



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE
SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDLANDS
EAST OF ENGLAND

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

December 2005, issue 4

This is the fourth 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. 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.

Page	Contents
1	• Architecture and Built Environment Centre • ODPM Growth Areas Fund – second round • Government response to Barker review
2	• Ministerial visit to Milton Keynes • East of England Examination in Public • Regional Economic Strategy for South East England Consultation • Culture in the Growth Area
3	• Local Delivery Vehicles
4	• Strategic groups supporting delivery
6	• Government Office contacts • Diary

Architecture and Built Environment Centre

The Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) has been working with the Government Offices to establish a dedicated Centre for the MKSM growth area. John Weir (an architect who is currently also deputy chair of West Northants UDC) has been appointed Chair and a Board of 10 members has been selected. The Board met for the first time on 30th November, and will meet again in January. One of the main priorities of the Board in the New Year will be to recruit staff, including a Director. *Contact:* Urselle Mumford (urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk). Tel: 01908 353733.

ODPM Growth Areas Fund - second round

The ODPM is currently assessing the full appraisals of around 70 projects in the newer growth areas, including those within MKSM. It is expected that the final decisions on which projects will be funded will be announced early in the New Year, with successful projects needing to be up and running by April 2006.

Government response to Barker review

Kate Barker's report, published last year, showed that the housing market is not responding sufficiently to meet the needs of the country's ageing and growing population, with an ever increasing gap between supply of, and demand for, housing. On 5th December, linked to the Pre-Budget Report, the Government announced a package of

measures to make housing more accessible to all. Key measures include a consultation on a Planning Gain Supplement to unlock increases in land value for housing to fund local infrastructure, a cross-cutting review of infrastructure investment and proposals for new volunteer housing growth points. Further information is available from: www.odpm.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2029. The Planning Gain Supplement consultation document is available at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pre_budget_report/prebud_pbr05/assoc_docs/prebud_pbr05_adplanning.cfm

Ministerial visit to Milton Keynes

ODPM Minister Baroness Andrews visited Milton Keynes on 28th November. Following meetings with Milton Keynes Partnership and the Council, the Minister went on to open the Milton Keynes Construction College and visit Acorn House, the new home for the voluntary sector in Milton Keynes. These projects both benefited from ODPM Growth Areas Funding. Further information is available at:

www.gose.gov.uk/gose/news/newsarchive/348687/

East of England Plan Examination in Public

The Examination in Public (EiP) to debate and test the draft revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England began on 1st November and will close on 3rd March 2006. The examination of selected matters arising from representations on the draft RSS will be held in public and before an independent Panel appointed by the First Secretary of State. Further information is available from the East of England Regional Assembly at: www.eera.gov.uk.

Regional Economic Strategy for South East England 2006-2016 Consultation Document

Following a series of public consultation events held across the South East, SEEDA has now published the Regional Economic Strategy Consultation Document, along with an independent Economic Impact Assessment of the 2002 RES, prepared by consultants KPMG. An interim Evidence Base Document, prepared by SEEDA's Strategy Team in collaboration with consultants Deloitte has also been published. The formal Consultation Period is now open, and runs to Friday 17th February 2006. Further information and the consultation document are available at: www.seeda.co.uk/RES/index.asp.

Culture in the Growth Area

'A Better Life'

On 1st November Living East announced the consultation 'A Better Life', the draft regional cultural strategy for the East of England. Full details are available from the Living East website at www.livingeast.org.uk. The deadline for responses is 31st January 2006.

'Living Spaces'

The deadline for responses to this consultation has now closed and responses will be reviewed over the next few months. 'Living Spaces' offers practical advice for LDVs on

ways culture can support the development of sustainable communities. A link to the document can be found at www.livingeast.org.uk.

