MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

Milton Keynes Local Development Framework
Annual Monitoring Report 2009-2010

December 2010

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

Contents

Executive Summary

This is the sixth Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) prepared by Milton Keynes Council as required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It currently forms a key component of the Local Development Framework. It contains information on the implementation of the Local Development Scheme (LDS) and the extent to which the policies contained in the documents that form the LDF, including Local Plan saved policies, are being implemented. This report covers the monitoring period running from April 2009 to March 2010.

LDS Implementation - Key highlights

- The Transport and Sustainable Transport SPD was adopted (June 2009)
- Changes to the planning system have resulted in significant delays to the production of the LDF
- The Core Strategy was not submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination

LDF Policy Implementation - Key highlights

Social

- The population of the Borough increased by 3,850 to 235,250
- The average life expectancy for males and females in Milton Keynes (77.9 and 82.2) is slightly lower than the averages for the South East (79.4 and 83.3) and for England (78.3 and 82.3)
- The standard mortality rate for Milton Keynes is 103, showing that there are more deaths than expected
- The total number of recorded crimes dropped by more than 500 to 25,480 compared to last year's figure of 26,017

Housing

- Housing completions reached their lowest level since 2004/5 with a figure of 1,413 compared to last year's 1,841
- The proportion of housing completions on previously developed land was 45%, which exceeds the Local Plan target of 20%
- Affordable housing completions dropped from 650 last year to 387, which represents 27% of total completions compared to last year's proportion of 35%

Economy

- There was a net gain of 53,099m^2 of completed internal employment floorspace (all B use classes) which includes a net loss of B2 general industry floorspace.
- 83% of all employment floorspace was built on previously developed land
- There is a total of 200ha of employment land available in Milton Keynes

Transport

- Bus patronage remained the same as last year at 8.2million
- The peak traffic level was marginally lower than last year with 19,266 vehicles entering CMK between 7am and 10am
- The number of cycles parked in CMK remained the same as last year at 344, well below the target of 600

Energy and Climate Change

- The seven turbine Milton Keynes Windfarm went into operation, and is capable of generating between 14 and 21 megawatts of power
- Per capita carbon dioxide emissions within the Borough have reduced by 5.1% from 2005 to 2008
- Up to April 2010, 2.9% of all dwellings in the Borough have benefited from improved insulation as a result of the carbon offset fund

Natural and Historic Environment

- 65% of Local Biodiversity Sites are in positive conservation management, a significantly higher proportion than neighbouring authorities
- No planning applications were granted contrary to advice from the Environment Agency on flooding or water quality grounds
- There is now one Listed Building in Milton Keynes on the English Heritage "at risk" register - Orchard House on Olney High Street
- All of Milton Keynes' air quality targets were met, with one exception - Olney where, once again, nitrogen dioxide levels were measured to be at an unacceptably high level

Waste and Minerals

- Two new waste management facilities became operational in this monitoring period, accommodating an additional 47,000 tonnes of waste per annum
- The proportion of waste sent to landfill reduced significantly from from 60.1% in the last monitoring period to 51.4%
- The recycling, composting and reuse figure increased to 47% compared to last year's 38%, largely due to the introduction of a food and garden waste collection service

1 Introduction

Requirements of the Annual Monitoring Report

> "Monitoring is essential to establish what is happening now, what may happen in the future and then compare these trends against existing policies and targets to determine what needs to be done"[1]

1.1 The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a part of this monitoring process, and is required by Regulation 48 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. The monitoring period of an AMR runs from 1st April to 31st March of the following year. The report must be submitted to the Secretary of State no later than the end of December.

1.2 An AMR must cover the following:

- The progress of the creation of Local Development Documents (LDDs) against the milestones set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS)
- The effectiveness of the policies and proposals in delivering the objectives of the Local Development Framework (LDF)
- Where the effects of policies are unintended, explain what measures will be taken to change this

Milton Keynes - Background Information

1.3 Milton Keynes Borough covers the 'new city' of Milton Keynes as well as the large rural area which includes Newport Pagnell, Woburn Sands and Olney. The Borough is located in the centre of the newly formed South East Midlands LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) (see Figure 1.1 'Map of South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership area') which brings together businesses, universities and colleges, community groups, social enterprises and local government in Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Luton, Milton Keynes, Cherwell, Aylesbury, and Dacorum.

1 Local Development Framework: A Good Practice Guide

1 . Introduction

Figure 1.1 Map of South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership area

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 Development Corporation until 1992. Milton Keynes has been, and continues to be, one of the fastest growing areas in the UK, with 2,500 to 3,000 new residents every year. Since designation, the Borough's population has grown from 60,000 to 235,250 (2009 estimate). The Core Strategy sets a housing target of 28,000 over the period 2010-2026. This growth is expected to increase the total population to 300,000 by 2026. The majority of the land required to accommodate this growth has been allocated in the Local Plan, further sites will be allocated in the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations DPD.

1.5 The growth of Milton Keynes can be attributed to its advantageous location midway between London and Bimingham, as well as its connections to the M1 motorway and the West Coast Mainline train service. Milton Keynes' position at the centre of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc offers great opportunities for economic growth. There are around 139,000 jobs in the Borough and approximately 30% of those who work in the city commute in from outside the Borough. The Core Strategy contains a target to provide 1.5 jobs for every new home built.

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

Milton Keynes Partnership Local Investment Plan

1.7 Milton Keynes Partnership produce a Local Investment Plan which provides a comprehensive picture of projected housing, employment and social infrastructure development in Milton Keynes, and identifies the lead delivery agency and potential sources of funding for a detailed programme of work and infrastructure. The Plan helps to overcome obstacles to the delivery and implementation of growth and can be found on the Milton Keynes Partnership website[2].

2 http://www.miltonkeynespartnership.info/about_MKP/local_investment_plan_2009.php

2 Progress on LDF & LDS Implementation

2.1 This chapter reviews progress of the implementation of the Milton Keynes LDS 2009-2012 towards developing the Milton Keynes Local Development Framework. It is set out in three sections:

- What has been achieved up to April 2010
- What has been achieved in the 2009/10 monitoring year
- Reasons for delays and position at December 2010

What has been achieved up until April 2009

2.2 The Local Development Framework (LDF) as a system of plan making was introduced through the 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The Local Development Framework comprises a folder of Local Development Documents for delivering the spatial strategy for the area, which replaces the Local Plans system. The LDF will contain:

- A Local Development Scheme (LDS)
- Development Plan Documents
- Supplementary Planning Documents
- A Statement of Community Involvement
- An Annual Monitoring Report

2.3 The LDS sets out which documents will be produced and when this will happen, represented on a Gantt chart timetable. As part of the LDF, the following Local Development Documents (LDDs) have already been adopted:

- The Waste DPD (February 2008)
- The Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006)
- Sustainable Construction SPD
- Affordable Housing SPD
- Central Milton Keynes SPD
- Milton Keynes Tariff SPD

What has been achieved in 2009/10

2.4 Progress made on the LDF in 2009/10 is measured against the 2009-12 LDS. The Transport and Sustainable Transport SPD was adopted in June 2009, on schedule. Also, part of the addendum to the existing Parking Standards SPG was completed. All of the following milestones have, however, been missed:

- The Core Strategy Examination
- Site Allocations DPD participation in developing DPD options and SA scoping report
- Development Management DPD participation in developing DPD options and SA scoping report
- Minerals Core Strategy participation in developing DPD options
- Minerals Sites and Policies participation in developing DPD options (which will now be subsumed into the Site Allocations and Development Management DPDs)
- Preparation of the South East Strategic Development Area (SE SDA) SPD
- Consultation on the HiMOs SPD
- The adoption of the Residential Design Guide SPD
- The adoption of the CMK: Tall Buildings SPD
- The preparation of the CMK: Green Frame
- The preparation of the CMK: Block Parameter Plan

- The adoption of the Parking Standards SPD (in part)
- The adoption of the Highway Guide SPD

Reasons for delays and position at December 2010

Core Strategy

2.5 With regards to the Core Strategy, there are a number of reasons for the delays. Following the publication of the South East Plan in May 2009, a draft Core Strategy was taken to Cabinet (2 June 2009) in order to approve the document for publication. However, Members sought a number of alterations to the documents. During the period June 2009 to December 2009, the document was taken to a number of meetings of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group (LDF Advisory Group) where changes were proposed and agreed. Changes specifically related to the length of the document and its local distinctiveness. This was followed by a critical review of the document carried out by the Planning Officers Society Enterprises. The final version of the Pre-Submission Core Strategy was approved at Full Council on 12 January 2010 to be published for pre-submission comment between 17 February and 31 March 2010, with the intention of submitting the document to to the Planning Inspectorate in August 2010. A total of 620 representations were made during the consultation, by 140 consultees.

2.6 In May 2010, a few weeks after the end of the pre-submission consultation on the Core Strategy, the Secretary of State announced his intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies. This was confirmed on 6 July 2010 by the decision to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies, including the South East Plan, with immediate effect. In light of these changes, the Council agreed on 8 June 2010 to put the Core Strategy on hold pending further guidance from the government.

2.7 Following the resolution of the Council and subsequent letter from the SoS referred to above, two Local Development Framework Advisory Group meetings were held on the 5 August 2010 and 26 August 2010 where the Core Strategy was subject to further discussion and consideration. Particular attention was given to housing targets and the level of growth for Milton Keynes.

2.8 A further meeting of the Local Development Framework Advisory Group was held on 9 September 2010 and was followed by a delegated decision of the relevant Cabinet Member, Councillor Galloway, recommending changes to the Core Strategy. The changes were then agreed at full Council on 14 September 2010. The Revised Proposed Submission document was made available for a second round of pre-submission comment as a result of these changes between 6 October and 17 November 2010.

2.9 On 10 November 2010 a judgement on the Cala Homes case in the High Court was issued. This case successfully challenged the decision on 6 July by the Secretary of State to revoke Regional Strategies, thereby reinstating Regional Strategies as part of the Development Plan.

2.10 On the date of the decision (10 November) CLG's Chief planner, Steve Quartermaine, issued a letter stating that the intention remained to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies and local planning authorities and the planning inspectorate should, therefore, continue to have regard to this intention in decision making.

2.11 However, the Secretary of State received a judicial review challenge to his statement of 10 November 2010, the letter of the Chief Planner of the same date and to the Secretary of State's letter of 27 May 2010 on the ground that the Government's intended revocation of Regional Strategies by the promotion of legislation for that purpose in the forthcoming Localism Bill is legally immaterial to the determination of planning applications and appeals prior to the revocation of Regional Strategies.

2.12 The Secretary of State is defending the challenge, but pending determination of the challenge, decision makers will need to consider whether the existence of the challenge and the basis of it, affects the significance and weight which they judge may be given to the Secretary of State's statements and to the letter of the Chief Planner.

2.13 A new Bill (the Localism Bill) is planned for later this year which will abolish the Regional Strategies (see below under 'Changes to Governmnet Policy'). However, it may take some time to proceed to legislation. Following the close of the consultation period, the Local Development Framework Advisory Group was due to consider a report on the Core Strategy on 15 December 2010. However, this meeting was cancelled to allow time to consider the implications of the Localism Bill for the Core Strategy. It is anticipated that a new date will be set for the LDF AG to meet in January 2011.

Development Plan Documents

2.14 The delays to the Core Strategy have had a knock-on effect on the Site Allocations, Development Management, Minerals Core Strategy and the Minerals Sites and Policies DPDs (which will now be subsumed into the Site Allocations and Development Management DPDs). Hence the relevant milestones for these have been missed. Some preparatory work has taken place, but the documents are unlikely to progress significantly until the Core Strategy has been adopted.

South East Strategic Development Area Supplementary Planning Document

2.15 The SE SDA SPD milestone has also been missed due to the government's announcement of their intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies. The Council's review of housing numbers that resulted from the announcement meant that the SE SDA no longer exists as an allocation in the Core Strategy.

Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document

2.16 The HiMOs SPD was delayed for a number of reasons. Firstly, resources were focused on the production of the Core Strategy, which meant that the HiMOs SPD was held back. Secondly, the SPD was delayed due to the Coalition government's announcement of their intention to remove the requirement to seek planning permission for the change of use from dwellinghouse to a house in multiple occupation and the subsequent removal of the requirement. Milton Keynes Council decided that it was necessary to retain planning control of Houses in Multiple Occupation and decided, therefore, to introduce an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights from dwellinghouse to a house in multiple occupation. As a result, production of the HiMOs SPD has recommenced and it is anticipated that it will be available for consultation in Spring 2011, with the intention of adopting the SPD in Summer/Autumn 2011.

Residential Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

2.17 The Residential Design Guide has been significantly delayed. This is because the document has been subject to requests for additions and amendments over numerous meetings of the LDF Advisory Group. At its meeting on 26 August 2010 the Local Development Framework, although not specifically stating it, said numerous revisions were still needed which implied that it was not ready to be submitted to Cabinet in October 2010 for adoption.

CMK: Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Document

2.18 The CMK: Tall Buildings SPD has been significantly delayed. This is because the document has been subject to requests for additions and amendments over numerous meetings of the LDF Advisory Group. At its meeting on 5 August 2010, the LDF Advisory Group, while acknowledging the work done to date, recommended that further consultation was needed before it could be submitted to Cabinet for adoption. Subsequent to that, it has been agreed that the Review of the CMK Development Framework should take place before adoption of the Tall Buildings SPD. It has also been agreed that the Tall Buildings SPD should be incorporated into the forthcoming CMK: Block Parameter Plan.

CMK: Green Frame Supplementary Planning Document

2.19 The Green Frame SPD has not yet commenced because it is awaiting the completion of the CMK Parking Strategy.

CMK: Block Parameter Plan

2.20 The Block Parameter Plan SPD has not yet commenced because it is awaiting the completion of the CMK Parking Strategy.

Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document

2.21 The Parking Standards SPD is being produced in the form of two parts of an addendum to the existing Parking Standards SPG. The residential parking standards part of the addendum was adopted in April 2009, ahead of schedule. The non-residential parking standards part of the addendum, however, has been delayed due to pressure on staff resources. This part of the addendum will now be taken forward as a joint document with the Residential Design Guide SPD and the Highway Guide.

Highway Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document

2.22 As with the residential Parking Standards addendum, the Highway Design Guide has missed its adoption milestone due to pressure on staff resources. As stated above, this document will now be taken forward as a joint document with the Residential Design Guide and the Residential Parking Standards addendum.

3 Social

Contextual Indicators

Population

3.1 The population figure for 2009 shows a 1.6% increase on 2008's figure. Total population figures for the Borough are shown in Table 3.1 'Population of Milton Keynes Borough' [(3)].

Table 3.1

	Population
Milton Keynes at designation in 1967	60,000
Milton Keynes June 2007	228,400
Milton Keynes June 2008	231,400
Milton Keynes June 2009	235,250

3.2 Table 3.2 'Projected Population Breakdown of Milton Keynes for 2009'[(4)] shows that the largest proportion of the population falls within the 30-39 and 40-40 age groups. The two groups account for 31% of the Borough's total population.

