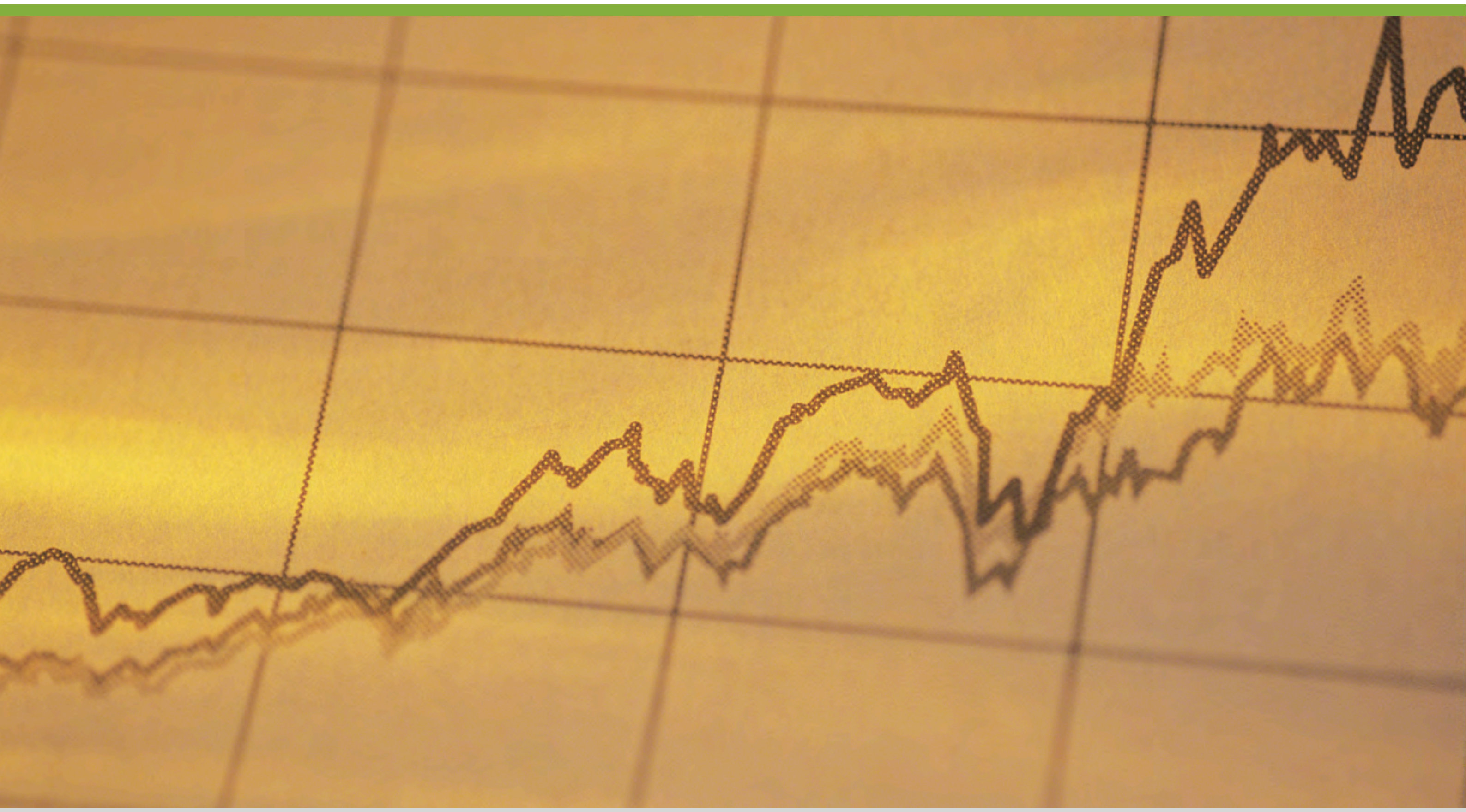
Development Plans

Milton Keynes Local Development Framework
Annual Monitoring Report 2010-2011

December 2011



www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy

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Executive Summary

This is the seventh Annual monitoring Report (AMR) prepared by Milton Keynes Council. It contains information on the progress of the Local Development Framework and the extent to which the policies within the Local Development Framework (LDF), and the Local Plan, are being implemented. This report covers the monitoring period running from April 2010 to March 2011.

LDF Progress - Key highlights

- The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.
- The draft Houses in Multiple Occupation SPD was made available for consultation.
- Work has began on five Neighbourhood Plan "Frontrunners" in Milton Keynes.
- The Residential Design Guide SPD will be made available for consultation in December 2011.

LDF Policy Implementation - Key highlights

Social

- The population of the Borough increased by over 4,000 to 240,990.
- The number of people aged 80 and over is expected to increase by 130% by 2026, to over 16,100.
- Seven of the 139 areas in Milton Keynes are within the 10% most deprived across England.

Development Management

- This year's monitoring figures show an increase in the number of planning applications determined by the Council, from 1,210 in 2009/10, to 1,322 in 2010/11.
- The Council's appeal record has improved, with the percentage of appeals allowed falling from 60.7% in 2007/08 to 42.2% in 2010/11.
- Planning Obligations monitoring shows that S106 expenditures stood at £3,987,540 whilst receipts stood at £7,149,068 2010/11.

Housing

- The dwelling completions figure fell again this year to 1,295, down from 2,301 in 2007/08 and the lowest since 2003/04.
- The Council currently has a 5.47 year housing land supply.
- The percentage of affordable housing completions increased slightly from 27% to 28.9%.
- The number of 3+ bedroom house completions increased from 40% to 57%, and flat completions fell from 46% to 37%.

Economy

- The annual jobs to dwelling ratio figure increased from -3.81 in 2009 to 1.61 in 2010.
- Employment land completions fell from 53,099 in 2009/10 to 25,698 in 2010/11 (the 2009/10 figure was well above the long term average due to the completion of two large developments).
- There is 195.6ha of employment land available for development, compared to 199.80ha in 2009/10.
- 23% of all employment floorspace was completed on previously developed land, down from 83% last year.

Transport

- Local transport Plan 2 has been superceeded by Local Transport Plan 3 which provides the new transport strategy for Milton Keynes up to 2031.
- Bus Patronage has increased by just under 1 million journeys from 8.2 million to 9.1 million.
- The peak traffic level has decreased further, with 20,900 vehicles entering CMK between 7am and 10am.
- The number of cycles parked in CMK decreased by 35 from last year, from 344 to 309, 291 below the target figure for 2010-11.

Energy and Climate Change

- The first permitted windfarm (7 turbines) came into operation and is capable of generating between 14 and 21 megawatts of power.
- Milton Keynes has exceeded the 12% Carbon Dioxide reduction Local Area Agreement target for 2011 by 4%.
- Up to April 2011, 5.2% of properties in Milton Keynes have benefited from improved insulation as a result of the Carbon Offset Fund.
- Milton Keynes Council has approved the Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan, which aim to reduce carbon emissions per person in the Milton Keynes Area by 40% by 2020.

Natural and Historic Environment

- 65% of Local Biodiversity Sites are in positive conservation management, a significantly higher proportion than neighbouring authorities.
- No planning applications were granted contrary to advice from the Environment Agency on flooding or water grounds.
- All of Milton Keynes' air quality targets were met, with one exception - Olney, where, once again, nitrogen dioxide levels were measured to be at an unacceptably high level.
- A new Local Heritage at Risk Register has been produced, consisting of 109 heritage assets.

Minerals and Waste

- No information is available for minerals due to commercial confidentiality.
- Permission was granted for an organic waste treatment facility.
- Capacity for 20,000 tonnes of additional waste management became operational.
- The amount and proportion of waste sent to landfill fell again this year, from 67,001 tonnes to 58,889 tonnes.

1 Introduction

The Annual Monitoring Report

1.1 The production of an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is currently required by Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. However, while retaining the overall duty to monitor, the Localism Act will remove this requirement when the relevant clauses come into effect on 15 January 2012. On 30 March 2011, the parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Bob Neill MP, wrote to authorities announcing the withdrawal of Annual Monitoring Report Guidance, meaning authorities are now free to choose which targets and indicators to include in their reports (providing they are in line with relevant UK and EU legislation).

1.2 The monitoring period of an AMR runs from 1 April to 31 March of the following year. This year the report must be sent to the Secretary of State before the end of the calendar year. However, in future years, this will not be required due to the changes being brought in through the Localism Act.

Milton Keynes Background Information

1.3 Milton Keynes Borough covers the 'new city' of Milton Keynes as well as the large rural area which includes Newport Pagnell, Woburn Sands and Olney. The Borough is located in the centre of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) which brings together businesses, universities and colleges, community groups, social enterprises and local government in Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Luton, Milton Keynes, Cherwell, Aylesbury and Dacorum (Figure 1.1 'SEMLEP Boundary and Assets'). The aim of the LEP is to support inward investment, innovation, economic growth, new enterprise and job creation.

Figure 1.1 SEMLEP Boundary and Assets

1.4 Milton Keynes was designated as a New Town in 1967. The development of the city was subject to the 1970 Master Plan, implemented by the Milton Keynes Corporation until 1992. Milton Keynes has been, and continues to be, one of the fastest growing areas in the UK, with around 2,500 to 3,000 new residents every year. Since designation, the Borough's population has grown from 60,000 to 240,990 (June 2010 estimate). The Submission Core Strategy sets a housing target of 28,000 over the period 2010-2026. This growth is expected to increase the total population to almost 300,000 by 2026. The majority of land allocated to accommodate this growth was allocated in the Local Plan, further sites will be allocated through the Core Strategy and the new Local Plan.

1.5 The growth of Milton Keynes can be attributed to its advantageous location midway between London and Birmingham, as well as its connections to the M1 motorway and the West Coast Mainline train service. Milton Keynes' position at the centre of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc offers good opportunities for economic growth. There are around 154,000 jobs in the Borough. It is estimated that approximately 16% of workers commute from outside the Borough. The Submission Core Strategy contains a target to provide 1.5 jobs for every new dwelling built.

1.6 Milton Keynes is a major shopping and leisure destination, with approximately 19 million people within a 90 minute drive of the city. Popular destinations include the shopping centre, the theatre and Xscape.

Milton Keynes Partnership Local Investment Plan

1.7 Milton Keynes Partnership produce a Local Investment Plan which provides a comprehensive picture of projected housing, employment and social infrastructure development in Milton Keynes. It also identifies the lead delivery agency and potential sources of funding for a detailed programme of work and infrastructure. The Plan helps to overcome obstacles to the delivery and implementation of growth, and can be found on the Milton Keynes Partnership website[1].

Milton Keynes Council Planning, Economy and Development Group

1.8 The Planning department at Milton Keynes Council went through a restructuring process in early 2011; its new name is the Planning, Economy and Development (PED) Group. The new PED Group is formed of the following teams:

- **Planning Policy** - produce planning policy documents which direct the location of growth and development and provide the basis for the determination of planning applications.
- **Development Management** - handle and determine (or make recommendations for determining) planning applications.
  - **Conservation and Archaeology** - make comments on planning applications and produce policy documents covering conservation or archaeological issues.
  - **Highways Development Management** - provide transport comments on planning applications.
  - **Planning Enforcement** - ensure that developments are constructed in line with approved plans.
  - **Land Charges -** process search requests from solicitors, conveyancers and the public.
- **Urban Design and Landscape Architecture** - help shape the layout and design of developments, buildings and open space.
- **Economic Development** - provide advice and information to other teams within the Council to support economic development. They also provide help and support for businesses looking to locate or expand in Milton Keynes.
- **Infrastructure Co-ordination and Delivery Service** - facilitate and support the growth of Milton Keynes.

1.9 As part of the restructure, the Milton Keynes Partnership (MKP) planning service transferred to the Council in August 2011. The Development Management team at Milton Keynes Partnership, who deal with major planning applications in the Milton Keynes expansion areas, has been incorporated into the Council's Development Management team. Milton Keynes Partnership Planning Sub-Committee remains the local planning authority responsible for determining major planning applications in the expansion areas until such time as the planning powers are formally transferred to Milton Keynes Council. This is dependent on a statutory instrument being revoked through the parliamentary process and a new instrument coming into effect.

1 http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/about_MKP/local_investment_plan_2009.Php.

1.10 Also as part of the restructure, the InvestMK team at MKP, which provides help and support for businesses looking to expand within, or move to, Milton Keynes, has been incorporated into the Council's Economic Development team.

2 Progress on LDF & LDS Implementation

Changes to the Planning System

Localism Act

2.1 The Coalition government is introducing a raft of changes to the planning system through the Localism Act[(2)]. As a result, there has been a lot of uncertainty, resulting in delays to the production of planning documents. The Localism Bill was first published in December 2010 and received Royal Assent in November 2011. Arguably, the two most significant planning related changes introduced by the act are:

- the provision to revoke regional spatial strategies, and
- the introduction of neighbourhood planning

2.2 In terms of the impact of the introduction of the provision to revoke regional spatial strategies, since the intention was originally announced by the Government in May 2010 this has had a significant impact on the timescale for adoption of the Milton Keynes Core Strategy. Consequently, the timescale for the production of the DPDs scheduled to follow adoption of the Core Strategy has also been delayed.

2.3 The impact of the introduction of neighbourhood planning is significant in the sense that it involves a substantial amount of officer resource, meaning a reduced level of resource is available for the production of Development Plan Documents. Work has began on Neighbourhood Plans in Milton Keynes, see paragraph 2.15 for more information.

National Planning Policy Framework

2.4 With the aim of clarifying and simplifying national planning policy, the government is replacing the existing national planning policy statements and guidance notes with a single National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)[(3)]. In July 2011 the Draft National Planning Policy Framework was published for consultation. All future Milton Keynes Local Plan Documents will need be in conformity with the Framework once it has been finalised.

Local Development Framework

Introduction

2.5 This section reviews progress on the Local Development Framework. As the current Local Development Scheme is due to be updated, progress has not been reported against the LDS timeline, and additional documents are included that do not appear in the timeline. The most significant progress made in 2010/11 was submission of the Core Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination.

Core Strategy

2.6 As at December 2010 and as reported in last year's AMR, a second round of pre-submission consultation on the Core Strategy had been carried out between 6 October 2010 and 17 November 2010 and a report was due to be taken to the Local Development Framework Advisory Group in January 2011.

2 See this link for a guide to the Localism Bill
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/localismplainenglishguide

3 A summary of the draft Framework is available at
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/draftframeworksummary

2.7 At the Local Development Advisory Group meeting on 5 January 2011, it was agreed to carry the Core Strategy forward to submission. This was confirmed through a delegated decision taken by the Cabinet Member on 20 January 2011. A further delegated decision was taken by the Director of Environment on 11 February 2011, where updates, clarification and factual corrections to the Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy were agreed. The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination on 1 March 2011.

2.8 The examination hearings were due to take place in July 2011, but they were deferred after consideration was given to the implications of the judgement in the High Court case relating to the Forest Heath Core Strategy[(4)]. It was decided that, to provide certainty that the Core Strategy production process is legally compliant, further consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal of Reasonable Alternative Sites should be undertaken. This consultation took place in June and July 2011.

2.9 In light of the consultation responses, a recommendation was put forward, and agreed by Cabinet and Council, to amend the allocation within the Core Strategy. On 6 September 2011, Cabinet agreed a revision to the strategic land allocation in light of the consultation on the Sustainability Appraisal of Reasonable Alternatives. On 13 September, Full Council confirmed the decision made by Cabinet. Following the decision taken by Full Council, consultation was carried out on the proposed amendment to the Core Strategy between 28 September and 9 November 2011. A summary of the consultation responses received has been sent to the inspector. It is anticipated that the examination will be rescheduled to take place in the new year, potentially late February or March 2012.

Local Plan

2.10 Given the publication of the Draft NPPF and its references to a "Local Plan", the Council now intends to progress the Site Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Documents (DPDs) as a single Local Plan document.

2.11 Some Local Plan preparation work has began. The main priority for 2012 will be to review and update the evidence base, although the resource available will depend on, amongst other things, the Core Strategy examination and progress with Neighbourhood Plans.

Minerals Development Plan Document

2.12 The Minerals DPD will be progressed separately from the new Local Plan. Background minerals work, which will inform the production of the DPD, began in September 2011.

Strategic Land Allocation Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document

2.13 The South East Strategic Development Area allocation was withdrawn from the Core Strategy in mid 2010, following the government's intention to revoke regional spatial strategies. As a result, the document, previously titled the South East Strategic Development Area Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), has become the Strategic Land Allocation Development Framework SPD due to the change in land allocation.

2.14 As at December 2011, work is taking place to produce a draft SPD. It is anticipated that formal consultation on the draft SPD will begin in mid February 2012 and will be adopted in May 2012.

Neighbourhood Plans

2.15 As a result of the emerging Localism agenda, Neighbourhood Planning is becoming an important and growing area of work for the Development Plans team, but does not feature in the current Local Development Scheme. In advance of the neighbourhood planning initiatives coming into effect, the Government encouraged local planning authorities to work with some of their communities on pilot or ‘frontrunner’ neighbourhood plans,

4 Save Historic Newmarket Ltd v. Forest Heath District Council [2011] EWHC 606

to test out the process. Milton Keynes Council has four frontrunner projects underway at present in: the Lakes Estate, Castlethorpe, Stony Stratford, and Wolverton. Other parishes have also expressed an interest in producing a Neighbourhood Plan. There is also a CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan 'frontrunner'.

Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document

2.16 Work is currently taking place on the production of a single Planning Obligations SPD, which will replace the current suite of planning obligations SPDs and SPGs. Work towards the production of a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is also taking place alongside the planning obligations work.

2.17 It is anticipated that a draft Planning Obligations SPD will be available for consultation in spring 2012.

Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document

2.18 Work on this SPD has not yet commenced due to the delays in the adoption of the Core Strategy. At a meeting of Cabinet on 9 November, it was resolved to update the existing affordable housing SPD, with a draft document due to be approved for consultation in June 2012.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document

2.19 Production of the SPD was delayed last year, due to the government's removal of the requirement to seek planning permission for the change of use from a dwellinghouse to a house in multiple occupation. Milton Keynes Council took the decision to retain planning control of houses in multiple occupation and, as a result, introduced Article 4 Directions removing the new permitted development rights.

2.20 Work on the SPD recommenced in 2011, and a draft SPD was made available for consultation in October 2011 for a 12 week period. It is anticipated that a final version of the SPD will be adopted in April 2012.

Wind Turbines SPD

2.21 The need for a wind turbines SPD emerged as a result of concerns raised by Parish Councillors and a decision was taken by the Development Control Committee in October 2011 that an SPD be produced. The SPD focuses on the protection of residential amenity. It is anticipated that a draft SPD will be available for consultation in January 2012.

CMK Development Framework

2.22 In July 2010, cabinet resolved to initiate a review of the CMK development framework due to the dramatic change in the economic climate since 2002, when the document was published. This work was considered to be a priority which should be carried out ahead of the other CMK SPDs. Analytical studies have taken place and it is anticipated that a draft for formal consultation will be ready in spring 2012 with adoption due in summer 2012.

Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

2.23 A revised draft of the Residential Design Guide SPD will be made available for consultation on 22 December 2011 which will run to 13 February 2012. Delays to the production of this document have resulted from requirements to include aspects of the Highway Design Guide SPD and revised Residential Parking Standards, as well as the results from a workshop on 'Residential Estate Layout' held in July 2011, within the SPD.

CMK: Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Document

2.24 Formal consultation was undertaken in early 2010, but the LDF AG felt that it would be premature to finalise and adopt the SPD ahead of the review of the CMK Development Framework. There is also discussion over what role the CMK Business Neighbourhood Plan frontrunner will play.

2.25 There are ongoing discussions as to whether the Tall Buildings SPD could be incorporated into the CMK Development Framework or the CMK Buisness Neighbourhood Plan.

CMK Green Frame Supplementary Planning Document

2.26 Work on the Green Frame has not yet commenced because, as with the Tall Buildings SPD, it is considered that this should not precede the review of the CMK Development Framework. It is likely that the CMK Development Framework Review SPD will include strategic policy / guidance around the greenframe and that subsequent detail, if deemed necessary, may emerge within the Business Neighbourhood Plan. This means there will not be a separate CMK Green Frame SPD.

CMK Block Parameter Plan

2.27 As with the other Urban Design documents, work on the CMK Block Parameter Plan has not begun because it is considered that this should not precede the review of the CMK Development Framework. It is likely that the CMK Development Framework Review SPD will include strategic policy / guidance around revised districts (quarters) in CMK and that guidance and parameters around individual blocks will, if deemed necessary, emerge within the Business Neighbourhood Plan. This means that there will not be a separate CMK Block Parameter Plan document.

Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document

2.28 Parking standards will be separated into two parts: residential and business. Revised residential parking standards will be incorporated in the Residential Design Guide SPD. Work on the Business Parking SPD is at the evidence gathering stage.

Highway Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

2.29 The Highway Design Guide will not be a joint document with the Residential Design Guide, as reported last year, but will be a 'sister' document. A draft SPD is expected to be made available for consultation in January 2012. It is anticipated that the document will be adopted in May/June 2012.

3 Social

Contextual Indicators

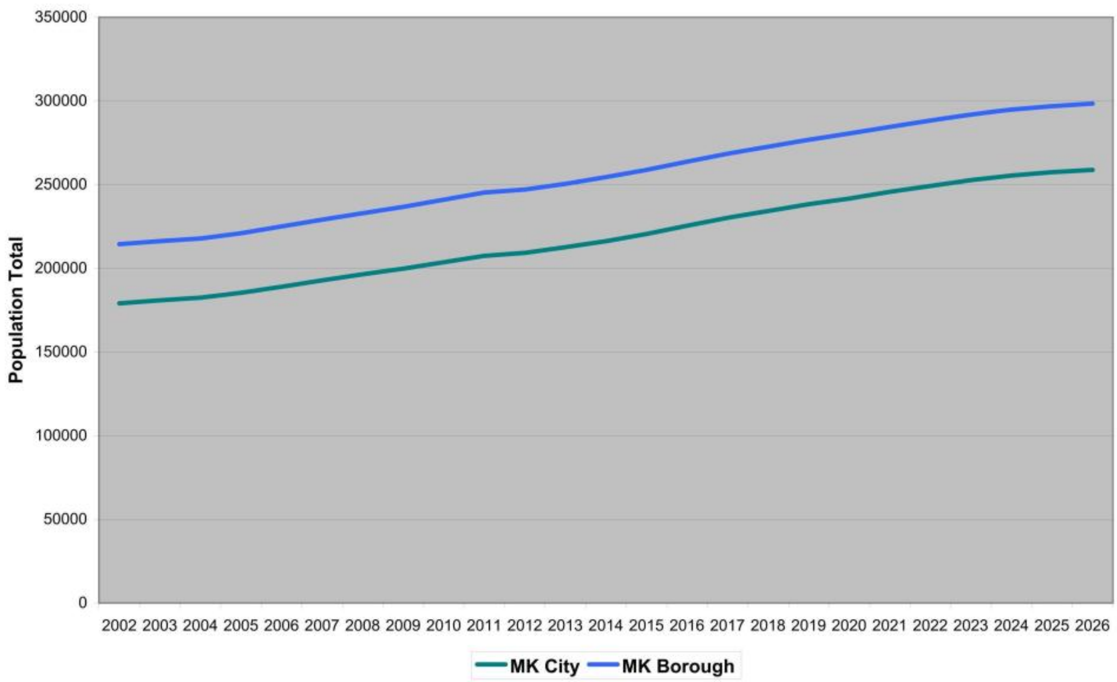
Population

3.1 Figure 3.1 'Future Population Growth' shows a steady increase in population of the Borough, which is expected to reach 298,430 in 2026. Table 3.1 ' Population of Milton Keynes Borough'[(5)] shows 1.8% increase on 2009's figure for 2010. Between 1991 and 2009, the Borough's population increased by 33% (the population of England as a whole increased by only 8%)[(6)].

