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Economy and Culture Newsletter

August/September 2017

Introduction

Welcome to the August/September edition of the newsletter. In this edition, we round up the latest news from Milton Keynes Council's (MKC) new Economy and Culture Team. The team brings together economic development, inward investment and business support with culture, public art, heritage and libraries. It's been an exciting couple of months as the team has taken shape. Externally, it's been great to see a number of new developments come to fruition, to see other new developments announced and to see MKC and the city's proactive approach to employment and skills continue, with announcements on MK:U and the return of the extremely successful job show.

Accolades

Milton Keynes in the UK 'Top 10 for tech'

Milton Keynes has been ranked 8th in the country – equal with Oxford – in the latest UK Tech Innovation index.

The index, which is published by the Open Data Institute and the Digital Catapult, measures current activity and potential for innovation in seven technology sectors in 36 UK cities.

It looks at tech events, scientific publications, and data on local skills, business start-up rates, and research and development spending, to show where British innovation is flourishing – which will help business and government make decisions around investment and growth.

Milton Keynes ranks even higher in the 'data' category, 6th in the country and beating Oxford, Cambridge and other cities well known for their tech excellence.

Best UK Towns and Cities to Work

There was further recognition for Milton Keynes as, once again, the city features in the top ten best cities to work. The Best UK Towns and Cities to Work report, recently published by recruitment experts Glassdoor, sees Milton Keynes ranked 8th. This is based on hiring opportunity, cost of living and job satisfaction. To read the report in full visit https://www.glassdoor.co.uk/List/Best-Cities-for-Jobs-UK-LST_KQ0,23.htm



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Investment News

Red Bull Racing and Aston Martin to create 100 jobs

Over 100 jobs are expected to be created at a new Advanced Performance Centre to be established at Red Bull Racing's campus later this year. The centre reflects the growing relationship between Red Bull and Aston Martin and will enable this to be expanded further, with the adoption of F1 and road car technology and greater collaboration on new and innovative projects. MK is extremely proud of its high performance sector and our strong relationship with businesses such as Red Bull Racing. It's fantastic to see the ongoing success and growth of the sector locally.

Primark to open in CMK

There was also some great news for CMK and our retail sector, with confirmation that Primark will be opening a flagship store in centre:MK in 2018. Primark will be located in an extension of the former BHS store.

Campbell Park Canalside development

Planning permission has been granted by MKC for Milton Keynes Development Partnership's (MKDP) 10 acre (4ha) residential and commercial site at Campbell Park Canalside.

Proposals drawn up by Crest Nicholson Regeneration include over 380 homes of various styles and sizes, a local convenience store, a café, a restaurant and a nursery.

The planning application for the further 10 acre (4ha) site to the east of the canal, including proposals for a pub, 117-berth marina and the start of the proposed Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park are due to be considered by MKC's Development Control Committee in October.

Skills, Employment and Business

MK:U takes another step forward

Ensuring that the skills of residents meet the needs of local businesses is vitally important to the city's continued economic growth. MK:U, a new technology university for the city, has a key part to play in this. Its implementation has now moved a step closer following approval, by MKC's Procurement and Commissioning Committee, of a tender process to identify a higher education (HE) partner to lead the implementation.

The aim is for MK:U to have around 10,000 students, with smart cities, technology, engineering and intelligent mobility its main areas of specialism. Students could work directly on smart city and intelligent mobility projects already in development in MK, such as driverless pods and urban sensors to manage the flow of traffic and utilities.

MK Job Show

The Milton Keynes Job Show returned to centre:MK on 15 and 16 September. Businesses from a wide breadth of sectors attended to highlight the vacancies and career opportunities available. A number of seminars were also held, helping to inform and better prepare individuals to secure employment.



