



milton keynes council



Council Plan

Part Two - Corporate Priorities and Action Plan

Purpose of this Council Plan

The Council Plan (The Plan) sets out how Milton Keynes Council will work to achieve its ambitions for Milton Keynes and deliver the Strategy for 2050, which forms Part One of the plan and was agreed by Milton Keynes Council in 20th January 2021.

This Plan sets the corporate priorities for the Council and a more detailed Delivery Plan for 2021-2022, showing what will be done and the main milestones along the way.

The Plan has been agreed by the Progressive Alliance as a majority administration of Milton Keynes Council.

A New Progressive Alliance

Labour and the Liberal Democrats have united in a Progressive Alliance to make sure Milton Keynes has a prosperous, green and fair recovery from the pandemic. The combined Groups represent the majority of voters in Milton Keynes, and together have the most seats on the Council. This Council Plan sets out the priorities for a majority administration.

The Progressive Alliance will change the way we do things. It is putting people above politics and providing hope for the future. Together our Groups have a wealth of knowledge, experience and diversity that truly reflects Milton Keynes. United we will be bolder in delivering an economic recovery, doing the essentials well, reducing child poverty and making Milton Keynes the greenest city in the world.

As we recover from the pandemic, it is more important than ever to come together for Milton Keynes. Both the Liberal Democrats and Labour will put party politics aside, and work side by side to give residents a new start, one where our recovery from COVID-19 is prosperous, green and fair.

Vision

Our vision is for a more prosperous, green and fair Milton Keynes, as it recovers and grows following the COVID-19 pandemic, the deepest recession for 300 years, and Brexit.

Milton Keynes is the most successful New Town. We have attracted generations of people and businesses to move to and stay within Milton Keynes, created thousands of jobs and built a city with high quality infrastructure and green space because we have been at the cutting edge of modern thinking.

Milton Keynes Council wants to enable a 21st Century Milton Keynes while preserving what makes us special; an internationally recognised centre of prosperity, economic innovation and cultural creativity, in a high quality green space and built environment.

Our Key Aims

We have three key aims for Milton Keynes:

- **A City of Opportunity**

Milton Keynes has limitless potential. We want every person to have the chance of a good, well paid job and the skills to do it in a more equal society; a prosperous Milton Keynes with a strong, diverse

economy that has an international reputation for innovation. We are in the right place to succeed, taking advantage of our excellent links to the wider regional, national and international economies, building on our success in the service and professional industries and taking advantage of new opportunities in a knowledge-based, high skilled green economy. We will support people to succeed, develop the skills they need to access well paid employment and have the opportunity to meet their potential.

- **An Affordable City**

We want to create communities that can attract, retain and enable people from every background. Milton Keynes has been built on meeting the aspirations of people to live in a good home at a price they can afford to rent or buy, and businesses being able to access high quality, affordable premises that meet their needs. We will promote more affordable and sustainable high-quality housing and create the space for business to thrive. We want to ensure citizens have access to high quality services, a well maintained built environment and green space, and a range of facilities and cultural offers that are the fabric of any modern, diverse and successful city.

- **A Healthy City**

We will ensure lifelong wellbeing for all. We want Milton Keynes to be an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives. We will support people and invest in services that promote prevention, choice and empowerment. We will reform public services to encourage aspiration, independence and resilience; ensure children and vulnerable people are protected from harm and neglect and work with partners to integrate services, improve outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

Our Challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic, the deepest recession for 300 years and Brexit have challenged our city's economy and social fabric. Rebuilding our city so it is more prosperous, green and fair for all is our number one priority.

In addition, we face a number of challenges to ensure our success continues into the future and over the period of this Plan. We have an increasing population of young people and an increasing elderly population who need support. Housing is becoming more unaffordable making it harder for citizens to access a decent home to rent or buy; homelessness is on the rise. We need to continue to maintain our public realm and green space and tackle our significant transport issues. At the same time, Milton Keynes Council is facing ever decreasing resources from Central Government to fund this increasing demand for services.

