

Planning and Placemaking

Annual Monitoring Report 2020-21

December 2021



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Front Cover Image: Willen Lake and CMK (Credit: Luke Gledhill, MKC Development Plans Team)

Introduction

The Annual Monitoring Report

- 1.1** Local authorities are required to produce and publish monitoring reports by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011). 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). As a result of the changes to monitoring requirements brought about by the Localism Act, a copy of the monitoring report is no longer sent to the Secretary of State.
- 1.2** This Annual/Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) covers the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 and is our second to be prepared since the adoption of Milton Keynes Council's (MKC) new Local Plan; Plan:MK, which was adopted on 20 March 2019. This report monitors progress towards achieving the strategic objectives set out in Plan:MK and analyses the implementation and performance of Plan:MK's policies in enabling delivery of these objectives, with reference to the targets and indicators outlined in the Plan:MK monitoring framework (contained in Appendix F of Plan:MK) and data presented and analysed in previous AMRs (PAMR).

Milton Keynes Background Information

- 1.3** Milton Keynes Borough covers the 'new city' of Milton Keynes as well as its large rural hinterland which includes many villages and the towns of Newport Pagnell, Woburn Sands and Olney (see Figure 1.1). 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 8 local authority areas which include Buckinghamshire (Unitary Authority Area), Central Bedfordshire, Bedford and West Northamptonshire Unitary Authority Area). The aim of SEMLEP is to promote the South East Midlands as a prime growth location for business, investors and visitors. It is one of 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in England established by the Coalition Government to play a central role in determining local economic priorities and to undertake activities that drive economic growth and the creation of local jobs.
- 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. A lack of reliable population data means the current population number is uncertain; 2011 Census data remains the only reliable source. Between Milton Keynes' designation, the Borough's population grew from 60,000 to 248,800 at the time of the 2011 Census. The current development plan for the Borough, Plan:MK sets an objectively assessed housing need for 26,500 new dwellings over the 2016-2031 period. As forecast in the MK 2050 Strategy, growth is expected to lead to an increase in population

to almost 410,000 in the Borough by 2050. Most of the land to accommodate this growth was allocated in Plan:MK; further sites will be allocated through the scheduled Local Plan Review.

- 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. Also, Milton Keynes' position at the centre of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc offers good opportunities for economic growth. There are currently around 160,000 jobs in the Borough.
- 1.6** Milton Keynes is a major shopping and leisure destination. Popular destinations include the shopping centre, the Milton Keynes Theatre and Art Gallery, Xscape and Stadium MK.

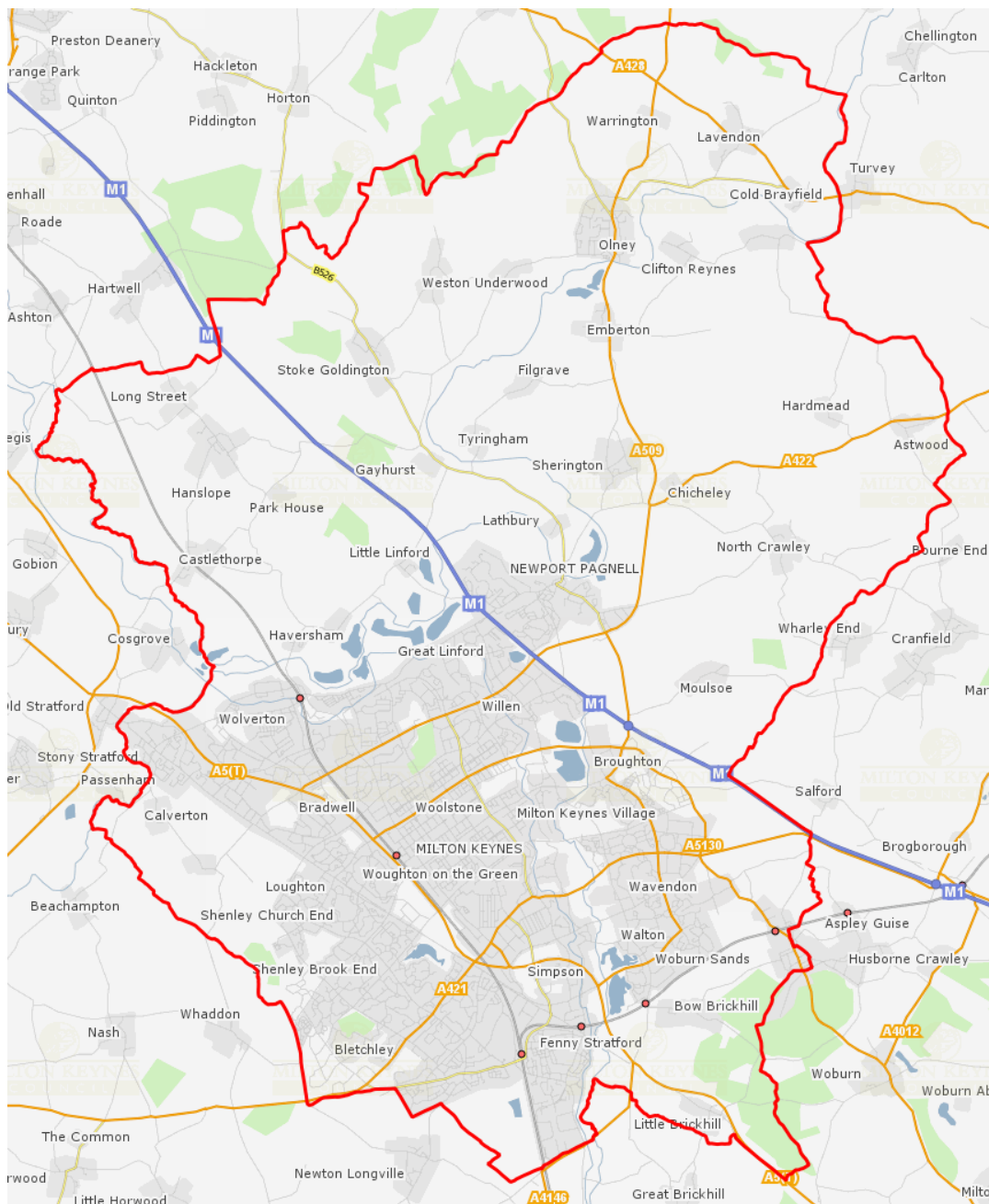


Figure 1.1: Map of MKC Local Authority Area.

Local Planning Authority Performance

Progress on Planning Policy and LDS Implementation

- 2.1** The Local Development Scheme (LDS)¹ sets out the planning policy documents that we intend to produce over a four-year period and the timetable for producing them. It is essentially a summary of the more detailed project management behind each document.
- 2.2** The latest version of the LDS covers the period 2021 to 2024. It was agreed at a Delegated Decision meeting on 2 March 2021 and sets out the timescales for the review of the Council's Local Plan, Plan:MK 2016-2031 adopted in March 2019. It replaces a previous version of the LDS which outlined a programme for preparing a new Local Plan to be submitted for examination before December 2022. That programme reflected the timeline in Policy DSO of Plan:MK. The new LDS now expects the Local Plan to be submitted for examination in July 2024. It also sets out the timescales for preparation of Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and outlines a risk assessment covering the risks that could impact upon the delivery of the work programme.

Progress on the Review of Plan:MK

- 2.3** As outlined in Section 6 of our current LDS, several key milestones for the initial stages of the preparation of the review of Plan:MK were set to be carried out in 2020/21. These milestones are all related to the pre-production stage of the review and are outlined in Table 2.1, with progress against them reported below.

Table 2.1: 2021/2024 LDS milestones for Plan:MK Review	
Task	Timescale
Council approval of a revised Strategy for 2050	Strategy approved January 2021
Agreement of new LDS for the period 2021-2024	LDS approved March 2021
Commissioning and preparation of evidence base studies including call for sites	January 2021 to December 2022
Regulation 18 Draft Plan consultation	February to April 2023
Regulation 19 Proposed Submission consultation	March to May 2024
Regulation 20 Submission of Plan to Secretary of State for examination	September 2024

Public consultation on the draft Strategy for 2050 & Adoption of the Milton Keynes Growth Strategy

- 2.4** In January 2020 we published the Draft Strategy for 2050 for public engagement. The Strategy seeks to progress the recommendations and aspirations of the MK Futures 2050 report, the Council Plan 2016-2020 and the National Infrastructure Commission report 2017, which outlined

¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-development-scheme-lds>

ambitions to expand the city and its wider area to a population of approximately 500,000 people by 2050.

- 2.5** The Strategy which seeks to outline a framework for how this additional growth could be delivered in a manner which delivers on a number of key objectives based around inclusive growth principles, is supported by a large evidence base which has been prepared specifically for the Strategy and MK Futures work. This includes, amongst other studies:
- a. Milton Keynes Strategic Growth Study, prepared by David Lock Associates;
 - b. An economic growth study, prepared by Ortus Economics;
 - c. A Mobility and Mass Rapid Transit System study, prepared by Integrated Transport Planning;
 - d. A Growth Options Assessment document;
 - e. Demographic modelling prepared by Opinion Research Services.
- 2.6** The Strategy for 2050 is not a statutory planning document, but will be a key consideration in preparing the review of Plan:MK. Furthermore, the evidence base that informs it, and the feedback gained during the consultation period will provide useful information and data to assist the preparation of the new plan.
- 2.7** The draft Strategy was published in January 2020 for an intended consultation period of 3 months. During February and March 2020, we hosted many public meetings across the Borough and within parishes of neighbouring authorities that border Milton Keynes. Unfortunately, due to the onset of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown, the remainder of the programmed engagement events scheduled for the end of March and April 2020 had to be cancelled. Although some meetings were held virtually, where requested. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we decided to extend the Strategy consultation period until 22 May 2020 giving people further time to study the Strategy and associated documents and provide comments.
- 2.8** During June and July 2020, we published some thoughts and questions to be considered in relation to Covid-19, and to provide an opportunity for people to respond to these issues, and what adaptations may be appropriate to include in the Strategy. More detail about the engagement process and the comments received can be viewed at www.mkfutures2050.com/strategy-for-2050-engagement-page. All the feedback received, including the Covid-19 discussions, have been considered and helped in improving and refining the Strategy. A revised Strategy for 2050 was approved at a Cabinet meeting on 15 December 2020 and at full Council on 20 January 2021. The Strategy for 2050 now forms an annex to the Council Plan. The final Strategy for 2050 is available to view at www.mkfutures2050.com.

Commissioning and Preparation of Evidence Base Studies

- 2.9** We have begun work on evidence base studies to support the review of Plan:MK, in line with the LDS programme, which envisaged work on evidence preparation starting from January 2021. Briefs have been prepared for several key evidence base documents including an Open Space

Assessment (OSA), a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) with project work on the OSA commencing in March 2021.

- 2.10** For those evidence base documents which require the assistance of external consultants, the onset of Covid-19 has temporarily impacted upon the ability of the Council to tender for work or to appoint consultants. This may create delay in terms of the completion of a number of key pieces of evidence.
- 2.11** The LDS will be kept under review to take account of any ongoing disruption related to the pandemic, future planning reforms², progress of the Spatial Framework for the Arc³, and the progress made by neighbouring authorities on their Local Plans.

The Duty to Cooperate

- 2.12** The Duty to Cooperate (DtC) is a statutory duty that we are bound by and which requires strategic planning policy-making authorities to cooperate with each other, and other bodies, when preparing, or supporting the preparation of policies which address strategic matters.
- 2.13** The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that these authorities should produce, maintain, and update one or more Statement(s) of Common Ground (SoCG), throughout the plan-making process. In preparing Plan:MK, we prepared a number of SoCG with our immediate neighbouring authorities and with other key bodies, such as the Environment Agency, Natural England and Historic England. With regards to our neighbouring authorities of Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) (now part of a unitary Buckinghamshire Council) and Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), who also both submitted plans in 2018, which currently (as at March 2021) remain unadopted, the SoCG between these authorities and MKC remain active for the purposes of their live examinations.
- 2.14** During 2020/21 limited work specific to the duty to cooperate has taken place in relation to the preparation of the review of Plan:MK. This is for several reasons including firstly, the ongoing examinations of both the AVDC and CBC Local Plans, which has limited their ability to begin discussions in relation to a new plan; secondly, Local Government reorganisation in both Buckinghamshire and Northamptonshire.
- 2.15** In addition to the incorporation of neighbouring AVDC to form part of the new unitary Buckinghamshire Council in April 2020. Local Government reorganisation in Northamptonshire in April 2021 will result in the creation of two new unitary authorities bordering Milton Keynes. West Northamptonshire Council covering the areas of Daventry, Northampton Borough and South Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire Council covering the areas of Corby, East Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough. Finally, limited work specific to the duty to

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/planning-for-sustainable-growth-in-the-oxford-cambridge-arc-spatial-framework>

cooperate has taken place due to the early stage of preparation that we are currently at with regards to the review of Plan:MK.

2.16 We have however during 2020/21 continued to engage with our neighbouring authorities in several areas, including:

- a. MK Strategy for 2050⁴: We held a number of individual meetings with neighbouring authorities (mainly officer meetings, but in some cases with the presence of members as well) prior to the publication of the draft Strategy and again prior to the publication of the final Strategy for 2050 before its approval, so as they had advance notice of the contents, had the opportunity to provide comment and to assist us in determining the best manner with which to engage with parishes within their authority areas.
- b. During the engagement period of the draft Strategy (prior to the onset of Covid-19), we carried out a range of public engagement events with Parishes of neighbouring authorities to provide them with an opportunity to discuss and provide comment on the draft Strategy. Details of online events and materials were also circulated to neighbouring parishes and authorities.
- c. Preparation of the South East MK Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document.
- d. Consultations: During 2020/21 we provided no comments to consultations by neighbouring authorities

2.17 As Milton Keynes is a unitary authority it is the responsible authority for minerals and waste related planning within the Borough. Minerals and waste are both strategic matters so the duty to cooperate also relates to them. These are covered under the Minerals and Waste chapters later in this AMR.

Progress on Supplementary Planning Documents

2.18 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide more detailed advice and guidance on the implementation and interpretation of planning policies set out in the Local Plan. Unlike local plans, SPDs are not required to be submitted for independent examination but are subject to public consultation and are a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.19 Following the adoption of Plan:MK, we have started work on updating existing SPDs or preparing new SPDs.

⁴ <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/>

Preparation of New and Updated Supplementary Planning Documents

- 2.20** The following outlines the SPDs which we intend to prepare within the time period 2021-2024, as set out in the LDS, and the progress that has been made during 2020/21.

Planning Obligations SPD

- 2.21** We consulted upon a draft Planning Obligations SPD in May-July 2019. Following this consultation, changes were made to Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which had a significant effect on the contents of this SPD. As a result, a revised version of the Planning Obligations SPD was prepared, and a decision made to undertake further public consultation given the extensive changes made to the document to bring it in line with the PPG.
- 2.22** On 24 March 2020 a Delegated Decision was taken to allow for the revised version of the SPD to be published for a further period of public consultation. Initially it was intended that this consultation period would take place from May 2020, however this was delayed due to the onset of Covid-19 and the impact this has had on us being able to fulfil the consultation in line with its adopted Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and national regulations in relation to consulting on SPD's.
- 2.23** Following updated guidance from the Government in May 2020 in relation to carrying out consultations on planning documents during the Covid-19 pandemic, we updated our Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Following this update, consultation on the revised SPD took place for eight weeks between the 5 August and 30 September 2020.
- 2.24** Following consideration of public consultation responses, the Planning Obligation SPD was adopted by the Council at a Delegated Decision meeting on Tuesday 23 February 2021. The SPD replaces some older Planning Obligation documents which have now been revoked by the Council including:
- a) Planning Obligations for Central Milton Keynes SPG 2003
 - b) Planning Obligations for Education Facilities SPG 2004
 - c) Planning Obligations SPG for Leisure, Recreation & Sports Facilities 2005
 - d) Social Infrastructure Planning Obligations SPD 2005
- 2.25** The Planning White Paper, Planning for the Future consulted on between August and October 2020 proposed major changes to the planning system, including developer contributions however, the Government has not yet legislated for those changes.

South Caldecotte Development Framework SPD

- 2.26** South Caldecotte is allocated for employment development in Plan:MK. Following the outcome of the South Caldecotte planning appeal in 2020, the Council is no longer progressing with the preparation of the South Caldecotte Development Framework SPD.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) SPD

- 2.27** The HIA SPD is required to enable the implementation of Policy EH6 of Plan:MK. The SPD will provide technical guidance on the preparation and use of Health Impact Assessments. It also identifies sources of data to consider, examples of health impacts that would need to be assessed and how to mitigate against negative health impacts and enhance positive ones.
- 2.28** A Delegated Decision was taken on 24 March 2020 to publish the draft SPD for public consultation. Initially it was intended that this consultation period would take place from May 2020, however this was delayed due to the onset of Covid-19 and the impact this has had on us being able to fulfil consultation requirements in line with its adopted SCI and national regulations in relation to consulting on SPDs.
- 2.29** Following updated guidance from the Government in May 2020 in relation to carrying out consultations on planning documents during the Covid-19 pandemic, we updated our SCI. Following these updates, consultation on the revised SPD took place for an eight-week period between the 5 August and 30 September 2020. Following consideration of public consultation responses, the HIA SPD was adopted by the Council at a Delegated Decision meeting on Tuesday 30 March 2021.

Biodiversity Accounting SPD

- 2.30** The SPD is designed to provide guidance on the application of Policy NE3 (Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement), specifically providing a step-by-step guide for working with protected and priority species and habitats which are likely to be impacted upon by their proposed developments. The SPD details our requirements for applicants to build nature conservation features into developments, ensuring that a measurable net-gain to the areas biodiversity is achieved in accordance with Plan:MK and national planning policies.
- 2.31** A draft version of the SPD was produced, and an eight-week public consultation took place between 28 September 2020 and 23 November 2020. As with some other SPDs, the programme for consultation was delayed due to the onset of Covid-19 and the impact this has had on our ability to carry out public consultation and engagement. Following consideration of public consultation responses, the Bio-diversity SPD is expected to be adopted by the Council in June 2021.

Sustainable Construction SPD

- 2.32** The SPD will help to ensure that we meet Plan:MK policy objectives with regards to sustainable construction. In particular, it aims to provide clear guidance as to how the requirements set out in policy SC1 (Sustainable Construction) can be met. It provides examples of innovative or novel approaches that may be taken to achieve the requirements and provides more detail of how

calculations will be made. It aims to provide greater certainty and a consistency of approach to dealing with planning applications and their implementation.

- 2.33** Like many of the above SPDs, the programme for consultation on the Sustainable Construction has been delayed due to the onset of Covid-19 and the impact this has had on our ability to carry out public consultation and engagement. Following a Delegated Decision report on 20 October 2020, a nine -week public consultation on the draft SPD took place between 2 November 2020 and 4 January 2021. The next step is for public consultation responses to be considered by us, which may result in the document being amended. Adoption of this SPD is expected in the autumn of 2021.

South East Milton Keynes Development Framework SPD

- 2.34** The SPD provides guidance on how the allocation of South-East Milton Keynes (Policy SD11 and other relevant policies) within Plan:MK should be planned and developed. The SPD will be an important material consideration when determining relevant planning applications.
- 2.35** Work commenced in 2018 on the preparation of this SPD including the formation of a local stakeholder group through which several meetings and workshops were held in the Summer of 2019.
- 2.36** A Delegated Decision was taken on Monday 8 February 2021 to authorise public consultation on a draft SPD. That public consultation lasted for ten weeks, from Monday 8 February 2021 until Monday 19 April 2021. We are currently analysing and considering all the representations submitted on this consultation and will be seeking to adopt the SPD in autumn 2021.

Parking Standards SPD

- 2.37** External consultants have been appointed to assist with the production of this SPD, however the onset of Covid-19 has had a major impact on the ability to carry out parts of the necessary technical work. This is partly as a result of lockdown and social distancing measures implemented by Government in response to Covid-19, but also because the ongoing situation has resulted in changes to travel behaviour and parking patterns and therefore any investigative work carried out at this stage would be likely to provide a short-term view of parking requirements in different areas of Milton Keynes. This work is therefore currently on hold but is expected to recommence in 2021/22.

Urban Design Framework for Central Bletchley SPD

- 2.38** The SPD will inform potential developers of land use planning and transport opportunities and constraints within Central Bletchley. The guidance will highlight and introduce design principles which should be addressed in the submission of a planning application for proposed development.
- 2.39** An initial preparation programme for this work envisioned likely adoption of the SPD in mid-2021. However, the timetable for the preparation of the SPD was not met due to:

- a) Resources being focused on progressing a Town Deal for Bletchley & Fenny Stratford. Working to a Government driven time frame this necessitated production and submission of a Town Investment Plan by 31st October 2020.
- b) Additionally, due to the on-going impact of the Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to produce the transport evidence base for the SPD.

2.40 Work has now recommenced on preparing this SPD with the intention of adopting it in 2022.

Residential Design Guide SPD

2.41 No further progress has been made on this SPD since the LDS was adopted.

Central Milton Keynes Building Heights SPD

2.42 No further progress has been made on this SPD since the LDS was adopted.

Progress on Neighbourhood Plans

- 2.43** Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs) were introduced by the Localism Act in 2011. They are community-led documents, prepared by Town and Parish Councils (or Neighbourhood Forums where applicable) which set out the vision and planning policies for the use and development of land in particular neighbourhoods. They must be consistent with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and in general conformity with the strategic policies in the local plan. Once 'made' (adopted), a NDP forms part of the Development Plan.
- 2.44** The LDS does not include timescales for the preparation of new NDPs as these are led by Town and Parish Councils on behalf of their local communities; the timescales for their production or review are therefore set by the relevant Town or Parish Council. The following does however provide an update on neighbourhood plans that have progressed through statutory elements of the preparation process which required our involvement during 2020/21. As at the 31 March 2021 there were 18 made NDPs within the Borough of Milton Keynes.
- 2.45 Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council:** In February 2020 applied to us to designate a Neighbourhood Plan Area covering the entire parish area of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford except for the Lakes Estate, which has its own made neighbourhood plan. As the application did not cover the entire parish area a consultation was required. Following consultation, a Neighbourhood Planning Officer decision was taken on 1 May 2020 to approve the neighbourhood area. Work on the NDP has been delayed by Covid -19 restrictions, however, work is expected to recommence when it is safe to do so.
- 2.46 Castlethorpe Neighbourhood Plan:** Castlethorpe Parish Council submitted modifications to the NDP in April 2020. In July 2020 we appointed an examiner to conduct an examination of the NDP for the parish of Castlethorpe. Following the receipt of the examiner's report in January 2021, we

considered and accepted all of the examiner's recommendations. The plan will proceed to referendum, which is expected to be held in July 2021.

- 2.47 Stantonbury Neighbourhood Plan:** In March 2019, we appointed an examiner to conduct an examination of the NDP for the parish of Stantonbury. The examiner published his report in June 2019. Following consideration of the examiner's report, the Parish Council and MKC did not agree with some of the examiners recommendations in relation to deletion of certain policies within the proposed plan.
- 2.48** The Parish Council instead proposed to retain these policies with modifications to address the issues raised by the examiner. This proposal was consulted on between November 2019 and January 2020. Following this consultation, it was deemed that a further examination was necessary to examine the proposed modified policies.
- 2.49** Following receipt of the examiner's report into this second examination, in February 2020, we took the decision that the plan, as modified, should proceed to a referendum. The referendum was due to take place on 7 May 2020, however due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the referendum has had to be postponed. A new date of 6 May 2021 was set for the referendum.
- 2.50 Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan:** Newport Pagnell Town Council submitted modifications to the NDP in 2020. In March 2021 we appointed an examiner to conduct an examination of the NDP for the parish of Newport Pagnell. The examiner's report is now expected to be received later in 2021.

Development Management

Planning Applications

- 2.51** Planning applications are split into three categories major, minor and other. For an application to be validated it must contain all documents within the validation list⁵. Once validated an application can be assessed for determination. In 2020/21 we received 3550 applications of which 3203 were valid applications; 236 applications were withdrawn, 179 refused and 2372 permitted⁶. These applications range from brand new housing and offices, householder alterations and advertising consents to listed building consents and tree preservation orders.
- 2.52** Table 2.2 and Figure 2.1 show the number of applications received, validated and withdrawn from 2016 up to March 2021. Since 2018 there has been a steady increase in the number of applications received, this year we have received the most ever applications the bulk of which have been householder extensions.

⁵ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-apply-pay-view/planning-apply-online/how-do-i-make-a-planning-application>

⁶ Please Note: Some applications from the previous year will have been permitted and applications will carry over to the following year so these figures may not add up.

Table 2.2: Number of applications received, validated and withdrawn 2016-2021.

	Applications Received	Applications Validated	Applications withdrawn
2016-17	3254	3108	171
2017-18	2904	2826	129
2018-19	2727	2597	178
2019-20	2920	2757	233
2020-21	3550	3203	179

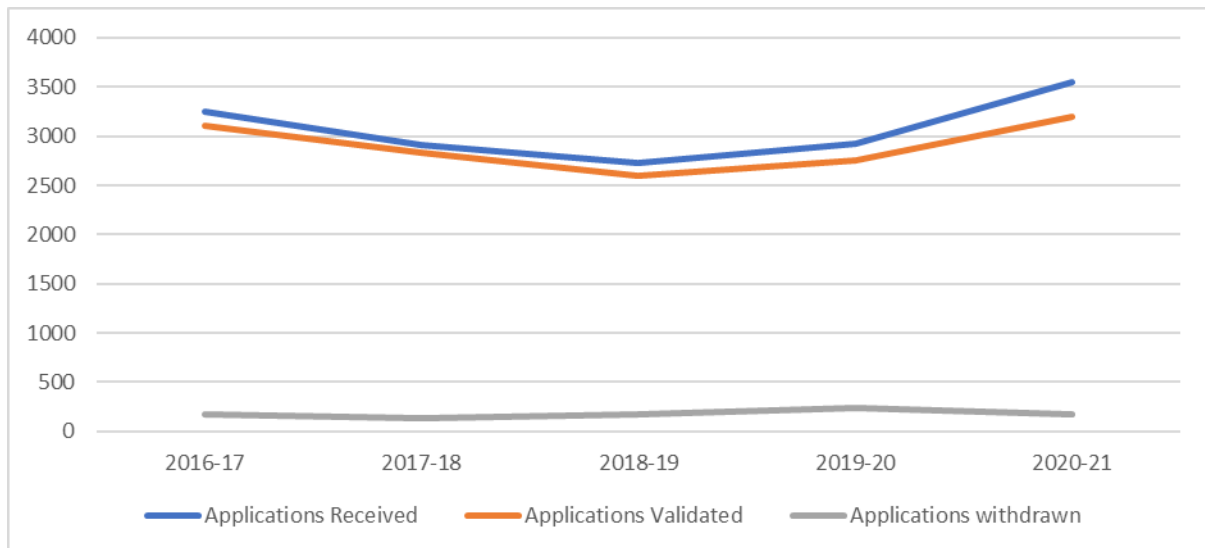


Figure 2.1 Applications received, validated and withdrawn 2016-2021

2.53 All applications have a time limit in which they should be determined:

- Major – 13 weeks
- Minor – 8 weeks
- Other – 8 weeks

2.54 Table 2.3 shows the number of applications granted and refused planning permission from 2016-2021.

Table 2.3: Number of applications granted and refused permission 2016-2021		
	Number of Granted Planning Permissions	Applications Refused Planning Permission
2016-17	1671	263
2017-18	2090	177
2018-19	1984	207
2019-20	1848	348
2020-21	2372	179

2.55 Any applications that are determined outside of their allotted time are deemed to be out of time; however, and extension of time can be sought if there are issues that can be resolved. Not all applications are counted towards the statistics collected for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Table 2.4 shows the number of applications determined that are

counted in Government Statistics. The Government target for determination of applications on time is 60% for majors and 70% for minors, of the 3216 applications determined 212 were determined out of time, this means that 93.4% of applications were determined on time.

Table 2.4: Total number of applications determined on time and out of time in 2020 from applications counted in Government statistics.					
	Total Determined	On Time		Out of Time	
		No.	%	No.	%
Major	85	77	90.5	8	9.5
Minor	334	318	95	16	5
Other	2797	2609	93	188	7

Planning Obligation/S106 Payments

- 2.56** Under national planning regulations we can require a developer to contribute towards providing infrastructure or taking other steps to offset the impact of a development, these are called planning obligations. These obligations are contained in legally binding agreements, often referred to as Section 106 or S106 Agreements (after the relevant section in the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act). The agreement is usually between the Council and the developer; however, a developer can make a 'unilateral undertaking' to obligate themselves to deliver something.
- 2.57** Planning obligations may involve a developer making a financial contribution to delivering infrastructure or a service. Alternatively, there may be an obligation on the developer to deliver something themselves (like a play area on a site, or a certain amount of affordable housing). Planning obligations help to mitigate the impact of a new development.
- 2.58** In Milton Keynes we also run the MK Tariff programme, a unique feature of planning obligations arrangements. The MK Tariff system was agreed in 2007 to secure a commitment from landowners and developers, within the strategic 'expansion areas' allocated through both the Milton Keynes Local Plan (2005) and Milton Keynes Core Strategy (2013), to S106 contributions based on a standard tariff charged for each home and/or square metre of employment floor space, so as aid with the delivery of infrastructure.
- 2.59** The MK Tariff programme, which was Treasury backed, was closed to any new developments in April 2015 due to Community Infrastructure Levy regulations introduced at that time. However, with the strategic 'expansion area' sites which did sign up to the Tariff currently being delivered, the programme is currently providing significant benefits on an annual basis. Furthermore, due to more recent changes in the Community Infrastructure Levy regulations, we are currently developing a new Tariff mechanism for use at the two strategic growth areas allocated in Plan:MK.
- 2.60** Every December local authorities are required to produce an Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS). This statement highlights the contributions made from developers over the previous financial year. The IFS will provide a summary of all financial and non-financial developer contributions relating to S106s and MK Tariff within the borough. It will include a statement of

infrastructure projects that MK Council intends to, or may be, wholly or partly funded by Planning Obligations. The most recent Statement is for the financial year 2019/20 and is available on our website⁷.

⁷ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/growing-mk/planning-obligations/infrastructure-funding-statement>

Policy Context and Plan:MK Monitoring Framework

- 3.1** A key objective of the planning system is to help support people in living healthy lives. This is reflected in Section 8 of the NPPF (2019) 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' which, in paragraph 91, states *"planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which [...] c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling."* Paragraph 92 b) of the NPPF states that planning policies and decisions should *"take into account and support delivery of local strategies to improve health [...] for all sections of the community"*. Paragraphs 92 c), d) and e) of the NPPF require planning policies and decisions to guard against the loss of valued facilities and services (which includes health centres and hospitals), to modernise and retain these facilities for the benefit of communities and to ensure an integrated approach to providing new services/facilities alongside new development. Section 8 of the NPPF as a whole addresses how planning can affect a wide variety of community functions, facilities and services, but rather than address all these here, Chapter 14 (Socio-cultural) of this report covers the steps we are taking to support and deliver inclusive and safe communities. The interlinked nature of health, social opportunities, safety and recreational opportunities are acknowledged, but this chapter specifically documents our efforts to help achieve the above health-focused aims.
- 3.2** In line with the key role the NPPF identifies the planning system has regarding supporting healthy lifestyles, health features in several of the Strategic Objectives in Plan:MK (2019). Strategic Objective 9 seeks the protection of existing key services and facilities in sustainable rural settlements and encourage the development of future provision, including health services. Strategic Objective 10 aims to reduce health inequalities and deprivation and, improve housing quality and access to services for all. Strategic Objective 14 is for us to embody 'place-making' as an overarching design objective for new development, such that the layout and design of new development creates safe, healthy and sustainable built environments with easy access to open space, public transport and everyday facilities. Strategic Objective 16 seeks to encourage healthy lifestyles with the provision of recreation facilities and biodiversity by enhancing the linear park network extending it into new developments while conserving and enhancing key landscapes and important habitats. Strategic Objective 17 is to work with public service and infrastructure providers to ensure that social and economic growth is supported by the timely provision of appropriate new and improved facilities, including health and emergency services (including Milton Keynes University Hospital).
- 3.3** All the policies in Plan:MK have either a direct or indirect link with human health. For example, while health isn't mentioned in the policy wording, Policy DS2 (Housing Strategy) sets out how we intend to provide sufficient housing supply to meet demand; the links between housing provision

and human health are well documented⁸. Those with the most relevance to healthy lifestyles are listed below:

- EH5 – Health Facilities
- EH6 – Delivery of Health Facilities in New Development
- EH7 – Promoting Healthy Communities
- EH8 – Hot Food Takeaways
- INF1 - Delivering Infrastructure
- NE1 – Protection of Sites
- NE4 – Green Infrastructure
- NE5 – Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Character
- NE6 – Environmental Pollution
- L1 – Facilities acceptable in the Linear Parks
- L2 – Protection of Open Space and Existing Facilities
- L4 – Public Open Space Provision in New Estates
- D5 – Amenity and Street Scene
- SD1 – Place-making principles for development

Local Planning Authority Response to COVID-19

- 3.4** In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to reduce in-person contact we changed the way we work. These changes were introduced following introduction of the Coronavirus Act 2020 and led to an update to our Statement of Community Involvement in July 2020⁹. The changes included hosted and shared public meetings such as Development Control Committee on Microsoft Teams and YouTube, ensuring decision making continued to be open and transparent despite not being able to meet in person. This change received positive feedback from members, residents and officers alike. Government has announced that virtual planning committee meetings can no longer take place, however, it is consulting on whether such meetings should be allowed to continue virtually in future. We will monitor if Government decides to legislate to allow this to happen.
- 3.5** We also hosted interactive virtual presentations on our draft Health Impact Assessment and Sustainable Construction SPDs when these documents were consulted on. These too received positive feedback. We will explore how, as part of future plan-making, we can use digital platforms such as Microsoft Teams and YouTube, as well as other social media, to foster greater involvement in the planning process. More virtual presentations will likely be part of this strategy and this shall be carried out with regard to our 2020 Statement of Community Involvement.
- 3.6** Due to national and local lockdowns we also conducted virtual site visits on smaller sites and for householder applications. This involved asking applicants to send us photographs and/or videos of the site. This has had the bonus of saving us and applicants time and money due to reduced need to

⁸ <https://www.tcpa.org.uk/healthy-homes-act>

⁹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/statement-of-community-involvement-sci>

travel to and access sites. Going forward we shall consider how we can merge this practice into our Local Validation List, particularly for householder development.

Life Expectancy and Prevalence of Certain Health Conditions

3.7 Table 3.1 shows life expectancy and public health data for the 2017-2019 period.

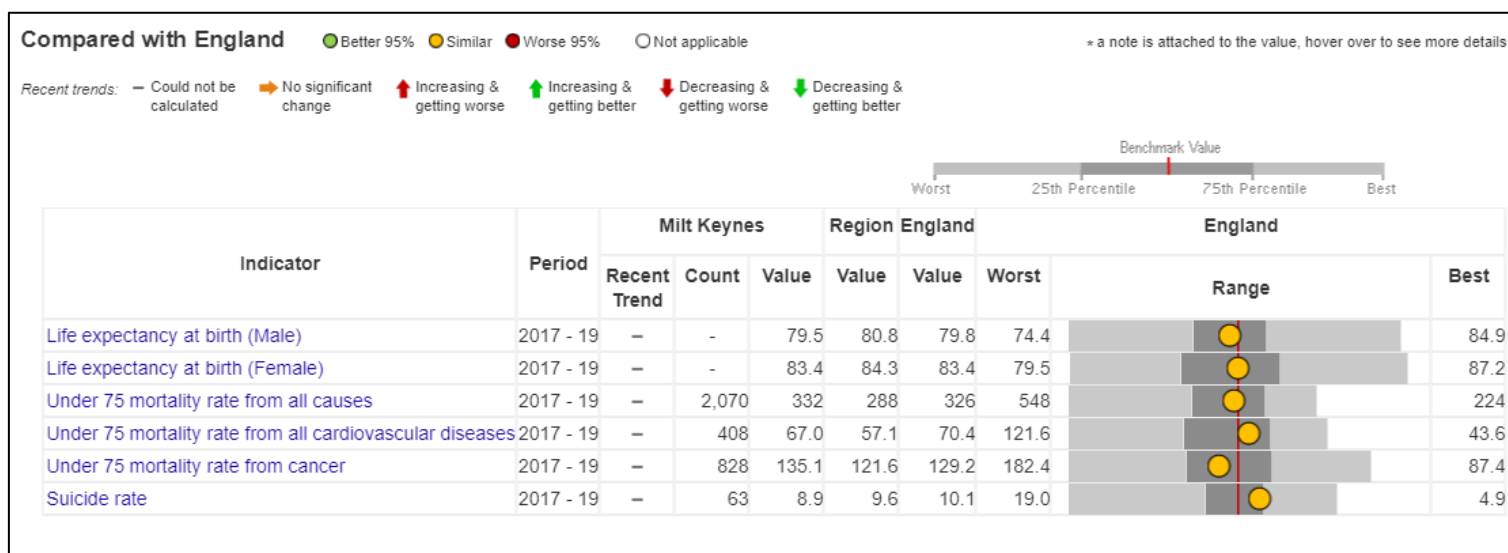


Table 3.1: Health and life expectancy indicators in Milton Keynes¹⁰.

3.8 As Table 3.1 shows, life expectancy in Milton Keynes is either at (for females) or slightly below (for males) the national average. In addition, over the period of 2017-2019 the healthy life expectancy at birth was 61.8 years for males and 65.7 years for females. As measured in the PAMR, healthy life expectancy in the period 2015-17 was 64.1 years for males and 65.3 years for females. Healthy life expectancy therefore significantly decreased for males but slightly increased for females. The PHE dataset does not provide reasoning for this change; further analysis of the entire PHE dataset would be required to determine which wider determinants of health may be resulting in these changes. It is also noted that Plan:MK was adopted in 2019, so it is not possible yet to assess the impact of Plan:MK policies on healthy life expectancy. Therefore, we shall monitor further updates of these figures closely, so we assess whether we need to take further remedial action.

3.9 Last year's AMR did not include under 75 mortality rate information, so no year on year comparison is possible here also. Although it is noted that the under 75 mortality rate from all causes is above the England average. The under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular disease and cancer are below and above the England average respectively, although there is more deviation from the average in these cases than with overall life expectancy and under 75 mortality rate from all causes. The suicide rate in the borough is above the England average, close to the 75th percentile. Given the lack of past data in these variables it is not possible to infer how Plan:MK policies are performing. However, what they do identify is that Milton Keynes does not have the best public health in England. Therefore, we will monitor these statistics going forward so we can see if Plan:MK has a positive effect on health, and if not, start to identify and put in place mitigating actions.

¹⁰ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles>

- 3.10** PHE data¹¹ also shows that child obesity rates in Reception in 2018/19 were 10.7% which ranked 13th out of 15 similar local authorities. The PAMR reported that the proportion of children with excess weight (including obesity figures) at Reception age was 22.8%. These figures are not directly comparable however the ranking of Milton Keynes alongside similar authorities indicates improvements can be made with regards to child obesity. The Hot Food Takeaways and Sports Initiatives and Strategies sections below detail part of our strategy to combat child obesity in more depth and highlights positive working of Plan:MK in this respect.
- 3.11** In addition, PHE data shows excess winter deaths between Aug' 2018 and Jul' 2019 was measured at 14.7%. This is lower than the England average of 15.1%. It is also lower than the excess winter deaths figure for Milton Keynes between Aug' 14 and Jul' 17 of 23%. This data is of minimal relevance for measuring performance of Plan:MK policies given the 2019 data only overlaps the period since Plan:MK was been adopted by 4 months 11 days. It is unlikely adoption of Plan:MK had an impact on mortality rates given the usual lead-in times for construction of permitted developments. However, it will serve as a good baseline for further analysis in future AMRs.
- 3.12** PHE data also reports that the fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution in 2019 was 5.8%. This was the same as in 2017, as reported in the PAMR. Again, the 2019 data has limited relevance to performance of Plan:MK policies given the plan was adopted in 2019. Further monitoring of this variable will take place in future AMRs to identify any changes and possible mitigating actions if necessary.

Indices of Multiple Deprivation

- 3.13** The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) are the official measure of relative deprivation in England. The IMD are updated by the ONS every few years and there have been no significant updates this year to report on. However, in December of 2020 datasets were released by ONS relating to Income and Employment Deprivation as measured in 2015-16. This data has limited relevance to measuring performance of Plan:MK policies since adoption of Plan:MK in 2019. However, it can serve as a baseline for further monitoring progress towards strategic objective 10 – reducing health inequalities and deprivation.
- 3.14** Table 3.2 highlights the average Income Deprivation Domain (the proportion of people experiencing deprivation relating to low income), average Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI), average Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index (IDAOPI) and average Employment Deprivation Domain (the proportion of the working age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including people who would like to work but cannot due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities).

¹¹ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/1/gid/1000044/pat/6/ati/402/are/E06000042/iid/92196/age/2/sex/4/cid/4/tbm/1>

3.2: Income and Employment Deprivation in Milton Keynes in 2015/16. Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government ¹² .		
Measure of Deprivation	Milton Keynes Borough	England and Wales Average
Income Deprivation Domain	0.102	0.130
Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	0.129	0.160
Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index	0.122	0.166
Employment Deprivation Domain	0.084	0.102

3.15 Table 3.2 shows that Milton Keynes has slightly lower levels of deprivation across all four of the variables than the average in England and Wales. Clearly these figures show there is work to do to reduce deprivation in the borough. Future AMRs shall report on updated IMD datasets as they become available so we can determine the performance of Plan:MK policies.

Fuel Poverty

3.16 The Plan:MK Monitoring Framework does not include fuel poverty as an indicator. Nonetheless, fuel poverty rates are an important measure for strategies to improve public health and in the context of Plan:MK, Strategic Objective 10. Fuel poverty can highlight areas where a low quality of housing or lack of well-paying employment opportunities can adversely affect people's health. Our actions as the LPA can help reduce fuel poverty through our support for retrofitting energy inefficient buildings, supporting good educational provision, and supporting provision of skilled, well-paying jobs in the borough, so people can afford to pay for fuel and/or energy efficiency improvements.

3.17 The PAMR reported that the numbers of people in fuel poverty in 2017 were lower than the regional and national average. Milton Keynes in 2017 had 7,288 people living in fuel poverty (6.9% of all households), compared to Buckinghamshire with 17,150, Central Bedfordshire with 9,314 and Bedford with 7,495¹³. Table 3.3 below shows how these statistics changed between 2018 and 2019. 2019 is the year Plan:MK was adopted and therefore these statistics will provide a baseline for further analysis of future fuel poverty levels in subsequent AMRs.

Table 3.3: Fuel poverty levels and rates in Milton Keynes and surrounding counties, 2018-2019. Source: BEIS ¹⁴						
County	2018 Figures			2019 Figures		
	Estimated number of households	Estimated number of fuel poor households	Proportion of households fuel poor (%)	Estimated number of households	Estimated number of fuel poor households	Proportion of households fuel poor (%)
Milton Keynes	105,850	6,290	5.9	106,654	6,746	6.3
Buckinghamshire	215,328	15,035	7.0	216,950	14,131	6.5
Central Bedfordshire	111,290	9,307	8.4	112,472	13,023	11.6
Bedford	68,164	6,900	10.1	68,890	9,588	13.9

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/indices-of-deprivation-2019-income-and-employment-domains-combined-for-england-and-wales>

¹³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2019>

¹⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics#2017-statistics>

3.18 As this data shows, fuel poverty decreased in Milton Keynes between 2017 and 2018 but increased slightly throughout 2019. The 2019 figure of 6.3% is also below the 7.7% figure for 2016 recorded in last year's AMR. Milton Keynes tends to perform better than surrounding authority areas in terms of fuel poverty. It is too early to tell whether the increase in fuel poverty in Milton Keynes will continue as no data for 2020 and 2021 is available. We will continue to monitor this dataset in future AMRs to determine whether we will have to review how our policies may help reduce fuel poverty. Although in doing so we shall recognise that fuel poverty is not wholly determined by the planning system; other relevant factors include rising energy prices and changing energy security, commercial factors influencing incomes and other areas of government policy¹⁵.

Homelessness

3.19 As reported by the Local Government Association, homelessness can have significant implications for the health of those of us who are homeless¹⁶. As the Local Planning Authority, we can help reduce homelessness levels by ensuring that new developments provide a suitable amount of, and different types of, affordable housing.

3.20 Table 3.4 shows the proportion of total housing completions that were affordable between the beginning of April 2016 and the end of March 2021. The proportion of affordable housing that's completed does not reflect our target which is 31% as set out in Policy HN2 in Plan:MK. This is because these figures include schemes that are not required to include affordable housing contributions, such as those associated with the prior notification process; this skews the percentage data. Nonetheless, the total number of affordable units completed has increased since the base year (2016/17) and particularly since Plan:MK was adopted (beginning of 2019/20). This indicates that Plan:MK is having a positive effect on delivery of affordable housing, in line with strategic objective 10. We shall work to increase the proportion of affordable units that are completed over the next year, but we'll do so in the knowledge that prior notification schemes may continue to skew overall figures, when the 31% target is being met or exceeded on other relevant schemes.

Table 3.4: Affordable Housing Provision 2016-2021. Source: MKC.		
Year	No. of Affordable Units delivered	No. affordable units as a % of Total Housing Completions
2016/17	251	20.1%
2017/18	363	23.7%
2018/19	387	21.7%
2019/20	407	19.5%
2020/21	410	20%

¹⁵ https://www.cse.org.uk/downloads/reports-and-publications/fuel-poverty/Fuel_and_poverty_review_June2014.pdf

¹⁶ https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/22.7%20HEALTH%20AND%20HOMELESSNESS_v08_WEB_0.PDF

3.21 We also, in our separate capacity as Local Housing Authority, provide services to help homeless people into temporary and permanent accommodation, as well as directly provide people with affordable housing. More information on these services and their associated strategies and policies can be found on our website¹⁷. Our Housing and Regeneration Teams also report their quarterly progress in respect of Key Performance Indicators, such as our commitment to deliver 1,200 council homes, to the Scrutiny Management Committee, details of which can be found online¹⁸.

