

FAQ on the Plan:MK Consultation Process

What is a Local Plan?

A Local Plan sets out the policies which are used to assess planning applications and identifies how land is used. It determines how much development is required and what will be built where.

Why are we having a new Local Plan?

Each local authority has to have an adopted local plan (national government policy), which needs to be reviewed regularly and has to be kept up to date to meet the development needs of the area it covers.

What period will the Plan cover?

We hope to have the plan in place by 2018 to cover development over the years up to 2031. The plan proposes that additional land East of the M1 will come forward after 2031 once decisions on the new Oxford - Cambridge Expressway are made or should we be struggling to provide enough housing elsewhere in the Borough.

Will I have a say on the Plan?

Yes, the legislation requires us to consult on the emerging Plan:MK.

How have we got to this stage?

A consultation was carried out between September and December 2014 on the scope of the new local plan through a series of Topic Papers. Vision Workshops were held in spring 2015 and a further Strategic Development Directions consultation was undertaken between January and April 2016. Since then we have been collating further evidence to inform the current document.

Are other councils doing the same?

Yes, all local authorities as well as our neighbours have developed/ are developing new Local Plans.

Cabinet meeting on 21st February 2017?

The Cabinet meeting on 21st February was asked to approve the content of Draft Plan:MK and to undertake a 12-week consultation. The Cabinet has **not** approved the allocation or development of any of the sites proposed for allocation in the plan.

Consultation

What is the process?

The consultation will open on 17th March and close on 9th June 2017. Only representations received within this period will be taken into consideration. The consultation will be advertised in the local press and other local media will be made aware. Anyone wishing to submit a response, can sign up to our Local Plan consultation database by emailing the Council at planmk@Milton-keynes.gov.uk

Notices and copies of the documents will be made available for inspection at local libraries and the Civic Offices' reception, and electronic copies are already available on the Council's website. Online:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/Plan:MK

Find your library:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries

Who can comment?

Anybody, there are no restrictions.

How can I comment?

Please use the consultation response form online or send comments to the Development Plans team by post, by email or by hand by Friday 9th June 2017. The consultation response form can be found at:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/Plan:MK

In addition hard copies will be available at the Civic Offices' reception and local libraries.

When does it start and end?

Consultation opens on 17th of March and closes on 9th June 2017.

Will there be any public events?

Yes, a number of events will be held throughout the Borough and will be advertised in due course. Details will be available on our web page by the start of the consultation:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/Plan:MK

FAQ on the Plan:MK Consultation Process

How can I ask questions about Draft Plan:MK?

Hopefully Draft Plan:MK, its supporting evidence and consultation summary will answer your questions – please take time to read them. We are also arranging consultation events about Draft Plan:MK through the consultation period.

You can also contact the Development Plans team by email, but please note that we may have a lot of queries and so it may take up to five working days before we respond:

development.plans@milton-keynes.gov.uk

What is the next stage of Plan:MK?

Following the consultation on Draft Plan:MK, council officers will review the comments and consider whether the policies and preferred sites need to be changed. Then a submission version of Plan:MK will be prepared that the Council wants to put in place for use in the Borough, and this will be made available for public comment.

This version of the plan and the comments received will be submitted to the Government for examination by an independent Planning Inspector.

The Inspector will examine the plan and comments, and organise public hearings about the plan, before issuing a report saying if the Council can adopt the plan or not.

Content of Draft Plan:MK

Do we need more housing?

Yes, the assessment of our housing land need and supply by independent consultants demonstrate that we need more housing land.

Do we need more employment land?

Yes, the assessment of our employment land supply by independent consultants, as well as market demand, demonstrates that we need more employment land and specifically large sites in strategic locations for the distribution and logistics industry.

What are the possible positive effects of Draft Plan:MK for Milton Keynes and the surrounding area?

It will help generate more jobs for local people which will support the local economy which in turn will support local retail and leisure, creating further jobs. More housing in all the key settlements of the Borough will create a wider choice and greater affordability for local residents.

Both increased employment and better housing will have a positive impact on the health and future sustainability of the Borough.

The Plan will require that 33% of new housing development is affordable. The Plan reinforces the protection of public open space and sports facilities, and requires new development to increase provision within the Borough.

How will this impact on other services and infrastructure, for example schools and health care?

As part of the development of Plan:MK, we will prepare an Local Investment Plan which will look at the infrastructure requirements resulting from the development, for example where increased school capacity will be required.

When will I start seeing development occur on sites identified in the plan?

Draft Plan:MK includes nearly 20,000 homes which already have planning permission. These sites are either already under construction or could come forward now. In terms of the new allocations, each site is different and ultimately it will be up to the owner of the land and the people who are developing it to decide when they will apply for planning permission and when they start construction.



milton keynes council