

# Judges' Citation RTPI South East Awards for Planning Excellence 2019

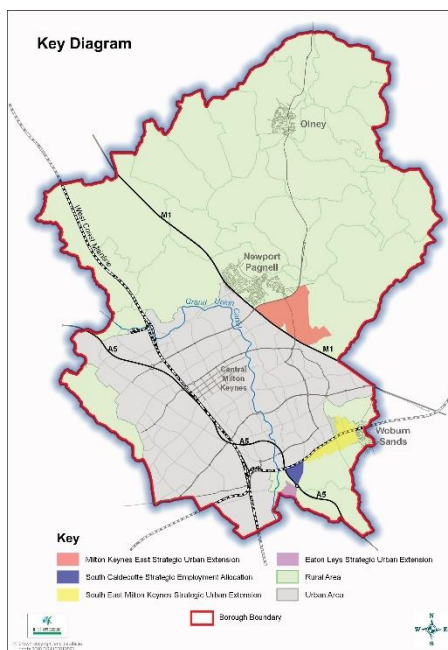
## Category: Excellence in Plan Making Practise

Winner: [Milton Keynes Council](#) and [AECOM](#)

### Plan: MK (2016-2031) - Milton Keynes Local Plan and Evidence Base

In 2017 Milton Keynes Council appointed AECOM to prepare a number of pieces of their plan's evidence base and to support the Development Plans team with the production of Plan: MK.

The submission focussed on the approach taken to prepare the evidence base, the collaborative 'one-team' working arrangements and the timescales involved.



The judges noted the proactive and continuous approach taken to public engagement including a young people and a detailed Equalities Impact Assessment ensured that all protected characteristic and hard to reach groups were afforded maximum opportunity to inform the plan. The responses helped to shape the plan, and also to ensure a balance was reached between meeting development needs and the environment within the City remaining protected, green and open.

The judges felt that the approach taken had led to a number of positive outcomes arising from the adoption of Plan: MK including the provision for 31,000 dwellings – significantly more than its objectively assessed housing need figure of around 26,500 dwellings and the provision of an additional site for the travelling community. The stock of employment land was also reviewed to ensure it was fit for purpose and reallocated to other uses, but ensuring supply was sufficient

overall. The Plan makes provision for community facilities and green infrastructure. The judges noted that Local Plan Inspector had no significant issues in terms of environmental effects of the plan including unique approaches to supporting the UN Sustainability Goals.

The judges noted that the approach taken has already been recognised by the Planning Inspector, and the Planning Advisory Service as a good example and is leading practice. The plan is based on detailed viability testing to ensure its aims are deliverable. The Council is already sharing its lessons learned and best practice taken from this process to assist other Planning Authorities.

The judges are proud to award **Plan: MK (2016-2031) - Milton Keynes Local Plan and Evidence Base** an RTPI SE Award for Planning in Excellence in Plan Making Practise.