Sport/activity levels

3.22 One of the ways we can help people live healthy lifestyles is to take steps to encourage higher activity levels among the public, which is supported by Strategic Objectives 9, 10, 14, 16 & 17. We can do this through direct and indirect means. The sub-section below on sports initiatives and strategies goes into greater detail on the direct actions we are taking to encourage more people into sport and physical exercise. Such strategies fall outside the statutory remit of the land use planning system. However, we consider it helpful to have sight of the wider situation so we can ensure a joined-up approach. Indirect actions we can take include, for example, securing planning contributions to fund new sports and recreation facilities in new estates and ensuring new development does not adversely affect areas of open countryside and open space. More on these latter strategies is included in Chapters 11 (Natural Environment and Biodiversity) and 14 (Sociocultural).

3.23 Sport England publishes data on the engagement in, and attitudes to, sport and physical activity. Its *Active Lives* dataset records activity levels/attitudes between November 2015 and May 2019. It is worth bearing in mind that the COVID-19 pandemic has likely affected participation in community events so activity statistics for 2020/21 may be lower than in the past. Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 below show the activity levels of adults (ages 16+), and children and young people (ages 5-16) respectively in Milton Keynes during the past few years, as recorded in the survey.

¹⁷ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing>

¹⁸ <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Home.aspx>

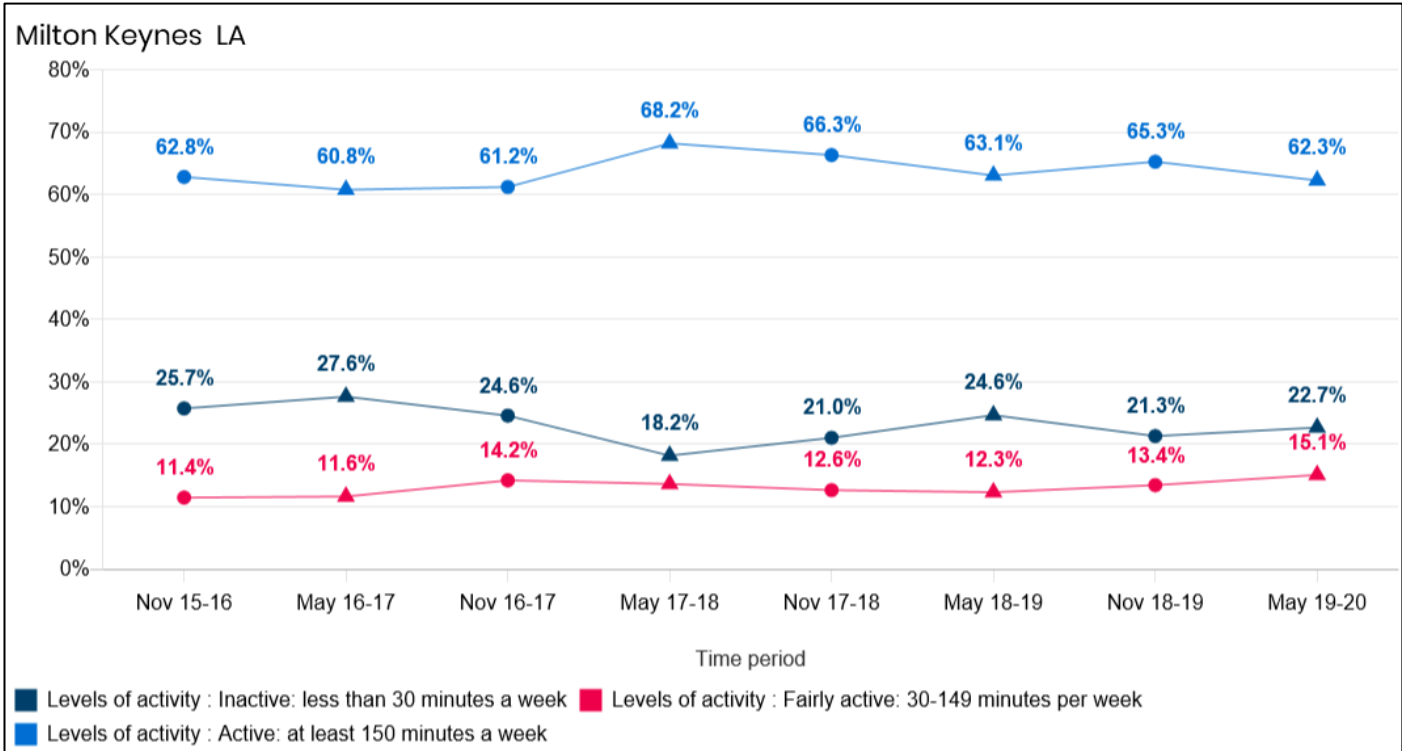


Figure 3.1: Activity levels of adults (ages 16+) in Milton Keynes between November 2015 and May 2019¹⁹.

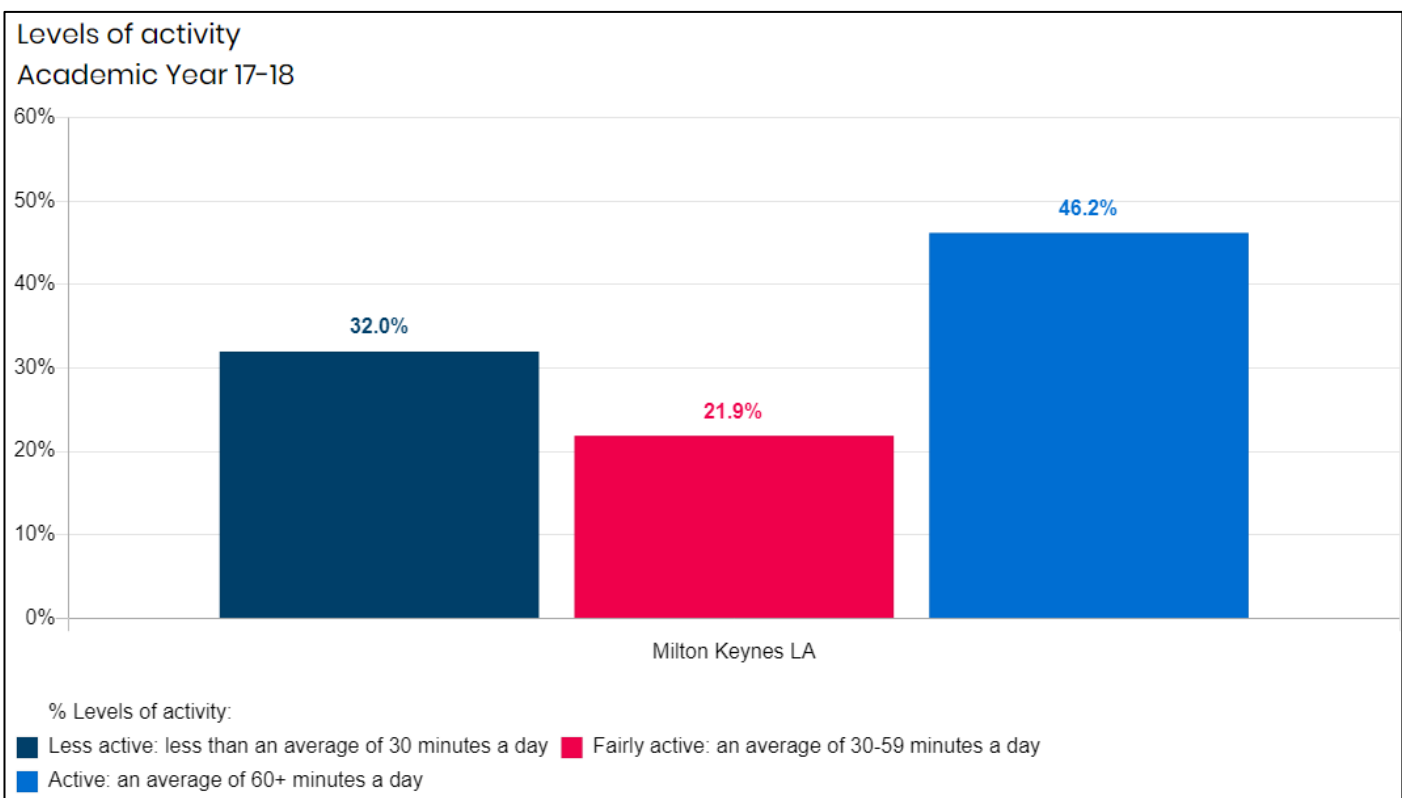


Figure 3.2: Activity levels of children and young people (ages 5-16) in the 2017-2018 academic year²⁰.

¹⁹ <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

²⁰ <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

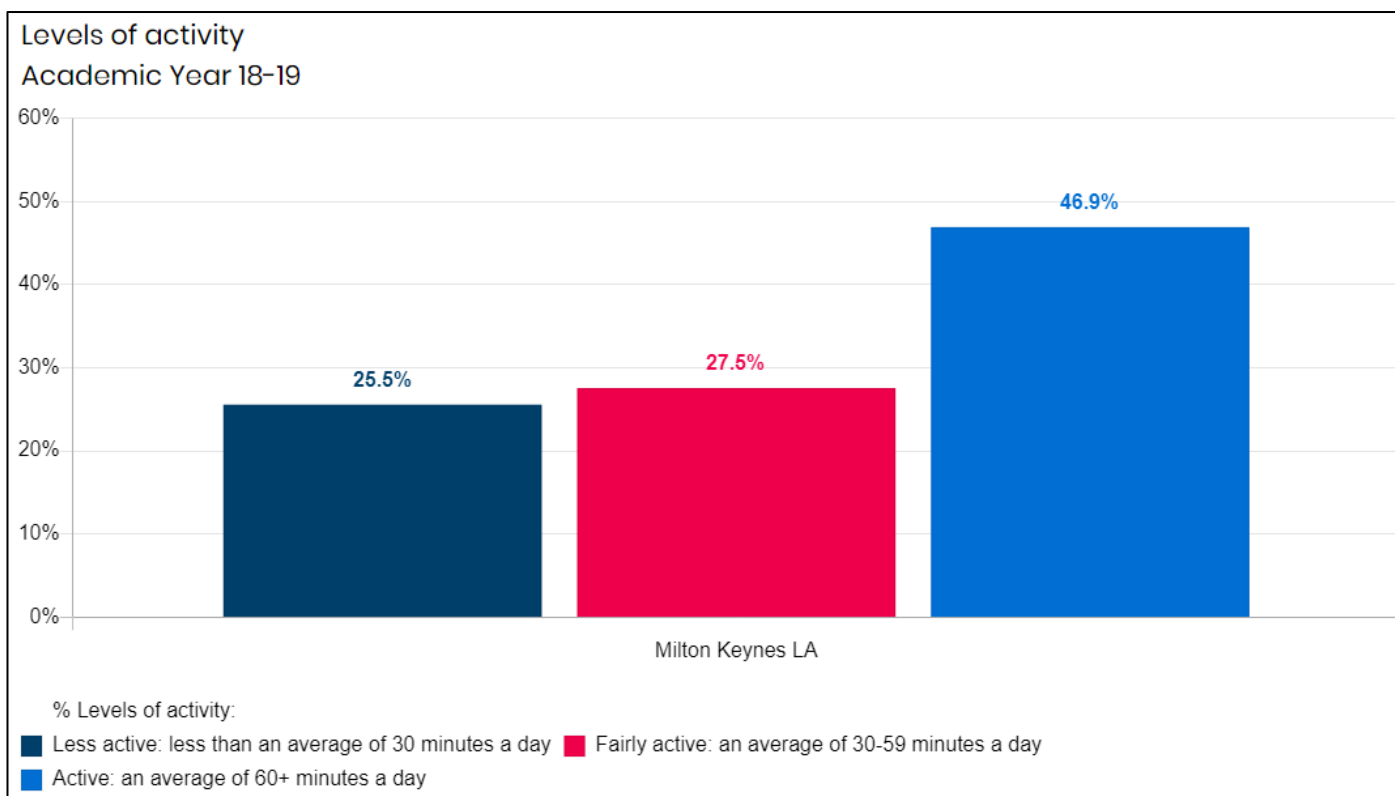


Figure 3.3: Activity levels of children and young people (ages 5-16) in the 2018-2019 academic year²¹.

3.24 The data in these three figures shows that among adults in the borough, the proportion that is either 'fairly active' or 'active' in a week has increased, but proportion that is 'inactive' has increased in size, largely due to a small decrease in the amount of people that are 'active'. For children and young people, activity levels increased between the 2018/18 and 2018-19 academic years, with a greater proportion of those surveyed being either 'fairly active' or 'active'. The latter is positive news, although the results for adults does pose the question of what can be done to encourage more people to be 'active'; at least a fifth of adults describe themselves as 'inactive'.

3.25 The Sport England *Active Lives* survey also reports on how activity levels tend to vary between people based on how deprived the areas in which they live are. These are recorded at a national scale and so it is not possible to obtain Milton Keynes specific data relevant to this. Although it can indicate what the trend in activity levels based on deprivation levels is likely to be in Milton Keynes. As Figure 3.4 shows, the overall trend is that adults in more deprived households/areas are less likely to be 'active' than those in less deprived areas. Conversely, there is no identifiable relationship activity levels and deprivation for children and young people. Nonetheless, the data for adults highlights the importance of outreach programmes, but also protecting open spaces/recreational facilities in existing areas, and ensuring such spaces and facilities are provided in new developments. These latter two objectives, covered by Strategic Objectives 10, 14, 16 & 17, are reported on further in Chapters 11 (Natural Environment and Biodiversity) and 14 (Socio-cultural).

²¹ <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

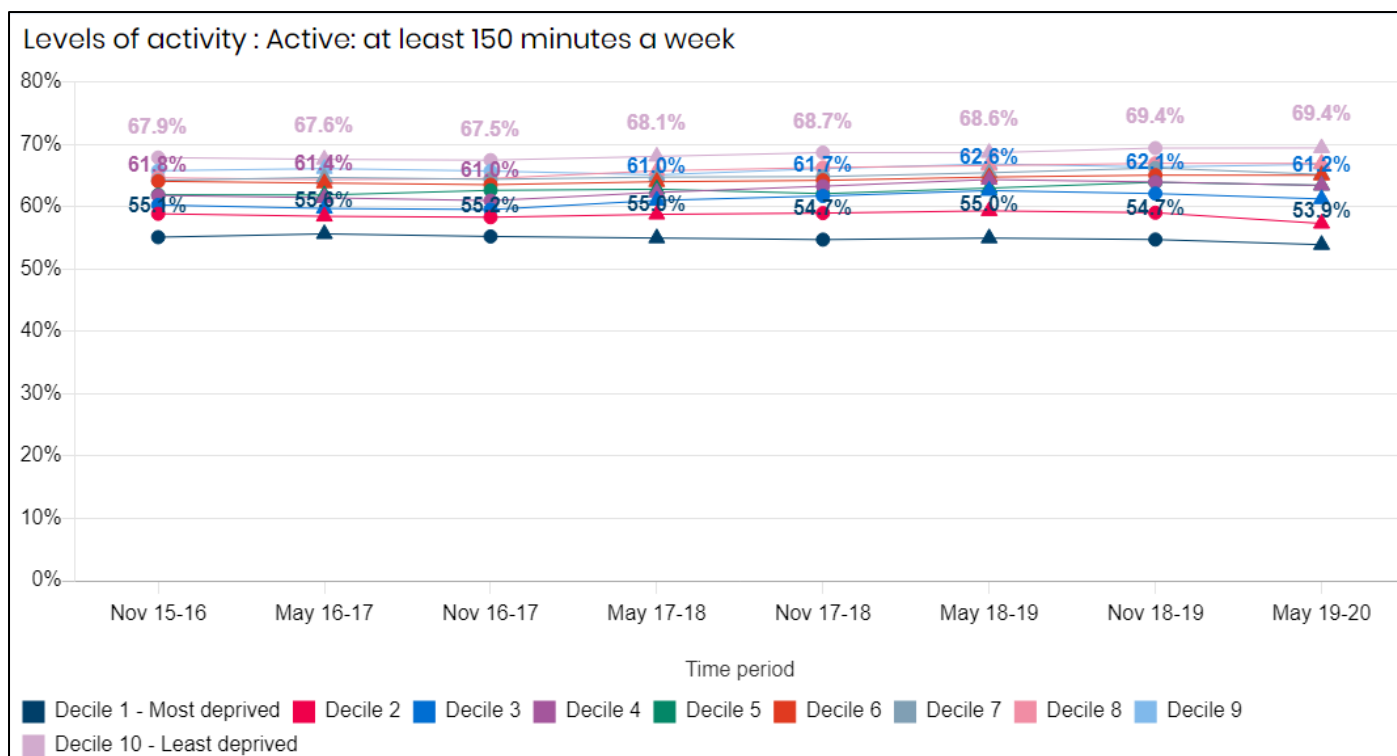


Figure 3.4: Relationship between deprivation and proportion of population that is 'active' in adults (ages 16+)²².

3.26 The above data does not allow an assessment of the impact of Plan:MK policies and delivery of its' strategic objectives as the *Active Lives* survey timeframes largely fall prior to adoption of the plan. However, they will provide a benchmark for future analysis when data for more recent years becomes available.

Sports Initiatives and Strategies

3.27 Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we did not operate any sports outreach projects in the 2020/2021 monitoring year. However, work to realise the strategies and targets set out in our Sport and Active Communities Strategy is ongoing and we shall report on this in more depth in next year's AMR.

Health Services Provision

3.28 Policy INF1 in Plan:MK sets out our approach to ensuring that the infrastructure, facility and resource demands of new development are met, through use of existing resources and/or provision of new resources, facilities and infrastructure in the most appropriate places and at the earliest opportunity.

3.29 In line with Policy INF1, major development proposals are often required to make planning contributions to mitigate the impacts of additional people living in an area on local health service facilities and provision. Two key facilities funded by planning obligations in recent years include new health centres in Brooklands and Whitehouse, delivered to support development in the Eastern and

²² <https://activelives.sportengland.org/>

Western Expansion Areas. These centres are of note as they assist the provision of diagnostic care at the community level. This approach thereby relieves pressure on MK Hospital. They have also ensured the provision of health services in these areas prior to delivery of most of the new homes in these areas. Another key new facility is the Cancer Centre at MK Hospital, which opened in early 2020.

3.30 MK Hospital is however the only hospital in the borough and the borough is a growth centre in the South East, at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. As such, Milton Keynes University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has developed proposals to significantly expand and enhance its clinical facilities through delivering a capital investment programme aimed at meeting future projected capacity needs.

3.31 The Trust's proposed programme incorporates a new:

- Women & Children's Hospital
- Surgery Block
- Intermediate Care Centre, and
- Radiology and Imaging Centre

3.32 The need for new facilities at Milton Keynes University Hospital (MKUH) is driven primarily by the extensive forecast population growth in the town. The Trust does not have sufficient physical capacity to deliver acute hospital services to a population of the scale currently projected for the Borough by 2050 and will need to significantly expand its facilities to meet the expected demand for local healthcare. In addition, the Trust needs to make major improvements to its facilities for maternity, neonatal and paediatric services in order to meet national standards and provide an environment of appropriate quality for patients, carers, families and staff. The development of a new Women & Children's Hospital, alongside expanded surgical, critical care and dedicated intermediate care facilities, will significantly enhance the patient experience and deliver tangible benefits.

3.33 The redevelopment programme is expected to cost in the region of £244m, with the majority coming from the UK Government's Health infrastructure Plan (HIP) programme.

3.34 The Trust's proposals are supported in principle by the Milton Keynes CCG and the Bedfordshire Luton & Milton Keynes ICS and are clearly aligned with all relevant Trust, ICS, DHSC and Government policies and strategies for Net Zero Carbon, use of Modern Methods of Construction, repeatable design and the HIP digital blueprint.

3.35 Feedback from colleagues in the NHS has identified that developers may regard capacity building at MK Hospital as something new developments should not need to fund, due to a perception that hospitals are wholly funded by Government. This is not the whole picture as hospitals tend to be funded through a variety of methods. For example, the new Planning Obligations SPD includes the potential for Heads of Terms to secure contributions for acute health facilities.

3.36 Table 3.5 reports on the health facility/resource related planning contributions received during the 2019/20 financial year, which relate to both recently permitted and older planning permissions. The reason for this variation is because payment of planning obligations is tied to the rate of construction of new developments, rather than how much time has elapsed since permission was granted.

Table 3.5: Health Facility Planning Obligations received in 2019/20. Source: MKC Infrastructure Funding statement 2019/2020 ²³		
Application	Site Location	Contribution amount
15/00825/FUL	Land at site 4A and 5 Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	£93,276.09
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	£70,271.02
17/00483/FUL	82-84 Newport Road, New Bradwell	£5,922.84
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	£41,991.80
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	£49,464.44
16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales Folly Farm	£68,304.59
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	£19,547.99
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	£26,291.93
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	£60,040.63
17/03324/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road, Wavendon	£7,928.95
Total		£443,040.28

3.37 Collection of these planning contributions is positive and partly demonstrates the effective working of Policy INF1 in mitigating the impact of new development and supporting a healthy population in line with Strategic Objectives 9, 10 and 17. Also important in evidencing how Plan:MK is performing is the delivery of health facilities and services. Future AMRs shall provide updates, as Paragraph 3.29 does above, on provision of these in the borough.

3.38 Later this year we will publish our 2020/2021 Infrastructure Funding Statement which will contain data on the payment of planning contributions towards Health Services and Facilities during the 2020/2021 financial year.

²³ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/growing-mk/planning-obligations/infrastructure-funding-statement>

Hot Food Takeaways

3.39 Policy EH8 in Plan:MK seeks to restrict development of hot food takeaways within 400m of primary and secondary schools. The purpose of the policy is to stop an increase in/reduce the opportunities for children to access fast food before/during/after school hours and therefore combat child obesity rates. A policy like this did not feature in the local development plan prior to Plan:MK and in last year's AMR we reported on how it was performing; this year we shall do the same. Policy EH8 in full states:

"A. Hot food takeaways (Class A5) which are proposed within close proximity to a primary or secondary school will only be permitted if the takeaway is located more than 400m from the main school entrance.

1. The 400m distance will be assessed on the most logical walking distance from the main school entrance.

B. The Council may impose conditions restricting opening hours of hot food takeaways."

3.40 The 2020/2021 monitoring year has seen one application refused due to non-compliance with Policy EH8. Application reference 20/03198/FUL for change of use of a shop to a hot food takeaway (at 6 The Green, Newport Pagnell) was refused on the basis that the site is within 400m of Cedars Primary School. This decision indicates Policy EH8 is working as intended in line with Strategic Objectives 10 and 14 in Plan:MK. Further analysis in future AMRs will be needed to assess the extent to which the policy is helping reduce child obesity rates.

Policy Context and Plan:MK Monitoring Framework

- 4.1** Section 8 of the NPPF (2019) 'Promoting health and safe communities' states, in paragraph 91, *"planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which [...]*
- a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;*
- b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas;"*
- 4.2** Paragraph 92 parts a) to e) of the NPPF set out the considerations planning policies and decision need to account for to ensure provision of the social, recreational and cultural facilities communities need. Paragraph 95 parts a) and b) of the NPPF states the ways in which planning policies and decision should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements. Paragraphs 96 to 101 of the NPPF set out how planning policies and decisions should provide for and protect open, sport and recreational facilities and spaces, and Local Green Spaces.
- 4.3** In terms of Plan:MK, Strategic Objective 1 notes that development should reflect the recommendations of the MK Futures 2050 Commission Report and its Six Big Projects, one of which includes: Milton Keynes: The Creative and Cultured City. Strategic Objective 7 promotes the development of CMK as a vibrant cultural centre of the region by making it the main location in the city for retail leisure, cultural and larger office developments. Strategic Objective 9 seeks the protection of key services and facilities in sustainable rural settlements, including community facilities. Strategic Objective 11 seeks the delivery of housing that meets all community needs including supporting the growth of the knowledge economy and a vibrant cultural offer. Strategic Objective 15 is for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of natural, built and historic environments in the Borough. Strategic Objective 17 is that we work with public service and infrastructure providers to ensure that planned social and economic growth is accompanied by appropriate new and improved facilities, including community halls.
- 4.4** Also relevant to socio-cultural matters is provision of recreational and amenity spaces which can encourage people to have active social lives and, in Milton Keynes particularly, are of cultural significance. Provision of recreational facilities and associated open spaces is affected by multiple

policy areas, this Chapter, Chapter 3 (Health) and Chapter 11 (Natural Environment and Biodiversity) of this report all have sections on them, as relevant to the subject area.

4.5 The following policies in Plan:MK help us to deliver the above Strategic Objectives:

- DS4 – Retail and Leisure Development Strategy
- CC1 – Public Art
- CC2 – Location of Community Facilities
- CC3 – Protection of Community Facilities
- CC4 – New Community Facilities
- CC5 – Childcare Facilities
- CC6 – Burial and Memorial Grounds
- ER7 – Places of Worship
- SD2 – Central Milton Keynes – Role and Function
- SD3 – Central Milton Keynes – Growth and Areas of Change
- INF1 – Delivering Infrastructure
- HE1 – Heritage and Development
- L2 – Protection of Open Space and Existing Facilities
- L4 – Provision of Open Space in New Estates
- NE4 – Green Infrastructure

Demographic Data

4.6 Population demographics is not something the LPA aims to control. However, demographic data can help us determine whether we are meeting the present needs of the population; it can also help us predict future needs of the population and to plan our response to that, whether that be in terms of changes to housing and/or infrastructure provision. As such, the following datasets help us measure progression towards meeting the Strategic Objectives in Plan:MK, as well as highlight demographic changes which may prevent the Objectives being met. Note that many of these statistics are estimates based on results from the Annual Population Survey, and as such are not 100% accurate.

Population

4.7 The UK Population Estimates Dataset from ONS estimates the mid-2020 population of the Milton Keynes borough as 270,203. This is an increase of 1,596 people (or a 0.59 percentage increase) from the population in 2018 of 268,607 as reported in the PAMR.

4.8 Figure 4.1 shows the estimated persons by single year of age for Milton Keynes in mid-2020. It shows that the general Milton Keynes' population profile in mid-2020 largely reflects the profile in previous years; there is a sharp decline in numbers of residents aged 18-25 in the borough which is understood to be due to the absence of a wide range of opportunities for higher education. Table 4.1 compares the number of males and females by 5-year age group for Milton Keynes in mid-2020. It shows how until age 29 males tend to outnumber females, then until age 49 the

proportion of males and females is fairly equal, but after age 49 the proportion of females is higher than males.

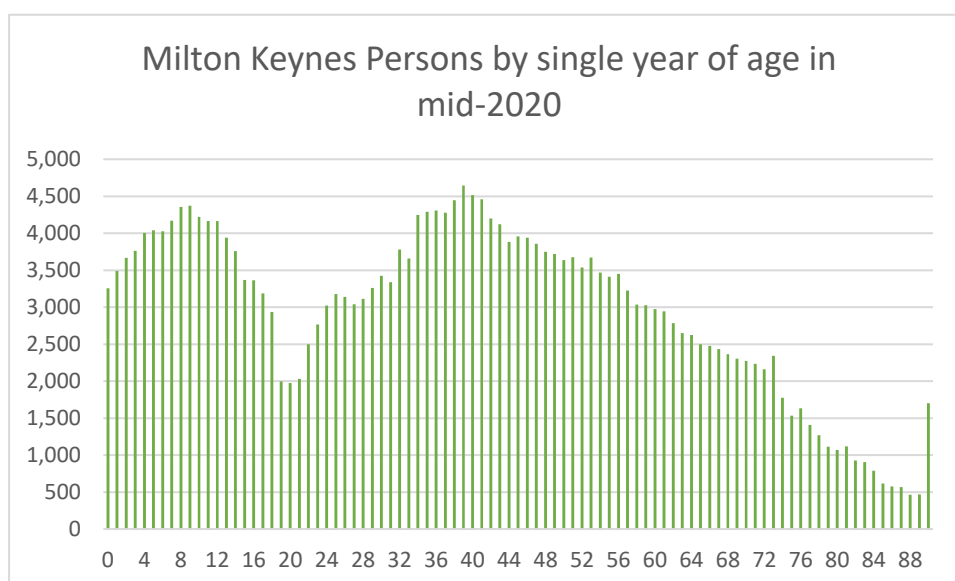


Figure 4.1: Milton Keynes Persons by single year of age in mid-2020. Source: ONS²⁴.

Table 4.1: Males and Females by 5-year age group in Milton Keynes, mid-2020. Source: ONS ²⁵ .		
Age	Females	Males
0 to 4	8998	9182
5 to 9	10178	10784
10 to 14	9886	10361
15 to 19	7138	7715
20 to 24	5777	6514
25 to 29	7818	7907
30 to 34	9752	8696
35 to 39	11222	10747
40 to 44	10501	10671
45 to 49	9529	9697
50 to 54	9097	8892
55 to 59	8177	7973
60 to 64	7105	6869
65 to 69	6319	5754
70 to 74	5763	5023
75 to 79	3753	3201
80 to 84	2776	2035
85 to 89	1688	1003
90+	1171	531

²⁴ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates>

²⁵

- 4.9** The ONS dataset for population projections has been updated since the PAMR to include the years 2040 to 2043; this dataset for all ages in Milton Keynes is shown in Figure 4.2. Note that the reason for the difference in population estimate for 2020 between the mid-year 2020 estimate and this projection is due to use of different methodologies for estimating population.

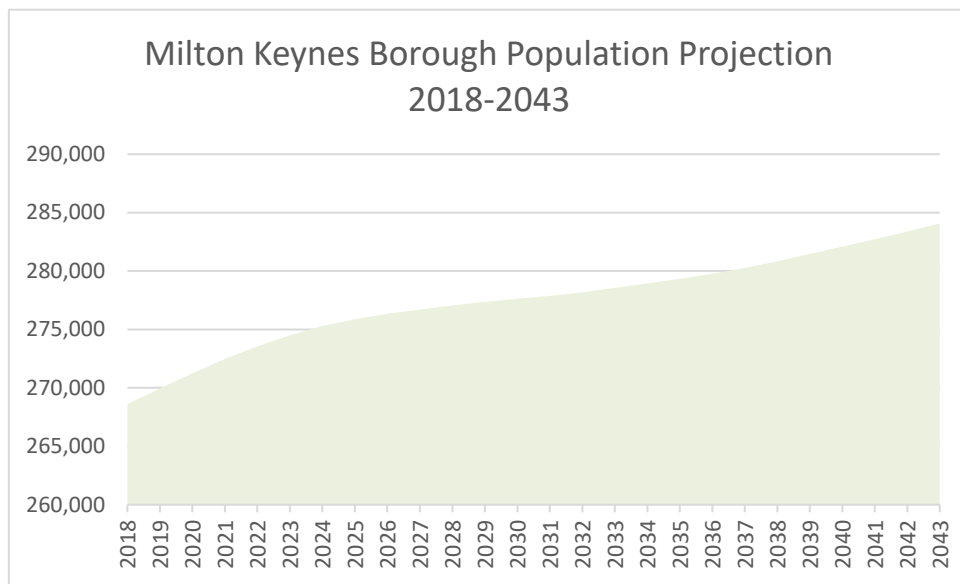


Figure 4.2: 2018-based subnational principal population projections for Milton Keynes, 2018-2043.
Source: ONS.

- 4.10** Figure 4.2 shows that the MK population by 2043 is projected to be 284,076. This figure is lower than that expected for the MK population to reach 410,000 by 2050 as set out in the *Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050*. However, this projection is based on population trends over the past five years and so does not take into account expected future policy changes (such as the *MK Strategy for 2050*, the upcoming Local Plan Review, and Government's *Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Strategy*) which will likely influence housebuilding levels over the next three decades and make the expected level of growth more achievable. Ensuring housebuilding and infrastructure delivery in the borough reflects housebuilding targets will therefore be a key part of making sure growth happens in a sustainable way and the expected economic development in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc is supported. For reporting on our current progress on housebuilding refer to Chapter 4 of this report.
- 4.11** In early 2022 we will also be commissioning a new Housing and Economic Needs Assessment as part of the early preparation for the review of Plan:MK. This will enable us to look in more detail at projections of household and population growth within Milton Keynes through to 2050. The outputs of this will be reviewed and reported on in future AMRs.

Ethnicity, Nationality & Religion

- 4.12** Since the PAMR, which include ethnicity data for 2019, no more recent ethnicity data has been released so we cannot provide updates in this respect.

4.13 In terms of religious affiliation, the latest ONS dataset available is from 2019²⁶ and uses data from the annual population survey, mid-year estimates and the 2011 Census to calculate 2016 population estimates. These are shown in Table 4.3. The data shows that over half of the population in Milton Keynes is Christian, with the next largest proportion being 'None + not stated'. Other religious groups such as Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and others make up the rest of the population. The ONS hasn't published any earlier statistics and earlier versions of our AMR don't report on religion either. As such comparisons of this dataset with other datasets aren't possible. However, this data provides a baseline to use for comparisons in future AMRs.

Table 4.3: Population in Milton Keynes by religious groups. Source: ONS

	Total (000s)	Christian (000s)	Buddhist (000s)	Hindu (000s)	Jewish (000s)	Muslim (000s)	Sikh (000s)	Other (000s)	None + Not Stated (000s)
Milton Keynes Population Estimate	264	148	2	12	NA	12	1	4	85
Percentage Total	100%	56%	0.75%	4.55%	NA	4.55%	0.37%	1.5%	32.1%

4.14 In our last AMR we reported on the variety of languages the MKC Community Language Service had requests for translations in, which indicated a wide variety of people of different nationalities are present in Milton Keynes. This year we want to explore this topic in more depth by considering Office for National Statistics data²⁷ on the population in Milton Keynes by country of birth. It will be the case that many of the people born outside of the United Kingdom will have lived the majority of their lives in the United Kingdom, but the data should give an indication of the diversity of people's backgrounds in Milton Keynes.

4.15 As Figures 3.3 and 3.4 show, the majority (just over 85%) of the population in Milton Keynes is British, with the remainder being made up of people of different nationalities. Within this narrower demographic of Non-British people in Milton Keynes, the majority of residents are from European Union countries, with the next largest minorities being people with South Asian and Sub-Saharan African nationalities.

²⁶

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationcharacteristicsresearchtables>

²⁷<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality>

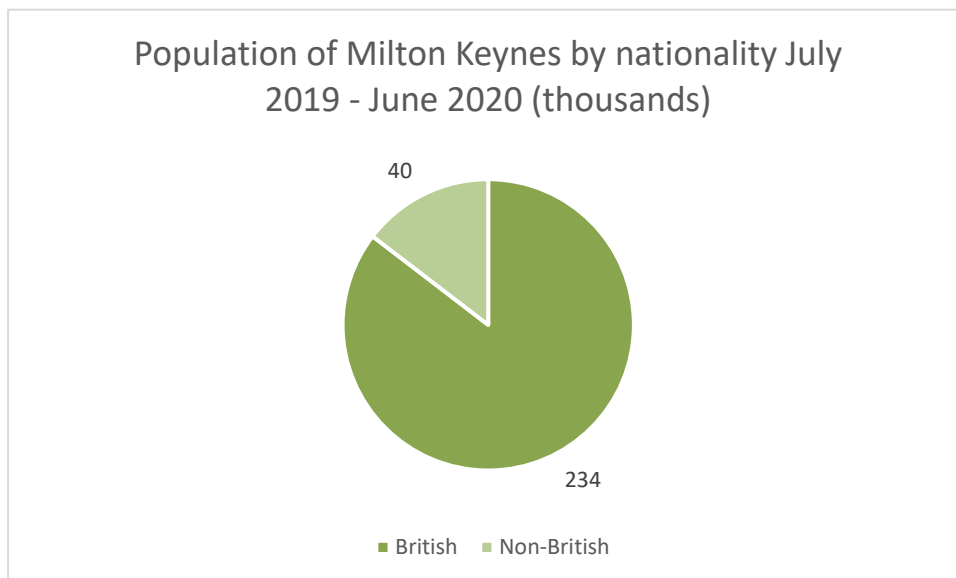


Figure 4.3: Population of Milton Keynes by nationality (British or Non-British (July 2019 to June 2020). Source: ONS⁴.

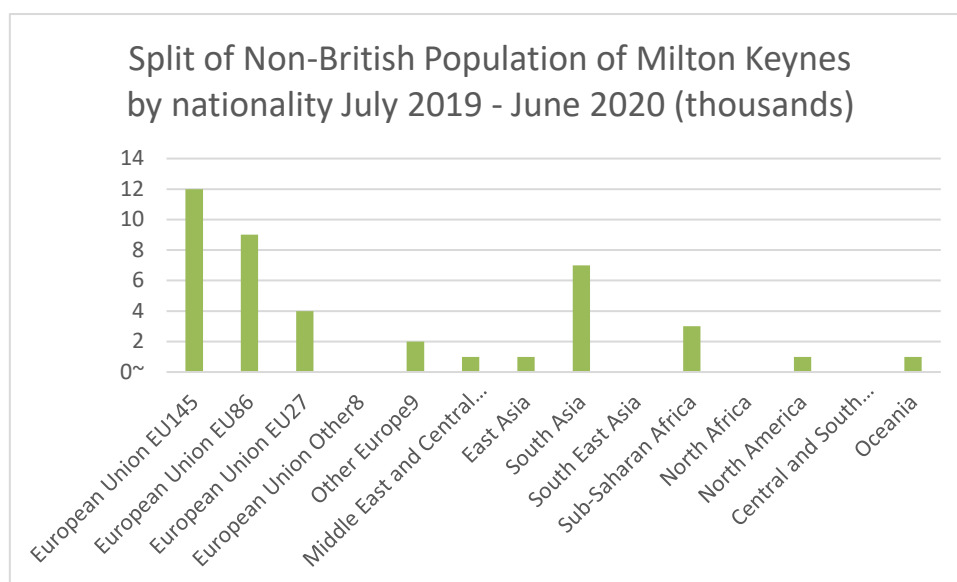


Figure 4.4: Split of Non-British Population of Milton Keynes by nationality July 2019 – June 2020. Source: ONS⁴. Note: no data is available for European Union ‘other’ and North African nationalities as a result of no contact with people from those countries. Alternatively, there were so few people with South East Asian and Central and South American nationalities in Milton Keynes, ONS rounded these statistics down to 0.

Migration

4.16 The last dataset we’ll cover in this sub-section on demographics is inward and outward migration between Milton Keynes and other parts of the UK. As shown in Table 4.5 below, in the year ending June 2020, there was a significant exodus from the borough by people aged 15-19, which as

mentioned in Para 3.8 above is attributed mostly to the lack of higher education opportunities in Milton Keynes. However, there was also a large net increase in the number of people aged 20-39, which suggests that the borough is an attractive area to people who have finished formal education and may be moving here for work, to settle down with a long-term partner, and/or raise a family in the area. This may also explain the net increase in children aged 0-4 during the monitoring period. There was also a notable net outflow of people aged 50-69 from the borough, which may be due to people moving to other parts of the country as their career develops or upon retirement. However, without survey data on this it is not possible to draw definitive conclusions on the reasons for these inflows and outflows. Strategic Objective 1 in Plan:MK identifies establishing a university for Milton Keynes as a key objective for the plan-period. Once the university has been established, the outflow of residents aged 15-19 shall be a key indicator of whether the university is helping to increase the skills of local people, as opposed to those people having to travel elsewhere for higher education.

Table 4.5: Internal migration for local authorities in England, by sex and five-year age groups. Source: ONS ²⁸ .									
	All moves			Males			Females		
Age	Inflow	Outflow	Net	Inflow	Outflow	Net	Inflow	Outflow	Net
0-4	819	597	222	429	332	97	390	265	125
5-9	548	513	35	260	267	-7	288	246	42
10-14	417	432	-15	205	210	-5	212	222	-10
15-19	331	1,509	-1,178	159	684	-525	172	825	-653
20-24	2,344	1,739	605	970	760	210	1,374	979	395
25-29	1,809	1,432	377	821	628	193	988	804	184
30-34	1,497	1,315	182	706	613	93	791	702	89
35-39	1,094	938	156	588	490	98	506	448	58
40-44	725	688	37	401	377	24	324	311	13
45-49	531	565	-34	304	337	-33	227	228	-1
50-54	412	529	-117	212	278	-66	200	251	-51
55-59	340	464	-124	195	246	-51	145	218	-73
60-64	214	398	-184	108	202	-94	106	196	-90
65-69	119	252	-133	58	142	-84	61	110	-49
70-74	112	154	-42	50	85	-35	62	69	-7
75-79	87	75	12	36	33	3	51	42	9
80-84	83	69	14	27	26	1	56	43	13
85-89	61	41	20	17	9	8	44	32	12
90+	69	25	44	17	7	10	52	18	34

Crime data

4.17 Strategic Objective 14 in Plan:MK is to embody ‘placemaking’ as an overarching design objective for new development and require that the layout and design of new development creates safe, healthy, sustainable built environments. Through administration of the planning system locally, we

²⁸ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/migrationwithintheuk>

can directly help reduce certain types of crime by ensuring new developments are designed to discourage criminal activities. For example, new developments can be laid out so that all public and communal private spaces are overlooked by nearby properties to discourage thefts.

4.18 Thames Valley Police publishes annual data on a wide range of crimes. The most recent dataset covers the period from March 2020 to February 2021. This AMR will not cover all crimes reported but will focus on those which Planning outcomes can help directly influence. However, it is worth noting that the Planning system, by supporting a thriving economy and satisfying community life, can indirectly help reduce overall crime by helping prevent the conditions that cause people to turn to crime, such as lack of social cohesion and income deprivation. The full Thames Valley Police crime records database is available online²⁹.

Table 4.6: Statistics for crimes directly influenced by Planning system outcomes, 2018/19, 2019/20 & March 2020 – February 2021. Source: Thames Valley Police.

Offence	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	% Change
Robbery of Business Property	40	28	12	-57.1%
Robbery of Personal Property	208	243	186	-23.5%
Residential Burglary - Dwelling	529	611	340	-44.4%
Residential Burglary – Sheds / Garages	269	204	194	-4.9%
Business & Community Burglary	569	478	288	-39.8%
Theft of Vehicle	488	565	385	-31.9%
Theft from Vehicle	2,148	2,899	1,395	-51.9%
Vehicle Interference	344	450	191	-57.6%
Theft from the Person	297	386	305	-21%
Bicycle Theft	609	703	449	-36.1%
Arson and Criminal Damage	2,620	2,791	2,192	-21.5%
Public Order Offences	1,193	1,452	1,932	+33.1%

4.19 Table 4.6 shows the statistics for crimes that are more directly influenced by Planning system outcomes. Of note is that crimes in all but one of the offence categories shown were down from the same month-month periods in 2018/19 and 2019/20. These are positive statistics however it is difficult to distinguish to what extent they were a result of the COVID-19 lockdowns which meant there were more people at home: likely creating fewer opportunities to rob/burgle/cause criminal damage. Monitoring of future crime statistics will allow this hypothesis to be tested. If borne out, then it may provide further support for the roll-out of 15-minute neighbourhoods and the co-

²⁹ <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/published-items/>

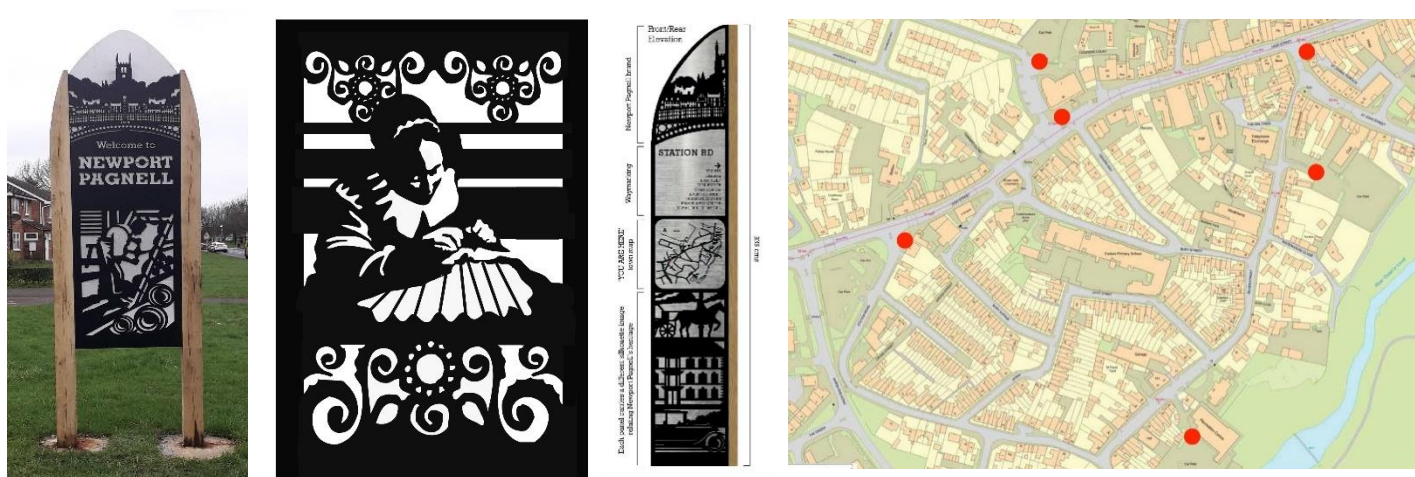
location of residential and employment uses, on the basis that increased daily (legal) activity in an area can discourage criminal acts. Nonetheless, these statistics are positive and indicate progress towards meeting Strategic Objective 14 in Plan:MK.

Public Art

- 4.20** This section on public art has been largely written and wholly illustrated by colleagues in the Creative and Cultural Team, with the final sections written by Planning Service colleagues to link progress back to the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework.
- 4.21** Policy CC1 (Public Art) in Plan:MK has secured funding for public art and enabled communities and artists to collaborate and explore how people connect with each other and place through creative interventions in the public realm. The following are a few examples of how funds have been utilised.