Milton Keynes Council is ambitious for the future of Milton Keynes. We will only be able to adapt and meet the aspirations of our citizens and businesses to succeed if we have a clear vision for how the Council will operate; our priorities and the outcomes we wish to achieve and how we will achieve them.

We will ensure we continue to deliver services focused on doing the essentials well, working with citizens, communities, businesses and partners to meet these challenges.

Our Values

As an organisation, Milton Keynes Council wants to set an example in our working practices and deliver excellence for our citizens.

We operate on the principles of a co-operative council and want to build partnerships with other public services, voluntary groups, charities and parish and town councils so that the services that our citizens value can continue to be delivered in a sustainable way into the future.

Our organisational values describe the behaviours that colleagues are expected to demonstrate, and these are embedded within regular performance discussions to ensure that our plans are delivered in a co-operative way.

Leadership

Strong leadership is vital to ensuring the continued success of Milton Keynes.

In order to ensure clear leadership for the city and the stability needed for economic success, the new Progressive Alliance reached between the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group provides for a set of clear priorities, aims and objectives. The Labour and Liberal Democrat manifestos, subject to the Agreement, will be set into the policy framework of Milton Keynes Council.

Our Key Priorities

The key inter-linked priorities of Milton Keynes Council are:

- **Fair and Prosperous Economic Recovery** – We need to support our businesses and high streets as they recover from the pandemic. We will help people train and develop their skills, and support those trying to get back into work.
- **Doing the Essentials Well** – We need to make sure essential services are done well. We will provide more bins, fight to reduce fly-tipping and fix potholes. We will establish a programme of improvement for our local centres, and progress regeneration and renewal.
- **Building Better Communities** – We will fight for healthy communities, with affordable homes for our residents. We will continue to support the rollout of mass vaccination and improve access to mental health services for young people.
- **Tackling Child Poverty and Supporting Children and Young People** – We will focus on reducing child poverty in our city and supporting our children and young people. We will deliver a Summer of Play and support catch-up clubs so that children and young people can get back on track with their learning and social skills.
- **Action on Climate Change** – We will always work toward our goal of Milton Keynes being carbon neutral by 2030, and carbon negative by 2050. We'll support sustainable transport, increased biodiversity and projects that work to reduce carbon levels.

Delivering the Council Plan

The Council's performance management framework translates this Plan into practical action through a hierarchy of directorate and service summaries, team charters and individual objectives for each

colleague. Overall performance is measured against a clear delivery plan, which will be an integral part of this Council Plan.

The diagram overleaf sets out, on one page, the main themes and how they connect to the overall vision and values for Milton Keynes Council.

The Delivery Plan is an integral part of the Council Plan and sets out the detailed activities and milestones that will deliver those themes from now until 2022 and inform project activity.

COUNCIL PLAN 2016 - 2022

VISION

Our vision is for a thriving Milton Keynes, growing to be the greenest and most sustainable city in the world, ensuring a fairer, hardworking and more equal Milton Keynes for all, within a Greater Milton Keynes of 500,000 people.

VALUES

A CO-OPERATIVE BOROUGH WHERE:

We are Dedicated

We are Respectful

We are Collaborative

AIMS

TO MAKE MILTON KEYNES:

A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

AN AFFORDABLE PLACE

A HEALTHY PLACE

Every person in MK has the opportunity to achieve their ambitions, a good, well paid job and the skills to achieve it.

Every person can live in a good home to buy or rent at a price people can afford in a great environment.

Ensuring lifelong wellbeing for all in an active, vibrant place with people living long, healthy and fulfilling lives.

