



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE
SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDLANDS
EAST OF ENGLAND

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

August 2005, issue 2

This is the second 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 will be archived at <http://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 umumford.gose@go-regions.qsi.gov.uk or telephone 01908 353733.

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'Health and Social Care Services Provision for the Future'

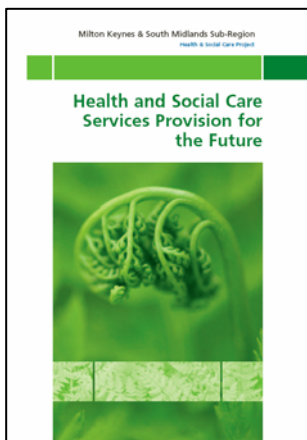
A suite of documents has been produced by the Health and Social Care community in MKSM as part of Government funding made available through the Communities Plan. These outputs consist of:

- A high level planning analysis of the likely impact of population growth on demographic and demand forecasts;
- Documents aimed at giving 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.

'Health and Social Care Services Provision for the Future' was launched on 28th June and is available as a CD-ROM accompanied by a brochure.

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

Tel: 01536 494447



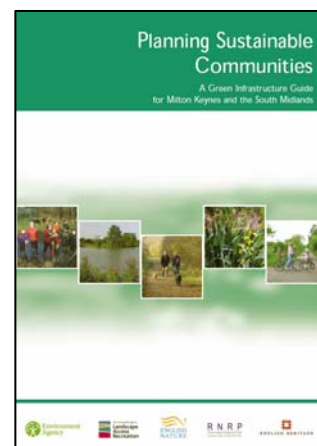
'Planning Sustainable Communities'

The MKSM Environment and Quality of Life Sub-Group has published a Green Infrastructure (GI) Guide for the Growth Area. The purpose of the guide is to assist local delivery vehicles and local authorities in addressing the GI planning and delivery needs set out in the MKSM Sub-Regional Strategy. It provides:

- A checklist of GI planning and delivery principles;
- Relevant best practice case studies;
- Signposts to further resources and information.

Copies of the guide are available now and it will be launched as part of an event planned for 23rd September at the Marriott Hotel in Northampton.

Contact: Bethan Eggboro (bethan.eggboro@environment-agency.gov.uk) Tel: 0115 8462625



ODPM Growth Areas Funding (Round 2)

The deadline for submission of expressions of interest for Government funding to support delivery has closed. A large number of bids were received for a wide range of projects in three growth areas. The bids are currently being evaluated and a decision on which are supported in principle is expected over the next month or so. Successful bids will then be asked to submit full, formal proposals by the end of the calendar year.

Government consultations and publications

Regional Funding Allocations

On 21st July, the Government published guidance to the regions on preparing advice to inform Regional Funding Allocations, following the consultation exercise earlier this year. The guidance provides indicative regional allocations across the inter-related areas of transport, housing, and economic development. To provide clearer planning assumptions for the regions, the guidance sets out:

- For the first time, regional transport allocations for three years up to and including 2007-08, in line with the regional housing and regional economic development allocations already published; and
- Indicative longer term planning assumptions for regional allocations, beyond the three years of the current spending review period, across the three funding streams.

The consultation document can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/38B/05/RFA_Guidance_210705.pdf

The deadline for submitting advice is the end of January 2006.

Planning for Housing Provision

A new consultation 'Planning for Housing Provision' was announced on 18th July. This will help ensure that in housing growth areas, the planning system is able to respond to demand by making appropriate land available more swiftly for building new homes. The Government is consulting on changes to the planning system to:

- Take into account house prices and other market information when deciding what level of house building is necessary;
- Plan for a 15-year time frame with a rolling five-year supply of appropriate land;
- Review regional plans when there are changes in housing market conditions; and
- Continue to focus on brownfield sites for development.

The consultation paper can be found at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_039132.pdf

Responses to the consultation are invited by 9th September 2005.

Revised Planning Circular

A new Circular on planning obligations has been published with the aims of increasing transparency, predictability, accountability and speed in the negotiation of planning obligations. It also bring planning obligations into line with the new arrangements established by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and provides a firmer policy basis for provision of affordable housing through planning obligations relating to Section 106. The revised Circular is available at:

http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_planning/documents/page/odpm_plan_039133.pdf

Government announcements

During a visit to Corby on the 26th July ODPM Minister Baroness Andrews announced that the Secretary of State has decided that Corby Borough Council should determine the planning application for the Priors Hall Development. The proposals, drawn up by Corby Developments Limited, were submitted to Corby Borough Council and East Northamptonshire Council earlier this year. The proposals include:

- Up to 5,100 high quality homes;
- Around 3,000 new jobs;
- A comprehensive range of public services including health facilities and primary and secondary schools. Priors Hall will be the location for the new Corby Academy to be designed by Norman Foster & Partners;
- A wide range of leisure and community facilities and local shops to serve the new residents;
- Over 200 hectares of new parkland;
- A comprehensive network of cycle and pedestrian facilities within the new community and new bus services linking the community to the surrounding areas such as Corby town centre.

