

Report for:	Formal Shadow Executive
Meeting Date:	10 March 2020

Title of Report:	MK Strategy for 2050 consultation
Shadow Portfolio Holder	Martin Tett
Responsible Officer	Ian Thompson
Report Author Officer Contact:	Sally Ovens, Claire Britton
Recommendations:	That the Shadow Executive submits a response to the Milton Keynes Strategy 2050 on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council as set out in Appendix 1.
Corporate Implications:	No direct financial implications.

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides a short summary of the MK Strategy for 2050, highlighting the key points of relevance for Buckinghamshire.

2. Content of Report

Background

- 2.1 In July 2016, the MK Futures 2050 Commission published its report 'Making a Great City Greater'. The report, unanimously supported by Milton Keynes Council, included a recommendation to prepare a Strategy for 2050 which would take a long term view of the future of the city.
- 2.2 MK Futures have now published their engagement draft of the Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050 and they are requesting feedback from residents and stakeholders. The consultation closing date is Friday 17th April 2020.
- 2.3 The recommended growth strategy set out in this document for 2050 has been prepared on a 'boundary blind' basis, as a sustainable pattern of growth, which in some cases includes recommendations for areas outside of Milton Keynes Council's control. However the document does state that through the plan-making process, it will be for the individual local planning authorities across the Metropolitan Milton Keynes area to consider the spatial framework and policy directions set out in this Strategy, and where appropriate adopt them into statutory planning policy.
- 2.4 There are a number of working papers and evidence base documents sat behind the Strategy 2050, which includes the David Lock Associates (DLA) Strategic Growth

Study. DLA were tasked with providing research and evidence-led solutions irrespective of administrative boundaries; to look at sustainable directions of the future growth of 'Metropolitan MK'.

- 2.5 Significant growth is proposed to the south west of MK and at Winslow and the strategy proposes a Mass Rapid Transit system at an overall cost of £1.1bn.

Proposed response

- 2.6 A clear position has been set by BCC and AVDC as part of a joint communications message which states that the strategy is not one they will be supporting.
- 2.7 It is recommended that the Shadow Executive endorses that position. A proposed response for the Shadow Executive setting out key issues and concerns is set out at Appendix 1. This includes the following points:

- Concerns regarding identified options for housing growth within Buckinghamshire's border.
- Issues with MK's approach to Duty to Cooperate including lack of engagement and cross border discussion with neighbouring authorities with regards to the evidence base outcomes and their influence on the draft strategy.
- It will be for the new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire to produce and draw on evidence to inform the patterns and nature of future housing and economic growth across the county, alongside the emerging role of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board.
- Clarification required on the status of the Strategy if adopted by MK Council
- Concerns regarding the cost and deliverability of the proposed Mass Rapid Transit network.
- Concerns related to outcomes of the Growth Options Assessment report

- 2.8 By providing a response to the MK Strategy for 2050, this will set out a clear position on behalf of the new Buckinghamshire Council in terms of the future strategy work of MK Council.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 No financial implications identified.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 All the functions of the county and district councils transfer and vest in Buckinghamshire Council from 1 April 2020 and therefore it will be the responsibility of the new authority to take a position on future growth proposals set out by MK Council and future engagement on the issues outlined above.

5. Other Key Risks

- 5.1 Whilst the engagement on the Strategy for 2050 will not form part of a statutory Regulation 18 consultation for the purposes of plan-making, it will inform the review of Plan:MK and the comments received will be used by MK Council's Development Plans

Team in beginning to draw up the new Local Plan for a full Regulation 18 consultation at a later date.

6. Dependencies

6.1 Links with the work of the Planning, Growth and Sustainability Board.

7. Consultation

7.1 The MK Strategy for 2050 engagement period as mentioned in point 2 above, runs until 17th April 2020.

8. Communications Plan

8.1 AVDC and BCC have already publically set out their councils' positions as part of an agreed statement in January 2020. The Shadow Executive's response would also be published on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

9. Equalities Implications

Not applicable.

10. Data Implications

10.1 Not applicable.

11. Next Steps

11.1 Subject to agreement of the Shadow Executive, the response will be submitted to the Leader of MK Council, with copies to the relevant MPs.

Background Papers	None.
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