

What will the Commission actually do?

The Commission has been tasked with delivering the following outcome by July 2016

“A view of potential longer term futures for Milton Keynes, noting the need to ensure flexibility for as yet unknown possibilities; making recommendations to the Council for their consideration in development of their medium and longer term policy framework.”

This will be done over a series of Commissioner meetings, where they will think about the different factors that could affect Milton Keynes over the coming decades and the possible future scenarios that could be created when thinking about those drivers. All the Commissioners discussions will be recorded and made publicly available through this website. Similarly, all of the evidence and inputs to the Commission’s debate will be made available, and stakeholders will also have the opportunity to put forward their thoughts and views through a programme of engagement that will run alongside the Commission’s work.

What is the output from the Commission? How will it be used?

The intention is that at the end of the Commission’s work, a report will be produced that includes a series of recommendations to Milton Keynes Council, that can be used to develop future policy frameworks. We expect that there will also be an evidence base of information that will have been gathered to inform the Commission’s work, and also submissions and viewpoints from stakeholders into the debate. This, along with the record of the Commission’s discussions will also be made public and will form part of the background to the final report. All of the outputs of the Commission will be available to the Council as part of their work to develop future policies and strategies.

Why is MKC doing this?

The Commission represents an opportunity to bring in some different viewpoints about the future of Milton Keynes, and will help to re-establish MK as a project of national importance, as when the city was first designated as a New Town nearly 50 years ago in 1967. It is also hoped that the significance of the project will help to develop a framework, or a ‘deal’ with government, business and other relevant stakeholders to help us put in place the arrangements that will help deliver the vision for Milton Keynes’ future. Similarly, the recommendations of the Commission will also inform key strategies and policies for the Council, including the development of Plan:MK.

How does the Commission link up with Plan:MK?

The work of the Commission will be an input into the Plan:MK process in a similar way to the responses received from other stakeholders through the engagement process, and will form part of the evidence base moving forward with the plan. The plan-making process is iterative, so the outputs of the Commission will help to refine and improve the emerging Plan:MK vision and development strategy.

The Commission will look at the implications of what has emerged through the work already done for Plan:MK and the Vision and Development Options that will be published for consultation in November 2015, and how they might affect future thinking and scenarios worked up by the Commission. Recommendations back from the Commission can be reflected in the next stage of Plan:MK.

Some pieces of evidence will be shared between the two processes and here may be the opportunity to undertake engagement events that cover both areas of work.

How long will the project take?

The MK Futures 2050 Commission project will take place over a nine-month period following the cross-party [Council Motion](#) that was passed on 16 September 2015. The Commission's recommendations will be reported to Council in July 2016. It is quite likely that there will be recommendations from the report that might need further work or consideration, or that will have ongoing implications beyond July 2016, but the formal Commission process is intended to end at that point and any work going forward will be Milton Keynes Council's responsibility.

Who is chairing the Commission? Who are the Commissioners? How were they chosen? Are they being paid?

The Commission will be chaired by Sir Peter Gregson, who is the Vice-Chancellor at Cranfield University. Details of the other Commissioners will be included at the link below when they have been confirmed and finalised. They are drawn from a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise, to give a wide range of knowledge and viewpoints to feed into the debate. Most of the Commissioners have a strong local or regional connection, and can each bring with them perspectives and insights from their experiences and knowledge. The Commissioners are not being paid; they have agreed to commit their time to this project for free, although the Council will reimburse them for reasonable expenses.

Who else is involved?

Alongside the Commissioners, other external organisations are involved in the process as Expert Advisers. In particular, these involve Foresight Future of Cities, part of the Government Office for Science, who have been involved in similar futures work in other cities across the country. The Commission is also being supported by the Future Cities Catapult and Centre for Cities. Links to these organisations' websites can be found below.

How can I have my say?

As part of the project, there will be a programme of engagement with a full range of residents and communities from Milton Keynes and beyond, to make sure everyone has the opportunity to have their voices heard in the debate about the future of Milton Keynes.

This programme of engagement is likely to include things like public exhibitions, workshops, talks and debates; use of social media to encourage a virtual debate about the issues that the Commission is considering; and other innovative ways of engaging with different groups. As these events and opportunities are organised, we will include information about them on the website.