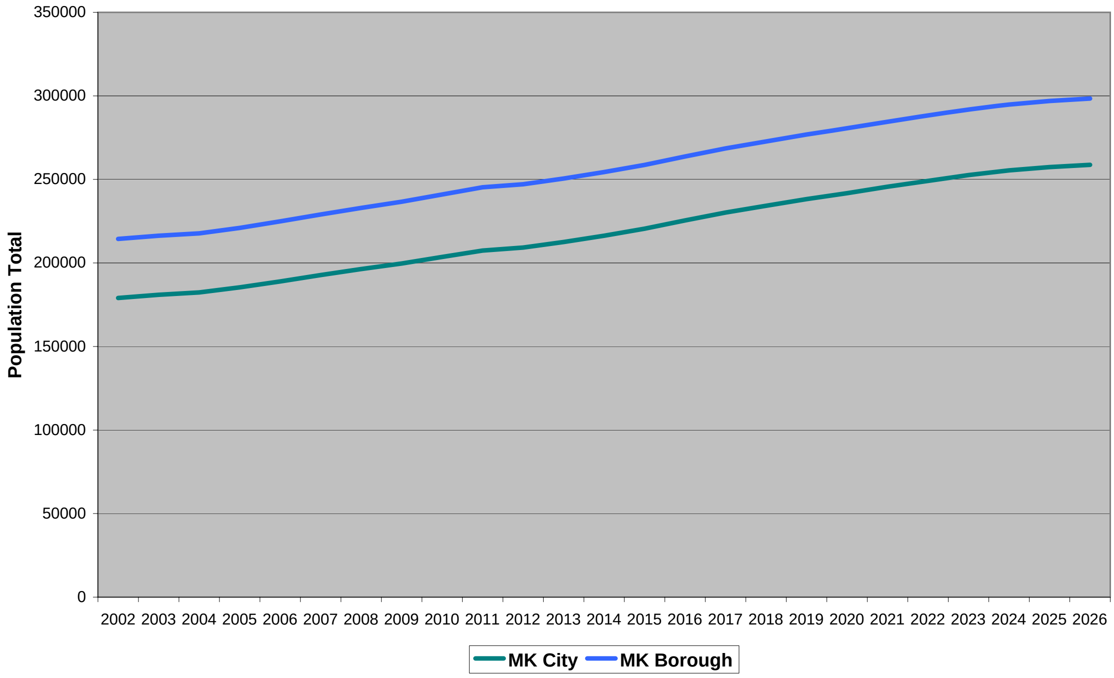
Table 3.2 Projected Population Breakdown of Milton Keynes for 2009

2009	Males	Females	Total
0-4	9,120	8,340	17,460
5-9	7,680	7,510	15,190
10-19	15,520	14,360	29,880
20-29	15,930	14,770	30,700
30-39	18,270	18,260	36,530
40-49	18,950	18,090	37,040
50-59	14,820	14,730	29,550
60-69	10,460	10,330	20,790
70-79	5,110	5,930	11,040
80+	2,500	4,580	7,080
Total	**118,360**	**116,900**	**235,250**

3 Source - MKI Population Bulletin 2009/10 http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/page.aspx?id=1914&siteID=1026
4 Source - MKI Population Bulletin 2009/10 MKI Population Bulletin 2009/10

3.3 Figure 3.1 'Future Population Growth' shows that there has continued to be a steady increase in population, which is likely to continue, with the population of the Borough expected to reach 298,430 in 2026.

Figure 3.1 Future Population Growth



Ethnic Composition

3.4 Table 3.3 'Ethnic Composition Estimates for Milton Keynes Borough 2007'[(5)] shows the ethnic composition of the Borough. The largest minority groups are:

- Other White (3.4%)
- Indian (3.0%)
- African (2.7%)
- Mixed ethnicity (2.3%)

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

Table 3.3 Ethnic Composition Estimates for Milton Keynes Borough 2007

Ethnic Composition		Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	England (%)
White	British	187,100	81.9	83.6
	Irish	2,800	1.2	1.1
	Other White	7,700	3.4	3.5
Mixed Ethnicity		5,200	2.3	1.7
Asian or Asian British	Indian	6,800	3.0	2.6
	Pakistani	2,500	1.1	1.8
	Bangladeshi	1,600	0.7	0.7
	Other Asian	1,400	0.6	0.7
Black or Black British	Caribbean	2,300	1.0	1.2
	African	6,200	2.7	1.4
	Other Black	600	0.3	0.2
Chinese		2,200	1.0	0.8
Other Ethnic Group		2,100	0.9	0.7
Total		**228,400**	**100**	**100**

Life Expectancy

3.5 Table 3.4 'Average Life Expectancy at Birth 2007-2009'[(6)] shows that average life expectancy at birth for both males and females in Milton Keynes Borough is very slightly below the averages for the South East and England as a whole. The average life expectancy at birth for males in Milton Keynes Borough, has also shown a 0.1 drop from the figure reported in the 2008/09 AMR (78.0 years).

Table 3.4 Average Life Expectancy at Birth 2007-2009

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

6 Source - MKI Observatory http://www.mkiobservatory.org.uk/

Standardised Mortality Ratio

3.6 Mortality rates are standardised to allow for the age and sex of the population and valid comparisons with with regional and national rates. A Standard Mortality Ratio of 100 implies that the number of deaths observed is exactly the same as would be expected if Milton Keynes had the same age structure as the national population. If the Standard Mortality Ratio is greater than 100 then there are more deaths than expected in Milton Keynes. If it is below 100 then there are fewer deaths than expected. The standardised mortality ratio for Milton Keynes in 2009 was 103[7].

Table 3.5 Standardised Mortality Ratio

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Milton Keynes	101	102	106	103	103	102	103	103
South East	91	91	91	91	95	92	91	92
England & Wales	98	99	98	98	100	100	100	100

Deprivation

3.7 The Index of Multiple Deprivation has not been updated since the 2007 figures reported in last year's AMR. The 2007 Index of Multiple Deprivation is the Government measure of deprivation. The index combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. These small areas are called Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) and can be combined to create larger, area wide figures. There are 139 LSOAs in Milton Keynes; each of these are ranked relative to one another according to their level of deprivation.

3.8 Milton Keynes is ranked 212 out of 354 Local Authority Districts (with 1 being the most deprived). This is a slight improvement on the 2004 rank of 204. However, it is important to remember that these figures are relative and do not necessarily represent an improvement in standards in Milton Keynes; it could represent a worsening in other areas.

Table 3.6 The number of LSOAs in Milton Keynes within the least deprived (30%) and most deprived (30%)

	Number of LSOAs			
	Within the Most Deprived		Within the Least Deprived	
	2004	2007	2004	2007
0-10%	5	6	14	14
10-20%	8	9	26	35
20-30%	9	7	31	23
Total	**22**	**22**	**71**	**72**

7 Source - MKI Observatory http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?v=2&mode=cube&cube=http%3A%2F%2Fanalysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk%3A80%2Fobj%2FfCube%2FJD125Pb_C1&study=http%3A%2F%2Fanalysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk%3A80%2Fobj%2FfStudy%2FJD125Pb&top=yes

Adult participation in sport

3.9 The 2010 Local Area Agreement target for adult participation in sport was 23.5%. The actual figure achieved was slightly below the target, at 20.9%, the percentage as achieved in 2009. Adult participation in sport is defined as those who have participated in sport and active recreation, at a moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to at least 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week).

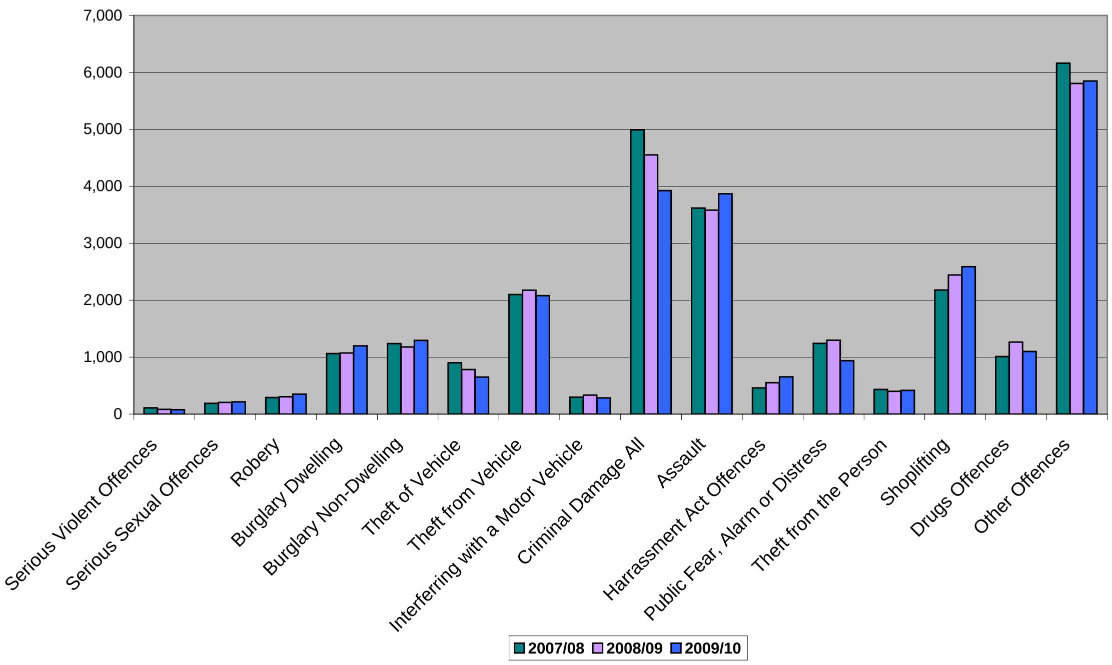
Satisfaction with area as a place to live

3.10 This year's figures show that 84.3%[(8)] of people were satisfied with their local area as a place to live, 0.2% above the LAA target. This year's figure also shows a 1.6% increase on the figure reported last year (82.7%).

Crime Rates

3.11 Figure 3.2 'Recorded Crime Rates in Milton Keynes'[(9)] shows the number of crimes recorded by type in Milton Keynes. The total number of recorded crimes for 2009/10 was 25,480, showing an improvement on last year's figure of 26,017.

Figure 3.2 Recorded Crime Rates in Milton Keynes



8 Source - Council's Corporate Leadership Team Performance report
9 Source - Thames Valley Police

4 Housing

Core Output Indicator H1 - Plan Period and Housing Targets

Table 4.1 Plan Periods & Housing Targets

Indicator	Plan Period	Housing Target	Plan
H1(a)	2001-2011	24,100	MK Adopted Local Plan 2005
H1(b)	2010-2026	28,000	MK Core Strategy 2010-2026

4.1 If the projected completions for 2010-11 are correct then 15,045 dwellings will have been completed in the Local Plan Period of 2001-2010. This represents 62.4% of the plan target. Completions were low in the first years of the plan period as Milton Keynes generated the capacity to build dwellings at a faster rate than had been required previously. Table 4.2 'Housing Completions 2004-2010' shows that housing completions were at their highest during 2007/08 and then fell afterwards due to the economic downturn.

4.2 In previous years, the South East Plan has set the housing requirement for Milton Keynes. In July 2010, the Government formally revoked these regional housing targets and gave Local Authorities the responsibility of setting their own, locally derived housing targets. However, there is uncertainty over the status of the South East Plan in relation to housing targets, due to the Cala Homes court decision. This reinstates regional strategies as part of the development plan but the recently published Localism Bill seeks to abolish them. Further legal action is expected in January 2011 regarding the status of regional strategies and the letter published by the Department of Communities and Local Government stating that the intention to abolish regional strategies should be taken into consideration.

4.3 In summer 2010 Milton Keynes Council (MKC) set a housing target of delivering 1,750 homes per year from 2010 to 2026; a total of 28,000 homes, based on local evidence. This housing figure has been included in the Council's Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy, which is due to be submitted to the Secretary of State in early 2011. It is against this Milton Keynes Council derived figure that future projections are compared to in this report, not the housing target for Milton Keynes set out in the South East Plan.

4.4 The 28,000 target can be broken down as follows:

- 23,740 within the existing urban area
- 2,500 in the strategic reserve areas
- 1,760 outside the MK Urban Area

4.5 The implementation of this requirement will not need extensive new allocations in order to meet the revised housing figures. The Local Plan Strategic Reserve Areas are the only proposed allocation for 2,500 dwellings in the Submission Core Strategy. These sites were originally identified for possible future expansion of the city in the 2005 Adopted Local Plan. Additional sites in the rural area will be found through the future Site Allocations DPD to make up for an expected shortfall in rural housing completions.

Core Output Indicator H2 - Net Additional Dwellings in Previous Years and 2009/10

4.6 Table 4.2 'Housing Completions 2004-2010' shows recent past net housing completions. It shows that completions built up to a high in 2007/08 and have subsequently dropped since the recession. Next year's completions are expected to be lower again, but this is expected to be the lowest point of the current housing construction cycle before completions pick up in 2011/12.

Table 4.2 Housing Completions 2004-2010

2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
1,360	1,795	1,660	2,301	1,841	1,413

4.7 Completions, forecasts and the housing trajectory are set out in Table 4.3 'Housing Trajectory 2010-2026', Figure 4.1 'Housing Trajectory 2010-2026' and Figure 4.2 'Monitor Timeline'. The housing trajectory is based on information drawn from the Joint Housing Delivery Team (JHDT) and the recently published Milton Keynes Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) with information provided by developers. The trajectory shows the projected delivery of housing over the plan period. In accordance with PPS3, no allowance for windfall completions has been included in the trajectory.

4.8 JHDT comprises representatives from Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Partnership and partners and have continuous engagement with housing developers. They monitor progress on major sites across Milton Keynes, tackling blockages which are delaying development. They also produce up to date forecasts on the delivery of sites.

4.9 Milton Keynes Council has also produced separate report and list of sites relating to the PPS3 requirements of identifying and maintaining a rolling 5 year land supply of housing. These documents are available at http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=75829.

Table 4.3 Housing Trajectory 2010-2026

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Projected Net Completions	1,128	1,694	1,897	1,985	2,320	2,266	2,028	1,897
Annualised Core Strategy Target	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
Cumulative Completions	1,128	2,822	4,719	6,704	9,024	11,290	13,318	15,214
Surplus/Shortfall Against Target(10)	-622	-678	-531	-296	274	790	1,068	1,214
Managed Delivery Target(11)	1,750	1,791	1,798	1,791	1,775	1,725	1,671	1,631
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Projected Net Completions	1,684	1,890	1,752	1,722	1,471	1,049	1,090	927
Annualised Core Strategy Target	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
Cumulative Completions	16,899	18,789	20,541	22,263	23,734	24,783	25,873	26,800
Surplus/Shortfall Against Target	1,149	1,289	1,291	1,263	984	283	-378	-1,200
Managed Delivery Target	1,598	1,586	1,535	1,492	1,434	1,422	1,609	2,128