Table 3.1 Population of Milton Keynes Borough

Population	
Milton Keynes at designation in 1967	60,000
Milton Keynes June 2008	232,920
Milton Keynes June 2009	236,670
Milton Keynes June 2010	240,990

Figure 3.1 Future Population Growth



5 Source - MKI Population Bulletin 2010/11 http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/Download/Public/1026/DOCUMENT/9641/PopulationBulletin2010-11.Pdf

6 Sources: 1991 Census and 2009 Mid-Year Population Estimates

3.2 Table 3.2 'Projected Population Breakdown of Milton Keynes for 2010'[7] shows that the largest proportion of the population falls within the 30-39 and 40-49 age groups. The two groups account for 31.3% of the Borough's total population.

3.3 In 2010 there were 38,800 people aged 60 and over in the Borough, and this number is expected to increase by 85%, to over 71,800 by 2026. The corresponding percentage increase nationally is 34%. In Milton Keynes, the 60-80 year age group is forecast to grow by 75% by 2026. The 80+ age group is forecast to increase by over 130%, from 7,000 population to over 16,100.

Table 3.2 Projected Population Breakdown of Milton Keynes for 2010

Age Group	Males	Females	Total
0 - 4	9,680	8,840	18,540
5 - 9	8,030	7,900	15,920
10 - 19	15,450	14,360	29,840
20 - 29	15,710	14,770	30,480
30 - 39	18,610	18,710	37,320
40 - 49	19,240	18,780	38,010
50 - 59	15,250	15,020	30,260
60 - 69	10,960	11,010	21,970
70 -79	5,270	6,150	11,380
80 +	2,560	4,720	7,290
Total	**120,760**	**120,220**	**240,990**

Ethnic Composition

3.4 Table 3.3 'Ethnic Composition Estimates for Milton Keynes Borough 2009'[8] shows that the largest minority groups are:

- Other White (3.4%)
- Indian (3.5%)
- African (2.1%)
- Mixed ethnicity (2.4%)

7 MKI Population Bulletin 2010/11 http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/Download/Public/1026/DOCUMENT/9641/PopulationBulletin2010-11.Pdf

8 Source - http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/

Table 3.3 Ethnic Composition Estimates for Milton Keynes Borough 2009

Ethnic Composition		Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	England (%)
White	British	190,500	80.5	82.8
	Irish	2,900	1.2	1.1
	Other White	8,100	3.4	3.6
Mixed Ethnicity		5,700	2.4	1.8
Asian or Asian British	Indian	8,200	3.5	2.7
	Pakistani	4,300	1.8	1.9
	Bangladeshi	1,800	0.8	0.7
	Other Asian	1,800	0.8	0.7
Black or Black British	Caribbean	2,600	1.1	1.2
	African	5,000	2.1	1.5
	Other Black	700	0.3	0.2
Chinese		3,000	1.3	0.8
Other Ethnic Group		1,900	0.8	0.8
Total		**236,700**	**100**	**100**

Life Expectancy

3.5 Table 3.4 'Life Expectancy at Birth 2007 - 2009'[(9)] shows that average life expectancy at birth for both males and females in Milton Keynes Borough is very slightly below the averages for the South East and England as a whole. The average life expectancy at birth for males in Milton Keynes has dropped by 0.1 years from the 2008/09 figure of 78 years.

Table 3.4 Life Expectancy at Birth 2007 - 2009

	Milton Keynes	South East	England
Females	82.2	83.3	82.3
Males	77.9	79.4	78.3

9 Source - MKi Observatory http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/

Deprivation

3.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Government measure of deprivation and was last updated in 2010. The Index of Multiple Deprivation. It combines a number of indicators (covering a range of economic, social and housing issues) into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. These small areas are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and can be combined to create larger, area wide figures. There are 139 LSOAs in Milton Keynes; each of these are ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation.

3.7 Milton Keynes is ranked 211 out of 354 Local Authority Districts (with 1 being the most deprived). This is a slight fall on the 2007 rank of 212. However, it is important to remember that these figures are relative and do not necessarily represent a deterioration in standards in Milton Keynes; it could represent an improvement in other areas.

3.8 Table 3.5 'The number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes within the least deprived (30%) and most deprived (30%)'[(10)] shows that, of the 139 LSOAs in Milton Keynes, seven are within the 10% most deprived in England. This compares to six in 2007. Overall, there are 24 LSOAs within the most deprived 30% in Milton Keynes, two more than the 2007 Index. There are 17 LSOAs in Milton Keynes within the least deprived 10% in England, three more than in the 2007 Index.

Table 3.5 The number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes within the least deprived (30%) and most deprived (30%)

	LSOAs within the Most Deprived			LSOAs within the Least Deprived		
	2004	**2007**	**2010**	**2004**	**2007**	**2010**
0-10%	5	6	7	14	14	17
10-20%	8	9	11	26	35	34
20-30%	9	7	6	31	23	21
Total	**22**	**22**	**24**	**71**	**72**	**72**

Satisfaction with Area as a Place to Live

3.9 This year's figures show that 80.8% of people were satisfied with their local area as a place to live [(11)]. This is a 3.5% drop on the score reported last year (84.3%), but it is not significantly different to the score of 82.7% recorded in 2008.

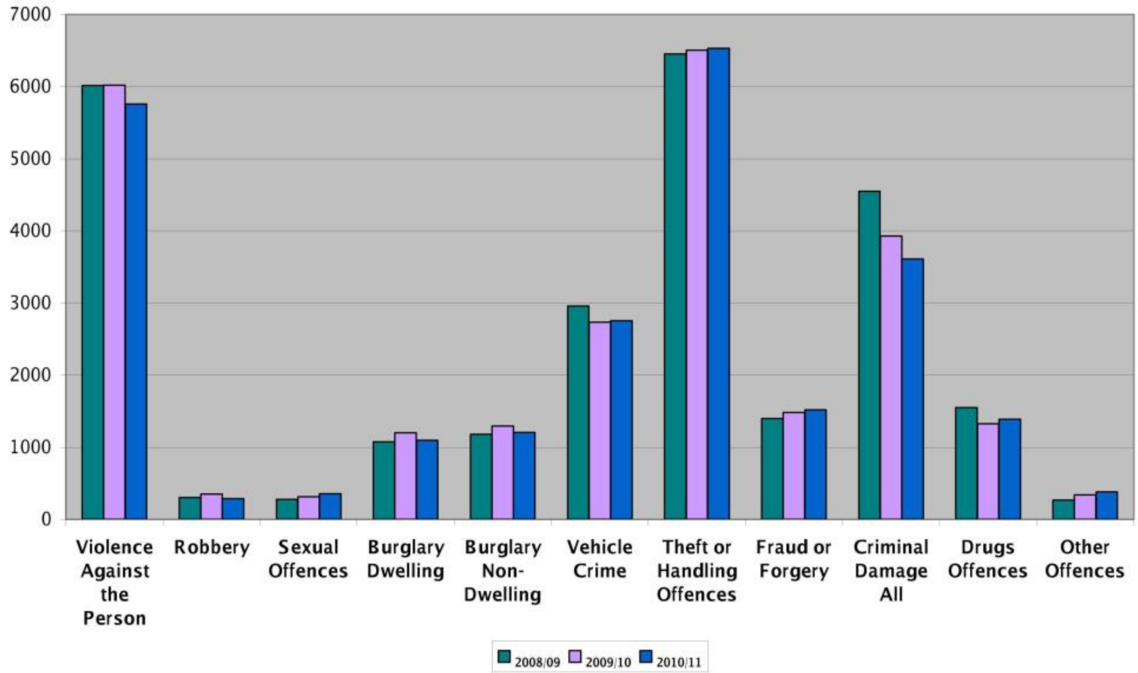
10 Source - MKi Observatory http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/Download/Public/1026/DOCUMENT/9677/IMDMAPS2010.Pdf

11 Source - Citizens Survey Report http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/document.aspx?id=9680&siteID=1026

Crime Rates

3.10 Figure 3.2 'Recorded Crime Rates in Milton Keynes'[12] shows that the total number of recorded crimes for 2010/11 was 24,878, showing an improvement on last year's figure of 25,480 and the 2008/09 figure of 26,017[13].

Figure 3.2 Recorded Crime Rates in Milton Keynes



Summary

3.11 The figures show that Milton Keynes is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Population projections indicate that the number of people aged 80 and over is expected to increase by 130% by 2026, to over 16,100. The figures also show that out of the 139 LSOAs in Milton Keynes, seven are within the 10% most deprived in England (up from five in 2004).

12 Source - MKi Observatory http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk/webview/index.jsp
13 There has been a change in the way that crimes are categorised this year, meaning the figures shown in this year's AMR are very different to those reported last year

4 Development Management

Development Management

Planning Applications

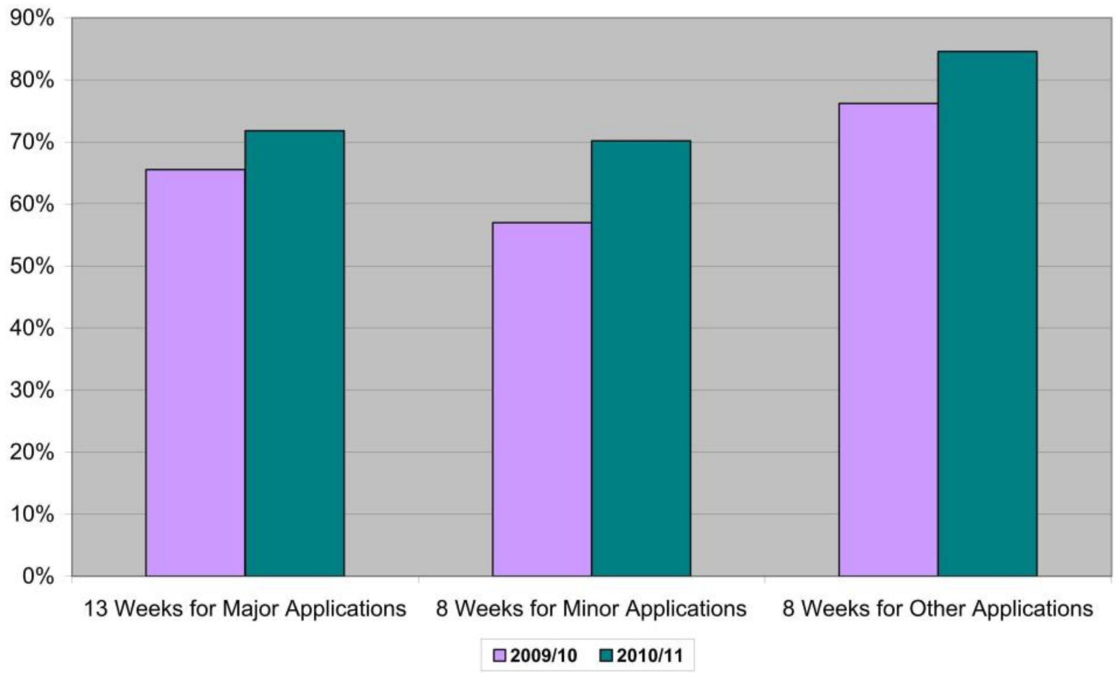
4.1 The number of planning applications submitted to the Council increased from 1,210 in 2009/10 to 1,322 in 2010/11. Table 4.1 'Determination of Planning Applications in Milton Keynes' shows an increase in all three groups of planning applications; major applications increased by 34%, minor by 14% and other by 7%. The Table also shows a reduction in the proportion of applications refused (down from 13.1% in 2009/10 to 12.2% in 2010/11)[14]. In 2009/10, 22% of decisions on planning applications made by Development Control Committee and Panel were made against the officer recommendation; this figure dropped to 9% in 2010/11.

Table 4.1 Determination of Planning Applications in Milton Keynes

	Major, minor & other		Major		Minor		Other		Major, minor & other
	Refused	Allowed	Refused	Allowed	Refused	Allowed	Refused	Allowed	Withdrawn
2009/10	**158**	**1052**	4	25	30	256	124	771	101
2010/11	**163**	**1159**	2	37	41	284	120	838	110

4.2 Figure 4.1 'Planning Applications decided within the 13 and 8 week deadlines' shows an improvement in the timely determination of planning applications within all three categories. The greatest improvement was in the determination of minor applications within deadline, up from 57% to 70%.

Figure 4.1 Planning Applications decided within the 13 and 8 week deadlines



14 Source - Development Management Team

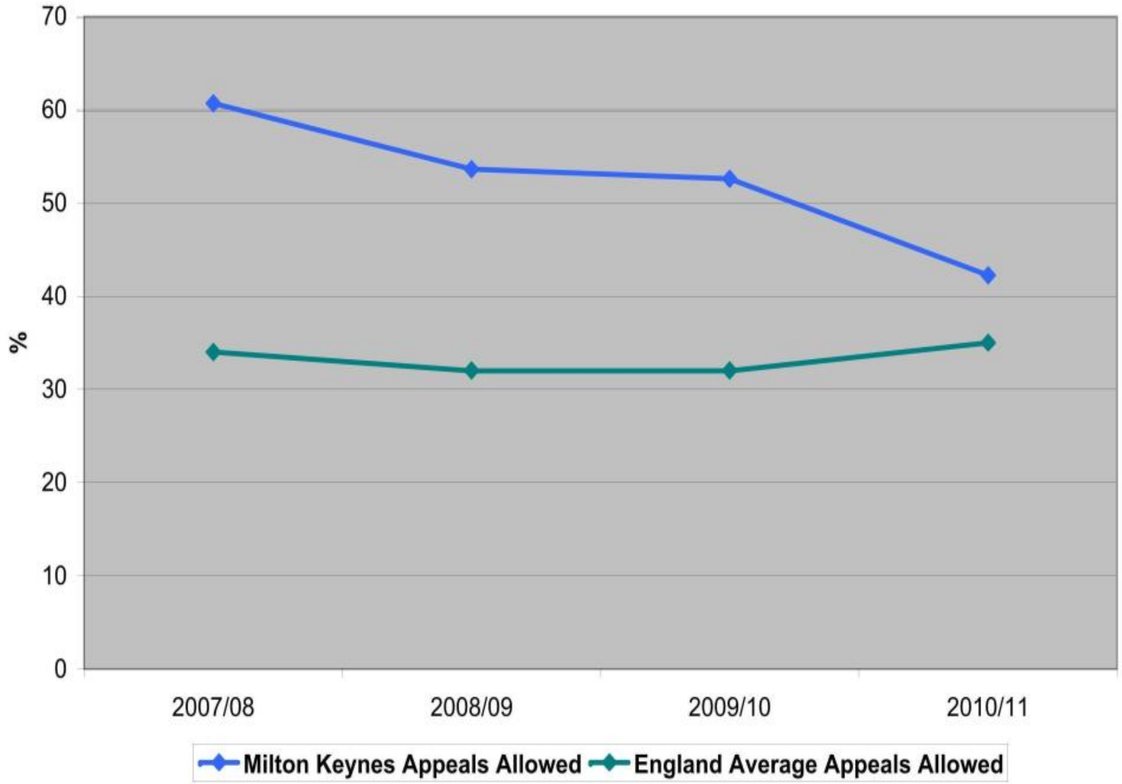
Planning Appeals

4.3 Figure 4.2 'Planning Appeals 2007 - 2010' shows that there has been a significant improvement in the proportion of appeals allowed, down from 60.7% in 2007/08 to 42.2% in 2010/11, although the figure remains higher than the average across England (35% [15]). This will require close monitoring in future years.

4.4 There are a number of factors that influence an authority's appeal record, and not all of those factors are within the authority's control. Nevertheless, the results for 2010/11 show that efforts to improve the robustness of the decisions made on planning applications, as well as cases presented to the Planning Inspectorate, have been successful to some degree.

4.5 In order to further improve the Council's success rate in defending appeal decisions, a closer analysis and evaluation of planning policies that are currently being used in determining planning applications is required. This process should help to ensure that planning policies formed through the production of the new Local Plan are effective, and can be successfully defended at appeal.

Figure 4.2 Planning Appeals 2007 - 2010



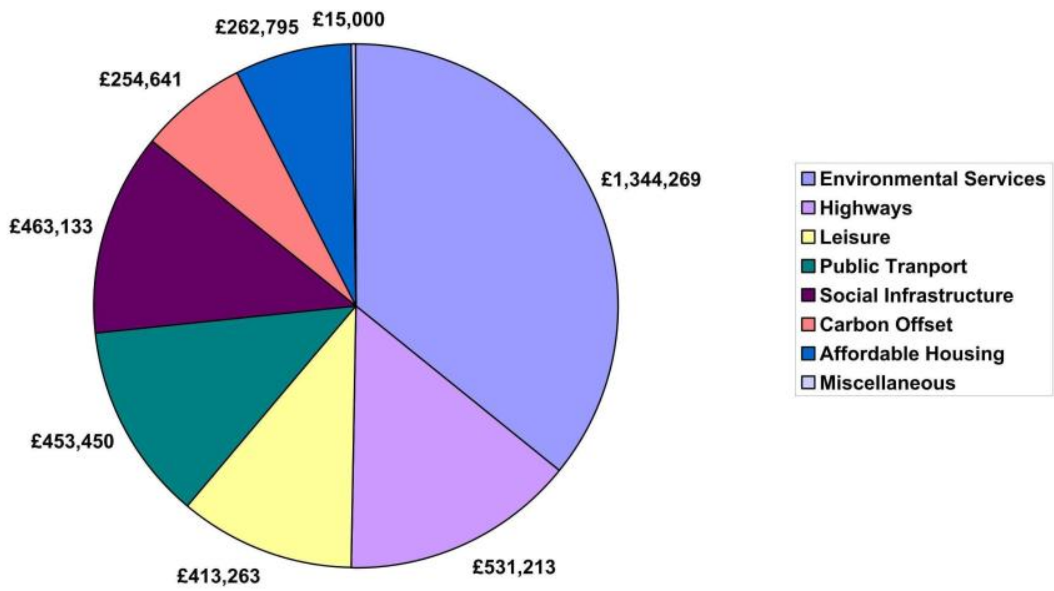
Planning Obligations

4.6 Planning obligations (also known as 'Section 106 Agreements') are financial contributions that are necessary in order to make a development acceptable in planning terms. They are generally used to support the provision of infrastructure and services, such as highways, recreational facilities, education, health and affordable housing. The negotiation of planning obligations begins by applying the Council's Supplementary Planning Documents and then working with the developer, service departments and local groups to bring forward a viable and sustainable development.

15 Source - Planning Portal available at: http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/uploads/pins/statistics_eng/10_11/stats_report_final_2010_2011.pdf

4.7 Figure 4.3 'S106 Expenditure in 2010/11'[16] shows that £3,987,540 of committed funds was spent on a range of environmental improvements, highway schemes, social infrastructure, public transport, leisure, affordable housing, carbon offset and other community benefits.

Figure 4.3 S106 Expenditure in 2010/11



4.8 Table 4.2 ' Planning Obligations Secured in 2010/11' shows that in 2010/11the Council received £7,149,068 in S106 contributions. The largest contributions were made towards education, leisure and public transport schemes. More information on planning obligations and specific projects that have been funded through S106 Agreements can be found in the Planning Obligations Newsletters[17].

16 Source - Infrastructure Co-ordination & Delivery Team
17 Source - http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/document.aspx?id=9438&siteID=1026

Table 4.2 Planning Obligations Secured in 2010/11

Budget Areas	Funds
Carbon Offset	£337,836
Education	£1,787,153
Environmental Services	£276,382
Highways	£744,000
Leisure	£1,926,712
Pedestrian/Cycle	£216,596
Public Art	£80,376
Public Transport	£872,808
Social Infrastructure	£355,955
Miscellaneous	£551,250
Total	**£7,149,068**

Summary

4.9 This year's monitoring figures show that the number of planning applications submitted to the Council has increased. They also show that there has been a continuing improvement in the Council's appeal record, with the percentage of appeals allowed falling from 60.7% in 2007/08, to 42.2% in 2010/11. Planning Obligations monitoring shows that in 2010/11 S106 expenditure stood at £3,987,540 and receipts totalled £7,149,068.

Actions

- Continue monitoring the Council's success rate at defending planning decisions on appeals.
- Continue monitoring the number of planning applications determined by Development Control Committee and Panel against officer recommendation and consider whether additional training is required.
- Analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of existing planning policies in order to inform the production of policies in the new Local Plan.
- Continue to work on the production of a single Planning Obligations SPD and a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Ensure that the release of planning obligations funds is not unnecessarily delayed and that infrastructure projects are being implemented in a timely manner.

5 Housing

Housing Targets

5.1 The Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy (Oct 2010) contains a housing target of 28,000 new home completions over the period from 2010 to 2026, an average of 1,750 new homes per year.

5.2 This target can be broken down into two distinct parts:

- 26,240 homes in and around the urban area (1,640 per year)
- 1,760 homes in the rest of the Borough (the rural area) (110 per year)

5.3 The Core Strategy, and the target housing figure contained within it, is due to be formally examined in February 2012, after which time it is expected to be formally adopted. This AMR covers the first year of the plan period (1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011), so is able to assess performance against the rate of completions anticipated when the Core Strategy target was set.

5.4 A housing trajectory was included in the Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy (2010) which set out the anticipated rate of housing completions over the 16 year plan period. The monitoring section of the Core Strategy sets out the aim to stay within 20% of the target (cumulatively), with the expectation that straying outside of the 20% range, without optimism of improvement, will necessitate action being taken to improve performance.

5.5 The Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy trajectory (Figure 5.1 'Core Strategy Housing Trajectory 2010-2026') forecast 1,128 total completions for the 2010/11 monitoring period.

