

Jack Pope

From: Hilary Chipping [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 February 2026 12:09
To: NCP Engagement
Cc: Simon Clewlow; Beryl Bennett; Alexe Rose
Subject: Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 Regulation 19 Consultation

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I am responding, on behalf of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, to the extended period of consultation on the Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 Regulation 19 Consultation, which ends on 16th February 2026.

Thank you very much for inviting the Trust to respond. Please note that I have recently taken over from Simon Clewlow as Chair of the B&MK Waterway Trust. However, Simon continues to play a leading role as Project Director and Technical Adviser.

The Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Park will establish a new green/blue multifunctional parkland corridor along which the ultimate aim is to create a waterway linking the Grand Union Canal at Milton Keynes with the River Great Ouse in Bedford. It will enhance opportunities for flood risk management in the upper Ouse catchment area and for water transfer from the distribution network in the west to the drier areas of East Anglia. It will also provide the opportunity to close a small but very significant gap in the UK waterway network.

The Waterway Park will build on the achievements of the Marston Vale Community Forest in regenerating parts of the corridor and creating new habitats between Milton Keynes and Bedford. As with the Forest, the Waterway Park will be deliverable in parts in combination with appropriate environmental management plans. It will set the context for, and embed new natural capital into expanding communities thereby contributing towards the Government's commitment to its biodiversity as well as health and wellbeing targets.

The Trust welcomes the reference to the Waterway in **policy GS10 Movement and Access** on page 48 of the Plan as follows:

'G. To aid delivery of the Bedford to Milton Keynes Waterway Park, development proposals within and immediately adjacent to the proposed canal route should not compromise its delivery.'

We also note that in the Milton Keynes Integrated Water Management Study, prepared by JBA Consulting for MK City Council in 2024, it is suggested (in section 2.4.3) that 'collaboration with the B&MK Waterways Trust to implement blue and green infrastructure could be beneficial'.

The Trust welcomes the opportunity to continue to work with officers and Councillors of Milton Keynes City Council and local authorities along the route of the waterway, together with other bodies, such as the Environment Agency and the water industry, to enable the delivery of the B&MK Waterway with all its associated benefits for economic development, water management and water transfer.

Kind regards

Hilary

Hilary Chipping
Chair, Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust

