

Representor ID: RCRP-051

UI Representor ID: 842

UI Representation ID: 897

Representor Name: Will Cousins

Representor Organisation: Pooleyville

Policy: Policy CMK1		
Legal Compliant:	Soundness Compliant:	Duty to Cooperate Compliant:
Yes	Yes	Yes
Paragraph		
Compliance Comment		
Modification Comment		
Appear at examination?	No	
Appear at examination reason?		

Regulation 19 Representation

Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 (MKCP 2050)

Submitted by: Pooleyville

Date: 16th February 2026

1. Summary

This representation supports the overall direction of the MK City Plan 2050 (MKCP 2050) and suggests refinements to strengthen the way the Plan enables innovation-led growth, higher education and knowledge-intensive development in Central Milton Keynes (CMK). The aim is to ensure that the Plan's policy framework fully enables the strategic economic, social and spatial priorities already described in the draft without prejudging delivery models.

2. Strategic Context

The draft MK City Plan 2050 recognises that Central Milton Keynes plays a central role in accommodating future growth, jobs and facilities, including a range of mixed-use development, innovation, and new higher education provision. It highlights the need for a tech and innovation quarter as a home for innovation and higher education in the city centre. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))

This representation supports the Plan's ambition and suggests modest enhancements to policy wording to ensure that the Local Plan consistently enables innovation and education-anchored development as strategic growth uses.

3. Representation by Policy Area

Policy CMK1 – Central Milton Keynes Development Framework Area

The draft Plan explicitly supports development in Central Milton Keynes for a wide range of uses, including higher education facilities and innovation-linked jobs and floorspace. It states that development will be supported for:

- additional jobs and office floorspace;
- development of higher education facilities;
- mixed uses including leisure, cultural and community services; and
- improved public realm and transport connections. ([milton-keynes.moderngov.co.uk](#))

Representation:

To reinforce the strategic role of CMK as a location for knowledge-intensive development, we suggest that Policy CMK1 is read and applied in a way that explicitly recognises:

- Higher education provision as a key component of strategic city-centre development (not only standalone campus uses), and
- Innovation-related employment and research activity as part of the mix of uses supported by the policy.

This will ensure that the policy's implementation supports proposals that co-locate learning, research, innovation and related economic activities — contributing to a vibrant, high-value city centre.

Policy on Employment, Innovation and Knowledge Economy (Spatial Strategy and Economy Policies)

The MKCP 2050's spatial strategy confirms the city's role as an economic powerhouse with projected jobs growth and the need for high quality employment space in the city centre. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))

Representation:

The Plan should ensure that employment and innovation policies explicitly enable:

- Research and development uses, including labs, applied research space and research-linked workplaces;
- Flexible mixed-use buildings that can accommodate learning, enterprise, innovation and knowledge-intensive businesses in Central Milton Keynes and other strategic locations.

Explicit recognition of innovation-linked uses within employment policies would align with the Plan's economic objectives and help unlock investment opportunities.

Policy on Education, Skills and Community Infrastructure

The draft plan emphasises the need for a wide range of infrastructure to support growth, including schools and community facilities, and mentions plans for a university in CMK. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))

Representation:

We support and encourage the Plan's approach to strategic education and skills infrastructure. In addition, we suggest that the Plan makes it clear that:

- Advanced learning, higher education and research facilities are recognised as key components of educational infrastructure that support local and regional economic objectives;

- Such facilities should be considered appropriate in town-centre mixed-use contexts, particularly where they deliver jobs, skills, innovation and community benefits.

Town Centre and Mixed-Use Policies

The draft Plan promotes CMK and the city centre as a place for a diverse mix of uses, including retail, leisure, housing, and employment. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))

Representation:

Town centre policies should be read to support proposals that:

- Integrate education, research, innovation and enterprise uses into mixed-use developments;
- Recognise that such integration can support the vitality and viability of the city centre, particularly outside traditional retail roles;
- Support a range of facilities that contribute to a 24/7 city life, including learners, students, researchers and workers.

This clearly aligns with national policy for town centres and high streets and supports sustainable economic diversification.

Design, Place-Making and Sustainability Policies

The draft Plan emphasises high-quality design, sustainability and movement, including active travel and public transport connections across the city. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))

Representation:

We support these objectives and suggest that:

- Policies should encourage place-making approaches that integrate built environment, public realm and innovation-linked uses;
- Sustainable transport and mobility improvements should be recognised as enablers of knowledge-intensive activity and cross-sector collaboration in Central Milton Keynes.

This reinforces the Plan's high-quality growth ambitions.

4. Rationale for the Representation

The representations above are based on the following strategic rationale:

- The Plan already identifies CMK as a key location for innovation, higher education and economic growth. ([Milton Keynes City Council](#))
- National planning policy supports local plans enabling sustainable economic growth, innovation and mixed-use development in sustainable accessible locations.
- Explicitly reading policies to enable innovation and education integration will help deliver high-value jobs, skills opportunities and economic resilience in Milton Keynes over the Plan period.

No changes are suggested to the plan's spatial strategy or land-allocations, only to clarify that innovation-linked research, skills and higher education uses are fully enabled as part of the city centre's development.

5. Summary of Requested Outcomes

- Policies should explicitly recognise higher education and research-linked uses as strategic and appropriate in Central Milton Keynes mixed-use development.
- Innovation, research and knowledge economy activities should be enabled by employment and economy policies within CMK and defined strategic areas.
- Design, sustainability and mobility policies should support the integration of these uses with broader regeneration and public realm ambitions.

Conclusion

This representation supports the vision and direction of the draft MK City Plan 2050. It seeks modest refinements to ensure the policy framework is sufficiently enabling to support future strategic opportunities for innovation-led growth and knowledge-intensive development in Central Milton Keynes, consistent with the Plan's overall objectives.