Dwelling Completions

Table 5.1 Net Housing Completions 2004-2011

2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
1,231	1,183	1,133	1,360	1,795	1,660	2,301	1,841	1,413	1,295

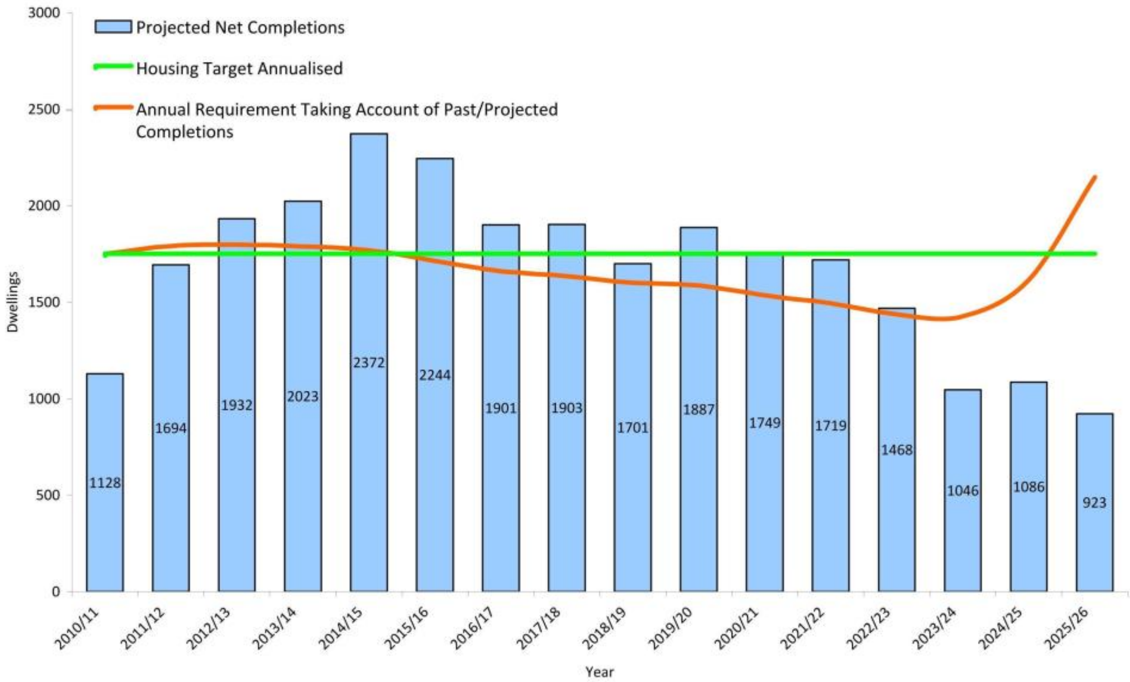
5.6 Table 5.1 'Net Housing Completions 2004-2011' shows that the actual net figure for housing completions was 1,295 in 2010/11. This is 14% above the level forecast in the Core Strategy housing trajectory (Figure 5.1 'Core Strategy Housing Trajectory 2010-2026'), but the lowest since 2003/04. This figure is broadly in the range that was expected, given the current economic climate.

5.7 Figure 5.1 'Core Strategy Housing Trajectory 2010-2026' shows that completions are forecast to remain below the annualised average in the current year, before picking up in the years to follow.

5.8 Progress against this target will be kept under review. As such, a new housing trajectory based on up-to-date information (including progress on sites and new planning permissions) has been prepared for this AMR. This revised housing trajectory (Figure 5.2 'Revised housing trajectory') has informed the five year land supply figure which is summarised later in this report.

5.9 Figure 5.2 'Revised housing trajectory' does not show a significant change from the original Core Strategy forecast. The main change is a dip in the forecast rate of completions in 2012/13, which is a result of more accurate forecasting of the start date on two major sites, and completions on several active sites being re-profiled in line with up-to-date information.

Figure 5.1 Core Strategy Housing Trajectory 2010-2026



Nature of Completions

5.10 Of total completions last year, 1,193 were in the urban area and 113 were in the rest of the Borough. This is broadly in line with expectations; rural completions continuing at a steady rate and urban completions falling below the annualised housing target due to the depressed housing market.

5.11 Table 5.2 'Percentage of housing completions by bedrooms' sets out completions by size (bedrooms) during 2010/11. The table shows that there was a decrease in the number of flats (both 1 and 2 bed) compared to the two previous years. There has also been an increasing supply of 3, 4 and 5 bedroom houses over the last three years, the proportion of each nearly doubling over the period.

Table 5.2 Percentage of housing completions by bedrooms

Year	1 bed flat	2 bed flat	3+ bed flat	1 bed house	2 bed house	3 bed house	4 bed house	5 bed house	Unknown
2008/09	22	41	2	0	5	12	14	4	0
2009/10	13	32	1	2	11	15	20	5	2
2010/11	7	29	1	0	7	23	26	8	0

Five Year Land Supply

5.12 The Council is required to maintain a rolling five year supply of housing land that is both deliverable and developable. The requirement for the next full five years (from April 2012) is set out in Table 5.3 'Five year land supply requirement'. The requirement is determined by:

- Calculating the remainder of the housing target to be delivered between 2012 and 2026, taking into account completions during the period from 2010/11 and the forecast completions from 2011/12
- Dividing by the remaining years of the plan (14) to get a revised annualised requirement
- Multiplying the new requirement by 5 to get the five year requirement.

Table 5.3 Five year land supply requirement

(a) Housing target	28,000
(b) Completions 2010/11	1,295
(c) Forecast completions 2011/12	1,639
(d) Remaining requirement (a-b-c)	25,066
(e) Annualised over remaining 14 years (d x 14)	1790.4
Five year requirement (e x 5)	**8,952**

5.13 The supply of land over this period is set out in Figure 5.2 'Revised housing trajectory'. This trajectory has been developed from last year's trajectory by:

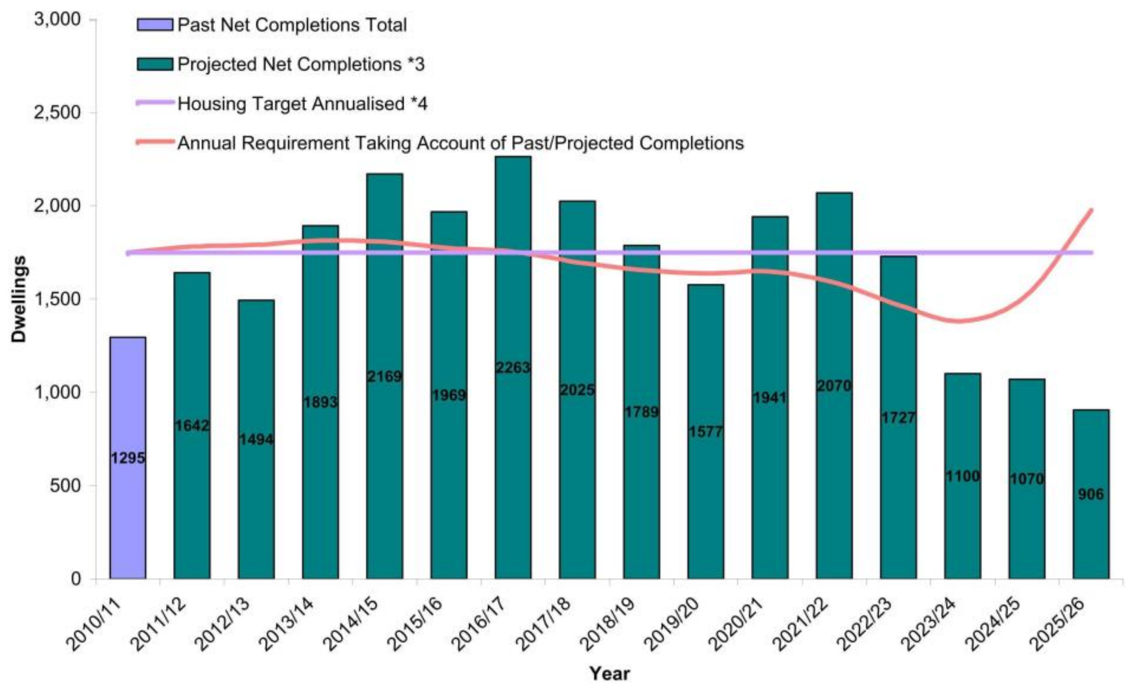
- Taking account of actual completions in 2010/11
- Adjusting the remaining capacity of sites to take into account over/under completions against the original forecast
- Adding new windfall planning permissions not included previously
- Adjusting forecasts in light of information from developers and landowners through the ongoing Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

5.14 Figure 5.2 'Revised housing trajectory' shows that over the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2017, 9,788 dwellings are expected to be completed. This is equivalent to 5.47 years' supply.

5.15 A full list of sites which make up the Five Year Land Supply is available in a separate statement accompanying the AMR[18].

18 The full list of sites can be viewed at http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/planning-policy/displayarticle.asp?ID=61287

Figure 5.2 Revised housing trajectory



5.16 The draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out a requirement for an additional 20% of land to be available during any five year period. In effect, this means there is a requirement to show that there is enough supply to deliver six years worth of housing in any five year period.

5.17 At the current time the figure of 5.47 years (9.4% above requirement) is just below this emerging requirement. From the new trajectory, it can be seen that this figure will improve steadily over the next few years. It is not however forecast to reach the six year figure during the plan period. This is discussed more in the Five Year land Supply Report[19].

5.18 The Council has objected to this requirement through the consultation process on the NPPF as it does not believe it is a necessary or helpful tool for planning or housing delivery. If the requirement is formally agreed as part of the NPPF, once consultation responses have been considered, the target will be formally reported against in next year's AMR and Five Year Land Supply Statement.

Affordable Housing Completions

5.19 During 2010/11, there were 389 affordable housing completions. This is 29.8% of all completions, just 0.2% below the 30% policy target. This is a slight improvement on last year when there were 387 (27%) affordable housing completions.

5.20 In terms of the split of affordable housing tenures, the policy requirement is for 25% social rent, 5% shared ownership. In 2010/11 there were approximately 17% social rent and 13% shared ownership[20]. Whilst this deviates from the policy requirement, this is a significant improvement on the previous year when just 11% of affordable

19 available from the Planning Policy web page: http://www.miltonkeynes.gov.uk/planning-policy/displayarticle.asp?ID=61287

20 The primary reason that the tenure mix does not match the SPD is that a large number of permissions were granted under the old Supplementary Planning Guidance mix. It will, therefore, take a while for those permissions to work their way through the system.

home completions were social rent. The improvement in 2010/11 suggests that a greater proportion of the affordable housing need identified in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment has been addressed than in previous years.

5.21 Over the next three years, the new Affordable Rent tenure introduced by the Government is likely to have an impact on the mix of affordable housing completions. Any affordable rent completions will be monitored and reported in next year's AMR.

Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land

5.22 Figure 5.3 'Number of dwellings on previously developed land' and Figure 5.4 'Proportion of dwelling completions on previously developed land' show that both the number and the proportion of dwelling completions on previously developed / Brownfield land fell in the 2010/11 monitoring period. Last year's figure was higher due to the completion of Wolverton Park which is a former railway site. The proportion fell by 13% this year, from 45% to 32%, but this figure exceeds the Local Plan target figure of 20%. It is unlikely that the 60% previously developed land completions target in Planning Policy Statement 3 will be achieved because Milton Keynes is a New Town. This means that there are likely to be less redevelopment opportunities compared with other towns and cities. Also, Milton Keynes has more growth than many other towns and cities, meaning more development land is required. The draft National Planning Policy Framework removes this target for previously developed land completions.

Figure 5.3 Number of dwellings on previously developed land

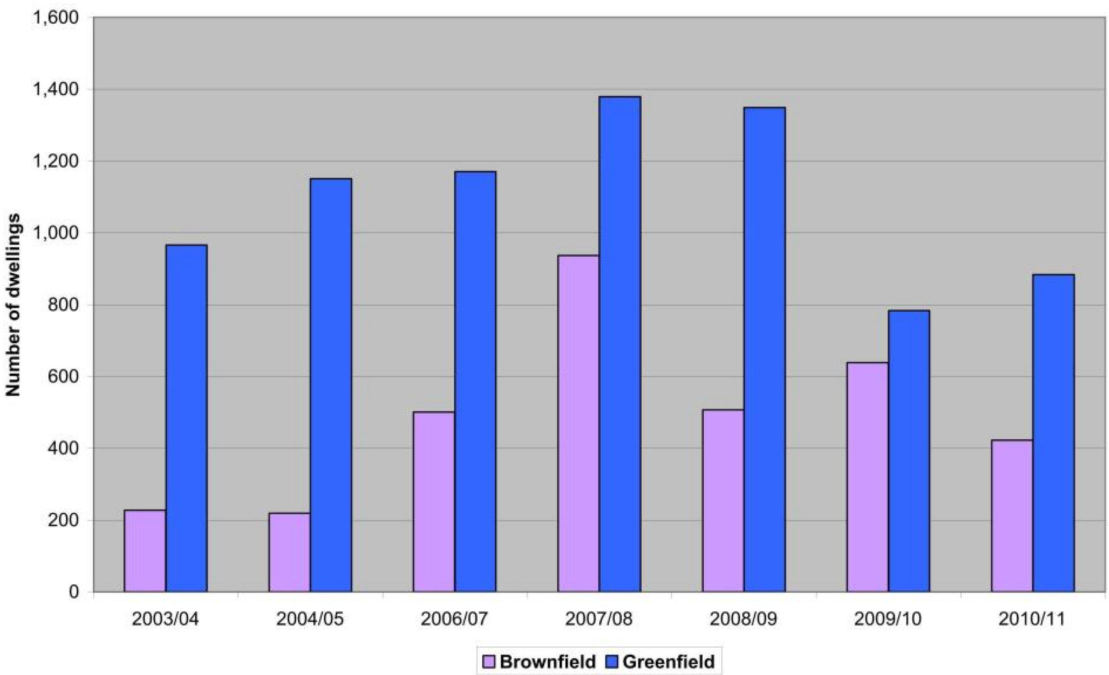
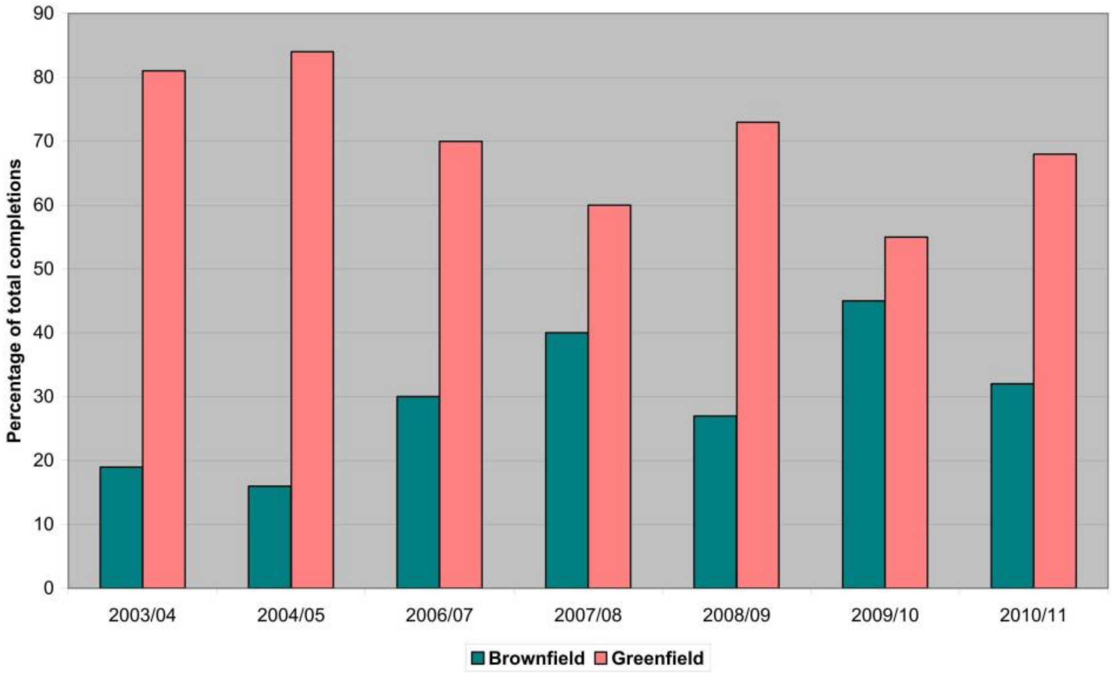


Figure 5.4 Proportion of dwelling completions on previously developed land



Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

5.23 In 2006, Milton Keynes Council carried out a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment with other local authorities in the Thames Valley Region. This identified that Milton Keynes needed to provide 27 additional pitches up to 2011.

5.24 Milton Keynes has 18 existing pitches on two sites at Willen and Calverton. Three further sites are allocated in the Adopted Local Plan; these have the capacity to accommodate the additional 27 pitches required. One of these sites, Fenny Lock, was granted planning permission for the development of 10 pitches in 2010.

Building for Life

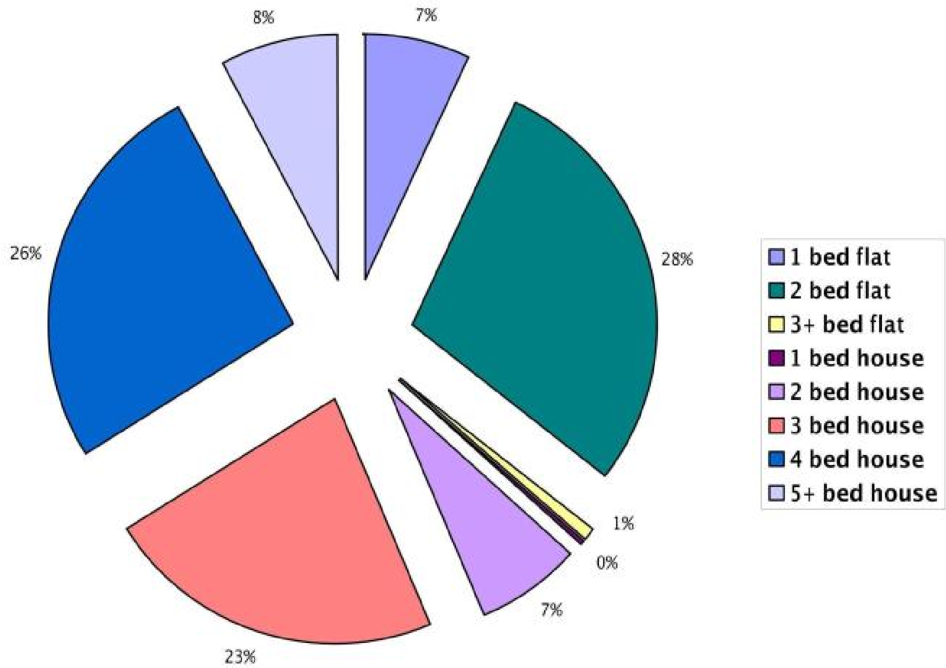
5.25 Building for Life is the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. Good quality housing design can improve social wellbeing and quality of life by creating homes and places that function well and that are attractive. Building for Life promotes design excellence and celebrates best practice in the house building industry. New housing developments are scored against 20 criteria to assess the quality of their design. The following sites were assessed during this monitoring period:

- Shenley Wood Extra Care Village (post construction) - 11 (average) (reported in last year's AMR but completed in this year's monitoring period)
- Oxley Park 1 (post construction) - 14 (good) (reported in last year's AMR but falls into this year's monitoring period)
- Oxley Park 2&3 (during construction) - 14 (good)

5.26 The score for Shenley Wood Extra Care Village has been updated since the figure reported in last year's AMR (8.5). This is primarily because the site was reassessed by local assessors, who had a better knowledge of the site and the development, and who deemed the development worthy of a slightly higher score. The score does, however, remain low. This is because of the site's location away from other residential development and because the services and facilities are provided solely for the use of its residents.

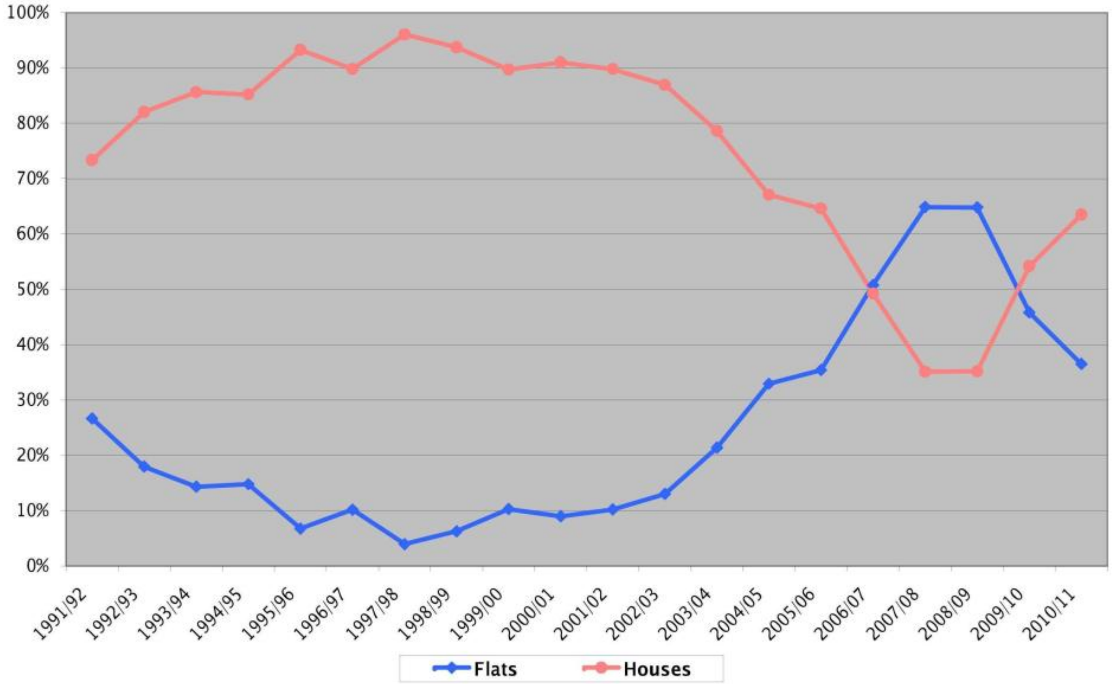
Housing Completions by Type

Figure 5.5 Dwelling completions by type



5.27 Figure 5.5 'Dwelling completions by type' shows a trend towards the development of more family housing, with an increase in the proportion of 3+ bedroom properties and a decrease in the proportion of 1 and 2 bedroom properties. Houses with 3 and 4 bedrooms accounted for around 50% of completions in this monitoring period. The proportion of 3 bedroom properties rose from 15% last year, to 23% this year. The number of 1 and 2 bedroom properties fell to 42% of completions this year, from 58% last year. The proportion of 4 bedroom houses completed was almost the same as the proportion of 2 bedroom flats; Last year, the proportion of 2 bedroom flats completed was 12% higher than 4 bedroom houses.