10 Difference between target and cumulative completions
11 Takes account of past/projected completions

Figure 4.1 Housing Trajectory 2010-2026

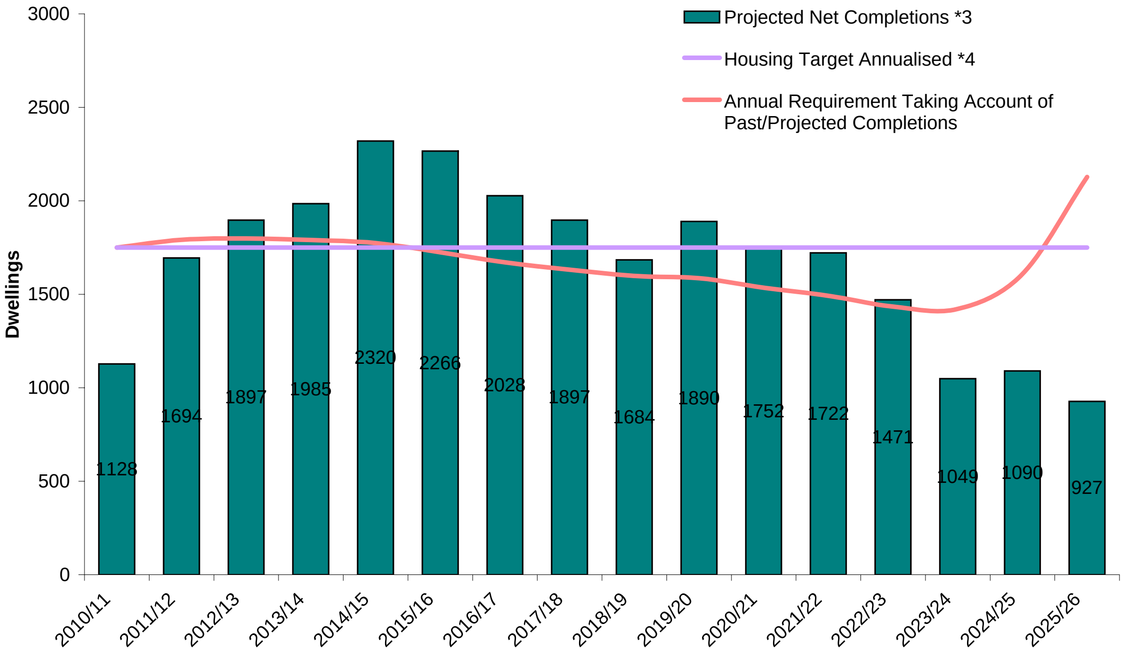
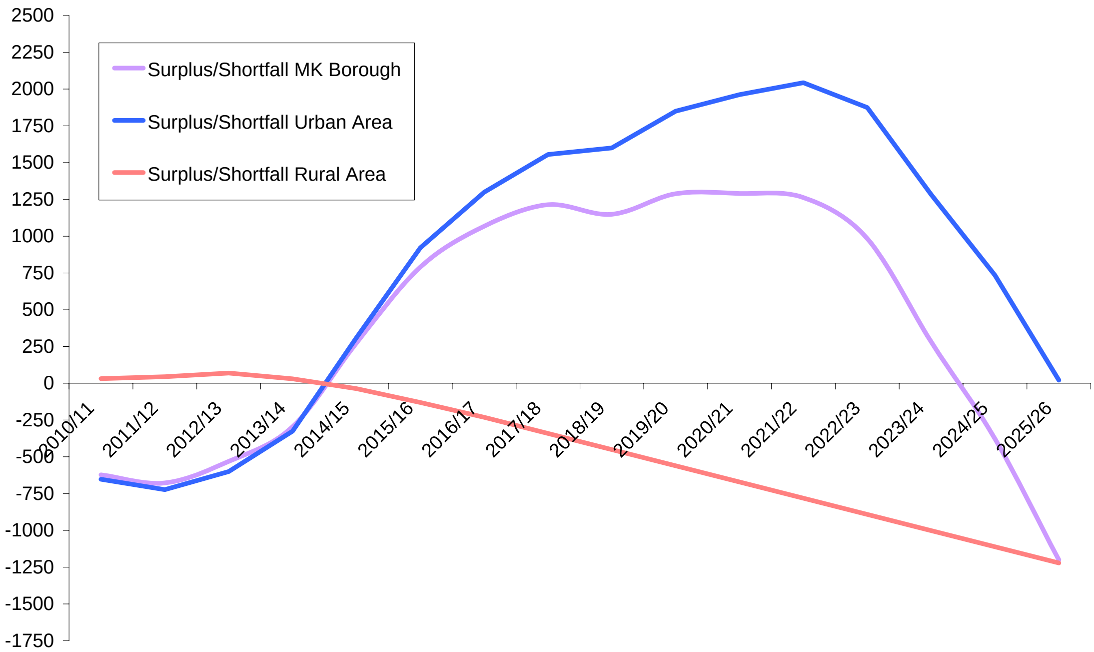


Figure 4.2 Monitor Timeline



4.10 The above tables and diagrams show how the 2010-2026 target of 28,000 homes will be delivered over the plan period. The trajectory shows that completions will reduce next year before beginning to increase from 2011/12 onwards. Therefore, there is an immediate shortfall against the Core Strategy target as the annualised target will not be met until 2012/13. It will then be exceeded over the following years before completions lower towards the end of the period. However, this fall provides flexibility in the trajectory meaning that if completions are lower than expected earlier in the trajectory then there is capacity at the end of the period.

4.11 It should be noted that no allowance for windfall has been included in Figure 4.1 'Housing Trajectory 2010-2026'. Only sites that have either outline or reserve matters permission, allocated in the Local Plan, brownfield sites with approved development briefs or SHLAA sites are included. As at July 2010 the supply of sites was:

- Full/Reserve Matters Permission - 4,277 dwellings
- Outline Permission - 12,536 dwellings
- Local Plan Allocations/Briefed Brownfield Sites - 9,278[12]
- Developable SHLAA Sites - 363 dwellings

Table 4.4 Urban/Rural Future Housing Breakdown

	Urban	Rural	Overall
Projected Net Completions 2010-2026	26,261	539	26,800
Annualised Core Strategy Target	1,640	110	1,750
Core Strategy Target 2010-2026	26,240	1,760	28,000
Difference between Target and Cumulative Completions	21	-1,221	-1,200

4.12 Figure 4.2 'Monitor Timeline' and Table 4.4 'Urban/Rural Future Housing Breakdown' show that there is an overall shortfall of 1,200 dwellings over the plan period. There is a surplus of dwellings in the *urban area* over the plan period; the shortfall comes entirely from the *rural area* (the overall 28,000 target is split between urban and rural areas). Sites will be included in the proposed Site Allocations DPD within the Key Settlements and Selected Villages in the rural area to make up for this shortfall. Windfall completions, which are not projected here but historically account for 45% of rural completions, will also help to reduce the shortfall.

Five Year Land Supply

4.13 Milton Keynes Council is required by PPS3: Housing to maintain a rolling five year supply of housing land that is both deliverable and developable. The requirement over the next five years (starting April 2011) is set out in Table 4.5 'Five Year Housing Requirement'. The five year land supply is made up of the 26,872 completions required, spilt over the remaining 14 years of the plan period from April 2011.

Table 4.5 Five Year Housing Requirement

(a) Housing Requirement 2010-2026	28,000
(b) Forecast Completions 2010/11	1,128
(c) Total Requirement 2011-2026 (a-b)	26,872
(d) Annual Requirement (c/15)	1,791
Five Year Requirement (d x 5)	**8,955**

12 This figure includes an allowance of 2,500 for development in the Local Plan Strategic Reserve Areas to the south-east of Milton Keynes, which are proposed Strategic Allocations in the emerging Core Strategy and originally identified as potential future expansion sites in the 2005 Local Plan.

4.14 The deliverable and developable number of dwellings as at April 2011, as identified through the JHDT and the SHLAA 2010 update, is set out in Table 4.3 'Housing Trajectory 2010-2026'. It shows that 10,162 dwellings are predicted to be completed over the period April 2011 - April 2016. Against the five year requirement of 8,955 dwellings, this in an over supply of 1,207 dwellings 13.5% of the five year requirement.

4.15 A full report on the five year land supply and a detailed breakdown of the sites that make up the supply of sites is available at http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=75829.

Core Output Indicator - Affordable Housing Completions

Table 4.6 Affordable Housing Completions 2004-2009

	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Affordable Housing Completions	446	751	491	679	650	387
Gross Completions	1360	1795	1672	2317	1856	1422
Percentage Affordable (30% Target)	30%	42%	29%	29%	35%	27%

4.16 Table 4.6 'Affordable Housing Completions 2004-2009' shows that in 2009/10 affordable housing completions were significantly lower than the previous two years. While this can be partially explained by the lower overall gross completions, the proportion of affordable housing has dropped to 27%.

4.17 The Local Plan affordable housing requirement is 30%. The tenure split, set out in the 2007 Affordable Housing SPD[13], is set at 5% shared ownership and 25% social rent. The tenure split for the 2009/10 27% figure was 16% shared ownership and 11% social rent. Due to the cuts in housing grants announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review the number of social rent completions is expected to fall in future years.

4.18 While the tenure split requirement has not been met and the overall level of affordable housing is below target, it should be noted that these figures do not include tenure types that were previously classified as affordable. Due to the time taken to implement permissions and the strategic large sites in Milton Keynes, many are still providing intermediate rent and reduced cost sale units that were allowed under the previous SPD. If these were counted then the overall percentage of affordable homes would have been 30%.

13 Available at http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=61412

Core Output Indicator - Housing Completions on Previously Developed Land

Figure 4.3 Numbers of Dwellings on Previously Developed Land 2003-2010

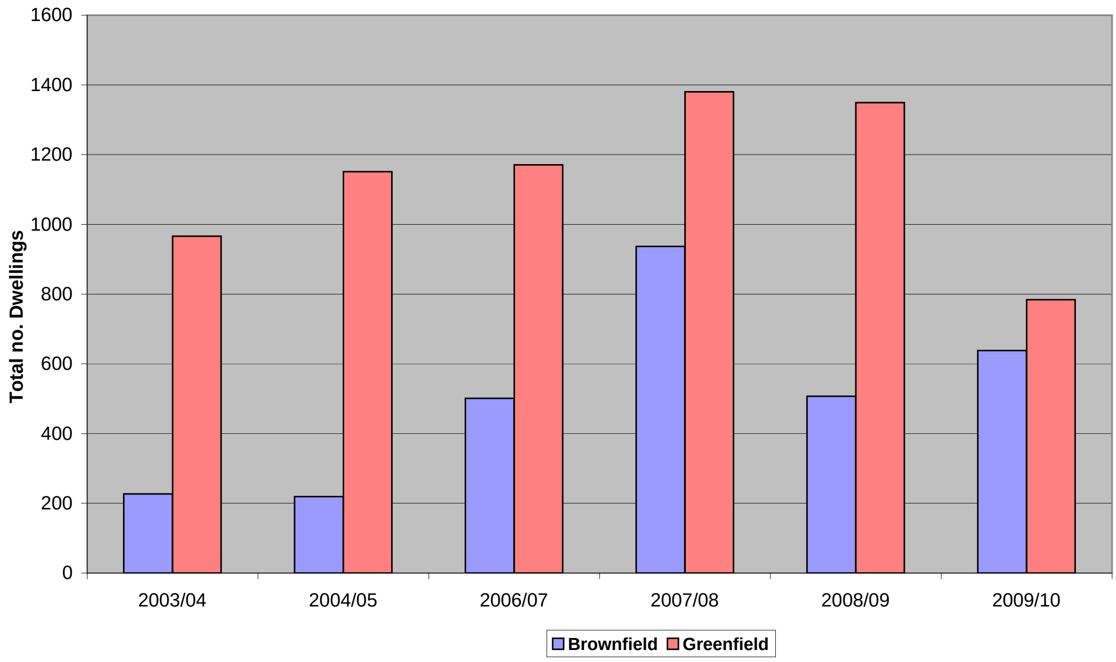
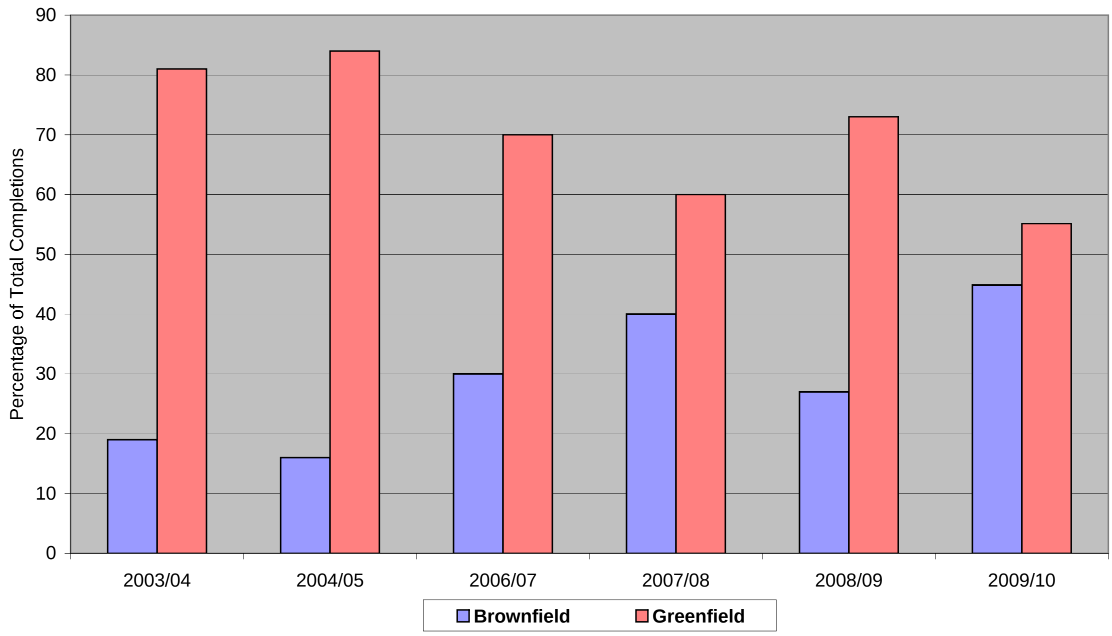


Figure 4.4 Percentage of Housing Built of Previously Developed Land 2003-2010



4.19 Although shown in Figure 4.3 'Numbers of Dwellings on Previously Developed Land 2003-2010' and Figure 4.4 'Percentage of Housing Built of Previously Developed Land 2003-2010' housing completions fell in 2009/10, the total number and proportion built on previously developed land increased. This was primarily due to the completion of the Wolverton Park site, which is located on former railway land.

4.20 45% of gross completions in 2009/10 were on previously developed land. This exceeds the Local Plan target of 20% and is the highest percentage since before 2002. However, Milton Keynes is unlikely to meet the PPS3 target of 60% due to its position as a planned New Town, where redevelopment opportunities, that can be found in older towns and cities around the country, are not as prevalent. In addition, Milton Keynes is a growth area meaning a much larger land area is required, increasing the likelihood of greenfield development.

Core Output Indicator - Gypsy and Traveller Pitches

4.21 Milton Keynes Council carried out a joint Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment in 2006 with other local authorities in the Thames Valley Region. This identified that Milton Keynes need to provide 36 additional pitches up to 2011.

4.22 There were no additional pitches completed in the 2009/10 period. Milton Keynes has 18 existing pitches on two sites at Willen and Calverton. The Calverton site has recently being upgraded. The Milton Keynes Local Plan has allocated three additional sites in the Borough with the potential capacity of up to 30 pitches. One of these sites, Fenny Lock, has recently been granted planning permission for 10 pitches.

Core Output Indicator - Building For Life

4.23 Building for Life is the national standard for well-designed homes and neighbourhoods. Good quality housing design can improve social wellbeing and quality of life by reducing crime, improving public health, easing transport problems and increasing property values. Building for Life promotes design excellence and celebrates best practice in the house building industry. New housing developments are scored against 20 criteria to assess the quality of their design[(14)].

4.24 During the 2009/10 monitoring period, five sites were assessed in Milton Keynes; three at design stage and two post-construction. The scores (out of 20) achieved were:

- Central Business Exchange 3 (design stage) - 14 (good)
- Emerson Valley Supported Housing (pre-assessment) - 16 (very good)
- Oxley Park 1 (post construction) - 14 (good)
- Oxley Park 6 (post construction) - Building for Life Gold Award
- Shenley Wood Extra Care Village (design stage) - 8.5 (poor)

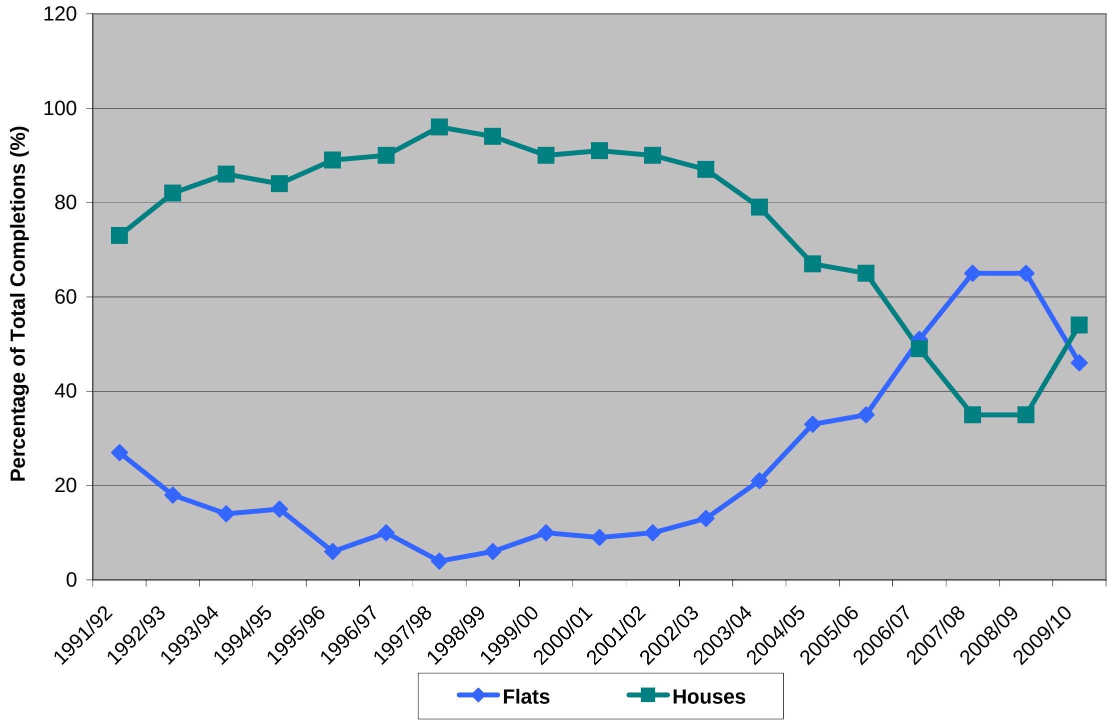
4.25 It should be noted that the Shenley Wood development achieved a 'poor' score primarily due to its isolated location, away from other residential development, and because the facilities and services provided are only for the use of residents. No re-design of the development took place as a result of the assessment.

