



Formal Objection to the MK City Plan 2050 Draft - Undue Scale of Development and Threat to Local Landscape

From [REDACTED]
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To NCP Engagement <ncp.engagement@milton-keynes.gov.uk>

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Dear Planning Policy Team,

I write as a resident of Milton Keynes and an engaged member of our community to register my strong objection to the draft MK City Plan 2050 ("the Plan"). While I appreciate the need for a planning framework to 2050, I believe the scale, pace and location of development proposed in this Plan will irrevocably alter the character of Milton Keynes and not in the way local people voted for or envisaged.

Below I set out the key reasons for my objection:

1. Scale of housing and spatial expansion is excessive

- The consultation materials indicate that the Plan proposes to accommodate upwards of around **50,400 homes** over the period 2022–2050 in Milton Keynes. [Milton Keynes City Council+3Milton Keynes Modern Gov+3Milton Keynes Modern Gov+3](#)
- That number implies very large "strategic" extensions: for example the Ref18 version speaks of c15-16k homes within the city, c13-14k as city extensions, plus windfall and existing commitments. [Milton Keynes Modern Gov](#)
- Such a rate of growth will dramatically increase population, housing density and pressure on infrastructure, far beyond what many local people anticipated or voted for. Even local Parish Councils and neighbourhood communities are expressing alarm that vast swathes of rural land are being put forward for development with limited clarity about the consequences for local services, traffic and landscape. [HcLLParishCouncil+1](#)

2. Landscape, rural character and open space will be severely compromised

- Milton Keynes has long been valued for its unique blend of urban and rural: planned districts, substantial green space, the "grid" road system and redway network, and a feeling of openness compared to more densely built-up towns. The Plan's proposals for large extensions (eastern strategic city extension; south of Bow Brickhill; etc) risk engulfing countryside, eroding green fields and cutting into existing villages and rural hinterland. (See maps in the draft documents). If the landscape is changed irrevocably, we risk losing the very features that give Milton Keynes its identity, which is both unfair to current residents and to future generations.

3. Infrastructure, services and community capacity are under-strain

- Growth of this magnitude demands robust, upfront investment in infrastructure: schools, health services, public transport, roads, utilities. The Plan does state infrastructure "first" is the aim. But the devil is in the detail: many local stakeholders remain unconvinced that infrastructure delivery will keep pace with the proposed build-rate, especially on the edges, where new development is often delivered ahead of fully matured community services. Traffic, parking, water supply, sewage, primary health – these are already stretched in many parts of Milton Keynes. Adding huge new developments risks exacerbating congestion, pollution and degradation of local amenities.

4. Democratic legitimacy and local consent concerns

- It appears that the scale of change proposed was not something that many individual residents voted for. The consultation is being carried out, but by the time significant decisions are made the changes may be locked in. The draft Plan emphasises the need for evidence and consultation but the complexity

of documents, the timescales and the technical nature mean many residents may feel unable to fully engage with or challenge the proposals. If a city expands on this scale without genuine and breadth of local support, we risk undermining trust in the planning system and community cohesion.

5. Alternatives and more sustainable growth need far greater weight

- The Plan sets out a vision of ambitious growth and high-quality sustainable growth but I believe the emphasis should shift: more brown-field rather than green-field; densification and regeneration of existing urban fabric rather than large scale sprawl; protecting existing open space and villages; incrementally upgrading infrastructure ahead of mass growth. The community deserves more transparent, robust analysis of alternatives (including the scenario of lesser growth, slower build-out, stronger infrastructure phasing) and stronger safeguards to protect what we hold dear.

In summary

By proceeding with the scale, pace and spatial assumptions in this draft Plan, Milton Keynes stands to be transformed in a way that many of us did not vote for nor is it what we want. The Plan has the potential to erode our green spaces, weaken local communities and leave infrastructure and services lagging behind. I therefore ask the Council to revise the Plan significantly so that it:

- reduces the total number of new homes to a more defensible and community-rate figure;
- gives priority to urban regeneration and brownfield redevelopment over peripheral expansion;
- tightens phasing and delivers infrastructure *before* or in tandem with development;
- commits to strong protections for rural landscape, open spaces and villages;
- ensures full and accessible engagement with all residents, and honours the voice of local communities in shaping the growth of their areas.

I look forward to receiving an acknowledgement of this objection, details of how it will be taken into account, and to the opportunity to comment further as the Plan proceeds.

Yours sincerely
Marie O'Neill

