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June 2013



## Board appointment enrages campaigners

FORMER commercial director of Milton Keynes Development Corporation Bob Hill has joined the board of the organisation charged with managing the £32 million land asset portfolio acquired by Milton Keynes Council from the Homes & Communities Agency.

Mr Hill joins three other independent board members at Milton Keynes Development Partnership: former Commission for New Towns chief executive and MKDC planning director John Walker, businessman Bob Green and chair John Duggan.

However, campaigners lobbying for

Development partnership names former senior MKDC executive as director

the expansion of Milton Keynes based on its original masterplan have reacted angrily to Mr Hill's appointment.

Mr Duggan, a former chairman of developer Gazeley, said: "We were very pleased to be able to appoint Bob. His knowledge and range of professional property experience will be invaluable to the board."

Lobby group Urban Eden, which is leading the campaign for the growth of Milton Keynes to continue along the original vision has condemned the appointment. Urban Eden chair Theo Chalmers said: "So all that effort wresting the land away from the Milton Keynes Partnership was in vain. If there was any lingering doubt, with this latest appointment MKDP has proved itself to be the same wolf in a different sheepskin."

MKDP is continuing its search for a fourth independent board member. The council is represented on its board by leader Cllr Andrew Geary and Cllrs Norman Miles, Edith Bald and Cec Tallack. Charles Macdonald, partner of property consultants Bidwells, is to join MKDP as chief executive.

Mr Hill has run his own property consultancy since 1998 after four years as property director of Railtrack plc. He left MKDC in 1992 to become managing director of the British Rail Property Board. He has also worked with Milton Keynes Parks Trust, the Milton Keynes Community Foundation and with the city's theatre and orchestra.

He is a director of the local Citizen's Advice Bureau.

## Delighted developer celebrates top award

THE DEVELOPER behind two of the most high-profile projects in Milton Keynes has been voted Housebuilder of the Year.

Places for People, which built 300 homes, leisure and commercial facilities on the site of the former railway works at Wolverton Park and is building 2,500 homes on the £500 million Brooklands site at Broughton beat off stiff competition from other housebuilders to land the prize at the Building Awards 2013.

Group director of development David Shaw said: "These are highly regarded awards in the property industry and to be named by our peers as the nation's best housebuilder is a credit to all those involved, and something we are extremely proud of.

"Whether we are involved in the regeneration of an existing area or the development of a new community, our focus is on the continued success of the places we create. We are delighted that our approach has been recognised by so many influential people in the industry."





## It all adds up: accountancy firms complete merger deal

CHARTERED accountancy firm Haysom Silverton has completed a merger with fellow practice the Hillier Hopkins Group.

The combined practice now has more than 6,000 clients, including about 1,500 in Milton Keynes, and 120-plus staff.

Robert Haysom, who cofounded the firm in 1991, said: "Haysom Silverton sought a merger with Hillier Hopkins so that we could provide much stronger continuity to staff and to clients. The merger enables us to do this."

Haysom Silverton has built its reputation in Milton Keynes by specialising in work with ownermanaged medium-sized businesses. Hiller Hopkins also has offices in Aylesbury, Watford, Hemel Hempstead and London and works with companies in sectors ranging from advertising and design to construction, independent schools and medical practices.

Partner Colin Howe said: "Milton Keynes is a strategically important location for the Hillier Hopkins group. There is a thriving business community and we can augment the already strong capability of Haysom Silverton through our additional resources. There is great confidence about the potential for growth in the region."

 Pictured: Dennis Silverton (right) and Robert Haysom shake hands on the deal with Colin Howe and Hillier Hopkins partner Meeten Nathwani (left).



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**CONTACT US** 

**Editorial** news@businessmk.co.uk **Advertising** sales@businessmk.co.uk **Accounts** news@businessmk.co.uk T: 01908 394501 www.businessmk.co.uk 433c Midsummer House Midsummer Boulevard Central Milton Keynes MK9 3BN