14 For more detail go to http://www.buildingforlife.org/

Picture 4.1 Oxley Woods was awarded a Building for Life Gold Award

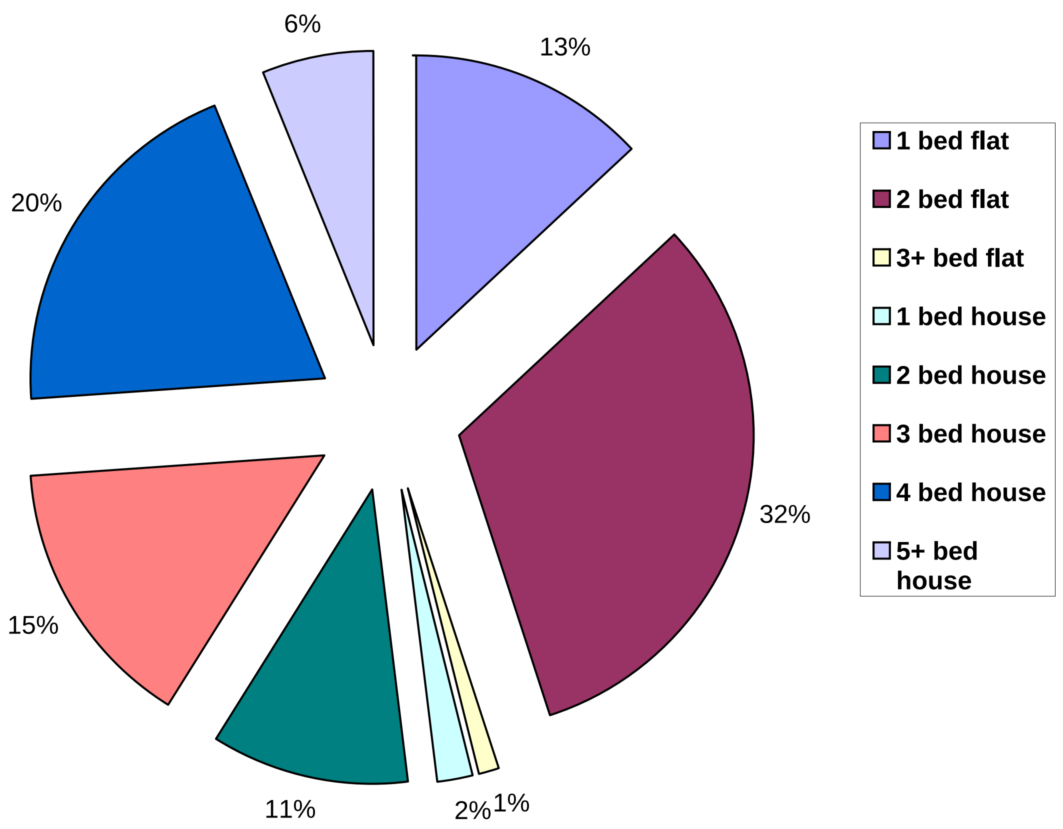
House Completions by Type

Figure 4.5 Completions: Flats & Houses



4.26 As shown in Figure 4.5 'Completions: Flats & Houses', the recent trend of more flats being built than houses has been overturned in 2009/10 with 54% of completions being houses. These figures were predicted and are expected to continue as houses are considered more saleable in the current market than 1 or 2 bed flats. However, it is not known whether the percentage of flats as completions will fall as low as they were in the 1990's and early 2000's.

Figure 4.6 2009/10 Dwelling Completions by Type



4.27 Figure 4.6 '2009/10 Dwelling Completions by Type' shows that the four bed house was the most constructed housetype, up from 14% of completions in 2008/09 . Whilst the 2 bed flat remains the most common completed dwelling, it is down from 41% in 2008/09 to 32% in 2009/10. The percentage of one bed flats has fallen sharply from 22% to 13%.

House Prices

Figure 4.7 House Prices since 2000

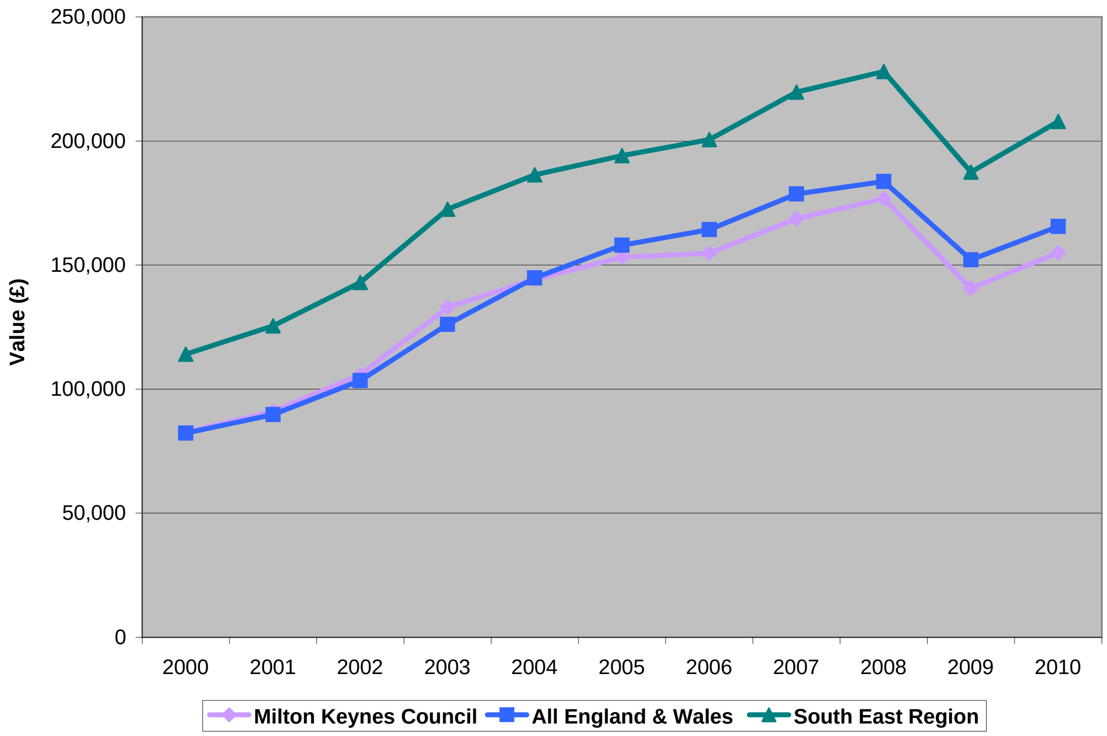
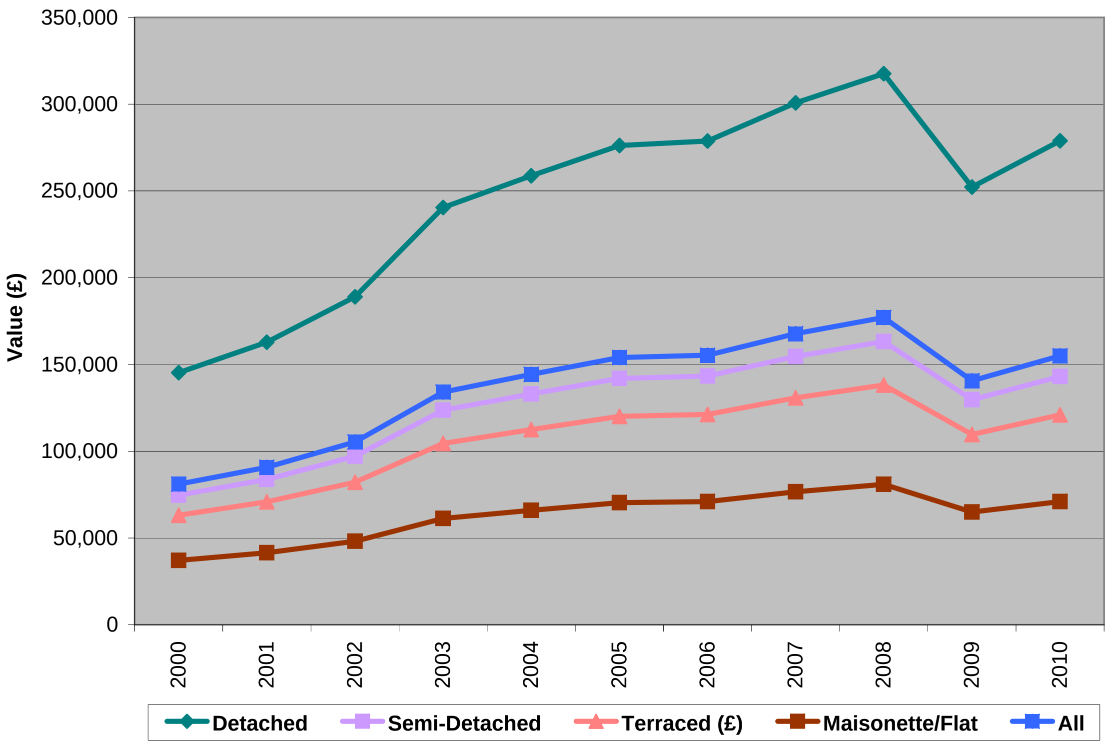


Figure 4.8 Milton Keynes House Prices by Housetype



4.28 Figure 4.7 'House Prices since 2000' and Figure 4.8 'Milton Keynes House Prices by Housetype' show that, whilst house prices in Milton Keynes are lower than the South East and England, the trends over the last 10 years are the same in the three areas. The average price of a house in Milton Keynes in April 2010 was £154,938, up 87% from 2000. Prices fell by approximately 20% from 2008 to 2009, but have recovered by 10% to April 2010.

Summary

4.29 The downturn in the construction cycle and lending conditions is still having an impact on housing delivery in Milton Keynes. Only two years ago Milton Keynes achieved over 2,300 net dwelling completions, but in 2009/10 the number reduced to 1,413. However, it is expected that completions will pick up from 2011/12 onwards thanks to the healthy land supply position in Milton Keynes, which includes enough land to exceed the five year land supply requirement from April 2011. The supply of serviced sites in Milton Keynes means that there should be few planning delays once the housing market recovers.

4.30 In relation to affordable housing, whilst it is positive that the 30% target has been achieved in 2009/10, it is anticipated that this will be difficult to achieve in future years. This will be due to the reduction in the affordable housing grant from Central Government, which will particularly impact on social rented provision. However, the government is expected to support a new type of affordable rent based on rates set at 80% of market rents.

Actions

- Continue to work with landowners and developers, such as Milton Keynes Partnerships, to ensure that housing sites come forward and any blockages and delays are minimised.
- Continue to monitor the deliverable 5 year land supply in the Borough and undertake a new Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment to replace the 2009 study during 2011.
- The Core Strategy should be adopted by the end of 2011 providing the strategic framework for the growth of the Borough over the next 15 years. This will include a housing target of 28,000 homes to be delivered up to 2026.
- Begin work on the Site Allocations DPD which will allocate sites in the rural area to make up for the predicted shortfall. The document will also consider the need to allocate additional sites in and around the urban area to provide flexibility in delivering the overall housing target by 2026.
- Negotiate with developers to ensure that all housing sites deliver against the 30% target for affordable housing and that the tenure type is appropriate.
- Host a rural housing masterplanning session for members, parish councillor and staff to promote improved design in rural housing developments.

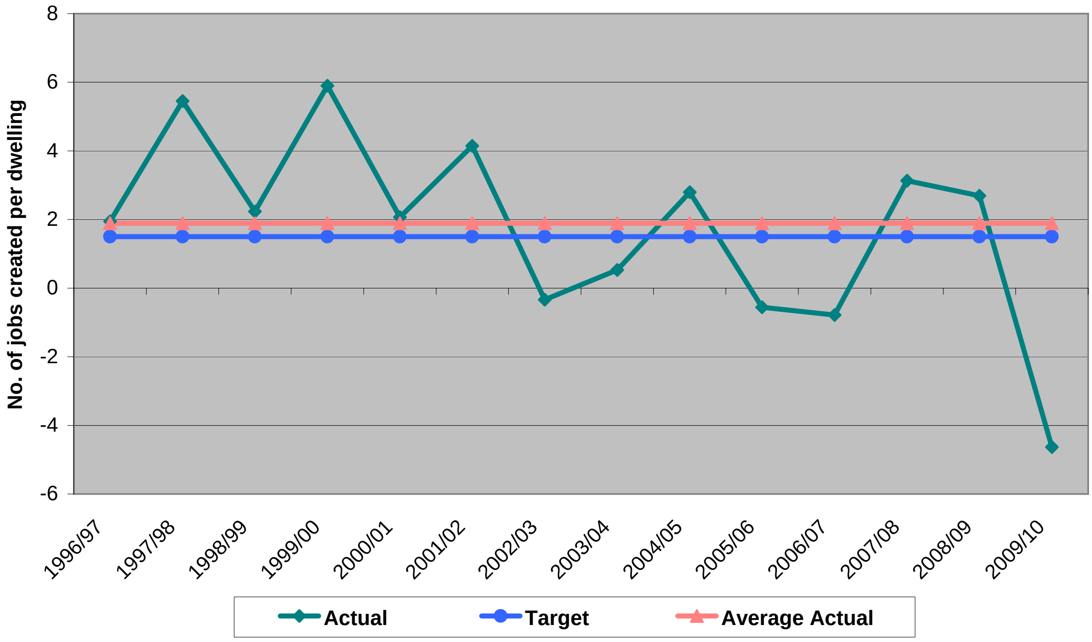
5 Economy

Jobs to Dwellings Ratio

5.1 The 2010 Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy contains a target dwellings to jobs ratio of 1:1.5, meaning for every home that is built, the Council will aim to provide 1.5 new jobs.

5.2 In the event that monitoring figures show that new jobs are being created faster than new homes, the Council would seek ways to increase the rate of housing construction rather than restricting employment growth. Conversely, if housing development is running ahead of job growth, the Council will institute measures to encourage job growth among local businesses, or create incentives for businesses to relocate to Milton Keynes. It is, however, important to note that the delivery of the two are not intrinsically linked and the Council will not seek to suppress either residential or employment development in order to achieve the target. Figure 5.1 'Jobs to dwellings ratio'[15] demonstrates that this is the case, showing that the ratio fluctuates dramatically from year to year. The Core Strategy dwellings to jobs target ratio is the overall target for the plan period rather than a target for each year, due to the anticipated fluctuations. The average ratio achieved for the period shown is actually higher than the target ratio, but clearly this will continue to change from year to year. The graph shows that there was a significant drop in the ratio this monitoring period, which is a result of the economic downturn.

Figure 5.1 Jobs to dwellings ratio



Core Output Indicator BD1: Total amount of additional employment space - by type

5.3 Table 5.1 ' Total amount of additional employment space' shows the amount and type of completed employment floorspace in the Borough over the 2009/10 monitoring period. The table shows that there was a substantial gain in B1a (office) floor space. There was also a significant gain in B8 (storage and distribution) floor space. B1b (research and development) was the only use class with no change in floorspace. A large amount (48,000m^2) of the office floorspace gain can be attributed to two developments. One of these developments was an office development at Site B3.2 North, Midsummer Boulevard and the other was the demolition of existing office accommodation at Wavendon Tower with a replacement development comprising of six office buildings and a Data Centre. A significant part of the storage and distribution gain can be attributed to an industrial unit development at Ashland, as well as the commercial units which were part of the development at Site B3.2 North,

15 Source - The Council's Economic Development department

Midsummer Boulevard. The majority of the loss in general industrial floorspace can be attributed to the redevelopment of the former Bong/McCorquodale envelopes site in Wolverton, comprising 131 dwellings, six B1 workshops and four commercial units (use classes A1, A2 and B1).