PARTNERSHIP

CITY LEADERSHIP

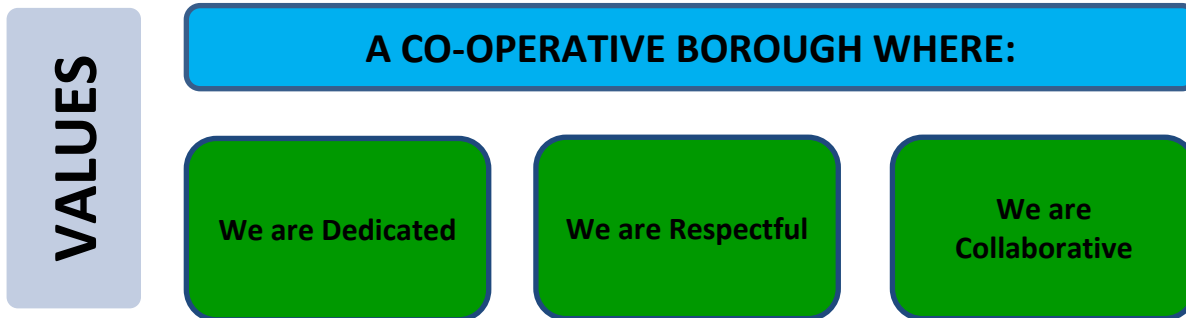
- Enabling and empowering others to improve our City.
- Supporting parishes, the voluntary sector and communities to get things done.
- Working in partnership with health and other public services to innovate, reform and improve outcomes.
- Supporting businesses to grow and contribute to life in a prosperous and more equal City.
- Working with neighbours for a deal that meets Milton Keynes' needs.

DELIVERY PLAN

The Milton Keynes Council Plan was approved at the Council Meeting of 16 June 2021. A Delivery Plan - an integral part of the Council Plan - sets out the implementation pledges and actions that will be undertaken over the period of the plan. The delivery plan will be accompanied by a more detailed monitoring report.

Values

Our values set out how we go about our work:



Co-operative Borough

A Co-operative Borough means a social partnership between citizens, the Council, enterprise and partners to develop a shared sense of responsibility for Milton Keynes. We want to engage our communities and give them a real say in the decision making process; maximise social value; promote community based solutions and innovate new ways to deliver services people value in a prosperous and more equal place.

Our People

We value our workforce and all they do for Milton Keynes Council, the city and the citizens they serve. We want colleagues to have clarity of what is expected of them, a healthy and supportive working environment and support to do their jobs professionally and well. As a co-operative council we believe all our people have value and insight into issues and problems and want them to feel empowered to innovate and thrive in their roles.

We will enshrine the Council's vision and objectives, and ensure delivery of the Council Plan, through regular performance discussions which make expectations clear to colleagues.

Objectives and Priorities

We have three overall headline objectives for Milton Keynes to be – a place of opportunity, an affordable place and a healthy place.

In order to deliver these, we have determined a detailed set of five priority themes, within which there are specific commitments for action; each allocated to the relevant Cabinet member(s) and presented below.



Underpinning the delivery of the Council Plan is the administration's commitment to a balanced budget which reflects funding availability, increasing demand and the Covid-19 recovery. Recognising the devastating impact of £160m of government cuts to Milton Keynes Council, the administration will continue to fight for fair funding for Councils through the Local Government Association and work to protect services from destructive cuts. We will ensure the work of scrutiny within the Council is upheld with appropriate financial backing, making sure to continue the transparency of Council finances.

FAIR AND PROSPEROUS ECONOMIC RECOVERY	
OUR COMMITMENTS ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY – WE WILL DELIVER A COVID-19 ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN TO SUPPORT OUR BUSINESSES, HIGH STREETS AND PEOPLE TO ENSURE A RECOVERY THAT IS PROSPEROUS AND FAIR FOR ALL.	
1	Invest over £3M to provide support to Milton Keynes Businesses in their recovery from COVID-19.
2	Support Milton Keynes’ high streets, local centres and independent retailers by bringing forward a programme of improvements, investment and local initiatives.
3	Work with businesses, skills providers and SEMLEP to establish a MK Economic Recovery Business Steering Group.
4	Working with partners to provide practical support to Milton Keynes residents seeking work, to reskill or upskill, especially those impacted hardest by the pandemic, including young people, women and those on low incomes.
5	Work with Centre:MK and other partners to agree a Memorandum of Understanding to protect, renew and ensure the success of our city centre.
6	Prepare a business case to ensure maximum economic, social and health benefits from the Women's European Championships.
7	Deliver improvements to CMK market, including improved stalls, facilities, and lighting, by Autumn 2021, and bring forward proposals for the wider regeneration of CMK Market for public consultation by March 2022.
8	Work with partners and MHCLG to deliver a Growth Deal for MK that seeks funding for our unique infrastructure, a Mass Rapid Transport system, more protection from developer-led growth, funding for MK:U and formal city status.