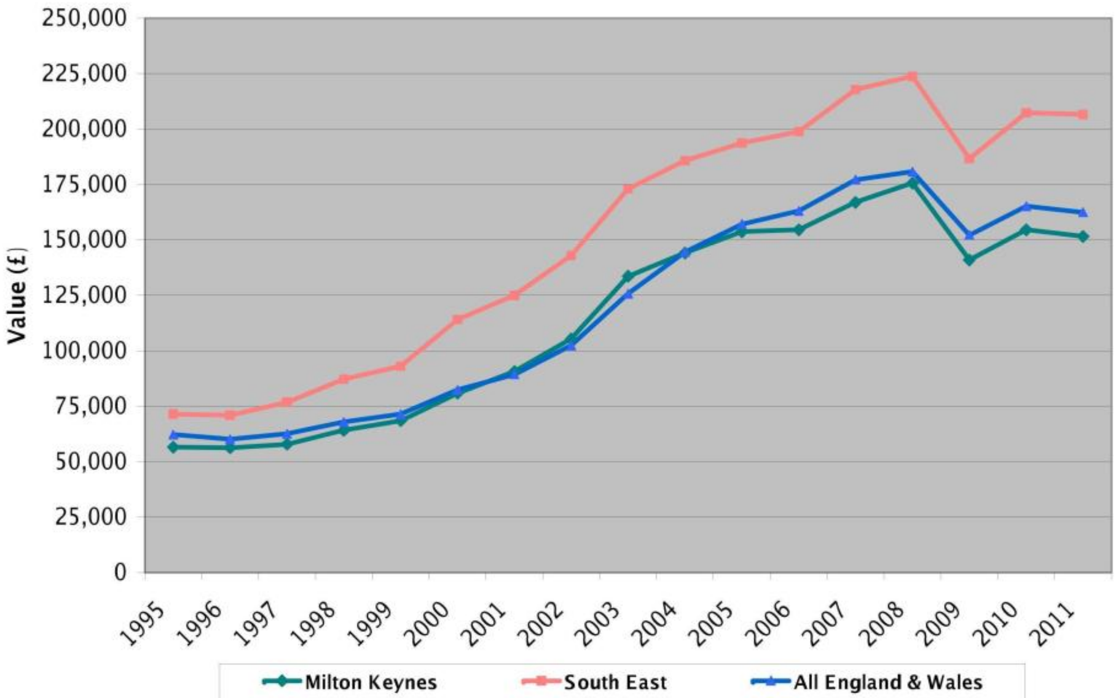
Figure 5.6 Completions - Flats and Houses



5.28 Figure 5.6 'Completions - Flats and Houses' shows that the decline in the proportion of flats, compared to houses, has continued to fall since 2008/09. The proportion of new houses is now around 30% higher than the proportion of flats. This trend is expected to continue because houses are proving to be more saleable than flats in the current market.

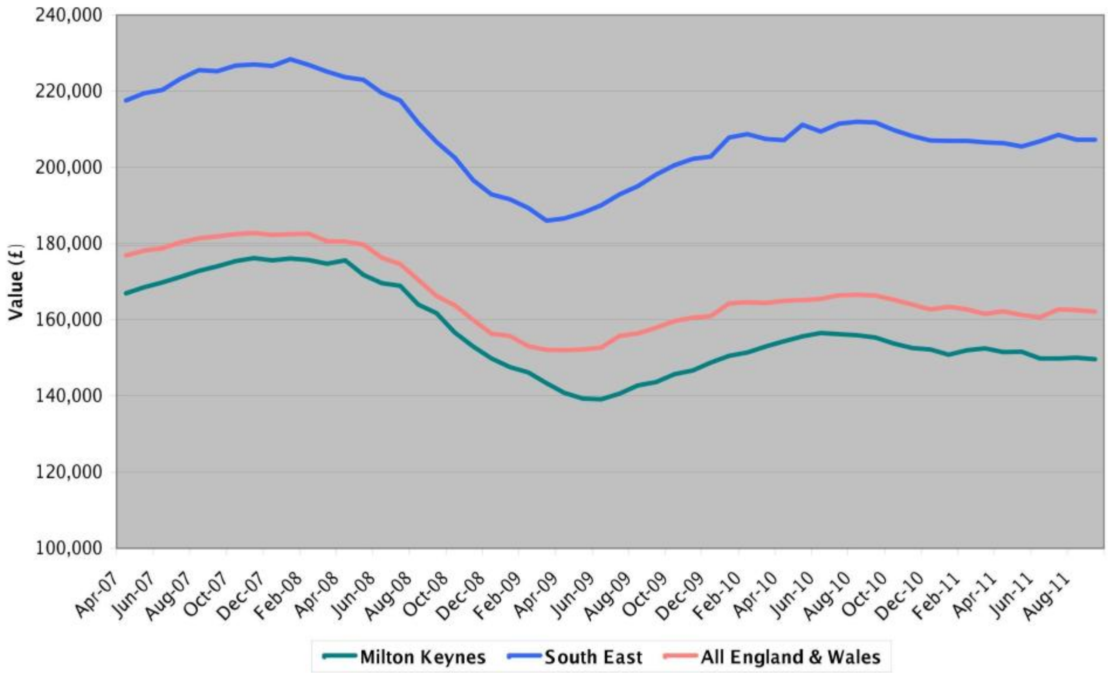
House Prices

Figure 5.7 Annual Average House Prices



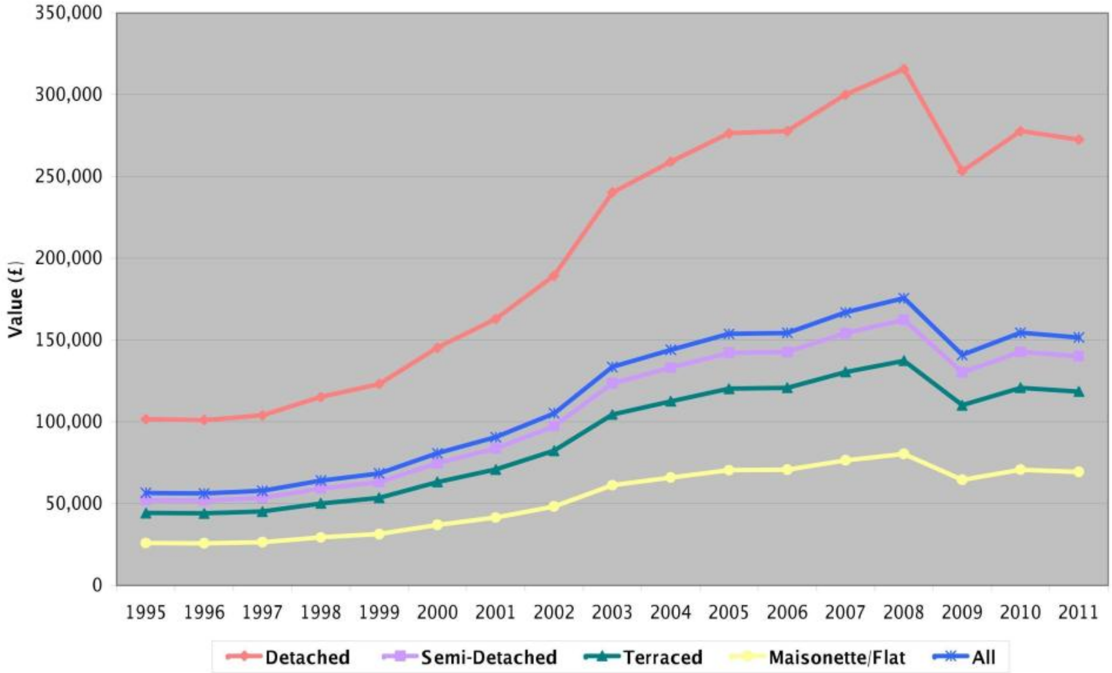
5.29 Figure 5.7 'Annual Average House Prices' shows average house prices for April of each year. House prices in the South East continue to be significantly higher than house prices in Milton Keynes and in all of England and Wales. Since 2007, house prices in the South East have consistently remained around £50,000 higher than house prices in Milton Keynes. From 2006 onwards, the gap between house prices in England and Wales and Milton Keynes has widened, with Milton Keynes prices around £10,000 less. The graph shows that all areas have seen the same trends in rising and falling house prices over the17 years.

Figure 5.8 Monthly Average House Prices



5.30 Figure 5.8 'Monthly Average House Prices' shows that house prices peaked at the end of 2007, in all three areas. In the South East, house prices were at their lowest in Spring 2009. For Milton Keynes and all of England and Wales house prices were at their lowest in Summer 2009. Since the lowest point in house prices occurred, prices in all three areas have risen to around half way between the highest peak and the lowest trough.

Figure 5.9 Average House Prices by Type in Milton Keynes



5.31 Figure 5.9 'Average House Prices by Type in Milton Keynes' shows, as would be expected, that prices of detached properties are considerably higher than prices for other types of property. All property types have seen the same trends in prices over time, although the pattern for detached properties is slightly more exaggerated, with sharper increases and decreases in price.

Summary

5.32 The housing completions figure for 2010/11 shows that the housing market slump has continued, with completions at their lowest since 2003/04 and house prices having fallen slightly since last year. However, the completions figure was not as low as predicted and it is expected to rise next year. The land supply figures show that there is a 5.47 year supply of deliverable and developable land, meaning Milton Keynes is in a good to position to support a housing market recovery.

5.33 Affordable housing completions were slightly up from last year, with a positive increase in the proportion of social rent provision. In future, however, the government's introduction of the new Affordable Rent tenure is likely to have an impact on the mix, and possibly the amount, of affordable housing completions.

Actions

- Closely monitor affordable housing completions, and negotiate with developers, to ensure that the introduction of a new tenure does not result in a drop in over affordable housing provision
- Continue to work with landowners and developers to ensure housing sites come forward and that delays are minimised
- Begin work on producing a site allocations document, to make up the predicted short fall in rural sites
- Review affordable housing policies
- Carry out a review of gypsy and traveller accommodation needs

6 Economy

Jobs to Dwellings Ratio

6.1 Milton Keynes does not grow at the rate of one job per dwelling; the number of jobs in Milton Keynes usually exceeds the number of new dwellings completed in the same year. In the period 1998-2010 the number of jobs generated in Milton Keynes (over 24,000) exceeded the number of new dwellings completed in the same period (about 16,900)[21].

6.2 In line with this data and a strategy selected from the Milton Keynes Employment Land Study [22], the 2010 Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy contains a target dwellings to jobs ratio of 1:1.5, meaning for every home that is built, the Council will aim to provide 1.5 new jobs.

6.3 When housing growth fails to keep pace with job growth, it generally results in house prices increasing. When too few jobs exist in relation to the number of homes (assuming there is a limited number of unoccupied homes), unemployment rises. In both cases, an imbalance results in longer commutes (either to homes or to jobs) and traffic congestion.

6.4 In the event that monitoring figures show that new jobs are being created faster than new homes, the Council would seek ways to increase the rate of housing construction rather than restricting employment growth. Conversely, if housing development is running ahead of job growth, the Council will institute measures to encourage job growth among local businesses, or create incentives for businesses to relocate to Milton Keynes.

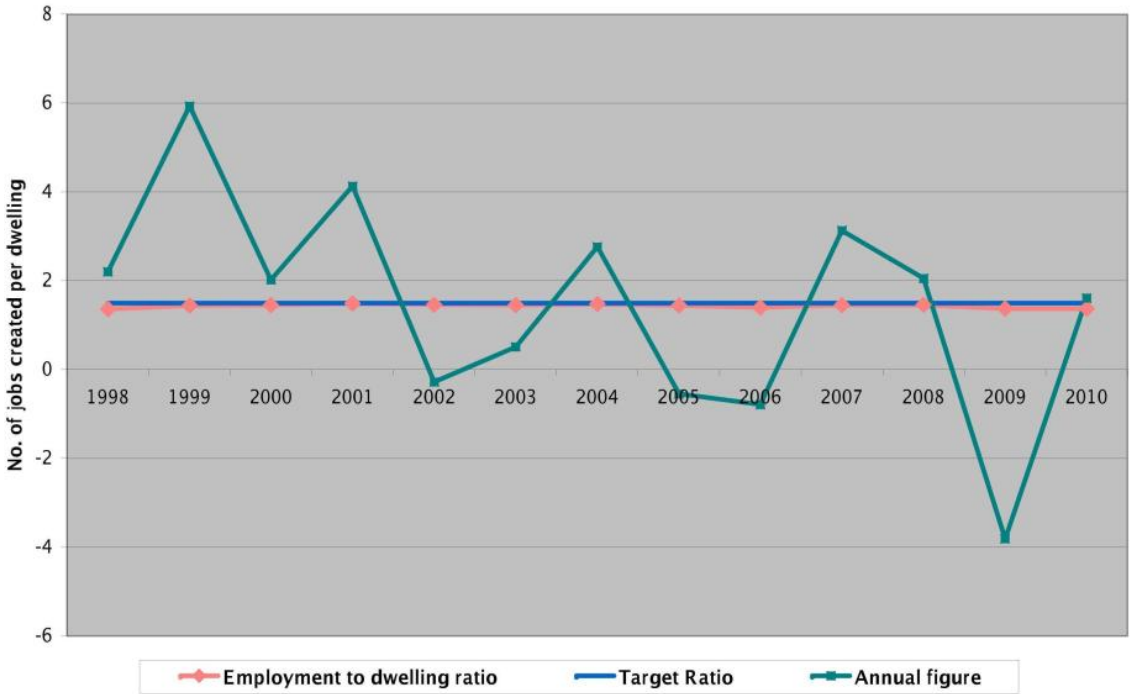
6.5 It is important to note that jobs to dwellings ratios are best used as generalised indicators and the delivery of the two are not intrinsically linked. Figure 6.1 'Jobs to housing ratio'[23] demonstrates that this is the case, showing that the ratio fluctuates dramatically on an annual basis. The Council will not, therefore, seek to suppress either residential or employment development in order to achieve the target.

6.6 Figure 6.1 'Jobs to housing ratio' shows that there was a significant drop in the ratio in last year's monitoring period, and a rise above the 1.5 target in the current monitoring year. This reiterates the point that there is very little relationship between annual change in the number of jobs and dwellings which is based on a comparison of a net increase/decrease in the number of jobs to the number of new dwellings.

6.7 Due to the anticipated fluctuations, the Core Strategy jobs to dwellings target ratio is the overall target for the plan period, rather than a target for each year. The average ratio achieved for the period shown lies around the target ratio of 1.5 jobs to every dwelling.

21 Source: Core Strategy: Employment Technical Paper
22 Milton Keynes Employment Land Study
23 Source - The Council's Economic Research team

Figure 6.1 Jobs to housing ratio



Total amount of additional employment space - by type

6.8 Table 6.1 'Total amount of additional employment space' shows the amount and type of completed employment floorspace in the Borough over the 2010/11 monitoring period. The table shows that there was a substantial gain in B8 (storage and distribution) floorspace. Most of this gain can be attributed to the development of the River Island Distribution Warehouse at Magna Park. There was also a significant loss in B1c (light industry) floor space which can be attributed to two developments: one for a change of use to B2 in Olney, and the other to a sui generis use in Milton Keynes (application references 10/01662/FUL and 10/00501/FUL). Overall, the level of development in 2010/11 was significantly lower than the 53,099m^2 net gain in 2009/10, which was high due to the completion of two large developments in CMK: Site B3.2 North and the Sainsburys development.

Table 6.1 Total amount of additional employment space

Use Class	Gross Internal Floorspace Loss (m^2)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gain (m^2)	Net Internal Floorspace Gain (m^2)
B1a - Offices	7,635	9,003	1,368
B1b - Research and Development	0	0	0
B1c - Light Industry	6,257	1,359	-4,898
B2 - General Industry	3,944	4,489	545
B8 - Storage and Distribution	13,972	42,655	28,683
Total	**31,808**	**57,506**	**25,698**

Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land - by type

6.9 Table 6.2 'Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land' shows the amount and type of completed floorspace (gross) coming forward on previously developed land (PDL) in the Borough. The table shows that 23% of employment floorspace came forward on previously developed land. This represents a significant decrease in comparison to previous years (the average figure for 2004 - 2010 is 72%). This year's figure is so low largely due to the completion of substantial developments on greenfield land at Magna Park, Brooklands.

Table 6.2 Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land

Use Class	Area of Floorspace completed on PDL (M2)	Percentage of all Employment Floorspace completed on PDL
B1 (a) - Offices	5,480	65%
B1 (b) - Research and Development	0	0%
B1 (c) - Light Industry	1,359	100%
B2 - General Industry	4,437	100%
B8 - Storage and Distribution	2,021	5%
Total	**13,297**	**23%**

Employment land available - by type

6.10 Table 6.3 'Employment Land Allocations in Milton Keynes' shows the amount and type of employment land available for development in the Borough. The information is taken from land allocated for employment in the Local Plan and the 2010 Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy, excluding sites that have subsequently been completed. This year's figure is slightly lower than last year's (199.80ha) but significantly lower than 2008/09 figure (276.9ha). The latter figure included potential employment land in the former Strategic Development Areas which was removed from the Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy and replaced with the Strategic Land Allocation. The Strategic Land Allocation occupies a significantly smaller land area and has no specified area designated for employment use.

Table 6.3 Employment Land Allocations in Milton Keynes

Grid Square/Area	Vacant Land (in hectares)	Use Classes
Bletchley (Brickfields)	5.9	B1/B2/B8
Broughton /Atterbury	4.8	B1/B2/B8/C2
Caldecotte	2.5	B1/B8/C2
Crownhill	1.2	B1/B2/B8
Eastern Expansion Area	71.6	B2/B8
Fox Milne	1.0	B1/B2/B8
Kents Hill	5.2	B1/B2/B8

Grid Square/Area	Vacant Land (in hectares)	Use Classes
Knowlhill	7.4	B1/B2/B8
Linford Wood	5.1	B1
Mount Farm	1.9	B1/B2/B8
Northern Expansion Area	3.1	B1/B2/B8
Old Wolverton	1.0	B2/B8
Redmoor	1.7	B2/B8
Rooksley	1.3	B1/B2/B8
Shenley Wood	17.8	B1/B2/B8/C2/D1
Snelshall East	4.7	B1/B2/B8
Snelshall West	5.1	B1/B2/B8/C1
Tower Gate	7.1	B1/C2/D1
Walton	9.5	B1/B2/B8
West Ashland	6.3	B1/B2/B8
Western Expansion Area	17.0	B1/B2
Willen Lake	1.1	B1
Wolverton	2.6	B1/B2/B8
Wolverton Mill	8.2	B1/B2/B8
Woburn Sands	1.3	B1
Wymbush	1.2	B1/B2/B8
Total	**195.6**	

Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'

6.11 Table 6.4 'Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'' shows that the largest gains were recorded in A2, D1 and D2 uses. This can mainly be attributed to: the B1/A2 development of the Job Centre Plus at Southgate House in Central Milton Keynes; the development of D1 use medical centres in Central Milton Keynes, Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Newport Pagnell; a new library (also D1 use) at Westcroft District Centre; and a new Youth and Community Centre (D2 use) at the former bus station in CMK. The Table also shows that there was a small loss in A1 and B1a floorspace.

6.12 Table 6.4 'Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'' also shows that 2010/11 town centre completions were significantly lower than in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 monitoring periods. Whilst the recession and a general slowdown in economic activity may have had some negative impact on this year's figures, it is more significant that the results from 2008-2010 were unusually high due to the completion two major developments in CMK (Site

B3.2 North and the Sainsburys development). Additionally, the table shows a significant gain in D1 and D2 completions outside of town centres. This can be explained by the development of a number of educational institutions, sport and community facilities outside of town centres.

Table 6.4 Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'

Use Class	Gross Internal Area completed within Town Centres (m2)	Net Internal Area completed within Town Centres (m2)	Gross Internal Area completed in MK borough (m2)	Net Internal Area completed in MK borough (m2)
A1 - shops	314	-668	2,349	1,048
A2 - financial and professional services	3,144	1,629	3,172	1,805
B1a - offices	767	-208	9,003	1,346
D1 - none residential institutions	1,389	1,324	23,220	20,394
D2 - assembly and leisure	2,026	1,741	6,187	5,902
D1/D2 - non-residential institutions / assembly and leisure	0	0	3,973	3,973
Total	**7,640**	**3,818**	**47,904**	**34,468**

Contextual Indicators

Employment Occupations

6.13 Table 6.5 'Employment by occupation (April 2010 - March 2011)'[(24)] shows that Milton Keynes has a lower proportion of highly skilled and trained occupational groups (groups 1 to 3) in comparison to the South East region. This is a change from last year's report, which showed that a higher proportion of Milton Keynes residents were in the highest skilled category than in the South East and Britain. Compared to the last monitoring period there was a large reduction in Elementary Occupations, down from 16,300 (13.6%) to 13,100 (10.9%). It is important to note that these are the occupational groups of residents of Milton Keynes, not the occupational groups of people that work in Milton Keynes.

Table 6.5 Employment by occupation (April 2010 - March 2011)

	Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East Region (%)	Great Britain (%)
1. Managers and Senior Officials	21,300	17.6	18.3	15.7
2. Professional occupations	16,600	13.8	15.3	14.1
3. Associate professional & technical	16,200	13.5	15.2	14.8
4. Administrative & secretarial	16,700	13.9	11.2	10.7
5. Skilled trades occupations	10,500	8.7	9.4	10.2
6. Personal service occupations	9,300	7.7	8.9	8.8
7. Sales and customer service occupations	8,900	7.4	7.0	7.4
8. Process plant & machine operatives	7,700	6.3	4.6	6.6
9. Elementary occupations	13,100	10.9	9.6	11.3
Total employed working population	**120,300**	**100**	**100**	**100**

24 Source http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabjobsshows

Qualifications

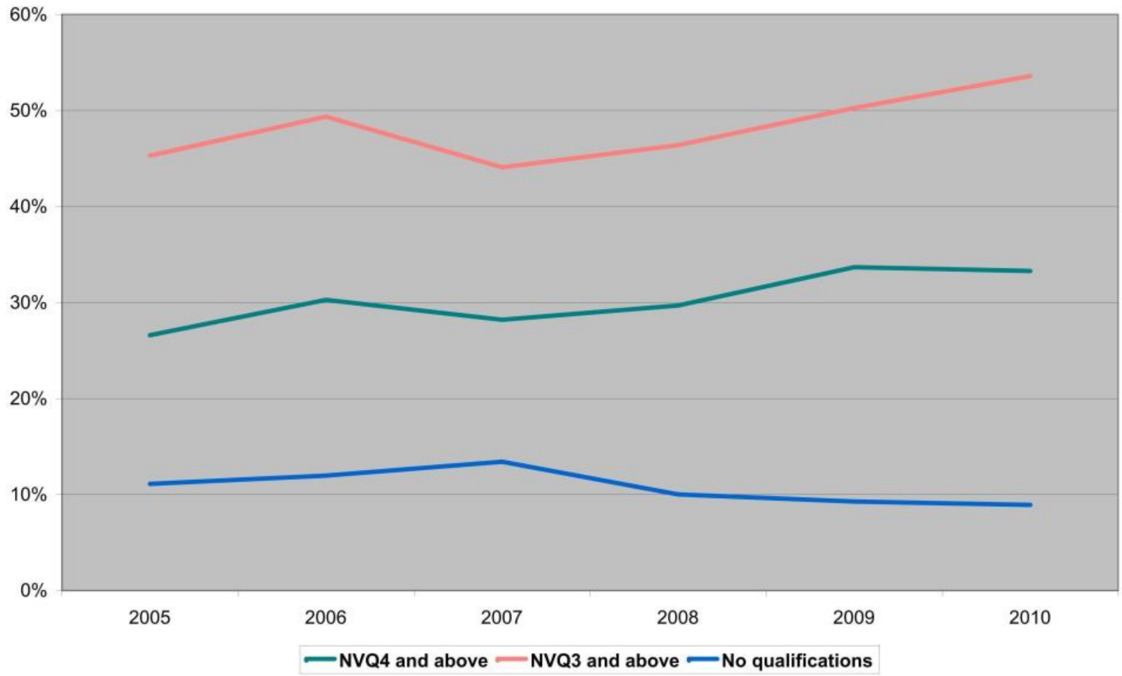
6.14 Table 6.6 'Qualifications (Jan 2010 - Dec 2010)'[25] shows a slight decrease in the proportion of residents with no qualifications (down from 9.3%), and an increase in the proportion with NVQ3 qualifications (up from 45.3%). Raising educational attainment is a key priority in Milton Keynes' Sustainable Community Strategy, and these figures show some success in achieving this aim.