Local Delivery Vehicles

Milton Keynes Partnership

The Partnership completed the first phase of public consultation in July on the principles and priorities for the new Plan to guide the growth of Milton Keynes to about 2031. The information and opinions gained have been fed into the Directions Papers which will set out the options for spatial growth. The Directions Papers will be available in draft on 1st September on the MK Partnership web site - www.mkweb.co.uk/mkpartnership

The Papers cover the topics of population and housing; transport; water, waste and utilities; city design, environment and landscape; community and cultural infrastructure and economy and property market. A spatial options paper due in October will draw upon these and propose options for growth.

The next phase of consultation on the Plan will begin in November, closing early in the new year.

There is now a dedicated '2031' section on the Partnership website:

www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031 including the latest edition of the mk2031 newsletter.

Contact:

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Milton Keynes Partnership

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Central Milton Keynes, MK9 2EA

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Tel: 01908 353628

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

The first Chief Executive for the Development Corporation, Mike Hayes, has been appointed and will take up post on 12 September. He joins from Watford Borough Council. WNDC acting chief executive Roger Mendonca has been appointed deputy chief executive and director of strategy. WNDC is currently

busy developing a Regeneration Framework to guide its activities.

Contact:

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

North Northamptonshire Together

North Northants Together will become incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in August. The business plan has been drafted and will be published in August. Work is underway with delivery partners on a delivery and investment programme. The relationship between NNT and Catalyst Corby, an Urban Regeneration Company for Corby, is also being looked at. There is a new website for the LDV at www.nntogether.co.uk with a facility for people to respond online to an issues/options paper prepared as part of the production of the Core Spatial Strategy. A programme of public consultation meetings is being held

covering such issues as housing, infrastructure, town centres and rural matters. A joint planning committee has been established and the first meeting is being held this month.

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

Discussions are continuing to focus on an interim LDV for the area which would enhance delivery capacity, complement the work of the joint planning and transport committee which is being 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
slateri@luton.gov.uk
Tel: 01582 546 329

Aylesbury Vale Advantage

Aylesbury Vale Advantage (AVA) is a company limited by guarantee, funded initially by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The next meeting of the LDV Board will be held on 7th September. This will also be the first AGM of Aylesbury Vale Advantage. Further information is on the website at:

www.aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk

Contact:

Greg Lomax, Managing Director
Advantage Aylesbury Vale
The Kingfisher Exchange,
Kingfisher House,
Walton Street,
Aylesbury, HP21 7SJ

greg.lomax@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk

Tel: 01296 585896

Bedford Growth Partnership

The Bedford Growth Partnership is an informal partnership bringing together key stakeholders to drive forward growth in the Bedford area. The Partnership held its inaugural board meeting on 28th June and 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
cwatts@bedford.gov.uk
Tel: 01234 267422

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 scheduled for 4th October at 11 a.m. at the Civic Centre Aylesbury and will be chaired by ODPM Minister for Housing and Planning, Yvette Cooper. Meetings are open to the public, who may now submit questions. Further information about tabling questions, and minutes from previous Board meetings can be found at: www.odpm.gov.uk/growthareas.

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. Information about the key outputs from the Health and Social Care Project can be found on Page 1 of this bulletin.

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. Information about the Green Infrastructure Guide can be found on Page 1 of this bulletin.

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

Tel: 0115 8462619

Education and Skills

This sub-group is in the process of being re-aligned to focus more closely on the economy. An executive summary of the research work undertaken to identify the future learning and skills needs and priorities for the MKSM growth area is available at www.lsc.gov.uk/mkob. Further developmental and updating work is being undertaken as part of this project and launch arrangements will be issued once this is complete.

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 and revenue issues.

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

Architecture and Built Environment Centre

The Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) is working with GOSE secondee Ralph Dickens to establish a dedicated Centre for the MKSM growth area. A key early objective is to establish a Board and appoint a Chair. A recruitment advertisement is to be placed in the national press shortly with interviews planned for the Autumn. Recruitment of executive staff will then follow.

Contact: Ralph Dickens (rdickens@cabe.org.uk) Tel: 020 7960 4894

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) Tel: 01483 882402

Government Office for the East of England:

Robert Brown (rbrown.goeast@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 372749

Government Office for the East Midlands:

Giles Hughes (ghughes.goem@go-regions.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 (thigginson.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353944

Urselle Mumford (umumford.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353733

Diary – forthcoming events

7th September

Aylesbury Vale Local Delivery Vehicle Board meeting, Aylesbury.

Contact: Liz Clowe (liz.clowe@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk)

7th September

Urban Regeneration Companies 4th Annual Conference, Corby. English Partnerships will hold its fourth Annual Conference dedicated to Urban Regeneration Companies (URCs) in Corby, Northamptonshire. This is an invitation only event addressing the pertinent issues facing URCs.

Contact: Nicola Thomas (nicolathomas@englishpartnerships.co.uk)

23rd September

Green Infrastructure Guide, River Nene Regional Park and Northamptonshire Landscape Character Process Event, Marriott Hotel, Northampton.

Contact: Bethan Eggboro (bethan.eggboro@environment-agency.gov.uk)

4th October

Milton Keynes and South Midlands Inter-regional Board, Aylesbury

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