Table 5.1 Total amount of additional employment space

Use Class	Gross Internal Floorspace Loss (m^2)	Gross Internal Floorspace Gain (m^2)	Net Internal Floorspace Gain (m^2)
B1a - Offices	15,055	60,013	47,958
B1b - Research and Development	0	0	0
B1c - Light Industry	1,156	2,695	1,539
B2 - General Industry	12,293	2,616	-9,677
B8 - Storage and Distribution	1,018	14,298	13,280
Total	**26,523**	**79,622**	**53,099**

Core Output Indicator BD2: Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land - by type

5.4 Table 5.2 'Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land' shows the amount and type of completed floorspace (gross) coming forward on previously developed land (PDL) in the Borough. The table shows that 83% of employment floorspace came forward on previously developed land. The majority of the office development can be attributed to the developments at Midsummer Boulevard and Wavendon Tower, as mentioned in paragraph 5.3. A significant proportion of the storage and distribution development can also be attributed to the development at Midsummer Boulevard.

Table 5.2 Total amount of employment floorspace on previously developed land

Use Class	Area of Floorspace completed on PDL (M2)	Percentage of all Employment Floorspace completed on PDL
B1 (a) - Offices	57,497	92%
B1 (b) - Research and Development	0	
B1 (c) - Light Industry	2,226	79%
B2 - General Industry	1,302	48%
B8 - Storage and Distribution	8,049	54%
Total	**69,074**	**83%**

Core Output Indicator BD3: Employment land available - by type

5.5 Table 5.3 'Employment land available' shows the amount and type of employment land available for development in the Borough. The information is taken from land allocated for employment in the Local Plan, excluding sites that have subsequently been completed. This year's figure is significantly lower than last year's (276.9ha) because potential employment land in the former Strategic Development Areas was included in last year's figures. Following the government's announcement of their intention to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies and their associated housing targets, the Strategic Development Areas were removed from the Revised Proposed Submission Core Strategy and replaced with the Local Plan Strategic Reserve Areas. The Strategic Reserve Areas occupy a significantly smaller land area and have no specified area designated for employment use.

Table 5.3 Employment land available

Use Class	Area (ha)
B1 - business	7.83
B2 - general industry	0.88
B2/B8 - general industry / storage and distribution	74.78
Mixed B uses	116.31
Total	**199.80**

Core Output Indicator BD4: Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'

5.6 Table 5.4 'Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'' shows that there were small gains in A2 and D1/D2 floorspace. There was a slightly larger gain in D2 floorspace and there was a small loss in A1 floorspace. The largest gain was in B1a floorspace which, as mentioned in paragraph 5.3, can be attributed to developments at Midsummer Boulevard and Wavendon Tower. One of the developments that contributed to the gain in D2 floorspace was the demolition of the old leisure centre in Bletchley and its replacement with a new leisure centre.

Table 5.4 Total amount of floorspace for 'town centre uses'

Use Class	Gross Internal Area completed within Town Centres (m2)	Net Internal Area completed within Town Centres (m2)	Gross Internal Area completed in MK borough (m2)	Net Internal Area completed in MK borough (m2)
A1 - shops	130	-1,788	1,973	-1,050
A2 - financial and professional services	1,337	1,003	1,440	1,106
B1a - offices	19,750	17,554	60,013	47,958
D2 - assembly and leisure	0	0	11,532	5,271
D1/D2 - non-residential institutions / assembly and leisure	0	0	1,963	1,963
Total	**21,216**	**16,769**	**76,920**	**55,247**

Contextual Indicators

Employment Occupations

5.7 Table 5.5 'Employment by occupation (Jan 2009 - Dec 2009)'[(16)] shows that a higher proportion of residents in Milton Keynes are in the highest skilled category than in the South East and Britain as a whole. This is a change from last year's report, where a smaller proportion of Milton Keynes residents were in the highest skilled category than in the South East and Britain. At the other end of the scale, however, Milton Keynes also has a slightly higher proportion of residents in elementary occupations compared to the South East and Britain as a whole.

Table 5.5 Employment by occupation (Jan 2009 - Dec 2009)

	Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East Region (%)	Great Britain (%)
1. Managers and Senior Officials	23,100	19.3	17.7	15.7
2. Professional occupations	15,000	12.5	14.6	13.6
3. Associate professional & technical	19,400	16.2	15.5	14.7
4. Administrative & secretarial	14,700	12.3	11.6	11.2
5. Skilled trades occupations	9,100	7.5	9.8	10.4
6. Personal service occupations	8,100	6.7	8.6	8.6
7. Sales and customer service occupations	8,200	6.9	6.7	7.4
8. Process plant & machine operatives	6,100	5.1	5.0	6.7
9. Elementary occupations	16,300	13.6	10.2	11.3
Total employed working population	120,000	100	100	100

Qualifications

5.8 Table 5.6 'Qualifications (Jan 2009 - Dec 2010)'[(17)] shows that for a second year, qualifications of Milton Keynes residents have improved. Raising educational attainment is a key priority in Milton Keynes' Sustainable Community Strategy, and the improvement in the proportion of people with qualifications shows some success in achieving this aim. The proportion of residents with the highest level qualifications has increased from 29.7% to 33.7% and the proportion is now higher than it is for the South East and for Great Britain. The proportion of residents with no qualifications is only 0.2% higher than for the South East, 3% lower than the figure for Great Britain as a whole and 0.7% lower than last year's figure.

16 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabempocc
17 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabquals

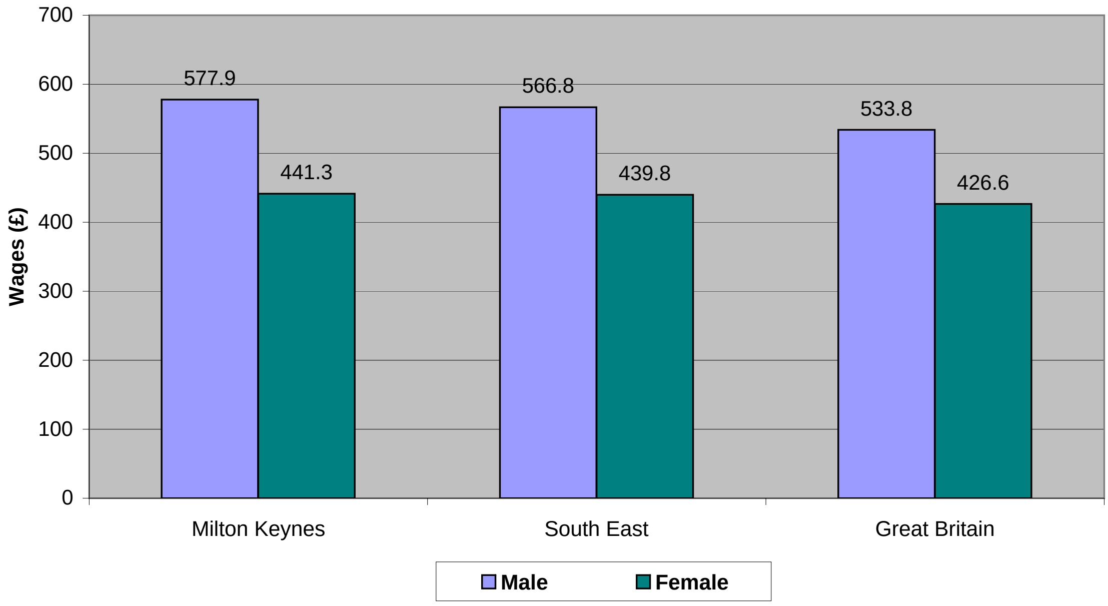
Table 5.6 Qualifications (Jan 2009 - Dec 2010)

	Milton Keynes (number)	Milton Keynes (%)	South East Region (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	52,900	33.7	32.6	29.9
NVQ3 and above	79,000	50.3	52.6	49.3
NVQ2 and above	104,700	66.6	69.0	65.4
NVQ1 and above	128,400	81.7	83.0	78.9
Other qualifications	14,200	9.0	7.8	8.8
No qualifications	14,600	9.3	9.1	12.3

Wages

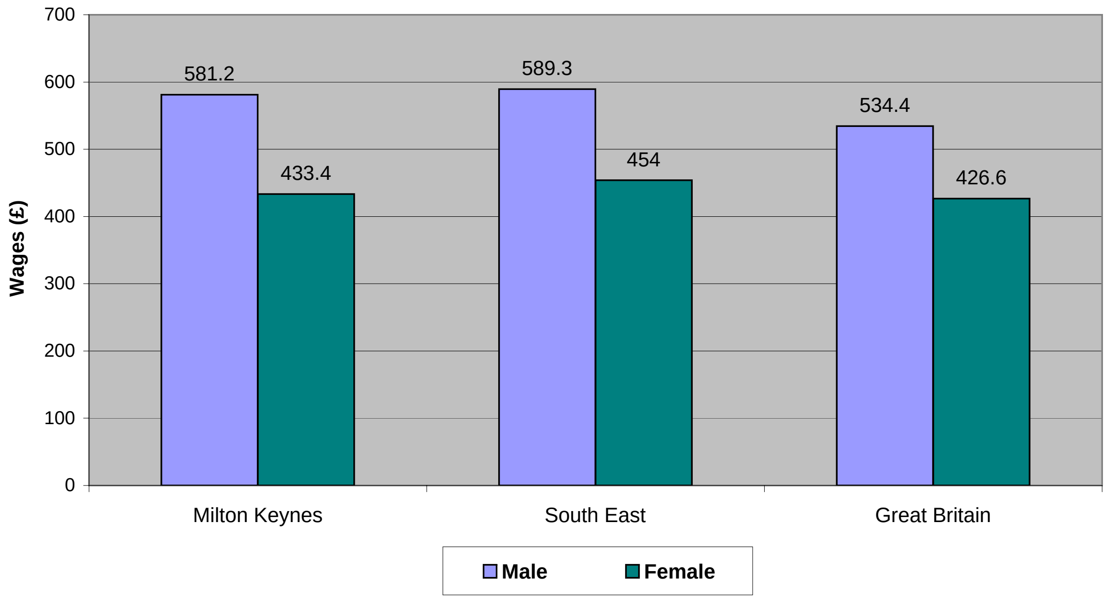
5.9 Figure 5.2 'Gross weekly average wages of residents'[18] shows the average weekly wages of people living in Milton Keynes and Figure 5.3 'Gross weekly average wages of workers'[19] shows the weekly wages of people who work in Milton Keynes, a significant proportion of whom do not live in Milton Keynes.

Figure 5.2 Gross weekly average wages of residents



18 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabearn
19 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabjobs

Figure 5.3 Gross weekly average wages of workers



5.10 The graphs show that, unlike last year, male residents earned slightly more per week than male workers, but the difference between them is negligible (£2.50 per week). For females, again unlike last year, the graphs show that female workers earned slightly more than female residents (£15.10 per week).

5.11 The graphs also show that the wages of females remain significantly lower than for males in all areas, although the gap between males and females is biggest in Milton Keynes for both residents and workers. There is a particularly large gap between the earnings of male and female residents in Milton Keynes.

5.12 The graphs show that male residents in Milton Keynes earn slightly less than male residents in the South East, but they earn more than residents in Britain as a whole and more than workers in all three of the categories.

5.13 Both male and female workers in Milton Keynes earn more than workers in the South East and in Britain.

Job Density

5.14 The job density figure is calculated by dividing the number of filled jobs by the total working age population (age 16-64) in a given area. Table 5.7 'Job Density (2008)'[(20)] shows that in Milton Keynes there are slightly fewer jobs than there are working population. However, there are more jobs for the working population in Milton Keynes than there are for the working population in the South East and England.

Table 5.7 Job Density (2008)

Milton Keynes (jobs)	Milton Keynes (Density)	South East (Density)	England (Density)
155,000	0.98	0.82	0.79

20 Source - https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/2038431757/report.aspx#tabjobs

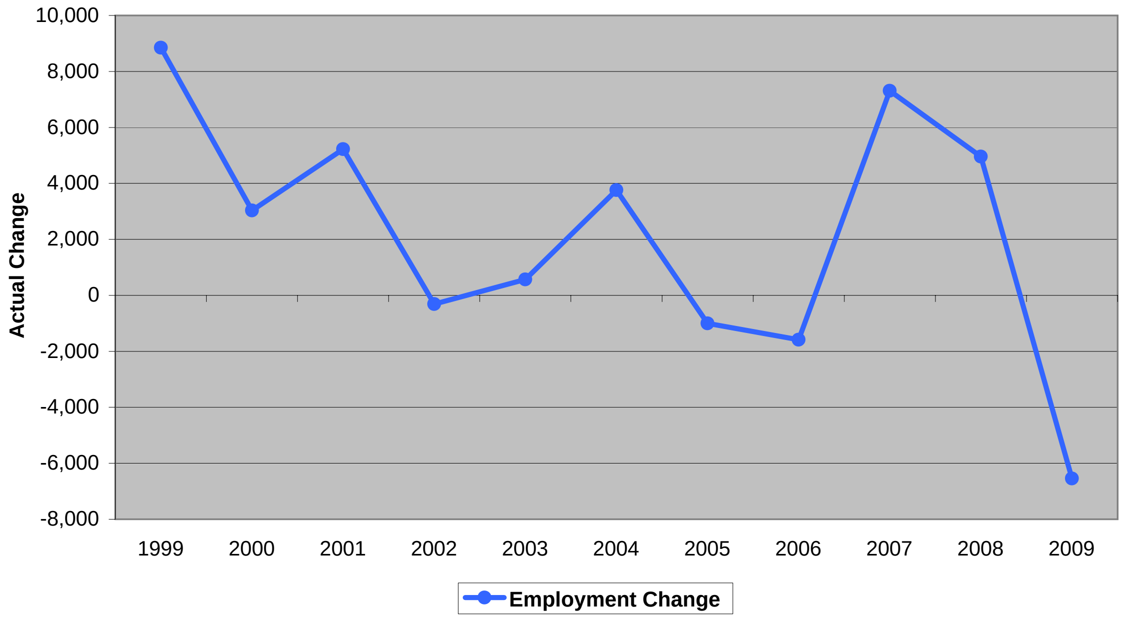
Working Age Population

5.15 The total working age population (16-64) in Milton Keynes in 2009 was 159,300 which equates to 67% of the total population. A total of 130,900 or 82% of the total working population were economically active in 2009[21].

Net Additional Jobs

5.16 Figure 5.4 'Net Additional Jobs' shows year on year employment change since 1998 when there were 112,003 jobs in the Borough. The graph shows that there was a significant loss of jobs in 2009 (6545), which reflects the economic climate. The total number of jobs in the Borough now stands at 137,240.