Table 6.6 Qualifications (Jan 2010 - Dec 2010)

	Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East Region (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	53,500	33.3	33.9	31.3
NVQ3 and above	86,100	53.6	53.8	51.0
NVQ2 and above	109,600	68.2	70.8	67.3
NVQ1 and above	131,100	81.5	84.1	80.2
Other qualifications	15,400	9.6	7.5	8.5
No qualifications	14,300	8.9	8.5	11.3

6.15 Figure 6.2 'Qualifications in Milton Keynes 2005 - 2010'[26] shows that the proportion of residents with the highest level qualifications increased from 26.6% in 2005 to 33.3% in 2010. The graph also shows a significant fall in the proportion of residents with no qualifications, down from 11.1% in 2005 to 8.9% in 2010. The figure is now only slightly higher than the regional figure of 8.5% and is below the national figure of 11.3%.

Figure 6.2 Qualifications in Milton Keynes 2005 - 2010



25 Source: http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabjobs
26 http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabjobs

Wages

6.16 Figure 6.3 'Gross weekly average wages of residents'[27] shows the average weekly wages of people living in Milton Keynes and Figure 6.4 'Gross weekly average wages of workers'[28] shows the weekly wages of people who work in Milton Keynes, a significant proportion of whom do not live in Milton Keynes.

Figure 6.3 Gross weekly average wages of residents

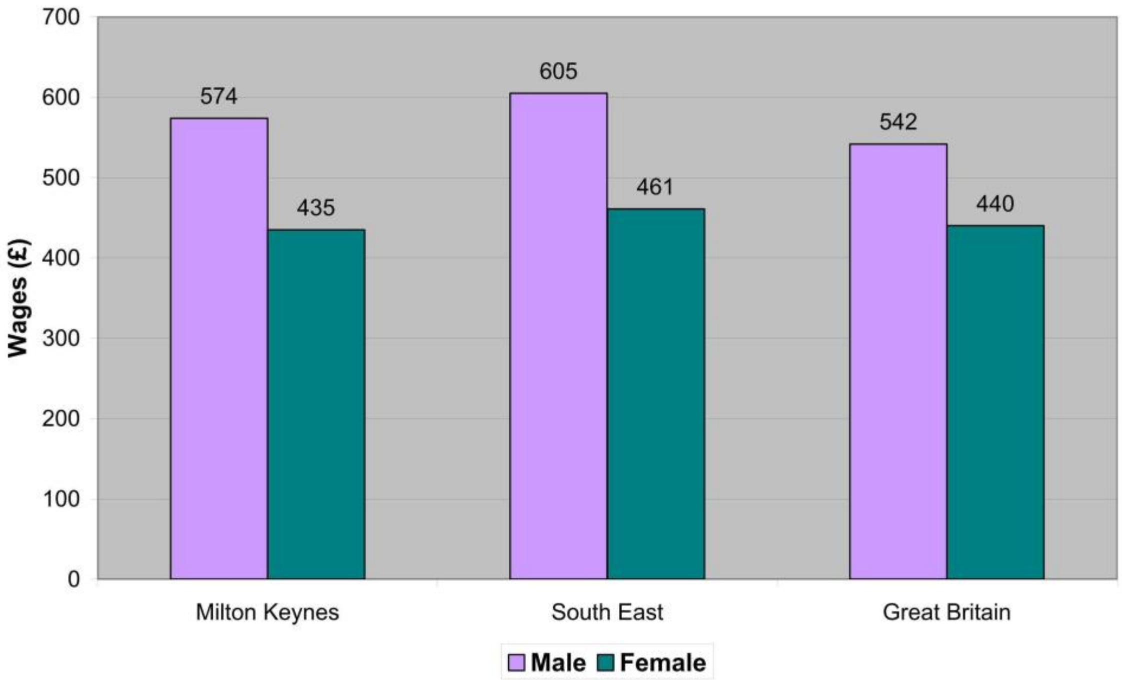
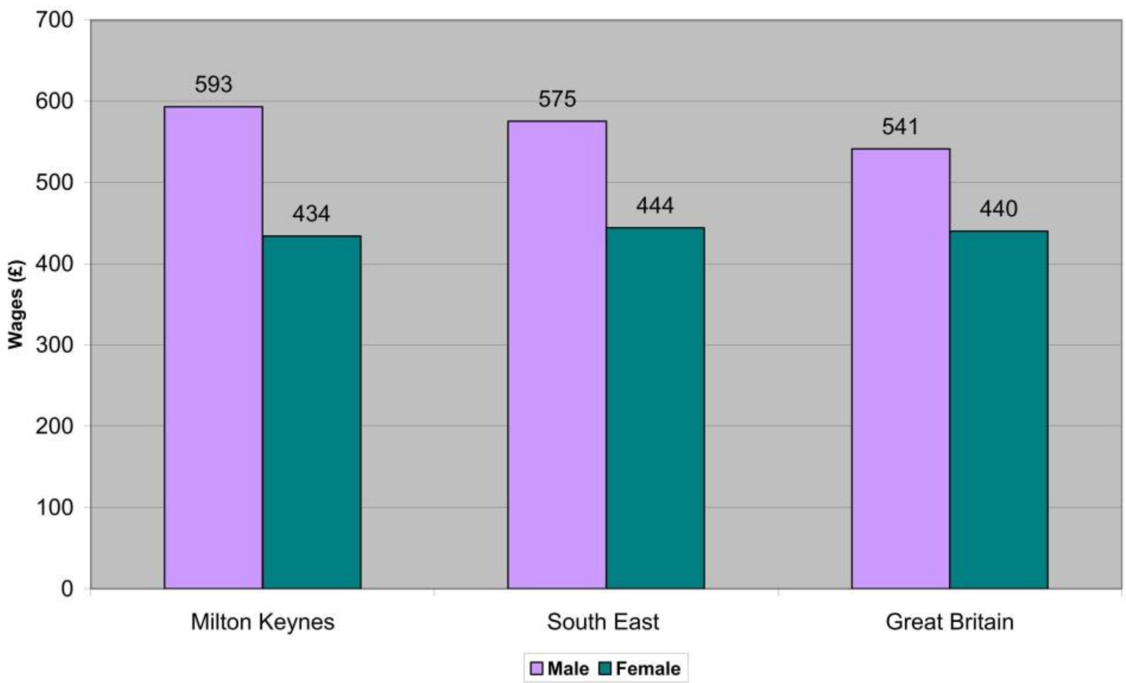


Figure 6.4 Gross weekly average wages of workers



27 Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabearn
28 Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabearn

6.17 The graphs show that, in the 2010/11 monitoring period, male workers earned more than male residents, but female workers earned slightly less than female residents.

6.18 Male workers in Milton Keynes earned more than workers in the South East and in Great Britain, but male residents earned less than those in the South East.

6.19 The graphs also show that the average wage for females remains significantly lower than for males; the gap between males and females is biggest for workers in Milton Keynes (£159 per week). During the last decade, very little progress has been made in reducing earning inequalities between male and female workers in Milton Keynes (female workers were paid 27.5% less than male workers in 2001 and 26.8% less in 2010). In the South East, the earnings gap between male and female workers fell by 3.5% from 26.3% in 2001 to 22.8% in 2010.

Job Density

6.20 The job density figure is calculated by dividing the number of filled jobs by the total working age population (age 16-64) in a given area. Table 6.7 'Job Density (2009)'[29] shows that in Milton Keynes there are slightly fewer jobs than there are working population. However, there are more jobs for the working population in Milton Keynes than there are for the working population in the South East and Great Britain. Analysis of the last ten years of job density figures in Milton Keynes shows that the ratio varied between 1 and 0.94, and has been continuously higher than the job density ratio for the South East and Great Britain.

Table 6.7 Job Density (2009)

Milton Keynes (jobs)	Milton Keynes (Density)	South East (Density)	Great Britain (Density)
150,000	0.94	0.80	0.78

Working Age Population

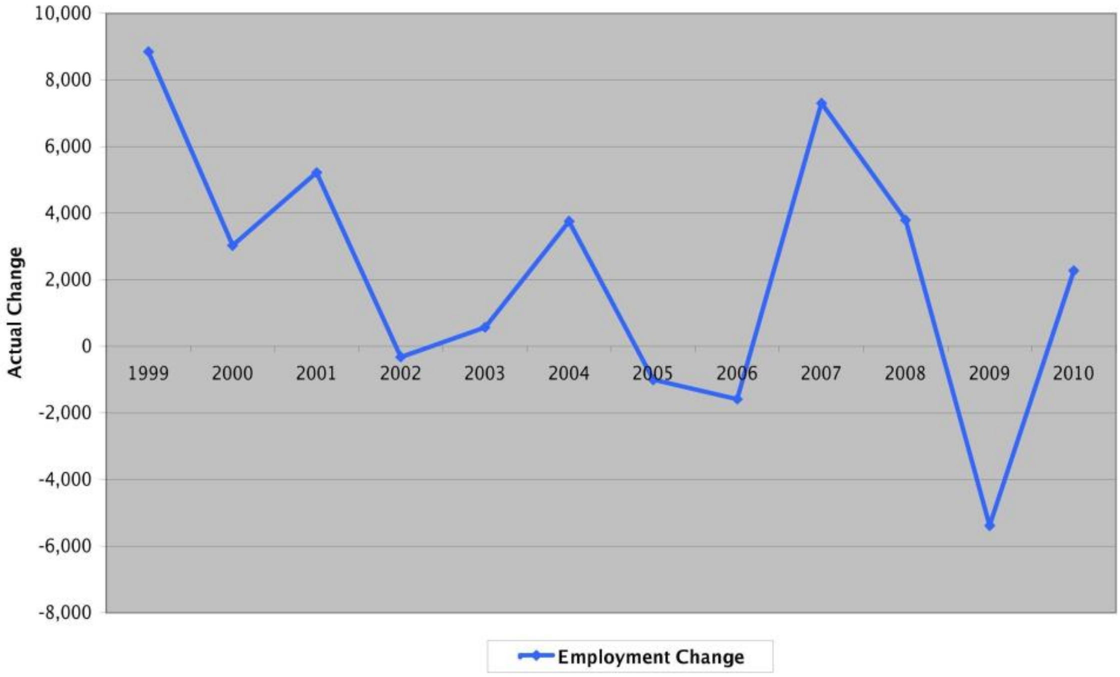
6.21 The total working age population (16-64) in Milton Keynes in 2010 was 161,500 (1,200 people more than in 2009) which equates to 66.9% of the total population. A total of 132,300, or 80.2%, of the total working population were economically active in 2010 (down from 82% in 2009)[30].

29 Source: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx?#ld
30 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/subreports/ea_time_series/report.aspx

Net Additional Jobs

6.22 Figure 6.5 'Net Additional Jobs 1998 - 2010' shows year on year employment change since 1998 when there were 112,003 jobs in the Borough. The graph shows that there were some job losses in 2005-2006 and a significant loss of jobs in 2009 (5,380). The total number of jobs in the Borough currently exceeds 139,500.

Figure 6.5 Net Additional Jobs 1998 - 2010

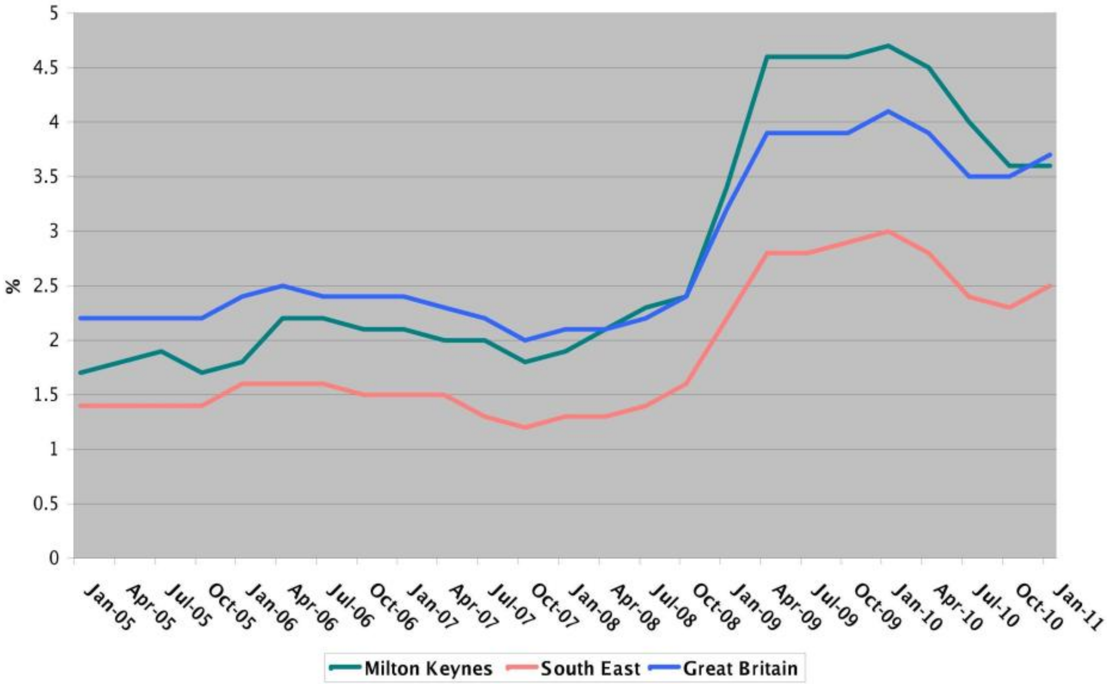


Unemployment Claimant Rate

6.23 Figure 6.6 'Unemployment Claimant Rate of the working aged population'[(31)] shows that the rate reached a high level of 4.6% in April 2009 and remained above 4% until July 2010. During the same period of 2009, youth unemployment rate (18 to 24 years old) also rose to approximately 10%, the highest level since 1995. In January 2011 the rate of unemployment in the Borough fell below the national level but remained over 1% above the regional average.

6.24 Given the recently downgraded UK economic growth forecasts (November 2011), it is difficult to predict whether the current trend of falling unemployment will continue. More information and analysis of the issue of unemployment can be seen in the Council's Economic Development Strategy 2011 - 2016 [(32)] or the Quarterly Unemployment Updates available on the MKi Observatory[(33)].

Figure 6.6 Unemployment Claimant Rate of the working aged population



Not in Education, Employment or Training

6.25 The percentage of young people (16-18 year olds) not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Borough was 4.6% in December 2010[(34)], which is better than the Local Area Agreement target of 5.9% for 2010/11, and down from 5.8% in 2009/10. Although being NEET between the ages of 16 and 18 may suggest an increased likelihood of later unemployment, low income, teenage motherhood, depression and poor health, for most young people in this group it is a temporary outcome as they move between different education and training options.

31 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx?town=milton%20keynes#tabwab

32 http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-business/documents/Final%5Fdoc%5F%2DEconomic%5FDevelopment%5FStrategy%5F26%2E07%2E11%2Epdf

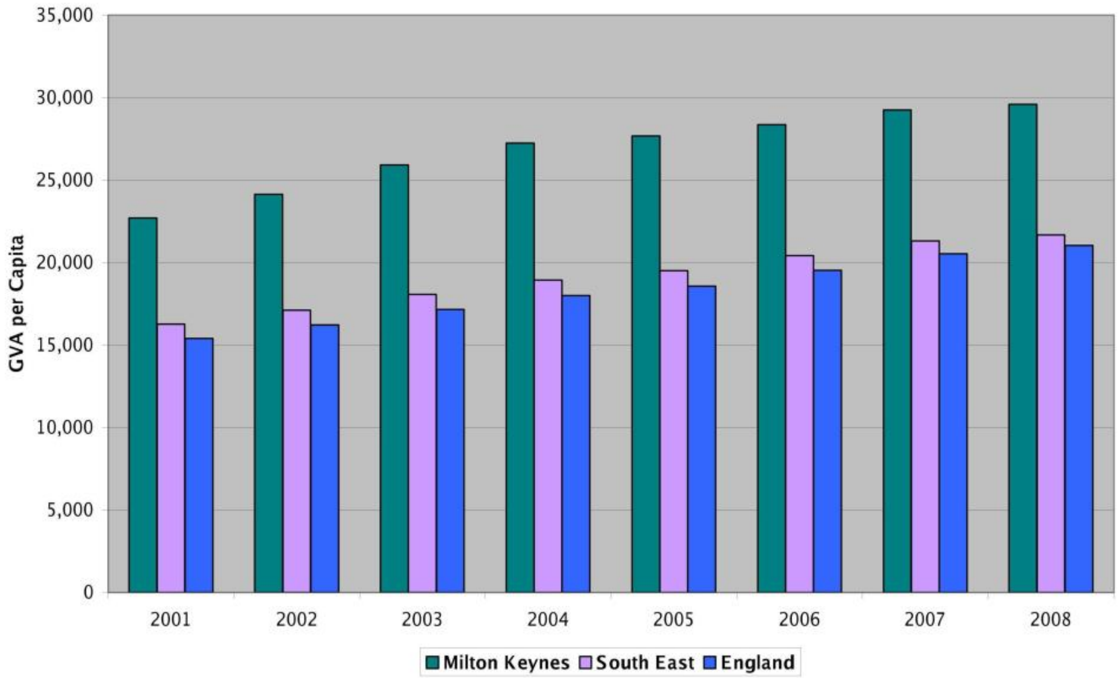
33 http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/page.aspx?id=1618&siteID=1026#quarterly-unemployment-update

34 Source - Milton Keynes: Local Economic Assessment http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/council-business/documents/LEA%5FConsultation%5Fdocument%5F10%2E02%2E2011%2Epdf

Economic Productivity

6.26 Gross Value Added (GVA) is a measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy. Figure 6.7 'Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita' shows that the figure for Milton Keynes is far higher than the figure for the South East and for England. GVA per Capita in the Milton Keynes economy increased from £22,720 in 2001 to £29,619 in 2008[(35)], an increase of 30.3%, which is slightly lower than in the South East region (33.2%) and England (36.6%) over the same period. It is worth noting that, in 2008, GVA per Capita in the Borough grew by 1.3% (the lowest increase since 1995) compared to an average of over 3% per year for the period 2001-2008.

Figure 6.7 Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita



Business Survival Rate

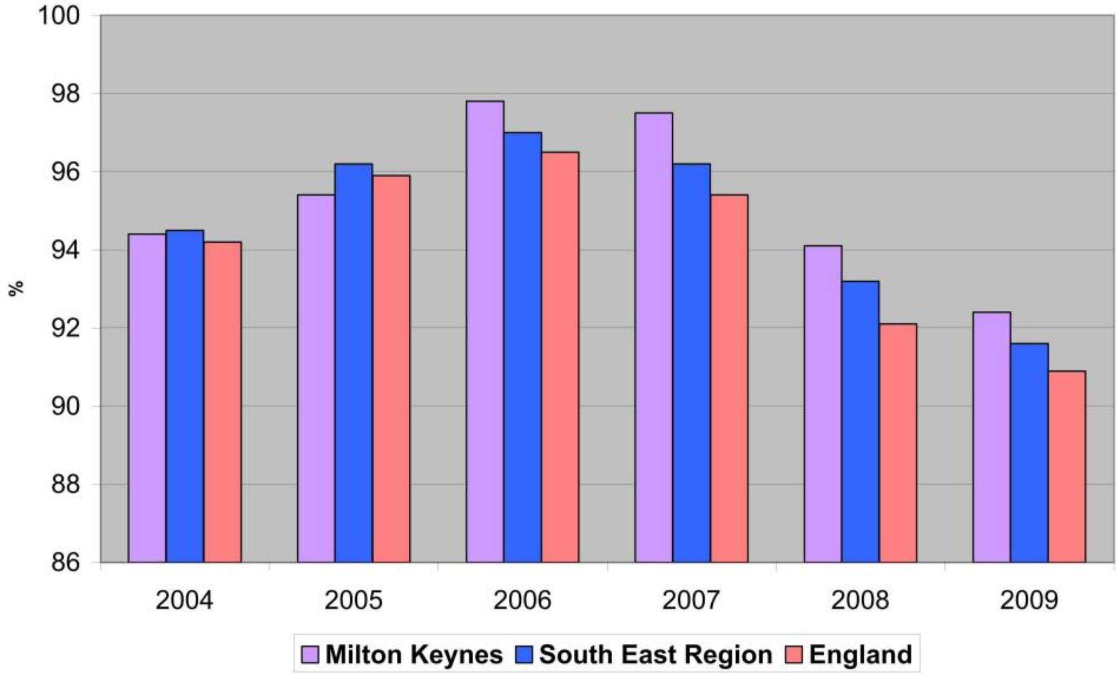
6.27 Figure 6.8 'First Year Business Survival Rate 2004 - 2009 '[(36)] shows that since 2007 there was a continuous decline in the business survival rate (the first year of a business) in England, the South East and Milton Keynes. However, the figure for Milton Keynes remains higher than the figures for the South East and England. This declining trend is a clear indication of the current economic climate. [(37)]

35 There is a time lag on the data available for this indicator, 2008 being the most recent figure available

36 Source - http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?mode=cube&cube=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fCube/JD62E_C1&study=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fStudy/JD62E&node=0

37 There is a time lag on the data available for this indicator, 2009 being the most recent figure available. The figures published in last years AMR may differ due to ONS adjustments to the deaths figures to allow for business reactivations

Figure 6.8 First Year Business Survival Rate 2004 - 2009



Births and Deaths of Enterprises

6.28 The Office for National Statistics produces a set of data called Business Demography. It includes the number of businesses starting up (business births) and closing (business deaths). The latest data is for 2010 and was released in December 2011. Table 6.8 'Births and Deaths of Enterprises'[(38)] shows that the 'births of new enterprises' figure for Milton Keynes has remained fairly steady in the last seven years, with between 1,155 and 1,375 new enterprises every year (an average of 1,265, although there was a significant drop of 200 enterprises in 2009. The data also shows that 'deaths of enterprises' was as low as 915 in 2006 but increased to 1,395 in the last monitoring year, which is an indication of the economic climate.