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The next Job Show is being held on 26 and 27 January 2018. For further information, visit <http://www.mkjobshow.co.uk/>

Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards launched

On 7 September, the Milton Keynes Business Achievement Awards (MKBAA) 2018 launched at an event attended by local businesses, supporters, sponsors and previous winners. The awards, established in 2014, recognise the achievements of local businesses in a variety of sizes and sectors. Entries are now open, with thirteen categories including innovation and technology, entrepreneur of the year, small business and international trade.

Closing date for entries is 16 November 2017 with the prestigious awards evening taking place on 8 March. To enter, or for further information, visit www.mkbaa.co.uk
Best of luck to all our businesses!

Culture

MK50: Feast of Fire – Saturday 21 October

We've been instrumental in organising and securing support from partners and businesses for what promises to be one of the year's most exciting events. MK50: Feast of Fire, a free event in Central Milton Keynes, will see the city's streets come alive with fire, special effects, music and fireworks, celebrating 50 years of Milton Keynes.

Marvel at Walk the Plank's beautiful 'Spellbound' show for all ages in The Point car park, and then enjoy captivating fire sculptures and performances from artists and musicians in Midsummer Boulevard (East). The People's Procession will see 250 citizens carrying flaming torches, leading people to a fiery dance party, with DJ and live band. For more information, visit www.ifmiltonkeynes.org

European Capital of Culture 2023

Milton Keynes is bidding to become the third UK city to hold the title of European Capital of Culture, with our 'Different by Design' bid to be submitted on 27 October.

Every year the EU selects one or more cities from up to three countries to become the European Capital of Culture with the winning city going on to hold a year-long cultural programme. We will be presenting to the European Capital of Culture Jury at the end of November, with a decision on shortlisting to the next round expected in early December 2017. To find out more, visit www.miltonkeynes2023.co.uk

MK50 Round Up

Over the year, and across a range of platforms, we have been updating partners and businesses on the work of the team and the range of events that have been taking place to celebrate Milton Keynes' 50th birthday. Just last month, I presented at the Midsummer Breakfast where I shared some of the highlights of MK50, including that over 500,000 people had engaged in events across the first half of the year alone; that two-thirds of MK residents were aware of MK50 with almost 70% stating that MK50 has made them feel prouder of their city.



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SEMLEP News

European Funding

The 2017-20 implementation plan has now been adopted, setting out the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) investment priorities and amounts available. The first phase of calls is expected to commence at the end of October.

Around £31.5m of ESF monies and £14.8m of ERDF is available. ESF is focused upon inclusive labour markets and skills for growth. The ERDF priorities are based around research and innovation, ICT, SME competitiveness and the low carbon economy. It would be great to see more organisations, businesses and individuals in Milton Keynes benefitting from this funding.

Further information can be found online at <http://www.semlep.com/esif/>

Team News

It's been an exciting time as, following my appointment to the new position of Head of Economy and Culture, I've welcomed colleagues from culture, public arts, heritage, libraries, economic development, inward investment and business support into the newly formed team. The new structure recognises the important role that culture can play in supporting economic growth, not only in attracting visitors and potential residents and employees to the city, but also in terms of business and job creation and in supporting volunteering and skills development.

I was also pleased to welcome our new Business Engagement and Support Officer, Ruth Cozens, to the team in August. Ruth has significant private sector experience, working both in the banking sector and running her own business for a number of years. Ruth is responsible for delivering our new Business Engagement Plan and already she has been out meeting many of our partners and attending a number of business events.

Groundbreaking at Altitude

It was great to pick up a spade again at the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the new IDI Gazeley development at Magna Park. Enhancing the already successful logistics hub at Milton Keynes, Altitude will be a 21 metre high, 574,000 sq ft warehouse, aimed at leading logistics, distribution and ecommerce companies. It will be IDI's Gazeley's highest build to date and will incorporate a number of key sustainability elements including LED lighting, solar thermal heating and rainwater harvesting. The build will provide new business opportunities for the city and is expected to create up to 600 jobs.

