



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE
SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDLANDS
EAST OF ENGLAND

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

June 2005, issue 1

This is the first in a regular series of updates to keep key partners and stakeholders in touch with news, initiatives and developments across the Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth area.

It is produced by the Government Offices for the South East, East Midlands and East of England.

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

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ODPM Ministerial responsibilities

Following the General Election, ODPM Ministerial responsibilities have been announced as follows:

The Rt Hon John Prescott MP Deputy Prime Minister: Overall responsibility for the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

The Rt Hon David Miliband MP – Minister of Communities and Local Government: The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's second cabinet minister and supports the Deputy Prime Minister across the Office as a whole.

Yvette Cooper MP – Minister for Housing and Planning: Housing; Planning; Thames Gateway and Growth Areas; Market Renewal Pathfinders; Urban Policy; Liveability; Gypsies and Travellers; Homelessness; Sustainable Buildings; Regional Economic Development; Northern Way and other intra-regional growth strategies; Government Offices for the Regions. Leads for ODPM on Sustainable Development.

Phil Woolas MP- Minister for Local Government: Local Government Strategy; Local Government Finance (including Lyons Review, revaluation and 3 year budgets); Local Government Pensions; Local Area Agreements; Neighbourhoods and Mayors; Local Government Efficiency; Future of Comprehensive Performance Assessment; Single Local Services Inspectorate; Fire and Rescue Service; Civil Resilience; Neighbourhood Renewal Unit and Fund; New Deal for Communities; Social Exclusion; Supporting People; Better Regulation.

Baroness Andrews OBE – Parliamentary Secretary: Supports Minister for Housing and Planning; Covers all ODPM business in the Lords; Customer Minister for Ordnance Survey.

Jim Fitzpatrick MP – Parliamentary Secretary: Supports both Ministers of State in the Commons; London issues (including residual Dome issues); Corporate issues; Equality and Public Appointments; Sponsor Minister for Ordnance Survey.

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy

The Government's strategy for creating growing, sustainable communities across the Milton Keynes & South Midlands area over the next 16 years was launched on 17th March. The Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-regional Strategy (SRS) is the first of its kind and covers the growth area of Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire, and parts of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The Strategy sets out the scale of housing development until 2021 – highlighting the need for planned, sustainable communities with

adequate infrastructure for vital services such as transportation, health and education services. Between 2005 and 2021, the SRS specifies that 211,000 homes will be delivered in the sub-region. Copies of the Strategy are available from:

www.tso.co.uk/bookshop.

A PDF version is available via the websites of the Government Offices for the East Midlands, East of England and South East: (www.goem.gov.uk; www.goeast.gov.uk; www.gose.gov.uk).

Funding Opportunities

Community Infrastructure Fund

On 17th March, The Government announced the new transport schemes that have been selected for more detailed appraisal in their bid for funding from the new Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF). The £200 million fund was set up last July to fund transport projects that would bring forward new housing development in the four Growth Areas of Thames Gateway, London-Stansted-Cambridge-Peterborough, Milton Keynes & South Midlands and Ashford. Following more detailed appraisal, the Government will announce the projects to receive CIF funding in autumn this year. Projects in the MKSM growth area are:

- **Northampton:** two major elements would be added to the orbital road network at a cost of £13m; the Cross Valley Link in the south west district and the Sandy Lane scheme to open up the Dallington Grange area, together providing access to over 7,000 dwellings. In addition, strategic bus routes X2 and X7 across the county would be enhanced.
- **Corby:** projects totalling £6m for the Corby Northern Orbital Road would support the provision of 5,600 new homes at Priors Hall and Weldon. Further schemes would support some 30,000 new homes in Kettering, Wellingborough and Daventry.
- **Aylesbury:** a new railway station to serve the planned sustainable urban extension at Berryfields, restoring passenger services on three miles of the east-west rail network and a public transport hub, providing good public transport options for 5000 new homeowners.
- **Milton Keynes:** an early start on improvements and upgrading of Junction 14 on the M1, together with a £30m (including a £6m developer contribution) major upgrade of Milton Keynes Central Station. The station project involves two extra tracks and another platform to allow more inter-city trains to stop there and is to support

redevelopment of the station area and to support the redesign of Central Milton Keynes as a high-density housing development.

