



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE  
SOUTH EAST  
EAST MIDLANDS  
EAST OF ENGLAND

# Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

## November 2006, issue 9

This is the 9th 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](http://www.gose.gov.uk/gose/ourRegion/growthAreas/mksmGrowth/?a=42496)

If you have any questions or comments about this update, please contact Urselle Mumford, email [urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk) or telephone 01908 353733.

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## Department for Communities & Local Government

On 24 October, Yvette Cooper confirmed 45 towns and cities as New Growth Points, with the potential to deliver up to 100,000 extra new homes and many more new jobs over the next ten years than previously planned. The proposals will deliver a substantial number of new homes to help first time buyers onto the property ladder and enable towns and cities to grow their economies by creating new jobs and encouraging business development.

The successful bids put forward by over 70 local authorities with high housing demand contain a wide regional spread from Truro to Lincoln and include major cities like Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham and Bristol as well as large and small towns like Swindon, Reading and Ipswich, Grantham, Thetford and Maidstone. These areas will share in £40m start up funding to support infrastructure, unlock sites for new housing and to assess and mitigate environmental impacts. More information can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2177>.

On 26 October Communities Secretary Ruth Kelly published new proposals significantly strengthening leadership and devolving power to local government as well as providing a major expansion of opportunities for local people to influence local decision-making and improve their lives.

The White Paper *Strong and Prosperous Communities* builds a new settlement between central government, local government and citizens. It brings more freedoms and powers

for local government and local people to shape their own communities, it radically reduces national targets whilst strengthening local accountability and puts in place new measures to ensure local services are more responsive to their communities.

## Local Delivery Vehicles

### ***Milton Keynes Partnership***

Consultation on the Strategy for Growth for Milton Keynes closed at the end of September. The Growth Strategy has been fed into the draft South East Plan which will be tested at an Examination in Public beginning in November. The Plan will provide the overarching statutory framework for development in the South East Region, including Milton Keynes, to 2026. The Growth Strategy is available online at:

[www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031/displayarticle.asp?id=33640#GrowthStrategy](http://www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031/displayarticle.asp?id=33640#GrowthStrategy)

The AGM of the Milton Keynes Partnership Committee was held on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

The agenda and minutes are available at:

[www.mkweb.co.uk/mkpartnership/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=37658](http://www.mkweb.co.uk/mkpartnership/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=37658)

Milton Keynes Partnership has produced new user-friendly information designed to give people a better understanding of its work, including an Annual Review, a short film showing how planning and delivery of growth is co-ordinated and a brochure explaining who MKP are and what it does. Copies of the Annual Review or brochure can be requested by calling MKP on 01908 353615 or by emailing:

[lorraineqinger@englishpartnerships.co.uk](mailto:lorraineqinger@englishpartnerships.co.uk).

#### *Contact:*

Jane Hamilton

Chief Operating Officer

Milton Keynes Partnership

1st Floor Central Business Exchange II, 414-428 Midsummer Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 2EA

[janehamilton@englishpartnerships.co.uk](mailto:janehamilton@englishpartnerships.co.uk)

Tel: 01908 353628

### ***West Northamptonshire Development Corporation***

On 31 October, WNDC Board Members backed £1.3 million pounds investment of Growth Area Funding for three cultural projects in Northampton town centre. The projects are £800,000 for the Royal and Derngate Theatre enabling redevelopment and theatre performances to be taken out to the wider community. A further £450,000 will enable the improvements of the world class 78 and 82 Derngate visitor attraction. Northampton Arts Collective will receive £50,000 to enhance the quality and availability of space for local and national artists in the Fishmarket. Final approval to the investment will now be sought from DCLG. Further information about the WNDC can be found at: [www.wndc.org.uk](http://www.wndc.org.uk).

#### *Contact:*

Roger Mendonca

P.O. Box 355, Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road, Northampton NN5 5WW

<mailto:roger.mendonca@wndc.org.uk>

Tel: 01604 586605

### ***North Northants Development Company***

NNDC has announced the appointment of Nick Bolton as Director of Investment and Marketing. He will be responsible for inward investment, economic development, strategic

marketing and public relations activity. As a senior member of the NNDC team, Nick will work closely with its Chief Executive, Bob Lane.

A major new place marketing campaign was launched on 4th October, aimed at attracting Londoners to move to Corby. NNDC is behind the campaign, which is part of its long-term strategy for the successful regeneration of Corby. The campaign has also been backed and funded by key stakeholders in Corby including Bee Bee Developments, Cofton Ltd, English Partnerships, Land Securities, and major UK housebuilders.

