

**DRAFT SOUTH-EAST PLAN EXAMINATION IN PUBLIC**

**STATEMENT BY CPRE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE: PARTICIPANT 7625**

**SUB-MATTER 8Fii: MILTON KEYNES**

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**8Fii.2 To what extent should the RSS incorporate the findings of the Strategy for Growth to 2031 by the Milton Keynes Partnership, including the implied housing apportionment by district post 2016 (Policy MKAV1)?**

1. We have major reservations about the Strategy for Growth in its present form being incorporated into the RSS.
2. It is clear from the studies carried out on behalf of the Buckinghamshire authorities covering the MK urban capacity for housing development<sup>1</sup> and the methodology used to develop the Strategy<sup>2</sup> that the Strategy is open to an unacceptably high degree of challenge. Since development on greenfield land is irrevocable, there needs to be a much greater consensus about the robustness of the MK Partnership's strategic planning processes before district housing allocations are finalised in the RSS.
3. CPRE Buckinghamshire find the analysis in the Buchanan study persuasive. In saying this, we do not express a view as to whether urban expansion across the M1 into Bedfordshire is a desirable solution. Rather, we note
  - (a) that urban development already crosses the M1 within the Milton Keynes Council area – at Newport Pagnell; and
  - (b) the importance of appraising all spatial development options on an equal and consistent basis.
4. In whichever direction urban expansion is finally agreed, it is essential that protective land use designations are introduced into the RSS so that green open spaces (in effect min-Green Belts) are maintained between the Milton Keynes city area and the surrounding villages to avoid coalescence.

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<sup>1</sup> Document Ay23 (MK2031- Review of Urban Potential/ Urban Capacity Studies – David Roy for Aylesbury Vale District Council)

<sup>2</sup> Document Ay24 (MK2031 – Long Term Growth Strategy Review – Colin Buchanan & Partners for Buckinghamshire County Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council)