- **Luton:** CIF will contribute £5m to the £22m East Luton Corridor project intended to improve access between housing and employment sites and Luton airport and act as a key economic driver for regeneration in the area. The remainder of £17m funding would be from the ODPM Growth Areas Fund.
- **Bedford:** funding of £2.5m is sought to supplement developer contributions to enable construction of a four platform station to serve the 4,500 home new community at the Wixams, south of Bedford.

Growth Areas Funding (Round 2)

Bidding guidelines for the second round of Growth Areas Fund were announced by ODPM on 17th March. £235 million, predominantly capital, is available over the two years from 2006/7 to 2007/8 to support the creation of sustainable communities in the three newer growth areas. Partners are expected to draw from their strategic business plans to provide bids for significant projects to unlock growth. Bids are invited from local authorities, existing ODPM project partners and other public sector organisations within the growth area. These should be channelled through Local Delivery Vehicles (or Government Office if no LDV is in place). Partners are asked to submit expressions of interest by the end of May and formal proposals by the end of September 2005. Decisions on funding will be made by Ministers by the end of 2005. A guidance note for bidders is available from www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_communities/documents/page/odpm_comm_033_006.hcsp.

Local Delivery Vehicles

A central part of the Growth Area proposals is to work with local partners to agree the most appropriate local delivery arrangements to reflect local needs. Local Delivery Vehicles (LDVs) are being established at each major growth point in the MKSM Growth Area. The LDVs will take on different forms depending on the particular circumstances in each of the development areas within the Growth Area.

Milton Keynes

In Milton Keynes an Urban Development Area and Partnership Committee have been established. The Milton Keynes Partnership Committee was established in June 2004 to enable joint working between partners, and has development control powers in the UDA area. This Committee, chaired by Sir Bob Reid, includes representatives from English Partnerships, Milton Keynes Council and other local partners. Further detail,

including the business plan, can be found at www.mkweb.co.uk

Contact:

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Tel: 01908 353628

West Northamptonshire

In December 2004 an Urban Development Corporation (UDC) has been established, chaired by local businessman Keith Barwell. As a statutory body with the power to make key regeneration decisions, the UDC will play a key role in driving forward development, securing private sector confidence and maximising investment.

North Northamptonshire

In North Northamptonshire, the Government has endorsed proposals for a local partnership bringing together Corby, Kettering, East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough. Local authorities and the Urban Regeneration Company, Catalyst Corby, will take the lead in co-ordinating the joint planning arrangements to deliver sustainable development across the area. This vehicle, entitled North Northants

Southern Bedfordshire

Following a study of options for a local delivery vehicle for the Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis area, the local authorities proposed a UDC. Ministers indicated that before a decision on the most suitable vehicle is made they need to be clearer about the location and timing of growth. Discussions are currently focusing on an interim LDV for the area which would enhance delivery capacity, complement the work of the joint

Aylesbury Vale

In Aylesbury Vale a Company Limited by Guarantee of 5 key partners has been formed: Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks County Council, SEEDA, the PCT and English Partnerships. Sir Nigel Mobbs is the Chairman. The LDV is currently operating as 'Delivery 2031'.

Contact:

Roger Mendonca
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Northampton NN5 5WW
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Tel: 01604 586605

Together, was established on 3 February.

Contact:

Andy Clarke
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Northamptonshire Partnership
SATRA House
Rockingham Road
Kettering
Northants NN16 9JH
info@thenp.org.uk
Tel: 01604 745783

planning committee which has been established by the local authorities, and not prejudice later decisions on a substantive delivery vehicle.

