

Milton Keynes 2025 Year in Review



Review of 2025

This has been another **exciting year for Milton Keynes**, as the city continues to be one of the UK's fastest growing cities and the **home for tech and innovation!**

Throughout 2025, the city has been **making headlines in the media** including The Economist, the Financial Times, The Sunday Times, New York Magazine, Creative Boom, The Observer, Architecture Today and BBC News online.

The first **Milton Keynes Tech Week** took place, building on the success of last year's AI Festival, and celebrating the city's legacy of innovation and its developing tech ecosystem. Tech Week hosted over 1,700 attendees across 31 events. **Cultural events** have shown Milton Keynes as the increasingly vibrant city it is, celebrating the communities that call our city home.

The city has also welcomed a **diverse range of new businesses**, boosting the local economy, supporting job creation and enriching the visitor and shopping experience.

January

Milton Keynes was named one of the UK's leading cities for high wages, housing growth, and innovation by Centre for Cities. This confirmed Milton Keynes as the fastest growing city in the UK once more, the 8th largest city economy in England, and the city placing highly for business start ups, innovation, and workplace earnings.

Milton Keynes ranked #2 of all cities in the UK for economy and business in the Lambert Smith Hampton Vitality Index.

Milton Keynes City Council launched its Bletchley and Fenny Stratford business grant scheme, awarding 25 local firms grants of up to £5,000. Grant recipients included independent cafes, local energy efficiency installers, and events businesses.



Cities Outlook
2025



February

In February, The Times asked - **'New rail link, big tech sector - time to move to Milton Keynes?'** Milton Keynes was recognised as “the real winner” from the Chancellor’s Oxford-Cambridge growth plans.

House building targets in the city were surpassed for the seventh year running. Housing growth in the city continues to fund the further development of services for local people. In the last seven years, over £218m for infrastructure projects has been secured from growth.

This growth made headlines, with The Economist stating **'Milton Keynes shows the rest of the UK how to grow'**, praising the city’s infrastructure delivery and levels of growth.



March

Milton Keynes was the first city to welcome Lord Patrick Vallance in his role as the newly announced Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor Champion as part of ongoing efforts to drive innovation and economic growth in the region.

East West Rail announced Chiltern Railways as the new operator of the new rail link between Oxford and Milton Keynes, due to open in 2026. When open, the rail link brings Oxford within a 45 minute journey time of Milton Keynes.

MK Gallery opened its Andy Warhol: Portrait of America exhibit in celebration of its 25th anniversary.



April

Universal Studios announced plans **first theme park in the UK and Europe, less than 30 minutes from Milton Keynes.** The project is expected to provide a major boost to regional employment, with over 8,000 jobs on site, and produce a net economic benefit of over £35bn for the UK.

Milton Keynes City Council was recognised as a high-performing, well-managed authority with a proven track record of delivery in its **LGA: Corporate Peer Challenge** review.

Milton Keynes' growth was spotlighted further in Centre for Cities feature **What Milton Keynes can teach us about housebuilding,** capturing the lessons from the city for government in its growth missions.



May

All Flows, Milton Keynes' creative festival, celebrating design, art, and digital innovation, returned for a third year, bringing together top industry voices and inspiring ideas. The festival was profiled by **Creative Boom** as “*cemented its position as one of the UK's most vital creative gatherings, delivering three days of inspiration, innovation and genuine connection in Milton Keynes.*”

Milton Keynes based business **Navsa International Ltd** honoured with the prestigious 2025 King's Award for enterprise, a recognition that celebrates outstanding achievements in international trade.



June

BLUDFEST, a music festival curated by artist, Yungblud, returned to the National Bowl in Milton Keynes. The 2025 edition saw the **festival double in size**.

For the second year in a row, Midsummer Festival brought a lively mix of arts, culture, and community celebrations to Central Milton Keynes, celebrating Milton Keynes' unique link to the summer solstice. An estimated 7.9k people attended, with an economic impact estimated at over £270k.

Art in the park, organised by **MKAIC**, also took place in June, bringing together artists, performers, and local communities to celebrate diversity through music, dance, visual arts, and interactive workshops.



July

Milton Keynes cemented itself further as a leading UK innovation city when it was announced funding had been secured from Innovate UK to further test Ohmio self-driving shuttles in Central Milton Keynes. This project, **StreetCAV plus** sees Milton Keynes leading the way once more with innovative transport solutions, and brings driverless vehicles one step closer to being a reality on our roads.

Also in July, Milton Keynes University Hospital opened its new £17m **radiotherapy centre**. The radiotherapy centre was made possible through funding secured from the growth of the City by Milton Keynes City Council. This investment will help ensure health services in the city improve and keep pace with growth.



