

Frequently Asked Questions

Vehicle crossing/dropped kerbs

1. Do I need a hardstanding?

Milton Keynes City Council (the Highways Authority) will not formally permit a crossing to be constructed until a permeable hard standing has been constructed on the property. This is to ensure that the purpose of the application is for the legal use of the crossing to gain access onto the property and not for other means (please see question 5 regarding planning).

You should have (or be planning to construct) a hardstanding which is at least 2.5m wide and 5m in length towards your property, other sizes may be needed for non-residential crossings. This meets the Council's Parking Standards, January 2016 (Pg 27), available on our website.

If a hard standing is in place this will not guarantee approval of vehicle crossing application.

2. What size of crossing can I have?

A standard crossing is 5 metres (3 metres of flat kerbs and 2 tapers) wide at the roadside tapering back to 2.5 metres wide at your property boundary. An extension to an existing crossing may be of variable width and each location will be considered on its merit taking into consideration the balance between removing parked vehicles from the highway and providing 'on street' parking.

3. Are all properties suitable for front garden parking?

No. Gardens can be too steep, narrow or too short. To park most cars without overhanging the footway (which is an offence) requires a depth from the adopted highway boundary of at least 5.0 metres.

4. Are crossings suitable for all cars?

Usually crossings are suitable for all cars however, if the footway slopes the opposite way to the garden some cars with low ground clearance may have problems. If such a vehicle is to be used you should let us know. If the slope to your garden is greater than 1:4 the application will not be agreed

5. Do I need Planning Permission?

In most cases no, but you will if you live on a classified road, i.e. an A, B or C road. Also, if you live in a flat or maisonette and intend to construct a permeable hard standing for your car you may require planning permission. You will need to check with planning.

From the 1st October 2008 any property proposing to construct a hardstanding within its boundary may require planning permission. You will need to contact Milton Keynes Council on 01908 691691 for advice and ask for Planning Enquiries to see if this applies to your property.

6. Who pays for the construction of the crossing?

The householder or person/company with responsibility as signed for in the application form.

7. What type of vehicle can use a crossing?

Generally only cars may use the crossing, however if you are going to be using commercial vehicles you will need to advise us at the application stage. We have different costs and specifications for Commercial, industrial and agricultural crossings.

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8. How much does a Vehicle Crossing cost?

This depends upon a number of factors, including the distance from the road to the property and any services affected. If you engage your own contractor there is a fee payable to Milton Keynes City Council for inspection and approval of works.

9. Who can construct the crossing?

Either Milton Keynes City Council's contractor or a contractor who has the required public liability insurance and the appropriate 'NRSWA' qualifications (any contractor must provide this information to Milton Keynes City Council prior to any work being started).

On receipt of the license the applicant will be required to carry out the necessary works within a period of 6 months to complete the crossing. Failure to do so will require the applicant to re-apply for a new licence where additional charges will apply for an additional inspection.

10. What if my property does not join the public highway?

You only have a right to cross from your property to the public highway. If, between your property and the highway, there is land owned by others (and this includes land owned by the Council that is not highway) you need that land-owners permission. We would need to see evidence of any agreement prior to agreement of your crossing.

11. Who will maintain the crossing when completed?

The crossing remains part of the public highway and will be maintained by the council. If the work is carried out by your contractor the work will be under a 24 month maintenance period.

12. Do I need any other permissions?

Council tenants will require the permission of the Housing Service for any works within the boundary of the property. Other tenants may also require permission from their landlord.

13. What if someone parks in front of it or otherwise obstructs it?

The Council has no powers to prevent inconsiderate parking by others. The police do however, so if this happens you can contact them.

14. Can I have a secondary access?

No - we do not normally allow secondary crossings into a property where the property is already served by an existing crossing. If you are planning to put in a new entrance we would ask you to close the original one as a condition of allowing the crossing.

15. Will the Council carry out work within my property?

No. If, for example, you want a hardstanding for your vehicle you must arrange for this yourself, before applying for the vehicle crossing. The hardstanding must be water permeable to meet current urban drainage requirements.