



Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

September 2006, issue 8

This is the 8th 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.

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MKSM Architecture and Built Environment Centre

The launch of CREATE:MKSM, the new architecture and built environment centre for MKSM is planned to take place at the British Urban Regeneration Association Annual Conference in Milton Keynes on 10/11 October at the new Jurys Inn Hotel. Further details will follow, or contact Carlton Roberts-James carlton-mksm@hotmail.co.uk

Ministerial visit to MKSM

On 11th July, Baroness Andrews attended a business lunch with the South East Midlands Chambers Alliance (SEMCA) at Woburn Safari Park. Baroness Andrews urged the business community to take an active role in influencing the growth agenda for the region. Following her speech, a panel of local representatives updated attendees on developments in their respective areas before taking part in a lively question and answer session.

Local Delivery Vehicles

Milton Keynes Partnership

Further public consultation on the Strategy for Growth for Milton Keynes began on 3rd July and will continue until 30th September. The draft Growth Strategy and more information about the consultation are available online at www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031consultation/. The MK2031 Project website is at: www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031.

The first tranche of a total of £3.75 million funding to be allocated to the voluntary and community sector from the Milton Keynes Infrastructure Tariff has been awarded. The initial payment of £965,000 has been made to the Milton Keynes Community Local Infrastructure Partnership.

Highway improvements are underway to ensure that the highway infrastructure can handle the projected increase in traffic as Milton Keynes continues to grow. Construction work started on 4th September and is expected to continue until April 2007.

Contact:

Jane Hamilton

Chief Operating Officer

Milton Keynes Partnership

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West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation recently received Treasury approval to award over £17 million of Growth Areas Funding to the 4th phase of the Northampton Brownfield Joint Initiative and Daventry town centre regeneration phase 1. The programme of improvements under the Northampton Brownfield Initiative, valued at over £55 million, will deliver additional flood alleviation works, transport improvements, 800 housing units and 8903 sq m of industrial floor space at Ransome Road, Bedford Road and South West Sixfields.

Further information about the WNDC can be found at: 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

On 8th June, the Department of Transport announced that the new East Midlands rail franchise may include Corby. All bidders were required to include the cost of serving a proposed new station at Corby as an incremental option to providing the town with an hourly direct service to London. The deadline for responses was 7th August; they will inform the Invitation to Tender, which will be given to pre-qualified bidders in Autumn 2006. The closing date for receipt of bids is February 2007 and the winner will be announced in Summer 2007.

Work on the £35 million Willow Place shopping centre in Corby began on 19 June 2006.

NNDC is holding a Business Breakfast on 12th October at Kettering Conference Centre, between 7.45am and 9.30am. This will provide an opportunity for companies from North Northamptonshire's business community to meet and learn about the regeneration and growth proposals for the area.

Further information about NNDC is available from 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' Joint Planning and Transport Committee met on 25th July.

Further information can be found at:

www.southbeds.gov.uk/your-council/committee_timetable.phtml?action=view1&id=578.

A conference focusing on the future of the Green Belt in Southern Bedfordshire will be held on 17th October. The MKSM Sub-regional Strategy identified the need to review Green Belt boundaries around Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade to provide for potential development needs to 2031. The event, organised by South Bedfordshire District Council aims to engage local stakeholders in discussions about the future purpose and function of the Green Belt.

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.

Contact:

Ian Slater

Luton Borough Council

Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ

slateri@luton.gov.uk

Tel: 01582 546 329

Aylesbury Vale Advantage

A major piece of work is being carried out which will provide a long-term context and vision for Aylesbury and its town centre over the next twenty years. The Town Centre Vision Framework project is led by Aylesbury Vale Advantage in collaboration with SEEDA, English Partnerships, Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council. *Part 1: Town centre Consultation Stakeholder Report* provides an analysis of current strategies, whilst *Part 2: Vision Framework for Aylesbury - Comparator Analysis* outlines proposals for action that could be taken forward and considered in Part 3 of the study. Links to these reports can be found at:

<http://www.aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk/index.cfm/ava/Projects.Vision>

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

Contact:

Greg Lomax

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Renaissance Bedford

Renaissance Bedford have appointed consultants to provide the first phase of a long term growth prospectus to present a clear offer and unified vision for the Bedford growth area up to 2021. An out-commuter study of railway users has been commissioned to support inward investment activity (report due in September.) The creation of the Wixams development of 4,500 houses to the south of Bedford has moved into the next phase of planning following the signing of the Section 106 agreement with the local planning authorities.

Contact:

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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 take place on 26th October at 10.30am in the offices of Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce at 599 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes. 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: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1140180>.

Following on from the success of the MKSM *Going Forward* Conference in March, arrangements are in hand for a follow-up stakeholder event to take place in May 2007. This will involve members of the former Growth Implementation Group (now operating as a virtual reference group) together with the District Councils and the private sector.

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

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 has 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. For specific enquiries on the CSR work please contact Ian Achurch at Northamptonshire County Council, iachurch@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Health and Social Care

This sub-group focuses on public health and planning for services delivery. It is also responsible for public health initiatives including workshops and the development of a planning checklist, and for work with the Housing Corporation on key worker housing requirements. The report 'Bridge to the Future' commissioned by the MKSM SHAs is available from Leasha Perkins on 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 group are developing an action plan from issues emerging from the Annual Monitoring Report, leading on the submission to Government on the Comprehensive Spending Review, and ongoing development of a transport and delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth.

Sub-Group contact: Ian Achurch (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 will be available early in October. The Social Infrastructure task and finish group is in the process of developing 'Strong Communities', a Social Infrastructure Plan for MKSM.

Sub-Group contact: Louise Johnson (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) Tel: 01483 500768

Funding

The areas of work for this group are on driving forward the potential of the strategic tariff principles and addressing the revenue needs of growth areas. A major area of current focus is 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) 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 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) Tel: 01483 882402

Government Office for the East of England:

Team Leader: Michael Bingham (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) 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) Tel: 01908 353733

Diary – forthcoming events

- 15th September South Bedfordshire Joint Planning and Transport Committee meeting, 9.30am, Council Chamber, Town Hall Luton. Further information from: <http://www.southbeds.gov.uk/contact/index.html>
- 18th September Aylesbury Vale Advantage Board meeting, 10.00am, Broughton Suite, Holiday Inn, Aston Clinton Road, Aylesbury.
Contact: wendy.reynolds@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk
- 22nd September North Northants Development Company Board meeting, 10.00am NNDC offices, Corby.
Contact: Heidi Mills on 01536 274979 or email: heidimills@nndev.co.uk
- 31st October West Northamptonshire Development Corporation Board meeting, 1.00pm-3.00pm, The Saints Captains Suite. Contact: Tracey Anthony-Winter on 01604 586604 or email: tracey.anthony-winter@wndc.org.uk.