Figure 5.4 Net Additional Jobs

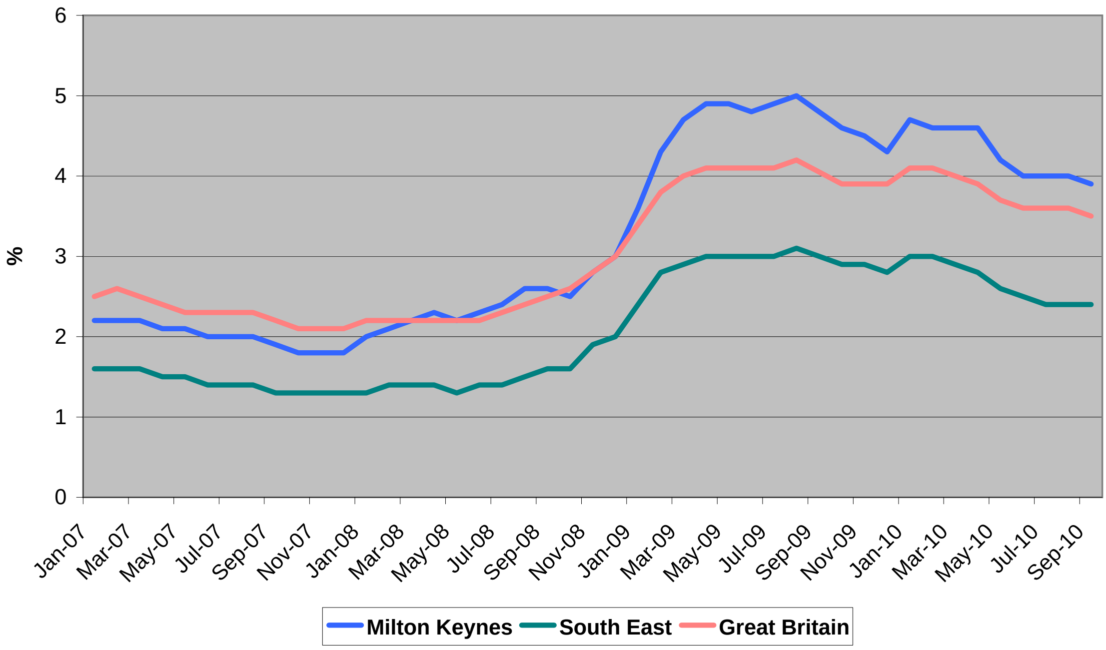


Unemployment Claimant Rate

5.17 Figure 5.5 'Unemployment Claimant Rate of the working aged population'[22] shows that the rate reached its highest in September 2009 and gradually fell until January 2010, when there was another small rise. Since around March 2010, the unemployment claimant rate has continued to fall. Given the substantial public sector cuts anticipated, it may be that the unemployment rate rises again in the next monitoring period. Since the beginning of 2009 the unemployment claimant rate has been higher in Milton Keynes than it has in the South East and in Great Britain.

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

Figure 5.5 Unemployment Claimant Rate of the working aged population



Not in Education, Employment or Training

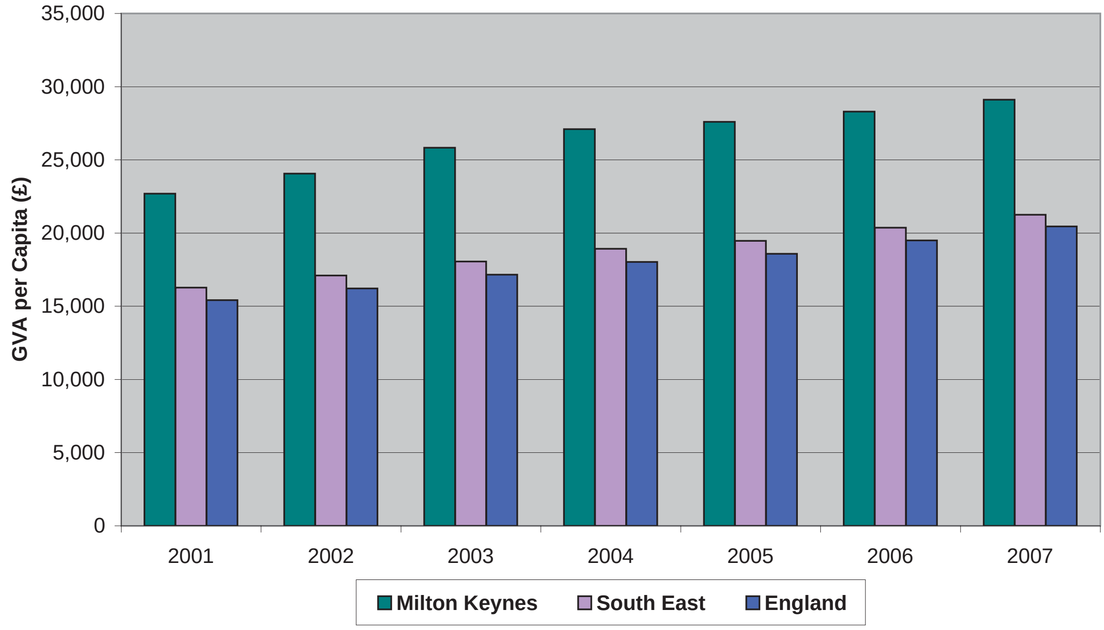
5.18 The percentage of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) in the Borough in 2009/10 was 5.8%[(23)], which is slightly better than the Local Area Agreement target of 5.9%. This year's figure is a significant improvement on the previous year's figure (7.1%) which is a considerable achievement given the economic climate.

Economic Productivity

5.19 Figure 5.6 'Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita'[(24)] shows that the figure for Milton Keynes is far higher than the figure for the South East and for England. GVA per Capita rose slightly for all three areas in 2007[(25)].

23 Source - The Council's Policy and Performance department
24 Source - http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?mode=cube&cube=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fCube/JD47E_C1&study=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fStudy/JD47E
25 There is a time lag on the data available for this indicator, 2007 being the most recent figure available

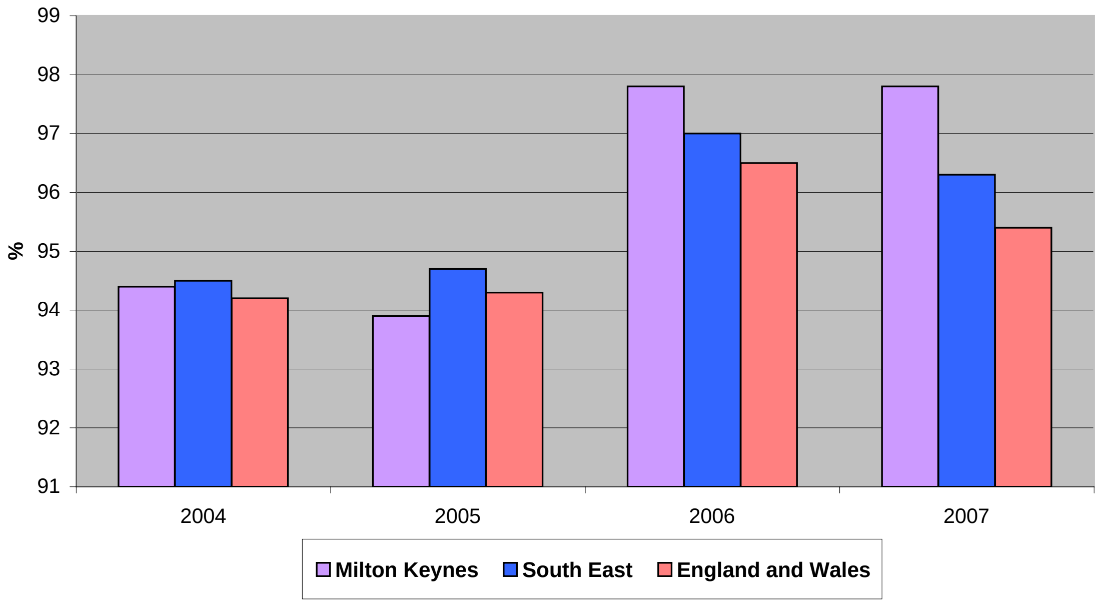
Figure 5.6 Gross Value Added (GVA) per Capita



Business Survival Rate

5.20 Figure 5.7 'Business Survival Rate'[26] shows that slightly fewer businesses survived in 2007 compared to 2006, in all three areas. The figure for Milton Keynes remains higher than the figures for the South East and England and Wales[27].

Figure 5.7 Business Survival Rate



26 Source - http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk/webview/index.jsp?mode=cube&cube=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fCube/JD64E_C1&study=http://analysis.mkiobservatory.org.uk:80/obj/fStudy/JD64E

27 There is a time lag on the data available for this indicator, 2007 being the most recent figure available

Births of New Enterprises

5.21 The VAT registrations indicator reported in previous AMRs has now been replaced by a Business Demography Dataset, of which the births of new enterprises data forms a part. Table 5.8 'Births of new enterprises' shows that the figure for Milton Keynes has remained fairly steady at between 1,155 and 1,375 new enterprises every year. There was a drop of 200 in 2009, which may be an indication of the economic climate. Figures for the South East and for England also dropped in 2009, which may again be an indication of the economic climate.

Table 5.8 Births of new enterprises

	Milton Keynes	South East	England
2004	1,335	44,345	248,450
2005	1,220	42,555	241,410
2006	1,155	39,195	225,120
2007	1,355	42,320	246,700
2008	1,375	40,365	236,345
2009	1,175	36,320	209,030

Impact of Economic Investment

5.22 Invest MK has recorded 98 businesses which have either been retained in Milton Keynes or have relocated to the area creating and saving jobs. This will have made a positive impact to the local economy, and increased confidence in Milton Keynes as a location. The number of jobs saved in the monitoring period as a result of this investment was 1,100, and the number created was 669[28].

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

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

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

5.25 Due to the freeze on marketing and communications spending imposed by central government on its delivery agencies, Invest MK have been unable to implement their planned programme of promotional activity during the current year (2010/11). Invest MK do, however, have some resources in place and so continue to attract and service enquiries for commercial land and premises, and they continue to work with partners such as the South East England Development Agency and UK Trade & Investment to raise the city's profile in international markets.

28 Source - Invest MK

Vacant Employment Space

5.26 The average amount of vacant office space over the monitoring period was 23.2%. The amount of vacant industrial space was 12.3%[(29)].

Planning Appeals

5.27 Of the 39 appeals determined in the 2009/10 period 51.3% [(30)]were allowed in full and a further 2.6% were allowed in part. The remaining 46.2% were dismissed. Although the percentage of appeals allowed for this year is a slight improvement on 2008/9 (53.6%), the figure remains considerably higher than the average in England (32%[(31)]). There are a number of factors that influence an authority's appeal record and not all of those factors are within the authority's control. Nevertheless, Development Control Members and officers have worked hard over the last two years to improve the robustness of the decisions made on planning applications and the case presented by the Council at any subsequent appeal. The figures for the first two quarters of 2010/11 show a continuing improvement in the Council's appeal record.

Summary

5.28 The information in this section shows that despite the current subdued economic climate, Milton Keynes is performing fairly well in terms of its economy. The unemployment claimant rate has decreased, the proportion of people with the highest qualifications has increased and wages have increased. The Core Indicators show that a greater amount of development has taken place this year compared to last year. The only indicator that looks poor when compared with last year's figures is the amount of employment land available. However, this is due to a change in the Council's emerging Core Strategy, and a plentiful supply of available employment land remains.

Actions

- Ongoing work by the Council's Economic Development department and Invest MK should help to ensure that Milton Keynes' economy remains strong and continues to grow.
- Continue to protect small business units through planning policy to ensure there is a plentiful supply for new enterprises
- The ongoing growth of the University Centre MK should contribute to a continued improvement in qualifications
- Provision of a sufficient supply of employment land through the Site Allocations DPD should help to ensure that unemployment is kept to a minimum and job density is at an optimum

29 Source - Invest MK
30 Source - The Council Planning department
31 Source - http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/planninginspectorate/statistics

6 Transport

Introduction

6.1 Milton Keynes was designed as a multi-centred settlement, built around an efficient grid road framework. This network provides a choice of routes through the city, which can be crossed from the two furthest points in approximately 15 minutes. The grid system is still one of the strengths of the city, but it is now beginning to experience peak hour congestion at certain junctions. The Milton Keynes Local Transport Plan 2 (LPT2) 2006-2011, which integrates with the LDF, sets out the overall transport strategy for Milton Keynes. The aims of the Plan are to make transport truly accessible; encourage modal shift; tackle emerging congestion; and maintain existing transport infrastructure. However, LTP2 expires at the end of March 2011; LTP3 (LTP2's replacement) is currently in the final stages of production and will run from 2011 to 2031.

6.2 As an expanding city, Milton Keynes aspires to become one of the UK's top cities. The development of a world class transport network that will support the local economy, create greater access to a wide range of services, and help to tackle climate change, forms a part of this aspiration. It is intended, therefore, that Local Transport Plan 3 (LPT3) will provide a world class transport vision and strategy for Milton Keynes, and will look at how transport can be improved to address key transport issues and contribute to achieving wider goals. A draft version of LTP3 is available for comment between 12 November 2010 and 4 February 2011, before the document is finalised[32].

Transport Infrastructure and Improvements

6.3 As an expanding city, significant infrastructure developments continually take place in Milton Keynes. Transport related infrastructure developments marked as complete in the Milton Keynes Partnership Local Infrastructure Plan 2009-2011 June 2010 refresh are:

- H7 Bridge
- M1 Junction 14 area
- Abbey Hill A5 Junction
- Broughton Gate City Street
- Real Time Passenger Information System

6.4 In addition to those listed, the new Coachway building was completed in early December 2010.

Public Transport

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

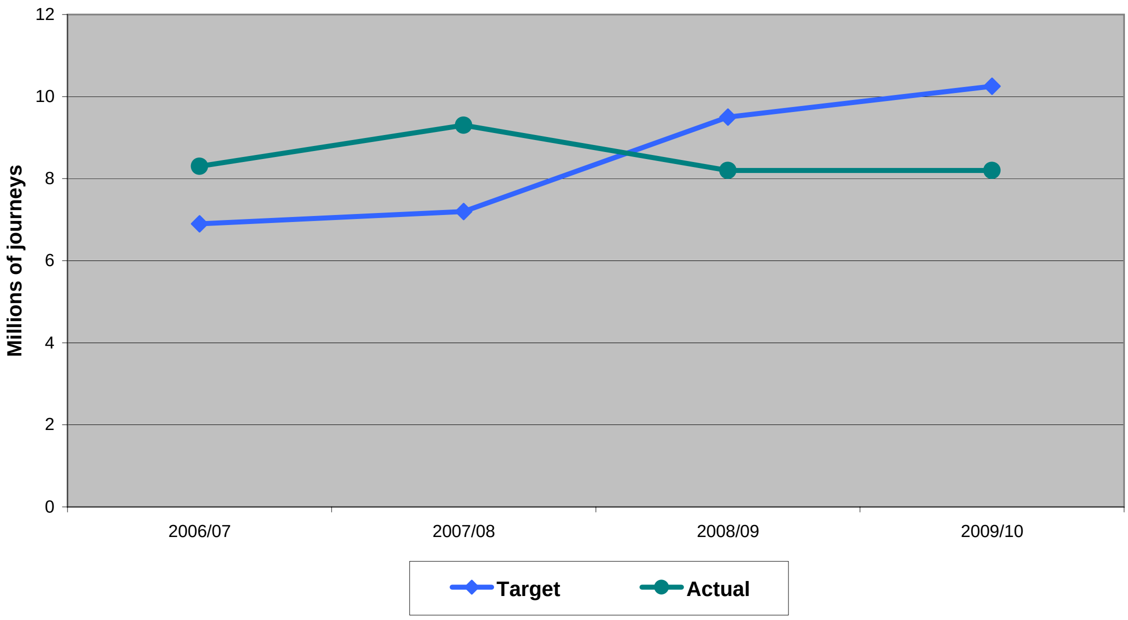
6.6 Figure 6.1 'Bus patronage' shows the number of journeys made by bus in Milton Keynes. It shows that bus patronage was at exactly the same level this monitoring period as it was last monitoring period. This has resulted in an even greater under performance against the target, which increased by 0.75 million to 10.25 million.

6.7 It is thought that the recession has had a significant impact on bus patronage because the heightened level of unemployment has meant that the number of people needing to travel has fallen.

32 Link to LTP3 webpage - http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/transport/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=72970

6.8 A number of measures are being taken in an effort to increase bus patronage and reduce private travel. One measure, due to be implemented in January 2011, is a revision of parking charges which includes the removal of free parking from the city centre. This is known as demand management, the aim being that it will persuade people to choose an alternative mode of transport. A new Park and Ride opened on the east of the city in December 2010, which should help to reduce the number of cars in the city and increase the number of people travelling by bus.

Figure 6.1 Bus patronage



6.9 In the 2009/10 monitoring period, satisfaction with local bus services increased by 9% from 31% to 40%. However, the figure remains low and fell short of this year's target figure of 58%. Considerable improvements will be needed if next year's target figure of 70% is to be reached. The Council are working closely with the bus companies to try and improve services.