Newport Pagnell

- 4.22** Newport Pagnell is an historic, thriving market town situated in the North East of Buckinghamshire, at the confluence of the rivers Ouse and Ousel (or Lovat). The history of the area dates from the Iron Age, and the town itself from the Roman period. Newport Pagnell Town Council wished to celebrate the rich heritage and local distinctiveness of the town through a public art wayfinding project. Malting Studio were selected through an open process to undertake the commission. The aim of the scheme was to create 6 pedestrian wayfinding signs, 7 gateway markers at the entrance points to the town and a digital town trail with interpretation boards in the town.



Figures 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 & 4.8: Examples and locations of welcome and wayfinding signs in Newport Pagnell.

- 4.23** In 2020, the 7 Gateways markers were installed on the following entrance points to the town following extensive consultation with the Town Council, residents and highways team; Wolverton Road, Little Linford Road, North Northampton Road and Renny Park Road. The imagery in the Gateways celebrates different aspects of local heritage including; Lace making, Aston Martin,

Tickford Bridge, coaching, civil war and the first M1 service area. In 2021, the 6 pedestrian wayfinding signs will be installed in around the town centre to give visitors guidance on locating interesting places and essential resources.

MK Skate – The story of skateboarding in Milton Keynes

- 4.24** The skateboarding scene in Milton Keynes is special. It's grown and developed in tandem with the town, reliant on the contemporary architecture and urban landscapes so unique to Milton Keynes. The two histories (the town's and the skateboarding community) are interwoven and create a distinctive and compelling story undocumented and unfamiliar to many until now.
- 4.25** Working in collaboration with members of the Milton Keynes skateboarding scene it aimed to:
- Document the history of street skating in Milton Keynes before the memories and materials were lost forever. Protect and save the heritage for future generations.
 - Showcase the dynamic, diverse and creative culture that is skateboarding and how its linked to Milton Keynes.
 - Develop a better understanding of the heritage of street skating in Milton Keynes to engender a sense of pride and value which will hopefully strengthen community ties and build bridges between the skaters and wider community.
 - Archive and protect key materials – films, images, and documents.
 - Facilitate the development of skills in the volunteers who helped develop and deliver the project.
- 4.26** The project began in 2019 and outputs have included an exhibition in a shop unit in Centre:MK that documented the chronological history of skateboarding in Milton Keynes and its place in the international skate scene. Additionally, a public realm exhibition in CMK underpasses highlighted skate spots, skaters, tricks and the skate story. A digital trail was completed in late 2020 and is available through MK Trails app, which takes people to key skate spots and shares the story of tricks and skaters.





Figures 4.9, 4.10 & 4.11: MK Skate installations and artworks.

4.27 As part of the exhibition artist and skateboarder James Jessop was commissioned to create a new artwork for the exhibition; the painting is now located in Central Library on long term display. Following the exhibitions, the MK skate story has been developed into a limited-edition book which was launched in late 2020. 300 copies were printed, a copy was donated to every MK library and MK secondary school. More information about MK Skate can be found online using the link in the footnotes³⁰.



Figures 4.12 & 4.13: MK Skate Installation Items.

Fairfields and Whitehouse Public Art

4.28 Following the development of the public art plan for Fairfield and Whitehouse the project group implemented the first project in the plan in later 2020. The project is a digital commission which will help to capture the public art projects as they evolve and engage the community. The digital commission explores the story and heritage of Whitehouse and Fairfield, whilst providing a

³⁰ <https://mkskate.org/>

platform for artist to share what they are doing, a mechanism to engage audiences and a place to deposit ideas to create an archive of the whole public art scheme.

- 4.29** This digital commission will connect all the commissions and artists and be a place for the community to learn about their area. The next commissions will be an engagement scheme and delivery of one of the 'furniture' commissions in the plan. The public art plan explores the connection between urban and rural, the way in which these work alongside each other in this new development.

Alphonso – Newton Leys Public Art

- 4.30** Artist Sarah Staton was appointed to develop a public art commission in Newton Leys, celebrating the local heritage of the area and working in close collaboration with the community. The artwork which is currently in delivery makes references to the brick making heritage of the area and was developed through the artist interactions with the community.

- 4.31** Alphonso is built from bricks and includes bespoke bricks, tiles, brick slips and glazed bricks which have been made to the artist design. Construction began in late 2020 and is due for completion with a public opening in the summer of 2021.



Figure 4.14: Fairfield's and Whitehouse Public Arts digital commission project.



Figures 4.15 & 4.15: Alphonso public art project.

Future Fossil

- 4.32** Future Fossil by Something & Son (Andy Merritt and Paul Smyth) is a new public artwork located in Oxley Park, Milton Keynes. Developed following an intensive and in-depth community engagement

programme and inspired by archaeology, the passing of time, our relationship to the natural world, home and future ways of living.

- 4.33** Future Fossil features a life-size section of a typical Oxley Park house. Rising out of the ground as if newly excavated from the future, the house has been fossilized through the passing of time, exposed to climatic disaster and environmental change.



Figure 4.16: Future Fossil collage.

- 4.34** On closer inspection, the interior walls, ceilings and floors of the house are flecked with an array of brightly coloured man-made materials, which have been subsumed into the sculpture, echoing the processes by which plastics are now polluting every corner of the planet. Future Fossil will create a very special new public space for Oxley Park, where community activities and cultural programmes can be enjoyed by everyone. Situated in a specially designed landscape reminiscent of an archaeological site, the exterior of Future Fossil and the surrounding area will be self-seeded and planted with selected plants, indigenous to the local area for many centuries, creating a semi natural habitat for flora and fauna.
- 4.35** In summary, these projects are evidence of ongoing work using the planning contributions secured through implementation of Policy CC1 in Plan:MK. These projects also support delivery of the ‘Leading Green and Cultural City’ ambition identified in the *Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050*³¹, as well as Strategic Objective 1 in Plan:MK.

Community Facilities

- 4.36** As Strategic Objectives 9, 14, 16 and 17 in Plan:MK demonstrate, an important part of our strategy to improve socio-economic outcomes in the borough is improvement of existing and provision of new community, recreation and sports facilities, including play areas and libraries. As the PAMR did not cover this topic in-depth, this section will cover both the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 monitoring years, where data is available. Table 4.7 below shows all the community facility

³¹ <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/>

proposals granted planning permission during these two years. As the table shows, these schemes include both standalone community facilities and facilities that form part of larger mixed-use developments. They indicate good progress towards meeting our objectives for more community facilities to be made available to residents. However, it is noted that some of these units have been granted with flexible uses, e.g. permission 20/00185/FUL for residential development of the site at Bowback House where the commercial units have flexible retail, professional, café, restaurant and community use. As such, it is possible that these units may not immediately (or at all) come forward as community uses.

Table 4.7: Community facilities granted planning permission during the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 monitoring years.			
Application Number	Site	Proposal	Monitoring Year
19/02567/FUL	5-7 Church Street, Stony Stratford	Conversion of a library with offices into a library with offices and community facilities.	2019/2020
19/02670/FUL	1 Grafton Gate H5 to H6, Central Milton Keynes,	Change of use of vacant premises from Use Class A1 (Retail) to Use Class B1 (office) and D2 (gym) including ancillary creche and cafe, or a reversion back to Use Class A1.	2019/2020
19/03015/FUL	11 Bridgeturn Avenue, Old Wolverton	Change of use from B1/B2/B8 use-class to D2 use-class (power-lifting gym)	2019/2020
19/02728/FUL	Olney Town Football Club, East Street, Olney	Proposed change of use from football club to D2 use together with covered area to side, replacement storage building and alterations	2019/2020
19/01713/FUL	417 Saxon Gate East, CMK	Change of use and amalgamation of units (first floor only) from Class A1&Sui Generis to Class D2 Gym.	2019/2020
19/01843/FUL	Unit 2B 51 Winchester Circle, Kingston	Change of use from Use Class A3 to flexible Use Class D2 and A3.	2019/2020
19/02468/FUL	23A High Street South, Olney	Application for change of use of first floor unit from use Class B1 to Class D2	2019/2020

19/02804/OUT	Food Centre, CMK	Full permission for part demolition of existing buildings, site clearance works, retention and alteration of existing multi-storey car park, phased construction of 4 residential blocks providing a total of 422 residential units, hybrid building and flexible ground floor uses falling within Use Classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/B1a/D1/D2. Provision of 462 car parking spaces, 24 hour landscaped north/south walkway, cycle and motorcycle parking provision, electric charging points, associated access, landscaping and site works. Outline permission with all matters reserved except access for 482 residential units, flexible ground floor uses falling within Use Classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/B1a/D1/D2.	2019/2020
19/02900/FUL	Unit 25, The Ro 24, Fingle Drive, Stonebridge	Change of use from B2/B8 to D2 (fitness and leisure)	2019/2020
20/00060/FULR3	Tattenhoe Park, Snelshall Street H7 to H8, MK	Reserved matters application for the approval of details of the community building including landscaping, parking and external works associated with outline planning permission reference 17/00918/OUT	2020/2021
20/00591/FULR3	Maximus Court, Fairfields, Middle Weald	Reserved matters application for approval of landscaping and layout of land allocated for community and school allotments pursuant to outline planning application 06/00123/MKPCO	2020/2021
20/00653/FUL	Great Linford Sports Pavilion, Marsh Drive, Great Linford,	Construction of new community hall and sports changing rooms using modular construction adjacent to existing pavilion.	2020/2021
20/01200/FULR3	Fullers Slade Local Park	Planning permission for a 12 month period for a temporary portacabin, and associated works, to facilitate Milton Keynes Council	2020/2021
20/01753/FUL	New Community Meeting Place, Penshurst Crescent, Ashland	New single storey multi-purpose community meeting place, ancillary accommodation, a covered and open deck, area for external play, small social gatherings and events. Associated landscaping and external works (resubmission of 20/00748/FUL)	2020/2021

20/02979/REM	Land at Glebe Farm	Regulation 3 application for the approval of the reserved matters of access, landscaping and layout for community playing fields, community pavilion, car park and associated works pursuant to outline approval 13/02382/OUTEIS (Re-submission of 20/01440/REM)	2020/2021
21/00411/REM	Wavendon Community Building and Sports Pitches Site, Stockwell Lane, Wavendon	Regulation 3 application for the approval of Reserved Matters of appearance and scale pursuant to outline approval 13/02382/OUTEIS for the development of a community building with ancillary car parking, external hard and soft landscaping and associated works.	2020/2021
19/03446/FUL	Shenley Leisure Centre, Burchard Crescent, Shenley Church End	New single court sports hall extension to existing gym and building.	2020/2021
20/01441/FUL	41 Potters Lane, Kiln Farm, MK	Change of use from industrial unit (B2/B8 use) to a cheerleading and gymnastics academy (D2 use)	2020/2021
20/01676/FUL	39, 39A and 38A Wichester Circle, Kingston, MK	Reconfiguration of Units 1A,1B and 1C including a partial change of use to accommodate a gymnasium (Use Class D2); external alterations to the shopfronts; creation of new entrances, parking spaces, reconfiguration of service yard and associated works.	2020/2021
20/01842/FUL	Northfield Apex, Northfield Drive, Northfield, MK	Staff amenity facilities and associated works comprising a multipurpose sports pitch, a converted shipping container containing a gym and wellness space, pentanque / boules court and external picnic area. (Resubmission of 20/01195/FUL)	2020/2021
20/00185/FUL	Bowback House, CMK	Demolition of Bowback House (existing B1(a) Office building) and erection of 14 storey residential scheme, to include 306 residential units (C3), 2 commercial units (flexible use classes A1/2/3 and D2), associated amenity space, hard and soft landscaping, and car parking	2020/2021

4.37 Table 4.8 below outlines the planning contributions received and spent on community facilities during the 2019/2020 monitoring year. Data for the 2020/2021 monitoring year is not currently available but will be published in the Infrastructure Funding Statement later this year.

Table 4.8: Planning contributions received and spent on new community facilities projects in the 2019/2020 monitoring year.

Application	Development Site Location	Amount (£)
Contributions		
04/00586/OUT	17/00850/REM; Site at Campbell Park, H3 and H4 and Newlands, G Overgate, Campbell Park, Blocks 1, 2 & 4	43,541.62
04/00586/OUT	17/00850/REM; Site at Campbell Park, H3 and H4 and Newlands, G Overgate, Campbell Park	43,541.62
15/00825/FUL	Land at site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	80,564.57
17/01602/FUL	Grant Thornton House, 202 Silbury Boulevard, CMK	7,344.00
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	5,693.23
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	6,706.37
16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales, Folly Farm	10,109.94
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	2,893.35
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	3,891.54
16/02106/FUL	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	8,886.77
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road	1,614.70
06/00490/OUT	Land south of Intervet Campus, Brickhill Street, Walton	20,000.00
06/00490/OUT	Land south of Intervet Campus, Brickhill Street, Walton	2,420.54

Burial and Memorial Grounds

4.38 Plan:MK notes that many existing cemeteries in the borough are nearly full. Therefore, as the borough population grows and ages, demand for burial grounds will increase. To help meet this demand, we seek planning obligations on new development to fund extensions and construction of existing and new cemeteries. While Policy CC6 in Plan:MK sets out our approach to assessing proposals for new/extended existing burial grounds, these contributions are collected through application of Policy INF1 (Delivering Infrastructure) in Plan:MK. Table 4.9 below shows a breakdown of contributions for meeting burial ground demand to the Council in the 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 monitoring periods. However, due to absence of projects immediately requiring funding, there was no money spent in the 2019/2020 or the 2020/2021 monitoring periods on burial grounds. This conclusion is based on data in the 2019/2020 Infrastructure Funding Statement and feedback from our Bereavement Services team for the 2020/2021 period. We shall report on the specific projects these and future planning obligations are spent on in future AMRs.

4.39 In the 2020/2021 monitoring period, a new burial ground (not managed by us or our partners) was permitted on land near Woodlands Farm, Wood Lane, Weston Underwood. The proposal was for the change of use of agricultural land to a modern interpretation of a 'Longbarrow', a medieval burial mound for the civil internment of cremated human remains. More information on this scheme can be found by searching application reference 20/01806/FUL on our Public Access system website³².

³² <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-apply-pay-view/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/guidance-for-viewing-and-commenting-on-planning-applications>

Table 4.9: Planning Contributions Paid to MKC for Burial Ground Extension/Creation. Source: MKC.

Application	Location	Contribution Amount (£)
2019/2020		
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5 Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	5,446.78
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	4,103.42
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	2,452.08
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	2,888.43
16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales, Folly Farm	3,988.59
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	3,506.02
Total		22,385.32
2020/2021		
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road	1,401.91
18/00735/FUL	Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park	1,522.37
18/00735/FUL	Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park	1,522.37
18/00735/FUL	Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park	1,521.06
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	2,908.43
13/00888/OUTEIS	Newton Leys	24,850.98
13/00888/OUTEIS	Newton Leys	24,850.98
18/00735/FUL	Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park	-1,522.37
14/02060/OUT	Warrington Road, Olney	531.54
Total		57,587.27

Policy Context

- 5.1** As outlined in its monitoring framework, Plan:MK has a strategic objective (number 2) to deliver a total of 26,500 net new dwellings between 2016 and 2031. Furthermore, the plan sets targets; to deliver, on average 1,767 dwellings per annum; to ensure a five-year supply of deliverable housing land is maintained throughout the plan period; and, to meet the Government's three-year rolling housing delivery targets, as required under the Housing Delivery Test (HDT). Policies DS1 (Settlement Hierarchy) and DS2 (Housing Strategy) of Plan:MK provide the policy context and outline the development strategy to deliver against these objectives and targets.
- 5.2** Furthermore, in relation to housing, as outlined under Strategic Objective 11 of Plan:MK, we seek to plan for and facilitate the delivery of a mix of housing to meet the needs of all sections of the community. This includes targets around the delivery of affordable housing, the delivery of a mix of housing tenures, types and sizes and the delivery of housing for those who require specialist housing provision, for which Policies HN1 through to HN10 of Plan:MK seek to facilitate the delivery of. The targets for delivering Strategic Objective 11 also includes the provision of sufficient pitches to meet the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities and Travelling Showpeople within the Borough, for which policies HN11 and HN12 seek to enable.
- 5.3** We have a duty to monitor and report on all developments of new housing in the Borough, collating information on the number of starts and completions on sites and the total number of homes under construction. Affordable housing provision is also monitored along with house types (e.g. number of bedrooms) and tenure split; this is particularly important as, working jointly with our housing team, the planning team strive to assist in supplying housing which meets the needs of the Milton Keynes community.
- 5.4** These figures are all monitored quarterly and reported on our website³³, and through analysing this data we can assess the performance of Plan:MK's housing related policies in achieving the objectives and targets of the plan.
- 5.5** The following chapter will outline the housing statistics for the financial year 2020-2021 and will report on progress towards meeting national requirements and performance against Plan:MK policies.

Overall Housing Delivery and Performance 2020/21

- 5.6** This section provides a more in-depth look at our recent performance in terms of delivery against the housing requirements of Plan:MK and reviews trends over the past decade.

³³ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/statistics/housing-statistics>

2020/21 Housing Delivery Monitoring

- 5.7** A summary of the accumulated data relating to C3 use residential dwellings, for 2020/21 is presented below in Table 5.1. This covers both market sale and affordable dwellings combined.

Table 5.1: 2020/21 Annual Monitoring Status.	
Total No. of Completions	1,998
Total No. of Losses	5
Total Net Completions	1,993
Total No. of Starts	2,615
Completions achieved against annual requirement (1,766 dwellings)	113%
Total No. of Units Under Construction as at 1 April 2021	2,864

- 5.8** As shown in Table 5.1, we delivered in excess of our annual housing requirement of 1,766 dwellings, as set out in Plan:MK, by approximately 13%, thus meeting one of the targets under Strategic Objective 2. This is the third year running that we have met and exceeded our housing requirement, something that was not achieved at all during the Core Strategy (2013) period.
- 5.9** In delivering significantly above the annualised housing requirement again in 2020/21, this year has also contributed to delivering against the overall shortfall of completions for the plan period to-date which existed at the 1 April 2020. The shortfall which stood at 463 dwellings at 1 April 2020 has now reduced to 237 dwellings as of 1 April 2021. We have thus made positive progress towards delivering the minimum requirement of 26,500 over the plan period; another target of Strategic Objective 2.
- 5.10** As of 1 April 2021, there were also 2,864 units currently under construction; this provides enough units to deliver in excess of 100% of the completions to meet the housing requirement for 2021/22. Furthermore, this year is the third year (2007/08 and 2019/20 being the other two) within our current records, which date back to 1989, before the closure of the Development Corporation in 1992, whereby the number of units under construction remained above 2000 for every quarter monitored and, the first time it has happened in consecutive years. This was not even achieved in the later years of the Development Corporation.
- 5.11** Finally, the number of units started in 2020/21 (2,615) was the highest number of starts recorded in any year on our current records and, It is also only the second time (2004/05 – 2006/07 being the other) whereby annual starts of 2,000 units or more were recorded in three consecutive years. These figures are assisted by the start of, and ongoing, construction of a number of large apartment schemes in Central Milton Keynes (e.g. Aubrey Place, Former YMCA site and Station House) which provide high numbers all in one go (due to all units being considered to have started construction at the same time in an apartment scheme) however, overall, the spread of development sites currently under construction across both the rural and urban area of Milton Keynes and, the continuing development all the three major expansion areas which are underway,

is ensuring a diversity of supply which assists in keeping the number of units under construction high.

Comparison with Longer-Term Trends

5.12 Table 5.2 outlines the total completions, starts and units under construction for the Borough since 2010/11. Rows 1, 3 and 4 demonstrate a clearly improving delivery position since the start of the Plan:MK period (2016/17). The number of units under construction for each Plan:MK year is higher than in every preceding year since 2010/11; the number of actual starts is higher in four out of five of the Plan:MK years (2016/17, 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21) than in every preceding year since 2010/11; and actual completions have increased over the Plan:MK period to the position whereby we have achieved the annual housing requirement three years in a row.

Table 5.2: Longer Term Housing Delivery and Comparison between Actual Completions and Units under Construction from the Preceding year

	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21
1) Actual Completions	1306	1586	1315	1001	1440	1202	1247	1528	1781	2,076	1,998
2) % Difference in Annual Completions and units U/C in preceding year		20.6%	24.3%	2.5%	59.2%	16.2%	0.8%	-7.3%	11.5%	15.1%	-12.3%
3) Under Construction	1315	1058	977	901	1034	1237	1648	1597	1804	2,279	2,864
4) Actual Starts	1437	1331	1234	928	1572	1405	1655	1475	2000	2,603	2,615

- 5.13** Row 2 of Table 5.2 outlines the relationship between actual completions (row 1) and the number of units under construction (row 3) at the end of the preceding year, illustrating the difference between the two as a percentage. Row 2 demonstrates that, over the majority of years presented, there is a trend for actual completions in a year to exceed the number of units under construction at the end of the preceding year. Until 2020/21 this had happened in every year bar 2017/18. 2020/21 does however present a different situation to all previous years insofar as it is the first year of those presented whereby the number of units under construction at the start of the year was in excess of 2,000.
- 5.14** Given the potential impact of Covid-19 and the associated national lockdowns through 2020/21 and, taking account of the previous trend outlined in paragraph 4.13, this may suggest that housing completions in 2020/21 were actually lower than they should have been and, that the figure would have been higher without the impacts associated with Covid-19. Alternatively, this may suggest that a figure of around 2,000 units is an optimum annual delivery rate however, with only one years' worth of data of this nature it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusions. Given the number of units under construction at the end of 2020/21 (2,864) is substantially higher than in any preceding year, the number of units completed in 2021/22 may provide us with further information for the 2022 AMR, so as further to assess this potential trend at a time when rates of housing starts and completions are high.
- 5.15** Since the start of the Plan:MK period (2016/17) it is clear that the number of completions, starts and units under construction is far more positive than in previous years of the decade and, with the number of units started during 2020/21 and, the number of units currently under construction increasing again, it creates a position whereby housing delivery is expected to remain strong in 2021/22.
- 5.16** This trend is further evidenced when the number of units with detailed planning permission at the start of each year is analysed. As Table 5.3 shows, the Plan:MK years (emphasised in bold) show consistent year upon year increases, with 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22 each setting new high figures for the largest number of units with detailed planning permission within our current records.

Table 5.3: Number of Units with Detailed Planning Permission at the start of each Monitoring Year

Year	Number of units with FUL/REM permission at the start of year
2009/10	6057
2010/11	5181
2011/12	3941
2012/13	3321
2013/14	2928
2014/15	2677
2015/16	3017
2016/17	3707
2017/18	4789
2018/19	6634
2019/20	7347

2020/21	8926
2021/22	8936

- 5.17** The number of units with detailed planning permission is therefore being retained at a high level despite the large number of completions recorded; this suggests that the increase in development activity since the adoption of Plan:MK is not just building to a short-lived peak, but rather a position of higher delivery which can be maintained over a longer period of time. This provides further confidence that sufficient land supply is available and continuing to progress through the planning system for delivery rates to be maintained at a higher rate in the forthcoming years.
- 5.18** If a review of a longer series of data is also carried out, further trends can also be observed that outline the positive trajectory since the adoption of Plan:MK and suggest continued higher rates of delivery are achievable. Figure 5.1 outlines annual starts and completions from 1989/90 through to 2020/21.
- 5.19** The first observation to be made is that rapid change in the amount of development activity has occurred previously in Milton Keynes, with the period from 2003/04 to 2006/07 showing a dramatic increase in activity over a short period of time, which subsequently resulted in the highest completions recorded to-date this century. A slightly smaller peak can also be observed in the early 1990's as well. This demonstrates that in principle a rapid increase in development activity and subsequent completions is possible and has been seen in Milton Keynes in recent times. Furthermore, the current trend since the start of Plan:MK correlates with that seen in the most recent peak in development, albeit the rise is slightly more gradual at this time.

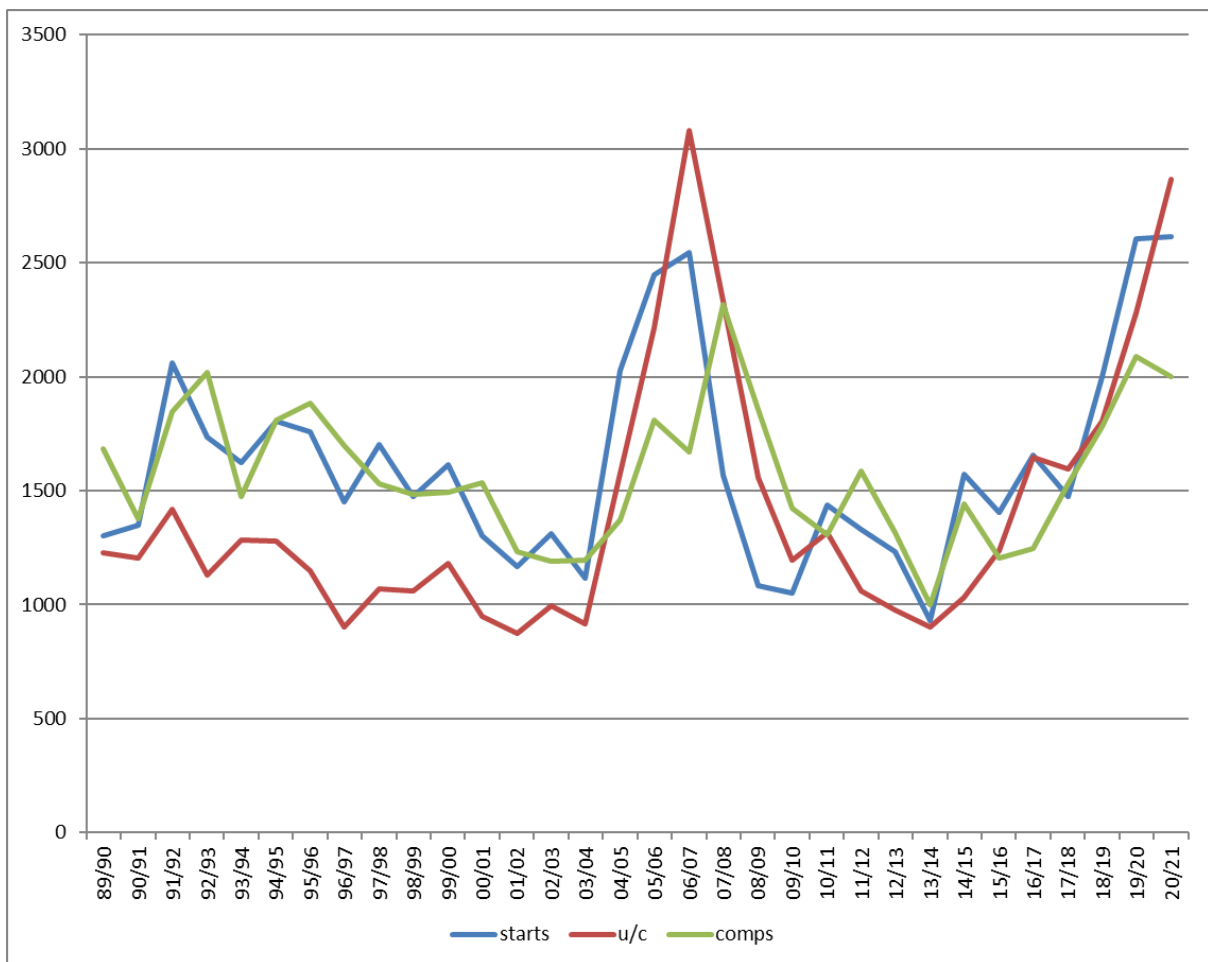


Figure 5.1: Recorded Starts and Completions: 1989/90 – 2020/21.

- 5.20** The second observation is that the data for completions, starts and units under construction for the past 3-5 years are showing a steady increase, since a low in 2013/14. Whilst not demonstrating quite the same sudden increase observed in the early 2000's, the data is clearly showing progress towards another peak in delivery.
- 5.21** Finally, it is possible that the previous peak in development activity could have been partially the result of a large development of apartment blocks, which would explain the sudden nature of the increase in starts and subsequent lag time to the peak in completions a couple of years later. The nature of the current increasing trend shows however a more continuous rise over time, rather than a sudden burst in activity, with completions now following a similar rate of increase to starts and units under construction, rather than there being an observable lag-time. This would suggest that this increase is not reliant on one large development, but a steadily improving supply of land which is now being delivered. This is consistent with the current land supply which demonstrates good rates of delivery from four strategic urban extensions (Western Expansion Areas 10 & 11, Eastern Expansion Area and the Strategic Land Allocation), which is now being supplemented by other small to medium sized sites. This also suggests a far more sustainable increase in delivery than that seen in previous years, which will provide increased delivery over a longer period of time.
- 5.22** Furthermore, with a number of large apartment schemes also now projected to be delivered in the forthcoming years, particularly within Central Milton Keynes, it may well be that the rapid

increases in activity seen in the period 2003/04 to 2008/09 could be replicated again, albeit occurring during a period of time when a higher rate of delivery is already occurring.

- 5.23** In recent years a number of the apartment schemes delivered in Central Milton Keynes, which have contributed towards housing supply, have taken the form of Prior Notification Office to Residential conversions (a form of development that is not supported and is not coming forward in line with the development strategy or policies outlined in Plan:MK). With the introduction of an Article 4 direction covering Central Milton Keynes, this is a form of development which is likely to be reduced as a source of housing supply in the coming years however, the majority of projected housing supply from apartment schemes in Central Milton Keynes moving forward is actually being delivered on allocated sites or via the complete redevelopment of sites through schemes which have obtained planning permission via the normal Outline or FUL route.
- 5.24** Indeed, of the current 8,936 units with FUL or REM approval across the Borough, prior notification schemes in Central Milton Keynes only account for approximately 3.5% and, overall, prior notification schemes across the Borough only account for approximately 5%. Therefore, despite the introduction of an Article 4 direction in Central Milton Keynes, it is still anticipated that large apartment schemes in Central Milton Keynes will continue to provide a steady source of housing supply (Further details on prior notification schemes can be found below from paragraph 5.79).
- 5.25** The above outlines a clearly improving housing delivery position within Milton Keynes which has been increasing year by year since 2013/14 and particularly since the start of the Plan:MK period.
- 5.26** Development activity in recent years is showing the highest rates of completions, starts, units under construction and units with detailed planning permission for over a decade, and current monitoring data at the end of 2020/21 continues to suggest this can continue to increase. Furthermore, when comparing current data against longer-term trends alongside available site-specific evidence and the range of housing supply currently delivering, it would suggest a much more sustainable increase in development activity which will result in a higher level of delivery over a longer period of time.
- 5.27** During the early months of 2020/21 the Country was severely hit by the onset of the Covid-19 global pandemic and, over the full year of 2020/21, impacts have continued to be felt as three national lockdowns took place (albeit with varying degrees of impact upon the building industry).
- 5.28** The above analysis shows the first full year of data collected whilst the pandemic has been ongoing and, despite building sites being closed for a number of months early in 2020/21, housing delivery figures (across all measurables) have remained high or continued to grow, suggesting that the impacts of the pandemic may not be felt as heavily on housing delivery as initially feared. With the Country and, the rest of the World still however dealing with the pandemic, it remains too early to predict what further impacts it will have on the building industry and housing delivery moving forward.
- 5.29** Once again however, this should not take away from the positive delivery position we are in as of the end of 2020/21, creating an environment whereby higher levels of delivery are highly likely to

continue. Whilst this may still be impacted by the legacy of the Pandemic moving forward, this was unforeseen and is something that we, nor the development industry, can have any control over and, as of the end of 2020/21, monitoring data shows that we are continuing to work towards meeting Strategic Objective 2 of Plan:MK and as such no immediate actions or contingencies are required.

Housing Delivery Test (HDT)

- 5.30** The HDT is a Government annual measurement of housing delivery in the area of the relevant plan-making authorities. The HDT is a percentage measurement of the number of net homes delivered against the number of homes required, as set out in the relevant strategic policies for the area, over a rolling three-year period.
- 5.31** The HDT results are published annually in November by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the NPPF outlines a range of planning policy consequences for authorities who do not achieve set percentage results each year.
- 5.32** The first HDT results, for the year 2018, were published in February 2019 and we achieved a result of 85%. As a result, we were required to prepare a HDT Action Plan.
- 5.33** During 2018 we became a pilot authority, working with the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and MHCLG to develop the approach to data analysis and Action Plans. In October 2018 we published our Housing Delivery Action Plan, ahead of our formal HDT result, and became one of the first authorities in the Country to produce such an action plan.
- 5.34** As reported in the 2020 AMR, in February 2020, MHCLG published the 2019 results of the HDT; we achieved a result of 93.8%. As the result remained below 95%, we were required to review our HDT Action Plan and publish an updated version. An updated version of the Action Plan was published in September 2020 and can be viewed at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/housing-delivery-action-plan>.
- 5.35** In January 2021, MHCLG published the 2020 results of the HDT; we achieved a result of 110%. This was 3.5% higher than we projected to achieve for the 2020 results as, due to the implementation of the first national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Government reduced the 'homes required' within the 2019 to 2020 year in the HDT by a month in recognition of the temporary disruption to the construction sector. The continued increase in our HDT result over 2019 and 2020 does however provide further evidence of our improving housing delivery position as outlined previously in this chapter. Furthermore, the result being over 100% means we face no consequences and, it results in us meeting another of the targets for delivering Strategic Objective 2 of Plan:MK.
- 5.36** As the HDT uses data from the previous year and, we have already monitored housing completions for 2020/21, it is possible to carry out a HDT assessment, based on the requirements set out in the 'HDT measurement rule book' (July 2018) so as to project the result for the year 2021. This is set out in Table 5.4 and outlines a further continued improvement from the 2020 result with us

achieving 113.7%. It should also be noted that this has assumed no further reduction in 'homes required' within the 2020 to 2021 years is applied by the Government, in relation to the disruption caused by the pandemic early in 2020/21; if a further reduction were applied this would result in a greater result than that presented in Table 5.4. Either way, this projected result would not bring with it any policy consequences

Table 5.4 Projected Housing Delivery Test Measurement Results 2021.			
Year	Homes Required	Homes Delivered	HDT 2021 Measurement
2018/19	1,767	1,781	
2019/20	1,617	2,076	
2020/21	1,767	1,998	
Total	5,151	5,855	113.7%

Housing Tenure and Mix

5.37 This section looks at the split of all housing delivered during 2020/21 by housing tenure, both in terms of housing for developer sale/private ownership and affordable housing provision, and also in terms of mix of housing type provided, so as to assess how policies HN1 (Housing Mix and Density) and HN2 (Affordable Housing) are performing in terms of meeting the requirements and targets set out in Strategic Objective 11.

Developer Sale/Market Housing

Table 5.5: Number of completions for dwellings marketed as developer sale for financial year 2020-2021.									
Quarter	1BF	2BF	3BF	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	5+BH	Total Completions
1	9	47	0	1	38	117	103	18	333
2	12	31	0	2	24	75	140	37	321
3	27	50	0	6	7	96	111	20	317
4	261	117	0	0	16	71	116	36	617
Totals	309	245	0	9	85	359	470	111	1588

5.38 Table 5.5 shows the housing completions for dwellings built for developer sale, broken down by quarter and house type. 2020/21 was not quite as good a year as 2019/20 overall for housing completions for developer sale, although better than was initially expected when COVID 19 is taken into consideration. This could have been assisted by Government interventions such as the Stamp Duty Land Tax break given to buyers in order to keep the economy moving.

5.39 In terms of housing mix, of the dwellings built for developer sale, 52% of completions were for three and four bed homes (compared with 82% as recommended in the Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)), 35% of completions were for one and two bed flats (compared with 2% as

recommended in the SHMA), 5% two bed houses (compared with 11% as recommended in the SHMA) and the remaining 7% were five bed houses and above (which is in line with the SHMA recommendation).

- 5.40** As outlined, there are some discrepancies in terms of delivering against the mix of market housing as recommended by the SHMA, which forms the most recent needs assessment for the Borough, with particular focus on the higher provision of flats. There are however a number of factors that need to be considered in reviewing this data. Firstly, the SHMA provides only a snapshot in time and as such the needs outlined in it may not be the same as are required now, especially when consideration is given to as yet unknown, potential impacts of the ongoing pandemic. Related to this, as outlined in paragraphs 7.5 to 7.7 of Plan:MK, is the fact that the SHMA mix for market housing was based upon a projection of current occupancy patterns amongst different household types at the time of preparation and, as such, did not take account of the need or demand for households to move into different types or sizes of housing; therefore the recommended SHMA market housing mix potentially overestimates the demand for 3-5 bedroom market houses and underestimates the demand for 1-2 bedroom market properties.
- 5.41** For this reason, Policy HN1 does not prescribe the mix outlined in the SHMA, but rather outlines a number of criteria which must be considered when assessing the proposed housing mix of residential development proposals (including latest evidence of needs, the nature of the proposal and the location and existing character of the area).
- 5.42** Secondly, it must be noted that the majority of housing currently being delivered was granted permission prior to the adoption of Plan:MK and, as such, their applications were assessed and approved against different policies. In light of this, analysis of completions alone, at this stage does not provide a full picture of how Plan:MK policies are performing in this regard. A review of other data sources, such as applications permitted since Plan:MK adoption (outlined later in this section) will assist in our assessment, but even this can be skewed, due to a number of these being REM approvals for which housing mix was approved under the Outline permission, which was assessed against policies pre-dating Plan:MK.
- 5.43** Therefore, to truly be able to assess the performance of Plan:MK policies in terms of delivering the right mix of housing to meet the needs of the Borough, monitoring over a longer period of time will be required and continuous updates on the evidence for housing need and market demand will be required. This also applies in terms of the mix and tenure of affordable housing provision, as is covered in the following sections.

Affordable Housing

- 5.44** In total, there were 410 housing completions in 2020/21 which can be considered to be Plan:MK compliant affordable units. This accounts for 20% of the total housing completions within the Borough for the year. Plan:MK sets a target of 8,200 affordable dwellings to be delivered over the plan period and whilst there is not an annualised requirement for us to deliver, this works out at approximately 547 affordable units for each year of the plan period, or 31% of the total annual

housing requirement of 1,767 units. This is reflected in Plan:MK policy HN2 which requires all developments over 11 dwellings to deliver 31% affordable housing.

- 5.45** For 2020/21 the number of affordable dwellings delivered is therefore below both the total number of affordable units expected (if the requirement were annualised) and below 31% of the total number of units delivered³⁴. Table 5.6 outlines the number of affordable units delivered annually since the base date of Plan:MK (1 April 2016) and, whilst this outlines that the number of units delivered in any one year and, overall during the plan period, has not achieved the amount that would be expected (if the requirement were annualised), the annual total of affordable provision has risen for every year of Plan:MK. With a further 614 affordable units also currently under construction as of 1 April 2021, this bodes well for a further increase in provision in 2021/22.

Table 5.6: Affordable Housing Provision 2016-2021		
Year	No. of Affordable Units delivered	No. affordable units as a % of Total Housing Completions
2016/17	251	20.1%
2017/18	363	23.7%
2018/19	387	21.7%
2019/20	407	19.5%
2020/21	410	20%

- 5.46** The underperformance in terms of provision of affordable dwellings has been recognised over the longer term and we have sought, via the plan-making process, to try and address this and put in place a number of proactive measures to try and increase the supply. Plan:MK allocates enough land to deliver well in excess of its total housing requirement; a key reason for doing this was to ensure that there would be sufficient delivery over the Plan:MK period to deliver the full 8,200 affordable units required. With a large percentage of sites allocated through Plan:MK still to go through the planning process and be delivered (including both strategic growth areas), this should assist in increasing the number of affordable units delivered as we progress through the Plan:MK period.
- 5.47** Furthermore, we are continuing with the delivery of a programme of affordable housing delivery on Council owned sites, working towards our initial target of delivering an extra 500 affordable units, with further long-term targets being proposed. This will also be assisted by the ongoing regeneration proposals of the Lakes Estate, Fullers Slade and any future estate proposals which are progressed (further information is contained within Chapter 5; 'Regeneration and Council Housing'). Milton Keynes Development Partnership are also committed to delivering an increased 36% of affordable housing on all of their sites, again with the aim of increasing delivery of affordable housing during the Plan:MK period. With a number of MKDP sites having been sold to housebuilders in recent years, having gained planning permission and, in some cases, now being

³⁴ Please note that the 31% affordable requirement is for individual developments of 11 dwellings and over, this means that not all developments are subject to policy HN2 and therefore the number of affordable dwellings completed in a year as a percentage of the total units delivered is likely to be less than 31%. Furthermore, other developments, such as those that fall under current permitted development rights for change of use from office to residential use are also not required to provide affordable housing.

on-site and delivering housing units, this should assist affordable housing delivery in the short-to-medium term.

- 5.48** Therefore, whilst the total number of Plan:MK compliant affordable units delivered to-date in the first five years of Plan:MK is below that expected to enable delivery of the total 8,200 required units, there are signs that delivery of Plan:MK affordable units is improving and actions are in place to try and encourage further delivery in the forthcoming years. It is however essential that future monitoring reports continue to assess annual completions of affordable dwellings and that delivery continues to improve if Plan:MK is to deliver against its affordable housing targets as set out in Strategic Objective 11.
- 5.49** It should also be noted that these figures do not take into account housing units which have been permitted as market housing but have been flipped to NPPF compliant affordable housing units by the housebuilder or Housing Association post the grant of planning permission, having obtained grant funding from Homes England. It is therefore the case that further affordable housing units, potentially also at a level that would be compliant with Plan:MK policy, have been delivered above the levels that are reported here. Our planning and housing colleagues are currently trying to work with Homes England and those who are delivering homes so as to try and obtain better data so as these housing units can be monitored and reported on in future AMRs.
- 5.50** In terms of the mix of affordable housing delivered, both by tenure and dwelling size, Figure 5.2 shows the breakdown of affordable units completed for the 2020/21 monitoring year. With regards to tenure, 32% of affordable dwellings delivered were shared ownership properties, 44% affordable rent and 14% social rent; there are also 39 plots that have an unknown sub-tenure, this is because the developer has not given the sub-tenure of the property at the point of monitoring.



Figure 5.2: Affordable Housing Completions by Bedroom Size 2020/21

- 5.51** With regards to mix, of the 410 completed dwellings, 53% were flats (compared with 19% as recommended by the SHMA), 21% were two bed houses (compared with 33% as recommended by the SHMA), 20% were three bed houses (compared with 38% as recommended by the SHMA) and 6% were four bed houses (compared with 9% as recommended by the SHMA).
- 5.52** Whilst this outlines that, similarly to market housing, the mix of units delivered is not in line with the recommended mix outlined in the SHMA, particularly in relation to the proportion of flats being delivered, some of the same factors, as discussed in paragraphs 4.38 and 4.41 must be taken into account.
- 5.53** This is particularly the case with regards to the fact that all the units that were delivered in 2020/21 were permitted prior to the adoption of Plan:MK and as such were not guided by the policies outlined within it. As Table 5.7 outlines, the mix of affordable units permitted in 2020/21, since the adoption of Plan:MK in March 2019, shows an improvement towards delivering the mix recommended by the SHMA with increases in the number of affordable two, three and four bed houses and a reduction in the number of flats; albeit flats still remain at a high percentage. This is a positive step, especially considering we are still in a period of overlap between plans and as such, reserved matters applications approved during 2019/20, against outline permissions granted before March 2019, will already have housing mix fixed against previous policies/assessments of need and as such will still cause some skew.
- 5.54** Furthermore, it is important to again note that the mix outlined in the SHMA is not prescriptive, it instead forms part of the evidence which should be used to assess the housing mix of a proposed scheme. It should also be noted that the recommended mix outlined in the SHMA covers all dwellings to be delivered within the plan period and, due to the nature of different schemes being permitted and delivered at different times during the plan period, it is impossible for the mix of units being permitted or delivered in each year to always resemble a mix that is recommended for the entire plan period.
- 5.55** Joint work between the Development Plans Team and the Housing Team is ongoing to improve our knowledge and understanding of the existing mix of housing and current needs for affordable housing across the Borough, and also to ensure a more collaborative approach in delivering the right amount and type of affordable housing to meet the current needs. The impact of this work will be monitored and reviewed through future monitoring reports to ensure that housing being delivered reflects, wherever possible, the changing housing needs of the Borough.

Table 5.7: Number of affordable plots permitted by sub-tenure in 2019-2021.³⁵

2019/20										
	1 Bed Flat	2 Bed Flat	3 Bed Flat	1 Bed House	2 Bed House	3 Bed House	4+ Bed House	Total	Total %	% of Total Applications (4247)
Shared Ownership	26	64	0	0	55	77	8	230	27	5.5
Affordable Rent	108	153	1	4	113	78	24	481	56.5	11.3
Social Rent	7	16	0	0	9	1	12	45	5.2	1
Unknown	20	56	0	0	0	14	6	96	11.3	2
TOTAL	161	289	1	4	177	170	50	852	100	19.8
2020/21³⁶										
	1 Bed Flat	2 Bed Flat	3 Bed Flat	1 Bed House	2 Bed House	3 Bed House	4+ Bed House	Total	Total %	% of Total Application (3150)
Shared Ownership	12	36	14	0	45	34	2	143	24	4.5
Affordable Rent	68	82	16	0	100	86	30	382	65	12
Social Rent	40	7	0	0	5	3	1	56	9	1.7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	7	4	0	11	2	0.3
TOTAL	120	125	30	0	157	127	33	592	100	18.7

5.56 Despite the potential impacts of Covid-19 on the delivery of housing this year, in general, the number of affordable housing units coming forward is still encouraging. We have received slightly fewer major planning applications this year and, as this is the source for the majority of affordable housing, this has impacted the number of permitted affordable dwellings this year, which is down 1%. However, as Table 5.7 outlines, there is still much to be done to ensure that the total amount of affordable housing provision is increased so as to deliver the full 8,200 units required over the plan period. At present there are 614 affordable dwellings under construction which assist in affordable housing delivery on the short term. Additionally, work on securing the right tenure and mix of affordable housing to meet the current needs of the Borough needs to continue; particularly with regards to units being provided for social and affordable rent. As outlined above, this is an area that we are committed to working on and future monitoring reports will enable us to review the impact of implementing the policies within Plan:MK and the further work our housing and planning teams are undertaking.