Further information about NNDC is available from [www.nndev.co.uk](http://www.nndev.co.uk)

*Contact:*

Bob Lane

Chief Executive

North Northants Development Company

1 Exchange Court, Cottingham Road, Corby, Northamptonshire, NN17 1TY

Tel: 01536 274 979

### ***Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade***

The local authorities support the case for a UDC as the most appropriate vehicle for delivering growth in Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade. In the meantime, they have been discussing with DCLG and GO East options for adding more immediate capacity to support growth. The local authorities' Joint Planning and Transport Committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> September. Further information can be found at:

[www.southbeds.gov.uk/your-council/committee\\_timetable.phtml?action=view1&id=512](http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/your-council/committee_timetable.phtml?action=view1&id=512).

A conference was held on 17th October 2006 at Whipsnade Wild Animal Park, to discuss the issues surrounding the forthcoming Green Belt Review. The purpose of the day was to discuss the issues faced in planning for a new Green Belt, and looking after it in the long term. Delegates included District Councillors, Town and Parish Councillors, local landowners and developers, neighbouring authorities and other national and local stakeholders. Further information is available from: [http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/lqcl-environment/planning/green\\_belt\\_conference\\_presentations.html](http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/lqcl-environment/planning/green_belt_conference_presentations.html)

In September, South Bedfordshire District Council, working in partnership with Bedfordshire County Council, received a £4m funding boost through DCLG Growth Areas Funding. This money will be used to reshape Bedford Square in Houghton Regis' town centre, with many new public buildings including a library.

*Contact:*

Ian Slater

Luton Borough Council

Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ

[slateri@luton.gov.uk](mailto:slateri@luton.gov.uk)

Tel: 01582 546 329

### ***Aylesbury Vale Advantage***

The final report on the Town Centre Vision Framework has been completed and gives a vision for Aylesbury and the town centre over the next twenty years. The Town Centre Vision Framework project is being led by Aylesbury Vale Advantage in collaboration with SEEDA, English Partnerships, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. The key components of the report include: The employment Campus/Station Gateway, The Civic Heart, Access and Movement, Town Centre Living,

Leisure/Culture and Public Realm and the Retail Circuit. A series of events will be organised to promote the Vision. The report will be instrumental in creating the vision for regenerating the Town Centre and will help to place Aylesbury on the map.

Further information about AVA is available from: [www.aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk)

*Contact:*

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Managing Director  
Aylesbury Vale Advantage  
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[greg.lomax@aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk](mailto:greg.lomax@aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk)  
Tel: 01296 585896

### ***Renaissance Bedford***

The Business Plan for Renaissance Bedford has been updated to relate more closely to current priorities and aims in 2006/7 and the revised version is now available from the recently-launched website at [www.renaissancebedford.org.uk](http://www.renaissancebedford.org.uk)

The Stage 1 Report and Recommendations for Stage 2 of a long term growth prospectus to present a clear offer and unified vision for the Bedford growth area up to 2021 has now been completed. In addition, the out-commuter study of railway users commissioned to support inward investment activity has reported back. Further information on both reports can be found at:

[http://www.renaissancebedford.org.uk/who\\_we\\_are/board/27sept2006111](http://www.renaissancebedford.org.uk/who_we_are/board/27sept2006111)

*Contact:*

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Tel: 01234 440053

## Strategic groups supporting delivery

### ***Inter-regional Board***

Chaired by a DCLG 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 will now take place on 28<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am in the offices of DCLG at Eland House in London. Further information about tabling questions, and minutes from previous Board meetings can be found at: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1140180>.

A range of sub-groups undertaking detailed thematic work in the growth area report to the IRB. Regular meetings of the Chairs of these sub-groups take place prior to each meeting of the IRB.

A smaller technical working group will guide the production of the Annual Monitoring Report on behalf of the Regional Assemblies.

In addition, the IRB commissioned work to prepare a growth area submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR07), with a view to helping partners in the Growth Areas better deliver the services and infrastructure essential to the development of sustainable communities. This submission went forward to HMT at the end of September; for specific enquiries on the CSR work please contact Ian Achurch at Northamptonshire County Council, [iachurch@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:iachurch@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

### **Health and Social Care**

This sub-group focuses on public health and planning for services delivery. Following the re-alignment of the SHAs, new representatives for the sub-group have been identified and the group will be meeting in the near future to look at its future governance, work programme and terms of reference.

