

**Bedford's Growth  
Plan: Stimulating  
Economic Growth**

Consultation Draft

Bedford Borough Council

**DLP BRIEFING NOTE 139**

Prepared by  
**DLP Planning Consultants**

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## **Introduction**

The following provides a summary of the latest Consultation Draft Bedford Borough Council has produced on their Growth Plan for Stimulating Economic Growth. The consultation period has now closed and amendments are underway to include an analysis of consultation responses. DLP Planning Consultants work closely with Bedford Borough Council to support and critique development plan documents. The plan for Bedford's Economic Growth is exciting and is linked to wider infrastructure improvements.

## **Bedford's Growth Plan: Stimulating Economic Growth**

The plan consists of 5 key strategic targets to help promote, develop, enhance, stimulate, create and support economic growth across the Bedford Borough.

The Growth Plan highlights the importance of key infrastructure to support job growth delivery across the Borough, providing local residents with local job opportunities. This will include the creation of new businesses, supporting opportunities for current employment and business growth.

The Growth Plan seeks to develop a business rates policy to incentivise and encourage business growth; helping to stimulate and attract new businesses to the area as it reduces the initial setup costs for new employment sites making them more attractive. In addition to this the Borough will look to establish a new 3 year local Enterprise Zone for Elms and Viking Industrial Estate from 2014 onwards.

The Growth Plan will also look to reduce time, cost and uncertainty within planning applications and this will be carried out in a number of ways, the Draft Growth Plan proposes that planning applications which support wider economic development should receive prioritisation for major planning applications that will deliver job growth, offering business friendly contribution framework for Section 106 Agreements to encourage implementation of employment generating developments, providing flexibility within planning for major development on key strategic Greenfield employment sites in terms of the range of users and finally to see the introduction of a Bedford Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan which will look to extend the size and types of permitted development that do not require planning permission for a period of for 2 years.

A further aim of the Growth Plan is to facilitate and promote job growth across Bedford; including promoting investment opportunities and putting initiatives in place to improve local employment and self-employed prospects which in time will reduce unemployment and increase the number of successful new business start-ups.

The Growth Plan looks to deliver a distinctive, attractive and multi-functional Town Centre for future generations, making Bedford a visually attractive place for new people and businesses.

## **Conclusion**

DLP Planning Consultants believe the Growth Plan for stimulating economic growth within the Borough will attract and influence investment to deliver a prosperous Bedford. The plan is Employment and Business focused and sets out specific strategies to safeguard the future for Bedford and in addition to this, sets out what could be a very good solid foundation for sustainable development to occur and take place.

The timeframes for delivery of the Growth Plan is identified over the next 1-5 years. A range of responses have been received and a revised draft is going to executive committee on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013, a formal document will then be published.

DLP Planning Consultants has considerable knowledge of the national planning system and Bedford Borough Council Development Plan documents. If you require any further advice regarding the documents, please do not hesitate to contact an office listed below. Senior staff within the practice would be very happy to help you with this process and explain its potential implications or opportunities for you. If you wish to utilise DLP's considerable planning expertise to maximise your opportunity, please contact us.

If you require more information or would like to discuss the issues mentioned in further detail please contact:

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