³⁵ There are a number of unknown tenures; this is down to a lack of information from developers at the time of application. A collaboration between the housing team and monitoring team for planning is currently implementing means to improve information gathering and recording of the data for affordable housing, this will eliminate the unknown tenures once put in place.

³⁶ Please Note that the outline application for Land off Timbold Drive 20/01176/OUT has not been counted in these figures as, although we know the number of affordable units (53) we do not know the tenure breakdown at this stage.

Overall Housing Mix

5.57 Compliance with policy HN1 requires a good mix of all size of dwelling, and that developers must avoid building too many of the same type in the same development. Figure 5.3 shows the total housing mix for the years 2019/20 and 2020/21 across all tenures for comparison purposes. In 2020/21 there were 772 flats built compared with 1226 Houses, this means that 61% of dwellings completed this year were houses. 30% of completions were four or more bed houses which is still equal to the number of one, two and three bed houses combined as in the PAMR.

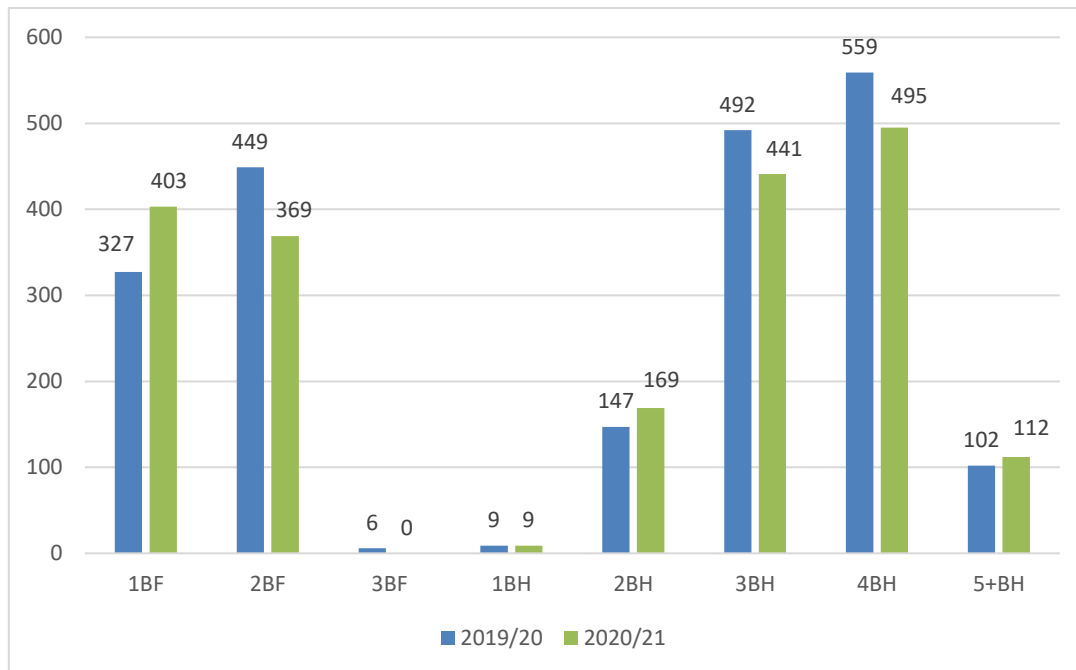


Figure 5.3: The Number of Completions by Bedroom Size 2019-2021

5.58 Figure 5.4 compares housing types completed from April 2017 up to March 2021. 2020/21 was a mixed year for housing types with no one type of dwelling overachieving. 30% of properties built were houses with four or more bedrooms and 30% of completions were one, two and three bed houses. This shows an improvement in the overall housing mix with regards to smaller houses, the number of 4+beds having had a 2% reduction compared to the PAMR. The number of flats that are being built is remaining relatively constant at 38% (37% in 2019/20).

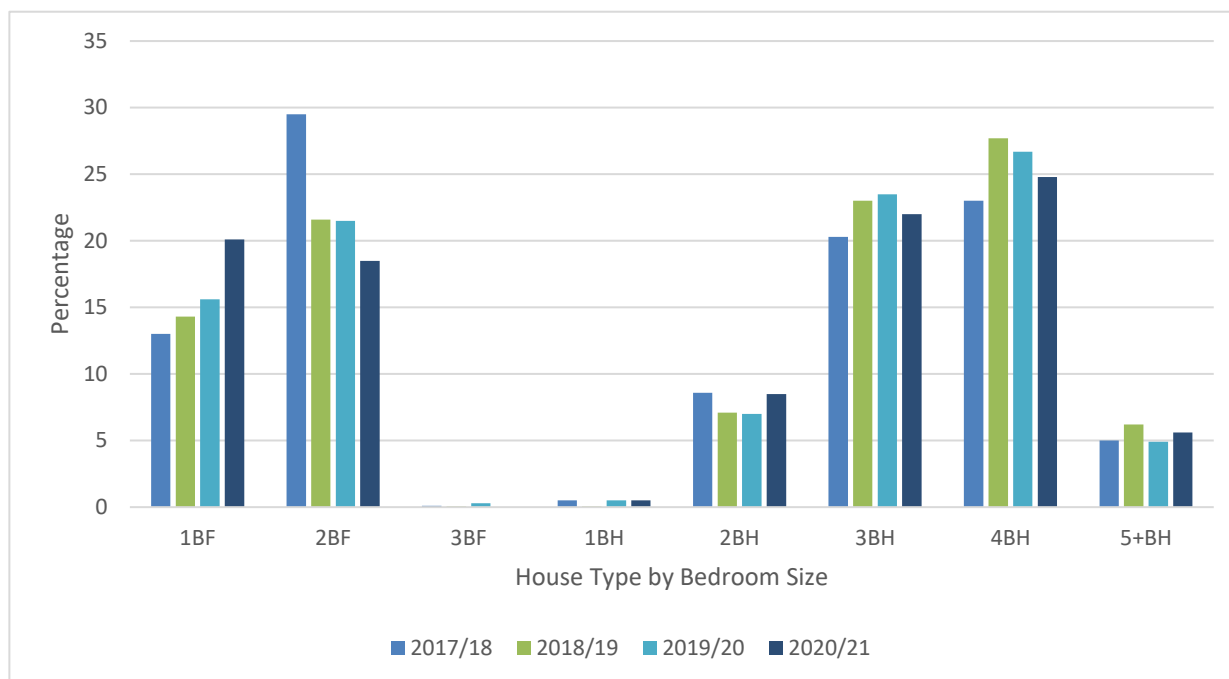


Figure 5.4: Comparison of Housing Mix by Bedroom Size for years 2017/18 – 2020/21

5.59 A comparison can also be made between the types of houses built. Figure 5.5 shows the comparison between the number of detached, semi-detached, terrace and flats that have been built between April 2018 and March 2021. There is very little difference between the data for all years although, there does appear to be a slight upward trend with regards to the percentage of flats being delivered. This does not correlate with the recommended mix of housing type and size as outlined by the SHMA, which suggests a lower percentage of flats overall however, as outlined previously this is not a prescriptive mix and there are a number of reasons as to why the overall mix being delivered at the moment is not more reflective of this recommended mix, again as outlined above.

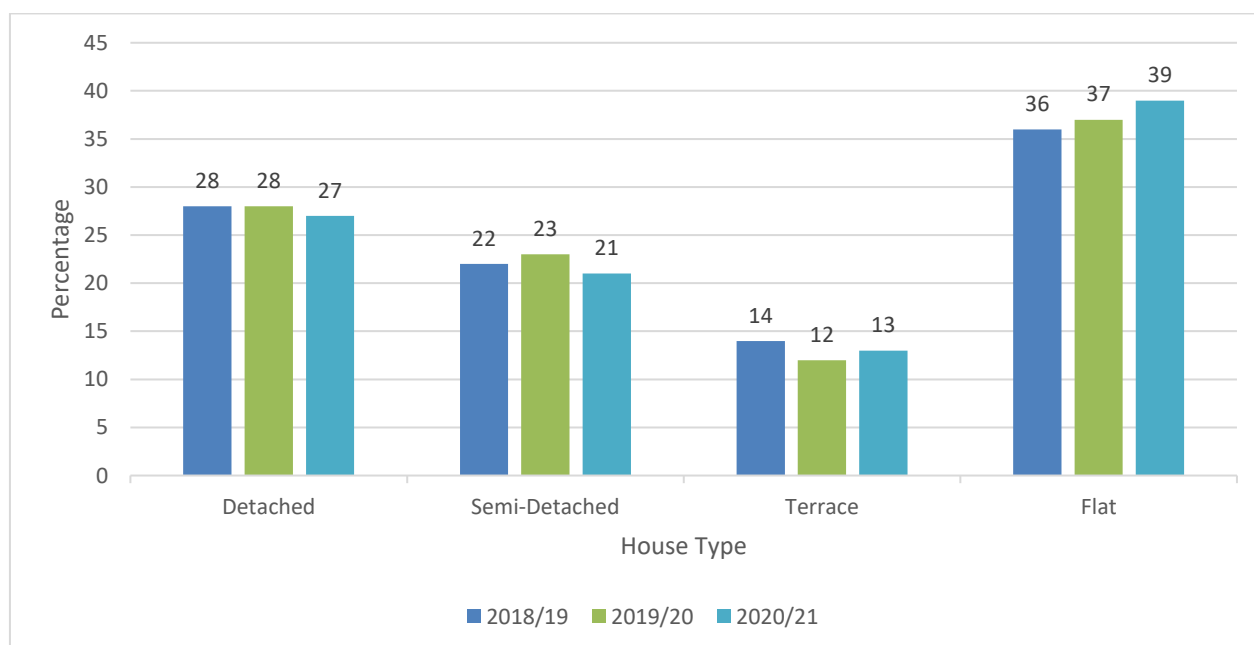


Figure 5.5: Comparison of Housing Types by Percentage for years 2018/19 – 2020/21

5.60 Work has also been undertaken to monitor developments that have been permitted during the year, so as to assess to what degree Policy HN1 is being adhered to in planning decisions. Table 5.8 shows the total housing mix for applications permitted since 1st April 2019; this suggests that developers are currently gaining permission for developments which seek to deliver more smaller homes (3 bed or less) whilst at the same time keeping a steady stream of larger homes coming forward. As with homes being built there does however seem to be a high number of flats being permitted, with the percentage increasing over the two year period.

Table 5.8: Housing Mix breakdown of applications permitted since the adoption of Plan:MK on 20 March 2019 ³⁷ .									
2019/20									
Quarter	1BF	2BF	3+BF	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	5+BH	Totals
1	16	66	0	2	15	110	51	9	269
2	695	464	8	1	81	242	262	42	1775
3	111	197	7	24	188	421	400	26	1374
4	46	80	0	4	70	162	212	29	603
Unknown									206
Totals	868 (20.4%)	807 (19%)	15 (0.4%)	31 (0.7%)	354 (8.3%)	935 (22%)	925 (21.8%)	106 (2.5%)	4247
2020/21									
Quarter	1BF	2BF	3+BF	1BH	2BH	3BH	4BH	5+BH	Totals
1	435	498	83	0	52	138	140	5	1351
2	16	52	0	0	48	113	100	35	364
3	258	155	8	0	85	210	154	2	872
4	35	41	0	2	74	126	87	27	392
Unknown									171
Totals	744 (23.6%)	746 (23.7%)	91 (2.9%)	2 (0.1%)	259 (8.2%)	587 (18.6%)	481 (15.3%)	69 (2.2%)	3150

5.61 The high percentage number of flats being permitted will however, at least partially, be a result of the location of, and type of, development applications which have come forward over the past couple of years. The last two years has seen growth in the number of large apartment schemes coming forward in Central Milton Keynes and has also seen growth in the number of apartments which have gained prior approval permission as part of the Government's changes to the permitted development rights with regards to office to residential change of use³⁸. Furthermore, with the larger strategic growth allocations in Plan:MK, which will likely deliver a higher percentage of houses of mixed size, still to come forward for planning, this will create some balance as we progress through the Plan:MK period. Future AMR's will continue to monitor both annual data but also in terms of totals across the plan period.

³⁷ Note: The unknown tenure is for an outline application where no housing mix data is available. Figures for developer sale and affordable housing have been combined.

³⁸ There is potential that this may also skew data within the next couple of AMR's; In July 2021 an Article 4 direction covering the Central Milton Keynes area will come into force, restricting the permitted development rights in relation to this change of use. As part of the process of implementing an Article 4 Direction, an advertisement period of a year has taken place and, this time has seen a high number of prior approval applications for change of use within CMK submitted in the run up to July 2021.

Specialist Housing and amenity, accessibility and adaptability Standards

5.62 Policy DS2 of Plan:MK (2019) states the need for 1200 bed spaces during the life of the plan. Table 5.9 shows the number of spaces permitted and completed so far in the Plan:MK period. There have been very few completions to date however, there are currently 144 spaces under construction, 83 waiting to start and another 110 waiting to be permitted meaning the number of spaces is set to rise steadily³⁹.

Table 5.9 Care Home Bed Spaces Permitted and Completed 2016-2021		
Year	Total Bed Spaces Permitted	Total Bed Spaces Completed
2016-2017	3	3
2017-2018	9	9
2018-2019	3	3
2019-2020	63	13
2020-2021	175	0
Total	253	32

5.63 There are three different categories of care home elderly, adult and child. Table 5.10 splits up the bed spaces permitted into each category. Most spaces permitted have been for elderly residents.

Table 5.10 Permitted Developments by Care Home Type 2016-2021					
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Elderly	0	0	0	60	112
Adult	3	5	3	0	50
Child	0	4	0	3	13
Total	3	9	3	63	175

5.64 Plan:MK, through policies HN3 and HN4, also seeks to deliver dwellings which meet the needs of those who require supported and specialist housing and also to ensure new dwellings meet standards in relation to amenity, accessibility and adaptability. For example, as a minimum all housing is required to meet Nationally Described Space Standards and further targets are set for certain percentages of new homes to meet Parts M4(2) and M4(3) of Building Regulations.

5.65 Since the adoption of Plan:MK, submitted planning applications are starting to give more detail in relation to these elements of new developments. The monitoring team, in conjunction with the Housing Team, have put in place new protocols which will require developers to submit this data on a plot by plot basis, enabling officers to easily review applications and also record and monitor delivery of these two policies. Future monitoring reports will therefore incorporate more

³⁹ For more information of the developments included in these figures please go to <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-for-planning/employment-development-monitoring>

information with regards to compliance against policies HN3 and HN4 and the targets set out within Strategic Objective 11 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework.

Brownfield vs. Greenfield Completions

- 5.66** All applications for development are either a brownfield site or a greenfield site depending on the condition of the area for development. A site is classed as brownfield if there has been previous development, and greenfield if the application is for the first development of the site. The NPPF seeks to promote the use of brownfield land by encouraging development strategies to make as much use of previously developed land as possible and for planning policies and decisions to give substantial weight to the value of using suitable brownfield land. We are also required to maintain a brownfield register which provides up-to-date and consistent information on sites that we consider to be appropriate for residential development.
- 5.67** Due to the nature of Milton Keynes' growth as a New Town the large majority of its development has been, and is, focused on greenfield land and, to-date there has been limited opportunities for the development of brownfield sites aside from redevelopment sites contained within the existing older towns that form part of the Borough of Milton Keynes, such as Newport Pagnell, Bletchley and Wolverton.
- 5.68** As such, Plan:MK does not set any targets or objectives which relate specifically to brownfield development however, in line with national policy, we support the redevelopment of brownfield land and indeed a number of sites within the current housing supply are brownfield. Furthermore, with the New Town elements of Milton Keynes now reaching a more mature age, it is likely that in the future, opportunities for redevelopment of brownfield sites will become more prevalent, indeed this is already being seen more often on sites within Central Milton Keynes; this year alone there has been 557 dwellings started in Central Milton Keynes. Most of the brownfield completions for 2020/21 were from a prior notification conversion development in Linford Wood where an office block was converted into flats.
- 5.69** Figure 5.6 compares the completions of both greenfield and brownfield sites in 2020/21. 76% of completions are for greenfield sites, this is due to the number of new estates that are under construction now. Brooklands, Whitehouse, Fairfields and Newton Leys were all designated greenfield sites and have now been joined by Eagle Farm, Glebe Farm and Eaton Leys. These are sites that are producing thousands of houses over their construction lifetime and are a big contributor to housing figures for Milton Keynes. There are also several large rural sites that are classified as greenfield, these are situated in Olney, Sherington, Hanslope and Lavendon.

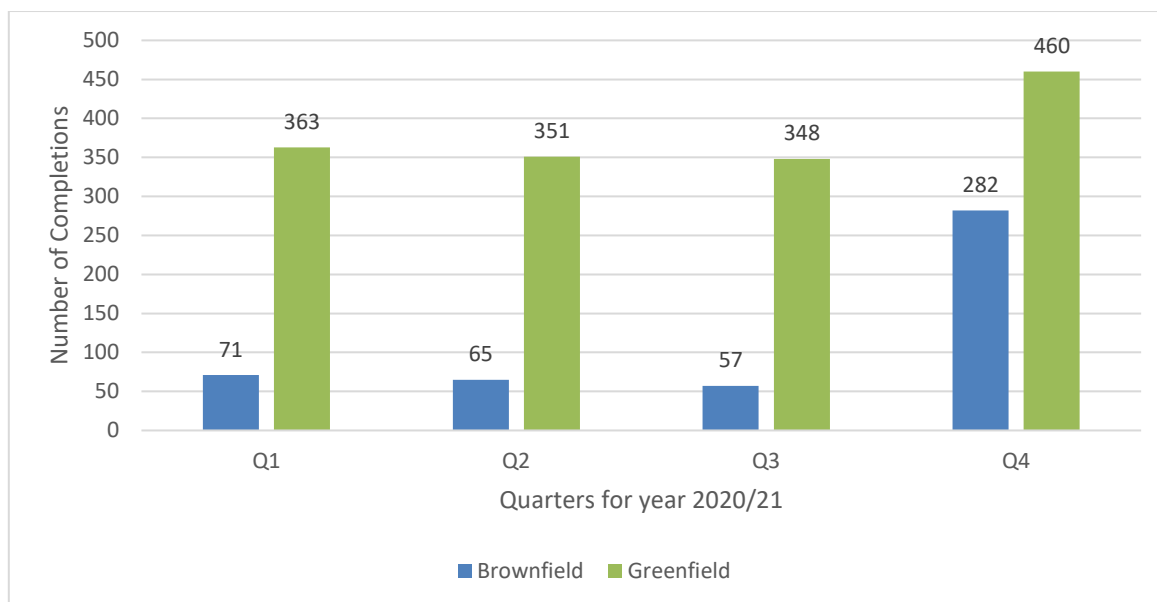


Figure 5.6: Comparisons of Completions on Greenfield and Brownfield Sites by quarter 2020/21

5.70 Figure 5.7 tracks completions from April 2017 to March 2021. Completions on brownfield sites were at a relatively consistent level up to 2019/20 where there appears to be the beginning of a rising trend; this doesn't carry into 2020/21 but this is because most of the brownfield sites are flatted developments that tend to complete all at the same time and as such will deliver in peaks and troughs. Greenfield sites have levelled out and have not been as volatile this year as in previous years.

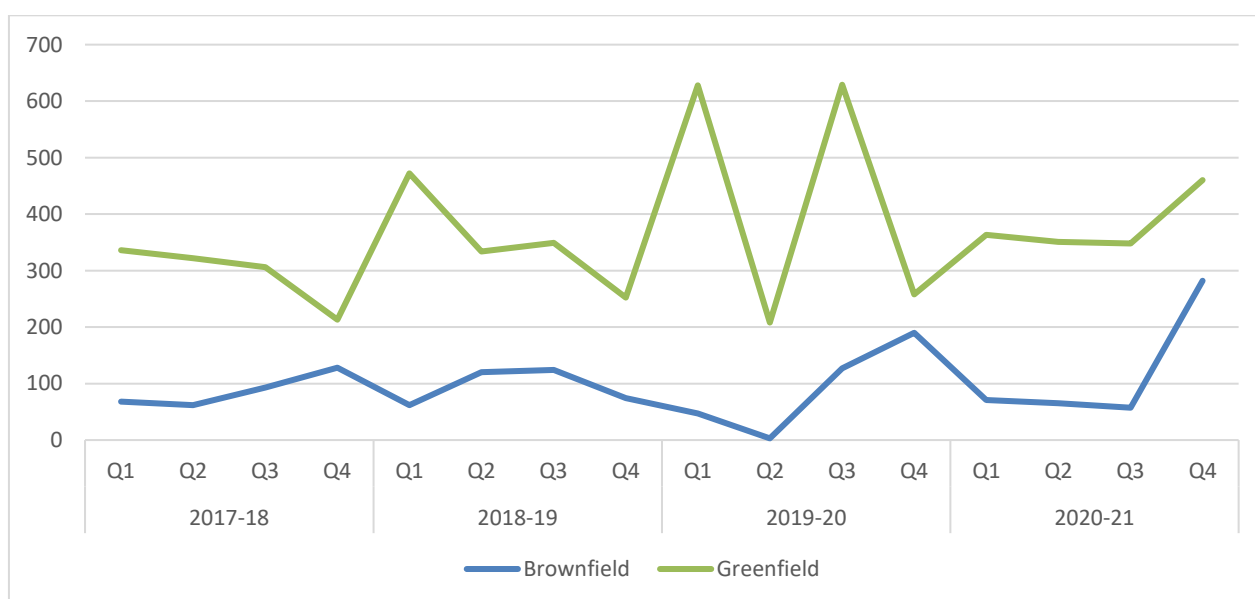


Figure 5.7: Comparison of Completions on Greenfield and Brownfield Sites from April 2017 to March 2021

Self and Custom Build Properties

5.71 Self and custom build properties can make a vital contribution to local housing need, this is recognised by policy HN5 of Plan:MK which aims to support people who would like to build their own home. MKC, as required to do so by the *Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015*, operates a self and custom build register for people who are interested in building their own home;

at the present time it is free to express your interest at being on the list. As of October 2020, there were 469 entries on the register; of these 450 were individual applications and 19 were applications made by a group of people. Table 5.11 shows how many people have entered the register each year since its creation.

Table 5.11: Number of Entrants onto the Self-Build Register per year.			
Year	Number of Individual Entrants	Number of Group Entrants	Total
Mar 01, 2016 – Oct 30, 2016	37	3	40
Oct 31, 2016 – Oct 30, 2017	145	7	152
Oct 31, 2017 – Oct 30, 2018	108	4	112
Oct 31, 2018 – Oct 30, 2019	73	0	73
Oct 31, 2019 – Oct 30, 2020	87	5	92
Totals	450	19	469

- 5.72** On the 31 October 2016, new rules came into place which amended the *Self and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015* and implemented Chapter 2 of the *Housing and Planning Act 2016* which places a duty on us to give suitable development permission in respect of enough serviced plots of land to meet the demand (as recorded on the authority's self-build register) for self and custom build plots within the local authority area over a set base period of time.
- 5.73** The first base period of time as set out in the *Housing and Planning Act 2016* is the 6-month period between 31 March 2016 (when we established our self-build register) and 31 October 2016 (the day before Section 10 of the *Housing and Planning Act 2016* came into force). As outlined in the *Self build and Custom housebuilding (time for compliance & fees) Regulations 2016*, we had a period of three years from the end of the base date, up until 31 October 2019 (which falls within the 2019/20 monitoring period) to grant permission for enough plots to meet this need.
- 5.74** Between 31 March 2016 and 31 October 2016 (the first base period), we had a total of 40 entries that had been accepted on its self-build register. As outlined in Table 5.12, within the three-year period (2016-2019) within which we had to permit enough plots of land to meet this need, a total of 78 plots were granted permission for projects which we have confirmed⁴⁰ are for self or custom build developments. This is more than enough permissions for us to meet our duty under the *Housing and Planning Act 2016*. This year however, we have not met the expected target for permitting self-build plots. As a result, we are currently carrying out a review of our self and custom-build processes so as to ensure we are correctly assessing the local need for these types of

⁴⁰ Note: It is possible that some of the single dwellings outlined in Table 5.9 given permission were self-build projects. However, at the time of publication confirmation has not been received from some agents/applicants if this is the case; therefore, the number of plots permitted for self or custom-build developments may be higher than that reported here. We are currently working on a monitoring process to ensure these units are all captured moving forward.

plots and to further consider how we can support the delivery of more plots to meet the needs of those on the register in the future.

Table 5.12: Number of plots permissioned for self or custom-build projects.		
Year	Number of single house permissions granted	Number of plots permitted on developments that are self or custom-build projects
Oct 2016 - Oct 2017	71	8
Oct 2017 – Oct 2018	93	45
Oct 2018 – Oct 2019	54	25
Oct 2019 – Oct 2020	47	16

5.75 To-date, we have aimed to provide assistance in the promotion of self and custom-build developments where possible. This has included Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) providing land for 15 serviced plots at the Atterbury Development in Broughton which were granted outline permission in August 2018 and should be available for purchase and development from 2023 onwards. We are also working with the landowners and developers on the strategic sites of MK East, South East MK and Campbell Park Northside to provide land for plots as per Policy HN5. More information about these sites will become available as the applications for these sites take shape.

Loss of Residential Properties

5.76 Policy HN9 aims to protect the overall housing supply and stop any losses to the Borough's stock. It also looks to safeguard single story dwellings for those with impaired mobility or specific needs. Losses are monitored and published quarterly on our website⁴¹ in the 'Completions by Settlement' spreadsheet. Table 5.13 outlines the losses of property in 2020/21 and shows that there was a gain of 2 dwellings.

Table 5.13: Losses of property in 2020.			
Description of Loss	Month/Year	Losses	Gain
2020			
Demolition of 1 house and erection of 3 new houses, Oakhill Farm, Oakhill	30/06/2020	1	3
Change of Use to hostel, Old Wolverton Road, Old Wolverton	30/06/2020	1	0
Change of Use from flat to training rooms, Stratford Road, Wolverton	30/06/2020	1	0
Sub-division of dwelling and creation of 2 flats, Stony Stratford	31/03/2021	1	2
Conversion of house to 2 dwellings, Old Wolverton	31/03/2021	1	2
Totals		5	7

⁴¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/statistics/housing-statistics>

Gypsies and Travellers

5.77 There are currently 18 pitches for the use of gypsies and travellers in Milton Keynes, these are placed at Calverton Lane (12 pitches) and Willen Road (6 pitches). Policy HN11 identifies the need for a further 19 pitches during the Plan:MK period and allocates sufficient land to deliver this need, including; 4 additional pitches at the existing site at Calverton Lane; 8 new pitches at Newton Leys and a further 7 pitches at the development proposed in South East Milton Keynes. None of these additional pitches have been delivered to-date. We are however in the process of preparing a new Gypsy and Traveller Assessment so as to ascertain an up-to-date understanding of need within the Borough.

Houses in Multiple Occupation

5.78 This is the first year that we have monitored applications for houses in multiple occupation (HMO). All HMO that contain a change of use to Sui Generis must apply for planning permission due to an Article 4 Direction applied to the Milton Keynes area in 2011. Furthermore, from 2018, owners of HMO of 5 or more bedrooms must apply for a licence. Figure 5.8 shows the outcome of how planning applications for HMO's were determined in 2020/21. There were 19 planning applications in total of which only 1 was permitted; 60% of the applications were refused⁴².

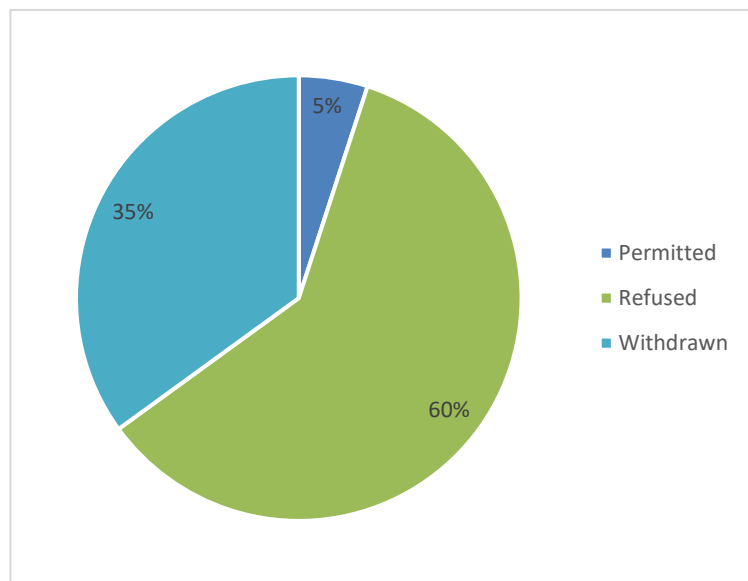


Figure 5.8 Percentage status of applications for HMO in 2020/21

Prior Notifications

5.79 The *Town and Country Planning General Permitted Development Order 2015 (as amended)* allows, subject to specific land designations and prior notification to the local planning authority, the change of use of a building and any land within its curtilage to a use falling within Class C3 (dwelling

⁴² More information about HMO applications is available at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-for-planning/housing-monitoring>

houses) from a Class B1a (office) use. These developments can be anything from small one office to one dwelling conversions, to large office block conversions.

5.80 We were notified of sixteen prior notification schemes during 2020/21, which are outlined in Table 5.14. We have a number of concerns with developments that are delivered through this means: there is no means of assessing them based on the suitability of their location and as such a number are located in areas which are not ideally suitable for residential use; they do not have to comply with minimum living space standards (37m²)⁴³, giving rise to poorly converted very small apartments; they do not have to provide affordable housing and as such do nothing to assist in meeting the affordable housing needs of the Borough; they do not need to provide a mix of housing size thus leading to an abundance of properties which do not match the requirements of the Borough, as can be evidenced by the overwhelming large number of one bed flats approved for development in recent years; and, as they do not need to provide planning obligations they provide no assistance with the delivery of infrastructure and service needs to assist the local area within which they are located. This year, except for Chancery House, we have not had to approve any large-scale conversions. That said, with the confirmation of the Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights in the central business district of Central Milton Keynes and the impact of working from home due to the COVID 19 Pandemic we are expecting a surge in prior approval applications in the first quarter of 2021/22.

Table 5.14: Prior Notifications permitted in 2020/21				
Planning Reference	Settlement	Address	Number of proposed dwellings	Floorspace to be lost by Conversion (sqm) ⁴⁴
20/00226/PANB1C	Wolverton Mill	Unit 30 Walker Avenue	7x 1BF	140
20/00729/PANA1C	Bletchley	5 Woodward House	1x2BF	70
20/00784/PANB1C	Linford Wood	Extra Units Centric MK	4x1BF	0
20/01278/PANAGC	Newport Pagnell	Caldecote Lane	1x2BH	0
20/01358/PANB1C	Wolverton	83 Stratford Road	1x2BH	30
20/02138/PANB1C	Bletchley	130-132 Queensway	1x2BF	65
20/02131/PANA1C	Central Milton Keynes	897 Silbury Boulevard	2x1BF	150
20/02129/PANB1C	Central Milton Keynes	897 Silbury Boulevard	16x1BF	151
20/02242/PANB1C	Newport Pagnell	14 The Green	3x1BF	63
20/02671/PANB1C	Newport Pagnell	14 The Green	2x1BF	104
20/02781/PANB1C	Bletchley	138 Queensway	2x1BF	78
20/02764/PANB1C	Central Milton Keynes	Chancery House (Alternate Plan)	25x1BF 8x2BF	0
20/02727/PANB1C	Central Milton Keynes	Chancery House	21x1BF 8x2BF	2322

⁴³ Government has since announced that as of 6th April 2021 all permitted development schemes will need to meet the nationally described minimum space standards. This will apply to any permitted development scheme for which an application was submitted after the above date.

⁴⁴ Please Note: 0 = Unknown floorspace or superseded Application.

20/03107/PANAGC	Western Underwood	Overbrook House	2x1BH 1x2BH	1793
20/03000/PANB1C	Bletchley	143-145 Queensway	8x1BF	0
21/00191/PANB1C	Newport Pagnell	1 Anchor Court	1x1BF	30
		TOTAL	114 dwellings	4996sqm lost floorspace

Five Year Housing Land Supply

- 5.81** All Local Planning Authorities (LPA) are required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (paragraph 73) to identify and update annually a supply of specific deliverable sites sufficient to provide a minimum of five years' worth of housing.
- 5.82** This is more commonly referred to as the Five-Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS), and our ability to demonstrate a 5YHLS, or not, has implications as to whether the policies of the Development Plan (in this case, Plan:MK) can be awarded full weight for the purposes of decision making. Where an LPA cannot demonstrate a deliverable 5YHLS, the presumption in favour of sustainable development is applied in relation to proposals for residential development.
- 5.83** Ensuring a 5-year supply of deliverable housing land is also one of the targets associated with Strategic Objective 2 of Plan:MK: "To deliver land for a minimum of 26,500 net new homes within the Borough between 2016 and 2031, principally within and adjacent to the city", as outlined in Appendix F "Monitoring Framework" of Plan:MK.
- 5.84** Our housing land supply and ability to demonstrate a 5YHLS was tested in detail during the examination into Plan:MK during the summer of 2018, and the Inspector concluded that, at the date of adoption of Plan:MK, we could demonstrate a 5YHLS.
- 5.85** Since then, we have carried out our annual housing land supply assessment for the subsequent, relevant five-year periods in accordance with the NPPF (2019)⁴⁵. The most recently published assessment of 5YHLS was published in September 2020 and outlines our position for the period 2020/21 – 2024/25. This assessment concluded that we could demonstrate a deliverable housing land supply of 6.02 years. The full assessment report and related evidence documents, including details of how we prepare our annual 5YHLS position can be viewed on our website⁴⁶.
- 5.86** A further updated, 2021 5YHLS assessment report covering the period 2021/22 – 2025/26 is due to be published later in summer 2021. This position will take account of updated evidence, including progress towards delivery of each individual site within our housing supply and, will incorporate consultation/engagement with landowners and developers with site interests within the Borough and with representatives of the wider development industry.

⁴⁵ Plan:MK was examined under the 2012 NPPF, as per the transitional arrangements set out in the 2018 NPPF.

⁴⁶ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/monitoring-data-for-planning/five-year-housing-land-supply>

5YHLS Related Appeals

5.87 No Section 78 appeals challenging our 5YHLS position were lodged during 2020/21. As reported in the 2020 AMR, four such appeals were heard during 2019/20 of which three out of the four, including the two latest which were heard via full planning inquiries (one of which was also a Secretary of State (SoS) decision), concluded that we could demonstrate a deliverable 5YHLS. The conclusions of the SoS and the inspectors of these appeals were taken into consideration when preparing the 2020 5YHLS assessment.

Brownfield Register

5.88 A brownfield register is a list of land that could be suitable for redevelopment, it is a nationally recognised list that has its origins in the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2017 (Reg 4). A developer can access the list to find land to build houses/flats on that may otherwise be overlooked. A brownfield register is split into two parts, part one is the list of sites and part two is any sites that have permission in principle (PIP). The Brownfield Register for Milton Keynes can be found on our website⁴⁷. There are currently 47 sites on the brownfield register for the borough of Milton Keynes; of these there are 18 with no permissions. The list is updated in December every year and published on the website. At this point in time we do not operate a part two of the brownfield register therefore all sites would have to be permissioned through the standard application process.

House Prices

5.89 The overall average property price in Milton Keynes for 2020 was £325,228. According to Rightmove most sales were of detached properties, selling for an average price of £459,806; Semi-detached properties sold for an average of £293,903, with terrace properties fetching £251,132. Overall, sold prices in Milton Keynes over the last year were up 5% on the previous year and 7% up on the 2018 peak of £305,071. For comparison purposes, the average price for property in England and Wales was £328,000, showing the average price in Milton Keynes is slightly cheaper.

⁴⁷ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/brownfield-register-of-land>

Policy Context

- 6.1** Regeneration is identified as a key focus within Plan: MK (2019) and the relevant parts of the plan to regeneration are as follows. Strategic Objective 8 of the plan is ‘support the continued regeneration of Wolverton and Bletchley as town centres within the main urban area (ideally with specialisations or Unique Selling Points (USPs))’. Also, Strategic Objective 10 is ‘to aim to reduce health inequalities and deprivation and improve housing quality and access to services for all’.
- 6.2** In terms of the plan policies, Policy SD16 specifically sets out the principles for development within the Central Bletchley Prospectus Area. Policies DS1, DS2, DS4, HN1 and SC1 partially relate to regeneration programmes and/or projects. Policies DS1 & DS2 note how regeneration schemes may contribute to housing stock provided over the plan period. Policy HN1 sets out the range of net housing densities that development within the Central Bletchley Prospectus Area should achieve. Policy DS4 notes how we will prepare a Central Bletchley Prospectus, to help inform people about development opportunities within the town. Policy SC1 supports the retrofitting of existing buildings and its supporting text notes the opportunities for retrofitting to be a key part of our Regeneration Strategy.

Health and Social Indicators

- 6.3** As noted, strategic objective 10 aims to reduce health inequalities and deprivation, improve housing qualities and increase access to services. Regeneration has a key role to play in these actions, whether it is through making local environments more pleasant to reside in, retrofitting energy inefficient existing housing stock and/or increasing the health and amenity services provision for residents.
- 6.4** As stated in PAMR, according to Public Health England, in 2019 life expectancy was 7.33 years lower for men and 6.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Milton Keynes than in the least deprived areas⁴⁸. It was recognised that the gap between life expectancies for men and women living in different areas of the Borough had decreased between 2018 and 2019. However, the life expectancy for men overall in MK was lower than the UK average in 2019. A comparison of women’s life expectancy for 2019 cannot be made as there was no available data, but it was noted that female life expectancy over the 2016-18 period had increased relative to previous years.
- 6.5** Although it is difficult to determine the extent to which planning policies effected life expectancy in the Borough, it is appreciated that some progress had been made in 2019 and further improvement should continue to be pursued. Future AMRs will review the most up to date data available once it has been released and assess any changes.

⁴⁸ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/static-reports/health-profiles/2019/e06000042.html?area-name=miltonkeynes>

6.6 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) is the official measure of relative deprivation in England as discussed more generally at a borough-wide level in Chapter 3 – Social.

6.7 Tables 6.1 and 6.2 list the 10 least and most deprived Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the Borough as of 2019. Table 6.3 notes how many LSOAs fell into each IMD category. What it shows is that the majority of LSOAs had an IMD between 6 and 10 (less deprived). However, 36.84% of LSOAs had an IMD between 1 and 5. Based on this data, it was concluded that the basis for Strategic Objectives 8 and 10 in Plan:MK were still relevant, and action was required to reduce deprivation in the borough. Whether there has been any improvement since 2019 to the IMD categories of which the boroughs LSOAs are classed under cannot yet be determined as the data from 2019 remains the most up to date that is available. The following paragraphs document our work towards the ongoing aims of Strategic Objectives 8 and 10 in Plan:MK. Further monitoring of IMD statistics will continue to be reviewed in future Annual Monitoring periods as the scheduled regeneration schemes in the borough progress and as new data becomes available.

Table 6.1: Ten most deprived areas in the Borough of Milton Keynes ⁴⁹ .			
LSOA Code (2011)	Area Name	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile (1 = most deprived, 10 = least deprived)	IMD Rank (National)
E01016742	South of Water Eaton, Lakes Estate	1	628
E01016844	Bleak Hall, Redmoor and southern Parts of Beanhill and Eaglestone West	1	651
E01016842	Netherfield and east part of Beanhill	1	1,211
E01016845	North of Netherfield, North of Beanhill & Southern part of Eaglestone	1	1,595
E01016843	South of Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge	1	1,703
E01016811	East, north and south of Fullers Slade	1	2,496

⁴⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

E01016847	West part of Eaglestone West and Leadenhall	1	2,941
E01016744	East part of Water Hall/Lakes Estate	1	3,158
E01016810	East/North of Kiln Farm and Hodge Lea	2	3,304
E01016839	South and East of Greenleys and South of Wolverton	2	3,877

Table 6.2: Ten least deprived areas in the Borough of Milton Keynes⁵⁰.

LSOA Code (2011)	Area Name	Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) Decile (1 = most deprived, 10 = least deprived)	IMD Rank (National)
E01016798	Western edge of Olney & countryside area to north of Olney	10	32,338
E01016826	Old Farm Park	10	32,320
E01016796	North-Central Olney	10	31,175
E01016761	Central and south Hanslope and sections of countryside around Hanslope	10	31,139
E01016767	North Blakelands and Giffard Park	10	30,992
E01016781	Central, south and east of Shenley Church End	10	30,555
E01016816	South & East Kiln Farm and west of Two Mile Ash	10	30,340
E01016776	North Great Holm	10	30,338

⁵⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

E01016792	South Newport Pagnell, adjacent to M1 and A422	10	29,896
E01016736	South Woburn Sands	10	29,607

Table 6.3: Number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes with different IMD values ⁵¹ .	
IMD value	No. of LSOAs in MK
1	8
2	10
3	10
4	15
5	13
6	17
7	22
8	29
9	18
10	10

Council Regeneration Programme

- 6.8** During 2019, work began on drafting a new Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy for the Borough. Following public consultation early in 2020, a final version of the strategy was adopted and can be viewed at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/housing/regeneration-in-milton-keynes>.
- 6.9** Taking account of lessons learnt from progress on the schemes to regenerate the Lakes Estate and Fullers Slade, the new strategy aims to focus on community-led regeneration and renewal and, whilst there is still a commitment to deliver renewal on the seven priority areas identified in the previous regeneration strategy, it is also acknowledged that there are other areas across Milton Keynes that require investment and, as such, the strategy aims to provide an opportunity for local people across Milton Keynes to play a part in improving their area or neighbourhood. The Strategy also sets out the strategic priorities for community-led regeneration and estate renewal will be based around six key themes: Housing, Communities, Environmental Sustainability, Health and Wellbeing, Community Safety and Better jobs and skills. The adoption of the new strategy also shows progress towards meeting Strategic Objective 10 of Plan:MK.
- 6.10** Whilst limited physical work has commenced on the ground at this stage in any of the original seven priority estates, regeneration and renewal projects are underway and progressing in both the Lakes Estate and Fullers Slade, as outlined below. As outlined in the Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy (2020) we also remain committed to delivering renewal on the five remaining 'priority' areas from the previous strategy and it is intended that community engagement will start with these estates first. These estates are Beanhill, Bradville, Coffee Hall, Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge.

⁵¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Further projects to aid regeneration in both Bletchley and Wolverton have also progressed during 2020/21 as further outlined below.

Fullers Slade

6.11 Following the referendum held in Fullers Slade in November 2019, which resulted in the majority of residents voting that the area should undergo a process of regeneration involving new homes, refurbishment works and estate wide improvements, limited progress has been made during 2020/21. Engagement with the local community and residents remains ongoing with the aim of progressing towards a planning application in due course. Monitoring of this project shall continue to allow further appraisal in next years' Annual Monitoring Report.

Lakes Estate

6.12 Following the development of detailed plans to demolish and replace Serpentine Court and deliver new housing and community and commercial spaces, as well as landscaping and transport improvements throughout the Lakes Estate, a hybrid planning application was submitted in April 2020 (20/00942/OUT).

6.13 The application was taken to Development Control Committee in October 2020 where a resolution was passed to grant planning permission subject to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Work on finalising the MoU is still ongoing and as such, to-date, planning permission has not been formally granted. The Council has however given approval for detailed ground investigation work to start and, procurement for contractors to deliver the scheme will also be carried out in 2021, with work on site for Phase A starting in 2022. A business case looking at the best options for delivery of Phase B, for which the current planning permission would only grant Outline permission, is also currently being prepared with assistance from Local Partnerships.

6.14 Furthermore, we have secured close to £1 million of funding to start delivering some of the public realm and landscaping improvement work in advance of the delivery of Phase 1 of the wider scheme. Consultation and engagement work with the local community is currently ongoing to develop the designs for these new public spaces.

6.15 As noted above, when using 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation data, the Lakes Estate features the most deprived LSOA area in the borough. It is therefore positive that the regeneration plans for the area are continuing to move towards delivery and that progress is therefore being made in relation to meeting Strategic Objective 10 of Plan:MK.

Bletchley

6.16 In relation to Strategic Objective 8 and Policy DS4 of Plan:MK, the MK: Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Deal Board was established, with a private sector Chair as per Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) guidance, and tasked with overseeing production of a Town Investment Plan (TIP). The Board met on a number of occasions throughout 2020 to direct

the production and submission of the TIP and indeed, to guide and prepare for the 'next steps' following submission of the Town Deal bid.

- 6.17** In September 2020, £1 million grant funding was secured as part of the Town Deal Accelerated Capital Project opportunity; these monies are being invested in the delivery of new Redway links extending between the Lakes Estate and Bletchley town centre and also in the remediation and demolition of the former Bletchley Fire Station; Milton Keynes Development Partnership completed its acquisition of the former Bletchley Fire Station site in autumn 2020.
- 6.18** The TIP, substantiating a £25 million investment 'ask', and a Town Deal Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) were completed according to programme and submitted to MHCLG on the 30 October 2020. As part of the March 2021 Budget, Government funding of £22.7 million funding was offered towards a range of projects set out in the MK: Bletchley & Fenny Stratford TIP and the associated Heads of Terms were agreed with MHCLG. In March 2021, we also successfully secured £40k capacity funding from MHCLG to support the completion of Town Deal business cases. The next steps over the 2021-2022 period includes the completion of detailed business cases for all projects in the TIP and implementation of Stage 3 of the SEP. In summary, there has been progress towards the target (delivering regeneration opportunities) in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework pertaining to Strategic Objective 8 of Plan:MK and fulfilment of the requirements of Part D in Policy DS4. Although, in 2020 inclusively there was little physical regenerative change in the area.
- 6.19** The original programme for the production of the Central Bletchley Urban Design Framework SPD has slipped due to the impact of Covid-19 - the ability to carry out transport related studies to underpin the SPD work has been significantly impacted - and the focussing of limited internal resource on the Town Deal process. It can be noted that the programme to produce the Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan, which was also referenced in PAMR, has similarly been adversely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. We are now in the process of re-setting the SPD programme with a view to production over the next 12-14 months – confirmation of Council funding for that programme is currently awaited.
- 6.20** A Department for Education investment of £24.1 million has been secured for Bletchley Park Institute of Technology which will provide both full and part-time courses specialising in Digital Technology Pathways. This is discussed further in Chapter 7 – Education.