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

Tel: 01536 494258

### **Transport and Planning**

Key activities for this group have been the ongoing development of a transport and delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth; development of the Annual Monitoring Report Action Plan and the submission to Government on the CSR. A structured list of priorities has been identified in relation to the Community Infrastructure Fund and the group will also be taking forward work on the Transport Innovation Fund.

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

### **Environment and Quality of Life**

This group encompasses environmental issues, community safety and cultural dimensions. A task and finish group considering Water Services Infrastructure issues is in the process of finalising a best practice guide aimed at Local Authorities, LDVs, developers and others. This should be available early in December. The Social Infrastructure task and finish group is in the process of finalising 'Strong Communities', a Social Infrastructure Plan for MKSM.

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

Tel: 0115 8462619

### **Economy, Learning and Skills**

This group has been re-aligned to focus more closely on economic considerations. Chaired by the RDAs in MKSM in rotation (currently SEEDA), it is working with the Oxford to Cambridge Arc to develop future relationships and responsibilities. On the Skills side, a Skills Masterplan is currently under development, funded by the LSCs. This has now been endorsed by the Inter-regional Board and the LSCs are now working on the way forward to produce a 'Learning Plan' for the region.

*Sub-Group contact:* Deborah Wharton ([deborahwharton@seeda.co.uk](mailto:deborahwharton@seeda.co.uk)) Tel: 01483 500768

### **Funding**

A key area of work for this group is on driving forward the potential of the strategic tariff principles. A major focus has been the submission to the Comprehensive Spending Review 07. Other areas of work are around the need for a consistent approach to funding affordable housing across the growth areas and tackling how revenue funding in public services can better respond to growth. Other growth areas facing similar funding issues to those in MKSM including Cambridge and Ashford have now joined the group.

*Sub-Group contact:* John Walker ([tonjwalker@aol.com](mailto:tonjwalker@aol.com))

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 take the form of workshops on specific themes and they additionally provide opportunities for networking.

## 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:**

Acting Director for Thames Valley and Locality Manager for MK and Buckinghamshire:  
Nigel Welbourn ([nigel.welbourn@gose.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.welbourn@gose.gsi.gov.uk)) Tel: 01483 882402

### **Government Office for the East of England:**

Team Leader: Michael Bingham ([michael.bingham@goeast.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:michael.bingham@goeast.gsi.gov.uk)) Tel: 01223 372569

### **Government Office for the East Midlands:**

Team Leader: Giles Hughes ([giles.hughes@goem.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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

## Diary – forthcoming events

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|---------------------------|--|
| 28 <sup>th</sup> November | MKSM Inter-regional Board, 11.00am, DCLG Offices, Eland House, London.<br>Contact: Urselle Mumford on 01908 353 733<br><a href="mailto:urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk">urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk</a>  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> November | South Bedfordshire Joint Planning and Transport Committee meeting. Further information from:<br><a href="http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/contact/index.html">http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/contact/index.html</a>  |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> December  | North Northants Development Company Board meeting, 10.00am NNDC offices, Corby.<br>Contact: Heidi Mills on 01536 274979 or email:<br><a href="mailto:heidimills@nndev.co.uk">heidimills@nndev.co.uk</a>  |
| 11th December             | Growth Area Regeneration & Housing Conference, Putteridge Bury Conference Centre, University of Bedfordshire. For further information, contact Shannelle Hall, Tel: 0207 219 5049 / 01582 731882, <a href="mailto:halls@parliament.uk">halls@parliament.uk</a> |

- 12<sup>th</sup> December West Northamptonshire Development Corporation Board meeting, 1.00pm-3.00pm, Daventry Leisure Centre, Lodge Road, Daventry Saints Captains Suite. Contact: Tracey Anthony-Winter on 01604 586604 or email: [tracey.anthony-winter@wndc.org.uk](mailto:tracey.anthony-winter@wndc.org.uk).
- 20<sup>th</sup> December Renaissance Bedford Board meeting. Further information from [agendasandminutes@renaissancebedford.org.uk](mailto:agendasandminutes@renaissancebedford.org.uk)
- 8th January '07 Aylesbury Vale Advantage Board meeting, 2.00pm (to be confirmed) Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury.  
Contact: [julie.hopkins@aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk](mailto:julie.hopkins@aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk)