

VISION AND AIMS

2.1 The Local Plan is mainly concerned with development and the environment of the Borough of Milton Keynes, but within a wider economic and social context. An increasingly important planning principle covering all these elements is sustainability. The new Local Plan Vision builds on the principle of sustainability, the original goals of the Master Plan, and the outcome of later consultation (2020 Vision and the Community Plan). The Vision for the Local Plan is:

“We want a Milton Keynes that...

- *provides a high quality of life for all*
- *encourages sustainable lifestyles*
- *offers real choices for transport*
- *promotes a dynamic, knowledge-based economy*
- *creates attractive, vibrant, successful town centres*
- *enjoys a clean, green environment*
- *stimulates diversity and innovation*
- *welcomes growth to meet local needs*
- *strengthens its role as a regional centre”*

2.2 This Vision helps to determine more detailed and practical aims for the Local Plan, as well as making sure that what we do before 2011 does not obstruct longer-term goals.

2.3 Identifying specific Local Plan Aims has two major benefits. They provide guidance for developing detailed policy and, later, they can act as a basis for assessing the performance of those policies. The new set of aims is consistent with the Council's objectives, as well as national, regional and sub-regional planning guidance - including guidance on sustainability.

2.4 The framework of aims is based on an environmental appraisal of the adopted Local Plan. We have widened it to include social and economic issues, as well as environmental ones. This also represents a more corporate approach, wider than conventional land use planning, which is consistent with the spatial planning system set out in the Planning and Compensation Act 2004.

2.5 There are 12 Aims for the new Local Plan, divided into three groups, set out below. The extent to which we will be able to achieve each Aim will probably vary, and there may be conflicts between some of them. The Aims are then used to develop targets and indicators to measure the performance of the Plan.

LOCAL PLAN AIMS

Global

1 Transport

- Reduce the number, length and need to make trips

- Promote an integrated transport system that gives priority to walking, cycling, bus, rail and canals
- New development will be allocated at locations that are easily accessible by sustainable transport modes or are capable of being well served by such modes through transport enhancements

2 Energy

- Develop further Milton Keynes' leading role in reducing energy use in buildings and the external environment
- Increase renewable energy production

3 Wildlife

- Protect and enhance important wildlife habitats
- Create new habitats to improve biodiversity and increase tree cover for carbon fixing

Resources

4 Air

- Reduce air pollution from non-transport sources (pollution from transport sources is covered by 1 above)

5 Water

- Reduce water pollution
- Conserve water supplies and natural water levels

6 Land

- Reduce land contamination
- Protect the best and most versatile farmland and minimise the amount of greenfield development

7 Minerals and Waste

- Reduce use of non-renewable mineral resources and safeguard viable mineral deposits from sterilisation by development
- Develop further Milton Keynes' leading role in waste recycling

Quality of Life

8 Health and Safety

- Improve community safety, recreation and the management of the public realm
- Reduce noise and light pollution

9 Culture

- Improve the vitality of town and local centres

- Protect and enhance important archaeological and geological sites, listed buildings and conservation areas
- Protect and enhance the local distinctiveness of places and communities and seek the provision of public and cultural facilities
- Encourage good design in new development by promoting consideration of character; continuity and enclosure; quality of the public realm; ease of movement; legibility; adaptability and diversity

10 Equality

- Reduce social exclusion and improve equality of opportunity amongst social groups, and access to community facilities, services and information

11 Housing

- Meet identified housing needs for quantity, quality, range, affordability and location

12 Employment

- Meet likely employment needs for quantity, variety, location and education / training

TARGETS AND INDICATORS

2.6 Having chosen a set of clear Plan aims, the next logical step is to identify relevant performance indicators and targets in order to monitor how well the aims are being achieved. This is consistent with PPG12, which recommends such an approach.

2.7 The indicators proposed in the table below are directly related to Plan policies where possible. The targets are sometimes borrowed from elsewhere such as the Local Transport Plan or based on established national targets. They are a balance between being aspirational and realistic. Each Plan aim has at least one indicator. The target is normally for the end year of the Plan period and will be measured on an annual basis. Some indicators may vary greatly from year to year and be better measured as an average over a longer period.

