



AGREEMENT TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP 2020

MILTON KEYNES

Milton Keynes is the fastest growing UK city and is ambitious for the future. We want to build safer, greener communities, and a thriving MK, with a council that delivers for the future of Milton Keynes.

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 COVID 19 outbreak has made the need for strong, stable and strategic leadership of place more vital than ever. The next twelve months will require recovery and action, while balancing the need to 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. Milton Keynes Council remains an authority with No Overall Control. Labour are the largest party with 23 seats The Liberal Democrats 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 recovery and return to a new normality after the Covid 19 outbreak, and for the future of the city. 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.

The Partnership has ensured that Milton Keynes Council has been in a position to adapt quickly and decisively during the Covid 19 outbreak.

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 re-arranged local government elections in May 2021.

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 Development Control Committee, and the Licensing and Regulatory Committees.

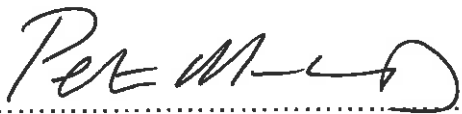
Liberal Democrat Group councillors will chair the following committees: Budget and Resources, Children and Young People, Community and Housing, Regeneration and Audit.

At the heart of this Partnership is recognition that despite the imposed government cuts and Covid 19 outbreak, we need to operate successfully within the current financial and Covid 19 recovery 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 and priorities for MK Council. It will incorporate a mutually agreed set of priorities and improvements for the next year that reflect the current circumstances and longer term shared objectives.

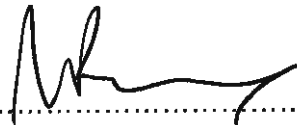
SIGNED

This agreement is signed in Milton Keynes on **01 May 2020** by:



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

Witnessed by:



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

Michael Bracey – Chief Executive