Brioche Pasquier

We had the pleasure to be invited to the official opening of a second production line at the Brioche Pasquier factory in Wymbush. InvestMK has worked closely with the French family bakery, from their initial arrival in MK back in 2005 and was instrumental in the construction of their Wymbush facility in 2015.



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The launch was attended by His Excellency Jean-Pierre Jouyet, the French Ambassador to the UK; the mayor of Milton Keynes; the company's chief executive, and many others. It was extremely encouraging to hear more about the success the business has enjoyed in MK and their ongoing commitment to the city. The construction of a third production line is already underway.

Sharing thoughts and expertise

This September I was delighted to be part of two panel discussions focusing on employment, skills and the growth of Milton Keynes.

At the beginning of the month I attended Kuehne + Nagel's first HR Forum. Transport and distribution is an extremely important sector in Milton Keynes, yet there are issues around recruitment and perceptions of the sector.

Then at the end of the month, alongside Julie Mills, Principal and Chief Executive of Milton Keynes College, I was a panelist at The Driving Growth in Milton Keynes dinner. The Driving Growth initiative, led by Grant Thornton, aims to identify ways to increase the productivity and vibrancy of the city. Unsurprisingly, skills, perceptions of Milton Keynes, infrastructure and land use were amongst the key issues identified. The dinner afforded a great opportunity to highlight the work MKC is undertaking around culture, skills and the wider economy, and to hear the views of local businesses.

Business visits

September was a busy month for business visits. We engaged with many of the local financial institutions, gaining useful insight into their outlook on the continued growth within MK through the eyes of their clientele.

Entrepreneurship and innovation are always on the agenda, and we continued to enhance our relationship with innovation hubs with visits to Entrepreneurial Spark and Transport Systems Catapult. Both these hubs are a focal point for small business innovation and it was great to talk with a number of the businesses in Entrepreneurial Spark on their growth and future plans.

Attending networking events including the MK Job Show, Midsummer Breakfast and the FSB monthly meeting enabled us to talk with many local businesses, and listen to their needs.

In September we also met with Knorr-Bremse Railservices to talk apprenticeships and workforce development. Two of their current apprentices are through to this year's regional finals of the National Apprentice Awards whilst the business overall is a regional finalist under the Employer of the Year Category, which is a fantastic achievement from a company with a proactive approach to developing their workforce.

Social Media

Both Economy (through Invest Milton Keynes) and Culture (through Culture MK and MK Libraries) engage with our communities through social media, and this continues to strengthen. Twitter followers reached the 4,500 mark during September for Invest Milton Keynes, with nearly 2,000 following Culture MK and over 3,000 following MK Libraries. Our LinkedIn connections for Invest Milton Keynes are approaching the 3,000 mark, and in addition, both Culture MK and MK Libraries operate Facebook pages. The Economy and Culture team continue to utilise social media as one of its channels to promote Milton Keynes. It is vital that we remain constantly and consistently



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engaging with our local, national and international stakeholders, to ensure the continued success of the Borough.

Help Spread the Word

Join our conversation on Twitter at @InvestMK and @CultureMK, by joining our Invest Milton Keynes LinkedIn group at [linkedin.com/in/investmk](https://www.linkedin.com/in/investmk), or liking Culture MK on Facebook.

And watch out for our new look newsletter, coming in December. The newsletter will feature our usual economic development updates as well as more information on culture, libraries and heritage. Any suggestions on topics that you would like to see included in future newsletters would be welcomed.