Contact:

Ian Slater
Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton LU1 2BQ
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Tel: 01582 546 329

Contact:

Greg Lomax, Managing Director
Delivery 2031
The Kingfisher Exchange,
Kingfisher House,
Walton Street,
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Bedford

Richard Arthur, Chairman, and Chris Watts, Executive Director, have recently taken up post in the Bedford Growth Partnership, an informal partnership bringing together key stakeholders to drive forward growth in the Bedford area. The Partnership is currently working with its stakeholders on its business plan.

Contact:
Chris Watts
Executive Director
Bedford Growth Partnership
c/o Room A115
Bedford Town Hall
St. Paul's Square
Bedford MK40 1SJ
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Strategic groups supporting delivery

A number of strategic partnership groups operate in the growth area to support delivery of the Sub-regional Strategy, under the auspices of an **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 Sub-Regional stakeholders, including the Local Delivery Vehicles. Its terms of reference include securing the timely delivery of infrastructure and services necessary for sustainable growth in the Sub-Region. The Board will establish the infrastructure priorities required to deliver the growth area proposals and monitor their implementation. Meetings of the Board are held three times a year and minutes of previous meetings can be found at: www.odpm.gov.uk/growthareas.

Meetings are open to the public, who may now submit questions to the Board. Questions must be in keeping with the terms of reference, i.e. largely strategic or cross-regional in nature, and not concern purely local issues where the local delivery vehicle or local authority should be approached. Questions should be tabled with the secretariat a minimum of two weeks in advance of Board meetings. Details can be found on the ODPM website.

Inter-regional Board Secretariat: Tim Higginson (thigginson.gose@go-regions.qsi.gov.uk)

A number of thematic working groups take forward work on behalf of the Inter-regional Board. These are not standing committees and will evolve and change over time to reflect priorities. There will be an increasing focus on ensuring effective links between strategic growth-area wide work and local level implementation.

Growth Implementation Group

A Growth Implementation Group (GIG) supports the Board. It is made up of representatives from similar organisations to those on the Board but at a more operational level. The GIG acts as the interface between the Board and the detailed thematic work being undertaken in the growth area by sub-groups and others.

Sub-Groups

Health and Social Care

Chaired by David Sissling (Chief Executive, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Strategic Health Authority), the sub-group focuses on public health and planning for service delivery. As part of the Government funding made available through the Communities Plan, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) awarded £800,000 to the MKSM Health and Social Care community to develop an integrated Health and Social Care vision in response to the planned growth. A high level planning analysis of the likely impact of population growth, demographic and demand forecasts was commissioned as part of this project.

A suite of 4 documents has also been produced to give Health and Social Care professionals an understanding of how to interact with the statutory land-use planning system to ensure public health issues are fully considered. In addition to this work, Health Impact Assessments of planned developments in Luton, Corby, and Milton Keynes have been undertaken towards assessing the likely impacts these developments may have on the health of local populations.

The outputs from the Health and Social Care Project will be launched at a stakeholder event on 28th June at the National Hockey Stadium, Milton Keynes. Contact: Razia Nuur (razia.nuur@northantsheartlandspct.nhs.uk) Tel: 01536 494447. They will also be available from the Health and Social Care Project website at <http://www.mksm.nhs.uk> A CD-ROM containing all outputs is being produced.

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

Transport and Planning

Chaired by Danny Brennan (Director, Sustainability, Northamptonshire County Council), the group seeks to better co-ordinate strategic transport and planning issues in the growth area. After taking an important planning role in the evolution of the Sub-regional Strategy, the group has refocused around transport delivery. Key current priorities and activities of the group include facilitating joint working on the five Local Transport Plans (2) for the sub-region; co-ordinating MKSM Community Infrastructure Fund activities; developing a delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth and identifying and helping tackle barriers to delivery.