Wolverton

- 6.21** Whilst there is not a specific programme of regeneration or renewal for Wolverton there are a number of ongoing projects both privately and publicly-led which are aimed at providing renewal to Wolverton, two of which, namely the Agora site and the Railway Works site relate to key policies within the Wolverton Town Centre Neighbourhood Plan, adopted in 2015.
- 6.22** With regards the Railway Works site, Outline permission was granted in December 2017 (15/02030/OUTEIS) for a significant scheme to redevelop the site (which forms a significant part of the northern end of the Town) and provide up to 375 residential units, B1/B2/B8 employment floor

space, a new food store, a new community facility, open space, landscaping and public realm. No subsequent progress has however been made with regards to submission of a REM application and with the Outline permission due to expire in December 2021, it appears highly unlikely that this scheme (which is privately-led) will be delivered in its current, approved form.

6.23 Progress has however been made with regards the Agora Centre - a longstanding large covered market and retail space – located in the centre of the town. Following the grant of Conservation Area Consent, in December 2019, for the demolition of the existing Agora centre building, as reported in the 2020 AMR, an application for FUL planning permission was submitted in December 2020 for the redevelopment of the site and the adjacent car park to provide 115 new homes, a co-housing common house and nine commercial and community units, as well as reinstating part of the original street layout within this area of Wolverton to reconnect elements of the Town previously blocked off by the development of the Agora centre. A resolution to approve the application was subsequently given at Development Control Committee in September 2021. Once finalised and delivered this would represent a significant step towards providing an element of regeneration and renewal to Wolverton Town Centre, as envisaged by the Neighbourhood Plan; also demonstrating considerable progress towards meeting Strategic Objective 8 of Plan:MK with regards to Wolverton.

6.24 A further project is also being progressed by us with regards The Gables, a nine storey block of flats on St Georges Way, built in the 1960's. Due to fire safety concerns with the existing building which has been deemed to not meet current health and safety standards, a delegated decision was taken in December 2020 to agree the demolition and replacement of the building. The existing building is currently being decanted and it is anticipated that demolition work will begin in November 2021. Work is currently being undertaken to develop a replacement scheme on the site that will provide at least the same number of housing units as those which have been lost by demolition; work on replacement new builds is expected to be undertaken between January 2022 and December 2024.

Council Housing Delivery Programme

6.25 Aside from our Regeneration and Estate Renewal Strategy we also have a Council Housing Delivery programme which is underway and, since 2018/19 we have been building new council houses within the urban area of Milton Keynes, in line with Policy DS1 (Settlement Hierarchy) of Plan:MK which allows for new housing to come from selective infill, brownfield and regeneration opportunities.

6.26 During 2018/19 there were 18 new Council houses completed with a further 10 delivered during 2019/20. Whilst no new units were completed in 2020/21 significant progress has been towards delivering a substantial number in the next few years, as outlined below:

- a. As at 1 April 2021 development work has started on the following sites:
 - i. Coltsfoot Place, Conniburrow (18 units)
 - ii. Germander Place, Conniburrow (4 units)
 - iii. Talland Avenue, Fishermead (5 units)
 - iv. Rowlands Close, Bletchley (2 units)

- v. The Laurels, New Bradwell (3 units)
 - vi. Gurnards Avenue, Fishermead (70 temporary modular units).
- b. As at 1 April 2021 the following sites had been granted planning permission with development yet to start:
 - i. Cripps Lodge, Netherfield (66 units) – FUL permission granted and demolition work of the existing buildings on site underway.
- c. As at 1 April 2021 planning applications had been submitted for the following sites and were awaiting determination:
 - i. Glovers Lane, Heelands (6 units)
 - ii. Surrey Road, West Bletchley (4 units)
 - iii. Fern Grove, Lakes Estate (3 units)
 - iv. Berwick Drive, West Bletchley (12 units)
 - v. Walnut Drive, Fenny Stratford (5 units)
 - vi. Carrick Road, Fishermead (8 units)
- d. As at 1 April 2021 planning applications were being finalised for submission for the following sites:
 - i. Kirkstall Place, Oldbrook (13 units)
 - ii. Kellan Drive Site 1, Fishermead (15 units)
 - iii. Kellan Drive Site 2, Fishermead (12 units)

6.27 The delivery of the above units over the next few years will not only assist in increasing the number of affordable houses delivered within the Borough during the Plan:MK period and thus helping to work towards delivering Strategic Objective 11 of Plan:MK, but will also assist in improving housing quality and access for those in need in line with Strategic Objective 10 of Plan:MK.

Economy

- 7.1** Milton Keynes is home to over 14,000 business enterprises covering an array of sectors. The City's highly developed business; financial professional service cluster includes more than 400 head office and financial services companies, with a specialist workforce of more than 22,000 people. With more than 45 million people living within 4.5 hours of Milton Keynes a logistics and distribution hub has arisen with more than 70 companies employing 9,600 workers, or 6% of the City's total workforce⁵².
- 7.2** The development of the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc is becoming increasingly important, especially given the infrastructure and housing investment planned for the area. In addition, Milton Keynes lies along the West Coast Mainline between London and Scotland, providing connections to many of the UK's key economic centres, including London and Birmingham. With connections to the M1, west-coast mainline, coach network and east-west rail links coming in the future, Milton Keynes is best placed to serve business interests and investment.
- 7.3** The Milton Keynes economy (GDP) was worth £14.046 Billion in 2018 and £14.559 Billion in 2019 (provisional) making it the largest economy in the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc. The value of goods and services produced within the borough in 2018 was an impressive £84,784 per worker, the fourth highest of UK cities. The Irwin Mitchell UK Powerhouse reports consistently rank Milton Keynes as one of the top UK cities for both existing and forecast growth in employment and Gross Value Added (GVA).
- 7.4** Policies ER1-ER18 have been designed to protect employment land and help retail provision. These policies set out how planning applications for employment and retail development will be considered and assessed. The monitoring framework, used to assess a policies efficiency, dictates that applications are monitored on a quarterly basis in order to protect employment sites, this allows any trends in loss of land or employment space to be identified.

Employment Space

- 7.5** Planning use classes are the legal framework which determines what a particular property may be used for by its lawful occupants. In England, these are contained within the text of Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 and subsequent amendments. Each type of employment space has a designated use class. These classes state what type of business occupies the site. The categories of use class A are based on the sale of goods (including food and drink) and services, use class B categories are for businesses such as offices, industry and warehousing and distribution. Use class C refers to residential uses including dwelling houses and hotel etc. and use class D is for non-residential institutional uses such as health centres, schools and leisure facilities. In September 2020 two new use classes were introduced that replace some of the older classes. Class E (Commercial, Business and Service) and Class F (Learning, non-residential institutions and

⁵² <https://www.investmiltonkeynes.co.uk/supporting-businesses/sectors/logistics-distribution-in-mk/>

local community) are incorporating bits from Class A and D which are being removed and some of Class B⁵³. These changes come into permanent affect in July 2022.

- 7.6** Table 7.1 shows the change in floor space for employment spaces for the 2019/2020 and 2020/21 financial years. The big winner in the use class in storage and distribution with a whopping 160,101sqm increase in floorspace. This was due to the completion of large warehouses on Magna Park, Eagle Farm North and Snelshall East all of which were occupied straight after completion by the likes of DHL, Parcel Force and H&M. The only section in the B Class to lose floorspace was Office and this was primarily through change of use from office to residential units. The completion of the conversion of Centric MK in Linford Wood, Medina House and Towergate House in CMK have all contributed to the loss. We have enacted an article 4 direction for the central business district area of Central Milton Keynes which comes into effect on the 2 July 2021⁵⁴. The directive will mean that any developer wanting to convert offices to residential dwellings will have to do so via a full planning application and therefore be subject to things such as contributions and affordable housing. For more information on prior notifications please see Chapter 4 Housing. Please see Chapter 4, Housing for more information on Prior Notification applications.

Table 7.1: Floorspace completion data for use class B1-B8 for financial years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Use Class	Gross Internal Floorspace loss (m ²)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gain (m ²)	Net Internal Floorspace Total +/- (m ²)
2019-2020			
B1a – Offices	6,788	25,092	18,304
B1b – Research and Development	0	0	0
B1c – Light Industry	600	4,335	3,735
B2 – General Industry	3,469	6,322	2,853
B8 – Storage and Distribution	31,011	38,465	7,454
2020-2021			
B1a – Offices	23,494	12,796	-10,698
B1b – Research and Development	0	0	0
B1c – Light Industry	680	1869	1,189
B2 – General Industry	3,603	4,918	1,315
B8 – Storage and Distribution	22,249	182,259	160,010
Total	81,771	273,595	173,463

- 7.7** Plan:MK identified a shortfall of land for development for warehousing, to combat this an area of land was allocated between the A5 and Brickhill Street (South Caldecott). An application was received in 2019 and subsequently refused with the decision going to appeal. During the inquiry the appellant submitted plans that were acceptable, and the application was approved. The

⁵³ For more information on use class changes please go to https://lichfields.uk/media/6020/guide-to-changes-to-the-use-classes-order-in-england_july-2020.pdf.

⁵⁴ For more information on the Article 4 Direction please visit <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/article-4-direction>

approval of this outline application means that there will be 179,786sqm of warehouse and ancillary office space made available on site. The developer is yet to submit the reserved matters application.

- 7.8** Large multi-national companies have made Milton Keynes their home and this is actively encouraged but Milton Keynes is also in the top 5 cities for business start-ups. Two developments have been permitted for office space in Linford Wood giving 6759sqm of brand-new workspace when completed. The development of Santander's new Digital Hub next to Milton Keynes Central Railway Station is well underway and is due to be completed in summer 2022. The development consists of 51,227m² of office space and 2172m² space available for retail and leisure facilities.
- 7.9** Figure 7.1 shows the loss and gain of Office space over a 16-year period. The graph shows that there is a general downward trend in the development of office space. This gradual loss is punctuated with spikes of completions for developments such as Wavendon Business Park, The Pinnacle in CMK, 100 Avebury Boulevard in CMK and various other office developments around the borough. With the recent upsurge of conversion applications from office to residential we may find that the downward trend continues for some time.

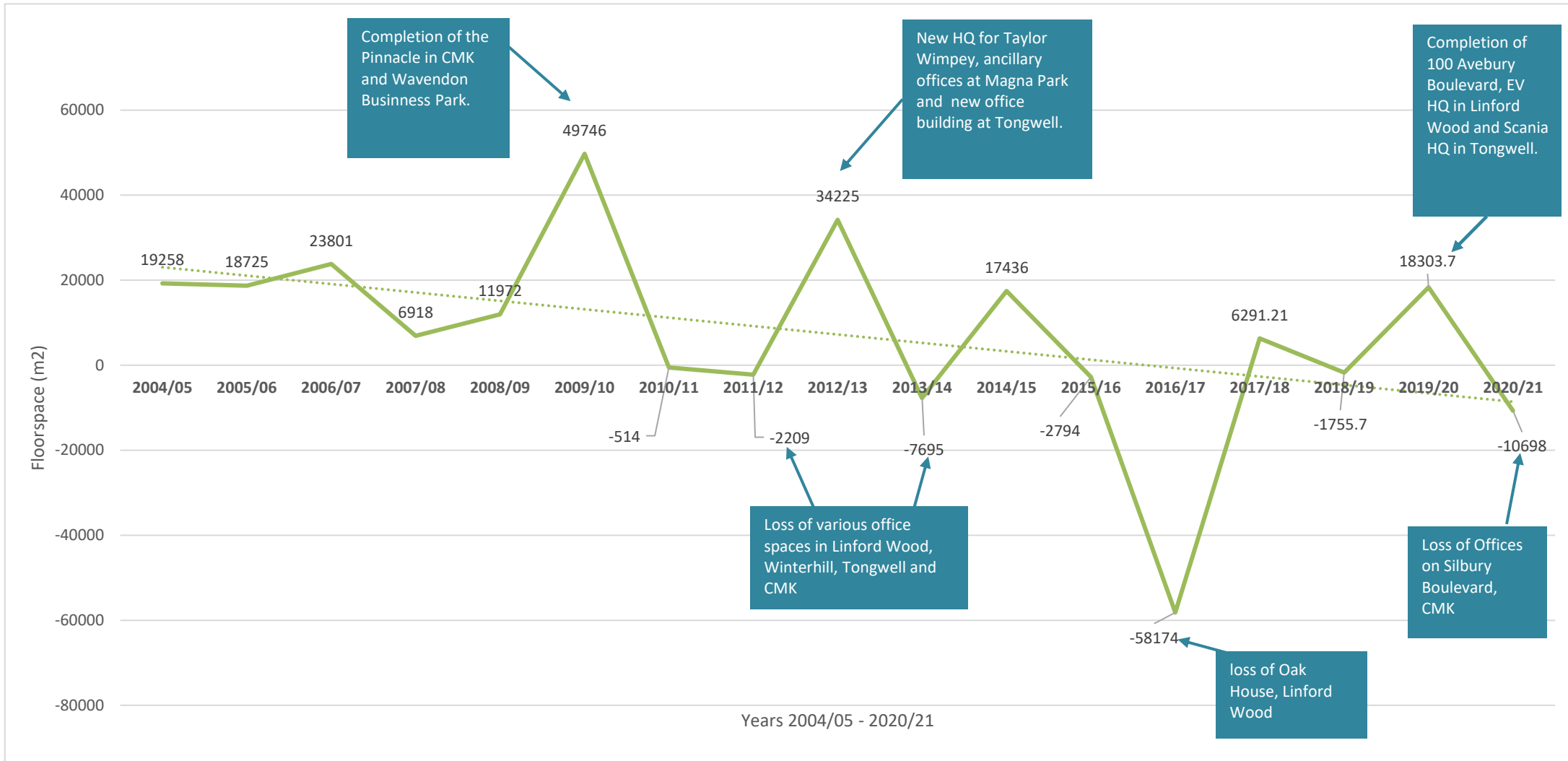


Figure 7.1: Loss and Gain of Office Floorspace from 2004-2021

Retail and Leisure Employment Space

- 7.10** Retail is a big part of Milton Keynes attractiveness with the Centre:MK and Intu marked as a regional shopping destination and the Xscape building the focus of many leisure activities. There are also many smaller shopping areas such as MK:One in Bletchley, the Westcroft and Kingston Local Centres and the high streets of Bletchley, Stony Stratford and Newport Pagnell to name a few, that have a big impact on retail and leisure employment space.
- 7.11** Due to the changes in the Use Class system it has now become easier to change uses between those categories classed as Class E. Monitoring of all our local centres (as defined in Appendix G of Plan:MK) has become very important as changes can now be made that could be detrimental to the idea of a local centre. Site visits to all local centres took place between January and March 2021 with the following results:

Table 7.2: Types of Business in Milton Keynes Local Centres	
Type of Business	Number of Establishments
Beauty Salon	5
Betting Shop	8
Café	10
Community Centre	11
Dog Grooming Salon	2
Drinking Establishment	13
Dry Cleaners	9
Food Retail	61
Gym	6
Hairdressers	35
Hot Food Takeaway	82
Hotel	1
Laundrette	1
Learning	7
Medical	26
MOT Centre	2
Nursery	4
Office	6
Place of Worship	4
Professional & Financial	7
Restaurant	9
Retail	71
Tanning Salon	5
Vacant Unit	23
Total Units	408

- 7.12** There is a vacancy rate of 4.5% in our local centres, which, considering the last 12-18 months have been very hard on retail, is very good. It should also be noted that most of the vacant units were

new units in new local centres such as Brooklands Square. Further work is currently ongoing to carry out similar reviews of the types of business uses currently active in the District and Town Centres; this work is expected to be completed during 2021/22 and will be reported on in the next AMR.

- 7.13** Table 7.3 shows the gain and loss of retail and leisure space for the borough in 2019 and 2020. This sector has been closed in one way or another for the last 12 months due to the COVID 19 pandemic so has seen little in the way of applications. It has however, seen the completion of a new Aldi store in Stantonbury and a new Lidl in Blakelands.

Table 7.3: Floorspace completions for use class A1-A5 and D2 for financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21.			
Use Class	Gross Internal Floorspace loss (m2)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gain (m2)	Net Internal Floorspace Total +/- (m2)
2019-2020			
A1 – Retail	6,207	5,854	-353
A2 – Financial and Professional Services	161	90	-71
A3 – Restaurants and café	1,133	4,802	3669
A4 – Public Houses, Wine Bars and Other Drinking Establishments	1,292	343	-949
A5 – Hot Food Take-away	0	1,919	1,919
D2 – Assembly and Leisure	749	5,947	5,225
2020-2021			
A1 – Retail	5909	5537	-372
A2 – Financial and Professional Services	479	402	-77
A3 – Restaurants and café	1077	1448	371
A4 – Public Houses, Wine Bars and Other Drinking Establishments	960	344	-616
A5 – Hot Food Take-away	0	1811	1811
D2 – Assembly and Leisure	53	3586	3533
Total	18,000	32,083	14,083

- 7.14** Figure 7.2 shows the volatile nature of retail floorspace over the last 16 years. You can clearly see the financial crash of 2008 and you will also notice that most completions have been of food stores.

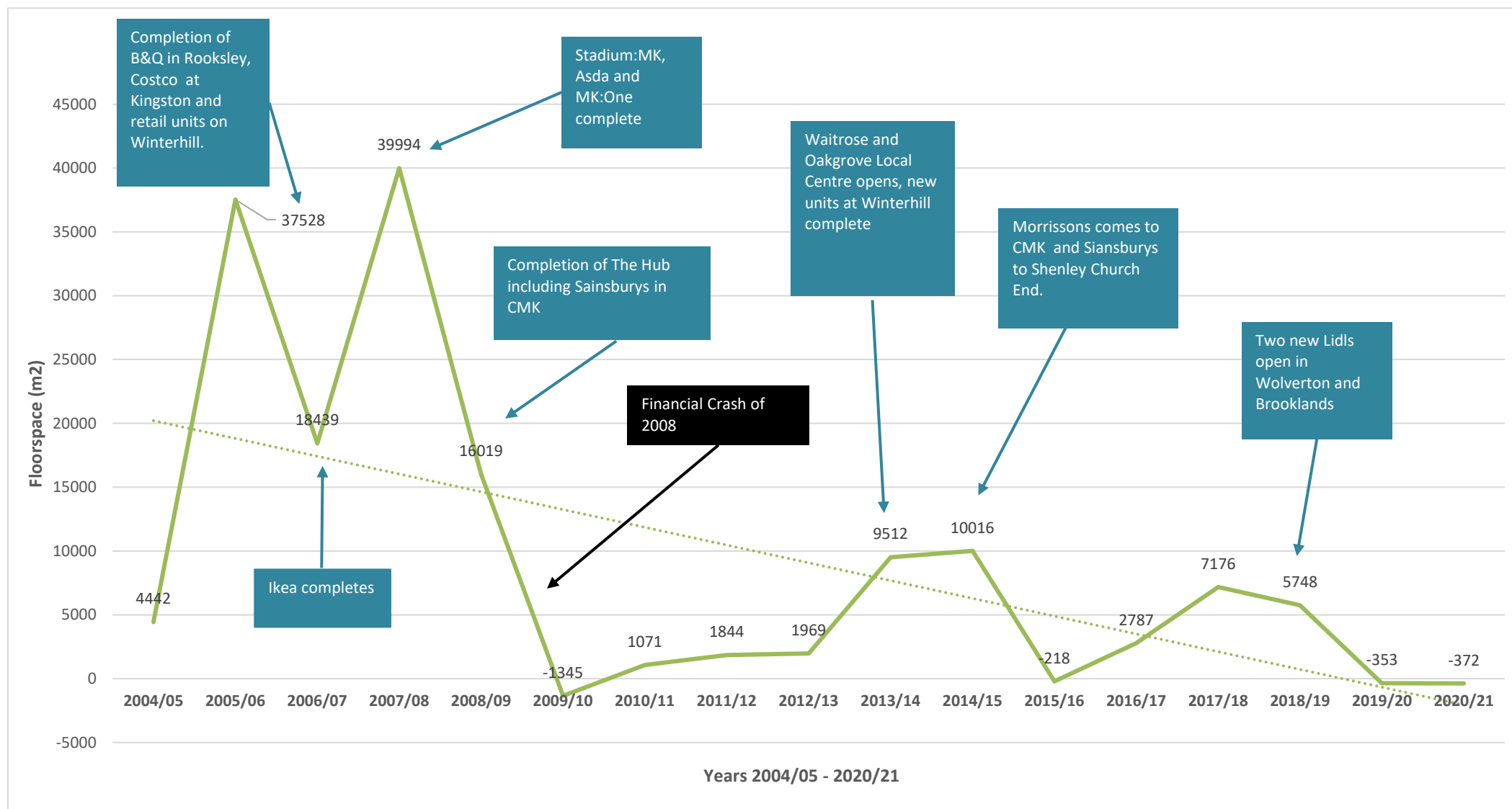


Figure 7.2: Loss and Gain of Retail Floorspace 2004-2021.

Schools and other Non-residential institutions

- 7.15** Lots of schools finished their extensions in the last year but the only major development to complete was the new secondary school at Whitehouse.

Table 7.4: Floorspace completions for use class D1 in financial year 2019/20 and 2020/21			
	Gross Internal Floorspace Loss (m ²)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gained (m ²)	Net Internal Floorspace Total +/- (m ²)
2019-2020			
D1 - Non-residential Institutions	513	4,351	3,838
2020-2021			
D1 - Non-residential Institutions	247	119,314	119,067

- 7.16** The new all through school at Glebe Farm has started construction, there are also several applications for new clinics such as dentists and chiropractors as well as tuition spaces that have been permitted and The University of Bedford has moved into its new home in Exchange House. A future development of a university in Milton Keynes is still in the early stages of plan making. The campus will be a STEM hub with the aim of attracting talented people to the city and in turn the employment to keep them here. The university will be developed over 3 phases which, by completion, will see up to 15,000 students gain higher educational accolades each year.

Hotels, Hospitals and Other Residential Institutions

- 7.17** Applications for residential institutions such as hotels are not received as often as many other types of applications, with the development of Hotel La Tour and the Moxy Hotel in Central Milton Keynes and a permitted application for a new Premier Inn at Willen Lake it is good to see that developers feel that Milton Keynes is a place that people like to stay and play and therefore a good investment for the future⁵⁵.

Table 7.5: Floorspace completions for use class C1 and C2 for financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21			
	Gross Internal Floorspace Lost (m ²)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gained (m ²)	Net Internal Floorspace Total +/- (m ²)
2019-2020			
C1 - Hotels	300	1,289	989
C2 – Residential Institution	0	3,216	3,216
2020-2021			
C1 - Hotels	9250	12182	2932
C2 – Residential Institution	6922	9180	2258

⁵⁵ More information on C2 care home developments can be found in Chapter 4 – Housing.

7.18 Last year also saw the completion of the YMCA in Central Milton Keynes. This incredibly important building has 199 rooms for homeless young people, a café and meeting rooms. It aims to be a community hub for all young people across the Borough.



Figure 7.3 New YMCA Building in CMK



Figure 7.4 New Premier Inn in CMK

General Employment Statistics for Milton Keynes

7.19 According to data collected by Nomisweb (2021) there were 85,700 households in Milton Keynes as of December 2019 broken down to 48,200 working households, 28,400 mixed employment households and 9,100 workless households with a job density of 1.21 jobs per person. Table 7.8 shows the total number of jobs available in Milton Keynes from 2014. There was a peak of jobs in 2016 where the total falls in 2017 and looks to be picking up again with growth in consecutive years from 2017 onwards. This upward trend shows that companies feel Milton Keynes is a good place to create and have a business. However, we are expecting this number to drop dramatically next year as the impact from the pandemic is truly felt within the data.

Table 7.8: Total number of jobs in Milton Keynes from 2014-2019. ⁵⁶						
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Jobs	175,000	189,000	203,000	197,000	198,000	204,000
Jobs Density	1.03	1.11	1.19	1.16	1.17	1.21

7.20 Table 7.9 shows the different skilled occupations in Milton Keynes and is compared to the South East region and Great Britain as a whole. Milton Keynes has fewer skilled trades than both the South East region and Great Britain total percentages and a higher than average number of occupations in sales. All other occupations have similar numbers when compared.

⁵⁶ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp>

Table 7.9: Occupations in Milton Keynes compared to the South East and Great Britain 2020.⁵⁷

Occupation	Milton Keynes Total	Milton Keynes %	South East %	Great Britain %
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	15,400	10.9	12.8	11.5
Professional Occupations	33,200	23.6	23.8	22.8
Associate Prof and Tech Occupations	20,200	14.4	16.8	15.8
Administration and Secretarial Occupations	14,400	10.3	10.6	10
Skilled Trades	9,900	7.1	8.9	9.2
Caring, Leisure and Other Services	12,300	8.7	8.7	8.8
Sales and Customer Service	11,900	8.5	6.2	6.9
Processing Plant and Machine Operatives	7,900	5.6	4.2	5.5
Elementary Occupations	15,500	11	7.8	9.2
	140,700			

7.21 The average wage of workers in Milton Keynes is higher than that of workers in Great Britain (Table 7.10). The average earnings of people in Milton Keynes has dropped quite significantly over the last year (the PAMR reported an average earning on £653 per week in 2019). The South East and Great Britain average earnings have remained stable.

Table 7.10: Average weekly wage of workers in Milton Keynes compared to South East and Great Britain 2020⁵⁸.

	Average Weekly Wage	Average Yearly Wage
Milton Keynes	602.1	31,309
South East Region	608.6	31,647
Great Britain	586.7	30,508

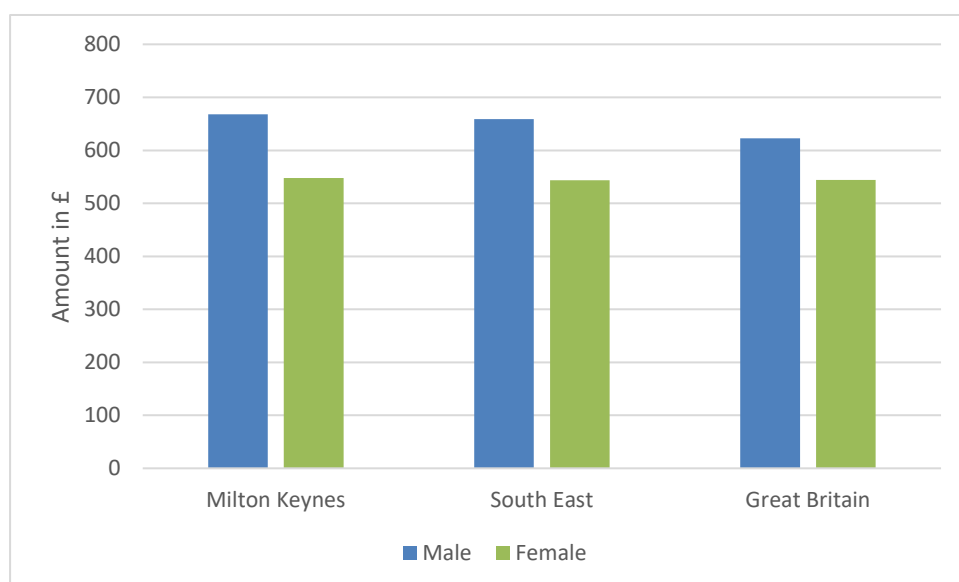


Figure 7.5: Comparison of Average Weekly Wage of Male and Female Workers 2020

⁵⁷ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp>

⁵⁸ <http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?town=miltonkeynes#tabempunemp>

7.22 Using figure 7.5, a comparison can be made of the average earnings of men and women. All three areas show that men (on average) earn more than women, with men in Milton Keynes being paid £120 a week more than women (this is a drop from last year where men earned £175 more than women). The differences in earnings on an annual basis mean that men earn, on average, £6,000 more than women (this is a £4,000 drop from last year).

Unemployment

7.23 Unemployment in Milton Keynes has seen a significant rise over the last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The current unemployment figure as of August 2021 is 5.4% compared with 2.7% in March 2020 and 1.9% in April 2019. The unemployment rate in Milton Keynes is higher than the national rate of 5.2% and the South East Midlands rate of 5.0%.

7.24 Table 7.11 shows the claimant count for Milton Keynes and surrounding areas. There were 9,160 individuals in Milton Keynes claiming Universal Credit who were also classed as out of work in August 2021. With a Claimant Count rate of 5.4%, Milton Keynes is higher than the national rate of 5.2%, higher than the SEMLEP rate of 5.0% and also higher than the regional rate of 4.2%.

Table 7.11: Milton Keynes, Comparators and SEMLEP Claimant Count, August 2021 ⁵⁹ .						
Area	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Bedford	3,510	6.7	2,630	4.9	6,135	5.8
Central Bedfordshire	3,325	3.7	2,620	2.8	5,940	3.3
Luton	6,340	9.1	4,495	7.0	10,835	8.1
Milton Keynes	5,215	6.2	3,945	4.7	9,160	5.4
North Northamptonshire	5,555	5.3	4,135	3.9	9,685	4.5
West Northampton	6,615	5.3	4,880	3.9	11,495	4.6
South East Midlands	30,550	5.8	22,700	4.3	53,250	5.0
South East	135,795	4.8	98,460	3.5	234,255	4.2
United Kingdom	1,286,275	6.2	899,140	4.3	2,185,420	5.2

7.25 For a more in-depth look at the available unemployment statistics we publish a report monthly which can be found on the website⁶⁰. This report highlights the unemployment figures and job availability in Milton Keynes.

7.26 Table 7.12 breaks down the claimant count into wards. In August 2021, there were eight wards within MK with rates above the borough average of 5.4%. Levels of unemployment were highest in the wards of Woughton and Fishermead (9.8%), Bletchley East (8.7%) and Central Milton Keynes (7.5%).

⁵⁹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

⁶⁰ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

Table 7.12: Ward Unemployment in Milton Keynes, August 2021⁶¹.

Area	Total Claimants	
	Number	Rate
Milton Keynes	9,160	5.4
Bletchley East	805	8.7
Bletchley Park	610	6.9
Bletchley West	445	5.3
Bradwell	520	6.6
Broughton	425	3.8
Campbell Park & Old Woughton	415	5.0
Central Milton Keynes	880	7.5
Danesborough & Walton	290	3.6
Loughton & Shenley	330	3.2
Monkston	325	3.6
Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope	190	2.8
Newport Pagnell South	250	3.7
Olney	195	3.0
Shenley Brook End	360	3.9
Stantonbury	645	6.6
Stony Stratford	425	6.3
Tattenhoe	265	3.2
Wolverton	650	6.5
Woughton & Fishermead	1,140	9.8

Future Economy Predictions

- 7.27** Employment projections for Milton Keynes project that recent growth will continue with employment growth of 20% expected by 2050 (pre-COVID-19 figures). According to the Milton Keynes Local Economy Assessment (2019)⁶² sector composition is likely to change over the next 20 years, it is predicted that there will be a rise in professional services, health and care (as a result of an aging population) and computer related activities. Milton Keynes may also see a decline in some sectors including manufacturing, finance and telecoms. These predictions are, however, trend based so may not come to fruition, for example, the number of finance related employment is set to decline but MK has recently attracted investment in this sector from Goldman Sacs and Santander, which will boost jobs.
- 7.28** There are lots of large projects planned that will boost the economy of MK and have a significant impact on future trajectories:
- MK:U – Significant opportunity to influence the skills base in MK. We are working with Cranfield University to develop a new campus in CMK. It is expected that MK:U will focus on courses around technology, including digital, cyber, autonomy, robotics and artificial intelligence.

⁶¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/milton-keynes-labour-market-statistics>

⁶² <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/business/local-economic-assessment-2019>

- b. Santander Tech Hub – State of the art tech centre to support long term growth. To act as the banks UN digital technology hub, which is expected to be home to over 5000 staff. Work is brisk on site and the development is set for a 2022 opening.
- c. Bletchley Institute of Technology – A consortium led by Milton Keynes College, including partners such as Microsoft and City & Guilds. The institute will offer a range of technology and computing courses for students.
- d. New City Place – A partnership between MKDP and Sterling Property Ventures to provide class-leading office and living space in CMK.
- e. The re-development of Saxon Court. A Planning application is imminent.

7.29 The policies in Plan:MK are allowing growth of our economic sector whilst safeguarding business that are already established. There are many sites that are still available in central MK for business to move in to or build on for a bespoke business premises. By encouraging major firms to set up in the borough, Milton Keynes can carry on establishing itself as a centre for business and retail. This will bring employment and population to our growing city allowing it to compete with Birmingham and London as a regional powerhouse.

7.30 The global pandemic has taken its toll on some areas of Milton Keynes Economy however, according to a UK Powerhouse report⁶³ published in November 2020 Milton Keynes is expected to lead the fastest economic recovery in the country. It states that Milton Keynes continues to attract major businesses to the city and highlights the distribution strength driven by online retailing. The report predicts a 9% bounce back in 2021 – faster than all the other 46 towns and cities in the report. The report highlights MK's strong track-record of rapid recovery in times of economic downturn. In the last recession, MK saw a sharp increase in economic growth in 2010, much faster than similar towns and cities of its size.

⁶³ <https://irwinmitchell.turtl.co/story/the-uk-economy-beyond-coronavirus-uk-powerhouse/page/7>

Policy Context

- 8.1** Strategic Objective 1 of Plan:MK (2019) notes how Plan:MK will reflect the recommendations of the MK Futures 2050 Commission Report and the implications of its Six Big Projects, two of which are ‘Enhancing lifelong learning opportunities through the establishment of a new university for Milton Keynes’ and ‘Learning 2050 -providing world class education’. Strategic Objective 6 of Plan:MK outlines how the plan aims ‘to allocate sufficient land to enable greater economic prosperity by improving the local opportunities for learning and to increase the local level of knowledge and skills through the establishment of a new university for Milton Keynes, and support the development of MK College, the University Campus MK and MK:U, Milton Keynes University Hospital and the creation of world class schools’.
- 8.2** Chapter 9 of Plan:MK (Education and Health) sets out the requirement to increase the provision of early years, primary, secondary and post-16 education facilities across the borough during the Plan period.

Further and Higher Education

- 8.3** Provision of a new university in Central Milton Keynes is a key part of targets for Strategic Objectives 1 and 6 set out in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework, as well as the MK Futures 2050 Strategy (that was adopted by the Council in January 2021) and is crucial for the city’s long-term economic competitiveness. Policy EH4 of Plan:MK sets out the principle for the university, stating that:
- “Planning permission will be granted for a new university campus and, if required, the co-location of MK College. This will include student accommodation and ancillary facilities, on site B4 in Central Milton Keynes, as shown on the Policies Map.”*
- 8.4** A MKC Delegated Decision on 03 December 2019 approved the release of additional funding (£4.036million) to allow progress to the next major milestone at the end of March 2020. The December 2019 report highlighted as a key project risk the uncertainty of securing a £100 million government grant and a contingent risk in respect of bank loans. The project worked positively with government officials and completed by March 2020 a full business case (to Treasury Green Book standard) for grant funding but due to the Covid-19 Pandemic this will not now be considered until the government’s Autumn 2021 Spending Review.
- 8.5** In the interim, the MK:U programme has been refocused around a core set of activities. MK:U has been included as a priority project within the Economic Prospectus of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc (published October 2020). Funding has been secured from the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership for an MK:U Accelerator that will begin teaching four degree apprenticeship courses in September 2021 and an Innovation Hub that will open Spring 2022. Both will be based at Bouverie

House in Central Milton Keynes. As such, the project to deliver a new university in Milton Keynes by 2023 (and therefore according with Strategic Objectives 1 and 6 of Plan:MK) is on course, although, funding and timeframe issues have resulted in delays to the main university development on site B4.

Increasing the Capacity of MK's Education System

8.6 Strategic Objective 6 of Plan:MK seeks the creation of world class schools and policies EH1, EH2 and EH3 of Plan: MK reflect the need identified within the plan to secure sufficient early years education, primary and secondary school places, as also noted within the 2019 and 2020 versions of our School Place Planning Forward View document. As identified within Plan: MK, there is a projected shortage of school place provision in a number of areas across the borough. Tables 8.1 and 8.2 show the confirmed and unconfirmed school schemes for new school places.

Table 8.1: Confirmed upcoming school schemes based on 2021 data				
School name	Location	Type	Size	Delivery date
Hanslope Primary School	Hanslope	Expansion	210 additional places	December 2021
TBC	Glebe Farm, Wavendon	New school (all through)	630 primary and 900 secondary places	September 2022
TBC	Calverton Lane, Western Expansion Area	New school (primary)	630 primary places	2023 (TBC)

Table 8.2: Unconfirmed school schemes (based on 2021 data). These schemes are planned but may be subject to planning permission or the statutory consultation process				
School name	Location	Type	Size	Delivery date
TBC	Tickford Fields	New school (primary)	420 primary places	2024 (TBC)
TBC	Eaton Leys	New school (primary)	210 primary places	2024 (TBC)
TBC	South East Milton Keynes	New school (primary 1)	630 primary places	2025 (TBC)
TBC	East of M1	New school (primary 1)	630 primary places	TBC
TBC	South East Milton Keynes	New school (primary 2)	630 primary places	TBC
TBC	Gravesend, Western Expansion Area	New school (primary)	630 primary places	TBC
TBC	South East Milton Keynes	New school (secondary)	1050 secondary places	TBC
TBC	East of M1	New school (secondary)	1500 secondary places	TBC

8.7 Other permitted schemes include construction of a new sixth form lobby at The Radcliffe School (Wolverton) (19/01915/FUL) and construction of a new classroom/dining area at Oakgrove School (Oakgrove) (19/00496/FUL). All confirmed upcoming school schemes listed in PAMR have now been delivered; St Mary's Wavendon CE Primary School, St Mary & St Giles C of E School, and Watling Academy. Considering Strategic Objective 6 and Policies EH1-3 of Plan:MK, it is considered that we have made progress towards increasing the capacity of MK's Educational System.

Increasing the range of qualifications possessed by MK residents

8.8 Strategic Objective 6 of the Monitoring Framework in Appendix F of Plan:MK seeks to monitor socio-economic groupings of the working age population and sets the target of increasing the proportion of the working age population qualified to NVQ2 level & above, and NVQ4 level & above.

8.9 Table 8.3 shows that the percentage of the working age population in MK with NVQ2 level & above qualifications steadily increased each year from 72.6% in 2017 to its peak of 77% in 2020. The percentage of the working age population qualified to NVQ4 & above qualifications rose from 37.4% in 2017 to 39.6% in 2018, then reaching its peak of 43.9% in 2019 and then subsequently declining to 40.7% in 2020. The increase in the proportion of the working age population in MK qualified to NVQ2 & above and NVQ4 and above between 2019 and 2020 might potentially be attributable to the adoption of Plan:MK in 2019. The percentage of MK residents with NVQ4 & above qualifications compared to the national average has shown improvement, increasing from 1% below the national average in 2017 to exceeding the national average by 3.7% in 2019. The national average percentage of the working age population with NVQ4 & above data from 2020 is currently unavailable but it will be assessed in future AMRs once the data becomes available.

Table 8.3: The percentage of MK residents aged 16-64 with NVQ2+ and NVQ4+ qualifications and National Average percentage of the working age population with NVQ4+ qualifications by year ^{64 65}				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
MK % with NVQ2+	72.6	75.6	76.8	77
MK % with NVQ4+	37.4	39.6	43.9	40.7
National Average % with NVQ4+	38.4	39.2	40.2	-

8.10 The Monitoring Framework in Appendix F of Plan:MK does not specifically set out to monitor qualifications achieved by students within the borough at GCSE level, but knowledge of this can aid in understanding the range of qualifications possessed by MK residents on a wider scale. Table 8.4 presents the percentage of MK pupils achieving 9-4 grades in Maths and English at GCSE compared

⁶⁴ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/apsnew>

⁶⁵ <https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all>

to national average. It is evident that the percentage of MK pupils achieving 9-4 grades in Maths and English at GCSE level had recurrently remained below national average between 2017 and 2019. Whilst the national average had gradually increased annually from 64.17% in 2017 to 64.89% in 2019, the statistics for MK fluctuated falling from its peak of 62.6% in 2017 down to 60.3% in 2018 and then raising to 61.51% in 2019.

Table 8.4: The percentage of pupils achieving 9-4 grades in Maths and English at GCSE in Milton Keynes and the National Average by year ⁶⁶			
	2017	2018	2019
MK %	62.6	60.3	61.51
National Average %	64.17	64.4	64.89

8.11 Table 8.5 shows the range of skills infrastructure in the borough and the broad learning level of each facility. As evidenced by Table 8.5, the borough features a range of schools providing students with qualifications and education at a range of levels. The skills infrastructure figures shown in PAMR for primary and secondary schools' infrastructure was inaccurate and cannot be directly compared to the data shown in Table 8.5 below. However, since the PAMR (2019) the only difference to date is the addition one primary school and one secondary school.

Table 8.5: Skills infrastructure in Milton Keynes based on 2019 data	
Level	Infrastructure
Nursey	2
Primary	89 schools
Secondary	12 schools
All Through	2 schools
Other	8 schools, including 6 Special schools
Further Education	15 Further education schools and colleges, including Milton Keynes College
Higher Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> University Campus Milton Keynes (campus of University of Bedfordshire) Open University HQ
In development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new undergraduate university being developed in conjunction with Cranfield University, with a focus on technology. The Institute of Digital Technology at Bletchley Park (developed by a consortium led by Milton Keynes College alongside partners including Microsoft, KPMG, McAfee, Evidence Talks, VWFS).

8.12 As evidenced by Table 8.5, the borough features a range of schools providing students with qualifications and education at a range of levels. The most reliable dataset sought on an annual basis covering the whole of the boroughs' population in this topic area is data from the 2011

⁶⁶ <https://www.centreforcities.org/data-tool/#graph=map&city=show-all>

Census, which, while thorough, is considerably out of date for the purpose of determining 2019 statistics as it relates to a time prior to the adoption of Plan:MK. It clearly therefore cannot allow a direct assessment of the performance of Plan:MK in increasing the range of qualifications held by MK residents. The Census surveys carried out this year in 2021 will provide more data on the borough's status in this area once it becomes available soon.

8.13 Strategic Objective 6 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework also seeks to monitor socio-economic groupings of the working age population. The 2011 Census collected this type of data, however, its relevance to the present day is limited. Gross earnings and GVA per capita statistics are also listed as indicator bundles in the Monitoring Framework, however, these matters are already addressed in chapter 6 (Economy) of this report, so they do not need to be covered again in-depth here. For the purpose of assessing against section 6 of the Monitoring Framework, the data captured in the Economy chapter on these metrics will serve as a benchmark for analysis in future AMRs. Although, briefly, it is noted that Milton Keynes is ranked as one of the top UK cities for existing and forecast growth in employment rates and GVA: a promising outlook. However, analysis in future AMRs will have to be mindful of the potential impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on growth statistics.

Development of MK's Knowledge Industries

8.14 Strategic Objective 6 of the Monitoring Framework in Appendix F of Plan:MK sets a target of increasing the proportion of net additional jobs in knowledge-based industries. Plan:MK defines the knowledge-based economy as "intensive activities that contribute to an accelerated pace of technical and scientific advance, as well as rapid obsolescence. The key component of a knowledge economy is a greater reliance on intellectual capabilities than on physical inputs or natural resources". The Monitoring Framework also sets the target of "Development of the Science and Innovation Habitat (SIH)". However, SIH is not currently an active scheme and so we will not continue to monitor on the development of the SIH per se. However, the development of and innovation of the scientific sector is clearly important for the Borough's continued growth; we will continue to assess progress in these respects through its monitoring of MK's knowledge industries.

8.15 Currently there isn't any data available about the number of jobs within knowledge-based industries in MK. However, the Office of National Statistics (ONS) does provide information about the number of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises within Local Authority areas by sector, including the 'Information & communication' and 'Professional, scientific & technical' sectors. Table 8.6 shows that the number of enterprises in MK's 'Information & communication' sector steadily rose between 2016 and 2019, reaching a peak of 2,515 enterprises in 2019. However, since its peak in 2019 there was a slight decline to 2,500 enterprises in 2020. The number of enterprises in MK's 'Professional, scientific & technical' sector has been less consistent, dipping from 2,445 in 2017 to 2,355 in 2018, then rising to 2,385 in 2019 and falling again to 2,360 in 2020.

Table 8.6: The number of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises within MK by sector ⁶⁷					
Sector	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Information & communication	2,220	2,315	2,390	2,515	2,500
Professional, scientific, technical	2,440	2,445	2,355	2,385	2,360

8.16 Similar to Table 8.6, Table 8.7 shows the most up to date number of employees in MK's 'Information & communication' and 'Professional, scientific & technical' sectors. Data shown in Table 8.6 between the years 2015 and 2019 are rounded figures, unlike the most recently available set of data for 2019 which are the exact figures. The number of employees in 'Information & communication' rose from 12,000 in 2015 to 13,000 in 2016 where it reached its peak. Thereafter the number of employees continued to fall, reaching 10,000 in 2018, but then gradually increased to 11,195 by 2019. The number of employees in 'Professional, scientific & technical' appear to repeatedly rise and fall between 15,000 and 16,000 employees annually between 2015 and 2019.

Table 8.7: The number of employees within MK by sector ⁶⁸					
Sector	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Information & Communication	12,000	13,000	11,000	10,000	11,195
Professional, scientific, technical	15,000	16,000	15,000	16,000	15,080

8.17 In addition to Table 8.7, the most update tot data analysis from Centre for Cities (CfC) think tank notes that in 2018 18.65% of the jobs in Milton Keynes were Knowledge Intensive Business Services. Nationally, this percentage placed MK 7th out of 62 cities across the UK for the proportion of jobs in this sector.