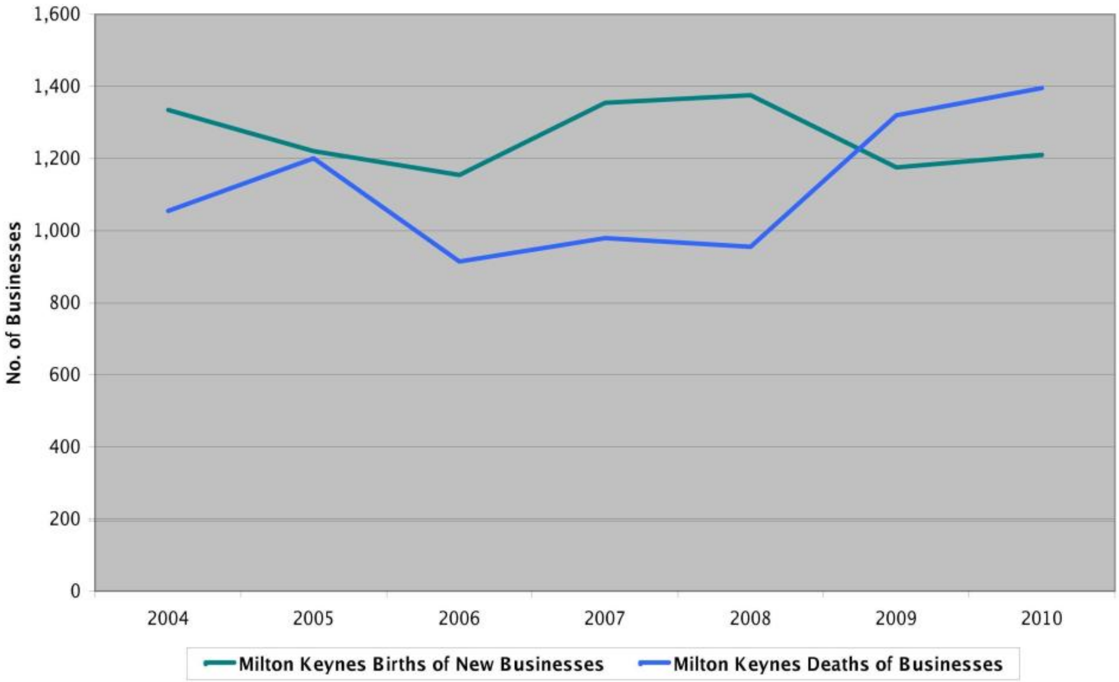
Table 6.8 Births and Deaths of Enterprises

	Milton Keynes		South East		England	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
2004	1,335	1,055	44,345	39,280	248,450	215,995
2005	1,220	1,200	42,555	36,345	241,410	202,210
2006	1,155	915	39,195	32,660	225,120	182,800
2007	1,355	980	42,320	35,090	246,700	199,300
2008	1,375	955	40,365	33,790	236,345	196,695
2009	1,175	1,320	36,320	42,425	209,035	246,630
2010	1,210	1,395	36,910	45,225	207,520	261,880

38 Source: http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/Analysis.aspx?id=716&siteID=1026

6.29 Figure 6.9 'Births and Deaths of Enterprises in Milton Keynes' shows that deaths of businesses in Milton Keynes was greater in 2010 than at any time in the last seven years and even exceeds the 2008 peak of enterprise births, which appears to be a turning point for the number of deaths and births of new businesses.

Figure 6.9 Births and Deaths of Enterprises in Milton Keynes



Impact of Economic Investment

6.30 In 2010/11 Invest MK has recorded 134 businesses, of which 21 were international that have either been retained in Milton Keynes or have relocated to the area creating and retaining jobs. This helped alleviate some of the negative impacts of the current difficult economic climate, and increased confidence in Milton Keynes as a location. The number of jobs retained in the monitoring period as a result of this investment was 2,074, and the number created was 1,172[39].

6.31 Invest MK offers a range of services and support to businesses including:

- Online site and premises search through the Invest MK website;
- Location and market information;
- Assistance with relocating staff and families;
- Lists of local suppliers;
- City tours for management, staff and families; and
- Ongoing support, or aftercare, following business set-up in Milton Keynes.

6.32 They also implement a wide-ranging marketing programme to raise the city's business profile and to promote IMK services locally, nationally and internationally. This also covers support for partner organisations such as Destination Milton Keynes and the Zero Carbon Hub, whose work supports Invest MK's inward investment activity.

39 Source - Invest MK

Vacant Employment Space

6.33 The average amount of vacant office space over the monitoring period was 20.9% (23.2% last year). The amount of vacant industrial space was 9.8% (12.3% last year)[40].

Summary

6.34 The information in this section indicates that the Borough's economy was performing reasonably well despite some indicators showing signs of the recent recession. The unemployment claimant rate has continued to fall and was at 3.6% in January 2011. However, this was still at a significantly higher level than before the recession (1.9% in January 2008). The proportion of people with the highest qualifications (NVQ3, 4 and above) has increased significantly since 2007 and the proportion of residents with the lowest and no qualifications continued to fall.

6.35 A significantly lower amount of development has been completed this year compared to last year, although the 2009/10 figures were well above the long term average, as they were affected by the completion of two large developments in CMK. The figures also show that since 2007 there was a continuous decline in the business survival rate (of the first year) in Milton Keynes.

Actions

- Continue work by the Council's Economic Development department and Invest MK to help ensure that Milton Keynes' economy remains strong and continues to grow.
- Continue to protect small business units through planning policy to ensure there is a plentiful supply for new enterprises.
- Consider if any changes to existing employment policies are required through production of the new Local Plan, in order to facilitate economic growth.
- Consider if town centre policies which support the sustainability of town centres across the Borough are up-to-date and help mitigate the negative impact of the subdued economic climate.
- Actively support infrastructure projects that help increase the city's accessibility and connectivity (e.g Bletchley-Oxford rail link or super-fast broadband).
- Provide a sufficient supply of employment land through the new Local Plan to ensure that unemployment is kept to a minimum and job density at an optimum.

40 Source - Invest MK

7 Transport

Introduction

7.1 Milton Keynes was designed as a multi-centred settlement, built around an efficient grid road framework. This network provides a choice of routes through the city, which can be crossed from the two furthest points in approximately 15 minutes. The grid system is still one of the strengths of the city, but is beginning to experience peak hour congestion at certain junctions.

7.2 As an expanding city, Milton Keynes aspires to become one of the UK's top cities. This includes the development of a transport network that will support the local economy, create greater access to a wide range of services, and help to tackle climate change.

7.3 The Local Transport Plan 2 (LTP2) 2006-11 expired in March 2011 and was replaced by LTP3, which now sets out the overall transport strategy for Milton Keynes. Consultation took place between 12 November 2010 and 4 February 2011, and LTP3 was adopted in April 2011.

Review of Progress on Local Transport Plan 2, 2006-2011

Progress on Targets

7.4 During the period 2006-11, the Council and its partners have made significant progress towards meeting the targets, and in delivery, of the LTP2.

7.5 The condition of roads in Milton Keynes is comparatively good compared to other local authorities, with indicators for principal roads, non principal roads and unclassified roads all on target. This places them in the top quartile for road condition in England during the Plan period.

7.6 The CARSHAREMK scheme, set up to promote car sharing, continues to be successful, with membership growing by over 50% in the LTP2 period to over 3,000 members.

7.7 The number of people killed or seriously injured on roads has reduced by 57% over the Plan period, whilst the number of children killed or seriously injured has been reduced by 64%. These reductions have been achieved due to the Council's extensive programme of road safety engineering measures, supported by an education, training and publicity programme.

7.8 Further progress on targets are presented on a yearly basis later in this section.

Progress on Delivery

Portway, North Grafton Highway Improvements (Junction of the A5 and H5/A509 and approaches, the junction of the V6 and H5/A509 and approaches and Elder Gate junction with the H5) - Construction of this £4 million scheme was completed in late 2007, with soft landscaping work being carried out in 2008. The improvements safely and efficiently handle the projected increase in traffic, as the city continues to grow.

A5 Abbey Hill - A study of the A5 trunk corridor, undertaken by Milton Keynes Partnership, identified improvements were required at this junction in order to safely accommodate growth in the new city. Widening work on the two slip roads off the A5, along with other points within and on the approaches to the roundabout, were completed in May 2008 at a cost of £3.5 million.

M1 Junction 14 Area Improvements - This £22 million scheme was completed in late 2008 and was designed to alleviate traffic congestion around Junction 14. It also included redevelopment of the Park & Ride site at Brook Furlong, creating approximately 360 parking spaces.

The new Coachway - The £2.6 million Coachway building was opened in December 2010. It provides a covered seating area for approximately 100 coach, local bus and taxi passengers. Other facilities include a café, public and disabled toilets with baby changing facilities, a convenience shop and ticket office for the National Express Group, and a taxi service.

Plugged in Places - Milton Keynes was one of the first three towns and cities to be part of central government's £30 million 'Plugged in Places' initiative for electric vehicles. Council plans to introduce 1,000 electric vehicles on the roads, by 2014, remains on track. The scheme forms part of the Council's Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan.

The PlatinumMK 300 bus service - This was shortlisted from 200 highly competitive entries for the prestigious 2010 UK Bus Awards and was awarded the 'Highly Commended' certificate by the panel of judges. The service, ran as a partnership between the Council, Milton Keynes Partnership and Arriva, was launched in April 2009. So far, the service has seen over 300,000 passenger journeys, with passenger numbers at over 5,000 at present. The route connects Milton Keynes Central Rail Station and Central Milton Keynes with Brooklands, Broughton Gate, Kingston and Magna Park, and will eventually link the Eastern and Western Expansion Areas of Milton Keynes.

Local Transport Plan 3

7.9 Taking over from LTP2, LTP3 provides a long term transport strategy for Milton Keynes covering a 20 year period from 2011 to 2031. The strategy provides a vision for Milton Keynes transport in 2031, along with a key set of strategy objectives to achieve this vision.

7.10 The LTP3 vision states that:

"By 2031, Milton Keynes will have the most sustainable transport system in the Country, increasing its attractiveness as a place to live, work, visit and do business. There will be a real transport choice to satisfy individual preferences and encourage more sustainable travel behaviour. The transport system will provide fast and efficient movement of people and goods, and will be accessible for all. Everyone will have access to key services and amenities, including employment, health, education, retail and leisure.

Transport networks, including the unique grid road and Redway networks, will be expanded and fully integrated into new developments and regeneration areas to support more sustainable communities. Connectivity to local towns, major cities, and international transport gateways and networks will be first class; and Milton Keynes will embrace new technology, being an exemplar for the latest developments in information technology, fuel technology, and new forms of transport.

The council will work in partnership with all sectors and the wider community to deliver the transport vision and strategy."

7.11 The objectives set, to help achieve this vision, are as follows:

1. Provide real and attractive transport choices to encourage more sustainable travel behaviour as Milton Keynes grows.
2. Support the economic growth of the Borough through the fast, efficient and reliable movement of people and goods.
3. Reduce transport based CO_2 emissions to help tackle climate change.
4. Provide access for all to key services and amenities in Milton Keynes, including employment, education, health, retail and leisure.
5. Improve safety, security and health.
6. Contribute to quality of life for all Milton Keynes residents, strengthening linkages between communities.
7. Establish a development framework that embraces technological change, in which Milton Keynes can continue to grow, pioneer and develop.

7.12 Further information on the role of transport in achieving these objectives, and full details of high level interventions and concepts that will help achieve the transport vision are outlined within Local Transport Plan 3[41]. The progress and achievements of LTP3 will be monitored for future Annual Monitoring Reports.

Transport Infrastructure, Strategy and Programme Improvements

7.13 As an expanding city, significant infrastructure developments continually take place in Milton Keynes, as can be seen from the progress review of the LTP2 above. The following is a list of transport related developments that have been completed or have progressed over the 2010/11 monitoring period.

- Completion and opening of the new Coachway.
- Opening of Junction 14 Park & Ride.
- Successful implementation of Central Milton Keynes parking charges.
- Development and adoption of LTP3 and the Milton Keynes Transport Strategy and Vision.
- Completion of works to Granby Junction.
- Approval of Station Square design and works contracted.
- Approval of Wolverton Station design and works contracted.

Public Transport

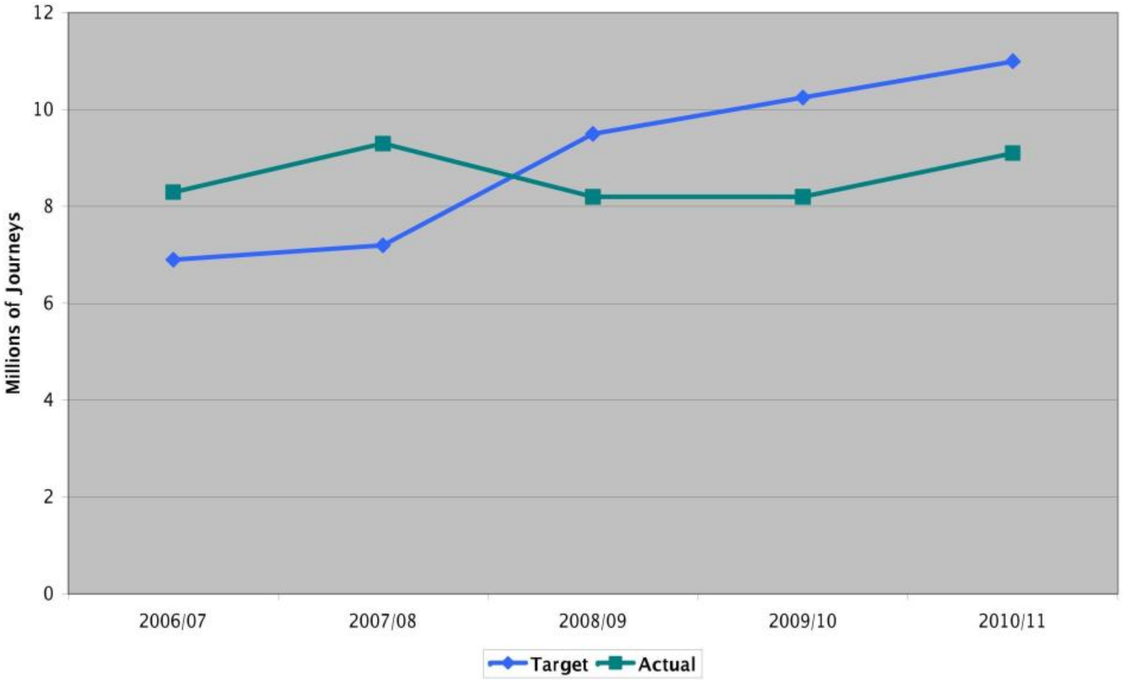
7.14 The low density and layout of Milton Keynes, and the wide distribution of potential destinations, makes it difficult to provide fast, frequent and attractive bus services. The proportion of people who travel by bus is, therefore, much lower compared to other areas with similar population sizes.

7.15 Figure 7.1 'Bus Patronage' shows the number of journeys made by bus in Milton Keynes. It shows that bus patronage during the 2010/11 monitoring period has risen by just under 1 million journeys since the 2009/10 period. Despite the rise in bus patronage, it remains 1.9 million below the 2010/11 target of 11 million journeys. This does, however, show an improvement on the 2009/10 monitoring period with the number of journeys 2.05 million below the target.

7.16 A number of measures have continued to be implemented during the 2010/11 monitoring period, in an effort to increase bus patronage and reduce private travel, including the implementation of new parking charges throughout Central Milton Keynes and the opening of a new Park & Ride facility at the Coachway.

41 Milton Keynes Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2031: http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/transport/displayarticle.asp?ID=72970

Figure 7.1 Bus Patronage



7.17 In the 2010/11 monitoring period, satisfaction with local bus services decreased by 11%, from 40% to 29%, 41% below this year's 70% target. This represents the lowest percentage recorded in any Milton Keynes Annual Monitoring Report. The Council are working closely with this bus companies to try and improve services.

7.18 Table 7.1 'Bus Punctuality' shows the punctuality rates for local bus services and for the key quality bus services in Milton Keynes. Despite the low levels of public satisfaction with local bus services, data shows that punctuality of both local and key quality services improved by 5% on last year's figure, the largest increase recorded for at least 5 years. This could be attributed to the introduction of Real Time Passenger Information during 2010.

7.19 Despite this improvement, bus punctuality remains well below the target figures, by 9% for Local Bus Services and 12% for Quality Bus Services.

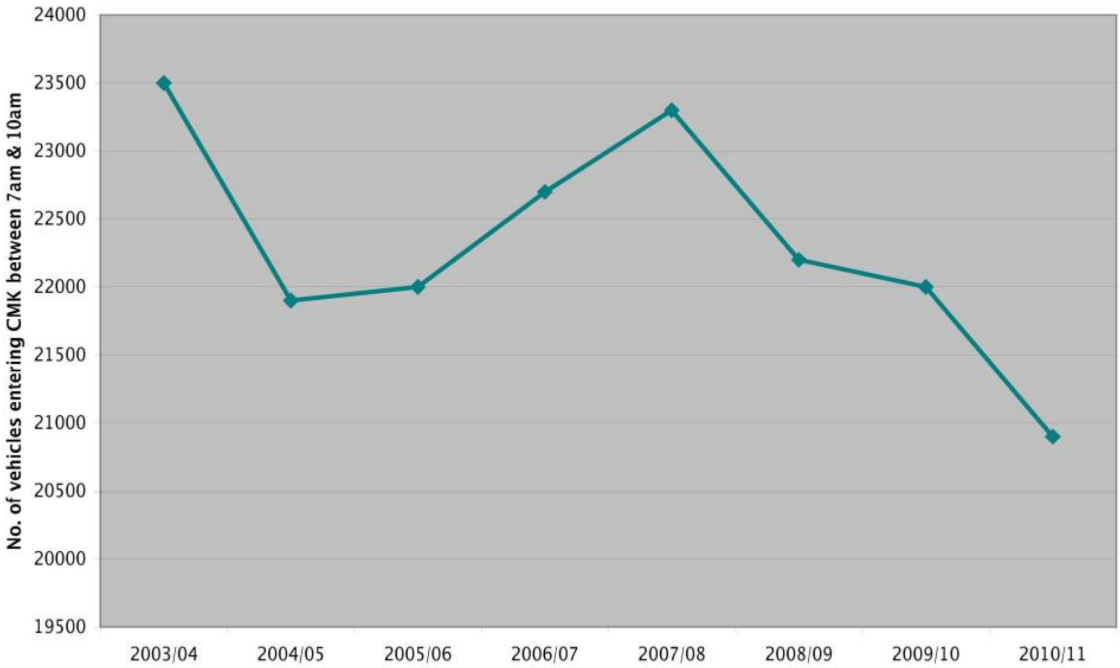
Table 7.1 Bus Punctuality

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Punctuality target for local bus services	84%	85%	86%	88%	90%
Actual punctuality on local bus services	70%	71%	74%	76%	81%
Punctuality target for quality bus services	85%	86%	88%	92%	95%
Actual punctuality on quality services	64%	71%	74%	78%	83%

Traffic

7.20 Figure 7.2 'Peak Traffic' shows the level of peak traffic coming into Central Milton Keynes. Due to some adjustments, the figures reported last year have been revised. The graph shows that the number of vehicles entering CMK during this monitoring period has, once again, decreased, continuing a trend that began in 2008-09. The economic climate is considered to be a major cause of the lower figures.

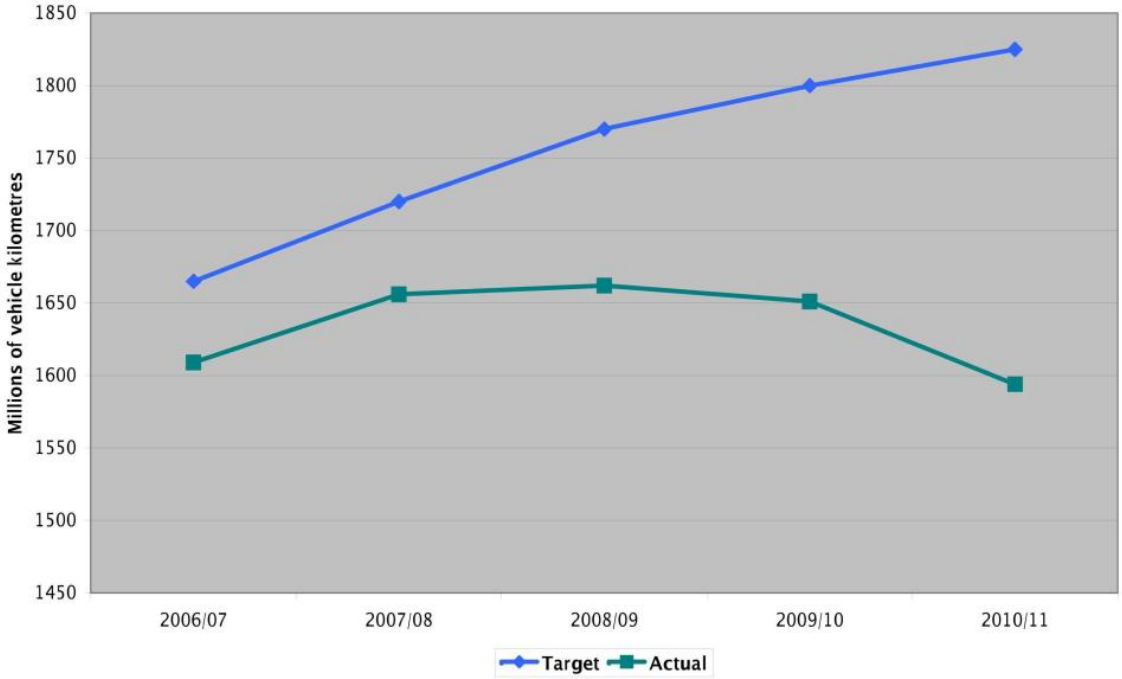
Figure 7.2 Peak Traffic



7.21 Figure 7.3 'Area Traffic Flows'[42] shows a positive trend, with traffic flows continuing to fall and remaining below the target. The figures show a drop of 57 million vehicle kilometres (mvkm), compared with last year's figures; a total of 231mvkm below the 1,825mvkm target. Again, it is thought that the economic climate could be a contributing factor to the lower levels of traffic, with less people choosing to travel.