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

Environment and Quality of Life

Chaired by Ron Linfield of the Environment Agency, the group encompasses environmental issues, community safety and cultural dimensions. The main purpose of the group is to co-ordinate the delivery of environmental and quality of life initiatives across the sub-region. Current areas of work focus on green infrastructure, arts and culture, water supply and wastewater, environment and flood risk and community safety.

The sub-group has recently published 'Planning Sustainable Communities', a green infrastructure guide for the MKSM growth area. The purpose of the guide is to assist local delivery vehicles and local authorities in addressing green

infrastructure planning and delivery needs as set out in the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy. It provides a checklist of GI planning and delivery principles, case studies and signposts to further resources and information. Although the guide is aimed at users within the MKSM growth area, the key principles are generic and can be used to influence the development planning process more widely. An accompanying leaflet aimed at board/member level representatives and Chief Executives will be available shortly. Contact: Bethan Eggboro (bethan.eggboro@environment-agency.gov.uk). Copies of the document are available from www.environment-agency.gov.uk

In March the consultation document 'Living Spaces' was launched by Lord Rooker, which provides cultural guidance aimed particularly at Local Delivery Vehicles in the growth areas. Contact: Charles Freeman (c.freeman@culturesoutheast.org.uk). Copies of the document are available from www.culturesoutheast.org.uk.

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

Education and Skills

The group covers learning and skills provision and needs of the growth area. As part of the Government funding made available through the Communities Plan, the ODPM awarded funding to commission a project to identify the future learning and skills needs and priorities for the MKSM growth area. The project maps the current supply of education and learning in MKSM and assesses how the demand will change during the growth period. It also provides a tool to help partners to develop their own scenarios based on assumptions such as location, scale of employment and population growth, and the proportion of jobs in high-skill occupations.

The final report, together with a spreadsheet-based modelling tool, will be published shortly.

Sub-Group contact: Mark Sloan (msloan.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk).

Funding

Chaired by John Walker, formerly Chief Executive of Commission for the New Towns, and now an adviser to ODPM, this group focuses on creative proposals to ensure timely delivery of strategic infrastructure projects. A key area of work has developed a framework within which developer contributions can be sought on a per dwelling basis to help fund local and strategic infrastructure. The operating principles were endorsed by the Inter-regional Board and piloting is now well advanced in Milton Keynes and also moving ahead in Northamptonshire.

A new evolving strand of work is concerned with revenue funding for local authorities and other services such as health. A small working group of chief finance officers from local authorities in the MKSM growth area has been established to consider how revenue allocation mechanisms can reflect the needs of growth areas.

Sub-Group contact: John Walker (ToNJWalker@aol.com).

Architecture and Built Environment Centre

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) have, with local partners, agreed to fund the establishment of a dedicated Centre to focus on the MKSM growth area. A 3-month set-up phase, supported by staff seconded from Government Office to CABE, will commence in June, with a Board and staff likely to be in place by the autumn, with operations commencing around that time.

Further details will follow. Current queries can be directed to Jonathan Davis at CABE, jdavis@cabe.org.uk, Tel: 0207 960 4862

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 (nwelbourn.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)

Government Office for the East of England:

Robert Brown (rbrown.goeast@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)

Government Office for the East Midlands:

Giles Hughes (ghughes.goem@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)

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 (thigginson.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)

Urselle Mumford (umumford.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk)

Diary - Forthcoming events

14th June

MKSM Health Impact Assessment Workshop

Northampton Saints RFC

Contact: Razia Nuur (razia.nuur@northantsheartlandspct.nhs)

28th June

Health & Social Care Project Stakeholder Event

National Hockey Stadium, Milton Keynes

Contact: James Keating-Wilkes (james.keating-wilkes@northantsheartlandspct.nhs)

11th-18th July

MK2031 Community Planning Events

Milton Keynes

Contact: Cheryl Montgomery (cherylmontgomery@englishpartnerships.co.uk)

NB: Following Ministerial changes, the next Inter-regional Board date remains to be confirmed.