Institute of Technology (IoT)

8.18 A consortium led by MK College to include, Microsoft, McAfee, KPMG, Evidence Talks, Active Learning and Cranfield University secure Department for Education investment of £24.1 million towards the delivery of the South Central Institute of Technology (IoT). The bulk of these monies (£18.1 million) will be used to provide IoT facilities at MK College's Bletchley campus which is located at the heart of the Government's flagship Oxford to Cambridge Arc. The IoT at Bletchley will provide a mixture of full and part-time courses, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) qualifications and apprenticeships, specialising in Digital Technology pathways including Software Development and Programming, Cloud Networking, Cyber Security, Games and Animation and Data & Analytics.

⁶⁷

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessindustryandtrade/business/activitysizeandlocation/datasets/ukbusinessactivitysizeandlocation>

⁶⁸ <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157283/report.aspx?#ld>

8.19 There is substantial evidence of ongoing interest and investment in the knowledge industry in the borough. Accordingly, there are indications that MK's knowledge industry has been growing, but there have been some indications of decline particularly the number of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises in 2020. However, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic may account for some reduced levels of progress. Further monitoring in future AMRs will permit further analysis of Mk's knowledge economy against the benchmark indicators set out above before drawing further conclusions about the effectiveness of Plan:MK policies in facilitating growth in the knowledge industry.

Policy Context

- 9.1** As evident from the Plan:MK Strategic Objectives, transport has a critical role to play in the future growth of the borough. The Strategy for 2050 seeks as one of its seven big ambitions to make it easier for everyone to travel on foot, by bike and with better public transport. Ensuring attractive travel choices by non-car modes will be vital in future to accommodate growth, improve health and reduce carbon emissions. It will also ensure everyone can access and enjoy local opportunities irrespective of whether they have access to a car.
- 9.2** The East-West Rail Project will radically improve east-west connectivity and cement the city at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. This will support population growth and investment, but also act as a catalyst for change and support greater choice of transport modes. Supporting the take-up of electrical vehicles and other initiatives to support shared mobility will also play a role in ensuring we decarbonise our transport system and support transport choices.
- 9.3** Transport is also a key factor in creating attractive and liveable built environments. Getting the balance right between the space for car parking and use, and the space afforded to other modes significantly effects travel behaviour and the quality of the environment.

COVID-19 Impacts

- 9.4** The COVID-19 pandemic has seen unprecedented changes to travel patterns with schools and workplaces closing and an accelerated shift to home working wherever possible. In Milton Keynes, a direct consequence was the sharp reduction in bus ridership which hit a low of 20% during the first lockdown. Annual figures have reduced from 8.4 million to 3.1 million bus trips during the first year of the pandemic. The UTM project to replace traffic lights in Central Milton Keynes was also impacted, but work has now resumed.
- 9.5** The Liftshare car sharing scheme and ModeShift STARS school travel plans did not see any growth and have remained static. Bikeability cycle training saw a large reduction in numbers as COVID-19 restrictions and school closures stopped training for several months.
- 9.6** The local community fridge network was supported by the Food Connect campaign and Hubbub, a local community enterprise to deliver surplus food from retailers to the fridges. Due to the pandemic, people who were shielding or self-isolating could not travel to the fridges. We provided three electric cargo (e-cargo) bikes to Hubbub to enable them to deliver food directly to people's homes.

Public Transport

- 9.7** In terms of public bus transport, total bus ridership (passenger journeys on local bus services, as reported by bus operators) rose from 9 million in 2010/11 to a peak of 10.1 million in 2018/19, before falling to 8.4 million in 2019/20 – prior to COVID-19. Between April 2020 – April 2021, there were a total of 3,089,399 journeys.
- 9.8** The 2019/2020 AMR predicted the decline of bus ridership levels, following the impact of COVID-19. However, the move to MK Connect Demand Responsive Transport; the changes to travel patterns due to COVID and the more ambitious approach to transport as promoted in the new National Bus Strategy mean that over the next few years, the approach taken towards transport in Milton Keynes need re-baselining with Plan:MK Monitoring Framework targets. MK Connect is not restricted to previous timetables or routes and, picks up passengers from their chosen destination to within 400m of their required drop off point when they want to travel.



Figure 9.1 Photograph of Arriva Bus Service in Milton Keynes. Credit: MKC Public Transport Team

- 9.9** Due to changes to the network, there are no longer as many services to and from Milton Keynes University Hospital as there were in the PAMR. It is, however, one of the most popular destinations for MK Connect which has the advantage of being able to drop off directly at the hospital door. This had previously been an issue for the larger, traditional buses and those using them. The MK Connect also makes access to other medical facilities that were not on a bus route easier.

- 9.10** In previous years, statistical analysis has been used to determine the number of dwellings within 400m of a bus stop to determine their accessibility. As MK Connect is integrated into the public transport network, anyone more than 400m from a bus stop has access to the service. In light of this, and a re-evaluation of the approach to public transport infrastructure in Milton Keynes, all bus stops will be reviewed in 2021.
- 9.11** The Autumn 2019 Transport Focus Survey found that Milton Keynes has the worst customer satisfaction scores for the bus network nationally. A much more inclusive and ongoing approach to polling users is being explored, which should offer a larger sample size. It is expected that customer satisfaction will improve over the coming years, given the introduction of an enhanced partnership and bus service implementation plan as mandated by the new National Bus Strategy. This will be reviewed in the 2021/2022 AMR.

Transport Infrastructure

- 9.12** There have been a few changes regarding nationally and regionally significant infrastructure projects from PAMRs'. The proposed Oxford- Cambridge expressway was cancelled in March 2021, after analysis confirmed the proposed benefits of the road would be outweighed by the costs associated with the project. The East West Rail project aims to bring local benefits of cheaper and easier travel and improving jobs and growth in the borough. Construction is underway from Bicester to Bletchley and detailed planning continues for Bletchley to Bedford.
- 9.13** Our Transport Infrastructure Delivery Plan was published in October 2019. The Plan contains a list of interventions needed to support the level of future growth set out within the Plan: MK Vision, such as expanding redway provision in CMK, building a new bus interchange in CMK, and installing new wayfinding signs in the borough. It contains a list of challenges and opportunities, as well as an action plan involving the next steps for taking forward the interventions over the next 15 years.
- 9.14** From 28th May – 13th June 2021, the Highways team took part in the Great British Spring Clean, removing old and broken signs; cleaning dirty road signs and cutting back branches or bushes that were obscuring signs.
- 9.15** During 2020, work on the Urban Traffic Management and Control (UTMC) project was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Phases 1 and 2 of the traffic signal upgrade programme have been completed, which accounts for nine junctions in CMK. Work in 2021 will see Phases 3 and 4 complete. Work on the Super Routes project during 2021 will see the installation of new finger posts along the H6 route and the retro-fitting of the Totems along that same route. This involves removing the glass facia and replacing it with a more durable material.
- 9.16** The provision of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure within the borough is continuing to grow. Milton Keynes has one of the largest electric vehicle charging point networks in the country. Within Milton Keynes there are a total of 285 public charging devices and by summer 2021, there

will be close to 100 public rapid charging devices, giving MK one of the highest number of charging devices per head of population in the United Kingdom.

- 9.17** As part of our Go Ultra Low City programme, the Electric Vehicle Experience Centre (EVEC) opened in Milton Keynes Shopping Centre in summer 2017 and welcomed over 60,000 visitors in its first year of operation. In 2019, the centre has seen continued growth in visitor numbers, with over 70,000 visits. It is the UK's first brand-neutral showroom for electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) providing education and advice on choosing and using ultra low emission vehicles (ULEVs). There are a range of vehicles available to be booked for a 20 minute test drive and for four-day or seven-day loan periods. Sales of new EVs in MK reached a peak in December 2019 with a reported 31% of new car sales being electric. (SMMMT figures). The EV centre is currently showcasing two of our e-cargo bikes, alongside a video loop showing potential uses of the bikes.
- 9.18** Milton Keynes Coachway is the location of one of the UK's largest public electric vehicle charging hub, featuring eight 50 kW POLAR rapid charging points. The site now also includes four IONITY 350 kW charge points (which provide high power charging); these have been installed adjacent to the hub. The charging hub is in addition to the existing 4 lower powered charge points at the Coachway. Further mini hubs have been installed in Monkston, Furzton, Bletchley, CMK and Stony Stratford. A larger multi-point hub will be open in Bletchley in July 2021, and two wireless charging hubs in June 2021 (CMK and Stony Stratford). A further major high-powered hub is planned for the Stadium site (Allego) and BP Pulse launched their new High Power Charging capability at their manufacturing and HQ site in Linford Wood.
- 9.19** Private citizens in MK are also starting to think about installing/ using their own EV supporting infrastructure, as evidenced by the permission 19/01959/FUL, granted in September 2019 for the installation of a solar EV charging carport at a private residence. Although it is noted that this is a lone example, so it did not necessarily require planning consent. We are not currently in a position to monitor such retrofitting measures when they occur.
- 9.20** In terms of redways, work is underway on the development of a Milton Keynes' Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The Department for Transport recommends all local authorities adopt such plans to guide investment in active travel provision. The project identifies improvements in the walking and cycling network and prioritises these, in line with the latest national standards. The project started in early 2020 and is expected to be completed by September 2021. The new LCWIP will be used to secure capital funding for delivery of highest priority schemes while also helping to map longer term network improvements.
- 9.21** Milton Keynes has appointed Enterprise to deliver a car club scheme (a private company run scheme where residents and business have access to a new environmentally friendly car on pay per hour basis). The initiative aims to reduce the number of car ownership within the borough by offering a more sustainable and cost-effective alternative. The project began in 2020 with the planning stage expected to be completed by summer 2021, with cars available to members of the

public around the same time. The contract duration is 4 years, the success of the scheme needs to be monitored on an annual basis.

- 9.22** In 2020 we were successful in a bid to the Energy Saving Trust/ Department for Transport for the eCargo Bike Grant Fund. 21 eCargo bikes were purchased under the scheme. The aim of the project is to support the adoption of eCargo bikes by businesses operating in England, offering a sustainable transport solution for urban deliveries, generating zero emissions and contributing to improved air quality. Three of the eCargo bikes have been allocated a local community enterprise, Hubbub and the Food Connect campaign, supporting the development of a community fridge network around MK, with sustainable last mile delivery of food from retailers to the charity/ community fridges. The business model changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, with deliveries made straight to the homes of people who were isolating and in need of food. Six of the bikes provide a mobility solution for a variety of our services, including cleansing, highway inspections, events, meetings and tree surveys, enabling staff to undertake planned and responsive investigations with zero carbon impact. The remaining twelve are available to business to loan, with a scheme to be launched this year. From January 1st 2021, the six bikes in use have travelled 2000 miles.
- 9.23** In 2020, we took part in E-scooter trials, with around 300 e-scooters available with three transport operators: Lime, Ginger and Spin. E-scooters can be used on Milton Keynes' 250km of redways, as well as on minor estate roads (30mph limit or less).
- 9.24** Liftshare is an initiative which links people who could potentially car share on a work commute. Figures for use of the LiftShare platform are currently static due to COVID-19, although 95 members are registered and 93 of those have added a journey that is available to share. 11 members are confirmed as 'currently sharing' and there are 7 LiftShare teams in total. A feasibility study is currently underway to replace the existing Car Share Permit Scheme with LiftShare.
- 9.25** Utilising the Government's Emergence active travel funding we were able to deliver 320 improved cycle parking provision in Station Square, and over 50 additional cycle racks in a number of other high street locations borough wide in 2020/21. The second round of funding is delivering improvements to the V6 Super Route, the upgrade of Tongwell Lane to redway standard, and a number of redway safety improvements in 2021.
- 9.26** In 2020, part of our Green Recovery Plan invested in green, sustainable transport to support a healthy clean post- COVID-19 recovery. A number of behaviour change projects launched in March 2021. These included:
- Grants for schools and businesses to increase the number of people/students/employees travelling by clean, green and active modes of transport;
 - Grants for schools and businesses to install cycle and scooter parking facilities;
 - eBike experience, providing free short-term e-Bike loans to MK residents;

- Access to bikes schemes- providing free bikes for people who are on low income and have health and social care needs where transport and / or physical activity would improve their lives;
- Reclaim the redways – a series of events on the redways;
- Love to Ride 2021-22 – a series of campaigns to get more people cycling; and,
- Further investment in the Super Routes project, concentrating on the V8 and V6

9.27 Our Bikeability Cycle Training programme has been running for over 10 years, offering a range of cycle training courses for all MK residents of all abilities. Trainee numbers usually increase every year, with last year an exception due to COVID-19.

Table 9.1 Number of people trained on Bikeability Cycle Training in Milton Keynes per year	
Year	Number of people trained
2013 / 14	1003
2014 / 15	1193
2015 / 16	1412
2016 / 17	2221
2017 / 18	2628
2018 / 19	2803
2019 / 20	2800
2020/ 21	542

9.28 The 2020/21 period has seen further development and roll out of the Get Smarter Travel website, providing news and advice on sustainable travel in Milton Keynes. This includes a journey planner and an interactive map. A new rebranding and marketing campaign is expected to expand our audience reach, with social media following expected to reach 5000 from May 2021. The website has been re-launched and rebranded to *Get Around MK*. As of July 2021, website usage is 7.3k per day, over a 28-day period, and the target is to raise this to 9.3k

9.29 Modeshift STARS is a platform used by schools and workplaces to develop, monitor and maintain travel plans and initiatives. Currently, 11% of schools in Milton Keynes have an active travel plan and the target for the 2020-21 academic year is to maintain this, due to COVID restrictions. Following this, the aim is to increase active travel plan usage by six schools per year, to reach 38% of schools over a five year period.

- 9.30** Due to a lack of comprehensive data on recent private transport usage (stemming from a reliance on 2011 Census data on this topic, as noted in ITP’s 2019 MK Mobility and Rapid Transit Study⁶⁹), it is not possible to currently measure the overall modal share of different transport options within the borough, whether it be to and from work, school/university and/or leisure activities. For the same reason, it is not possible to accurately determine current car ownership data. It is therefore not possible to (in this year’s monitoring report at least) determine how (in line with the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework) progress is being made towards Strategic Objective 1 - which aims to meet global carbon reduction targets by achieving a transport modal shift – and Strategic Objective 12 – which aims to achieve the Mobility Strategy target for modal share of school journeys. However, we look forward to the results of the 2021 Census which will provide clarity on the modal share of different transport uses in the Borough. In addition, it is noted that this report does not assess traffic congestion levels in the Borough as required by the Monitoring Framework due to lack of data. The UTMIC project will provide the means to capture data on traffic levels, travel times and congestion levels. Once this project is complete this can inform future monitoring reports.
- 9.31** Notwithstanding this, we have some data on bicycle use and amount of pedestrian travel in the borough. Installation of walking and cycling counters at 10 locations around MK has enabled the recording of pedestrian and cyclist counts. Figure 9.2 shows the cycle and pedestrian counter data from April 2020- March 2021.

⁶⁹ <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/evidence-for-the-strategy-for-2050>

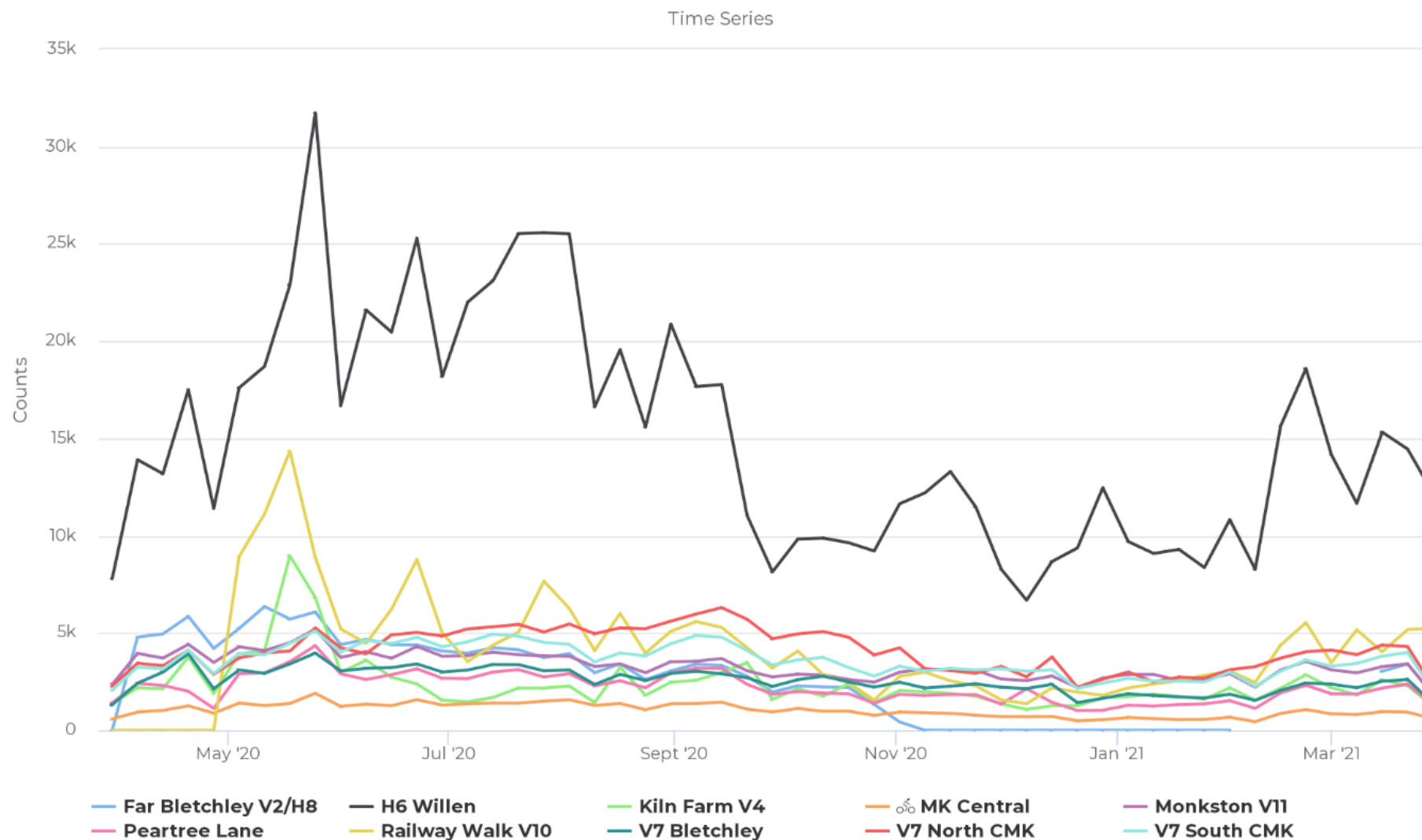


Figure 9.2 - Cycle and pedestrian counter data from April 2020 - March 2021

9.32 The data shows that the most popular route was the H6 at Willen. This counter is located close to a lake which is a popular walking, running and cycling route and likely to have been frequented by local residents taking their daily exercise and walking dogs during the pandemic. The usage pattern shows some seasonal variation to with counts dropping sharply in the coldest months (November-January) at Willen. This pattern was also observed in the previous year, which highlighted the difficulties of encouraging year-round cycling.

9.33 The pattern of peaks and troughs is similar for the other counters, most noticeably so for the V10 Railway Walk which is another popular leisure route. The figures for the MK Central Counter, which records only cyclists have remained steady throughout the year, suggesting that there has been little fluctuation in those who are commuting into central Milton Keynes by bicycle during the pandemic. The low count compared to the previous year also reflects the reduction in commuter numbers cycling to MK Central Station as a result of the move to working from home during the pandemic.

Table 9.2: Comparison of Pedestrian and Cyclist Counts in MK			
	2020-2021	2019-2020	Difference
H6 Willen	796154	546043	250,111
V7 North CMK	216938	381548	-164,610
Railway Walk V10	216074	143536	72,538
V7 South CMK	189619	236372	-46,753
Monkston V11	174395	132821	41,574
V7 Bletchley	134784	149842	-15,058
Kiln Farm V4	125490	113945	11,545
Far Bletchley V2/H8	125375	90760	34,615
Peartree Lane	115294	119712	-4,418
MK Central (cyclists only)	54476	92051	-37,575

9.34 Annual count totals, as outlined in Table 9.2, highlight the huge increase in pedestrian and cyclist counts at the H6 Willen site. Increases can also be seen at the Railway Walk, Monkston, Kiln Farm and Far Bletchley sites (although the Railway Walk and Far Bletchley sites both had periods of downtime due to counter damage so the actual totals will be higher than given here). The Far Bletchley site has seen a marked increase as it was previously the lowest combined counter site and is sited at the South-West corner of the redway network, with poor onward connections to the residential areas of Far Bletchley.

9.35 The V7 South CMK site had the largest decrease which is to be expected given that it is close to the Centre:MK shopping centre which was closed for many months during the pandemic. It is also used as a commuter route into the business district of CMK and the move to working from home will have greatly affected the numbers of pedestrians and cyclists using this route. The dataset is still young and the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is difficult to determine as there is limited data to determine large scale trends prior to the pandemic.

Air Quality

- 9.36** Appendix F (the Monitoring Framework) of Plan:MK notes that a key target of Strategic Objective 12 is to have no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in the borough. The borough has had one AQMA located in Olney, which encompasses all properties fronting Bridge Street, High Street South and including part of the Market Place. Air quality data from 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 shows that the annual mean nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) objective was not exceeded for four years running⁷⁰. Factors affecting year on year changes in NO₂ levels can include the weather, although, improvements in engine technology, particularly introduction of the euro VI engines in HGVs has played a large role. Traffic counts of vehicles passing through Olney have also remained relatively static over this period.
- 9.37** On the 1st April 2021, the formal revocation for the AQMA in Olney came into force, based on data from 2019: the NO₂ Annual Mean Concentration (µg/m³) recorded by the road box automatic monitoring station on High Street South, Olney. Progress is therefore made towards the target in Strategic Objective 12 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework of having no AQMAs in the Borough.
- 9.38** Moreover, it is noted that failure to meet Local Transport Plan objectives resulting in increased CO₂ emissions from transport is a 'risk' outlined in section 13 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework. However, following DEFRA requirements, the Air Quality ASR does not report on CO₂ emissions levels in the Borough. Due to the lack of air quality monitoring stations covering the whole borough, it is difficult to monitor CO₂ emissions from transport. Monitoring of NO₂, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5} and SO₂ levels will continue to be a proxy for transport use in the Borough as outlined above; next year's AMR and Air Quality ASR will provide further data on levels of these pollutants.

Broadband Connectivity

- 9.39** Contained within Chapter 8 of Plan:MK is Policy CT9 (Digital Communications) which sets out how we wish to see all premises on all new developments served by digital communication services that provide at least super-fast broadband speeds. Aside from its Development Management function where policy CT9 is used to ensure new developments are digitally connected, we have been involved in several projects undertaken to improve broadband coverage in the borough. The first of which is the central government initiated Building Digital UK Broadband Delivery (BDUK) project.
- 9.40** There have been three phases to the BDUK project. Phase 1 carried out work between 2014 and 2016 to extend fibre coverage (providing Superfast broadband) to approximately 97% of premises in the borough. Phase 2 carried out works between 2016 and 2018 to provide coverage to around 98% of the borough. Phase 3 is now complete and has increased coverage to around 99.1% of homes and businesses in Milton Keynes

⁷⁰ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-trading-standards/pollution/local-air-quality-management>

- 9.41** Another ongoing project, started in 2018, is involvement in the ‘CityFibre: Gigabit City’ project. The scheme is worth at least £42 million and will deliver Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) broadband provision in the more urban areas of the borough. We act as a facilitator of the works over the delivery period which will now run to 2022. The new FTTP network will serve as an extension to the existing 160km full fibre Openreach network which has also been recently extended to cover the Olney area. Through these commercial and subsidised deployments almost all homes and businesses in the borough will eventually have FTTP access. Under the City Fibre, BDUK and further Openreach commercial deployments, 87% of premises can now order a full fibre “ultrafast” broadband service with some additional properties likely to benefit from the Government’s “Project Gigabit” programme from 2022 onwards.
- 9.42** We are also leading the ‘MK: 5G Connecting Communities Testbed’ project, in conjunction with a consortium of partners including BT, Huawei, Satellite Applications Catapult and The Open University. The project is funded by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) and the Local Growth Fund. It aims to deploy a research and development focused 5G infrastructure network across key sites in MK, with the aim of speeding digital links between people and infrastructure across the borough. These sites include the Stadium, Bletchley and CMK rail stations, the Hospital, university campuses, key junctions on the M1 and a number of rural communities. As these projects are ongoing it is not possible to report on their results. However, their status will be checked within the next AMR.

Nationally and Regionally Significant Infrastructure

- 9.43** Strategic Objective 3 of Plan:MK seeks to ‘support development along the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford growth corridor in accordance with our preferred route for the planned East-West Expressway. In March 2021 the Transport Secretary announced the cancellation of the expressway after analysis confirmed the project was no cost effective. We will now work with England’s Economic Heartland as the subnational transport body for our region, the Department for Transport and Highways England to identify what transport improvements are required to support future growth in the absence of the expressway.

East-West Rail

- 9.44** East West Rail is a major railway project which aims to deliver transport connections for communities between Oxford and Cambridge, serving Milton Keynes. Work on the project involves; upgrading an existing section of railway between Oxford and Bicester (current), bringing back a section of railway between Bicester and Bletchley, refurbishing existing railway between Bletchley and Bedford, and building brand new railway infrastructure between Bedford and Cambridge. Continued work will be introduced in three connection stages with connection stages 1 and 2 most relevant to Milton Keynes.
- 9.45** Connection Stage 1 (Oxford to Bletchley / Milton Keynes) involves Milton Keynes Council transport, planning and highways officers working in partnership with Network Rail on the delivery of the Bletchley Flyover refurbishment works. This is one of the most significant and complex elements of

the East West Rail project, bringing the structure up to modern standards and ensuring it is structurally sound for the next 120 years. Works on the Bletchley Flyover started in August 2019 and are due to finish in spring 2022.

- 9.46** Connection Stage 2 (Oxford to Bedford) builds on the work being completed in Connection Stage 1 and will extend East West Rail services from Oxford to Bedford. East West Rail released a non-statutory consultation in March 2021, which covers Bletchley and the Marston Vale Line, and includes several service and infrastructure options and concepts for this section of the line. Most relevant to Milton Keynes as part of these options and concepts is the improvements to Bletchley station, relocation of Woburn Sands Station as well as the potential closure of Fenny Stratford and Bow Brickhill stations. Also included in the consultation are options for all level crossings on the route to close. The council has raised a number of concerns to these proposals in its consultation response and, will be working with East West Rail Company as it develops these further. A statutory consultation with further details is due to take place around mid-2022.
- 9.47** EWR Company are actively developing plans for a new eastern entrance at Bletchley Station as part of its works on Connection Stage 2. Council officers are working with them as part of this and, are developing plans for the wider area to improve access to this entrance and take advantage of the rail project to be a catalyst for change in the town.

A421 Dualling

- 9.48** The A421 dualling project completed in late 2020. This improved the link between Eagle Farm/Magna Park (on the east side of the city) and Junction 13 of the M1, reducing congestion and supporting future growth.
- 9.49** Considering the above, work is clearly progressing to realise the Borough's place at the centre of the Ox-Cam growth arc, in line with the indicators and actions outlined for Strategic Objectives 1 and 3 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework. We are also assisting delivering East West Rail services to Oxford and Aylesbury by 2023/2024 – a target of Strategic Objective 12 of the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework. However, these are very much ongoing processes and ones that we will be able to report further on in next year's Authority Monitoring Report. In addition, given the young age of Plan:MK and lack of monitoring data about development permitted whilst it has been adopted, it is not possible at this stage to make definitive conclusions about whether any of the actions and contingencies (outlined in the Monitoring Framework) related to the Strategic Objectives at the start of this chapter need to be initiated.

Policy Context

- 10.1** Strategic Objective 15 of Plan:MK is “to protect, maintain and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of the Borough, including its linear parks, character and assets of the New City and the towns and villages throughout the Borough, and to protect and maintain the open countryside in the Borough”. Chapter 13 of the Plan addresses ‘Heritage’, setting out how we will meet the NPPF’s requirement for a ‘positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment’, whilst Policy HE1 of Plan:MK sets out the circumstances in which developments involving heritage assets will be acceptable. Section 15 in the Monitoring Framework in Appendix F of the Plan identifies the targets, indicator bundles, risks and events to consider when determining whether Strategic Objective 15 is being met.
- 10.2** Strategic Objective 15 of the Monitoring Framework identifies ‘Complete and Publish a Local List’ as a target for the plan period. The Conservation and Archaeology Team were successful in a funding bid responding to the Government’s call for new and expanded local lists. The team were awarded £32K to complete the New Town Heritage Register. The project is currently on hold during the COVID-19 period, key decisions on the project and its timetable are to be made in September 2021.

Heritage at Risk Register

- 10.3** Strategic Objective 15 of the Monitoring Framework identifies ‘Complete and publish a Heritage Risk Register’ as a target for the plan period; this target is complete. The Heritage at Risk Register – for heritage assets at risk of decay and/or total loss - was first produced by the Conservation and Archaeology Team and published in June 2018. Work to update the register took place during 2019, with publication of the updated register in January 2021. The January 2021 version of the register lists 31 heritage assets that are at risk (38 in the previous year).
- 10.4** Each asset is assigned a risk rating, reflecting the varying degrees of risk of further degradation to the asset, ranging from ‘A - immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric; no solution agreed’ through to ‘F – repair scheme in progress and (where applicable) end use or user identified; functionally redundant buildings with new use agreed but not yet implemented’.
- 10.5** Work continues to decrease the level of identified risk at each of these buildings with the aim of removing them from the Heritage at Risk Register. Movement from A towards F on this scale indicates successful progress of cases towards no longer being at risk and no longer requiring inclusion on the Heritage at Risk Register.
- 10.6** In addition to the 7 assets reported to be removed in the previous AMR, Rectory Farm, School Lane Loughton has been removed from the register in 2020. Other assets have works completed within the period that affect their rating (see table below). Items at category F are at minimal risk and will be considered for removal within the next review cycle

Heritage Assets at reduced risk on the Heritage at Risk Register (From January 2020 January 2021).			
Asset Name & Location	Designation	January 2020 Risk	January 2021 Risk
G Block, Bletchley Park	Conservation Area	C	E
Farmhouse at Bradwell Abbey	Grade II Listed Building & Scheduled Ancient Monument	E	F
Longueville Court, Old Wolverton	Grade II Listed Building	C	F

- 10.7** Other schemes have repair schemes underway. Work to the former Salmons and Aston Martin works site in Newport Pagnell began in 2020 following the grant of planning permission. These works are nearing completion will allow their removal from the register.



Figure 10.1 Works to the three former Salmons & Aston Martin works buildings, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell. Credit: Simon Peart, MKC Conservation & Archaeology Team

- 10.8** Within the past year listed building consent and planning permission has been granted on No.5 The Green, Woughton on the Green, following a series of pre-application discussions with officers and earlier refusals. No.5 is considered to be amongst the three most at risk assets on the register. 51 Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell is also considered to be in this group, it has recently had listed building consent and planning permission refused for a redevelopment scheme.
- 10.9** A new format register will be published in August 2021, then yearly afterwards, with a separate document to show those assets removed. It is hoped that this will help provide a regular update on those assets at risk and the positive intervention work by the Conservation and Archaeology Team/MKC to ensure that they are no longer at risk. Removal of these assets from the Register is a positive indicator as per the Monitoring Framework.

New Town Heritage Explorers

10.10 In 2019, MKC and its partner Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre (MKCDC) secured National Lottery Heritage Fund investment, thanks to National Lottery players, for a pioneering New Town Heritage Explorers (NTHE) project in Milton Keynes. As a significant part of our wider Cultural and Creative Strategy 'Design City' Programme focussed on Milton Keynes New Town design heritage USP, this project has brought a step change in active learning, volunteering, flagship events and public programme activities focussed on our New Town heritage. The project has:

- Animated and profiled the New Town Heritage Register a new local list detailing the heritage character and contemporary value of Milton Keynes, delivering a model for celebrating and safeguarding modernist heritage for other New Towns across the UK and Europe;
- Developed existing and new audiences through events and volunteering activities arising from the development of a New Town Heritage Toolkit, to help residents and community groups profile and characterise the unique design heritage of their local area;
- Engaged young people in exploring New Town heritage in proposed Regeneration areas and embedded skills and knowledge to allow them to take part in decisions about their future;
- Supported the MK Heritage Open Days and *A Festival of Creative Urban Living* programmes to showcase this Design City heritage nationally and internationally.

The project recorded in last year's report the exciting exhibitions work with organisations representing the African and Caribbean heritage and cultural history within Milton Keynes. All new towns are built on migration and Milton Keynes is no exception and being able to explore and celebrate that incoming heritage is so important to a new town project.

10.11 This past year 2020-21 has been a challenge principally because COVID-19 and the global pandemic saw a reduction of planned in-person activities and an emergency shift to taking the project online. Throughout Summer and Christmas 2020, children, families, and adults were invited to take part in a series on Online Video Activities, run through the Council's You Tube Channel and posting their 'creations' on Twitter and Facebook.



Figure 10.2 Online YouTube Video Stills for 'MK2050 City in a Box' Activity, created by project

- 10.12** This online activity proved very popular on social media with Culture MK's Twitter and Facebook followers increasing each month and good numbers accessing the You Tube heritage playlist. However the actual responses posted were very small, possibly because the pandemic was creating such a shift in working and school life, plus the project was competing with other more established organisations all delivering online content.
- 10.13** However, as schools slowly return to normal, the six online activities have begun to be used by MK City Discovery Centre in their educational activities and also by MK Academy as part of the final phase of the project running from April – June 2021. Working with the project team, Year 7s and 12s are currently (May 2021) working with artists and a filmmaker to explore their local area through a series of mini walking trails which will form part of a school exhibition and combine with information from a Netherfield Residents walk into a new, digital 'MK Trail' for the area.
- 10.14** Fortunately for the NTHE project, 2020 was not completely lost to in-person activity as the annual Heritage Open Days was able to make an appearance, albeit with strict COVID-19 Guidance, limited numbers, and social distancing in place at all venues. Living Archive MK, who manage the event on behalf of MK Council did a fantastic job organising 84 events, many of them online which attracted

3,630 visitors with a third of those online viewers. By comparison HODs 2019 had 150 events attracting 17,401 visitors, showing the real impact COVID-19 had on the annual event.

- 10.15** Along with the usual and fascinating offer of Museums, heritage sites and walks, MK Council and its partners were able to offer several New Town walks and cycle rides over the 10 days which were both well received and well attended.
- 10.16** Highlights included Tim Skelton of MK Forum taking people on a walk around the grid square of Two-Mile Ash to see the architecture, design character and identity created by placing of housing, schools, shops, and green spaces in a conscious layout for the area.
- 10.17** Tim also led a tour of the gardens of Central Milton Keynes, which through up some surprisingly well-hidden spaces within the city centre. And Nicky Kenny, the co-ordinator for the Pilgrim Trail project, a trail connecting medieval routes through a modern new town landscape, also ran walks and a cycle ride to promote this project too.

UK New Towns Day 2021

- 10.18** The UK New Towns Day event was first held on 23rd January 2017 as part of the city's 50th birthday celebrations and this was the fourth time the event was held, the first time online as part of the Homeworld 40 Programme (see below). It is the council's annual commitment to the UK New Town Networks programme as well as supporting the International New Town Day run by the International new Town Institute each year.
- 10.19** The event gives Milton Keynes and other invited new towns the opportunity to demonstrate the excellence and/or model value of projects, plans and developments that have been happening or which are planned within New Towns, and how heritage and culture are driving growth, regeneration, change or 'new town reinvention' in our respective places.
- 10.20** This year the theme was 'Heritage and Cultural and Creative Practice' and MK Council was partnered by the local Creative Agency Pooleyville who presented their latest work around the innovative Saxon Court 'Gateway' development. Contributions from **Basildon, Harlow** and **Stevenage** were also on the programme to show how each town, no longer new, is looking to reinvent themselves. The keynote presentation from Alison Davies from the **University of Nottingham** presented 'Hopeworld' and students ideas drawn from the inspiration of Homeworld on what future housing might look like. This will be exhibition in Milton Keynes later in 2021.

Homeworld 40: Heritage and Future Events

- 10.21** In May 1981, over 150,000 people paid to visit Homeworld - the first of three international housing exhibitions held in Milton Keynes (Energyworld in 1986 and Futureworld in 1992 followed). Set against the backdrop of the Oil Crisis of the 70's and the growing Environmental Movement, the criteria for exhibiting at Homeworld '81 was energy conservation.
- 10.22** Thirty-six homes were designed and built in Bradwell Common, a short walk from Central Milton Keynes, by an international group of developers and architects which included celebrated New Zealand Architect Roger Walker's only building in the UK, the *World House*. Ranging from studio

starter homes to large five bed detached houses, Homeworld incorporated innovative building techniques as well as internal features such as alternative heating systems and energy saving appliances. Homeworld 81 laid the groundwork and standards for what has now becoming commonplace in many of today's homes.

- 10.23** The Sunday Times, Ideal Home Magazine and the BBC's Money Programme – which monitored the energy efficiency of Superhomes' *Future House 2000* for a year after it was built – also supported the project and help to drive visitors from across the UK to Milton Keynes.
- 10.24** As we now search for new innovative, cost effective and ingenious ways to redesign our homes for 21st century living and working, Homeworld and its lessons are as relevant today as they were in 1981. This has seen MK Council and its partners develop a 40th Anniversary 'Heritage' programme for May 2021 and a 'Future' programme in September 2021.
- 10.25** Between 4-16 May, Living Archive MK, Pooleyville and MK Council supported the delivery of Homeworld 40 an online programme of talks, screenings, events and activities celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Homeworld 1981.
- 10.26** This free online programme of six events was extremely well attended and explored innovation then and how it relates to Milton Keynes now, with its aspirations to become the UK's first carbon neutral city by 2030, and carbon negative by 2050. Week 1 celebrated the significance of Homeworld through its archive documents, photographs and oral histories and enable the partners to collate and make accessible some collections for the first time through a Digital trail on MK Trails and a new Documentary Film on Vimeo.
- 10.27** Week 2 talks explored the relevance to Milton Keynes now and the steps needed to look at energy, decarbonisation, and greener homes to begin to address climate change. Discussion was robust and offered insights to themes for Homeworld Future which is currently being planned to take place in September 2021 with in-person activities and a focus on youth and the next generation of voices for the city.



Figure 10.3 - World House (architect Roger Walker). Image: Andy Stagg / MK Council.

Bradwell Abbey

- 10.28** Bradwell Abbey is one of Milton Keynes most significant and extensive heritage sites and has been the subject of an extensive restoration and modernisation programme for several years. In last year's review, the completion of priority works to the 14th Century Pilgrim Chapel was reported thanks in part to a substantial Heritage at Risk grant of £257,000 from Historic England, which match funded MK Council funding and enabled the latter to focus on other important parts of the site. The project is led by MKC Built Assets working with ModPlan, supported by the Culture, Conservation and Archaeology teams and by our partner MKCDC who manage the site on its behalf, making the heritage and grounds accessible to the public.
- 10.29** This year has been challenging, principally with COVID-19 causing up to 8 weeks of delays on site exacerbated by ensuring the protection of Bats and Great Crested Newts at certain times of the year. Additionally, the works have discovered some parts to the site were in worse condition than previously thought and additional funds have been made available by the Council to ensure this site is brought back to full use and secured for future generations.
- 10.30** MK Council has committed almost double the funds originally planned, leading to a project of £1.5M, showing its commitment to and value of this nationally significant heritage.
- 10.31** Adding to the cost, but in a positive way has been the wealth and importance of archaeological finds found during the works. Exciting discoveries principally in the Farmhouse in terms of medieval decorated stone, (see above) wall paintings and other medieval features means that alongside earlier finds, MK City Discovery Centre will have even more content for the Bradwell Abbey Medieval Interpretation Centre when it opens in 2022. The project is earmarked for

completion in late September 2021, with the minor works on the remainder of the site planned to be completed by April 2022.



Figure 10.4 - Decorated stone found hidden in wall during works at Bradwell Abbey – Photo MK Council

Development Management

10.32 The Conservation & Archaeology Team received 950 planning consultations from the Development Management Team during 20/21.

10.33 During August 2020 the Senior Archaeological Officer took part in an online planning public inquiry (Ref: APP/Y0435/W/20/3251121) concerning a refused application for outline permission to construct a warehousing and distribution site at South Caldecotte, Bow Brickhill. The application was initially refused as it would lead to the loss of regionally significant archaeological remains comprising a Roman road and adjacent plots and possible structures relating to the nearby scheduled monument of the small Roman town and fort of Magiovinium. During the course of the inquiry the appellant negotiated a new scheme preserving in situ the most significant remains within public open space as part of a revised layout. The revised scheme was put before the inspector and ultimately the appeal was allowed with the appellant paying the majority of the Council's legal fees. This positive outcome led to officers being singled out for praise by the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Peter Marland at Septembers Full Council meeting.

10.34 The Bicycle Wall Mural, Stantonbury, has been taken down tile-by-tile and re-erected in a different position within the same site, as part of a comprehensive redevelopment of the local centre into a supermarket. The mural is a substantial piece created by John Watson and fired at the local school, Stantonbury Campus, during the late 1970's. Such 'community artworks' were part of the creation of the new-town aimed at creating a sense of place and identity, often involving the community in their creation, as such the mural is considered a 'non-designated heritage asset'. Conservation officers spent a significant amount of time working with stakeholders (MK Forum) and the applicant (Aldi) to negotiate and secure the exact specification of the dismantling and re-erection, ensuring its success. A scheme of conservation works and repair was required, carried out by tile

conservators (including Kirsten Ramsay from BBC's 'Repair Shop' programme) to ensure its ongoing preservation.



Figure 10.5 Re-erected Stantonbury Bicycle Wall Mural prior to installation of railings and landscaping. Credit: Simon Peart, MKC Conservation & Archaeology Team

10.35 Construction of the 15 storey Hotel la Tour in central Milton Keynes (CMK) began. The development is within the setting of The Shopping Building and Campbell Park (both grade II designated heritage assets). Conservation Officers were involved in the discharge of external materials.



Figure 10.6 Hotel La Tour under construction (final façade finish to be stainless steel). Credit: Simon Peart, MKC Conservation & Archaeology Team

New National Heritage Listings

- 10.36** One site was added to the National Heritage List for England (NHLE): Campbell Park in Central Milton Keynes was designated as a Grade II Registered Park and Garden in August, the first national designation of a Milton Keynes New Town designed landscape.
- 10.37** The designation report states that the park survives little altered from the masterplan of 1980 and has both historic and design interest alongside the group value it has with the Shopping Building and Central Library (both grade II listed buildings) The report states that: *'the park is one of the largest to be laid out in England in the C20 and C21 and takes influences from C18 and C19 landscapes and fuses them into a contemporary design... the design respects the natural landscape and the industrial archaeology of the Grand Union Canal, but also forms a point of transfer between the city centre built on a grid pattern and the wide, natural landscape beyond... the design is representative of the pioneering spirit of Milton Keynes'*.

NHLE record here: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/listentry/1467405>



Figure 10.7 Campbell Park, Grade II Registered Park and Garden. Credit: Simon Peart, MKC Conservation & Archaeology Team

- 10.38** Two buildings, Station House (Milton Keynes Central Station) and the Point Multiplex Cinema, were granted of certificate of immunity (COI) from listing by Historic England. Both buildings had previously been turned down for national statutory listing.

Conservation Areas

- 10.39** The Council is continuing to review its 27 Conservation Areas. During 2020, three more reviews were completed and adopted for Bletchley, Willen and Stony Stratford Conservation Areas. Woughton on the Green, Castlethorpe, Hanslope, North Crawley and Stoke Goldington will be taken for approval during 2021. The 'General Information Document' supplementing the Conservation Area Review Programme was also updated during 2020. This document gives an overview of the Conservation Areas within the borough, the Borough of Milton Keynes'

development over time, the area's geology and topography, building materials and national planning policy context.

Archaeology

10.40 Despite the pandemic 2020 was another busy year for fieldwork with 22 projects notified to the Historic Environment Record (HER), full list appended. Projects comprised: 6 trial trench evaluations, 3 geophysical surveys; 6 excavations and 7 watching briefs. Highlights included a watching brief at The Old Vicarage, Olney, the former home of the reformed slaver Rev. John Newton (1725-1807). While revealed little that could be directly connected to Newton's time, the work uncovered evidence for the possible use of the site as a tannery yard during the late 17th to early 18th century in addition to recovering some interesting post-medieval ceramics including a Staffordshire-type earthenware posset pot dating to c.1690 to the early 1700s.



Figure 10.8 Staffordshire-type earthenware posset pot dating to c.1690 to the early 1700s. Credit: Souterrain Archaeological Services Ltd.

Historic Environment Record

10.41 After the last audit revisit in 2016, it has been confirmed with Historic England that a full HER audit will commence in April 2021.

Outreach & Community Archaeology

10.42 2020's scheduled 14th Milton Keynes Archaeology Day was cancelled due to COVID19. It is hoped that it will be possible to run an event in November of 2021. Planning is in the early stages, but it is anticipated that this year's event will be held in Olney Page 30 for the first time, in cooperation with local groups including the Olney Archaeological Society. Details to follow. Opportunities for 'community' or 'public' archaeology were curtailed during 2020. However, the Active Archaeology

Group of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society (BAS AAG) led by Doug Stuckey have continued the investigations into the C18th landscape park at Great Linford Manor reported on last year. Between lockdowns the group have commenced three trenches across the line of the southern end of the former Ha-Ha attracting interest from members of the public and the Friends of Great Linford Manor Park as well as the landowner Pete Winkelman, Chairman of MK Dons FC.

Policy Context and Plan:MK Monitoring Framework

- 11.1** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019) states that “the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. The NPPF highlights three interdependent objectives that new developments need to meet in order to be considered sustainable: an economic objective, a social objective and an environmental objective. The environmental objective includes “using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”. Chapter 14 of the NPPF ‘Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change’ sets out the national policy approach to these considerations. This chapter monitors the efforts we undertook in the 2020/2021 monitoring period to help achieve these environmental aims.
- 11.2** Strategic Objective 13 in Plan:MK addresses energy and climate considerations and is quoted in full below. Strategic Objective 12 is also relevant in that it aims to manage increased travel demands through developing a smart, shared and sustainable mobility in the borough. Strategic Objective 14 seeks the development of safe and healthy built environments. Strategic Objective 15 seeks to protect, maintain and enhance the sustainable drainage systems of the New City. However, monitoring of the link between transport and air quality and the installation in the borough of infrastructure supporting uptake of electric vehicles is already covered in chapter 8 (Transport) of this report and so it is not repeated here. In addition, our progress on reducing waste generation is covered in chapter 13 (Waste) of this report.

