



Milton Keynes
Development Partnership



MILTON KEYNES DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP (MKDP)

Appointment of Independent Board Members

BACKGROUND TO THE APPOINTMENTS

Milton Keynes Development Partnership LLP (MKDP) is an independent legal entity wholly owned by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) to facilitate the growth and economic success of MK by promoting some 250 acres of development land assets acquired in 2013.

MKDP's primary purpose is to support Milton Keynes' growth and the implementation of the vision for Milton Keynes' future that is set out in the Council's approved plans. MKDP's performance to date, and increasing confidence in meeting its financial obligations provides an opportunity to evolve beyond its start-up phase and expand its commercial activity to include the investment, acquisition and development of property investments that will generate long dated revenue streams.

Alongside its commercial ambitions MKDP is to assist MKC address a number of key issues including; affordable housing supply, homelessness, placemaking, Renaissance CMK, and the reinvigoration of the National Bowl Arena which is a significant cultural and leisure asset.

MKDP is a thriving commercial entity generating significant annual revenue and capital reserves to repay the original £32m land acquisition costs and provide MKC with a regular annual income. MKDP has a growing pipeline of significant residential, commercial and leisure projects.



The composition of the Board will include four independent members, three elected councillors, the Chief Executive of MKC (or nominee) and an independent Chair nominated by MKC. The terms of office for the independent members either have ended or are on the verge of doing so. Following a review of progress achieved since the formation of the LLP, MKC has recommended that MKDP be given more powers to act as an independent body. As a consequence MKDP wishes to recruit four independent Board Members to replace the outgoing Members, one of whom would assume the role of Vice Chair.

Further information about MKDP is available on its website and in the Appendices to this document.

TERM AND TIME COMMITMENT

Independent Board Members are appointed for an initial two to four year term with the opportunity to extend for a further term subject to Board performance reviews.

The time commitment is approximately 20-25 days a year depending on Committee or Working Group membership, the constitution of which has yet to be defined.

2018 BOARD DATES

Currently the Board meets 12 times a year - dates attached at Appendix A.

NB: The number of scheduled meetings are subject to review.

REMUNERATION

Independent Members - £20,000

Reasonable expenses will be paid.



INDEPENDENT BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Accountable to the Independent Chair the overall remit will be to :-

Support the Chief Executive and his team in furthering MKDP's objective to deliver optimum economic and social value to MKC from its property assets in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

To achieve this they will:

- Devote time and effort to developing a thorough understanding of the organisation and its activities;
- Attend Board meetings and or committees/working groups and participate fully in debate and decision-making;
- Promote the highest standards of governance in the management and operations of MKDP;
- Understand and ensure MKDP complies with and acts within its powers as laid down in the LLP Members Agreement;
- Actively contribute to Board discussions on shaping the strategic direction of the organisation, reviewing policies and working with the Executive to agree goals and objectives;
- Oversee the management of the assets of the organisation and ensure appropriate investment of the organisation's funds;
- Provide support, advice and constructive challenge to the Chief Executive of MKDP and his Executive team;
- Ensure MKDP effectively applies its resources (financial and otherwise) to delivering its mission and ensure the appropriate financial controls and policies are in place and reviewed regularly;
- Account for and drive improvement in the organisation's performance and review the Board's own performance periodically to build an effective, high-performing team culture;



- Where appropriate, help to encourage support for the organisation and act as ambassador for it within the wider community;
- Where required, support recruitment, and disciplinary processes for the Chief Executive and Executive Directors, agree their remuneration package and monitor their performance against specific goals and objectives;

As well as the various statutory duties, any independent Board Member should make full use of any specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the Board arrive at the best decisions.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

MKDP is seeking to appoint four new independent Board Members with experience, skills and expertise, which will enhance its ability to improve its performance and impact. It is looking generally for a background in property with actual involvement in at least one or two of the following areas:-

- Placemaking
- Planning
- Urban Design
- Architecture
- Social enterprises
- Property Finance
- Property Asset Management
- Fund management
- Commercial Property Development
- Residential property development
- Housing associations/ Registered Providers
- Economic Development
- Inward investment promotion
- Public policy, regulations and governance

It is essential that the Independent Board Members possess complementary experience and skills to ensure a balanced Board.

An existing knowledge of Milton Keynes is not an absolute essential.



PERSON SPECIFICATION

Successful track record of:

- Operating at Board level, main or subsidiary in a commercial organisation or at a comparable level in the public sector;
- Promoting the highest standard of governance in the management of operations;
- Building and sustaining effective relationships at the highest level with key stakeholders in the public, private or voluntary sectors to achieve organisational objectives;
- Thinking creatively, critically, independently and strategically, with demonstrable ability to translate strategy into operational plans;
- Improving profitability and profile of organisations;
- Working harmoniously with Board colleagues in challenging situations;
- Bringing a strategic and impartial view to the development and delivery of the strategy and business plan;
- Operating as an independent board member/NED would be an advantage but not mandatory.

KNOWLEDGE SKILLS AND VALUES

- The ability and desire to acquire knowledge and understanding of Milton Keynes and the strategic issues facing MKDP
- First-class communicator, with a consultative, constructive and supportive style;
- Preparedness to challenge, engage and contribute positively to MKDP
- Demonstrable commercial acumen, understanding of risk, its benefits and opportunities;



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- Impartiality and objectivity are essential characteristics to bring to the Board
- A commitment to Nolan's Seven Principles of Public Life;
- MKDP is committed to providing equal opportunities for all, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion, sexuality and transgender status.

Appendices:

- A. Board Dates
- B. Business Plan 2016
- C. MKC Action Plan in Response to the Review