

**Buckinghamshire Environmental Forum**  
**Report by Senior Heritage Officer, Milton Keynes, March 2007**

## **Introduction**

The Growth Agenda for the Milton Keynes and South Midlands region is already having an effect and stretching existing resources. As a result Milton Keynes Council (MKC) is working closely with a number of heritage partners including Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) to meet current and future needs. A draft heritage plan for Milton Keynes has been identified to ensure demand is met and this will be taken forward in 2007-08 in the following ways:

### **1. Renegotiation of the SLA with Buckinghamshire County Council**

MKC and BCC are discussing how the SLA for archive and museum services should be delivered and what it should deliver over the next three years to meet identified gaps in provision. Education, Exhibition and collections care have all been identified for upgrading and an additional amount for archaeological collections has been agreed. It has been recognised that MKC requires the ability to purchase collection material as and when it becomes available and BCC will assist in this through the revised SLA.

### **2. Increased capacity of MK Museum**

MKC (and BCC) are working with MK Museum to help deliver its site and organisational development plan which will see improved curatorial, storage, exhibition and display provision on the site and also improved capacity, professional expertise and staffing to go with this. This will ensure MK Museum can deliver the future needs for Milton Keynes as its city museum.

### **3. New Archive and Resources Centre**

Work is already underway with BCC and partners to identify a new archive resource for Milton Keynes to improve local access, storage and associated services. Feasibility work is being done on a site at Bletchley Park to complement its development and ensure heritage provision is centred on key sites in Milton Keynes. A lottery bid for three-year development for community and digital archives is awaiting a decision in June 2007.

### **4. Increased capacity of the MK Heritage Association**

This organisation is leading on the proposed central Heritage Showcase project and money has been secured for a three year pilot to trial its development. The MKHA will also receive capacity building monies for its organisation as part of the deal to enable it to develop itself into an organisation that can deliver the heritage needs of all communities in Milton Keynes.

### **5. Collections Audit**

Money has been secured to initiate a report into the state, scope and location of Milton Keynes collection material as a starting point to establishing proper collection care. It will assist developments of shared storage, skills and advice and more importantly form the basis for developing an **overall collections strategy** for the city, allowing for rationalisation amongst organisations collecting policies to ensure gaps in collecting are addressed.

### **6. Heritage Strategy**

New resources have been identified from Growth Funds for increased heritage provision. Towards the middle of the year a series of consultation days with partners will begin the process of working towards a heritage strategy. A working group will come forward to revise and add to the current draft heritage action plan and oversee the development of a 5 year strategy for the city to set priorities and to ensure heritage has the resources to deliver on requirements.

For a copy of the draft heritage action plan or for further information please contact:

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