Strategic Objective 13: “To mitigate the borough’s impact on climate change and reduce carbon dioxide emissions through:

- Locating development away from areas of flood risk and significant biodiversity value.
- Promoting community energy networks and strategic renewable energy developments.
- Reducing waste generation and increasing the amount of material recycled.
- Sustainable transport initiatives.”

- 11.3** The following policies in Plan:MK set out the detailed requirements that developments should meet in order help achieve Strategic Objective 13:
- FR1 – Managing Flood Risk
 - FR2 – Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and Integrated Flood Risk Management
 - FR3 – Protecting and Enhancing Watercourses
 - SC1 – Sustainable Construction
 - SC2 – Community Energy Networks and Large-Scale Renewable Energy Schemes

- SC3 – Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation.

- 11.4** Policy WCS3 – Sustainable Design, Construction and Demolition - in the Milton Keynes Waste Development Plan Document (DPD) (2008) also contributes to ensuring new developments support this objective. Both Plans, alongside the Minerals Plan, form the Development Plan for MK; Policy SC1 in Plan:MK therefore also applies to waste development proposals.
- 11.5** We are currently writing a Sustainable Construction SPD to provide guidance on how developments can accord with Policy SC1 of Plan:MK. Crucially, it will also confirm how we expect developments to meet the requirements of parts K.4., K.5. and K.6. of Policy SC1. Having consulted on the draft SPD in November 2020 – January 2021, we plan to publish the final SPD in late Summer/early Autumn this year.
- 11.6** As noted in our previous authority monitoring report (PAMR), we have produced two Council-wide, non-planning documents setting out how we, in tandem with local people, can reduce and mitigate the impacts of climate change through local action. These are the *MK Sustainability Strategy 2019-2050*⁷¹, the *Climate Change Task and Finish Group (March 2020) report*⁷². In December 2020 an updated Sustainability Strategy Action Plan was approved at Cabinet which incorporated all the findings from the mentioned *Climate Change Task and Finish Group report*. An update on progress with these actions is expected at Cabinet in Summer/Autumn this year.
- 11.7** The Plan:MK Monitoring Framework sets out several indicator bundles to be used to monitor progress toward achieving Strategic Objective 13; these will be addressed in turn below. However, as noted in the PAMR, monitoring progress against some of these indicators is not currently feasible. In terms of the indicators that are were noted as measurable in the PAMR, note that as the Sustainable Construction SPD has not yet been made, we currently don't yet have in place measures to measure the performance gap in new dwellings, as per Part K.6 of Policy SC1 in Plan:MK.

National Indicators

- 11.8** In the PAMR we committed to reviewing how to monitor performance associated with National Indicators (NI) 185, 186 'Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority Area', and 188 in more depth and report on this in the current AMR, due to a lack of available data on these topics. Our findings on each NI is set out below.

⁷¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-trading-standards/mk-low-carbon-living/the-2019-2050-sustainability-strategy>

⁷² <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=2V5MbG3ICmiIBZIOteCRYyJXuGbemZLYr9jHQoUT9RdEHJcWYWpHQ%3d%3d&rUzwrPF%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=jUgQCaU3L68%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=VJtZQ2BhIrA%3d&uJo vDxwdjMPoYv%2bAjvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJfF55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJfF55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJfF55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJfF55vVA%3d>

National Indicator 185

- 11.9** In terms of work towards fulfilling NI 185 'CO₂ reduction from Local Authority Operations, most of this work takes place outside the statutory planning remit. Although, the LPA has a role to play by ensuring that any proposed council retrofitting and estate regeneration projects accord with planning policies where relevant. Funds collected through the Carbon Offset Fund (COF) may also be used to fund some energy efficiency projects in council owned buildings.
- 11.10** At the 15 December 2020 Cabinet meeting we approved an updated Sustainability Action Plan (SAP), which accounted for recommendations from the Climate Change Task and Finish Group Final Report. The SAP sets out a wide range of actions we can take as an authority to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and help citizens, businesses and organisations in the borough to do the same. Alongside the updated SAP we published a *Pathway to Zero Emissions* document explaining the options we have for reducing CO₂ emissions arising from authority operations⁷³. It also provides a baseline figure for CO₂ emissions we can use to working towards zero emissions by 2030.
- 11.11** The Pathway to Zero Emissions document states that we have achieved our prior commitment to reduce carbon emissions from its own operations by 40% by 2020 against a 2005 baseline. Work is now underway to achieve the net zero by 2030 target. Actions taken in this respect include the Re:fit energy performance improvements programme for council owned buildings, converting all streetlights to LEDs, converting all fleet vehicles to EV and biomethane power, purchasing renewable energy supplies for grid supplied electricity, and potentially converting all staff grey fleet vehicles (i.e. all business mileage) to EV power. These are expected to reduce carbon emissions so that by 2030 emissions shall be 12,280 tCO₂e. We will monitor progress towards this NI185 in future AMRs, to ensure work to achieve Strategic Objective 13 continues.

National Indicator 186

- 11.12** In terms of NI 186 'Per capita reduction in CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority Area', we do not have the capabilities to monitor overall CO₂ emissions in the Local Authority area and are dependent on the ONS for this. ONS publishes some data on CO₂ emissions in the borough available online⁷⁴. However, this dataset has not been updated since publication of the PAMR; therefore, we shall wait until next year's AMR to report on this dataset.
- 11.13** Notwithstanding the above, the Centre of Research into Energy Demand Solutions (CREDS) has recently released a Place-Based Carbon Calculator⁷⁵. This provides average (per person) carbon footprint data for each Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) in the borough, as well as allowing comparison of the borough's overall performance against England as a whole. The dataset uses a 2018 base year, as some datasets used to create the calculator do not have later data.

⁷³ [Pathway to Zero Emissions](#)

⁷⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics>

⁷⁵ <https://www.carbon.place/>

11.14 The overall carbon footprint of Milton Keynes in 2018, as calculated by CREDS, was 9,198.8 kgCO₂e per person. This is higher than the average England carbon footprint of 7,898.9 kgCO₂e per person in 2018. As the data used for the Calculator is from a year prior to adoption of Plan:MK, these results have no bearing on how Plan:MK is performing. However, they can serve as a basis for further analysis when the latest datasets become available. They also highlight the importance of ensuring new development is policy compliant, to ensure they are as low carbon as possible.

11.15 Table 11.1 below highlights the LSOAs in the borough with the highest and lowest rated carbon footprints. Notably, the highest per person carbon footprint is 6.2 times higher than the lowest per person carbon footprint. By applying current planning policies and other council initiatives we plan to reduce emissions in all LSOAs. However, lower than average carbon emissions in an area does not necessarily mean that area is sustainable overall. The LSOAs in Woughton and Fishermead and Bletchley East rank among some of the most deprived areas in the borough (in terms of IMD). It is well documented that less deprived people tend to have higher carbon emissions, due to higher rates of resource consumption⁷⁶. People in more deprived areas are also more likely to have a lower than average quality of life, less spending power, and may be in fuel poverty (see Chapter 3 for more on fuel poverty). Therefore, while lower carbon emissions are our aim moving forward, it is our view that this must not come at the cost of quality of life. Therefore, our planning policies reflect the environmental, economic and social objectives that make up sustainable development. They seek a 'balanced' approach to reducing carbon emissions which places similar importance on supporting gainful employment, access to good quality housing, education and social inclusion. In future AMRs we will report on data from the CREDS Carbon Calculator alongside IMD statistics.

Table 11.1: LSOAs with the lowest 1% and highest 1% of carbon footprints in the borough. Data source: CREDS.		
LSOA Code	General Area	Carbon Footprint (kgCO ₂ e per person)
Lowest		
E01016845	Woughton and Fishermead	2,960
E01016743	Bletchley East	2,870
Highest		
E01016833	Bletchley Park	17,800
E01016792	Newport Pagnell South	16,900
E01016802	Olney	17,600

National Indicator 188

11.16 In terms of NI 188, this entire chapter can be considered a summary of the work we are doing to adapt to and mitigate climate change. Of course, not all this work, e.g. the Sustainability Action Plan, Re:fit work and reducing waste going to landfill, is entirely within the remit of the Planning Service. However, Planning indirectly influences and is influenced by many of these workstreams and updates are provided here.

⁷⁶ <https://theconversation.com/emissions-inequality-there-is-a-gulf-between-global-rich-and-poor-113804/>

Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation in MK

- 11.17** As noted, policies SC2 and SC3 in Plan:MK focus on developing the capacity to generate renewable energy within the borough, setting out the policy requirements for such projects. There have not been any new housing schemes permitted in the monitoring period involving connections into local combined heat and power networks.
- 11.18** In terms of large-scale renewable energy projects, in September 2020 we issued a decision that an Environmental Impact Assessment would not be required for a proposed 45.5MW solar energy scheme on land near Astwood. A formal planning application has not yet been submitted for the proposal.
- 11.19** With regards to Combined Heat and Power generation, there have been no new heat/power networks created and no reported connections into the Central Milton Keynes based ThamesWey combined heat and power network during the 2020/21 monitoring year that we are aware of.
- 11.20** One of the actions in our council-wide *Sustainability Action Plan (2020)*⁷⁷ is to establish options for grid upgrades, battery storage and private wire at the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park (MKWRP) in Old Wolverton. Our *Milton Keynes Energy Prospectus (2020)*⁷⁸ highlights opportunities to build on the current energy facilities at the site, including: supporting the heat and power requirements of local residents and businesses; generating additional renewable solar power; generating Refuse Derived Fuel; and supporting conversion of the refuse collection vehicles and buses at the adjacent Environmental Services and Arriva bus depots to EVs. Work is progressing on development of a Heat Decarbonisation Strategy, which will help to de-risk delivery of heat networks in the borough. Our Regulatory Services Team is undertaking an energy mapping process to assist with this work, which will also benefit evidence base gathering for the Local Plan Review process.
- 11.21** The *Sustainability Action Plan (2020)* details a wide range of projects we will undertake (council-wide) to adapt to and mitigate climate change. This was approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2020 and a progress update is expected in the summer/autumn of 2021.
- 11.22** The Plan:MK Monitoring Framework identifies three Indicator Bundles that last year we were unable to report on due to lack of available data: a) the percentage of energy in new developments coming from renewable sources, b) the amount of renewable energy provided from strategic energy developments and c) how many new developments feature a community energy network. As above, no new strategic energy developments have been delivered so the answer to part b) is 0MW additional generation.

⁷⁷ [MKC Sustainability Action Plan \(2020\)](#)

⁷⁸ [Milton Keynes Energy Prospectus \(2020\)](#)

11.23 In last year's AMR we reported on the *Re:fit* energy efficiency work we were doing in conjunction with Local Partnerships. In relation to this project, in the 2020/21 monitoring year we undertook 19 High Level Appraisals of potential projects and undertook Investment Grade Proposals for two of these. These latter two schemes shall involve the retrofitting of solar panels, LED lighting, boiler removals and replacements with air source heat pumps, and roof insulation on the relevant sites. A successful bid for c. £620,000 was made to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) for DBEIS to part fund these two projects, and work is underway engaging with residents prior to general public announcement. The remaining High Level Appraisals are being reviewed to establish which projects can be progressed to the investment Grade Proposal stage.

Prevention of Unsustainably Constructed Development

11.24 In terms of planning application assessments, Policy SC1 (Sustainable Construction) is providing a reliable basis on which to refuse planning applications that would not be sustainably constructed and/or have not demonstrated that they comply with Policy SC1. Table 11.2 below outlines the applications that have been refused on the basis they would not accord with Policy SC1.

Table 11.2: Applications refused (either wholly or in-part) during the 2020/21 monitoring period due to non-compliance with Policy SC1 in Plan:MK.			
Application Number	Site	Proposal	Reason for Refusal
19/02141/FUL	Site to the West of 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill	New residential dwelling (retrospective) and associated works	Does not meet Policy SC1 requirements
20/03114/FUL	Former Shell Garage, Northampton Road, Newport Pagnell	34 Retirement living apartments	Development not shown to meet requirements of Policy SC1.

Carbon Offset Fund

11.25 The Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund (COF) was launched in 2008 to accompany policy mechanisms set out in policy D4 of the old Milton Keynes Local Plan (2005) and continued in policy SC1 of Plan:MK (2019). These mechanisms require developers who cannot design carbon neutrality into new developments to pay a sum of money (£200 per tonne of CO₂ emitted) into the COF to allow developments elsewhere in the borough to offset net carbon emissions from that new

development. The COF is managed by our Regulatory Services Team who coordinate all uses of the funds.

11.26 Table 11.3 below sets out, firstly the contributions received from developers during the 2019/20 monitoring year to the COF, and secondly the amount of COF funds drawn down during that time.

Table 11.3: Carbon offset payments received and spent during 2019/20 monitoring year. Source: MKC Infrastructure Funding Statement		
Carbon Offset Payments Received		
Application	Site Location	Amount (£)
14/01217/FUL	Platinum House, 199 North Second Street, CMK	40,086.49
17/01602/FUL	Grant Thornton House, 202 Silbury Boulevard, CMK	6,000
17/01743/FUL	1 Deltic Avenue, Rooksley,	31,364.16
17/00483/FUL	82-84 Newport Road, New Bradwell	21,302.25
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	10,410.34
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5&6, Station Road, Woburn Sands	12,262.92
16/03323/FUL	Site at Clickers Yard, Yardley Road, Olney	7,038.48
18/00600/FUL	Land at Junction of Kelvin Drive and Roebuck Way, Knowlhill	15,538.73
18/02845/FUL	Land to the Rear of 90 East Street, Olney	5,421.78
18/01239/FUL	Land at corner of Lavendon Road and Warrington Road, Olney	17,930.48
18/00215/FUL	Site G Breckland, Linford Wood	37,001.13
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	13,443.33
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	18,081.20
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	76,670.88
18/01015/FUL	Site B3.1s Avebury Boulevard, CMK	79,733.31
18/00735/FUL	Land off Ladbroke Grove, Monkston Park	20,897.68
19/00420/FUL	Wolverton Road, Blakelands	11,572.00
Total		424,755.16
Carbon Offset Payments Spent		
Application	Purpose of Spending	Amount (£)
14/01217/FUL	Carbon Offset Management	25,000
16/00540/FUL	Carbon Offset Management	27,000
15/00670/FUL	Installation of community owned solar panels	33,950
Total		85,950

11.27 Currently there is no data available on the incomings and outgoings of the COF for the 2020/2021 monitoring year. However, this data is currently being gathered and is due to be published from December 2020 in an Infrastructure Funding Statement. This will require further work such as populating our new monitoring system to generate the reporting and that is still to be completed. Data on Milton Keynes COF should therefore be available for analysis in the 2020/2021 AMR.

11.28 In summary, the COF is a key mechanism supporting our work to achieve Strategic Objective 13 and as Table 11.3 shows, work is ongoing to offset the carbon emissions associated with new development and to capture offset payments when developments cannot be designed to zero carbon standards. We will continue to monitor the payments associated with the COF and shall report further on this topic in the next AMR.

Flood and Water Management

11.29 Milton Keynes, since its inception, has been designed with the consideration of potential impacts of new developments on the flood and water management environment. More details on Milton Keynes history and its continued legacy in that field can be found in Paragraphs 11.1 to 11.9 of Plan:MK. Key parts of this strategy have been to design - into areas of new development - sustainable methods of managing surface water run-off and seasonal changes in local river levels, as well as avoiding building in areas with the highest flood risks; these ideas are central to policies FR1 (Managing Flood Risk), FR2 (Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) and Integrated Flood Risk Management) and FR3 (Protecting and Enhancing Watercourses).

Statutory Consultees

11.30 The planning guidance: *‘Review individual flood risk assessments: standing advice for local planning authorities’* provides guidance on specific flood risk assessments and when to consult the Environment Agency (EA) and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

11.31 In assessing and delivering developments with these considerations the Planning Service works closely with and consults the LLFA who are a statutory consultee for all major applications. The LLFA is made up of officers within MKC, with additional support provided by officers from Cambridgeshire County Council; it has the task of overseeing surface water management in the borough. In some instances, another statutory consultee, the EA is also consulted on planning applications.

11.32 Tables 11.4, 11.5 and 11.6 give a statistical breakdown of the formal consultation responses received in 2020/21 from the LLFA and EA respectively. Note that these statistics do not account for informal emails and discussions between the LLFA, EA, the Planning Service and applicants.

Table 11.4: Number of Consultation Responses from the LLFA in 2020/21, including major, minor and other applications. Data source: LLFA.	
Total logged consultations/responses	423
Total consultations by LPA	371 (including re-consultation)
Non-relevant ones (withdrawn/amended deadline)	8
Pre-application comments provided	33

Response to first consultation: object	177
Re-consultations following objection	118 (including repeat consultations on same application, as set out in Table 9.3)
Response to first consultation: support or no comments	98 (6 responses due at time of reporting)
Number of responses provided within consultation period	343 (92.5% responses on time)

Table 11.5: Number of repeat consultations to the LLFA from the LPA in 2020/21, including major and minor applications. Date source: LLFA.

Objections	Object	Support/Other
First consultation	177	98
R1	50	38
R2	9	14
R3	2	2
R4	1	0
R5	0	1

Table 11.6: Number of objections/responses advising use of conditions on any decision to grant planning permission from the EA between 01 April 2020 and 31 March 2021. Data source: EA.

Objections	6
Responses advising use of conditions on planning permission relating to contamination and groundwater protection	3
Comments	9
Other	3
Removal of initial objection	1

11.33 These statistics show that a significant number of applications, when the EA and LLFA are first consulted, are unacceptable with respect to surface water drainage and flood risk considerations. However, feedback from the LLFA shows that of the 46 re-consultations on applications, 41% of those responses involved changing the advice from ‘unable to support’ to ‘support’. This is evidence that engagement between the LLFA, the Planning Service and developers and Plan:MK policies are preventing unacceptable development from being built. Notwithstanding this, the LLFA does not hold data on instances where planning permission may have been granted contrary to LLFA advice. Also, the Planning Service, while it keeps records of when planning permission is either granted or refused, does not currently have in place procedures for recording instances where planning permission may be granted contrary to LLFA/EA advice and the reasons why that

might be the case. The Planning Service will review its monitoring processes to put in place such procedures so such information can be published in the 2020/2021 AMR.

Prevention of Development due to Flood/Water Management Issues

11.34 In last year's AMR, we stated that we would put in place measures to record instances where applications have been refused either as a result of the site being in the floodplain or due to inappropriate water management mitigation. These are set out in the table below.

Table 11.7: Applications determined in the 2020/21 monitoring year refused due to non-compliance with flood and water management policies.			
Application Number	Site	Proposal	Reason(s) for refusal
19/02141/FUL	Site to the West of 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill	New residential dwelling (retrospective) and associated works	Insufficient sustainable drainage strategy; contrary to Policy FR2 in Plan:MK
20/00108/OUT	Lower End Road, Wavendon	Outline application for 53 dwellings	Absence of flood risk assessment and drainage strategy; contrary to Policy FR1 in Plan:MK .
20/00426/FUL	Land at Barnsdale Drive, Westcroft	Redevelopment of the site for 46 units of Retirement Living Plus (Extra Care) accommodation within Use Class C2	Absence of flood risk assessment and drainage strategy; contrary to Policies FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK.
20/00621/FUL	Land at 6-10 Caldecote Street, Newport Pagnell	Erection of building comprising two live/work units (sui generis Use Class), associated parking, and landscaping	Proposal is located in flood risk zones 2 and 3 and does not pass the Sequential Test; contrary to Policy FR1 in Plan:MK.
20/00863/OUT	Land between 22 and 26 Castle Road, Lavendon	1x new dwelling	Failure to demonstrate there'd be no increase in flood risk; contrary to Policies FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK and FR1 and FR2 in Lavendon NP.
20/00938/FUL	The Paddocks, Lakes Lane	1x new dwelling	Proposal is located in flood risk zone 3a and does not pass the Sequential Test; contrary to Policy FR1 in Plan:MK.
20/00993/FUL	40, 42, 43, 45 Green Farm Road, Newport Pagnell	Change of use, B2 & A1 to C3	Application not supported by flood risk assessment; failure to demonstrate proposal would be safe from risk of flooding and

			would reduce flood risk overall; contrary to Policies FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK
20/01245/OUT	Lower End Road, Wavendon	Outline application for 53 dwellings.	Absence of flood risk assessment and drainage strategy; contrary to Policy FR1 Plan:MK
20/01597/FUL	Land adjacent 4 Holmfield Close, Tinkers Bridge	1x new dwelling	No information on surface water drainage submitted. Contrary to FR2 in Plan:MK.
20/01693/FUL	Hanslope Eventing Centre, Castlethorpe Road	Ménage and clubhouse	No surface water drainage strategy. Contrary to FR1 and FR2
20/01732/FUL	Land at Caldecote Street, Newport Pagnell	Two B1 office units	Site is in Flood zones 2 and 3. Sequential test failed. Contrary to FR1 in Plan:MK.
20/01810/FUL	The Drum, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill	54 additional car parking spaces	Insufficient information to show proposal has a suitable surface water drainage system. Contrary to FR1 in Plan:MK.
20/03343/OUT	Land adjacent to 3 Main Road, Astwood	5x new dwellings	Absence of acceptable drainage strategy; contrary to FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK.
20/03114/FUL	Former Shell Garage, Northampton Road, Newport Pagnell	34 Retirement living apartments	Part of built form within 9m watercourse buffer; contrary to FR3 in Plan:MK. Insufficient SuDS proposals & insufficient flood risk mitigation; contrary to FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK. It is not shown that foul water flows would not pose a flood risk; FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK.
20/02443/FUL	118 Watling Street, Bletchley	9x new apartments	Insufficient drainage schemes; contrary to Policies FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK.
20/02405/FUL	The Pink Punter, 2 Watling Street, Bletchley	Provision of storage containers (retrospective)	The containers would be within flood zone 3. No FRA submitted to demonstrate proposal would not be susceptible to flooding or would not increase flood risk elsewhere; contrary to Policy Fr1 in Plan:MK.
20/02191/FUL	29 Portfields Road, Newport Pagnell	2x new dwellings	No surface water drainage strategy. Risk to surface water flooding. Contrary to FR2 in Plan:MK.

20/02007/FUL	Land Adjacent to 10 Brook End, North Crawley	2x new dwellings	Insufficient information to show proposal would not adversely affect flood risk at site and in local area. Contrary to FR1 and FR2 in Plan:MK.
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11.35 As table 11.7 shows, a significant number of planning applications were refused in the 2020/2021 monitoring year on the basis of non-compliance with flood risk and water management policies in Plan:MK. This is encouraging and indicates good progress on steering development away from flood risk areas and preventing proposals with inadequate sustainable drainage systems, in line with Plan:MK Strategic Objectives 13 and 15.

11.36 It should also be noted that all of these proposed developments were on windfall sites as opposed to sites allocated for development through the Development Plan; this is also encouraging as it demonstrates that the development strategy is not at fault with regards the refusal of these applications on flood risk grounds.

Flood and Water Management Projects

11.37 Aside from the flood and water management impacts of the Development Management process, the LLFA has been involved with other projects affecting the management of water and flood risk. These can be split into projects looking at intervening in local areas, projects looking at responding to recent flood events and projects to produce studies on flood and water management in the borough.

11.38 In terms of projects involving interventions, there have been no new physical interventions in the 2019/2020 monitoring period. However, work with local parish and town councils to manage flooding and water in their authority areas is ongoing. For example, flood prevention has been a historic concern of residents in Water Eaton and work is progressing to install better erosion and flood protection; a report covering the costs and risks of possible interventions is expected to be produced by the LLFA in August 2020.

11.39 Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Park Consortium has continued the work on the Waterway Water Management Opportunity study. Phase 1 of the study is completed and provides a high-level assessment of what flood risk reduction the Waterway could deliver. It identified challenges from existing flood risks and opportunities for flood risk management.

11.40 Key findings from the study show that the Waterway could provide:

- Opportunities for transferring flows for flood risk management – effectively creating a bypass channel,
- Local drainage interventions / surface water flood risk management – intercepting flow paths, additional flow controls on watercourses and the waterway,
- Additional flood storage (the waterway and wider waterway park element).

- 11.41** Water Resources East in recent months showed an interest in the study and offered funding to broaden the scope of the Phase 2 Study to look at management of water for water resources, as well as flood risk. Overall funding would allow for the Phase 2 study (now to be funded by Environment Agency and Water resource East) to provide:
- A full assessment of the extent to which the waterway could reduce flood risk and address water resource challenges, including which areas could benefit.
 - Recommendations on how the design of the waterway could maximise flood risk and water resource management.
- 11.42** The final scope of the study is under development. Local Authority partners have been considering how they could use the findings of the Water Management Opportunity study to ensure that the study is both useful and effective. Any future guidance about the Waterway design would allow to shape land use planning policy and development management decisions along the route of the Waterway.
- 11.43** Work on an updated Lakes Capacity Study is progressing with the LLFA leading on the project. Work is also underway within the Planning Service producing brief documents for an updated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and Integrated Water Management Study to support the upcoming local plan review process. Progress is therefore being made to meet Strategic Objective 13.
- 11.44** As noted in Strategic Objective 1, working with delivery bodies within the Oxford-MK-Cambridge growth corridor/arc is an important action in Plan:MK. We continue to engage with other local authorities within the Arc. However, at this stage Milton Keynes LLFA is not actively engaged in any progressing flood and water management projects related to Arc. Following feedback from the LLFA, there are also no projects being led by the EA (affecting the authority area) to report on.

Recent Flood Events

- 11.45** In the 2020/2021 monitoring period there were flood events in the borough, including flooding in/around Stony Stratford in December 2020 and flooding elsewhere in October 2020.
- 11.46** In line with Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, we are carrying out investigations into the causes of these events, the response of emergency services and ourselves, and lessons learnt. These reports are expected to be published later this year and next year's AMR shall report on the outcomes and any relevant recommendations for how the Planning Service operates.
- 11.47** In last year's AMR we reported some of the recommendations (as related to Planning) from Section 19 reports relating to flood events in the 2019/20 monitoring year. These recommendations were as follows:
- Make sure that, where they are required, SuDS are installed in new developments to manage surface water run-off.

- Encourage the replacement of impermeable off-street parking areas with attenuating permeable paving on new developments and in existing areas where possible through the planning process.
- Make sure that developers implement planning permissions in accordance with the approved plans. For example, if the landscaping design of a new development features contouring to direct excess surface water run-off towards a balancing pond, check that developers have landscaped in accordance with the design.
- At the design stage, ensure that developers mitigate the risks of flooding caused by a new development both on- and off-site and where possible, reduce existing risk of flooding off-site.
- Ensure that existing water drainage systems in the vicinity of the development site are not hindered or overwhelmed as a result of development on surface water flow rates.

11.48 In preparation for this AMR, we discussed the performance of Policies FR1, FR2 and FR2 with LLFA and Development Management colleagues. On the whole, performance of these policies in achieving positive water management outcomes was considered good. This message is reinforced by the data in Table 11.7; proposals with unsatisfactory water management outcomes are being refused. As such it appears that the Planning Service is meeting these recommendations and making progress towards Strategic Objectives 13, 14 and 15 in terms of flood risk and surface water runoff management. We shall review these recommendations again in the next AMR.

Water Quality

11.49 The Water Framework Directive (WFD)⁷⁹ is the primary piece of legislation regulating water quality in the borough. The WFD sets out that water management must be approached from the perspective of managing each river basin the same, rather than having different approaches in each administrative area. Each basin therefore has a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP): for Milton Keynes the relevant RBMP is the Anglian River Basin District RBMP (2015)⁸⁰. Milton Keynes falls within the 'Ouse Upper and Bedford' section of the Anglian River Basin District. Milton Keynes also has a Water Cycle Study (WCS) (2018)⁸¹ which underpins the work in the Anglian River Basin District RBMP. The WCS outlines:

"The WCS sets out that one of its overarching drivers is to ensure that growth does not prevent waterbodies within the borough from achieving the standards required of them as set out in the WFD River Basin Management Plan"

11.50 The RBMP makes clear that in the Upper Ouse and Bedford catchment area, the main priorities for the 2015-2021 period are preventing negative impacts on habitats and ecological biodiversity resulting from the physical modification of watercourses, invasive non-native plant and animal

⁷⁹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/407/contents/made>

⁸⁰ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf

⁸¹ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/urban-design-and-landscape-architecture-udla/flood-and-water-management-drainage?chapter=3>

species and pollution (diffuse and point source). Strategic Objective 14 highlights how we will use the number of planning applications approved contrary to EA objections on water quality/flooding grounds as an indicator.

11.51 There is more data on the waterbodies within the borough area, available on the EA's online Catchment Data Explorer⁸². Milton Keynes falls within the Upper Ouse and Bedford 'management catchment', although this itself is split into five separate 'operational catchments' and Milton Keynes borough falls within three of these operational catchments: the Great Ouse Upper catchment, the Ouzel and Milton Keynes catchment and the Great Ouse Bedford catchment. Further to the PAMR this dataset has been updated to reflect water quality readings from 2019. The status for rivers in the borough, and rivers with part of their catchment in the borough are shown in Table 11.8 and provide a benchmark for future analysis of water quality in these watercourses during the Plan:MK period. As Table 11.8 shows, all water bodies located in or with catchment areas in the borough are classed as 'Fail' for the overall chemical status tests. Some, but not all, water bodies were rated 'poor' for water ecological status tests.

11.52 To ensure we meet Strategic Objective 14, careful monitoring of this will be required going forward and we shall review how evidence base work for the next Local Plan can investigate this situation, and the extent to which new development can support recovery of these water bodies.

11.53 In the PAMR it was stated that Anglian Water manages just drinking and foul water in the borough. This is incorrect: they also inspect and maintain a system of 13 surface water reservoirs/balancing lakes and associated structures in the borough. These are integral to water and flood management in the area and often form part of the linear parks system as referenced in paragraph 11.2 in Plan:MK. For reference, these lakes are listed in Table 11.8. A representative of Anglian Water has confirmed they do not hold records for water quality in these reservoirs and are not required to do so, so we shall be unable to report on water quality in these locations. The watercourses between these reservoirs however are not managed by Anglian Water and would likely instead be the responsibility of the relevant landowner.

Table 11.8: Balancing lakes/reservoirs in the borough managed by Anglian Water. Also included is information on who manages the land around these water bodies.		
Asset Name	Location	Surrounding Land Manager
Furzton Lake	MK4 1LU	Milton Keynes Council
Willen Lake	MK15 0SF	The Parks Trust (TPT)
Caldecote Lake	MK7 8NB	TPT
Tongwell Lake	MK14 5LR	TPT
Bradwell Lake	MK13 0AD	TPT
Brick Kiln/Wolverton	MK12 5TS	TPT
Ashland Lakes	Simpson, MK6 3AA	TPT
Teardrop Lakes	Loughton, MK5 8HJ	TPT
Lodge Lake	MK8 9LG	TPT
New asset near Lower Weald/Fairfields	MK11 4BN	Anglian Water Contractors

⁸² <https://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/RiverBasinDistrict/5>

New asset 'Pond 2'	Calverton Lane, MK19 6ET	Anglian Water Contractors
New asset 'Pond 3'	Watling Street, Two Mile Ash, MK8 8AB	Anglian Water Contractors
New asset 'Pond 4'	Randall Avenue, MK8 1AE	Anglian Water Contractors

11.54 As noted in the PAMR, the Planning Service will continue to engage with the EA, Anglian Water, Canal and Rivers Trust, and the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards where relevant to make sure that development coming forward does not contravene the objectives set out in the WCS and RBMP.

Table 11.9: Water Quality in Water Bodies in Milton Keynes Borough in 2019. Source: Environment Agency Catchment Data Explorer.

Management Catchment	Operational Catchment	Water Body ID	Water Body Name	Type	Modified Waters Designation	Overall Water Body Class	Ecological Class	Chemical Class
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037840	Newton Longville Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037870	Weald Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037910	Deanshanger Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037900	Loughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037920	Ouse (Buckingham to Cosgrove)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037930	Broughton Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037971	Ouzel US Caldecote Mill	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037972	Ouzel DS Caldecote Mill	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033037990	Potterspury Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038000	Ouse (Wolverton to Newport Pagnell)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038040	Chicheley Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Poor	Poor	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033038070	Tathall Brook	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038140	Bromham Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033038160	Ravenstone Brook	River	Not Designated A/HMWB	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Upper	GB105033038180	Tove (DS Greens Norton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Great Ouse Bedford	GB105033047923	Ouse (Newport Pagnell to Roxton)	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Moderate	Fail
Ouse Upper and Bedford	Ouzel and Milton Keynes	GB105033037630	Clipstone Brook Tributary	River	Heavily Modified	Moderate	Good	Fail

Policy Context and Plan:MK Monitoring Framework

- 12.1** The NPPF (2019) states that “achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives” which includes “an environmental objective to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural [...] environment [and] helping to improve biodiversity”. Section 15 of the NPPF ‘Conserving and enhancing the natural environment’ addresses these objectives in greater depth. Paragraph 170 states that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: recognising the importance of protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits of natural capital and ecosystem services; minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity. Key strategy by which local planning authorities can achieve these objectives are outlined in paragraph 171; plans should: allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing habitat networks and green infrastructure, and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a trans-authority-boundary catchment and landscape level. Paragraphs 174 to 177 in the NPPF set out how local planning authorities should protect and enhance habitats and biodiversity through the plan-making and decision-taking processes.
- 12.2** This Chapter addresses how, through determination of planning applications, we help achieve the environmental objective set out in the NPPF.
- 12.3** Strategic Objectives 13, 15, 16 and 17 in Plan:MK (all relevant parts are quoted below) all relate to the natural environment and biodiversity. Strategic Objective 13 in Plan:MK (2019) is, in-part, “to mitigate the Borough’s impact on climate change and reduce carbon dioxide emissions through: Locating development away from areas of flood risk and significant biodiversity value.” Strategic Objective 15 in Plan:MK (2019) is “To protect, maintain and enhance the natural, built and historic environment of the Borough, including its linear parks, character and assets of the New City and the towns and villages throughout the Borough, and to protect and maintain the open countryside in the Borough.” Monitoring of the impacts of our planning activities on the character and assets of the New City and the towns and villages throughout the Borough are recorded in Chapter 10 of this report. Strategic Objective 16 in Plan:MK is “To encourage healthy lifestyles with the provision of recreation facilities and biodiversity by enhancing the linear park network and extending and connecting it into new developments while conserving and enhancing key landscapes and important habitats.” Lastly, Strategic Objective 17 in Plan:MK is “to work with public service and infrastructure providers (principally via the Local Investment Plan) to ensure that the social and economic growth planned in the Borough and neighbouring local authorities is facilitated by the timely provision of appropriate new and improved facilities such as [among other facilities and features] green infrastructure.”

12.4 The following policies in Plan:MK set out the detailed requirements that developments should meet in order help achieve the above Strategic Objectives:

- NE1 – Protection of Sites
- NE2 – Protected Species and Priority Species and Habitats
- NE3 – Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement
- NE4 – Green Infrastructure
- NE5 – Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Character
- NE6 – Environmental Pollution
- NE7 – Protection of the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land
- DS5 – Open Countryside
- DS6 – Linear Parks
- L1 – Facilities Acceptable in the Parks
- L2 – Protection of Open Space and Existing Facilities
- L3 – Change of Use of Amenity Open Space
- L4 – Public Open Space Provision in New Estates
- L5 – Horse Related Development
- L6 – Criteria for the Location of Water Sports
- L7 – Criteria for the Location of Noisy Sports and Recreational Facilities
- L8 – Milton Keynes Bowl

Linear Parks and Open Space Provision

12.5 As noted earlier in this report, we do not currently have planning contributions data available for the 2020/2021 monitoring year. This will be published later this year in our *Infrastructure Funding Statement*.

12.6 However, we can report on the amount of planning contributions received during 2019/2020 for provision/maintenance of parks and open spaces in the borough (Table 12.1). Data on how much money was spent during 2019/2020 on open space creation/maintenance can be seen in Appendix D of the *Infrastructure Funding Statement 2019/2020*⁸³. Also, see below data about the developments permitted during 2020/2021 that directly provided open spaces/parks provision within their site boundaries (Table 12.2).

Table 12.1: Planning contributions received for the purpose of funding creation/maintenance of open spaces in the borough.			
Application	Site Location	Type of Space/Purpose of Contribution	Contribution Amount (£)
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	District Park	10,893.51
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	District Park Maintenance	15,795.66

⁸³ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/growing-mk/planning-obligations/infrastructure-funding-statement>

15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	Neighbourhood Play Area	40,850.84
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	Neighbourhood Play Area Maintenance	52,289.08
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	Playing Fields	28,656.86
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	Playing Fields Maintenance	24,510.51
15/00825/FUL	Land at Site 4A and 5, Holden Avenue, Oxley Park	Allotments	5,106.35
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Playing Fields	156,219.35
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Local Play Area	22,979.35
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Neighbourhood Play Area	30,775.63
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Neighbourhood Play Area Maintenance	39,392.80
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Local Parks	4,103.42
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	Local Parks Maintenance	5,949.95
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	District Park	8,206.83
16/00349/FUL	Former Aston Martin Site, Tickford Street, Newport Pagnell	District Parks Maintenance	11,899.91
17/00483/FUL	82-84 Newport Road, New Bradwell	Play Areas Contribution	10,574.64
17/00483/FUL	82-84 Newport Road, New Bradwell	Parks Contribution	2,542.64
17/00483/FUL	82-84 Newport Road, New Bradwell	Allotments Contribution	324.24
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Playing Fields & Maintenance	23,935.25
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Playing Fields & Maintenance	28,194.73
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Local Play & Maintenance	33,041.72
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Local Play & Maintenance	38,921.66
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Local Parks & Maintenance	6,007.59
15/02319/FUL	Nampak Phases 5 & 6 Station Road, Woburn Sands	Local Parks & Maintenance	7,076.66
16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales, Folly Farm	Playing Fields Contribution	42,503.95

16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales, Folly Farm	Neighbourhood Play Contribution	32,657.66
16/02937/OUT	Site South of Hales, Folly Farm	Allotments Contribution	4,082.21
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	Local Play and Parks	19,845.20
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	Local Play and Parks	26,691.68
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	Allotments	3,588.31
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	Playing Fields	37,361.53
16/02106/OUT	Land off Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	Neighbourhood Play	65,450.85
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	Allotments	1,168.28
14/02002/OUT	Land at High Street, Sherington	Allotments	1,571.33
02/01337/OUT	Newton Leys, Drayton Road, Bletchley	Allotments	69,489.00
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road, Wavendon	Allotments	434.07
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road, Wavendon	Parks and Open Space	3,403.08
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road, Wavendon	Play Areas Contribution	14,156.35
17/03224/FUL	Wavendon Lodge, Lower End Road, Wavendon	Playing Fields	4,519.50
Total			935,172.18

Table 12.2: List of developments permitted in 2020/2021 monitoring year which provide some form of publicly accessible open space.

Application	Site Location	Development Description	Type of Open Space Provided Onsite (excluding amenity open space)
20/00133/OUTEIS	Tickford Fields Farm, North Crawley Road, Newport Pagnell	Outline planning application (all matters reserved except access) for the development of up to 930 dwellings, primary school, local centre, open space, sports pitches, play areas, pavilion/wellbeing centre and associated works.	Local parks, sports pitches, play areas.
20/00288/REM	Land at Glebe Farm, Newport Road, Wavendon	Reserved matters application for 381 dwellings	2x pocket parks
20/00476/FUL	Glebe Land North of Broughton Brook, Fen Street, Magna Park	Erection of distribution warehouse and associated works	Linear park extension
20/00591/FULR3	Maximus Court, Fairfields, Middle Weald	Reserved Matters application for landscaping and layout of allotments pursuant to outline application 06/00123/MKPCO	Local parks, pocket parks, play areas.
20/00835/REM	Land West of Yardley Road and West of Aspreys, Olney	Reserved Matters relating to outline planning permission 17/00939/OUT for 250 dwellings and associated public open space	Local parks, pocket parks, play areas.
20/00853/REM	Land to the East of Tilbrook Farm, Station Road, Bow Brickhill	Reserved matters application for erection of 35 dwellings	Pocket park

20/01176/OUT	Land off Timbold Drive, Timbold Drive, Kents Hill Park	Outline application for up to 171 residential dwellings, with associated works	Local Parks, play area
20/01368/FUL	Land to the south of 1 Thornbury, West Ashland, Milton Keynes	Green Infrastructure/Biodiversity Enhancement	Green Infrastructure/amenity open space/flood control
20/01841/REM	Former Wavendon Golf Centre, Lower End Road, Wavendon	Reserved matters application for the erection of 400 dwellings and associated works.	Local parks, pocket parks, play area.
20/01945/REM	Land south of Cuckoo Hill Bungalow, Castlethorpe Road, Hanslope	Reserved matters application for 50 dwellings	Pocket parks, play area
20/02015/FUL	Land at Glebe Farm, South of A421 and North of Lower end Road, Wavendon	Erection of all-through Primary (3FE) and Secondary school (6FE) with Nursery provision, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs), 3G pitch, parking, landscaping and associated works	Sports pitches, all weather pitches, MUGAs and 'forest learning area'
20/02245/FUL	Former Cripps Lodge Site, Broadlands, Netherfield	Full permission for erection of 66 dwellings	Play area
20/03129/FUL	Hanslope Primary School, Long Street Road, Hanslope	Proposed new teaching block and all weather pitch	All weather sports pitch
20/02932/REM	Site A Towergate, Groveway V11 to H8	Reserved matters application for 150 dwellings	Pocket parks, play area
20/02979/REM	Land at Glebe Farm, Newport Road, Wavendon	Reserved matters application for community playing fields, community pavilion and associated works	Sports pitches, local park.

12.7 As Table 12.2 shows, a significant amount of public open space was permitted in 2020/2021 in a variety of settlements around the borough. This indicates progress towards meeting Strategic Objectives 15, 16 and 17 in Plan:MK and the positive working of Policies L4 and NE4 in Plan:MK, which respectively require provision of public open space and green infrastructure in certain types of new developments. A risk identified in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework is that quality open space and green infrastructure is not delivered at appropriate levels in new development due to insufficient funding. We will continue to monitor provision of public open space in future AMRs, to assess if any future intervention is needed.

Development Management

12.8 This section looks at the performance of Plan:MK Policies in protecting the natural environment and biodiversity from inappropriate development applications.

Biodiversity

12.9 Pressure to develop in areas with important biodiversity is listed as a risk for Strategic Objective 16 in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework. As such, part of our monitoring work involves assessing our ability to mitigate this risk through successful application of development plan policies. The Plan:MK Policies most relevant to biodiversity and habitat management are: NE1 (Protection of Sites), NE2 (Protected Species and Priority Species and Habitats) and NE3 (Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement).

12.10 Table 12.3 lists the applications for planning permission refused during the 2020/2021 monitoring year due to non-compliance with the above Policies. As the table shows, a significant number of applications are refused for these reasons, which indicates we are making good progress on mitigating the risk that sites of biodiversity importance, and biodiversity generally, may be adversely affected by new development. The next AMR shall repeat this assessment of the effectiveness of Policies NE1, NE2 and NE3.

Table 12.3: Applications for planning permission refused in 2020/2021 monitoring year due to adverse impacts on biodiversity.			
Application Number	Site	Proposal	Reason for Refusal
19/02141/FUL	Site to the West of 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill	New residential dwelling (retrospective) and associated works	Destruction of habitat and inadequate mitigation, contrary to NE2 and NE3.
20/00396/FUL	17 Church Lane, Loughton, Milton Keynes	Replacement of boundary fence to highway and attached garden shed (Retrospective)	Loss of hedge - contrary to NE3
20/00426/FUL	Land at Barnsdale Drive, Westcroft	Redevelopment of the site for 46 units of Retirement Living Plus (Extra Care) accommodation within Use Class C2	Absence of Preliminary Ecology Appraisal and Biodiversity Impact Assessment Metric (BIAM) - contrary to NE2 and NE3.
20/00878/FUL	6 Gomez Close, Oxley Park	Change of use of open space to residential garden land for 13 properties.	Proposal would result in a loss of GI and wildlife corridor, contrary to NE2 and NE4.
20/00849/FUL	Bletchley Landfill Site	Construction and operation of a surface water attenuation lagoon	Harm to habitats of priority species and insufficient mitigation measures. Contrary to NE1, NE2 and NE3.
20/00861/FUL	13 Stratford Road, Wolverton	Part change of use of existing shop, part demolition of existing shop and erection of first and second floor extensions to create 4 flats, together with the erection of a three storey detached dwelling to the rear and the provision of associated car parking.	Application did not supply an approved BIAM, contrary to NE3.
20/00884/FUL	73 Newport Road, Wavendon	2x new dwellings	By failing to supply an up-to-date bat survey the proposal fails to show bats and/or their habitats would not be harmed by the proposal. Contrary to NE2.
20/01803/FUL	Unit K1, K2, K3 Pitfield, Kiln Farm	refurbishments to existing commercial buildings.	Harm to biodiversity on site and inadequate mitigation. Contrary to NE3 in Plan:MK.
21/00085/FUL	Manor Cottage, Cross Lane, Weston Underwood	Conversion of outbuilding to 1x new dwelling	Lack of information of impact on bats. Contrary to Policy NE2 in Plan:MK.