Pam Gosal

Head of Economy and Culture

Economic Development: Invest MK contact: 01908 200800

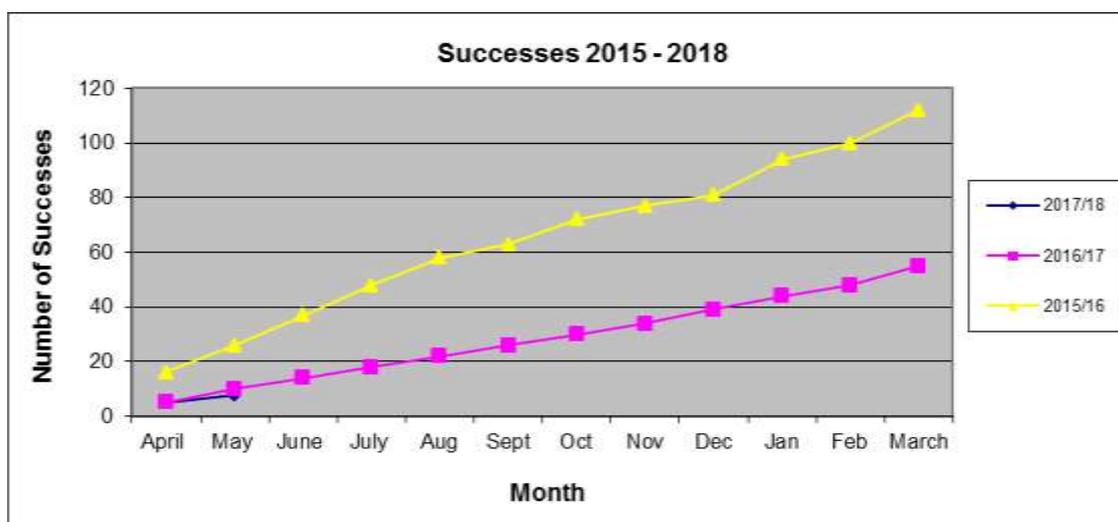
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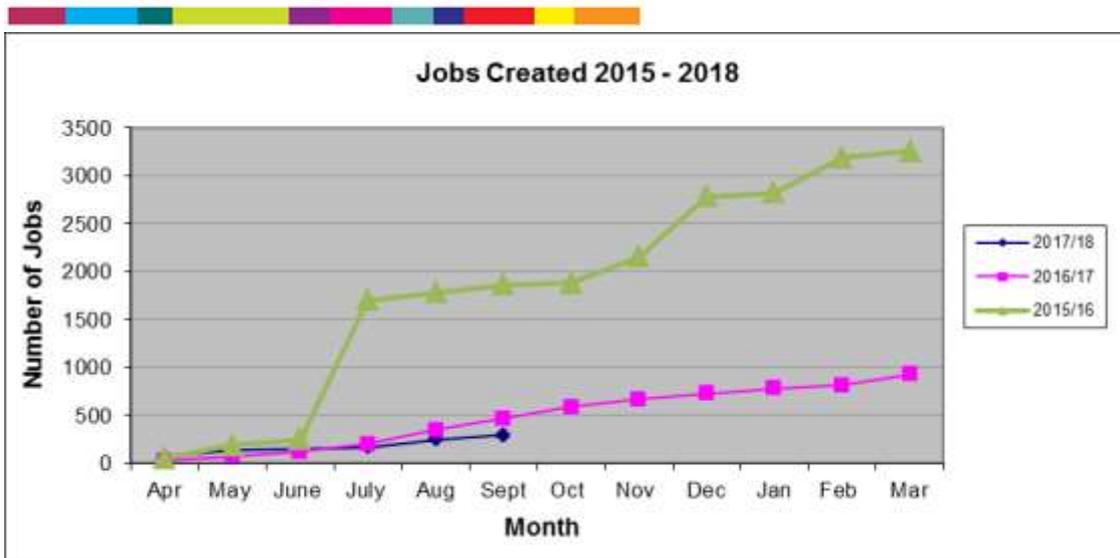
Investment Success Update

| | August 2017 | September 2017 | Year to date |
|---|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Companies arriving in or relocating within MK | 3 | 2 | 18 |
| From Target Group* | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| Total Jobs Created | 79 | 45 | 294 |
| Total Jobs Retained | 0 | 2 | 570 |

