



AGREEMENT TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

MILTON KEYNES

Milton Keynes is the fastest growing UK city and is ambitious for the future. We want to make a great city greater.

Milton Keynes is known nationally and internationally as a vibrant and growing city that looks to the future with a culture of innovation and change, while seeking to maintain the things that make the city unique and special

The next twelve months will require many strategic decisions to be taken that will influence the future of Milton Keynes for generations to come.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP

Successful cities typically have strong leadership that works together to achieve the best for those they represent. The outcome of the Local Government elections on 3 May 2018 resulted in No Overall Control. However, analysis shows that the combined Labour and Liberal Democrat vote was 56%, with Labour winning the highest number of seats of the 20 up for election, and the Liberal Democrats winning 6. No single party can effectively govern Milton Keynes and address the challenges we face without working together.

We want to ensure there is a stable political environment over the next year, which will be vital to the future of the city, to effectively address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This is why the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group will work together in a formal partnership, continuing the work of the partnership agreement signed in May 2016.

PARTNERSHIP VISION

The Partnership will focus on achieving the best it can for Milton Keynes and acting in the best interests of its citizens and businesses. We will seek to build a co-operative, prosperous and inclusive Milton Keynes; a place where its people, businesses and the voluntary sector can thrive and succeed.

NATURE OF OUR PARTNERSHIP

In embarking on this Partnership we recognise that, as two politically independent parties, there is broad agreement over the policy areas that matter most to the residents, workers and businesses in Milton Keynes. This provides an excellent basis for working together collaboratively.

The Partnership is founded on the democratic principles of trust, openness and accountability with ongoing communication between the two parties.

We will work on this basis from the date of this Agreement up to the local government elections in May 2019.

To achieve this, the Liberal Democrat Group will support a Labour minority administration, with a Labour Leader of the Council. Labour Group councillors will form the Cabinet and Chair the Regeneration:MK Committee.

Liberal Democrat Group councillors will chair the following committees: Scrutiny Management, Budget and Resources, Children and Young People, Community and Housing and Audit.

At the heart of this Partnership is recognition that despite the imposed government cuts, we need to operate successfully within the current financial context and ensure we deliver a balanced budget. We will meet this challenge by providing stable, community leadership, working with our partners for a progressive Milton Keynes and transforming the way we work.

The Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group will work together to agree an updated Council Plan which will incorporate the Labour Manifesto and the Liberal Democrat manifesto, giving MK Council a mutually agreed set of priorities and improvements.

KEY PRIORITIES

We will refresh the Council Plan to set out clear priorities and deliverable policies, based on the manifestos of the two parties, and continue to implement our cooperative borough programme. This will provide a clear direction of travel for MK Council. The Council Plan will be brought to a Full Council meeting in the summer of 2018. Meanwhile, the broad areas of priority and joint working are as follows:

- A refreshed Medium Term Financial Strategy that does not deny the impact of austerity or place the financial viability of MK Council in jeopardy;
- Delivering a long-term vision for Milton Keynes and passing Plan:MK;
- Responding to the National Infrastructure Committee Report on the East-West Corridor;
- Tackling homelessness;
- Increasing truly affordable housing;
- Improving highway repairs and maintenance;
- Reducing litter and improving landscaping;
- Increasing sustainability;
- More investment in children's and adult social care
- Devolution and sustainable funding for Town and Parish Councils.

SIGNED

This agreement is signed in Milton Keynes on 14 May 2018 by:



Peter Marland
Leader of the Labour Group - for and
on behalf of the MKC Labour Group



Douglas McCall
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
- for and on behalf of the MKC Liberal
Democrat Group

Witnessed by:



Carole Mills – Chief Executive