20/03367/FUL	Mawley, Higham Cross Road, Hanslope	Rear extension to existing building, conversion of the existing outbuilding to create an annex, erection of stables and car port with associated landscaping, parking provisions and highway works (re-submission of 20/02662/FUL).	In the absence of sufficient information about how bats use the site and if the proposal would adversely affect bats, the proposal is contrary to Policies NE2 and NE3 of Plan:MK.
20/03343/OUT	Land adjacent to 3 Main Road, Astwood	5x new dwellings	Insufficient information available to assess if any protected species within the site and if so, if they'd be adversely affected. Contrary to NE2 and NE3 in Plan:MK. No BIAM submitted so also contrary to NE3.
20/03114/FUL	Former Shell Garage, Northampton Road, Newport Pagnell	34 Retirement living apartments	No protected species surveys submitted; unable to assess impact on protected species. Contrary to NE2 in Plan:MK.
20/03114/FUL	Former Shell Garage, Northampton Road, Newport Pagnell	34 Retirement living apartments	No BIAM provided and therefore whether a Biodiversity Net Gain is achievable or if mitigation payments are needed cannot be assessed; contrary to Policies NE2 and NE3 in Plan:MK.
20/02406/FUL	27 Northampton Road, Lavendon	conversion of outbuilding into annexe.	Protected species are on site but there is insufficient mitigation or compensation measures; contrary to Policies NE2 and NE3 in Plan:MK.
20/02388/FUL	2 Vienna Grove, Blue Bridge	Change of use of amenity land to private garden use.	Loss of Main Line Wildlife Corridor; no mitigation, no BNG; contrary to NE1, NE2 and NE3 in Plan:MK.

Open Countryside

12.11 Strategic Objective 15 in Plan:MK in part aims to protect and maintain the open countryside in the borough. Open countryside is defined in Plan:MK as all land outside the development boundaries of settlements, as defined in the MK Settlement Boundary Study (2018). Measuring whether there is a loss of land designated as open countryside during the Plan period (2016-2031) is not listed as an indicator in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework. However, it is a good way to determine the effectiveness of Policy DS5 in deterring inappropriate development which would adversely affect the “distinct and intrinsic character” of open countryside which is available for the “whole community to enjoy”. Table 12.4 lists the applications for planning permission that were refused in principle (either wholly or in part) as a result of non-compliance with DS5. Also, notable here is

Policy NE5 in Plan:MK which sets out design parameters for development in open countryside, that otherwise would be acceptable in principle. Applications refused due to con-compliance with NE5 are also included in Table 12.4.

Table 12.4: Applications refused during the 2020/2021 monitoring year due to non-compliance with Policies DS5 and NE5 in Plan:MK.			
Application Number	Site	Proposal	Reason for refusal
19/02141/FUL	Site to the West of 1 London End Lane, Bow Brickhill	New residential dwelling (retrospective) and associated works	Non-compliance with Policies DS1 and DS5 in Plan:MK.
19/02402/FUL	Land at Caldecote Farm, East of the M1 Motorway, Adjacent to Willen Road	Full planning application for two storage and distribution units (use class B8), with associated access, car parking, servicing, landscaping, earthworks, on and off-site drainage and off-site highway works.	Non-compliance with Policies SD12 and DS5 in Plan: MK.
20/00108/OUT	Lower End Road, Wavendon	Outline application for 53 dwellings.	Non-compliance with Policies DS5 and NE7 in Plan:MK
20/00483/FUL	34 Gravel Walk, Emberton	Erection of one dwelling and garage	Non-compliance with Policies DS1, DS2 and DS5 in Plan:MK.
20/00938/FUL	The Paddocks, Lakes Lane	1x new dwelling	Non-compliance with Policies DS1, DS2 and DS5 of Plan:MK and NP1 and Np4 of Newport Pagnell NP.
20/01245/OUT	Lower End Road, Wavendon	Outline application for 53 dwellings.	Non-compliance with Policies DS1, DS2, DS5 and NE7 in Plan:MK
20/01282/FUL	Land to rear of The Globe, 50 Hartwell Street, Hanslope	entry level housing exception scheme for 34 dwellings	Non-compliance with Policies HAN1 and HAN2 in Hanslope NP and DS1, DS2 and DS5 in Plan:MK.
20/01764/FUL	Forbes Barn Tathall End, Hanslope	Conversion of barn to annexe.	Alterations to barn would harm open countryside. Contrary to Policy DS5 in Plan:MK.
20/03343/OUT	Land adjacent to 3 Main Road, Astwood	5x new dwellings	The site is in Open Countryside and in principle is contrary to Policies DS1, DS2, DS5 in Plan:MK. Its harm to the open character of the countryside would make it contrary to Policies NE5 and DS5 in Plan:MK.

20/03114/FUL	Former Shell Garage, Northampton Road, Newport Pagnell	34 Retirement living apartments	Site is in open countryside and in principle is a departure from Policies DS1, DS2 and DS5 in Plan:MK.
20/02820/FUL	Entrance to Hollington Wood Cottage, Newport Road, Emberton	Increase width of access onto A509	Damage to hedge line without compensatory mitigation would result in harm to open countryside and landscape character. The proposal is contrary to Policy NE5 in Plan:MK.
20/02466/FUL	4 Cross End, Wavendon	2x new dwellings	Unacceptable visual impact on open countryside; contrary to Policy DS5 in Plan:MK.
20/02007/FUL	Land Adjacent to 10 Brook End, North Crawley	2x new dwellings	Site is in open countryside and in principle is a departure from Policies DS1, DS2 and DS5 in Plan:MK. Loss of open character also contrary to D1, D2 and DS5.

12.12 As Table 12.4 indicates, a significant number of applications were refused on the basis that the type of development proposed would be inappropriate in and/or would harm the character of open countryside. Consequently, we conclude that Policies DS5 and NE5 are working as intended and supporting progress towards Strategic Objective 15: to protect and maintain the open countryside. This is an ongoing process and we will report further on performance of DS5 and NE5 in next year's AMR.

Environmental Pollution

12.13 Policy NE6 (Environmental Pollution) in Plan:MK sets out how we assess development proposals to ensure they will not adversely affect the environment through varying types of pollution. These include: contaminated land and soil pollution, air pollution, noise and vibration, and light pollution. Our Environmental Health Team, as well as the Environment Agency for larger developments, act as consultees on the environmental impact of development. In most cases where Policy NE6 is used to assess schemes, issues are resolved, conditions for further investigation and remedial work are applied, and planning permissions/approval of details are granted.

12.14 However, sometimes development schemes cannot be made to accord with Policy NE6 and conditions for further investigation are not appropriate. In the 2020/2021 monitoring year, planning permission for 9x new apartments (reference 20/02443/FUL) was refused, partly on the basis that there was an absence of suitable noise mitigation, contrary to Policies D5 and NE6 in Plan:MK. This is a positive indication that developments that would cause adverse environmental impacts are being prevented by Plan:MK. In the next AMR we will review decisions in the 2021/2022 monitoring year to continue assessing the effectiveness of Policy NE6.

Green Flag Award

- 12.15** The Green Flag Award is a national benchmark recognising the best parks and green spaces across the UK. It has been running since 1997 and awards are given on an annual basis. Since 2007, we have enjoyed continued success in our drive to achieve Green Flag honours in our local parks and community spaces. Whether local spaces are being awarded Green Flag Awards is an indicator for Strategic Objective 16 in Plan:MK, as per the Monitoring Framework in Appendix F of the Plan.
- 12.16** In 2020, the city-wide Linear Parks system managed by The Parks Trust once again won a Green Flag Award in the 'South East' category. Other local winners in 2020 were Chepstow Local Park managed by West Bletchley Council in the 'South East Green Flag Award' category, as well as Shenley Brook End park (see Figure 12.1) on Garthwaite Crescent, managed by us and Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council.
- 12.17** These results indicate that quality local spaces are being delivered and maintained in the borough, contributing to achievement of Strategic Objective 16 in Plan:MK. While not listed as an indicator for Strategic Objectives 14, 15 and 17 in Plan:MK, Green Flag Award status also indicates progress towards these aims, since providing good quality green spaces feature within these Objectives also. Plan:MK aims for all smaller open spaces within the borough to be delivered to these high standards. In future AMRs we will cover this topic again to assess how successful this strategy is.

Review of Local Sites Management

National Indicator 197

- 12.18** One of the indicators in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework for Strategic Objective 16 is *National Indicator 197: Improved Local Biodiversity - Proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented*. Local Sites are non-statutory areas designated at local level for their significant nature conservation value. They include both local wildlife sites (designated for significant biodiversity value) and local geological sites (designated for their significant geological value). Those comprise Local Wildlife Sites (in some cases in Milton Keynes there are termed Milton Keynes Wildlife Sites) and Biological Notification Sites (BNS). Appendix 1 contains a map of these sites for reference. Note, some sites are covered by more than one designation.
- 12.19** Council Ecologists have reported there is little work we do to actively manage sites; in many cases letting nature take over is a positive strategy. As such, there is little feedback in this respect. Council Ecologists are however aware of work carried out by local community groups, such as Britain in Bloom⁸⁴ and Green Gym (MKC funded)⁸⁵, who focus on nature conservation action. The work carried out by these organisations is not regulated by the LPA however so we will not report on it here. You can find out more by clicking on the footnotes below.

⁸⁴ <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/britain-in-bloom>

⁸⁵ <http://miltonkeynesgreengym.co.uk/>

12.20 The Parks Trust carries out positive conservation management of sites within its ownership/management remit and worked on/in several local sites during the 2020/2021 monitoring year. Table 12.5 sets out where these are located and their respective designations.

Table 12.5: List of sites managed by The Parks Trust that have had positive conservation management in 2020/2021. Source: The Parks Trust.					
Site Location	Biological Notification Sites (BNS)	Local Geological Sites	Local Wildlife Sites	Milton Keynes Wildlife Sites	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
Linford Lakes Nature Reserve (Great Linford Gravel Pits BNS)	X				
Manor Farm, Old Wolverton	X		X		
Oakhill Wood (50 metre Parks Trust section on east side of wood)	X		X		
Pond in Ouzel Valley Park, Woughton-on-the-Green	X				
Great Linford Quarry and Stone Circle		X			
Stony Stratford Nature Reserve		X	X		
Blue Bridge Balancing Lake			X		
Caldecotte Lake			X		
Elfield Nature Park			X		
Linford Wood			X	X	
Oakhill Wood	X		X		
Shenley Wood			X	X	
Simpson Manor			X		
Stanton Wood			X		
Tattenhoe Valley Meadow			X		
Teardrops Lakes			X		
Walton Lake			X	X	
Waterhall Park			X		

Willen Lake North			X		
Site along south bank of Grand Union Canal at Stanton Low				X	
Howe Park Wood					X
Oxley Mead					X

12.21 We are undertaking work to expand our monitoring of local sites. The Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership has funded a project to model and map the ecosystem services that flow from natural capital in Milton Keynes, and to identify opportunities to enhance biodiversity and a range of ecosystem services. The main output of this work has been to produce a map of the natural capital and opportunities in the borough for our GIS team; this will be made available to officers in due course to help decision making. We will be able to report in next year's AMR whether this dataset will be made open source.

Cumulative Area of Local Wildlife Sites and Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats

12.22 Council Ecologists and Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre (BMERC) reported that in the 2020/2021 monitoring year there were no changes to the overall area of Local Wildlife Sites (925 hectares) and Biodiversity Notification Sites (1162 hectares) from the 2019/2020 monitoring year.

12.23 Priority species and priority habitats are those that have been identified as being the most threatened and require conservation action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). The Buckingham and Milton Keynes BAP identify those habitats of importance for the local area and include plans for their conservation and management.

12.24 There shall be a small decrease in the cumulative area of Priority BAP Habitats as the planning permission for employment development at the South Caldecotte land allocation is built out. You can find out more information about this development by searching reference 19/01818/OUT on our online Public Access website⁸⁶. The planning application for this scheme was initially refused. However, following representations by our ecology and archaeology officers at public inquiry, the applicants amended their proposals to avoid adverse harm to the ecological and archaeological constraints on the site, and planning permission was granted by the Inspector.

⁸⁶ <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-apply-pay-view/view-and-comment-on-planning-applications/guidance-for-viewing-and-commenting-on-planning-applications>

12.25 Due to COVID-19 restrictions, BMERC has been unable to undertake work at other Priority BAP Habitats in MK during 2020/2021. As such we plan to report on the state of these in next year's AMR.

12.26 In summary, despite some loss of Priority BAP Habitat area on an allocated development site, this data indicates positive performance of the natural environment policies in Plan:MK and progress towards meeting Strategic Objective 16 in Plan:MK.

Review of Biological Notification Sites

12.27 As reported in last year's AMR, BMERC is undertaking a process of reviewing BNS (areas of county-level importance) in the borough to decide which ones can be re-designated as Local Wildlife Sites (which is a higher-level of protection). This process is ongoing, and we shall report in next year's AMR on the progress of this.

Biodiversity Net Gain

12.28 Policy NE3 in Plan:MK requires development proposals to maintain and protect biodiversity and geological resources, and wherever possible to provide biodiversity net gain. It also states that if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided, adequately mitigated for or compensated for, then planning permission should be refused. Development proposals for 5 or more dwellings or non-residential floorspace in excess of 1,000 sq. m. are required to demonstrate biodiversity net gain, and where necessary offsetting, in accordance with a biodiversity impact assessment metric as set out in Policy NE3 and our Biodiversity SPD.

12.29 The monitoring arrangement designed to run alongside the SPD and report on implementation of Policy NE3 (announced in last year's AMR) has only recently come into effect: on 18 June 2021 when the SPD was adopted. As such we do not have data from this arrangement for the 2020/2021 monitoring year. However, as Table 12.3 shows, several applications determined in this period were refused due to non-compliance with Policy NE3 in Plan:MK, indicating the Policy is successfully deterring development that would not provide biodiversity net gain and enhancement, either on-site or through offsets.

12.30 While we do not at this stage have the data available to report on planning contributions received in 2020/2021, we can report that a contribution of £41,065.22 was received in 2019/2020 to offset the biodiversity impact of the new retail supermarket associated with planning permission 19/00420/FUL. Information on contributions negotiated and received during 2020/21 will be published in December 2021 as part of the 2020/21 Infrastructure Funding Statement.

Great Crested Newt District Licencing Scheme

12.31 Policy NE2 in Plan:MK aims to protect biodiversity and important habitats from the impacts of development. The District Licence Scheme provides a mechanism to satisfy the requirements of the policy NE2 with regards to GCN. It therefore ties in with work to meet Strategic Objective 16,

which in part seeks the enhancement of important habitats. The following section has been written by our Countryside Officer and representatives from NatureSpace (operators of the Licence), apart from the final part which links back to the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework.

- 12.32** Seventeen development projects were authorised under the licence in the 2020/21 financial year. These include everything from householder applications through to major developments of schools, housing, and retirement homes. The running total for authorised developments in Milton Keynes since the scheme launch is now 32, with a further six sites in the pipeline following the commission of their NatureSpace Report.
- 12.33** Developer contributions in Milton Keynes (through the Licencing Scheme) totalled £251,747 in the 2020/21 financial year. The cumulative total for Milton Keynes since scheme launch is £736,321. There is a further £66,000 of developer contributions in the pipeline for Milton Keynes, where projects have opted in, but the 2nd stage fee is awaited.
- 12.34** 60 - 65% of this goes directly to the Newt Conservation Partnership where the funds are used to find compensation sites, create highly quality habitats, and monitor GCN populations at the local and landscape scale. 20% is spent directly on habitat creation/restoration, 20% is ring fenced in a management fund to ensure the management of compensation ponds is secured in perpetuity and 20-25% is for monitoring costs.
- 12.35** The remaining contributions are allocated to the administration of the District Licence, including funding LPA officer positions, undertaking site assessments, supporting developers and ecologists and LPAs through the licensing process and increasing the coverage of the scheme to benefit a wider group of developers and planning authorities, as well re-modelling every 4-5 years.
- 12.36** In the 2020/21 financial year developer contributions were used to create four new ponds and restore two degraded ponds in Milton Keynes, in doing so 27.7 Ha of terrestrial habitat was made available for GCN within 250m of these ponds. Since launch, a total of 14 ponds have been created in Milton Keynes, opening 81 Ha of terrestrial habitat for GCN.
- 12.37** To date six ponds have been created by developers taking advantage of the flexibility the District Licence provides for their sites, two of these being created in the 2020/21 financial year.
- 12.38** Compensation sites have been created throughout the borough within land owned by us, The Parks Trust, Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust, and private landowners (Figure 12.1). MKC and the Newt Conservation Partnership continue to work closely to identify future compensation sites, supporting landowners and Parish Councils to create new high quality GCN habitats through the scheme.
- 12.39** Developers authorised under the District Licence benefit from greater flexibility and reduced on-site mitigation requirements when compared to 'traditional' mitigation licensing. However, whilst being more streamlined, the District Licence is a conservation scheme at its core. The mitigation hierarchy is fully integrated into the assessments undertaken by NatureSpace and tailored

mitigation requirements are applied to sites in the Red Zone based on the fine-scale considerations of individual developments. This could take the form of timing restrictions on impacting sensitive habitats, searches of suitable features by ecologists, or a requirement for minimal fencing and trapping of favourable habitats prior to clearance. Whilst only sites in the Red Zone may be subject to these specific requirements, every development authorised is able to move any GCN discovered to suitable habitat, and out of harm's way. Regardless of risk zone every development is provided best practice guidance at the time of authorisation and supported throughout the lifespan of their project to increase the level of safeguarding GCN receive.

12.40 In the 2020/2021 financial year, no GCN were recorded as having been discovered whilst works were being undertaken. To date in Milton Keynes, the mitigation requirements imposed through the District Licence have resulted in the capture and safe relocation of 86 GCN, with zero reported deaths or injuries.

Table 12.6: MKC Great Crested Newts District Licencing Scheme Contributions and Compensation Sites. Source: NatureSpace Partnership, Apr 2021.			
Data Category		Scheme Total for MK (Feb 2018 – Apr 2021)	Financial Year 2021/21
	Developer Contributions	£736, 321	£251, 747
	Authorised Sites	32	17
Development Impact	Aquatic Impacts – <i>Impacts assessed to date, not all are authorised yet.</i>	5 ponds directly lost 2 ponds damaged 1 pond directly lost 5 ponds degraded i.e. 13 ponds impacted 4 occupied GCN ponds impacted. *4.16 GCN ponds **3.72 GCN ponds	2 ponds directly lost 1 pond degraded i.e. 13 ponds impacted 1 occupied GCN pond lost. *0.96 GCN Ponds **1.03 GCN ponds.
	*Using overall GCN occupancy rate (32%)		
	**Using zone-specific occupancy rates (Red 45%, Amber 31%, Green 13%, White 0.01%).		
Habitat	Terrestrial habitat damaged/lost – <i>assessed to date, not all are authorised yet.</i>	3.45 Ha core habitat 33.94 Ha intermediate habitat 12.24 Ha distant habitat 49.62 Ha terrestrial habitat lost within 500m of a pond 3.38 km linear terrestrial habitat impacts.	1.52 Ha core habitat 20.67 Ha intermediate habitat 7.09 Ha distant habitat 29.27 Ha terrestrial habitat lost within 500m of a pond
	On site compensation (by developers)	4 ponds created	2 ponds created
Habitat	District Licence Compensation (by Newt Conservation Partnership)	14 newly created ponds 2 restored ponds 81 Ha terrestrial habitat (within 250m of ponds) made available.	4 newly created ponds 2 restored ponds 27.7 Ha terrestrial habitat (within 250m of ponds) made available.

	Overall Compensation Ratios	4:1 Ponds (gain: loss) 2.17:1 (gain: loss) terrestrial habitats within 250m of ponds	<i>N/A at financial year level – on going cumulative assessment of impacts and compensation.</i>
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12.41 The District Licence Scheme is expanding into further LPA's and by the end of the year will cover Northamptonshire, East Sussex, Staffordshire, Surrey (parts of), Berkshire, Hampshire and the rest of Buckinghamshire. NatureSpace have secured the first organisational licence run on District Licence principles for Network Rail, covering the London – Market Harborough section of the Midland Mainline in the first instance and set to expand across the whole of Network Rails' Eastern region in the next 12 months.

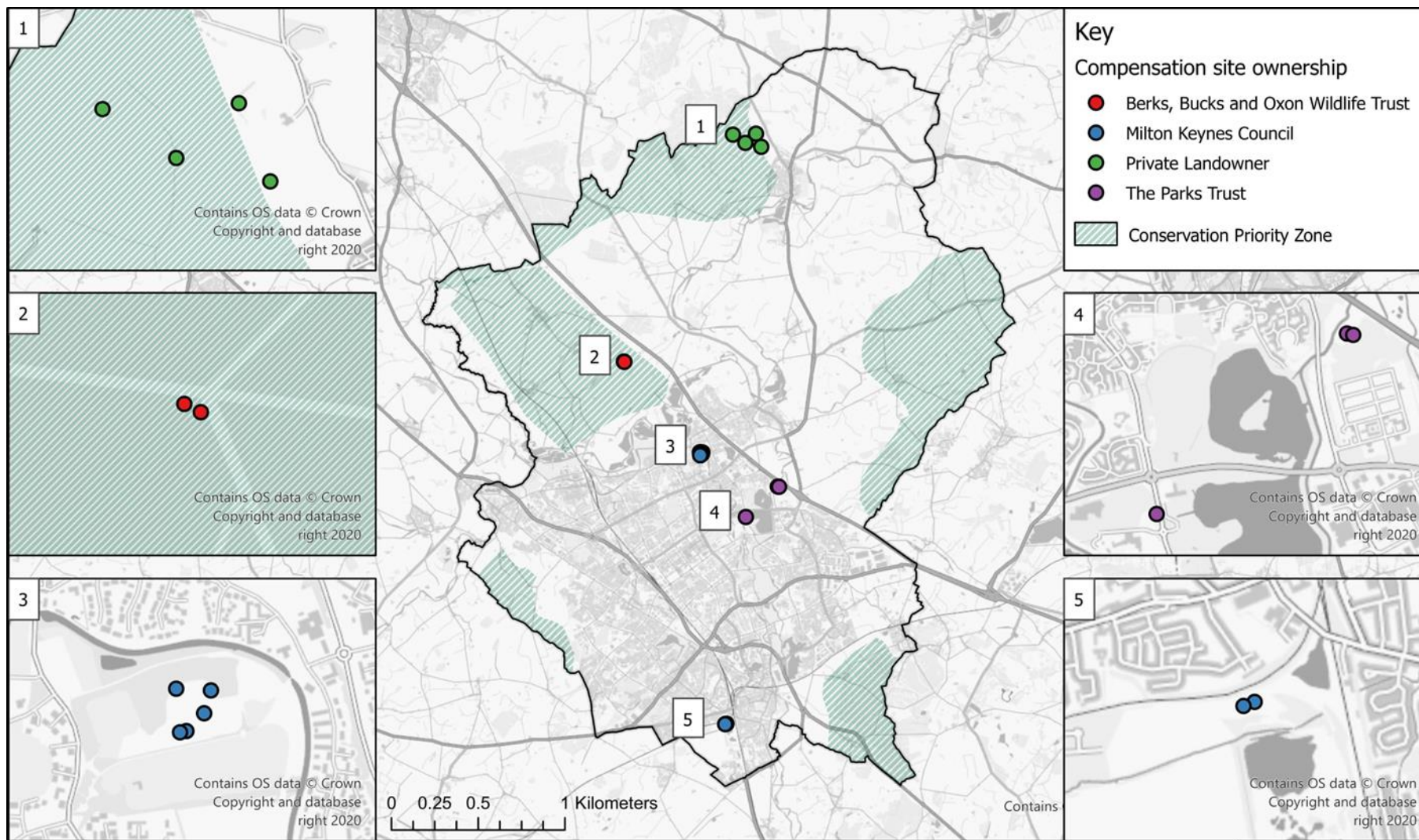


Figure 12.1: Compensation sites created and restored in Milton Keynes, as part of the District Licencing Scheme (Newt Conservation Partnership, Jan 2021).

- 12.42** NatureSpace is now offering free, no obligation site assessments, so developers can now see the full costs and any mitigation requirements upfront, before any payment is made. This transition has seen an increase of developers opting into the District Licence.
- 12.43** Future planned amendments to the scheme will include the addition of an extra charging category for Minor low impact developments, whereby a one-off payment is made to join the scheme – intended to benefit smaller developers who do not fit the ‘householder’ or ‘infill’ categories. There will also be amendments to the assessment metric, to include new provisions for linear schemes such as roads and cycleways.

Summary

- 12.44** The above data showcases the positive progress of work associated with the District Licence in mitigating the impacts of new development and providing biodiversity net gain for GCNs. Progress is being made to help achieve Strategic Objective 16. However, we recognise the District Licencing Scheme is an ongoing project as Table 12.6 notes. We shall report on performance of the Licence Scheme for the 2021/2022 monitoring year in next year’s AMR.

Condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 12.45** One of the targets in the Plan:MK Monitoring Framework for Strategic Objective 16 is that there should be no worsening of the condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the borough. These sites are notable for their national geological and/or biodiversity importance. There are currently three SSSI sites (wholly or partially) in the borough.
- 12.46** Natural England's objective is to achieve 'favourable condition' status for all SSSIs. As of 09 July 2020, the status of the sites in Milton Keynes are as follows:
- a. Howe Park Wood SSSI, located near Tattenhoe and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 22/07/2020 and was rated ‘favourable’.
 - b. Oxley Mead SSSI, namesake for the Oxley Park estate surrounding it and managed by The Parks Trust, was last assessed on 04/06/2008 and was rated ‘favourable’.
 - c. Yardley Chase SSSI is partly situated in Milton Keynes with the rest in Northamptonshire. It is near Ravenstone and Olney. The 13 different habitat areas in the SSSI were last assessed on various dates between 2011 and 2017, with one area being rated as ‘favourable’ and the other 12 being rated as ‘unfavourable – recovering’.
- 12.47** These ratings represent no change from the PAMR and as such the target in the Monitoring Framework that the condition of no SSSIs shall worsen is being met. We will report again on the condition of these SSSIs in next year’s AMR.

- 13.1** As a Unitary Authority, we are the Minerals Planning Authority (MPA) for the Borough area and as such we are responsible for land use planning matters for minerals related development.
- 13.2** In July 2017, we adopted the Minerals Local Plan (MLP) which forms the part of the Development Plan for Milton Keynes that relates to mineral and mineral-related development within the Borough. The MLP, which has a plan period up to 31 December 2032, has the following functions:
- a. It sets out the strategic vision and objectives for minerals related development;
 - b. It identifies the mineral resources of local and national importance as well as the amount of these to be provided from within Milton Keynes;
 - c. It identifies the development strategy and site-specific allocations to facilitate delivery of a steady and adequate supply of aggregates and maintenance of landbanks; and,
 - d. It sets out the policies and proposals against which planning applications for minerals related development will be determined.
- 13.3** The MLP also sets out policies and proposals that apply to other forms of development, covering matters such as the safeguarding of mineral resources of local and national importance, committed and allocated minerals-related development and associated infrastructure as well as measures to reduce potential land use conflict with incompatible forms of development.

Figure 13.1: Minerals Local Plan Strategic Objectives

1. Support Milton Keynes', and wider, needs by ensuring a sufficient supply of aggregates in order to facilitate growth and the delivery of infrastructure.
2. Provide clear guidance regarding how minerals-related development should relate to growth patterns, other land-use forms and infrastructure networks and support industry investment through the spatial strategy for minerals-related development and the identification of specific sites.
3. Reinforce local identity through the supply of locally sourced building stone.
4. Maximise the efficient recovery and use of mineral reserves and the use of secondary and recycled materials.
5. Safeguard Milton Keynes' mineral resources of local and national importance (sand and gravel), reserves and ancillary development from other forms of development.
6. Protect and enhance Milton Keynes' environmental and heritage designations and ensure that permitted operations do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or human health by avoiding and / or minimising adverse effects to acceptable levels.
7. Ensure minerals-related development and associated transport movements do not have unacceptable adverse impacts on human health and minimise adverse effects on residential amenity.
8. Support the provision of green infrastructure and recreational opportunities to promote healthy communities and quality of life in Milton Keynes.
9. Ensure progressive restoration of mineral extraction sites and maximise environmental gains and benefits to local communities through appropriate after-uses that reflect local circumstance and landscape linkages.
10. Support Milton Keynes' transition to a low carbon economy and tackle climate change through the promotion of sustainable development principles, alternative modes of transport and by addressing flood risk.

- 13.4** The MLP is underpinned by 10 strategic objectives, for which the policies and proposals set out in the plan provide detailed guidance on the implementation of, whilst also outlining how development should seek to support and deliver them. The strategic objectives are outlined in Table 13.1.
- 13.5** In order to monitor the effects of implementing the plan and its policies, the MLP also includes a monitoring framework, as set out in Chapter 7 of the Plan, which is focussed on measurable planning outcomes. Table 13.1 utilises this monitoring framework by outlining the MLP policy and the plan objectives it is linked to, the key indicators for measuring performance of this policy and the target it is seeking to achieve, and then provides an update of performance for the 2020/21 monitoring period, based on the most up-to-date, available information and data.
- 13.6** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) also requires MPAs to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregates by preparing an annual Local Aggregates Assessment (LAA). The LAA is required to:
- a. Forecast the demand for aggregates based on average of 10-year sales data and other relevant local information;
 - b. Analyse all aggregate supply options; and,
 - c. Assess the balance between demand and supply.
- 13.7** The most recently published LAA for Milton Keynes dates from October 2020 and reports on 2019 data. This LAA and the data contained within has been used to inform the monitoring of the MLP policies in this AMR. The data within the LAA has not been replicated in detail in the following monitoring table and as such should be read alongside the monitoring table if more detailed information or breakdown of the data is required. The 2020 LAA document can be read at: [Milton Keynes Council Minerals Policy](#).
- 13.8** With regards to DtC on minerals matters, we have not been involved in any matters specific to the DtC during 2020/21, but retain active membership of the South East England Aggregates Working Party (SEAWP) and have also provided responses on the following minerals related consultations during the year:
- a. Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Review: Duty to Cooperate strategic mineral and waste movements (October 2020).

Table 13.1: Minerals Local Plan Monitoring.

Local Plan policy <i>and link</i> to Key indicator(s) Target objectives	Key indicator(s)	Target	2019/20 Monitoring
<p>Policy 1: Providing for sand and gravel.</p> <p>Objective 1</p>	<p>Amount of aggregate produced in line with annual provision. Size of landbanks for sand and gravel and crushed rock.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sand and gravel production of 0.17 million tonnes per annum (Mtpa). - Maintain a 7-year landbank for sand and gravel. 	<p>For the year 2019 sales of sand and gravel in Milton Keynes were limited within only one active site (figures for MK alone are confidential and cannot therefore be published). The combined sales figure for Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire, which in last year's AMR was reported at 1.1 Mt, is not yet available for the currently monitored year, as there has been a delay in producing the Annual report by SEEAWP.</p> <p>The landbank for Milton Keynes as at December 2019 was 5 years based on the adopted provision rate.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> Sand and gravel sales in Milton Keynes decreased over the monitoring period. However, despite the fall in sales there are still reserves available to continue to support growth in the Borough. The landbank is the same as for the previous year and falls short of the government 7 year landbank target.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> As outlined in the MLP's monitoring framework the trigger point for correction and/or mitigation measures to be considered is when the Landbank falls below target for more than two years (within the plan period). The data for 2019, as outlined here, represents the third year in which the Landbank has fallen below the target and as such a trigger point has been reached.</p> <p>The MLP did seek to address this issue by allocating four sites for sand and gravel extraction which, subject to planning permission, have the potential to increase the landbank. Two of the four sites, those at Passenham and at</p>

			<p>Lathbury, have planning permission for minerals extraction and extraction at Lathbury commenced in 2020, but outside the of the period monitored by the LLA and therefore not within the reporting period for figures recorded here.</p> <p>As a response to this identified issue, we are currently in the process of contacting the agents /owners of allocated sites in the MKMLP to establish if and when those will be coming forward for aggregate extraction.</p> <p>Upon receipt of this information we will consider any potential required actions to address this issue, which may include promoting the development of the those sites allocated within the MKMLP.</p> <p>Any actions undertaken will be reported in next year's AMR.</p>
<p>Policy 2: The spatial strategy for sand and gravel extraction.</p> <p><i>Objective 2</i></p>	Approved proposals are consistent with spatial strategy.	100% of approvals are consistent with spatial strategy.	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> Target met</p>
<p>Policy 3: Site-specific allocations for the extraction of sand and gravel.</p> <p><i>Objectives 1, 2</i></p>	Amount of sand and gravel produced from allocated sites is in line with annual provision.	Allocated sites come forward to ensure sand and gravel production to meet provision rate.	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> Two sites that currently have permission for sand and gravel extraction are allocations in the MLP however these sites had not commenced extraction in 2019 (Lathbury has subsequently commenced in 2020).</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> As outlined above under the Actions for Policy 1.</p>
<p>Policy 4: Site-specific allocations for the extraction of building stone.</p> <p><i>Objectives 1, 2, 3</i></p>	Amount of building stone produced from allocated sites is in line with annual provision.	Allocated sites come forward within the plan period and approvals are in line with the development strategy.	<p>No applications determined within monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> Sales of building stone increased over monitoring period providing reserves to support restoration, conservation and enhancement in the Borough.</p>

Policy 5: Development principles for mineral extraction. Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p>Mineral extraction sites permitted in 2018 (permission refs. 17/01267/MIN & 18/00009/MIN) comply with development principles.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change</p>
Policy 6: Borrow Pits. Objectives 1, 2	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change</p>
Policy 7: Development principles for facilities for secondary and recycled aggregates. Objectives 1, 2, 4	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p>A waste transfer and recycling facility was permitted in 2018 (permission ref. 18/02880/FUL) which complied with development principles.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change</p>
Policy 8: Development principles for other forms of minerals-related development. Objectives 1, 2	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined in monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> Sales of sand and gravel and crushed rock from Bletchley rail depot increased over the monitoring period.</p>
Policy 9: Natural assets & resources. Objectives 6, 8	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change</p>
Policy 10: Historic Environment. Objective 6	<p>Approved proposals meet development principles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change</p>

Policy 11: Landscape and townscape. Objectives 6, 8	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> no change
Policy 12: General amenity. Objectives 6, 7	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change
Policy 13: Sustainable transport. Objective 7	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change
Policy 14: Site design and layout. Objectives 6, 10	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change
Policy 15: Climate change. Objective 10	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change
Policy 16: Restoration and after-care. Objective 9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change
Policy 17: Implementation. Objectives 1, 2	Approved proposals meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not 	No applications determined within the monitoring period. <u>Trends:</u> No change

		meeting development principles.	
Policy 18: Mineral safeguarding and consultation areas. Objective 5	Approved proposals do not have an adverse effect on a safeguarded mineral resource and meet development principles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mineral resources are not needlessly sterilised. - 100% of approvals meet development principles. - No appeals lost on proposals not meeting development principles. 	<p>It is considered all development applications identifying sites within MSAs meet the requirements set out in the MLP that relate to protecting economically important resources from sterilisation. As a result, no development took place which caused sterilisation to economically viable resources.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> No change, no permissions have been granted that would in the view of the minerals planning authority result in sterilisation of economically viable resources.</p>
Policy 19: Safeguarding minerals-related development and associated infrastructure. Objective 5	Approved proposals meet requirements.	100% of approvals meet requirements.	<p>No applications determined within the monitoring period.</p> <p><u>Trends:</u> No change, no permissions have been granted that would in the view of the minerals planning authority result in minerals-related development being adversely affected.</p>

Waste

- 14.1** As a Unitary Authority, we are the Waste Planning Authority (WPA) for the Borough area. The Waste Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in 2008, outlines local waste policy which provides the basis for planning decisions on waste matters within the Borough.
- 14.2** The Waste DPD sets out the long-term spatial vision for the Borough in relation to waste and sets strategic policies required to deliver the vision. Furthermore, the Waste DPD outlines allocations of sites for waste management facilities and provides a range of Development Management policies related to the delivery of site-specific allocations and for use in assessing other waste related planning applications which may come forward.
- 14.3** We also produce a Waste Strategy which covers the implementation of waste-related services such as waste collection and waste disposal. This is not a planning document but does seek to set targets in relation to issues such as the percentage of household waste sent for reuse and recycling, and other waste related areas in which we are required to feedback information to national government for reporting on an annual basis.
- 14.4** The most recent MKC Waste Strategy was published in 2017 and covers the five-year period through to 2022. Whereas in previous MKC Waste Strategies specific targets had been set in a number of areas, specifically in relation to issues of landfill allowances and recycling targets, the 2017 Waste Strategy does not do so to the same degree. The main driver for the 2017 update was the financial position, and associated funding gap, of MKC. Therefore, we currently do not have to meet any recycling or landfill targets, the main aim of the 2017 strategy was to enable high quality waste services to be delivered to a growing city with reduced resources.
- 14.5** This AMR therefore seeks to look at the last four years of available data in relation to waste management to review performance against national indicators. The most recently published data is for the year 2020/2021.

Duty to Cooperate on Waste Matters

- 14.6** As a strategic matter, the planning of waste falls under our duty to cooperate with neighbouring authorities and relevant bodies. During the 2020/21 Monitoring period, we have sought to fulfil our duty by undertaking engagement with different organisations shown in the table below.

Table 14.1: Duty to Cooperate on Waste Matters.		
Type of Engagement	Parties Involved	Date of Engagement
Meetings	South East Waste Planning Advisory Group (SEWPAG)-meeting with South East Waste Planning Authorities and Environment Agency	28 April 2020 15 July 2020 20 October 2020 14 Jan 2021

- 14.7** South East Waste Planning Authority Group (SEWPAG) is a non-executive body, funded directly by the WPA members. It comprises of:
- a. WPAs in the south east of England;
 - b. the Environment Agency;
 - c. representatives from similar fora in London and the east of England and waste industry;
 - d. representation through the Environmental Services Association (ESA).
- 14.8** SEWPAG meets to discuss waste planning matters in the South East. SEWPAG helps WPAs including MKC to plan for waste management taking account of the wider strategic cross boundary waste issues in the South East. Being a part of this group helps us to fulfil our statutory plan making 'Duty to Co-operate' by working together in groups in order that we may carry out our individual responsibilities more effectively. While being a part of SWEPEG we provide a wider response to relevant consultations such as neighbouring areas' plans for waste management, DCO projects and waste planning applications of strategic importance.
- 14.9** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SEWPAG members was signed by MKC in August 2018. The MoU sets out how the SEWPAG Authorities would approach the Duty and set thresholds below which it was considered that the Duty need not apply. This had been recently revised in the form of the new SoCG between SEWPAG members.
- 14.10** During 2020-21 the group compiled the following documents:
- a. *Report on Residual Waste Capacity in the South East (finalised in May 2021)*. This study considers residual non-hazardous waste treatment capacity in the South East in the form of EfW capacity that is operational, being commissioned or being constructed. The study is intended to provide a snapshot of the estimated 'other recovery' capacity gap for such waste at the end of 2020.;
 - b. *Estimating C,D&E Waste Arisings in the South East (2018) (finalised in July 2020)* This report is concerned with estimating the quantity of Construction, Demolition & Excavation (C,D&E) Waste that arose in South East England for the year 2018.;
- 14.11** During the monitoring period 2020/21 work commenced on the following studies:
- C&I Waste Arisings Methodology
 - SEWPAG's Hazardous Waste Position Statement 2020
 - Climate Change Policy Approaches
 - SEWPAG's Annual Monitoring Reports
- 14.12** During the monitoring period 2020/21 the group responded to the following:
- a. Response provided to the Planning White paper;
 - b. Response provided to Application by FCC Environment for a DCO to allow a proposed extension of the Allington Integrated Waste Management Facility, Laverstoke Road,

Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0LE Response provided to the Examining Authority's further written questions and requests for information (ExQ3) and comments on Applicant's Response for an Order Granting Development Consent for the Wheelabrator Kemsley (K3) Generating Station and the Wheelabrator Kemsley North (WKN) waste to energy facility.

Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority

14.13 There was no increase in the operational capacity of waste management facilities in the monitoring period. An application 20/00678/FULMMA to extend the operational life of the Bletchley site by 15 years with final restoration of the whole site to be completed within a further 24 months was refused by our Development Control Committee on 3rd September 2020.

Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by Milton Keynes Council 2020/21

14.14 Table 14.2 outlines the percentage of Local Authority collected waste recycled, both as a total and broken down into household and non-household waste for 2020/21 whilst also providing a comparison with the previous three years. Table 14.3 then outlines the means that have been used to manage the waste that has been collected across the same time periods. It is noted that the Council had to prioritise waste services to adapt to the changes of waste generation during pandemic (2019/20 and 2020/21 monitoring years) and shortage of staff; civic amenity sites were closed, and on-demand collection interrupted in pandemic. In December 2020 the government published guidance on prioritising waste collection services during coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

14.15 Years 2019/20 and 2021/2020 had seen an increase in the waste generated compared to previous years and this had been caused by the pandemic related change of consumers behaviours. As both tables 14.2 and 14.3 outline, the total amount of waste generated in the most recent monitoring period reduced by over 5,700 tonnes from the previous year. For 2020/21, the reduction was from household and non-household waste. We continue to see a drop in the % of household waste and non-household waste being recycled compared to previous 2 years. Only 53.5% of Local Authority Collected Waste was sent for recycling, compost or reuse in 2020/21.

Table 14.2: Percentage of Local Authority Collected Waste recycled 2015/16 - 2018/19

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected
Household Waste: Dry recycling or Reuse	32636	26.4	35605	30.4	36150	26.64	31720	23.90
Household Waste: Green recycling or Reuse	31262	25.3	33702	28.7	41449	30.55	40144	30.25
Household Waste not	59741	48.3	47965	40.9	58083	42.81	60829	45.84

sent for recycling								
Total Household Waste	123639	100	117272	100	135682	100.00	132693	100.00
Non-household waste sent for recycling, composting or reuse	5937	82.2	6093	62.6	4899	51.35	2746	40.59
Non-household waste not sent for recycling	1285	17.8	3635	37.4	4641	48.65	4019	59.41
Total Non-household Waste	7222	100	9728	100	9540	100.00	6765	100.00
Local Authority Collected Waste sent for recycling, compost or reuse	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50
Local Authority Collected Waste not sent for recycling	61026	46.6	51600	40.6	62724	43.19	64848	46.50
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	130861	100	127000	100	145222	100.00	139458	100.00

Table 14.3: Management of Local Authority Collected Waste 2015/16 – 2018/19.

	2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected	Quantity (Tonnes)	% waste collected
Landfilled	17138	13.1	3276	2.6	0	0	0	0
Incineration with EfW	43214	33	42173	33.2	62724	43.19	64848	46.50
Incineration without EfW	15	0.01	12	0.009	0	0	0	0
Recycled/composted	69835	53.4	75400	59.4	82498	56.81	74610	53.50
Other	659	0.5	6139	4.8	0	0	0	0
Total Local Authority Collected Waste	130861	100	127000	100	145222	100	139458	100

- 14.16** Other notable points are that the amount of Local Authority Collected Waste from the Borough dropped to 0 in 2019/20 and 2020/21 ;The decrease relates to the amount of waste incinerated via an Energy from Waste (EfW) plant, which had risen to 43.19% in 219/20 and 46.5% in 2020/21.
- 14.17** This increase coincides with the opening of the Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Plant (MKWRP) which has been operational since March 2018. The plant utilised state-of-the-art mechanical treatment and heat energy recovery technologies to manage waste in a more sustainable manner, enabling the creation of enough energy to power the equivalent of 11,000 homes whilst also reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill and providing a saving to us on our waste management bill in the forthcoming years (Landfill being the most expensive means of managing collected waste).
- 14.18** The amount of waste collected by us and sent to landfill is also a national benchmark indicator (NI 193). The 2017 MKC Waste Strategy outlined that with the MKWRP coming online, it was expected that the amount of waste being sent to landfill would be below 5% by 2022. As outlined in Table 14.3, this has already been achieved by the end of 2018/19.

Recycling, composting and reuse of waste in Milton Keynes

- 14.19** Whilst we do not have to meet any targets in relation to recycling, it does, however, have a duty to separate out paper, metals, plastics and glass for recycling and to have regard to the waste hierarchy. The waste hierarchy ranks waste management options according to what is best for the environment, with reuse and recycling being the highest in the hierarchy for means of managing waste that has been created.
- 14.20** As outlined in our 2017 Waste Strategy, waste hierarchy rates are measured using the benchmark national indicator known as “NI 192” (the percentage of household waste recycled) or by using the percentage of total waste collected by us that is recycled.
- 14.21** With regards to NI 192, Table 14.2 outlines that the percentage of household waste recycled or reused in 2020/21 was 54.1%, this is decrease of 3.03% from the amount in 2019/20 and 4.99 from 2018/19. A similar trend is also shown in Table 14.3 for total collected waste that is recycled of reused with the percentage dropping from 59.4% in 2018/19 to 56.81% in 2019/20 and 53.5% in 2020/21.
- 14.22** The 2017 MKC Waste Strategy outlined that for both these measures it was expected that the Strategy would result in a reduction of the recycling rate by approximately 3-4% from the percentages recorded in 2015/16. The data currently shows a decline in overall recycling rate in the last 2 monitoring years. The impacts of the Strategy and potential changes in waste collections due to pandemic will need to be monitored in the near future and evaluated at the end of strategies monitoring period (2022) taking account of future years’ monitoring and any available data on change of behaviours.

14.23 Overall, it is clear that we are meeting their duty to have regard to the waste hierarchy with recycling and reuse, followed by incineration (now with the majority being used for waste to energy conversion), accounting for the management of 92.6% of all waste collected within the Borough and the lowest amount being that which is sent to landfill.

Mass of waste produced per household

14.24 As outlined in Table 14.4, for the monitoring period 2020/21, the residual waste per household figure (which is a national benchmark indicator (NI 191)) was 472.12g. This represents a small increase from the figure recorded in 2019/20. Higher figures for the last 2 monitoring years are likely caused by increased consumption of packed food, fresh food, and food delivery since the pandemic started. Another reason for the increased waste generation was the periods of lockdowns and extended change of working arrangements where more people had been working from home compared to pre-pandemic monitoring years.

Table 14.4: Residual Waste per household in Milton Keynes 2018/19				
Year	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Residual Household Waste (kg/household)	544.4	431.8	462.58	472.12

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