* High growth, high value, knowledge-based businesses



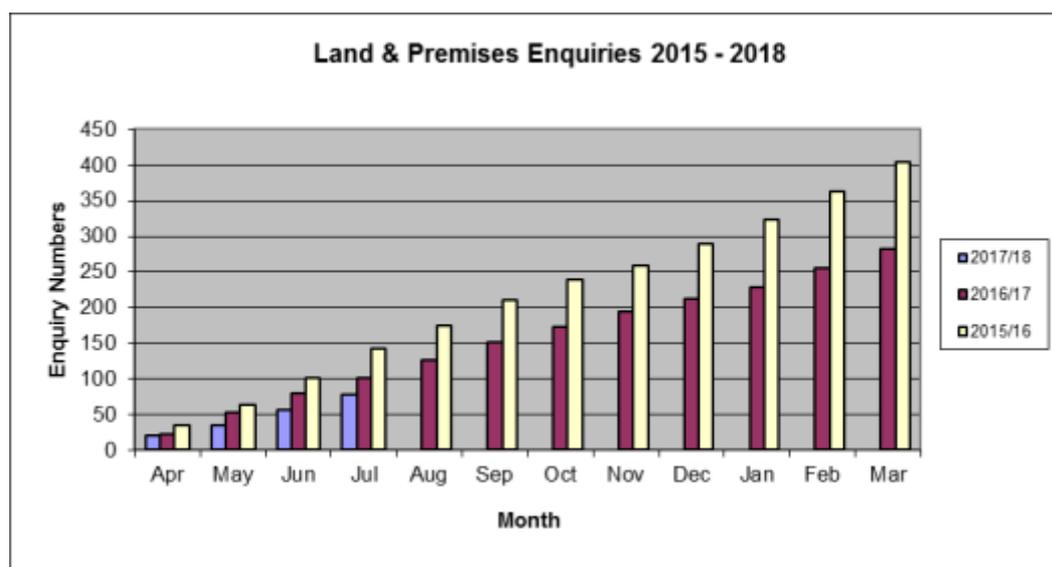
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Enquiry Activity Update

The chart below shows the trends for commercial land & premises enquiries between 2015/16 and 2017/18:



Enquiries

During August and September, 44 enquiries were received as well as five investment successes consisting of one micro, 4 small businesses. The team continues to promote MK through multiple channels and partners. Our current enquiry caseload is 34 category 'A' and 52 category 'B' enquiries.

(Category 'A' covers enquiries from UKTI and foreign owned businesses; land enquiries; industrial premises over 50k sqft; office premises over 10k sqft. and key business sectors. Category 'B' enquiries cover all other requests for support.)