42 The graph excludes traffic flows on the M1 and A5.

Figure 7.3 Area Traffic Flows



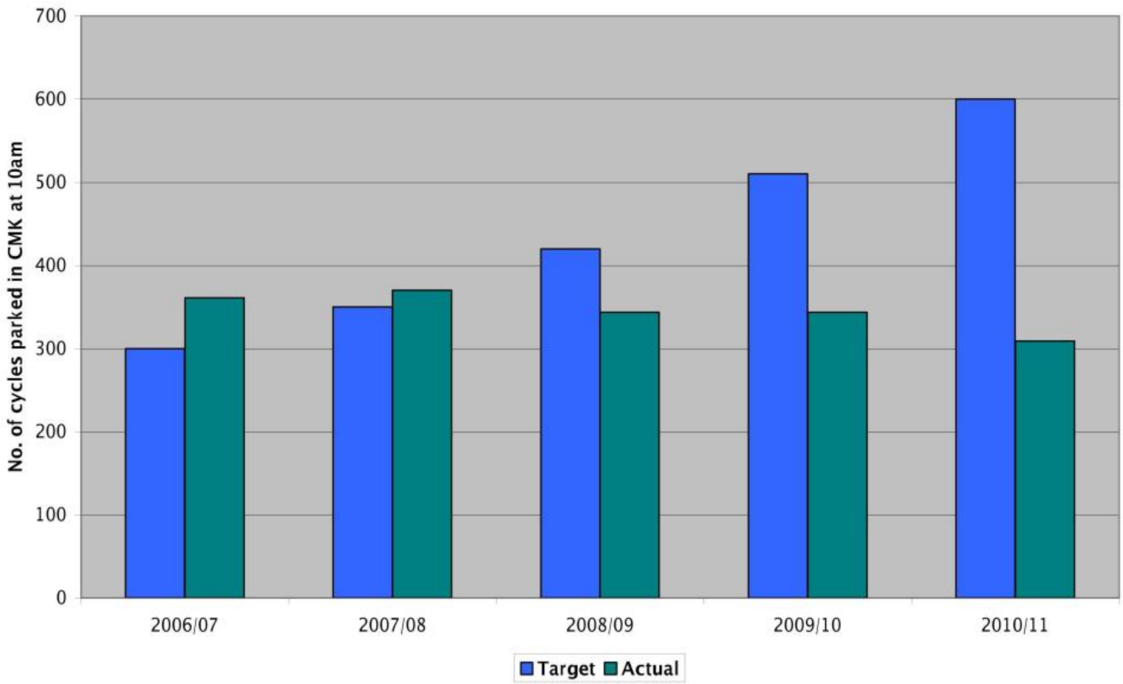
Cycle Usage & Modal Shift

7.22 Milton Keynes has a unique 'Redway' system which provides a network of shared footpaths and cycleways across the city. This provides opportunities for cycling in a traffic-free environment separated from the national speed limit grid roads. Figure 7.4 'Number of Bicycles parked in CMK' shows that the number of bicycles counted this year has decreased by 35 from the figure recorded in last years monitoring report. The target figure increased from 510 last year to 600 this year, further widening the gap between the target figure and the actual figure. The actual figure now stands at just over half of the target.

7.23 A number of measures are being taken to try and increase the level of cycling in Milton Keynes. These include:

- Improvements to the existing Redway network
- Improvement and expansion of cycling networks into new developments, Central Milton Keynes, the older towns and regeneration areas of the city
- Marketing
- Support for cycle hire schemes.

Figure 7.4 Number of Bicycles parked in CMK



7.24 During the LTP2 period, modal shift was measured using the percentage of journeys to school by car. Table 7.2 'Modal Shift' shows that the percentage of trips decreased by 1% in 2010/11, showing the first improvement over the last five years.

Table 7.2 Modal Shift

	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
% of journeys to school by car - target	N/A	29%	29%	29%	29%
% of journeys to school by car - actual	27%	28%	28%	28%	27%

Summary

7.25 There are many challenges that face the transport network, and the continuing growth of Milton Keynes will further increase pressure on the existing network. The figures in this section show that some minor progress has been made in areas such as Bus Patronage and Area Traffic Flows. However, the majority of monitoring indicators remain below the set targets. The subdued economic climate is considered to be a contributing factor to some of these poor figures.

Actions

- Implement LTP3 to help improve transport monitoring in future years, whilst helping the transport system of Milton Keynes continue to improve and support the growth of the city.
- Continue with improvements to transport infrastructure, as outlined in LTP3, to help improve future monitoring figures.
- Continue to work with bus companies to try and improve bus services and patronage.
- Continue marketing campaigns aimed at persuading people to use more sustainable methods of transport to help to improve future monitoring figures.

8 Energy and Climate Change

Energy and Climate Change

8.1 This section details the measures being implemented in Milton Keynes to reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy technologies and combat climate change. Milton Keynes has been at the forefront of sustainable construction techniques and technologies throughout its 40 years history, with examples such as the Home World exhibition in 1981 and Future World in 1994.

8.2 This pioneering attitude continued with the introduction of Local Plan Policy D4: Sustainable Construction (adopted 2005) and the Sustainable Construction SPD (adopted 2007). These require new developments to meet high standards of energy efficiency, water efficiency, reduced construction waste and efficient materials. This was one of the earliest planning policies in the country to require renewable energy technologies in new development; it also introduced the first Carbon Offset Fund. The Submission Core Strategy seeks to continue these strengths by increasing sustainable construction standards, promoting low carbon technologies and adapting to climate change.

Renewable Energy Generation

8.3 There is an abundance of evidence that climate change is caused by increasing volumes of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, notably carbon dioxide (CO_2). The main cause of CO_2 emissions is the burning of fossil fuels (oil, natural gas, coal) for transportation, industrial processes, domestic use and electricity generation. Low or zero carbon technologies which produce no CO_2 emissions or are highly efficient, will, therefore, help to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

8.4 The first wind farm in Milton Keynes, at Petsoe Manor, near Olney, became operational in September 2010. The seven turbine wind farm, with an output capacity of between 14 and 21 megawatts, will generate up to 38,000,000 kWh of electricity a year (enough to power 8,085 homes). A further 12 turbine wind farm at Nunn Wood, Bozeat, in Northamptonshire, with three turbines within the Milton Keynes borough Boundary, was granted planning permission on appeal, in November 2011.

8.5 Milton Keynes Local Plan Policy D4 'Sustainable Construction' and the Sustainable Construction SPD require that CO_2 emissions from developments over five dwellings or 1,000m^2 should be reduced by 10% through the use of low or zero carbon technologies. The policy also requires new developments to meet high standards in relation to energy efficiency, water, materials and waste. The following large developments, permitted in 2010/11, will include the installation of low or zero carbon technologies[43], in some cases the type of technology to be installed was not known at the time when the application was submitted:

- The erection of a replacement health centre in Wolverton will include the installation of a biomass boiler which will provide 20% renewable energy on site. Overall, carbon emissions will be substantially reduced because the efficiency of the new building will be far better than that of the existing facility.
- Two phases of the Radcliffe School development, a total of 378 residential dwellings and two retail units, were given reserve matters permission, and will include solar thermal panels to provide 10% of on-site renewables.
- Reserve matters permission was granted for the development of a 21,813m^2 retail unit at the Stadium:MK, seeking to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' rating.

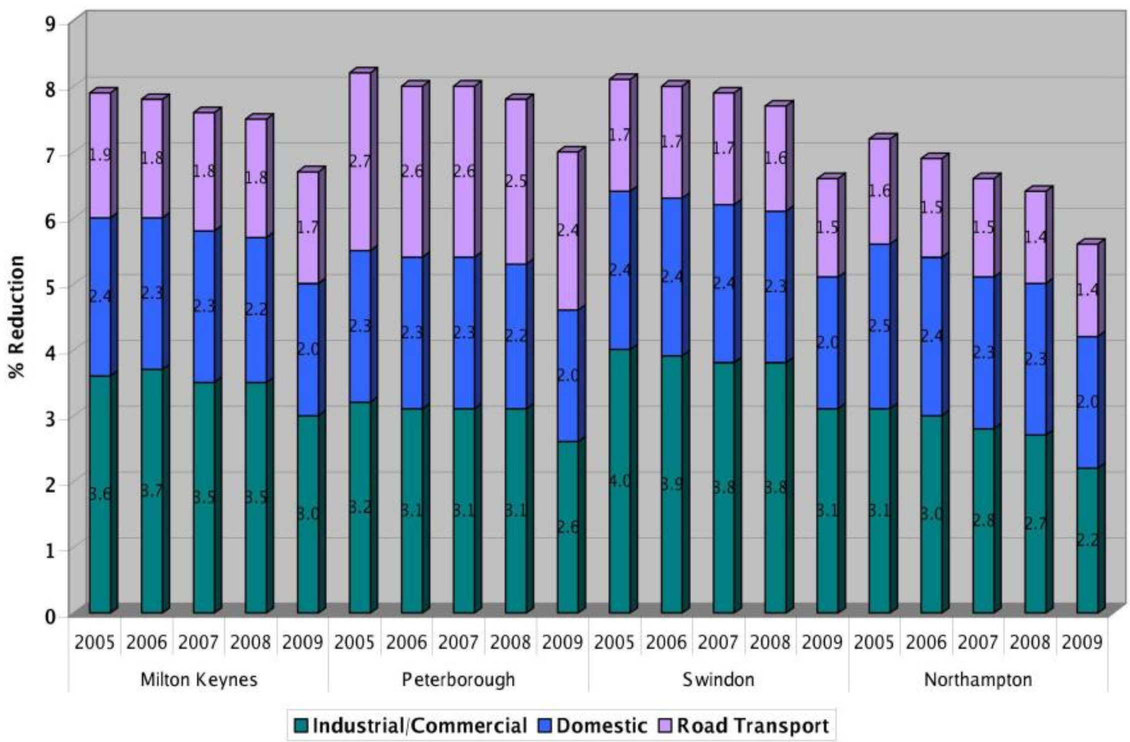
43 There may be additional applications where renewable energies will be installed, but where this was not specifically specified in the application

- The development of three office buildings (two, 4 storey and one, 5 storey) at Caldecotte seeking to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' rating.
- 74 dwellings at land adjacent to Tollgate Cottage in the Eastern Expansion Area, which included a 10% renewable contribution on 90% of the dwellings through the use of solar panels.
- The conversion of Ambassador House in Bletchley from B1 office space to 41 residential apartments, will include air source heat pumps to achieve 10% reduction in CO_2 emissions.
- Approval of reserve matters for the redevelopment of the Maxwell House site in Bletchley to provide a 20,752m^2 data centre and 2,860m^2 of office floorpsace. The office is to be served with air source heat pumps, photo-voltaics and solar thermal to account for a saving of 11.6% of its total emissions. Due to the Data Centre's large power demands, standard renewables would be insufficient, so a range of alternative, low carbon, technologies will be installed to reduce emissions by 13.4%.

8.6 The proposed Policy D4 replacement in the Milton Keynes Core Strategy (CS 14) sets out new objectives that will require new developments to achieve increased energy efficiency standards. It will also require that a 20% reduction in carbon emissions is achieved through the use of renewable or low carbon technologies, where viable.

National Indicator 186 - Per Capita Reduction in CO2 Emissions in Milton Keynes

Figure 8.1 CO2 emissions of Milton Keynes and similar authorities, 2005-2009



8.7 Figure 8.1 'CO2 emissions of Milton Keynes and similar authorities, 2005-2009'[44] shows that between 2005 and 2009, Milton Keynes achieved a 16% reduction in CO_2 emissions per person, which exceeds the 2011 12% reduction target set in the Local Area Agreement. This is a significant achievement that will contribute towards national targets.

44 There is a time lag on this data, 2009 figures are the most recent available

8.8 The graph also shows that in these similarly sized, mostly urban authorities, the industrial and commercial sector forms the largest proportion of emissions. The reduction in emissions has been achieved across all three sources of emission, in all four authority areas.

8.9 The recession contributed towards the reduction in CO_2 emissions through the shrinking of the economy, particularly in the industrial/commercial sector.

National Indicator 188 - Planning to Adapt to Climate Change

8.10 This indicator measures progress on assessing and managing climate risks and opportunities, and the incorporation of appropriate action into appropriate plans. This indicator is measured by ranking this ability from level 0 to 4. So far a local impacts climate profile has been prepared and other steps towards level 1 have been achieved, but Milton Keynes Council is currently at level 0 and no significant progress has been made since last year.

8.11 The definition of level 1 is that the Authority has made a public commitment to identify and manage climate related risk. It has undertaken a local risk-based assessment of significant vulnerabilities and opportunities to weather and climate, both now and in the future. It can demonstrate a sound understanding of those not yet addressed in existing strategies and actions (e.g. in land use planning documents, service delivery plans, flood and coastal resilience plans, emergency planning, community risk registers/strategies etc). It has communicated these potential vulnerabilities and opportunities to department/service heads and other local partners and has set out the next steps in addressing them.

Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund

8.12 Policy D4 states that all new developments in the Borough, over 5 dwellings, or 1,000m^2, must be carbon neutral. This means that new development can produce CO_2 emissions but that these emissions must be offset by the same amount. This can be done on-site or off-site through renewable technologies. This ensures that new development in Milton Keynes does not result in an overall increase in CO_2 emissions.

8.13 If carbon neutrality cannot be achieved by the developer using technical measures, then the developer must contribute to the local Carbon Offset Fund (COF) to compensate for emissions from new developments. This is a one-off payment calculated at £200 per tonne of CO_2 emitted in a single year. It has been calculated that £200 is the cost to offset one tonne of carbon as managed by the United Sustainable Energy Agency. Achieving carbon neutrality by paying into the fund should, therefore, only cost developers a few hundred pounds per household. This is currently a much more cost effective way of achieving carbon neutrality than using technical measures. Milton Keynes was the first authority in the country to introduce such a mechanism. Brighton & Hove and Ashford have followed with similar schemes.

8.14 The funds are spent on subsidising cavity wall and loft insulation for properties in the Borough. Residents can improve their insulation from as little as £95. This reduced price is possible through the monies raised from the offset fund, alongside Carbon Emissions Reduction target (CERT) grant funding. For the second year running, Milton Keynes has topped the list of the number of houses insulated by Local Authorities in the South East: 11,148 homes (11.1% of the total housing stock).

8.15 In total, £225,000 has been transferred to the COF in this financial year. This would save over 1,275 tonnes of CO_2 in one year, based on £200 of COF monies offsetting one tonne of carbon emissions.

8.16 During the almost three years the COF grant has been available, it has contributed to the installation of insulation in 5.2% of all dwellings in Milton Keynes. Further details of the Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund and its operation are available at http://www.usea.org.uk/.

Milton Keynes Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan

8.17 In the 2010/11 monitoring period, Milton Keynes Council approved its Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan for the period 2010 to 2020. It focuses on how the community can reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally and, thereby, help to tackle global climate change.

8.18 The Low Carbon Living Strategy[45] aims to place Milton Keynes at the forefront of low carbon living, nationally and internationally. The overall aim of the strategy is to reduce carbon emissions per person in the Milton Keynes area by 40% by 2020, from a 2005 baseline.

8.19 The details of how this strategy will be achieved is set out in the Low Carbon Action Plan[46]; in summary it will involve:

a) Amending policies, procedures or functions of key organisations

b) Reallocation of existing budgets and new funds sought

c) Specialist support, e.g. the Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust

d) Development of a communications and marketing plan

e) Key action areas: private & public sector housing, business support, regeneration schemes, community advice and local transportation.

f) Use of the MK Low Carbon Living Programme as the delivery vehicle.

Summary

8.20 Milton Keynes continues to pioneer in the field of sustainable development, with the introduction of the Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan and the new objectives set out in the submission Core Strategy. CO_2 emissions in the Borough are continuing to fall and the authority is on track to achieve the Local Area Agreement target. Meanwhile, Local policy D4 and the Carbon Offset Fund continue to help ensure that new development is of a high standard, and significant improvements have been made to the energy efficiency of the older dwelling stock in the Borough.

Actions

- Continue to require all developments over 5 dwellings, or 1000m^2, to meet the requirements of Policy D4 and the Sustainable Construction SPD. This includes the requirement for 10% of a development's CO_2 emissions to be offset through renewable technologies.
- Adopt a new sustainable construction policy, with higher standards, in the Submission Core Strategy. This policy will include a requirement for up to 20% provision of renewable technologies.
- Continue to require new developments to pay into the Carbon Offset Fund which, through improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, lowers per capita emissions in the Borough.
- Continue to support projects that reduce carbon emission in Milton Keynes.
- Begin delivering the aims set out in the Low Carbon Living Strategy and Action Plan.

45 Low Carbon Living Strategy: http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mklowcarbonliving/documents/Low_Carbon_Living_Strategy_-_final.pdf

46 Low Carbon Action Plan: http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mklowcarbonliving/documents/LC_action_plan_final.pdf

9 Natural and Historic Environment

Biodiversity

Condition of SSSIs

9.1 There are three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) wholly or partly within Milton Keynes. All of these, in line with Natural England's aim, are in Favourable or Unfavourable Recovering condition. Howe Park and Oxley Mead, which are wholly situated within Milton Keynes, are both in a Favourable condition. Yardley Chase SSSI, which is partly situated in Milton Keynes, with the rest in Northamptonshire, is in an Unfavourable Recovering condition.

Sites of Local Biodiversity Significance

9.2 Table 9.1 'Milton Keynes Biodiversity Sites' below sets out information regarding locally significant biodiversity sites.(47)

Table 9.1 Milton Keynes Biodiversity Sites

Type of Site	Area (ha)	% Total of MK Area
Local Wildlife Sites	254	0.82
Biological Notification Sites	1,599	5.18
Local Nature Reserves	33	0.11
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	32	0.10
MK Railway Corridors	712	2.31
MK Road Corridors	988	3.20
MK Wetland Corridors	2,648	8.58
MK Woodland Corridors	362	1.17
Total	**6,628**	**21.47**
Total (excluding wildlife corridors)	**1,918**	**6.21**

9.3 The total area of Local Wildlife Sites increased from 230ha in 2009 to 254ha in 2010. This is because the four new sites surveyed met the 2010 selection criteria. This increase can be attributed to an administrative change in the criteria and does not represent any 'real' change in biodiversity.

9.4 The figure for Biological Notification Sites decreased from 1,656ha in 2009 to 1,599ha in 2010. This can be attributed to decisions made at Local Wildlife Sites Selection Panel meetings in 2010.

9.5 There is an ongoing project to review all remaining Biological Notification Sites, with the intention of either passing them as Local Wildlife Sites if they meet the selection criteria or archiving them from the system if not. This means the figures for Biological Notification Sites will continue to decrease.

47 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species

9.6 BAP habitats are areas that support biodiversity that are a priority for conservation methods[48]. Table 9.2 'BAP Priority Habitats in Milton Keynes'[49] shows the extents of these habitats within Milton Keynes.

Table 9.2 BAP Priority Habitats in Milton Keynes

Habitat Type	Area (ha)	% of Total MK Area
Floodplain Grazing Marsh	84	0.27
Eutrophic Standing Waters	0	0
Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	0	0
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	2.8	0.01
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	2	<0.01
Lowland Fens	4	0.01
Lowland Heathland	0.5	<0.01
Lowland Meadows	10	0.03
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	258	0.84
Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures	4	0.01
Reedbeds	12	0.04
Rivers	0	0
Traditional Orchards	10	0.03
Wet Woodland	0.81	<0.01
Wood-Pastures and Parkland	121	0.39
Total	509.11	1.6

9.7 The total area of BAP Priority habitat mapped in Milton Keynes has been calculated as 509 hectares for the 2010/11 monitoring period. Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre has records of 140 UK BAP Priority species in Milton Keynes in the period since 1980. This is an increase of three from the 2009/10 monitoring period. The three additional species are: Wryneck (a bird), Oak Lutestring (a moth) and Orange-fruited Elm lichen.

9.8 This year's data shows that notable amounts of the whole county's resource of Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures (22%), Wood Pasture and Parkland (23%), Reedbeds (48%), and Coastal and Floodplain Grazing Marsh (25%) have been mapped in Milton Keynes.

48 Further information can be found at http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5155
49 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

National Indicator 197 - Proportion of Local Sites where Positive Conservation Management has been or is being Implemented

9.9 This indicator measures the performance of Local Authorities for biodiversity improvement by assessing the implementation of positive conservation management of Local Sites (LS). The indicator relates to the influence Local Authorities have on LS systems and the measures and procedures involved in ensuring effective conservation management is introduced to, and acted upon, by LS owners and managers.

9.10 Assessing the extent of positive management will lead to the identification of sites where positive management is lacking, and will help to focus the efforts of Local Sites Partnerships in ensuring LS are managed and their biodiversity value is maintained or enhanced.

9.11 For the purposes of this indicator, LS include both Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and Local Geological Sites (LGS).

9.12 The findings of the 2010/11 report for Milton Keynes show that 17 (65%) of the 26 Local Sites are in positive conservation management. The combined figure for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes shows that 102 (44%) of the 455 Local Sites are in positive conservation management. Full figures for Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire and those of other districts are shown in Table 9.3 'Sites in Positive Conservation Management'[50].

Table 9.3 Sites in Positive Conservation Management

District/County	Total Number of Local Sites	Total Number of Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management (% of Sites)	Total Number of Local Sites Not in Positive Conservation Management (% of Sites)	Total Number of Local Sites which are Data Deficient (% of Sites)
Milton Keynes	26	17 (65)	1 (4)	8 (31)
Aylesbury Vale	180	89 (49)	30 (17)	61 (34)
Chiltern	74	27 (36)	1 (1)	46 (62)
South Bucks	33	15 (45)	2 (6)	16 (48)
Wycombe	142	54 (38)	6 (4)	82 (58)
Buckinghamshire (excluding MK)	429	185 (43)	39 (9)	205 (48)
Total: Bucks and MK	**455**	**202 (44)**	**40 (9)**	**213 (47)**

Parks

9.13 Since 2007, Milton Keynes has continued a trend of bringing a new park up to Green Flag Standard every year. Whilst in 2010/11 there have been no new parks in the Borough to receive this recognition, the three parks at Chepstow Drive, Eaglestone and New Bradwell, and Leon Recreation Ground have all successfully renewed their Green Flag Status. The Green Flag award is a national benchmark which recognises the best parks and green spaces in the country.