6.10 Table 6.1 'Bus punctuality' shows the punctuality rates for local bus services and for the key quality bus services in Milton Keynes. The data shows that punctuality of the local services improved on last year's figure by 2%, but remained 12% below the target figure. Real Time Passenger Information was introduced in the city in mid 2010; it is hoped that this will help to improve punctuality and provide a better service to customers.

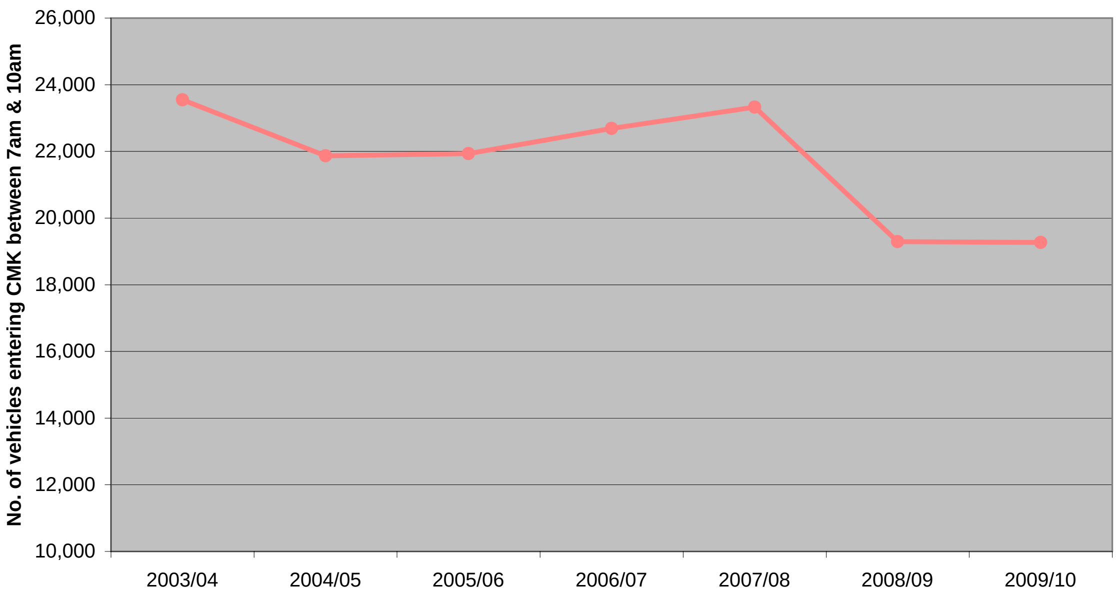
Table 6.1 Bus punctuality

	2003/04	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Punctuality target for local bus services		84%	85%	86%	88%
Actual punctuality on local bus services	84%	70%	71%	74%	76%
Punctuality target for quality bus services		85%	86%	88%	92%
Actual punctuality on quality services	77%	64%	71%	74%	Not available

Traffic

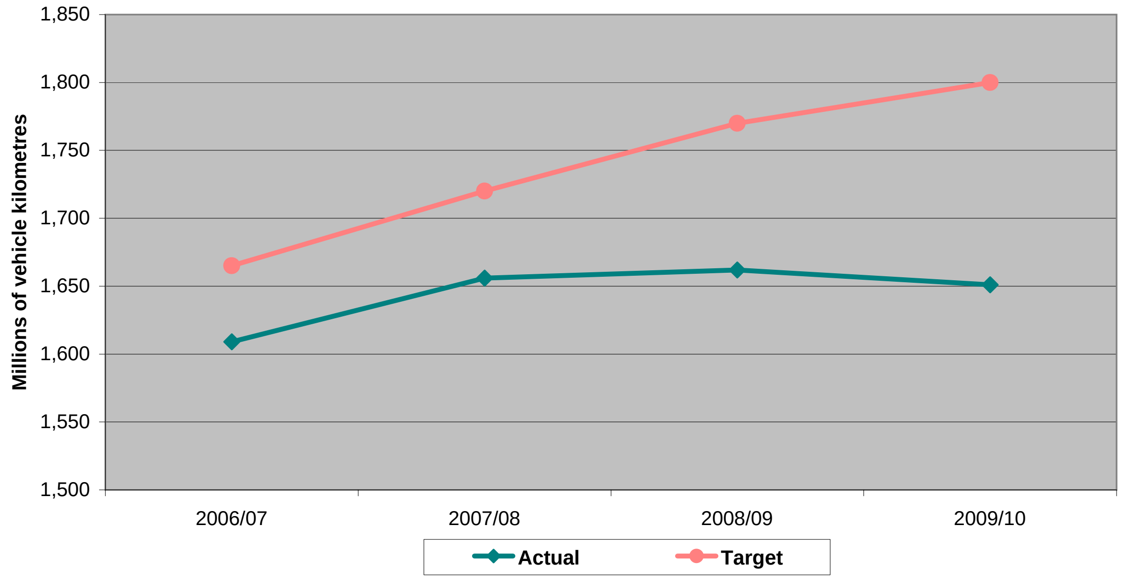
6.11 Figure 6.2 'Peak traffic' shows the level of peak traffic coming into Central Milton Keynes. Due to some adjustments the figures reported last year have been revised and replaced with the figures shown in Figure 6.2 'Peak traffic'. The graph shows that there is no change in the number of vehicles counted in this monitoring period compared to last monitoring period. The economic climate is considered to be a major cause of the recent lower figures.

Figure 6.2 Peak traffic



6.12 Figure 6.3 'Area traffic flows' shows that the actual level has remained below the target level, which is a positive in relation to this indicator. It is thought that the level of traffic has been lower than the target due to the economic climate which means there are less people travelling and that people may travel less. The graph excludes M1 and A5 traffic flows.

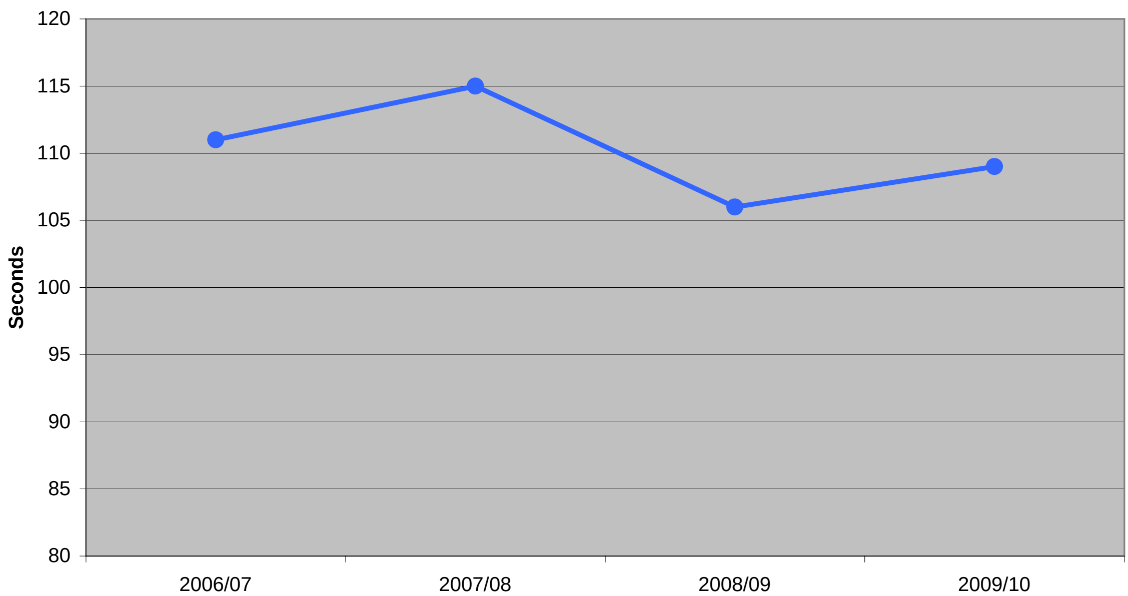
Figure 6.3 Area traffic flows



Congestion

6.13 Figure 6.4 'Average journey time per mile on 'A' roads' shows that in 2008/09 the average journey time per mile on 'A' roads in Milton Keynes fell by almost 10 seconds, and then increased slightly in 2009/10 by 3 seconds. This pattern reflects the economic climate, with a reduced level of traffic caused by a reduced level of employment.

Figure 6.4 Average journey time per mile on 'A' roads



Cycle usage & modal shift

6.14 Milton Keynes has a unique 'Redway' system which provides a network of shared footpaths and cycleways across the city. This provides opportunities for cycling in a traffic-free environment separated from the national speed limit grid roads. Figure 6.5 'Number of bicycles parked in CMK' shows that the number of bicycles counted this year remained the same as it did last year. The target increased from 510 last year to 600 this year, significantly widening the gap between the target figure and the actual figure. The actual figure now stands at just over half of the target figure. It is thought that the recession has had a similar impact on the number of bicycles as it has had with bus patronage.

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

- Improvements to the Redway network
- Marketing
- Introduction of cycle training in schools.

Figure 6.5 Number of bicycles parked in CMK

6.16 LTP2 measures modal shift through the percentage of journeys to school by car; the figures are shown in Table 6.2 'Modal Shift'. The percentage of trips increased by 1% in 2009/10, showing a a slight worsening in the actual figure.

Table 6.2 Modal Shift

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

Summary

6.17 There are many challenges facing the transport network and future growth will increase pressure on the existing network. The figures in this section show that there has been little progress with regards to transport in this monitoring period. Bus patronage and punctuality are below target, congestion reduced slightly and the number of cycles parked in CMK has not increased. The subdued economic climate is seen to have contributed to some of these poor figures.

Actions

- The introduction of the ambitious LTP3 should help to improve transport monitoring figures in future years
- Revised parking charges should help to improve the modal shift to more sustainable methods of travel
- The Council will continue to work with bus companies to try and improve bus services and patronage
- Continued improvements to transport infrastructure should help to improve future monitoring figures
- Marketing campaigns aimed at persuading people to use more sustainable methods of transport should help to improve future monitoring figures.

7 Energy and Climate Change

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

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

Core Output Indicator - Renewable Energy Generation

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

7.4 In 2008, Milton Keynes permitted its first large wind farm at Petsoe Manor, near Olney (Picture 7.1[(33)]) with an output capacity of between 14 and 21 megawatts. The seven turbine wind farm became operational in September 2010 and will generate 38,000,000 kWh of electricity a year (enough to power 8,085 homes). For more information go to http://www.miltonkeyneswindfarm.com/.

Picture 7.1 Milton Keynes Windfarm

7.5 Milton Keynes Local Plan Policy D4: Sustainable Construction and the Sustainable Construction SPD require that 10% of the CO_2 emissions from developments over five dwellings or 1,000m^2 should be reduced through low or zero carbon technologies. The policy also requires new developments to meet high standards in relation to energy efficiency, water, materials and waste. The following large developments that specified low or zero carbon technologies were permitted in 2009/10:

- New library at Kingston District Centre with 300m^2 of photovoltaics. Photovoltaics are proving more cost effective than in the past due to the feed-in tariff.
- Extension to the Mercedes Benz Training Centre with a 360kw pellet biomass boiler. This will offset up to 66% of the development's CO_2 emissions.

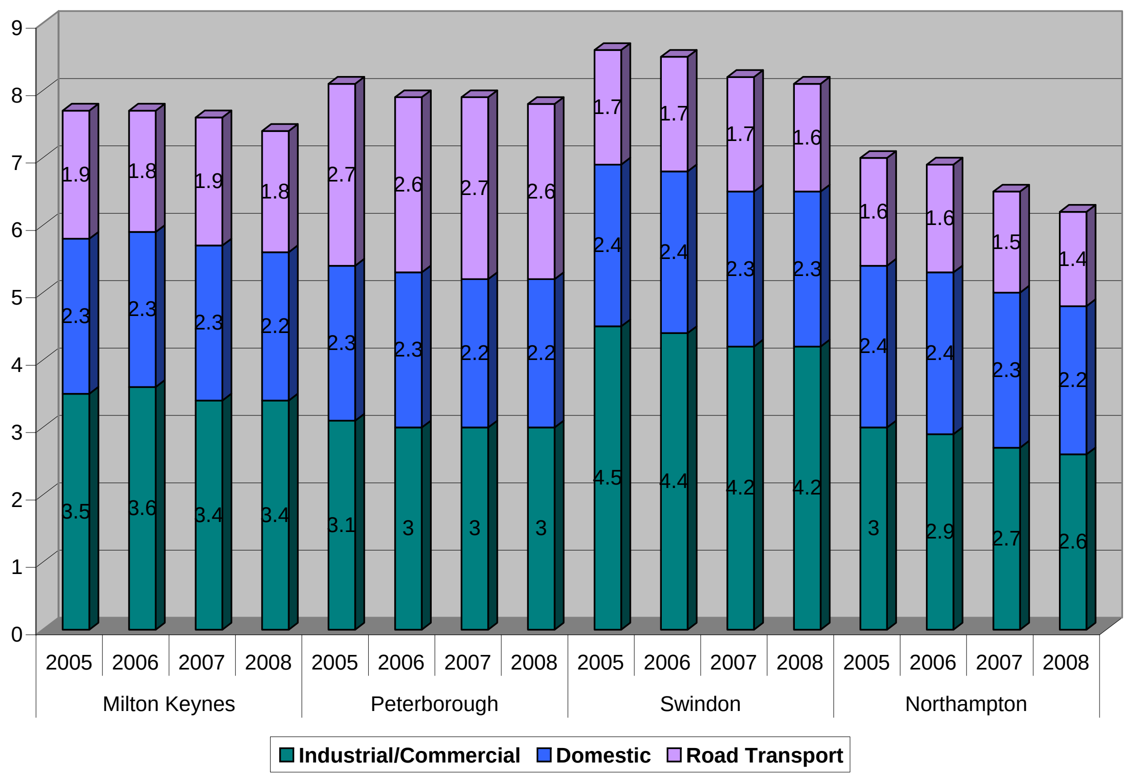
33 Source - www.miltonkeyneswindfarm.com, photographer - Peter Emmerson

- The refurbishment and extension of a former school building to be used by MK College will contain air source heat pumps, 42m^2 of photovoltaics and 42m^2 of solar thermal panels. This in total would offset 52,974 kWh of energy. Despite the building being enlarged, the college building will emit less CO_2 than the old building pre-refurbishment.
- A family support unit consisting of 20 flats and 10 houses with 230m^2 of photovoltaics.
- 10% of the emissions from a car showroom converted from a furniture warehouse offset by a biomass boiler and variable refrigerant flow cooling system.
- 5 phases of the Northing Expansion Area housing developemnt were given reserve matters permission seeking to achieve an Echomes 'excellent' rating.

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

7.6 The most recent data for this indicator[34] is for 2008 and is set out in Figure 7.1 'CO2 emissions of Milton Keynes and similar authorities, 2005-2008'.

Figure 7.1 CO2 emissions of Milton Keynes and similar authorities, 2005-2008



7.7 What the data shows is that up to 2008 Milton Keynes has achieved a 5.1% per capita reduction in CO_2 emissions from the 2005 base. This is a significant achievement and will help towards national targets and demonstrates that Milton Keynes is on track to meet the 11% reduction target for 2011 set out in the Local Area Agreement.

7.8 Figure 7.1 'CO2 emissions of Milton Keynes and similar authorities, 2005-2008' also shows that in these similarly sized, mostly urban authorities, the industrial and commercial sector forms the largest proportion of emissions. What can be seen is that the reduction in emissions in all four authorities is not coming from one particular sector. In each area, emissions have lowered from industrial commercial, road transport and domestic sources.

34 Source - Department of Energy & Climate Change
http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/statistics/climate_change/gg_emissions/uk_emissions/2008_local/2008_local.aspx

7.9 The latest data is from 2008 and will therefore not take full account of the recession. The impact of the recession is likely to be a reduction in CO_2 emissions through the shrinking of the economy, particularly in the industrial/commercial sector.