August

August was a great month for live music across Milton Keynes. Events make a huge economic contribution to our city; in 2024, the events that took place at the National Bowl alone **generated £25m** of economic activity.

This August, Tribes Unite bought Pendulum to Milton Keynes Bowl, bringing thousands of music fans to the city.

An estimated 100,000 people came to Milton Keynes for **Reggae Land**, the UK's largest Reggae and Caribbean culture **which** returned to the National Bowl for its sixth and biggest edition yet.

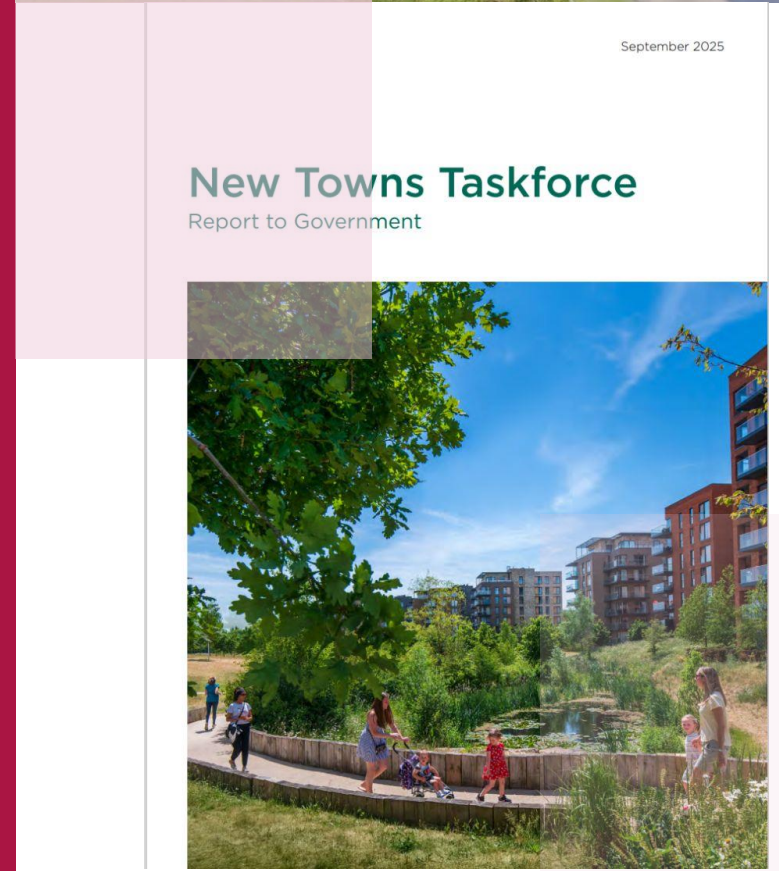


September

International cycling teams, thousands of fans and riders descended on Milton Keynes as the Tour of Britain Stage 3 rolled into the city.

