submit questions.

Further information about tabling questions, and minutes and papers from Board meetings can be found at: <http://www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1140178>.

Growth Implementation Group

The GIG is a partnership grouping that shadows the Inter-regional Board and co-ordinates the detailed thematic work being undertaken in the growth areas by the sub-groups and others.

Sub-Groups

Health and Social Care

This sub-group focuses on public health and planning for service delivery. The Strategic Health Authorities in MKSM have produced a report: "Bridge to the Future" which follows a number of studies commissioned by the Sub-group to inform the future planning of health and social care services in the growth area. For copies of the report, contact Leasha Perkins, Tel: 01536 494447 (mksm.projectoffice@northants.nhs.uk)

Sub-Group contact: Dawn Bason: (dawn.bason@northantsheartlandspct.nhs.uk)

Tel: 01536 494258

Transport and Planning

Key activities for this sub-group are drafting the MKSM SRS Annual Monitoring Report and identifying an action plan, facilitating joint working on the Local Transport Plans for the growth area, and developing a delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth. The group has also co-ordinated activity on Regional Funding Allocations and CIF bids.

Sub-Group contact: Ian Achurch (iachurch@northamptonshire.gov.uk). Tel: 01604 236057

Environment and Quality of Life

The group encompasses environmental issues, community safety and cultural dimensions. The sub-group recently took a presentation on 'planning out crime' and will be considering both this issue and a joint police force planning project currently underway. A task and finish Water Services group of the main sub-group is currently drafting a document offering guidance on water services infrastructure issues with the aim of publishing April-May.

Workshops on culture and growth were undertaken during January by Living East and Culture East Midlands in conjunction with Local Authorities and the Government Offices. A report on the Milton Keynes cultural strategy review is expected shortly. For further information please contact Charles Freeman (c.freeman@culturesoutheast.org.uk)

Sub-Group contact: Louise Johnson (louise.johnson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Tel: 0115 8462619

Economy, Learning and Skills

The sub-group will be meeting toward the end of February for the first time since its re-alignment to focus more closely on economic considerations; with the RDAs rotating the chair. The group will be considering its future relationship with the Oxford 2 Cambridge Arc once a new Director for the O2C has been appointed (expected Spring 2006).

The LSCs have appointed a consultant to look at the current planning context for economy, learning and skills in MKSM and propose possible ways forward, including the electronic modelling tool developed using ODPM funding last year. Some current work on the provision within Milton Keynes of learning and skills development in the workplace and community has been undertaken by Milton Keynes Economy and Learning Partnership. It is available from Liz Gifford at liz.gifford@mkelp.co.uk.

Sub-Group contact: Mark Sloan (mark.sloan@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01483 884843

Funding

The current focus for the Funding sub-group is on strategic tariff negotiations, revenue funding issues and regional funding allocations.

Sub-Group contact: John Walker (tonjwalker@aol.com) Tel: 01908 234348

In addition to these groups, there is also a **Local Delivery Vehicle Reference Group** to facilitate interaction and help MKSM LDVs shape a common strategic agenda for the growth area. Meetings take the form of workshops on specific themes and they additionally provide opportunities for networking.

Contact: Urselle Mumford (urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353733

Government Office contacts

Each of the three Government Offices in the growth area takes a locality lead on MKSM for those parts of the sub-region that lie within its boundary. *Contacts:*

Government Office for the South East:

Nigel Welbourn (nigel.welbourn@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01483 882402

Government Office for the East of England:

Michael Bingham (michael.bingham@goeast.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 372854

Government Office for the East Midlands:

Giles Hughes (giles.hughes@goem.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 0115 9714733

In addition, a Government Office team based within the growth area deals with strategic MKSM-wide issues and promotes development of partnerships to support delivery, including acting as secretariat to the IRB and GIG.

Contacts: Tim Higginson (tim.higginson@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353944

Urselle Mumford (urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353733

Diary – forthcoming events

14th March West Northamptonshire Development Corporation Board meeting, 6.30pm-8.30pm, the Captain's Suite, Northampton Saints. Contact: Tracey Anthony-Winter on 01604 586604 or email: tracey.anthony-winter@wndc.org.uk

20th March Milton Keynes Partnership Committee meeting, 3.00pm-5.00pm, Christ the Cornerstone Church, Milton Keynes . Contact: mkpc@englishpartnerships.co.uk

23 rd March	MKSM Growth Area event (see page 2). Contact Jill Dewick at Jill.Dewick@milton-keynes.gov.uk
24 th March	'Building in Health' workshop for local authorities, health professionals and others on health issues and planning in Northamptonshire. 9.30am-1.00pm, Northampton Saints. Contact: Leasha Perkins at mksm.projectoffice@northants.nhs.uk
28 th March	Milton Keynes Economy & Learning Partnership Seminar: Learning and Skills growth issues. Contact liz.gifford@mkelp.co.uk