



AGREEMENT TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

MILTON KEYNES

Milton Keynes is the fastest growing UK city and is ambitious for the future. We want to build stronger communities' and a thriving MK, with a council that delivers and demands better for the city.

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 continue the journey of making long-term strategic decisions 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 2 May 2019 resulted in No Overall Control. The combined Labour and Liberal Democrat vote was 51%. Labour are the largest party with 23 seats having gained 2 councillors. The Liberal Democrats gained 3 seats and have 15 councillors. 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 in effect since May 2016. The partnership has been mutually beneficial to the Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group, but more importantly it has allowed the council to improve services for the benefit of the people of MK.

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 2020.

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 Scrutiny Committee, Licensing and Regulatory Committees and the Standards 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 we will extend until 2022. It 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 and extend the framework until 2022. We will also 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 June 2019, with clear milestones for delivery. Meanwhile, the broad areas of priority and joint working are as follows:

- A continued prudent and well managed balanced budget;
- Action on climate change and sustainability;
- Reducing child poverty;
- Delivering a Housing Deal and agreeing a long term strategy for growth while protecting the unique character of MK;
- Continuing our work on tackling homelessness and the housing crisis;
- Improving community safety;
- Investing in the public realm and our high streets;
- More investment in children's and adult social care.
- Supporting Public Transport.

SIGNED

This agreement is signed in Milton Keynes on **10 May 2019** by:

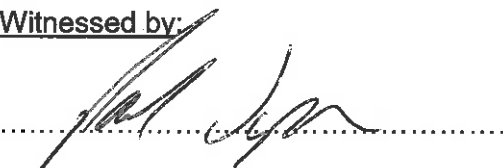


Peter Marland
Leader of the Labour Group - for and
on behalf of the MKC Labour Group



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

Witnessed by:



Paul Simpson – Deputy Chief Executive