



GOVERNMENT OFFICES FOR THE
SOUTH EAST
EAST MIDLANDS
EAST OF ENGLAND

Milton Keynes & South Midlands Growth area e-bulletin

October 2005, issue 3

This is the third in a regular series of updates to keep key partners and stakeholders in touch with news, initiatives and developments across the Milton Keynes and South Midlands growth area. It is produced by the Government Offices for the South East, East Midlands and East of England. Editions of the e-bulletin are archived at <http://www.gose.gov.uk/gose/ourRegion/growthAreas/mksmGrowth/?a=42496>

If you have any questions or comments about this update, or any potential contributions for the next edition, please contact Urselle Mumford, email umumford.gose@go-regions.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 01908 353733.

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ODPM Growth Areas Funding (Round 2)

Expressions of interest for Government funding to support delivery have been assessed by ODPM and decisions made on which bids are to be taken forward to the next stage. In the MKSM growth area, 23 projects have been invited to submit full bids. These must be submitted by November with final decisions about which projects will receive funding being made early in 2006. Details of successful expressions of interest can be found at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2005_0176.

Education and Skills project

The ODPM-funded research project undertaken by consultants Experian to identify the future learning and skills needs and priorities for the MKSM growth area has been completed. An executive summary of the report on the findings of the exercise can be found at www.lsc.gov.uk/mkob. In addition to the report, a spreadsheet-based predictive model has been developed to help partners to develop their own scenarios and assist in assessing future demand for education and training in the growth area. The modelling tool was demonstrated to partners engaged in education and training at a workshop on 11th October. These partners will pilot using the model and feed their findings back to the Economy, Learning and Skills Sub-Group. The modelling work will contribute towards development of a skills framework strategy for MKSM. Contact: Mark Sloan (mark.sloan@gose.gsi.gov.uk.) Tel: 01483 884843.

Green Infrastructure Event

On 23rd September the River Nene Regional Park Initiative and the Environment Agency, supported by the MKSM Environment and Quality of Life (EQOL) Sub-Group hosted a Green Infrastructure event in Northampton. Entitled 'Mind the Gap', the event was held to promote the MKSM Green Infrastructure Guide 'Planning Sustainable Communities' and to launch the Northamptonshire Green Infrastructure project.

The event was well-received, attracting senior management and practitioners from local authorities, government and non-government organisations and environmental trusts as well as developers and consultants. The day provided a forum for guiding and informing the practical delivery and outputs of the GI process for the growth area, centring on exemplary projects defining and delivering green space initiatives. Copies of the Green Infrastructure Guide are available from: Bethan Eggboro (bethan.eggboro@environment-agency.gov.uk) Tel: 0115 8462625. For more information about the Northamptonshire GI project, contact: RNRP Initiative, c/o Sustainability, P.O. Box No. 163, County Hall, Northampton, NN11 1AX. RNRP@northamptonshire.gov.uk. Tel: 01604 237648.

Architecture and Built Environment Centre

The Commission for the Built Environment (CABE) has been working with the Government Offices to establish a dedicated Centre for the MKSM growth area. A key early objective has been to establish a Board and appoint a Chair. A recruitment advertisement was placed in 'The Guardian' and in 'Regeneration and Renewal' magazine in September and interviews are taking place on 25th October. Recruitment of executive staff will then follow. *Contact:* Tim Higginson (tim.higginson@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353944.

Local Delivery Vehicles

Milton Keynes Partnership

Following the first phase of public consultation on the long term sustainable growth plan in July, draft Directions Papers setting out the options for spatial growth have been prepared. They are available from the MK Partnership website:

www.mkweb.co.uk/mkpartnership. There is also a dedicated '2031' section on the Partnership website:

www.mkweb.co.uk/mk2031 which includes editions of the mk2031 newsletter. The Feedback Report from the first stage of Community Engagement will be published at the end of October. Six options on how and where Milton

Keynes could grow will be short-listed when the Milton Keynes Partnership Committee meets on 3rd November 2005. The next phase of consultation will begin with an exhibition of the options on 7th November, closing early in 2006.

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Tel: 01908 353628

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation

The first Chief Executive for the Development Corporation, Mike Hayes, took up post on 12th September, and the first Director of Planning has just been recruited. The Development Corporation is currently drawing up the first draft of its strategic regeneration framework which will outline the vision and future aspirations for the area over the next ten to twenty years. The DC plan to put this

North Northamptonshire Together

The first North Northants Together Business Plan sets out the aims and objectives of the Local Delivery Vehicle and its key priorities and actions for 2005/06. It also identifies major investment priorities looking ahead to the following two years up to 2007/08. It is available from www.nntogether.co.uk. The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee, established in July, met on 13th October to consider Preferred Options for the North Northamptonshire

Luton/Dunstable/Houghton Regis & Leighton Linlade

The ODPM and EEDA are funding a study to look at interim LDV arrangements which would provide additional delivery capacity, without prejudicing decisions on the future form of the LDV, once more is known about the location and timing of growth. The study is expected to report in November. In the meantime, the relevant local authorities have been taking forward a programme of joint working, and a statutory joint planning and transport committee is expected to be established

Aylesbury Vale Advantage

Aylesbury Vale Advantage (AVA) is a company limited by guarantee, funded initially by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and consisting of 5 key partners: Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks County Council, SEEDA, PCT and English Partnerships. The next meeting of the Board will take place on 3rd November.

document out for public consultation before the end of the year, with a launch provisionally arranged for 6th December.