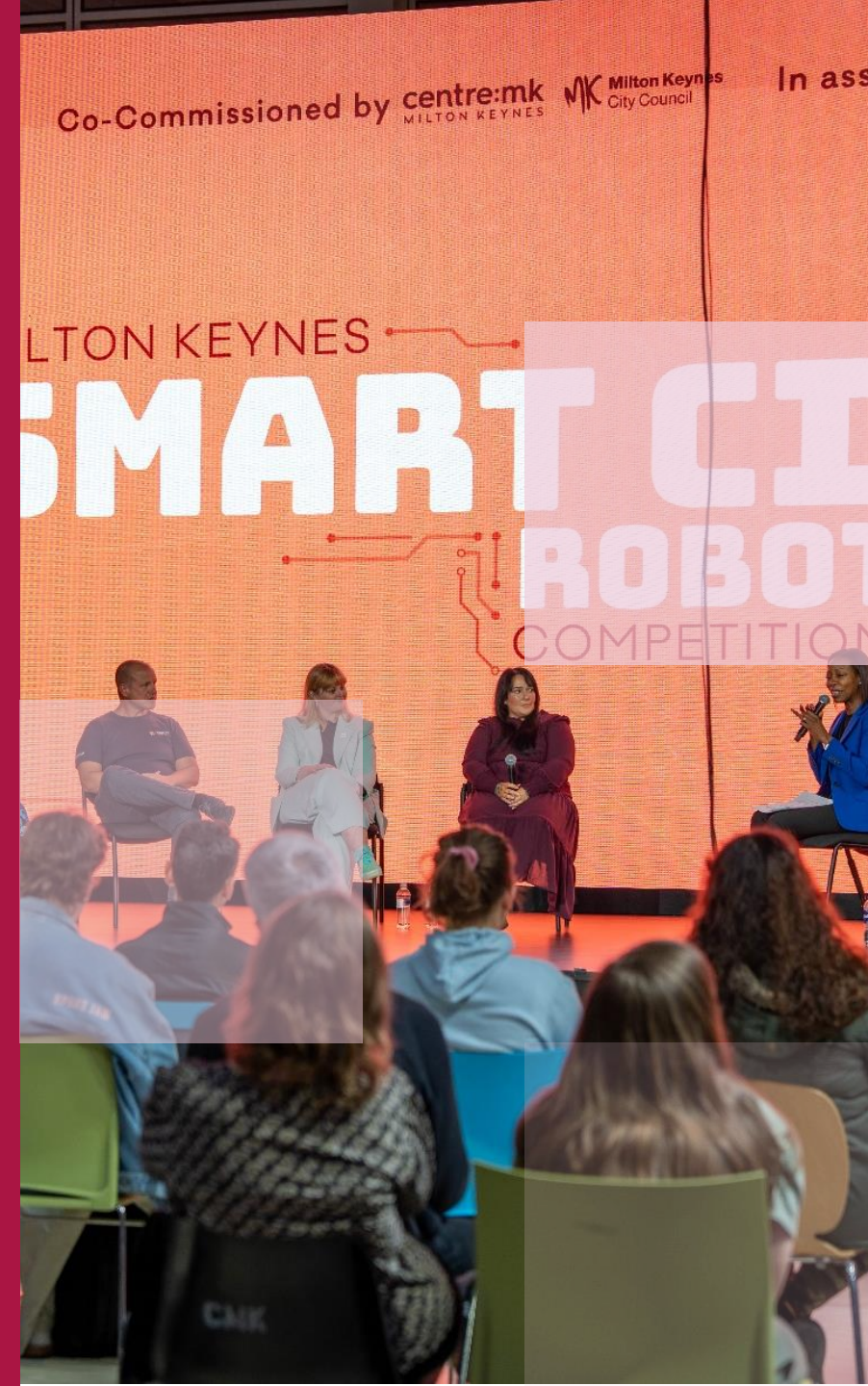
Milton Keynes was named as one of 12 locations by the government's New Towns Taskforce for development. The proposal includes reinvigorating the city centre and expanding to the city periphery whilst reshaping the way people travel, by delivering a Mass Rapid Transit system.

Milton Keynes College expansion neared completion due to £6.1m City Council investment.



Milton Keynes Tech Week 2025

- Took place **22 -26 September**
- **1,700 attendees across 31 events**, covering tech, cyber, IoT, AI, Data Science, automotive and skills training workshops and conferences
- **23,000 people in-person interactions with Smart City Robotics Competition**
- Sponsored by Milton Keynes City Council, The Open University, Santander and MK:U.
- **3.5 million** online and media broadcast views, with ITV and BBC Look East coverage.
- Partners Included; Red Bull Technology, HMGCC, Bletchley Park, NatWest, British Business Bank, HAYS, Aiimi, Smart City Consultancy, Protospace and more.



October

Artist Yinka Ilori MBE, invited the public to '**Walk With Your Dreams**' with his new commissioned artwork at Station Square. The artwork received coverage from, amongst others, **the Observer, Architecture Today and BBC News online**, with a media value of over £17million, showcasing arts and culture's role in Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes City Council secured nearly £800,000 for **UK trailblazer project for trialing and commercialising robotics** in public spaces, driving innovation in urban life.

USSIM has secured the largest office deal in Milton Keynes for over a decade, marking a major boost for the city's commercial property market.



November

The Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 was published – progressing the City Council’s long-term vision for growth.

New York Magazine asked “want to glimpse our robot-filled future? Just go to Milton Keynes.”

Their article featured the City’s leading position when it comes to robotics trials and adoption, and stated there may be no better place to answer the questions of how robotics use will change our every day lives than Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes hosted "FireworX" at the National Bowl, an immersive festival of light, sound, and entertainment which was billed as the UK's largest 360° fireworks display.

Proposed Submission
**Milton Keynes
City Plan 2050**

Regulation 19 plan
for consultation
October 2025



December

1Energy were **awarded £17.6 million** to develop Milton Keynes' low-carbon energy network, bringing cleaner, more efficient heating to homes and businesses and strengthening the city's sustainability for the future.

Universal Studios was announced as having **received planning permission** from HM Government. On opening, Universal will be the largest tourist destination in the UK, projected to welcome over **8 million visitors a year** to the local area.

More than 100 council tenants moved into **brand-new homes** on the Lakes Estate in Bletchley as part of Milton Keynes City Council's major regeneration programme.

And the winners are



Thank You

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