

SE SUE MK SPD progress since the last Local Stakeholder Group meeting for SE SUE MK

Transport issues

1. Plan:MK's South East MK Strategic Urban Extension site (SEMK) sits between Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill and Wavendon within the Expressway corridor. highway connectivity across the railway in this area is a key consideration, with both the Expressway and East West Rail being major factors. Highways England's intention was to consult on a route for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway (Expressway) that could directly and/or indirectly affect SEMK, and could fundamentally change the highways and transport context in the area.
2. The last LSG meeting took place in October 2019 where discussion took place on the concept plan at the time and an update was provided on the transport study. It was expected at the time that a consultation on the Oxford to Cambridge expressway were due to take place some time in October 2019 which has not yet taken place.

In March this year the Government announced "pausing further development" of the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, according to documents published alongside the Budget 2020. The Road Investment Strategy 2, which the announcement relates to, runs to 2025. A local Transport Study was commenced by MKC in 2019 to provide (amongst other things) an assessment of the options for improving connectivity across the railway in line with Plan:MK, cognisant of the growth occurring in the SEMK allocation and other transport projects that would have a bearing on movement in the area. Originally the Transport Study was to be undertaken by MKC in house. However, since it commenced the Council was approached by the East West Rail Company to discuss very similar work that they are undertaking to inform the extension of East West Rail services from Bedford to Cambridge that has implications for rail infrastructure back to Bletchley, namely level crossings. Considering the links between the EWR project and the allocated growth in South MK, the Council decided to work together informally with the East West Rail Company on these matters rather than progress this part of transport study alone.

3. We are expecting to have feasibility studies of the crossings available by September (being prepared by EWR with our input on what specification we would expect).

Evolution of a concept plan

4. Officers have sought to evolve a concept and framework based on the discussions and feedback with the Local Stakeholder Group and the land promoter/developer group, as well as feedback from MKC services on certain matters. We intend to continue this discussion with the Local Stakeholder Group outlining where we have got to on the emerging concept

and framework. The attached Concept Plans options are a working draft concept. Officers at MKC are also working on draft Framework Agreement which will establish what infrastructure is needed for the site and a mechanism for capturing planning obligations on a shared basis (similar to the Tariff arrangement already in place for previous developments in Milton Keynes).

5. Officers from MKC have also met with the group of land promoters/developers involved at SEMK over previous months to discuss the development of the SE SUE MK development framework and concept plan of the site. Participants are the representatives of L&Q, Gladman, O&H and Swan Hill Homes. Whilst they are referred to as project meetings, they are in effect liaison meetings to discuss SEMK. The developers do provide through the meetings information about site constraints. The meetings are run akin to the workshops and discussions with the Local Stakeholder Group. Two working options of the draft Concept Plan are being shared with the Local Stakeholder Group (enclosed separately) for discussion at the meeting on 22 June.