New Growth Area web pages

Growth Area Pages have been developed by three Regional Cultural Consortia - Culture South East; Living East and Culture East Midlands to provide information on how culture is being embedded in the development processes of the Growth Areas. The pages can be accessed at:

www.culturesoutheast.org.uk/pages/content.asp?PageID=218&Position=2

Local Delivery Vehicles

Milton Keynes Partnership

MKP has launched a consultation to gather views on the development of Milton Keynes to 2031. Six options on how and where Milton Keynes could grow have been short-listed. This phase of consultation began with an exhibition of the options on 7th November, and will close on 12th January 2006. Further information on the options for growth and Draft Directions Papers can be found at: www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031

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West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

On 21st November, ODPM Minister Baroness Andrews announced a public consultation on new planning powers for the UDC. This consultation follows on from a previous exercise on development control powers in Daventry, Northampton and Towcester and closes on 13th January. The West Northants Development Corporation was officially launched on 6th December, with the

publication of its Prospectus. The Prospectus and further information on the consultation are available at: www.wndc.org.uk.

Contact:

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North Northamptonshire Together

On the 18th November, North Northants Together and Catalyst Corby hosted the *Delivering Growth: North Northamptonshire* Summit in Kettering. On the same day, Baroness Andrews announced provisional approval for a new Urban Regeneration Company to be formed through the merger of Catalyst Corby and North Northants Together. The new URC could be up and running by

April 2006 subject to public consultation and final approval. Further information is available at: www.nntogether.co.uk.

Contact:

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SATRA House, Rockingham Road
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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 to

the joint technical work and infrastructure delivery.

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Aylesbury Vale Advantage

Aylesbury Vale Advantage (AVA) has appointed Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher as their new Chair following the death of Sir Nigel Mobbs. Sir Henry is the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire. He has been a board member of AVA since 2004. AVA is a company limited by guarantee, funded initially by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and consisting of 5 key partners: Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks County Council, SEEDA, PCT and English Partnerships. Further information

is available at:
www.aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk

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Renaissance Bedford

Renaissance Bedford is a partnership of local stakeholders working together to re-invigorate and renew the town of Bedford and surrounding district through growth. Richard Arthur (Chairman) and Chris Watts (Executive Director) are in the process of recruiting the first members of a delivery team to co-ordinate and support

the work of local partners to deliver growth in the Bedford area.

Contact:
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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 next meeting of the Board is due to take place on the morning of 21st February 2006, at The Northampton Saints Rugby Ground and will be chaired by ODPM Minister Baroness Andrews. Meetings are open to the public, who may submit questions. Further information about tabling questions, and minutes from previous Board

meetings can be found at:

www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=7069&l=2 .

Growth Implementation Group

The GIG is a partnership grouping that shadows the Inter-regional Board and coordinates the detailed thematic work being undertaken in the growth areas by the sub-groups and others. It is next scheduled to meet on 18th January at Kettering Borough Council.

Sub-Groups

Health and Social Care

This sub-group focuses on public health and planning for service delivery. It is currently considering a joint report from the Strategic Health Authorities in MKSM on securing a fit-for-purpose response to growth in the longer term.

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

Tel: 01536 494258

Transport and Planning

Key activities for this sub-group are facilitating joint working on the Local Transport Plans for the growth area and developing a delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth. *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.

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

Tel: 0115 8462619

Economy, Learning and Skills

This sub-group has been re-aligned to focus more closely on economic considerations in addition to addressing learning and skills issues in the growth area.

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 of this group will 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:

Richard Kay (richard.kay@goeast.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 372569

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.

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Diary – forthcoming events

- 20th December - MKSM Higher Education Conference: 'Regional Economic Growth and Universities: Developing a Shared Action Plan'. Northampton Business School at the University of Northampton. Contact Sam Evans. Tel: 01604 719531. email: mksm.conference@northampton.ac.uk or go to www.sunley-northampton.co.uk/mksm.
- 17th January - West Northamptonshire Development Corporation Board Meeting Towcester (venue t.b.c.) Contact: Tracey Anthony-Winter. Tel: 01604 586 604. email: tracey.anthony-winter@wndc.org.uk
- 10th February - Aylesbury Vale Advantage Board meeting, Broughton Suite, Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury. Contact: Liz Clowe. email: liz.clowe@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk
- 21st February - MKSM Inter-regional Board, Northampton Saints Rugby Ground. Contact: Tim Higginson. Tel: 01908 353944. email: tim.higginson@gose.gsi.gov.uk