National Indicator 188 - Planning to Adapt to Climate Change

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

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

Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund

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

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

7.14 The funds are spent on subsidising cavity wall and loft insulation of properties throughout the Borough. Residents can get improved insulation from as little as £95. Such a low subsidised price is possible through the monies raised from the offset fund, alongside Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) grant funding. This pioneering mechanism results in more existing homes receiving first time or upgraded roof and cavity insulation than comparable or surrounding authorities.

7.15 In total just over £500,000 has been transferred to the COF in this financial year. Based on £200 of COF monies offsetting one tonne of carbon emissions, this would save over 2,500 tonnes of CO_2 in one year.

7.16 During the almost two years the COF grant has been available, it has contributed to insulation being installed in 2.9% of all dwellings in Milton Keynes. Further details of the Milton Keynes Carbon Offset Fund and its operation are available at http://www.usea.org.uk/.

Summary

7.17 Milton Keynes continues to pioneer in the field of sustainable development. CO_2 emissions in the Borough are continuing to fall and the authority is on track to achieve the Local Area Agreement Target. Local policy D4 and the carbon offset fund help to ensure that new development is of a high standard, and significant improvements have been made to the energy efficiency of the older dwelling stock in the Borough.

Actions

- Continue to require all developments over 5 dwellings, or 1,000m^2, to meet the requirements of policy D4 and the Sustainable Construction SPD. This includes the requirement for 10% of a development's CO_2 emissions to be offset through renewable technologies.
- Adopt a new sustainable construction policy with higher standards measured using nationally recognised codes in the Submission Core Strategy. This policy will include a requirement for up 20% provision of renewable technologies. This policy will build on the success of D4 and the Sustainable Construction SPD.
- Continue to support projects that reduce carbon emissions in Milton Keynes, particularly around the need to reduce emission from travel; a challenge in a city built around the car. Such projects include the partnership with Renualt-Nissan to launch a network of electric charging points in Milton Keynes that will encourage the uptake of electric cars.
- Continue to require new developments to pay into the carbon offset fund which, through improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings, lowers per capita emissions in the Borough.

8 Natural and Historic Environment

Biodiversity

Condition of SSSIs

8.1 The condition of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within Milton Keynes is unchanged since last years AMR. Howe Park and Oxley Mead are both in favourable condition. An area of the Yardley Chase SSSI lies within Milton Keynes, with the rest in Northamptonshire. A small portion of this SSSI is in favourable condition while a large proportion is in a unfavourable recovering condition. A long term woodland management plan has been put in place to improve the condition of the Yardley Chase SSSI.

Sites of Local Biodiversity Significance

8.2 Table 8.1 'Milton Keynes Biodiversity Sites' below sets out information regarding locally significant biodiversity sites. [35]

Table 8.1 Milton Keynes Biodiversity Sites

Type of Site	Area (ha)	% of Total MK Area
Local Wildlife Sites	230	0.75
Biological Notification Sites	1,656	5.37
Local Nature Reserves	33	0.11
Local Geological Sites (LGS)	32	0.10
MK Railway Corridors	712	2.31
MK Road Corridors	988	3.20
MK Wetland Corridors	2,648	8.58
MK Woodland Corridors	362	1.17
Total	**6,661**	**21.58**
Total (excluding wildlife corridors)	**1,951**	**6.32**

8.3 The area of Local Wildlife Sites has increased from 229.31ha in 2008 to 230.01ha in 2009. This is a result of a new site being surveyed and meeting selection criteria in 2009, specifically Tattenhoe Park Meadow (0.40ha). It should also be noted that the figure of 232ha provided in the 2008 report was an error.

8.4 The area of Biological Notification Sites has decreased from 1,691ha in 2008 to 1,656ha in 2009. This decrease can be attributed to decisions made at a Local Wildlife Sites Selection Panel meeting in 2009. This was an administrative change rather than reflecting any real change in biodiversity.

35 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats and Species

8.5 BAP habitats are areas that support biodiversity that are a priority for conservation methods [36]. Table 8.2 'BAP Priority Habitats in Milton Keynes' [37]below outlines the extent of these habitats within Milton Keynes.

Table 8.2 BAP Priority Habitats in Milton Keynes

Habitat Type	Area	% of Total MK Area
Lowland Calcareous Grassland	2.76	0.01
Lowland Dry Acid Grassland	3.70	0.01
Lowland Fens	3.90	0.01
Lowland Heathland	0.50	0.00
Lowland Meadows	9.90	0.03
Lowland Mixed Deciduous Woodland	259.20	0.84
Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pasture	3.99	0.01
Reedbeds	11.99	0.04
Wet Woodland	0.81	0.00
Wood-Pastures and Parkland	121.40	0.39
Total	**418.15**	**1.35**

8.6 The figures above are refinements of those which have been provided within AMRs in the past. These represent a shift from using unreliable data contained within the national habitat inventories (as maintained by Natural England) to accurately mapped digital data produced by Bucks CC.

8.7 This year's data also provides information on a number of species that have not been previously recorded. Notable amounts of Purple Moor Grass and Rush Pastures as well as Wood-Pastures and Parklands (each nearly 23% of the County resource) and Reedbeds (nearly 50% of the County resource) have been mapped in Milton Keynes this year.

8.8 There are also likely to be further areas of certain priority habitats (Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land and Traditional Orchards), but these have yet to be identified and mapped and the amounts of habitats determined.

8.9 137 UK BAP Priority Species have been recorded in Milton Keynes since 1980. This is an increase on the 136 that were reported in the 2008/09 AMR. The additional species recorded was the Willow Tit.

36 Further informationcan be found at http://www.ukbap.org.uk/default.aspx
37 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

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

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

8.11 Assessing the extent of positive management will identify sites where positive management is lacking. This will help to focus the efforts of Local Sites Partnerships in ensuring Local Sites are managed and their biodiversity value is maintained or enhanced.

8.12 For the purposes of this indicator, LS include both Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) and geological sites (RIGS).

8.13 The findings of the 2009/10 report for Milton Keynes show that 15 (65%) of the 23 Local Sites are in positive conservation management compared with Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes figures of 188 (42%) of the 447 Local Sites being in positive conservation management. Figures for Milton Keynes and those of other districts and the county are given in Table 8.3 'Sites in Positive Conservation Management' [38].

Table 8.3 Sites in Positive Conservation Management

District/County	Total Number of Local Sites	Total Number of Local Sites in Positive Conservation Management (% of sites)	Total Number of Local Sites Not in Positive Conservation Management (% of sites)	Total Number of Local Sites which are Data Deficient (% of sites)
Milton Keynes	23	15 (65)	0 (0)	8 (35)
Aylesbury Vale	182	88 (48)	31 (17)	63 (35)
Chiltern	73	23 (31)	3 (4)	47 (64)
South Bucks	28	12 (43)	2 (7)	14 (50)
Wycombe	141	50 (35)	6 (4)	85 (60)
Buckinghamshire (excluding MK)	424	173 (41)	42 (10)	209 (49)
Total: Bucks and MK	447	188 (42)	42 (10)	217 (49)

Parks

8.14 Milton Keynes has continued its trend of bringing a park up to Green Flag Standard each year since 2007. Leon Recreation Ground has joined parks at Chepstow Drive, Eaglestone and New Bradwell, to bring the total number of Green Flag Standard Parks in Milton Keynes to four in 2009/10. The Green Flag Award recognises the best green spaces in the country.

38 Source: Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Environmental Records Centre

Water & Flooding

Core Output Indicator: Planning Applications Granted Contrary to Environment Agency Advice of Flooding and Water Quality Grounds

8.15 There have been no applications within the 09/10 monitoring year that have had objections from the Environment Agency.

Water Quality

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

8.17 For 2009 there were 16 monitoring locations within the Borough for measuring biological and chemical water quality. Table 8.4 'Water Quality in Milton Keynes' shows that 100% of the monitoring locations within Milton Keynes met the Environmental Agency targets for biological water quality in 2009, whilst 86% met the targets for chemical water quality. Whilst this does show a slight drop in the chemical standards compared to the figures reported in the 2008/09 AMR, the overall water quality is still significantly higher than the surrounding regions and the country as a whole.

Table 8.4 Water Quality in Milton Keynes

Area	Biological (% A or B)	Chemical (% A or B)
Milton Keynes	100%	85.7%
Southern Region	83.1%	69.7%
Thames Region	63.2%	83.3%
Anglian Region	83.4%	61.0%
England	72.5%	80.0%

Air Quality

8.18 Milton Keynes has set objectives for air quality covering Nitrogen Dioxide, Sulphur Dioxide, Ozone and Particulate Matter (PM_{10}S). All of these objectives were met in the measuring locations throughout the Borough with the exception of the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) in Bridge Street and High Street South, Olney, where annual mean nitrogen dioxide figures continue to exceed the acceptable level of an annual mean concentration of 40 micrograms per m^3. An AQMA Action Plan for Olney is expected to be completed by early 2011.

8.19 The 2010 Milton Keynes Air Quality Progress Report findings also confirm that there are no new or newly identified local developments since the Updating and Screening Assessment 2009 which may have an impact on air quality within the Local Authority area.

Historic Environment

8.20 There is one building within Milton Keynes that has been designated by English Heritage as being at risk. The Grade II* listed Orchard House on Olney High Street has been added to English Heritage's building at risk register this year. There are currently 30 Grade I, 999 Grade II and 59 Grade II* listed buildings within Milton Keynes Borough. This includes the original section of the Centre:MK which was designated as Grade II listed in June 2010, making it the first 'New Town' building in Milton Keynes to be granted listed status.

8.21 One new Conservation Area Character Statement was produced in the last monitoring year for the town of Woburn Sands (in total, five are now complete). However, since the beginning of April 2010 a further Conservation Area Character Statement for the town of Newport Pagnell has been completed and Statements for both Bletchley and Stony Stratford are at an advanced stage of production.

Summary

- There have been 137 BAP Priority habitats recorded in Milton Keynes since 1980.
- Four parks were granted a green flag award in 2009/10.
- No applications were permitted with outstanding objections from the Environment Agency.
- Overall air quality in Milton Keynes is good, with the exception of Olney High Street due to heavy traffic.
- One listed building in Milton Keynes is now considered to be at risk by English Heritage.

Actions

- A long term management plan has been put in place to improve the condition of Yardley Chase SSSI.
- An AQMA Action Plan for Olney is expected to be completed by early 2011.
- Further Conservation Area Reviews for Bletchley and Stony Stratford should be completed early 2011.

9 Waste and Minerals

Minerals

Indicator M1 - Production of primary land-won aggregate by Mineral Planning Authority

9.1 Information regarding the amount of primary land-won aggregate in Milton Keynes cannot be provided, as the small number of active quarries in the Borough means the information cannot be revealed for commercial confidentiality reasons.

Indicator M2 - Production of secondary and recycled aggregates by Mineral Planning Authority

9.2 Information regarding the amount of secondary and recycled aggregates in Milton Keynes cannot be provided for commercial confidentiality reasons.

Waste

Indicator W1 - Capacity of new waste management facilities by waste planning authority

9.3 Two new waste management facilities came into operation during this monitoring period, contributing a combined additional capacity of 47,000 tonnes. In addition, an application was approved for the replacement of the existing recycling facilities at Tesco in Fenny Stratford with a new Tomra automated recycling centre.

9.4 Although not within this monitoring period, it is worth noting that planning permission was granted (subject to s.106 agreement) for an organic waste treatment facility in late 2010 which will provide a significant level of additional waste management capacity. The facility will have sufficient capacity (35,000 tonnes a year) to meet the needs of Milton Keynes residents and will involve in-vessel composting and dry anaerobic digestion. Anaerobic digestion is the process of breaking down organic waste without oxygen, and produces methane and carbon dioxide-rich biogas suitable for energy use (the permitted facility will supply mains quality gas into the local supply network) as well as producing fertiliser.

Table 9.1 Capacity of new waste management facilities

Application Details		Proposal	Capacity
09/00627/MIN	Hanslope Road, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes	Erection of waste transit building for food and garden waste	22,000 tonnes per annum
08/02093/MIN	Bleak Hall, Milton Keynes	Erection of new waste transfer and recycling facility for construction and demolition waste (including temporary permission to use part of the total capacity for biodegradable waste transfer)	25,000 tonnes per annum

Indicator W2 - Amount of municipal waste arising and managed by management type by waste planning authority

9.5 Table 9.2 'Amount of municipal waste arising in Milton Keynes' shows that the total amount of waste produced in the Borough reduced slightly by just over 1,000 tonnes compared with the figure for the 2008/09 monitoring period. This figure is encouraging given that the overall amount of waste produced is expected to increase due to the Borough's growing population. It is likely, however, that the figure has fallen slightly rather than risen due to the impact of the recession on people's ability to spend, hence a reduction in consumption and associated waste.

9.6 The proportion of waste sent to landfill has reduced from 60.1% in the last monitoring period to 51.38% this monitoring period. This is a significant reduction and can largely be attributed to the introduction of a food and garden waste collection service. Similarly, the increase, from 437 tonnes to 10,392 tonnes, in the amount of waste that was In Vessel Composted can be attributed to the introduction of the garden and food waste collection service.

Table 9.2 Amount of municipal waste arising in Milton Keynes

Management Type	Quantity (tonnes)	% Waste Management
Recycled via MRF(39)/other recycling outlet	32,381	24.83
Windrow composted	8,965	6.88
IVC(40) composted	10,392	7.97
Incinerated with energy recovery	478	0.37
Landfill	67,001	51.38
Sent for hardcore	7,648	5.87
Sent for reuse	3,530	2.7
Total	**130,395**	**100**

Recycling, composting and reuse of waste in Milton Keynes

9.7 The recycling, composting and re-use figure for 2009/10 was 47%, up from last year's figure of 38.2%. The target figure was 41.5%, which the actual figure shows a slight improvement on. The improvement in the recycling figure can largely be attributed to the introduction of a Borough wide food and garden waste collection service.

9.8 Longer term targets for the recycling, composting and reuse of waste are shown in the table below.

Table 9.3 Recycling targets

2010/11	2015/16	2020/2021	2025/26
40%	50%	55%	60%

Mass of waste produced by household

9.9 In the monitoring period 2009/2010 the average amount of waste produced per household over the 12 month period was 612.88kg, down from last year's figure of 757.05kg. The mass of waste target figure was 750kg per household, meaning the actual figure showed a significant improvement on the target figure. The economic downturn has played a major role in the reduction in waste because lower disposable incomes are resulting in the reduction of purchases of luxury items such as televisions and their associated packaging. Also, the Borough wide food and garden waste collection service, introduced in summer 2009, has helped to increase the proportion of waste recycled, hence reducing the amount of waste produced.

39 MRF - Materials Recovery Facility
40 IVC - In Vessel Composting

Satisfaction with recycling facilities

9.10 The 2008/09 Place Survey reported that 81.8% of residents were satisfied with recycling services provided by the Council. The survey is carried out every two years, meaning there is no comparison figure available for the period 2009/10.

Developments using recycled materials

9.11 No figure is available for the percentage of developments which have used recycled materials in construction. However, Milton Keynes Council does have a planning policy (Local Plan Policy D4 - Sustainable Construction) which requires all developments exceeding 5 dwellings, or 1,000sq m, to use a minimum of 10% recycled or reused materials (by value).

Summary

9.12 This year's figures show some considerable improvements; with a reduction in the amount and proportion of waste going to landfill and an increase in the amount of waste that is recycled. These improvements can be attributed to the new food and garden waste collection service that was introduced in the summer of 2009. The overall level of waste produced fell slightly despite a growing population. In addition to the increase in recycling, this can also be attributed to the recession; people are buying less, meaning they are producing less waste.

9.13 Figures for the extraction of primary and secondary aggregates and processing for secondary/recycled aggregates cannot be released for commercial confidentiality reasons. The preparation of the Minerals DPDs has begun. These will replace the Minerals Local Plan. However, production of the DPDs is being held up by changes to the planning system which have created uncertainty over minerals apportionments and have also resulted in delays to the Milton Keynes Core Strategy. The delays to the Core Strategy are also having a knock on impact on the production of the Minerals DPDs.

Actions

- Continue the recycling collection services, including the green waste collection service
- Continue to promote and encourage reuse and recycling
- Progress the production of the Minerals DPDs

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