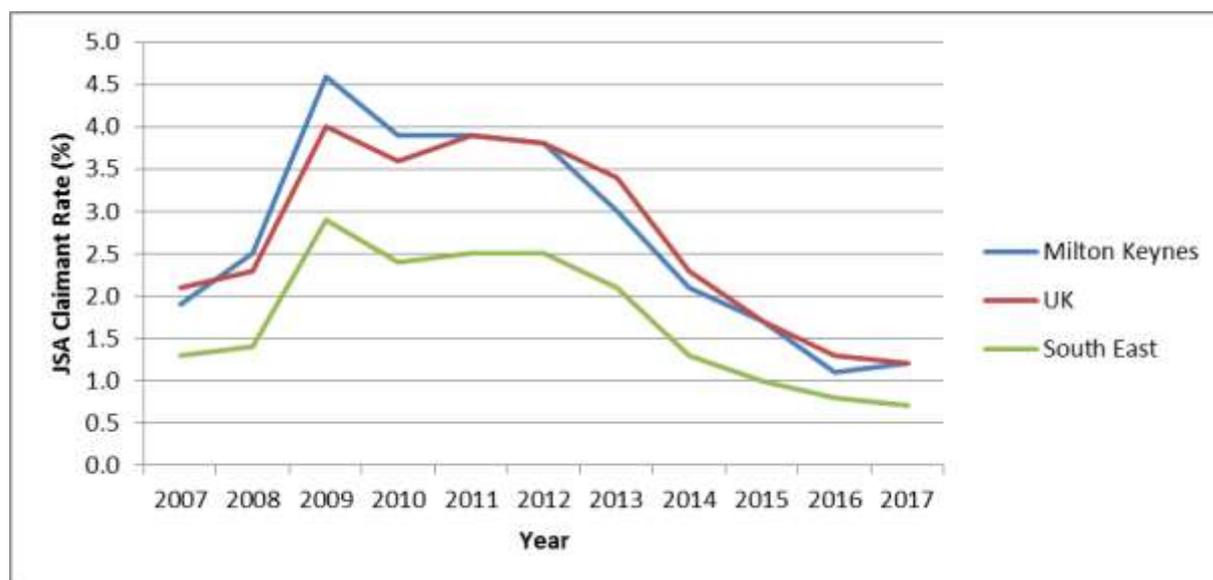
| Enquiries by Sector | August 2016 | August 2017 | September 2016 | September 2017 |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| Office | 10 | 4 | 6 | 5 |
| Industrial | 9 | 8 | 8 | 7 |
| Retail | 1 | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Land | 0 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| Information and Support | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Total | 24 | 23 | 23 | 23 |

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The Labour Market in Milton Keynes, August 2017

The JSA claimant count rate in Milton Keynes was 1.2% in August 2017. This is the same rate as in July 2017 but 0.1% higher than in August 2016.

Chart 1: JSA Claimant Rate Milton Keynes, South East & UK 2007-2017



| | Milton Keynes | UK | South East |
|------|---------------|-----|------------|
| 2007 | 1.9 | 2.1 | 1.3 |
| 2008 | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| 2009 | 4.6 | 4.0 | 2.9 |
| 2010 | 3.9 | 3.6 | 2.4 |
| 2011 | 3.9 | 3.9 | 2.5 |
| 2012 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 2.5 |
| 2013 | 3.0 | 3.4 | 2.1 |
| 2014 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.3 |
| 2015 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.0 |
| 2016 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 0.8 |
| 2017 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 0.7 |

Source: Jobseekers Allowance, Office for National Statistics via NOMIS. NB: Claimant count data is taken from August of each year.



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Getting our residents back into work

The council's Neighbourhood Employment Programme (NEP) has seen a small reduction in new clients accessing the service over the past two months. This is considered to be a result of the lower number of Job Seeker Allowance claimants and the need to refresh referring agents awareness of the community based job clubs. Promotional activities to ensure that residents remain aware of this service continue and the NEP attended two Regeneration events on Fullers Slade to highlight the new job club at the Rowans Centre. We also attended the MK Job Show at Middleton Hall, CMK giving a presentation on the service and handed out over 200 NEP flyers. We are also looking to insert adverts regarding the job clubs in local Parish and Town Council newsletters.

Regardless of footfall the NEP has still managed to support 97 people into employment and 25 people to obtain an accredited qualification over the last two months. This remains a huge achievement and is still an indication of the continuous need to support those with additional barriers to employment.

In addition the Mental Health Employment Support team has been regularly attending 'The Mix', a peer support group with a drop-in for people with mental health problems to chat to service users and professionals and to promote the service. The team have also supported a job fair organised by MK's Job Centre and joined an event with the Works 4 Us group, raising awareness and promoting the Mental Health service to other professionals within the statutory and third sectors.

Additionally, following a recent Disability Providers Event sponsored by the local job centre it was decided that the job centre would operate a regular providers forum where organisations could share good practice, keep each other up to date and collaborate on projects supporting unemployed people with a disability into work. The NEP Mental Health team was also invited to participate at the event and have been invited to become part of this forum.