2.8 The following notes provide further guidance on the individual targets and indicators in Table VA1:

- **Transport:** indicators are derived from the Local Transport Plan.
- **Energy:** NHER is the National Home Energy Rating scheme, with an index normally between 0 and 10 where 10 is very efficient. English Partnerships currently require all new houses in their land to achieve a 10 rating.
- **Wildlife:** the designations included in this figure are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) Milton Keynes Wildlife Sites, Local Nature Reserves, Regionally Important Geological Sites, Wildlife Corridors, and local wildlife sites. The wildlife performance indicator is related to an estimate of newly created sites arising from new development proposals - e.g. the expansion areas. The target reflects the need to add to the stock of these habitats and that the designation process is incomplete.

See Policy NE1

- **Air:** based on the National Air Quality Limits, average annual NO₂ concentrations.
- **Land:** “brownfield” is defined as previously developed land, including conversions (see PPG3 for full definition). The lack of brownfield sites in the Borough is reflected in the low target figure; the sequential approach to identifying and developing such sites means that the figure is likely to be highest early in the Plan period.
- **Minerals & Waste:** most types of building are able to use significant amounts of recycled material e.g. recycled aggregate and steel.
- **Health and Safety:** development in the floodplain includes garden areas and open space associated with built development. The recreation space figure includes all types of open space, from Linear Parks to allotments, except for stand-alone play areas.
- **Equality:** 400 metres is measured from a bus route operating a stop on request service, or 400 metres from a bus stop in all other areas. A satisfactory bus service is at least 3 buses per hour. The retail floorspace target is included because shops will be accessible to more people if they are located in places easily accessible by means of transport other than the car - i.e. in the main shopping centres rather than in out-of-centre locations. “Main shopping centres” are CMK, Bletchley, Stony Stratford, Wolverton, Newport Pagnell, Woburn Sands, Olney, Kingston and Westcroft
- **Housing:** between 1991 and 1999, affordable housing provision represented about 30% of total housing completions.

2.9 The Council also published a sustainability appraisal of the Second Deposit Local Plan. This assesses the likely impact of the policies and proposals in the Local Plan – both positive and negative – against the Local Plan aims. The appraisal also includes the work done in assessing potential development sites, both in the City and in the Rest of the Borough.

Copies available from the Planning and Transport Department and available for inspection at the Civic Offices and all libraries.

TABLE VA1: TARGETS AND INDICATORS

LOCAL PLAN AIM	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	BASE YEAR (1999 unless specified)	TARGET (by 2011 unless specified)
Transport	• % of total journeys to work (either entirely or mainly) by car	77%	55%
	• % by cycle or on foot	10%	19%
Energy	• Average energy rating of new houses (NHER scale)	N/A	10
	• % of energy from renewable sources	0.1%	10%
Wildlife	• % of area covered by nature conservation designations	17.5%	18%
Air	• % of area exceeding the national air quality limits for nitrogen dioxide	6.8%	0% by 2005
Water	• % of new houses with water conservation measures	N/A	90%
Land	• % of new houses on brownfield sites	N/A	20%
	• net density of new housing – dws/ha	26 (2000-01)	35
Minerals & Waste	• % of new development using recycled materials	N/A	90%
Health & Safety	• Amount of new development permitted within floodplain (hectares)	1.1ha	Nil
	• Provision of recreation space – hectares / 1000 people	10 ha	9.5 ha
Culture	• Number of Listed Buildings at risk	20	Nil
	• Conservation Character Statements produced	6	24
Equality	• % of properties within 400 metres of a satisfactory bus service (<i>at least 3 buses per hour</i>)	73%	90%
	• % of retail floorspace in main shopping centres	72%	80%
Housing	• Annual new dwellings completed	1483	1900
	• % of new dwellings that are affordable	22% (1998-99)	30%
Employment	• % surplus of jobs over workforce (Borough)	1%	3%
	• % surplus of jobs over workforce (City)	8%	12%