Written Statement from Central Bedfordshire Council
Representor Number 415052

May 2012

Matter 6 The Strategic Land Allocation
Issue 6.1

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Matter 6 The Strategic Land Allocation (policy CS5)

1.1 This statement supplements the representations submitted previously throughout the preparation of the Core Strategy. It covers only the issues that we wish to comment further on under matter 6.

Issue 6.1

1) Is the proposed strategic land allocation consistent with the sustainable development of the Borough and adjoining area?

1.2.1 Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council have agreed a Statement of Common Ground (appendix1). This statement confirms that Policy CS5 provides for the next phase of Milton Keynes growth to be fully contained within Milton Keynes boundary and that Central Bedfordshire does not intend to allocate any land within Central Bedfordshire to provide for Milton Keynes growth up to 2031.

1.2.2 Central Bedfordshire is of the view that Milton Keynes should grow incrementally outwards from the existing built up area and that this is sustainable. It can do this without the need for additional allocations in Central Bedfordshire which would be unconnected and remote from the main conurbation and therefore unsustainable. The Council is undertaking preparation of a new Development Strategy which will replace the adopted Core Strategy for northern Central Bedfordshire. An early analysis of potential strategic sites for inclusion in the Strategy has discounted the area to the southeast of MK within Central Bedfordshire. It is not proposed to make any development allocations in the draft Strategy in this area when it is published in June 2012.

1.2.3 In the event that developers promote the allocation of land within Central Bedfordshire at the Milton Keynes Core Strategy examination, the Council would wish to object in principle, as it would be a matter that should be properly debated through the consultation on the Central Bedfordshire Development Strategy and Examination of that Document.

1.2.4 The South East Plan is also clear that any allocation in Central Bedfordshire should be assessed through a review of the East of England Plan (see comments under Matter 1).
This Statement of Common Ground sets out the areas of common ground and consensus between Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council on the emerging Milton Keynes Core Strategy, the Localism Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Since the adoption of the Central Bedfordshire (North) Core Strategy (November 2009) and the emerging Revised Milton Keynes Core Strategy (October 2010), Milton Keynes Council and Central Bedfordshire Council have been continuing to work together on strategic planning issues. Central Bedfordshire Council is also in the process of producing a new Development Strategy for the whole area.

The two Councils have reached agreement on the following issues:

1. Milton Keynes Core Strategy Policy CS5 provides for the next phase of Milton Keynes growth to be fully contained within Milton Keynes boundaries.
2. Central Bedfordshire Council does not intend to allocate any land within Central Bedfordshire to provide for Milton Keynes growth up to 2031.
3. Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire have been actively involved in joint working through the Cross Boundary Officer Group and the Member Reference Group; both groups were formally established in January 2005 at a local authority level to discuss cross boundary / joint working arrangements.
4. Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire are both part of the South East Midlands Local Economic Partnership set up in May 2011. SEMLEP also provides a vehicle for cross boundary working at a sub-regional level.
5. Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire continue to be committed to:
   5.1 engaging constructively, actively and on an ongoing basis in relation to plan making and the strategic issues involved.
   5.2 the preparation of joint Milton Keynes and Central Bedfordshire technical assessments if required to evaluate issues of mutual interest.