

Briefing Note



Milton Keynes New City Plan Evidence Update Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA)

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Purpose

This item introduces the emerging outputs from the draft Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) study, which is a key piece of evidence for the New City Plan.

Background

We have appointed Opinion Research Services (ORS) and Hardisty Jones Associates (HJA) to jointly prepare the Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA). The study provides evidence about the need for housing (both market and affordable) and employment over the period 2022-2050.

Prior to the appointment of the consultants, Members of the Planning CAG and the Housing Task and Finish Group were invited to comment on the draft HEDNA brief in February 2022, and the brief was amended in response to feedback received.

We have now received a full draft of the HEDNA report (Annex 1). Recognising the length and complexity of this, the key findings will be presented by the consultancy team during the meeting. Therefore, there is no expectation for Members to have read the draft report before the meeting. There will be separate presentations on housing and employment need, and each of these will be followed by questions and discussion. The presentations are attached at Annex 2. Following the meeting, we would welcome written comments on the draft report from Members by 10 February.

Introducing the HEDNA

The first section of the HEDNA sets out the existing local context:

- chapter 1 summarises the relevant policy background;

- chapter 2 provides an overview of the area;
- chapter 3 sets out the current socio-economic and market context; and
- chapter 4 summarises the feedback from stakeholder engagement.

The second section of the report sets out the Local Housing Needs Assessment:

- chapter 5 reviews the evidence for overall housing need;
- chapter 6 establishes the need for affordable housing; and
- chapter 7 considers the housing needs of different groups.

The final section of the report sets out the Economic Development Needs Assessment:

- chapter 8 provides a range of future economic forecasts and scenarios;
- chapter 9 reviews the demand for employment sites and premises; and
- chapter 10 establishes the need for employment land.

SEMLEP Warehousing and Logistics Study

A recent study commissioned by the South East Midlands Local Economic Partnership (SEMLEP), which considers the future demand for strategic logistics premises, provides important context for the economic development section of the HEDNA. The key conclusions of this are considered as part of the employment presentation. The Warehousing and Logistics Study is now published on the SEMLEP website [Warehousing and Logistics \(semlep.com\)](https://www.semlep.com).

Next steps

Members of the HEDNA officer Steering Group have been asked to provide written feedback on the draft report by 27 January. This will be combined with feedback from Members (both from this meeting and following the opportunity for further written comments by 10 February) to provide the consultants with our detailed comments on the draft report. The emerging findings will also be presented to our duty to cooperate partners in February (date to be confirmed) before the report is finalised following all feedback. The HEDNA will then be published as part of the evidence base for the New City Plan.

It is expected that aspects of the HEDNA will need to be updated before the New City Plan is submitted for examination to check that its key findings have not fundamentally changed. This is likely to include new data that gets released following the 2021 Census. Members will be kept informed throughout the process.