

Delegated Decisions - 26 September 2023

## **DRAFT BRUNEL CENTRE, BLETCHLEY DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

Name of Cabinet Member	<b>Councillor Peter Marland</b> (Leader of the Council)
Report sponsor	<b>Paul Thomas</b> Director of Planning and Placemaking
Report author	<b>David Blandamer</b> Senior Urban Designer <a href="mailto:david.blandamer@milton-keynes.gov.uk">david.blandamer@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> Tel: 01908 254836

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>High quality placemaking</b>
Wards affected	<b>Bletchley Park</b>

### Executive summary

This report seeks authority to undertake formal consultation on the Draft Brunel Centre Development Brief (see Annex A) for a 6-week period during October - November 2023.

The Brunel Centre has been acquired by Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) and the former Sainsbury's store has been acquired by us. In line with the adopted protocol for the preparation of development briefs, we are required to undertake consultation on a draft document.

### Proposed Decision

- 1.1 That the draft Development Brief be approved for a 6-week formal consultation period.
2. Why is the decision needed / Background
  - 2.1 Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) has purchased the Brunel Centre and we have purchased the former Sainsbury's store in Central Bletchley. As part of the development of their sites, MKDP is required to have development briefs prepared and approved by us. Engagement with local stakeholders is an essential part of the process and we will ensure that we consult with the Town Deal Advisory Group.

2.2 We are seeking to deliver transformational regeneration of Central Bletchley. The Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) proposes redevelopment of the site which will enable the reconnection of Queensway to Buckingham Road. It identifies the site as being suitable for a range of town centre uses. The development brief has been prepared in accordance with Plan:MK, the SPD and national planning policy. It will also deliver on action C9 of the Council Plan Delivery Plan 2023/24 which seeks to “bring forward a Development Brief for Bletchley town centre (development site) by March 2024.”

**3. Implications of the decision**

Financial	No	Human rights, equalities, diversity	No
Legal	No	Policies or Council Plan	Yes
Communication	Yes	Procurement	No
Energy Efficiency	No	Workforce	No

**a) Financial implications**

Preparation of the brief and the consultation process is being funded by MKDP.

**b) Legal implications**

Development Briefs adopted by us help to inform developers and other interested parties of the opportunities and restrictions of a site in planning terms. While it is possible to adopt a development brief as a supplementary planning document (“SPD”), it is not proposed that the Development Brief is adopted as an SPD in this instance. As such, it is not necessary to examine whether or not the document meets the legal requirements for SPDs. As a result, it is likely very limited weight could be afforded to the Development Brief when considering any related planning applications.

In the light of this advice, there is no real identifiable risk to us should we take the recommended action.

**c) Other implications**

None.

**4. Alternatives**

4.1 The “do nothing” option is to not undertake formal consultation on the draft Development Brief. This would mean the Development Brief does not comply with the adopted protocol for preparing Development Briefs.

4.2 The preferred option is to gain authorisation to undertake a period of formal consultation so that the draft Development Brief can be made publicly available for stakeholders and the local community to comment on, with a view to preparing a final Development Brief that reflects, where appropriate, stakeholder and community comments.

## 5. Timetable for implementation

- 5.1 The consultation will take place for a 6-week period during October - November 2023.
  - 5.2 Following consideration of representations received during the consultation period, adoption of the Development Brief in February 2024.
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### List of annexes

Annex A – Draft Brunel Centre Development Brief

### List of background papers

Plan:MK (adopted 2019):

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/developingmk/planmk>

Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework Supplementary Planning Document (adopted 2022): <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/central-bletchley-urban-design-framework-spd>