DOING THE ESSENTIALS WELL	
OUR COMMITMENTS TO DOING THE ESSENTIALS WELL – WE WILL DELIVER HIGH QUALITY ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR ALL RESIDENTS THAT KEEP OUR CITY RUNNING WELL.	
	Essential Services Done Well
9	Install 75 dual bins across our estates and high streets, and 20 smart bins around Central Milton Keynes.
10	Fix 7500 additional potholes, improve repair quality and maintain our focus on having high standard roads.
11	Produce a fly-tipping action plan by September 2021 to tackle national rising levels of fly-tipping, including funding for an additional Environmental Crime Officer to tackle abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping.
12	We will introduce litter wardens to find and fine those who drop litter.
13	Establish a programme of improvement to local areas that includes signage replacement and cleaning, weed removal, improved seating and cleaning of local centres and graffiti removal, including new technology to reduce reoccurrence of graffiti.
14	Review our out of hours and weekend bereavement services, working to make them as accessible as possible.
15	Bring forward the future operational models for waste and landscaping services beyond the end of the current contracts in 2023.
16	Review the operation of the recycling centre booking system when social distancing restrictions are no longer in place.

17	Oppose continued operation of the Bletchley landfill site.
18	Ensure a high quality and trusted Planning Service by conducting an LGA Planning Peer Review.
	Regeneration & Renewal
19	Support the regeneration of Bletchley and Fenny by advancing a planning framework (SPD) and working with the Town Deal Board on the delivery of the £25m Town Investment Plan.
20	Support the £35m regeneration of Wolverton town centre and agree funding by July 2021.
21	Complete the redesign of the Neighbourhood Employment Programme to help people on regeneration estates into employment or provide opportunities to upskill by September 2021.
22	Work with the community to agree detailed plans for Fullers Slade Estate Renewal and submit a planning application by Q4 2021/2022
23	Start site works on the Lakes Estate regeneration by Q4 2021/22.

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES	
OUR COMMITMENTS TO BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES- WE WILL DELIVER A HEALTHIER, SAFER MILTON KEYNES WITH AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR ALL.	
	Health
24	Work with partners to develop a multi-agency Health Inequalities Improvement Plan for Renewal Estates by the end of 2021, including a pilot scheme on the Lakes Estate.
25	Play a key role working to support the integration of health and social care services through the BLMK ICS.
26	Support becoming a Dementia Friendly city, to improve the lives of those most in need of help and achieve MK-wide 'Dementia Friendly Communities' recognition from the Alzheimer's Society by the end of March 2022.
27	Develop a potential business case for a multi-use health and wellbeing facility in the planned MK East development as part of the £95M HIF funding.
28	Work with health partners to ensure proper access for all to GP, dental and mental health services, and support the expansion of MK University Hospital.
29	Work with Public Health and partners to ensure a long term plan for the impact of an ongoing vaccination programme and invest in local communications to ensure high levels of public awareness, vaccine uptake and workplace safety through support for employers.
30	Improve access for young people to mental health services by supporting local initiatives.
	Housing
31	Ban poor quality office conversions in CMK.
32	Progress Plan:MK2 as a new Local Plan that focusses on affordable homes for local families, sustainable growth, proper infrastructure and tackling climate change.
33	Oppose the government Planning White Paper which removes a proper say for local communities in final planning decisions.