50 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

Water & Flooding

Planning Applications Granted Contrary to Environment Agency Advice on Flooding and Water Quality Grounds

9.14 There have been no applications within the 2010/11 monitoring year that have had objections from the Environment Agency.

Water Quality

9.15 Milton Keynes has 15 lakes within the city and a further 15 in rural areas, plus eleven miles of the Grand Union Canal. The main watercourses in the Borough are the Great Ouse and its tributaries; the Calverton and Loughton Brooks; the Tove; the Ouzel and its tributaries; and the Broughton Brook.

9.16 For 2010 there were 13 monitoring locations within the Borough for measuring biological and chemical water quality. Table 9.4 'Water Quality in Milton Keynes' shows that 100% of the monitoring locations within Milton Keynes met the Environment Agency targets for both biological and chemical water quality in 2010. This shows an increase in chemical standards compared to the figures reported in last year's AMR, which stood at 85.7%. This could, however, be influenced by a decrease in the number of locations at which monitoring was carried out in 2010. Overall, the water quality in Milton Keynes remains significantly higher than that of the surrounding regions and the country as a whole.

Table 9.4 Water Quality in Milton Keynes

Area	Biological (% A or B)	Chemical (% A or B)
Milton Keynes	100%	100%
Southern Region	83.1%	69.7%
Thames Region	63.2%	83.3%
Anglian Region	83.4%	61.0%
England	72.5%	80.0%

Air Quality

9.17 Milton Keynes has set objectives for air quality, covering Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulpher Dioxide, Ozone and Particulate Matter ($PM_{10}S$). In the 2010/11 monitoring year, all of these objectives were met in the monitoring locations throughout the Borough with the exception of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Bridge Street and High Street South, Olney.

9.18 An AQMA has been in force in this location since December 2008, after monitoring data showed that the annual mean nitrogen dioxide figures were exceeding the annual mean acceptable concentration level of 40 micrograms per m^3. Further monitoring has shown no evidence of a downward trend in nitrogen oxide concentration over the last five years.

9.19 In August 2011, Milton Keynes Council produced a draft AQMA Action Plan which provides a list of options, both Olney specific and Borough-wide, that will contribute towards reducing the annual mean nitrogen dioxide level in Olney. Following consultation of this document, a final action plan will be decided and implemented. The outcomes of the final action plan will be recorded in the 2011/12 Annual Monitoring Report.

9.20 The 2011 Milton Keynes Air Quality Progress Report findings also confirm that there are no new or newly identified local developments since the Updating and Screening Assessment 2010 which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area.

Historic Environment

9.21 Despite the Borough being dominated by the New Town of Milton Keynes, which was designated in 1967, it contains a rich historic environment beyond its New Town history. The city itself incorporates 13 historic villages; many of which are now preserved as conservation areas, in addition to the existing towns of Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Wolverton. The remaining two thirds of the Borough is rural, comprising a characteristic midlands landscape of small farming villages and historic market towns, such as Olney and Newport Pagnell.

9.22 Milton Keynes is also home to the unique Victorian and Edwardian railway town and former works at Wolverton and the internationally-renowned World War Two code-breaking centre at Bletchley Park.

9.23 This varied built environment is complemented by areas of historic landscape comprising significant areas of ridge and furrow earthworks and designed landscapes including 3 historic parks and gardens on the national register.

9.24 In the 2010/11 monitoring period Milton Keynes Council's Conservation and Archaeology Department received 753 consultations on development proposals relating to heritage assets, and completed one new Conservation Area Review for the town of Newport Pagnell.

9.25 During the 2010/11 monitoring period, a Local Heritage at Risk Register has been produced, consisting of 109 heritage assets, 9 of which are known to be owned by Milton Keynes Council. Work has also begun on looking at mechanisms for recognition of the New Town, including its buildings, space and art, amongst other features.

9.26 Finally, the 2010/11 monitoring period has seen the start of the Bletchley Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas (PSICA), which looks to achieve the repair of World War Two buildings at Bletchley Park.

Archaeology

9.27 Milton Keynes is also rich in archaeological remains, with the earliest records relating to Lower Palaeolithic finds. The New Town area has been subject to numerous archaeological investigations, many of which were carried out by a dedicated archaeology unit between 1971 and 1991. Investigations found that sites spanned from the Iron Age through to the post-medieval period. Of these, key excavated sites include the medieval villages of Tattenhoe and Great Linford, the Roman Villa and mausoleum at Bancroft, Saxon settlements at Pennyland and Hartigans, and the post-medieval watermill and boat at Caldecotte.

9.28 Elsewhere in the Borough, sites of the Roman small town of Magiovinium on the line of Watling Street and the Iron Age hillfort of Danesborough can be found. These are just two of the area's 50 scheduled ancient monuments which also include a Saxon medieval manorial and monastic sites and more recent industrial heritage, such as the 200 year old Iron Bridge at Newport Pagnell.

9.29 In recent years with the continuing expansion of the City of Milton Keynes into the surrounding countryside, extensive programmes of survey and excavation have led to several more significant prehistoric to post-medieval sites being investigated, recorded and published.

Fieldwork Projects

9.30 Table 9.5 'Archaeological Fieldwork Events in Milton Keynes' outlines fieldwork projects that have been undertaken in the Borough of Milton Keynes during the 2010/11 monitoring period, along with a summary of their finds. Particular highlights were:

- Two open area excavations revealing late Iron Age and Romano-British settlements on the Western Expansion Area, Calverton and Shenley Church End Parishes.
- Continuing excavation and monitoring at Manor Farm Quarry, Wolverton. Work this season has revealed Bronze Age brushwood trackways and Mesolithic flint scatters, in addition to the first, in situ, Upper Palaeolithic remains from the north of the county. This discovery extends human occupation in the area back to the Ice Age, some 14,000 years ago.

Table 9.5 Archaeological Fieldwork Events in Milton Keynes

Site	Event	Date	Summary
Intervet, Walton manor, Walton	Trial Trenching	May 2010	Features relating to medieval village earthworks revealed.
St Mary and St Giles Church, Stony Stratford	Watching Brief	May 2010	Watching brief during construction of extension.
Land between Pitched Land and School Lane, Loughton	Trial Trenching	June 2010	Seven trenches revealed no significant archaeological features.
Manor Farm Quarry, Old Wolverton	Strip, map and sample	Ongoing	Excavations revealed a further (third) cursus monument, Bronze Age field system and small segmented hengiform monument. Also Mesolithic and Upper Palaeolithic flint scatters.
Lavendon Road/Wellingborough Road, Olney	Trial Trenching	July 2010	Trial trench evaluation of area to immediate south of Ashfurlong Scheduled Monument uncovered evidence for extensive quarrying, probably dating to the 19th century.
Proposed Bletcham Way Traveller Site, Fenny Lock, Simpson	Trial Trenching	July 2010	Six trial trenches were excavated in heavily wooded land, which had been raised up in areas. An undated ditch and remnants of a modern buried soil were found in the northern part of the area.
Cart Shed, Shenley Road, Shenley Church End	Trial Trenching	July 2010	Trial trench evaluation revealed 19th/20th century rubbish pits and an undated wall footing. No significant archaeological remains were found.
Former Aston Martin works, north of Tickford Street	Trial Trenching	July 2010	Medieval pits and post-medieval pits, ditches and wall/building foundations along Tickford Street frontage.
Common Street, Ravenstone	Watching brief	August 2010	Awaiting report
Church Farm, Church End, Sherington	Watching brief	September 2010	Largely negative watching brief on groundworks for barn and driveway.
Brocks Garage, High Street, Olney	Trial trenching	October 2010	Four trial trenches revealed a medieval ditch, large medieval pit and a

Site	Event	Date	Summary
			post-medieval pit. The medieval ditch contained 13th - 15th century pottery and may represent a property boundary.
Manor Farm Quarry, Wolverton	Stirp, map and sample	August-December 2010	In situ scatter of refitting Upper Palaeolithic flint blades/knapping debris. Possible Roman trackway and flanking ditches.
3 Upper Weald, Calverton	Watching brief	November 2010	Negative watching brief.
Land to the rear of The Three Trees public house, Shenley Road, Bletchley	Watching brief	November-ongoing	Post-medieval remains.
Bletchley Park Mound	Borehole survey	January 2011	Borehole survey confirmed absence of buried modern structures.
12 Union Street, Newport Pagnell	Building assessment	February 2011	Recording and assessment of 2 19th century non-domestic structures prior to conversion.
Orchardway Wind Farn, Haversham	Geophysical survey	March 2011	Magnetometry survey revealed a number of features ranging in probable date from prehistoric to post-medieval.
Area A - Land at Area 10, Milton Keynes Western Extension, Shenley Church End	Excavation	March 2011	Small late Iron Age Settlement.
Land at Area 10 - Milton Keynes Western Extension, Shenley Church End/Calverton	Trial Trenching	March - June 2011	Awaiting report.
Area C - land at Area 10, Milton Keynes Western Extension, Shenley Church End	Excavation	June 2011	Late Iron Age and Romano-British Settlement.
Manor Farm Quarry	Strip, map and sample	Ongoing	Mesolithic working scatter, Bronze Age antler working and brushwood tracks/platforms, Iron Age pit alignment.

Development Management

9.31 During the 2010/11 monitoring period there were 234 consultations in respect of archaeological matters as a direct result of planning applications, pre-development enquiries, and schemes by statutory undertakers and other agencies. Out of these, 56 had implications for buried archaeological remains.

Historic Environment Record (HER)

9.32 The Historic Environment Record was used by external researchers 25 times during the 2010/11 monitoring period.

9.33 In late 2010 the Senior Archaeological Officer commenced a mini-audit of the HER and an accompanying case-study for which funding was granted from English Heritage. A key outcome of the mini-audit will be an HER action plan for the next three years.

Outreach

9.34 In April 2010, the Conservation and Archaeological Team co-hosted a Year 11 Radcliffe School student, in partnership with local archaeological contractor Archaeological Services and Consultancy Ltd.

9.35 Between April and June 2010, the Senior Archaeological Officer was involved as advisor and participant in the production of the MK Underground project film, in partnership with local charity MK Arts for Health.

9.36 On Saturday 11th September 2011, the Senior Archaeological Officer gave a guided walk around the archaeology of the Ouzel Valley to a group of 25, as part of Heritage Open Days.

9.37 On November 13th 2010, Milton Keynes Central Library hosted the, well attended, fourth Milton Keynes Council Archaeology Day.

Summary

- There have been 140 BAP Priority Habitats recorded in Milton Keynes since 1980.
- Four parks were granted a Green Flag Award in 2010/11.
- No applications were permitted with outstanding objections from the Environment Agency.
- Overall air quality in Milton Keynes has remained good, with the exception of Olney High Street due to heavy traffic.
- Milton Keynes Council Conservation and Archaeology Department has received 753 consultations relating to planning applications in 2010/11. 234 of these consultations included archaeological matters of which 56 had implications for buried archaeological remains.

Actions

- Finalise the AQMA Action Plan for Olney.
- Continue work on the Local Heritage at Risk Register.
- Progress work on the recognition of New Town architecture, spaces, art etc.

10 Minerals and Waste

Minerals

Production of primary land-won aggregate by Mineral Planning Authority

10.1 As has been the case in previous years, information on the production of primary land-won aggregate in the Borough cannot be disclosed. This is because there are only a small number of active quarries in the Borough, which means information cannot be revealed for business confidentiality reasons.

Production of secondary and recycled aggregates by Mineral Planning Authority

10.2 As has been the case in previous years, information on the production of secondary and recycled aggregates cannot be disclosed for business confidentiality reasons.

Waste

Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority

10.3 One planning permission for the continued use of an existing site, including an increase in capacity, was implemented in this monitoring period. The previous operational capacity of the site was 30,000 tonnes per annum; the granting of planning permission allowed an increase to 50,000 tonnes per annum.

10.4 It is also of note that planning permission was granted, in this monitoring period, for an organic waste treatment facility. The facility is not yet operational, but it will have a capacity of 35,000 tonnes per annum which will be sufficient to meet the needs of Milton Keynes residents. It will involve in-vessel composting and dry anaerobic digestion. Anaerobic digestion is the process of breaking down organic waste without oxygen which, in addition to fertiliser, produces methane and carbon dioxide rich biogas suitable for energy use. The permitted facility will supply mains quality gas into the local supply network.

Table 10.1 Capacity of new waste management facilities

Application Details		Proposal	Capacity - per annum
09/00009/MIN	Chesney Wold, Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes	Retention of the permanent building on site to be used as a transfer building for the bulking up and transfer of industrial and commercial waste (including an increase in capacity)	20,000 tonnes additional capacity (50,000 tonnes total capacity)

Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management type by waste planning authority

10.5 Table 10.2 'Amount of municipal waste arising in Milton Keynes' shows that the total amount of waste remained almost exactly the same this year as it was last year, which is positive considering that the population of Milton Keynes has grown since last year. One of the main reasons for this is that in the last two quarters of the monitoring period, one of the controls placed on trade waste changed from a “charge per load” to a “charge per weight” system. This has led to a drop of approximately 500 tonnes per month. This is combined with the increase in waste sent for incineration with energy recovery (see paragraph 10.8).

Table 10.2 Amount of municipal waste arising in Milton Keynes

	2009/10 Figures		2010/11 Figures	
Management Type	Quantity (tonnes)	% Waste Managed	Quantity (tonnes)	% Waste Managed
Recycled via MRF[51] / other recycling outlet	32,381	24.83	33,520	25.72
Windrow composted	8,965	6.88	3,767	2.89
IVC[52] Composted	10,392	7.97	20,870	16.01
Incinerated with energy recovery	478	0.37	4,133	3.17
Landfill	67,001	51.38	58,889	45.19
Sent for hardcore	7,648	5.87	5,914	4.54
Sent for reuse	3,530	2.7	3,225	2.48
Total	**130,395**	**100**	**130,318**	**100**

10.6 There are a number of other positive trends which have continued this year:

- The proportion of waste sent to landfill fell from 51.38% to 45.19%
- The proportion of waste composted rose from 14.85% to 18.9%
- The proportion of waste recycled increased slightly from 24.83% to 25.72%

10.7 The landfill rate dropped due to a combination of factors. The first is the removal of large quantities of food from the waste stream through the food and garden waste scheme introduced in the summer of 2009 (part way through the 2009/10 monitoring period). The second is the treatment of waste from Civic Amenity Sites through incineration with energy recovery. The third is the introduction of tighter trade waste controls at Civic Amenity sites which has seen total trade waste levels drop (there were large quantities coming cross-border) as well as increased recycling of trade collected materials. The final factor is the contracted economy, which has slowed consumer spending, which in turn leads to less waste and less frequent replacement (and therefore disposal) of large household items such as electronics and furniture.

10.8 The overall composting rate has increased due to the introduction of the food and garden waste collection scheme in the 2009/10 monitoring period. Although its introduction was 90% complete within a three month period (between July and September), it took a couple of months for awareness of the scheme to build. The July launch also missed four of the key "growing" months when green waste is produced. This means that the 2010/11 monitoring period is the first year where the full effects of the scheme's introduction can be seen, hence the increase in the amount and proportion of waste composted.

10.9 There are also a number of other noticeable changes in this year's figures, compared to last year's figures. The proportions of Windrow composting has decreased because the green bin composting service (introduced in summer 2009) is for combined food and garden waste, meaning it can no longer go to open windrow composting due to the animal by-products contained within. As an interim solution, the Council is sending its waste to an IVC

51 MRF - Materials Recovery Facility
52 IVC - In Vessel Composting

plant for treatment to comply with legislation. However, the tendering process has recently come to an end for an AD (Anaerobic Digestion) plant, which will come into operation in the next 12-15 months and will include gas recovery as an energy source.

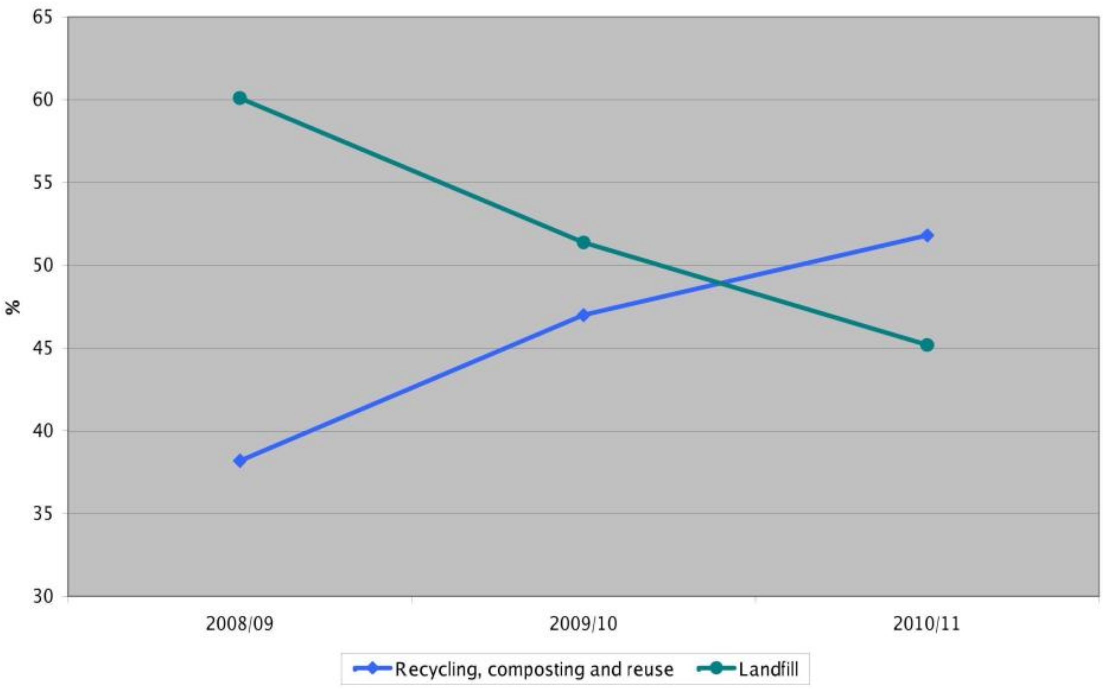
10.10 In October 2010 the Council changed the contractor at its Civic Amenity sites. The new contractor has the facility to take residual waste to an alternative management type which explains the increase in the proportion of waste incinerated with energy recovery (all recyclable material of worth is removed prior to treatment, thus meeting the Council's non-mass burn incineration policy).

Recycling, composting and reuse of waste in Milton Keynes

10.11 The recycling, composting and re-use figure for 2010/11 was 51.82%, almost 7% better than the target figure of 45%, and up from last year's figure of 47%. Figure 10.1 'Proportion of waste recycled and the proportion sent to landfill' shows the progress that has been made over the last few years, with an increase in recycling, composting and re-use and the resultant decrease in waste sent to landfill.

10.12 The Council's Municipal Zero Waste Management Strategy has been refreshed this year. This contains new targets for recycling, because the Council is outperforming the targets previously set.

Figure 10.1 Proportion of waste recycled and the proportion sent to landfill



10.13 Table 10.3 'Recycling targets' shows the long term recycling targets for the Borough, which have been revised upwards since last year.

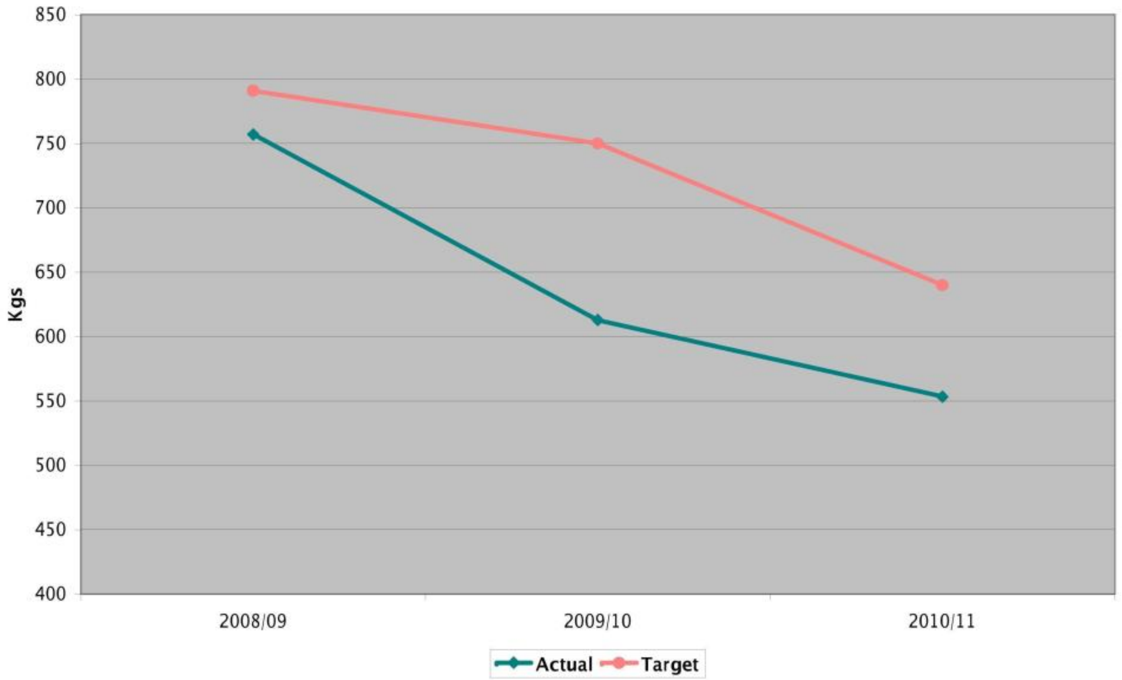
Table 10.3 Recycling targets

2015	2020	2025
60%	65%	70%

Mass of waste produced by household

10.14 In the monitoring period 2010/11, the residual waste per household figure was 553.29kg. Once again, this figure has dropped fairly significantly compared to last year's figure of 612.88kg. The figure is also a significant improvement on the target figure of 640kg. Figure 10.2 'Mass of waste produced per household' shows the progress that has been made in reducing the amount of waste produced per household over the last few years.

Figure 10.2 Mass of waste produced per household



Developments using recycled materials

10.15 No figure is available for the percentage of developments which have used recycled materials in construction. However, Milton Keynes Council's Local Plan Policy D4 *Sustainable Construction* requires all developments exceeding 5 dwellings or 1000m^2 to use a minimum of 10% recycled or reused materials (by value).

Summary

10.16 This year's monitoring figures show that, despite a growing population, there has been continued improvement in waste figures, with another fall in the amount of waste produced and the quantity and proportion sent to landfill.

10.17 Minerals data cannot be released for commercial confidentiality reasons again this year. Production of the Minerals DPDs halted at the end of 2010, as a result of changes to the planning system which have created uncertainties. This work on the document which will replace the Minerals Local Plan has now recommenced.

Actions

- Continue the recycling and composting collection services
- Continue to promote and encourage reuse and recycling
- Progress the production of the Minerals DPD

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