Contact:

Roger Mendonca
P.O. Box 355
Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road
Northampton NN5 5WW
<mailto:roger.mendonca@wnudcorg.uk>
Tel: 01604 586605

Spatial Strategy. The Preferred Options consultation period will start in early November and run for a minimum of six weeks.

Contact:

Martin Hammond
Interim Chief Executive
North Northamptonshire Together
SATRA House, Rockingham Road
Kettering, Northants NN16 9JH
info@thenp.org.uk
Tel: 01536 414645

during the Autumn. Bijon Bhowmick has also recently been recruited by the local authorities to help co-ordinate the joint planning work.

Contact:

Ian Slater
Luton Borough Council
Town Hall
George Street
Luton LU1 2BQ
slateri@luton.gov.uk
Tel: 01582 546 329

Further information is available at www.aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk.

Contact:

Tracey Aldworth
Aylesbury Vale D.C.
Exchange Street
Aylesbury, HP20 1UB
taldworth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
Tel: 01296 585896

Renaissance Bedford

Renaissance Bedford is an informal partnership of local stakeholders working together to re-invigorate and renew the town of Bedford and surrounding district through growth. Richard Arthur (Chairman) and Chris Watts (Executive Director) are starting the recruitment process for the appointment of the first members of a delivery team to co-ordinate and support the work of local partners to deliver growth in the Bedford area. Renaissance Bedford held their most recent board meeting on 28th September at which a draft business plan and project profiles were presented. The draft business plan sets out a number of key

priorities for the Partnership, including co-ordination of the Growth Area Funding applications, addressing project and programme deficits, reviewing infrastructure needs, and developing growth and delivery plans.

Contact:

Chris Watts
Executive Director
Renaissance Bedford
Salamander House
2-10 St John's Street
Bedford MK42 0DH
cwatts@renaissancebedford.org.uk
Tel: 01234 267422

Strategic groups supporting delivery

Inter-regional Board

Chaired by an ODPM Minister, the Inter-regional Board brings together local authority leaders, senior management from Government agencies and other key stakeholders in the Growth Area. The most recent meeting of the Board took place on 4th October in Aylesbury, chaired by ODPM Minister for Housing and Planning, Yvette Cooper. Meetings are open to the public, who may submit questions. Further information about tabling questions, and minutes from previous Board meetings can be found at: http://www.odpm.gov.uk/stellent/groups/odpm_control/documents/contentservertemplate/odpm_index.hcst?n=7069&l=2.

Growth Implementation Group

The GIG is a partnership grouping that shadows the Inter-regional Board and co-ordinates the detailed thematic work being undertaken in the growth areas by the sub-groups and others.

Sub-Groups

Health and Social Care

This sub-group focuses on public health and planning for service delivery.

Sub-Group contact: Dawn Bason: (dawn.bason@northantsheartlandspct.nhs.uk)

Tel: 01536 494258

Transport and Planning

Key activities for this sub-group are facilitating joint working on the Local Transport Plans for the growth area and developing a delivery programme for transport and sustainable growth.

Sub-Group contact: Ian Achurch : (iachurch@northamptonshire.gov.uk). Tel: 01604 236057

Environment and Quality of Life

The group encompasses environmental issues, community safety and cultural dimensions.

Sub-Group contact: Louise Johnson (louise.johnson@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Tel: 0115 8462619

Education and Skills

This sub-group is in the process of being re-aligned to focus more closely on economic considerations in addition to addressing learning and skills issues in the growth area.

Sub-Group contact: Mark Sloan (mark.sloan@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01483 884843

Funding

The current focus for the Funding sub-group is on strategic tariff negotiations and revenue issues.

Sub-Group contact: John Walker (tonjwalker@aol.com) Tel: 01908 234348

In addition to these groups, there is also a **Local Delivery Vehicle Reference Group** to facilitate interaction and help MKSM LDVs shape a common strategic agenda for the growth area. Meetings of this group will take the form of workshops or seminars on specific themes and they additionally provide opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing.

Contact: Urselle Mumford (urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353 733

Government Office contacts

Each of the three Government Offices in the growth area takes a locality lead on MKSM for those parts of the sub-region that lie within its boundary. *Contacts:*

Government Office for the South East:

Nigel Welbourn (nigel.welbourn@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01483 882402

Government Office for the East of England:

Dearbhla Lawson (dearbhla.lawson@goeast.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01223 372749

Government Office for the East Midlands:

Giles Hughes (giles.hughes@goem.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 0115 9714733

In addition, a Government Office team based within the growth area deals with strategic MKSM-wide issues and promotes development of partnerships to support delivery, including acting as secretariat to the IRB and GIG.

Contacts: Tim Higginson (tim.higginson@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353944

Urselle Mumford (urselle.mumford@gose.gsi.gov.uk) Tel: 01908 353733

Diary – forthcoming events

- 21st October - North Northants Together Board meeting
Further details available from www.nntogether.co.uk
- 3rd November - Aylesbury Vale Board meeting
Contact: Liz Clowe (liz.clowe@aylesburyvaleadvantage.co.uk)
- Milton Keynes Partnership Committee meeting. Further details available from www.mkweb.co.uk/mkpartnership
- 18th November - North Northamptonshire Summit
Further information available from Jenny Smith (jennysmith@nntogether.co.uk)