

Consultation Response to the Milton Keynes Regulation 19 City Plan to 2050

Olney Town Council Development Committee Submission

On behalf of the Olney Town Council Development Committee, we are pleased to submit our response to the current consultation on the Milton Keynes Regulation 19 City Plan to 2050. We appreciate the opportunity to engage constructively with Milton Keynes Council and contribute to shaping the future of our wider community. Our comments below focus on the main changes for Olney, as compared with the 2019 Milton Keynes Plan:MK, and reflect our commitment to ensuring sustainable development that benefits both Olney, the wider rural areas of north MK and the new City as a whole.

Overview

We recognise the considerable work that has gone into updating and creating the New City Plan, and value the intention to provide for growth while protecting the unique character of communities such as Olney. We are especially grateful for the efforts made to consult with local stakeholders throughout this process.

Main Changes Affecting Olney

1. Housing Growth and Site Allocations

The 2050 plan proposes a continued focus on housing delivery in and around Milton Keynes, with some implications for settlements like Olney. We note that Olney's housing allocation policy approach is to implement existing site allocation and any new allocations to be left to a future review of the Olney Neighbourhood Plan. This reflects both the town's investment in Neighbourhood Planning and its capacity for sustainable growth. While we support well-planned housing that meets local needs, we emphasise the importance of ensuring that new development is proportionate, in keeping with Olney's historic character, and supported by appropriate infrastructure.

2. Infrastructure and Transport

The new plan places greater emphasis on sustainable transport links and active travel. We welcome the commitment to improved bus services and cycling infrastructure connecting Olney to Milton Keynes and neighbouring villages. However, we request that any further development is matched by timely upgrades to local roads, parking provision, and pedestrian safety measures within Olney, to avoid adverse impacts on residents' quality of life.

3. Community Facilities and Services

The 2050 plan recognises the need for additional school places, health services, and community facilities as Olney grows. We are encouraged by this, and ask that Olney is prioritised for investment in primary and secondary education, GP capacity, and green spaces, in line with the increased population projections.

4. Employment and Economy

There is a welcome focus on supporting local enterprise and promoting job opportunities outside the central Milton Keynes area. We would like to see specific initiatives aimed at encouraging small business growth in Olney, along with improved digital connectivity to enable remote and flexible working for residents.

5. Environmental Sustainability

We strongly support the strengthened policies on climate resilience and biodiversity in the 2050 plan. Protecting the Ouse Valley landscape and maintaining clear boundaries between Olney and neighbouring settlements is crucial. We look forward to collaborating on measures to enhance green corridors, promote tree planting, and ensure new developments meet high environmental standards.

Summary and Ongoing Engagement

6. Summary

In summary, Olney Town Council Development Committee welcomes the overall direction of the Regulation 19 City Plan to 2050, particularly its recognition of both the need for growth and the importance of protecting the character of Olney.

We respectfully request that Milton Keynes Council continues to work closely with us as the plan is finalised, ensuring that the voices of Olney residents are heard and that the town's needs are properly addressed in implementation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute to this important consultation. We look forward to ongoing positive collaboration.

For and on behalf of the Olney Town Council Development Committee

December 2025