34	Continue to deliver 500 new council homes and publish a pipeline and timetable for doing so by February 2021.
35	Use our new council owned development company to submit plans for a carbon neutral new community on land at Tickford Farm that contains at least 700 genuinely affordable homes for local families by Q1 2022.
36	Introduce a private landlord scheme by December 2021 to promote and reward best practice in the private sector and get tough with the worst.
37	Continue to improve support to homeless people, those in danger of homelessness and improve follow-on support and accommodation by December 2021.
38	Improve the council homes repairs and maintenance service by working with our contractor to agree a set of clear and meaningful KPIs on performance and delivery by September and communicate them to tenants.
	Local Communities
39	Demolish Mellish Court and the Gables by the end of 2021 and develop options for future of the site that includes replacement council homes.
40	Work with the Woughton Parish Council to open a library facility in the Woughton ward by March 2022.
41	Complete work to improve Galley Hill Community Centre.
42	Bring forward a report to the July 2021 Cabinet to introduce a new "MK Way," that uses council procurement and works with partners to deliver and capture local community improvements and social value.
43	Work with partners to develop a business case for a new MK Justice Centre that can house a Crown Court.
44	Review our Domestic Abuse services with our partners, including TVP, to ensure they are effective and victims can remain safely in their own homes.

TACKLING CHILD POVERTY AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
OUR COMMITMENTS TO TACKLING CHILD POVERTY – WE WILL KEEP CHILDREN SAFE FROM HARM AND NEGLECT AND IMPROVE THE LIVES OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN MK.	
	Child Poverty
45	Continue our goal of reducing child poverty by 20% by 2025, turning the report of the Child Poverty Commission into positive action.
46	Provide real practical support to tackle inequality and poverty directly and through our relationships with community groups, for example through the development of 5 new community ladders.
47	Introduce a pilot deposit scheme for childcare for people on low incomes.
48	Introduce a modern youth service focussed on prevention by working with partners across the city.
	Children and Young People
49	Ensure a good local school place for every child, ensuring adequate provision as the city grows with appropriate levels of Special Educational Needs provision.
50	Deliver a Summer of Play with a programme of fun activities for children and young people in MK and support catch-up clubs, to help children and young people catch up with learning and social skills.
51	Set a goal for every school in MK to be rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by 2024, oppose selective education and continue fighting for a good comprehensive education for all children.

52	Prioritise support for looked after children and care leavers and continue our work to increase the number of MK foster carers and adoptive parents.
53	Introduce a rent deposit scheme for young adults leaving care and supply a bond to enable some care leavers to attempt a move into the property market.
54	Reduce knife crime with an early years prevention scheme.

ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE	
OUR COMMITMENTS ON CLIMATE ACTION– WE WILL REDUCE CARBON, INCREASE BIODIVERSITY AND SUPPORT INNOVATIONS IN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT TO MAKE MK THE GREENEST CITY IN THE WORLD:	
Reduce Carbon	
55	Produce a Heating Decarbonisation Strategy for Milton Keynes, reflecting the likely phasing out of gas boilers, to support potential funding bids to government and support our 2030 carbon zero target.
56	Bring forward a Green Homes Investment Plan to improve the energy efficiency of council homes by February 2022 and investigate ways to assist private homeowners to install energy efficiency measures.
57	Open our first all-through, zero carbon school ‘Glebe Farm’ in Autumn 2022 and look for other opportunities for all-through schools investment.
58	Review our response to the Christmas 2020 flooding and work to reduce flooding and improve water management.
Increase Biodiversity	
59	Create five new local wildlife havens by identifying possible areas that would encourage biodiversity and wildlife to thrive through creating optimal conditions.
60	Celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by joining the Queen’s Green Canopy (QGC) tree planting and replacement initiative.
61	Create new wildflower reserves and promote greener land management by developing a policy document for complete environmental management across the grid roads.
62	Ensure the provision of a new country park in the MK East planning application.
Sustainable Transport	
63	Support the delivery of a fully electrified East-West Rail and continue to promote better connectivity and infrastructure across the Oxford-MK-Cambridge Arc.
64	Continue to improve the innovative MK Connect, our demand responsive transport service.
65	Provide additional safe bike storage spaces across the city.
66	Continue to support the development of a Mass Rapid Transport system in Milton Keynes.
67	Increase the number of electric car charging points across MK and submit funding bids to government.
68	Introduce five new Low Traffic School Safety Zones, by working with local communities to improve road safety and air quality around schools.